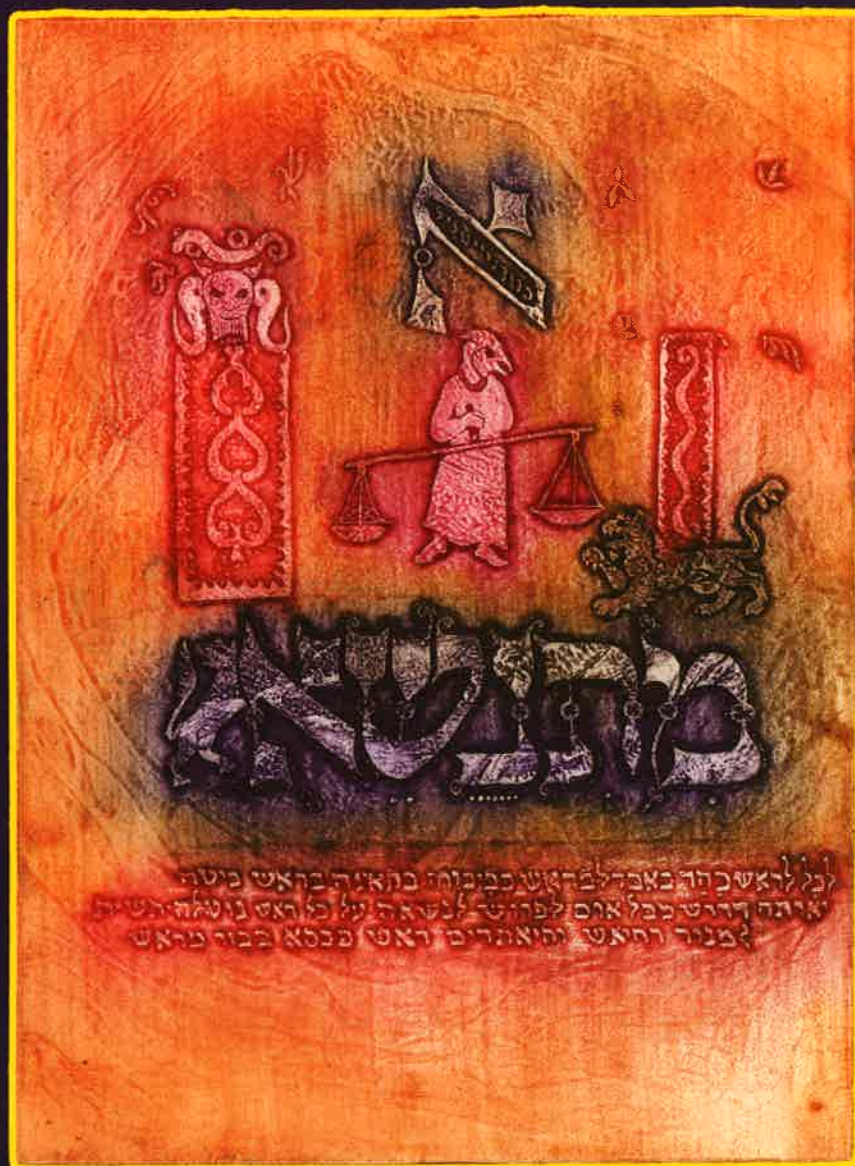


# שלום! SHALOM

Winter 2014-5: Vol. 39 No. 3

Tevet 5775



"PARASHAT SHEKALIM", ENGRAVING, FROM THE SERIES MAHZORS: 9TH-13TH CENTURY - DAVID SILVERBERG

- SPECIAL FEATURES:
- MARCH FOR ISRAEL
- ATLANTIC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
- NEWS FROM AROUND OUR REGION



# Atlantic

## Jewish Film Festival



Thank you to our sponsors and all those  
who attended for supporting the  
Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

### SPONSORS

Atlantic Film Festival | Department of Communities Culture and Heritage

### EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Frida Fine Jewellery by Carrie Lamb

### DIRECTORS

Atlantic Acura | Clearwater | Egg Studios | Israel Bonds Canada | Premiere Suites

### CAST MEMBER

Studio 21 Fine Art

### FILM FANATICS

BDO Canada Limited | Bishop's Cellar | Halcraft Printers Inc. | Megan Leslie, MP  
Organic Earth Market | Red Door Realty | Shaar Shalom Congregation  
Studio 14 Gifts & Gallery | Yummy Deli

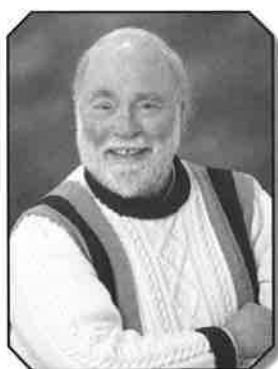
### FILM FANS

Jo-Anne and Michael Argand | Rosalind and Phil Belitsky | Karen and Howard Conter | Marcie-Ann Gilsig  
Constance and Harry Glube | Judith and Victor Goldberg | Linda Law and Lloyd Newman  
Valerie MacDonald and Jim Spatz | Tim Margolian, Six Eight Realty | HRM Councillor Wayne Mason  
Jennifer and Wayne O'Connor | Elizabeth and Darrel Pink | Victoria and Edwin Rosenberg | Lynda Suissa  
Karen and Tom Traves | Kathy and Arthur Zilbert | Sheila and Paul Zive

# SHALOM! שלום!

## CONTENTS

President's Message .....	2
Jon Goldberg, Executive Director. ....	3
From the Desk of Edna LeVine .....	5
Holocaust Education Week/Steven Markus Memoirs .....	6
March for Israel. ....	7
CIJA Report. ....	8
Campus News .....	10
Camp Kadimah News .....	11
David Silverberg .....	14
Stone Hearth Bakery Creates Kosher Products .....	16
Atlantic Jewish Film Festival .....	17
Rag to Riches: Reuben Cohen z'l .....	18
Around Our Region: Halifax .....	20
Around Our Region: Moncton .....	22
Around Our Region: Cape Breton. ....	23
Around Our Region: Newfoundland. ....	25
Around Our Region: Fredericton .....	31
Around Our Region: Saint John .....	32
Around Our Region: Prince Edward Island .....	34
Around Our Region: Ruth Pink z'l .....	35
Rabbis Corner .....	36
Memoirs of Steven Markus .....	40



Cover Artist  
David Silverberg

David Silverberg, B.A., R.C.A., F.R.S.A., an internationally acclaimed artist/printmaker, was born in Montreal in 1936. He studied with Arthur Lismer and received his B.A. from McGill University in 1957. Silverberg's passion for art and travel is legendary. His critically appreciated work has been the subject of over 185 solo exhibitions around the world. He lives in and has his studio in Wolfville, N.S. He has been fortunate enough to have been to Israel on 6 occasions. Silverberg has many friends in Halifax, where he has exhibited often and given presentations both in galleries and synagogues and has contributed regularly to Shalom magazine.

# שלום!

**President: Michael Argand**

The Atlantic Jewish Council

WINTER 2014-5

TEVET 5775

VOL. 39 NO. 3

**Mailed under Canada Post:**

Publications Mail Sales Agreement

No. 40052452

**Executive Director:**

Jon Goldberg

**Editor:**

Edna LeVine

**Contributing Editor:**

Joel Jacobson

**Layout & Printing:**

Halcraft Printers Inc.

**Advertising:**

Edna LeVine

Anna Epshtein

Pavel Maliougine

**Address all correspondence**

**including advertising enquires to:**

Editor, c/o Shalom

Atlantic Jewish Council

5670 Spring Garden Road Suite 309

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1H6

Tel. (902) 422-7491 - Fax (902) 425-3722

elevine@theajc.ns.ca

atlanticjewishcouncil@theajc.ns.ca

www.theajc.ns.ca

**This publication is printed by**

**Halcraft**  
Printers Inc.®

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

Email: sales@halprint.com

### NOTE TO OUR READERS

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

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

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

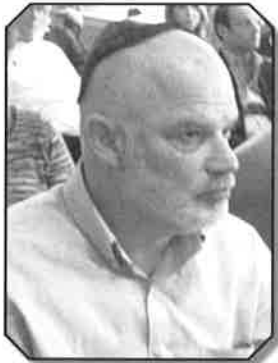
Shalom's editorial staff reserves the right to determine the length of memorial pieces to be printed in the magazine.

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



# President's Message

by Michael Argand



**I** hope that everyone has had a very Happy Hanukkah and was able to attend one of the many community events to celebrate the holiday.

There were over 200 attendees at the Hanukkah Party that the AJC organized with the Shaar Shalom and Beth Israel Synagogues.

We also had a very busy fall. Holocaust Education Week attracted both members of the Jewish community and members of the larger Halifax community. Special

events were held for students and the main event, a play performed from a group from Kansas, was a unique production about Irena Sendler, a Polish Righteous Gentile. Again, there were 300 people there. We were fortunate to receive funding from the Consulate of the United States to host this event, and we appreciate their support very much.

Right on the heels of this busy week, the AJC, with the help of a small group of dedicated volunteers, hosted the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival. We have not had such a festival in Halifax in 15 years! Marcie-Ann Gilsig, Lynn Rotin and Edna LeVine, along with their committee, were the driving force behind this event. The Festival included an opening night reception for community sponsors and a fabulous gala party. Again, this was attended by the larger Halifax community and special guests. Archbishop Anthony Mancini joined us in watching The Jewish Cardinal and was part of a panel discussing this powerful movie. The festival was a resounding success and speaks to the hard work of the volunteers that made it happen. Thank you!

The campaign is winding down but unfortunately our numbers are not as strong as last year. I realize a number of you supported the emergency campaign but we rely on your annual gifts to support our communities and Israel.

In November we had to postpone the AJC Biennial Convention for a number of reasons, there were many in the community who



*Shael Brown assisted with the memorial candle lighting ceremony during Kristallnacht. Photo by Shimon Walt*

were out of town and in addition it conflicted with the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival. The board will be discussing the rescheduling at our next meeting. We are looking for new volunteers to join the board of the AJC, this is your community and I urge you to get involved.

I hope you all had a wonderful Hanukkah and all the best in the New Year.



*Megan Felt, left, performed the role of Irena Sendler and chats with Michael and Jo-Anne Argand after the Kristallnacht performance.*

## The Courage to REMEMBER THE HOLOCAUST 1933-1945

"Hope lives when people remember." - Simon Wiesenthal



**200 Holocaust photos that cannot be seen anywhere else in the world ...**

The Atlantic Jewish Council in partnership with the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 presents the Simon Wiesenthal Center exhibit, "The Courage to Remember" January 12th - 30th, 2015

### Location:

Nova Scotia Archives  
6016 University Ave.  
Halifax, NS

### Hours of Operation:

Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Wed. Evening 4:30 - 9:00 pm  
Sat 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

## From the Desk of Jon Goldberg, Executive Director

**I**t's just two days before New Year's Eve and the sun is shining on a snowless Spring Garden Road here in Halifax. We have had a very mild winter so far, lots of wind and rain, but none of the "white stuff".

As the years go by, unfortunately we say farewell to many of the leaders of our Jewish Community in Atlantic Canada. Every loss seems irreplaceable; however these past few months we have lost Reuben Cohen and Minnie Attis in Moncton; Ruth Pink in Yarmouth; in Halifax, Boris Jacobson and Allan & Margaret Green have left us much too soon. This my friends is the cycle of life. I can only hope that the spirit of those departed will live on in the actions and deeds of their children and grandchildren.

I am now in my 25th year as Executive Director of the Atlantic Jewish Council. This past December, at a meeting of CEO's from across the country, I have become the longest serving Executive Director amongst the Canadian Jewish Communities. I have served 11 presidents and 13 boards of directors since I began at the AJC. Many of our top leaders have served at least 20 years in some capacity or another. Now the time has come to look for the next group of leaders, the under 45 group will be key to the future of our Atlantic Jewish

Community. This is the challenge confronting all our communities and it seems to be very difficult for a myriad of reasons. The changing demographics of our region, many of our best and brightest leave for university and never return. Those few that remain are asked to involve themselves in so many Jewish activities that they are burnt out by the time they are 40. Others are not interested, have no time, and are not motivated or stimulated by volunteering within the Jewish Community. This is the challenge that that we face here at the AJC, to bring more young people onto our boards, to make our work more interesting and relevant, and to reach new generations of Atlantic Jewry. I would appreciate hearing from any of readers as to their ideas on how the AJC can be more relevant to the younger generation.

One of the reasons I continually hear for lack of involvement, is that the AJC is based on fundraising through the United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada and if a person is not relatively well off than they cannot be a part of the AJC. This is not true. Our by-laws state only that a member has to be in "good standing" with their local campaign, and a gift of \$18 will suffice. Therefore, I don't believe the money excuse is valid. Yes, we have some wonderful supporters who are generous and have the means to contribute to our campaign. We also have many donors who do their best to support the UJA, whether it is \$18 or more. My friends, while the UJA campaign is important, it is only one of key components of our AJC program. As we move into the new year I invite you who are under 50 to drop in, email, or call to talk about our future together.



Many of the articles included in this issue deal with the wonderful programs and activities held in our region over the past four months. However I do want to thank everyone involved as a volunteer. From across our region these volunteers have helped Jewish continuity in their respective communities. These special people along with our AJC community reps, members of the AJC board, our management committee, and President Michael Argand have my appreciation and gratitude for all their efforts this past year. Special thanks to Rabbis in our region for their advice and assistance when called upon. In Halifax: Rabbi Amram Maccabi, Rabbi Mendel Feldman and Rabbi Ari Isenberg. In Moncton: Rabbi Yitzchok Yagod and in Fredericton Rabbi Yosef Goldman.

I would remiss if I did not acknowledge the excellent work of our permanent staff here at the AJC. To Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement, her good taste, good sense, and commitment to detail shine through in most everything she does. Whether it is Holocaust education, Shalom magazine, Immigration, our Film Festival, and many other activities Edna can be counted on. To Svetlana Ratchinski, her ability to handle the books of the AJC, Camp Kadimah and the Atlantic Jewish Foundation is very much appreciated. To Rabbi Ellis our Regional Chaplin, to Arielle Branitsky Director of Jewish Student Life, and to Mark David CIJA Atlantic staff, thank you all for a job well done.

The AJC is delighted to be offering the screening of the film, *Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem*, in three of our communities during Jewish Music Month. If you live in Halifax, Cape Breton or Fredericton, it is a MUST-SEE film that has had a phenomenal response at its premiere and at many Jewish Film Festivals in North America.

In closing I want to wish all our readers and their families a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2015.



Norman Conard, right, educator with the Kansas production of *Life in a Jar*, during Holocaust Education Week in Halifax.  
Photo by Shimon Walt

## **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

**I**n recognition of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz Birkenau and other concentration camps, the Atlantic Jewish Council, in partnership with the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 is hosting the Simon Wiesenthal exhibit *The Courage to Remember*, at the Nova Scotia Archives, Halifax, during the month of January. To compliment this program we are participating in the Azrieli Foundation's nationwide program to honour Holocaust survivors, in recognition of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The Foundation has offered to provide teachers with all the necessary resources for a successful educational program, including short films and copies of the memoirs of three survivors who survived Auschwitz. Please contact the AJC office for additional information.

The 11th Annual Holocaust Education Week, November 2-8, in Halifax, offered thought-provoking educational programs including films/speakers, theatrical performances and a workshop for educators. These programs attracted a diverse audience and the contributions of our local community partners were greatly appreciated: the United States Consulate, Canadian Museum of Immigration at

Pier 21, University of King's College, Dalhousie University, Citadel High School and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Story, highlighted the week, the production, from Kansas, was performed three times, including the closing Kristallnacht program. In addition, Norman Conard, an educator and director of the Irena Sendler Foundation facilitated a workshop for educators; educational resources were provided compliments of The Azrieli Foundation: The Azrieli Series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs and Fighting Antisemitism Together: Voices into Action. Please refer to the project-based learning article on page 6.

Philip Riteman, Holocaust survivor, continued to meet the demand to educate the public by providing his first-hand testimony to audiences throughout Nova Scotia, his busy schedule this fall also included an engagement south of the border.

A well-attended book launch of the memoirs of Holocaust survivor, Steven Markus, *Miracle Postcards: Two Jewish Brothers in Wartime Hungary* was held in September at the Beth Israel Synagogue. Please see page 40 for an excerpt from his self-published memoirs and for information on how to purchase his book.

The Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) opened November 13th in Cineplex Theatres, Halifax, to a sold-out audience. This past year I had the pleasure to work with dedicated committee members Lynn Rotin, Marcie-Ann Gilsig, Roz Belitsky, Peggy Walt and Anna Epshtein to launch this festival and create an infrastructure for



the AJFF to become an annual event. I truly appreciated the commitment and professionalism of the committee members, as well as all the volunteers, please see page 17 for highlights from the AJFF. And I hope to see you at the next AJFF, October 15 - 18, 2015.

International Human Rights Day, December 10th, celebrated the theme Human Rights Education, in Halifax, at a standing-room-only event at Cole Harbour Place, hosted by Partners for Human Rights. As a member of Partners for Human Rights, we meet monthly with the NS Human Rights Commission to organize events to educate the public. This event featured keynote speaker, Delvina Bernard, Executive Director, Council on African Canadian Education and highlighted local inspirational youth performers.

**Jewish Artists in Atlantic Canada** is an original exhibition that the AJC is presenting in July 2015. I am working with Halifax-based artists Lynn Rotin and Margarita Fainshtein to organize this art show. The exhibit will be held at the Nova Scotia Archives in Halifax and we hope you will support this new cultural initiative in our community, as an artist or attendee.

Please see the *Call for Submissions* advertisement in the centrefold of this magazine if you are an artist residing in Atlantic Canada or contact the AJC office (902) 422-7491 x221 to request an application form or email: jart@theajc.ns.ca



*The Honorable Tony Ince, Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage and the Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs, at the December 10th celebration, pictured with keynote speaker Delvina Bernard, centre.*



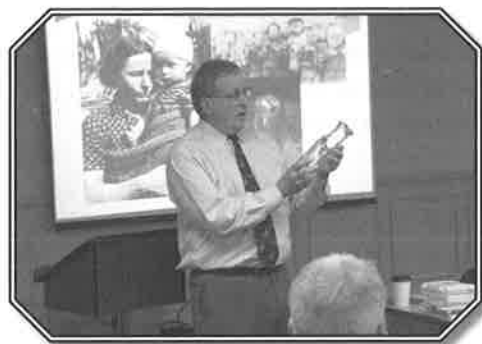
*Norman Conard on the set of CTV morning show, prior to broadcast, with host Heidi Petracek, centre.  
Photo by Peggy Walt*

# An Active Approach to Holocaust Education

by Benjamin Blum

**A** different way of educating children about the Holocaust was the focus of a teachers' workshop held at the Nova Scotia Teacher's Union building. The Atlantic Jewish Council invited Norm Conard to instruct teachers on project-based learning as part of the council's Holocaust Education Week.

Conard, the executive director of the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes, is a strong advocate of active learning through multimedia projects. Project-based learning allows the students to have autonomy on the medium and content of the assignment. Conard encourages creative ways of formatting the assignment, including plays and film documentaries. "In modern world history



*Norman Conard, right, educator with the Kansas production of *Life in a Jar*, during Holocaust Education Week in Halifax.  
Photo: Benjamin Blum*

there is no subject more complex than the Holocaust," says Conard. "When a student has ownership, they have more interest, they're more excited about learning. They soon become the expert in that particular field." Conard believes that the study of the Holocaust will allow students to explore the ideas of prejudice, abuse of power, the dangers of silence and apathy within the context of the Nazi genocide of Jewish, Roma and other groups of people during the Second World War.

He hopes the lessons learned through student-motivated project development and research will have a strong impact

on them. "There's nothing like a powerful book, or a powerful story, to change someone," says Conard.

In addition to the handouts given by Conard on how to approach project-based learning and other unsung heroes, the council gave the teachers several resources compliments of the Azrieli Foundation, including books and DVDs about survivors first hand testimony of the Holocaust.

Conard is also the director of the Life in a Jar Foundation that tells the story of Irena Sendler. Sendler was a Polish woman who organized a partisan network in Warsaw during the Second World War to help Jewish people, notably children, escape the Warsaw ghetto and hide with sympathizers. The name "Life in a Jar" comes from Sendler's practice of putting the names of those she helped hide into glass jars and burying the jars in the backyard of her house.

"I think when [students] realize that there's a human factor behind all the little miracles that happened, I think they will be very touched just like we were," says Trang Bonnell, a teacher from Highland Park Junior High in Halifax. The workshop was attended by educators from Halifax and as far away as Shelburne, Digby and Yarmouth counties. A representative from the Nova Scotia Archives was also on hand to let the teachers know of the resources and support available to them. "They study the Holocaust as it is now, but uncovering all these different little stories that they've never heard of before I think will really get to them even deeper," says Nicole Hardy, another teacher from Highland Park.

Conard was a teacher at Uniontown High School in rural Kansas when he was approached in 1999 by his students about Sendler's story. At that point Sendler was not widely recognized, so he challenged his students to learn all they can about the Holocaust and her. The

project produced a play based on Sendler's life and work. The company, comprised of students and adults, continues to tour internationally. Megan Felt, one of Conard's students from the original project, currently plays Sendler in the production. "We love the critical thinking aspect, we love the primary research aspect of project-based learning," says Conard. Conard recognizes the difficulty in educating students on the Holocaust today, as fewer survivors are alive to tell their story. He puts the onus on teachers appropriately choosing from a large database of information that will best connect with the students in a way that engages them.

Edna LeVine, the council's director of community engagement, hopes that workshops like these will continue the practice of *tikun olam*, the Jewish tradition of doing good work to help mend the world. According to Conard, this idea of *tikun olam* was held in high regard by Sendler, whom he had several chances to meet with before her death in 2008. "There are still stories to tell," says Conard.

Benjamin Blum is a journalism student at the University of King's College, Halifax and was the former sports editor of the *Dalhousie Gazette*. This article was originally published at [unews.ca](http://unews.ca).

*Editor's note: The Holocaust Education Week program *Life in a Jar* was made possible, in part, with a grant from the United States Consulate, Halifax.*



*Norm Conard, second from right, chats with teachers about how to implement project-based learning in their classrooms.  
Photo: Benjamin Blum*



# March for Israel

by Joel Jacobson



**More than 100 men, women and children stood strong for Israel and marched against anti-semitism in Halifax October 1.**

Holding signs reading "We Will Not Be Silent" and proudly waving Israeli flags, the orderly and mostly silent crowd gathered in a downtown park and marched through downtown streets in a candlelight walk that culminated in a speech by the past chair of the 2013 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Dr. Mario Silva flew to Halifax from Toronto to address the community of marchers comprised of many faiths including more than a dozen Christians from the Annapolis Valley who travelled more than 130 kilometres to attend.

Silva, a Liberal MP for eight years, representing Davenport in Toronto, and a published author on various human rights issues, said, "We are dealing with

a widespread, serious and ongoing problem. Anti-semitism is unique in its universality, intensity, longevity and irrationality."

He stressed hope for world peace is in danger.

"The world cannot combat terrorism without confronting those nations that support terrorism. We cannot fight ISIS and their genocidal plot to kill all Jews, Christians and other minorities in the Middle

East without facing their partners – Boko Haram, Ash-Shabab, Hezbollah, Al-Qaeda and Hamas, all of whom share a common fanatical ideology our purpose of destruction and death."

In a later interview, Silva said Israel needs collective cooperation with like-minded nations. He also condemned the United Nations for its bias against Israel suggesting more countries have to speak up for Israel, "an easy target for countries with their own internal problems. The Middle East, with no democracy, no respect for its own population, has its scapegoat" and the United Nation goes along with that.

"A lot can be learned from Israel which just wants to live in peace," he said.

Bob Watson, a Christian from Kentville, NS, 100 km from Halifax, has been to Israel several times, leading groups

for educational and spiritual tours. He said he was proud to attend this march of support.

"I am in total admiration of the Jewish people, the chosen people, and what they have done in their land, how they've excelled in so many ways – science,



*Dr. Mario Silva, Ph.D. International Law (NUIG), LLM (Oxford),, past chair, International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, speaks to over 100 people at the "We Will Not Be Silent" rally in Halifax.*

education, agriculture – and how much they have contributed to the world."

The event was coordinated by Atlantic Jewish Council and the Centre For Israel and Jewish Affairs Atlantic.

Jon Goldberg, executive director of AJC, said the walk was organized to combat negative portrayals of Israel during coverage of recent fighting in Gaza.

"The purpose is to stand up for ourselves as Jewish people and to stand up for western values that this country stands for," he said.

*Reprinted with permission from the Canadian Jewish News*



*Adar Svidler and Tanya Svidler, Lower Sackville, NS, were part of the large group that gathered in Victoria Park, Halifax, to show their support for Israel.*

# People Aren't Even Listening To Him Anymore

by Mark David, Advocacy Consultant, Atlantic Canada,  
The Centre for Israel & Jewish Affairs (CIJA)

**I** think that if Parsha Bereshit was written today, it would allow for HaShem having to create at least an 8th day of the week after Shabbat. Not to make the Beatles' tune "Eight Days A Week" true in fact, but to allow people to keep up with the relentless and ever-growing flow of information.

Forget surfing the Internet, which must be regarded as "so 20th century". I recently joined the Twittersphere, and was very careful to select only a few people or groups to follow (CIJA, of course, being one of them!) The deluge of information that flows to my Twitter account is absolutely mind-boggling.

I will leave it to the journalism experts to determine what percentage of media coverage focuses on Israel, though surely it's old news that the attention any story (especially a "negative" story) that has an Israel angle garners is all out all proportion to any reasonable measuring stick.

In any event, to paraphrase a line from an old comedy routine – "I told you all that to tell you this".

In the torrent of media coverage that followed the horrific attack on the synagogue at Har Nof, I happened upon a panel discussion on PBS between the former American diplomat Dennis Ross and Shibley Telhami (the Anwar Sadat professor of peace and development at the University of Maryland, as well as being a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute). The exchange was quite civil, though somewhat predictable. What did stand out to me was this answer (quoted in full) from Professor Telhami concerning incitement on the Palestinian side:

"First of all, When have you a horrific attack, it ought to be condemned, no ifs and buts. This is absolutely unacceptable

under any circumstances.

Put that aside for a minute. The question is whether what the Palestinians are doing or saying is really – or the Palestinian leaders or Abu Mazen is saying is really the reason for why these things happen.

There's no connection whatsoever, in my opinion. Here's why. For one thing, people aren't even listening to him anymore. And we don't understand that incitement – and I served on an anti-incitement committee, as Dennis would remember, during the negotiations in the 1990s on the American side, trying to reduce incitement.

Incitement itself is a function of how much belief there is in the possibility of peace or conflict. People essentially incite when they think conflict is coming. It's not a function of what people say. People will disregard Mahmoud Abbas, regardless of whether he says – what he says is right or wrong.

This is not a function of it. And people who are carrying these out are people who don't even care about Mahmoud Abbas, whether they're on – Islamists or ultra-leftists."

I can understand the notion that Palestinians may have tuned out Mr. Abbas. If correct, it is probably a function of, among other things, the broad corruption of much of the Palestinian Authority and the fact that Mr. Abbas continues to serve as



President despite the fact that his term expired almost 6 years ago.

But Professor Telhami's comments trouble me for three specific reasons. First, he has not explained why the numerous examples of incitement that emanate from the Palestinian Authority in one fashion or another (from its security forces' social media, to its official media, to Abbas' religious affairs advisor or from Abbas himself) are not a major source of the violence. He is speculating at best that by some incredible coincidence, the violence which takes place alongside incitement is unrelated. That's almost like someone explaining why they are wet without connecting it in any way to having just come in from a long walk in the pouring rain.

Secondly, the notion that incitement comes when people do not see a possibility for peace is tenuous at best. The prime example of this was when Ehud Barak offered Yassir Arafat a Palestinian state in 2000, following which Arafat and the PA began orchestrating a Second Intifada campaign of violence. The incendiary Palestinian rhetoric that emerged after Israel's far-reaching offer was almost certainly a product in part of the Palestinian leadership's desire to avoid making concessions for peace. From the Palestinian perspective, such an escalation of tensions could serve to enable the Palestinian leadership to gain leverage at the negotiating table, or to destroy talks altogether and therefore forestall serious compromises.

Lastly, the Professor's assertion that "... people aren't even listening to [Abbas] anymore..." reveals a major challenge to the prospects of peace in any event. On the one hand, if he is wrong and the Palestinian "street" is indeed paying

attention to calls by Abbas for violence (for example, when Abbas says that Muslims should "defend" the Al-Aqsa mosque by any means), it hardly makes him an ideal partner for peace. If, on the other hand, the truth is that Abbas really is irrelevant to a sizeable portion of the Palestinian public, how is he in any position to make the difficult

compromises and decisions necessary for peace?

Peace between Israel and the Palestinian Authority will require sacrifices and concessions from each side. Some aspects of an eventual peace treaty might be unpopular in Israel. However, given Israel's democratic system and

its proven track record from its peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan, I have no doubt that Israel would adhere to them. I am much more pessimistic that Mr. Abbas and the PA would conduct themselves in the same manner.

## *Jerusalem is ours to share – and protect*

by Steve McDonald, Associate Director, Communications,  
The Centre for Israel & Jewish Affairs (CIJA)

**I**n advance of my first trip to Israel, I expected that I would most connect with Tel Aviv. How wrong I was.

Not to speak ill of Tel Aviv, but one cannot walk the streets of Jerusalem without being affected by the history, beauty, and inherent holiness of a city that literally billions consider central to their faith. For many of those navigating the ancient walls of the Old City, watching worshippers at the Kotel, or stepping into the majestic Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a trip to Jerusalem is a unique milestone in one's personal journey through life. Jerusalem transcends faith, language, and time itself.

All of which makes the recent escalation of tensions and violence in Jerusalem particularly worrisome and saddening. The murder of four Jewish worshippers and a Druze police officer at a Jerusalem synagogue – a disgusting act of evil that at least one analyst has rightly called a pogrom – followed on months of mounting Palestinian violence and incitement.

One of my co-workers, a Canadian ex-pat who works in the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)'s Jerusalem office, was 300 metres away from a recent terrorist attack in which a Palestinian drove into crowds of innocent bystanders. It is outrageous that the Palestinian Authority (PA) has promoted a social media campaign

calling on its adherents to continue using their cars as weapons against Jews. The PA has inflamed hostilities further by declaring that Jews are "defiling" the Temple Mount, in keeping with recurring rhetoric from Palestinian officials denying that a Jewish Temple ever existed in Jerusalem.

Disorder and riots have become all-too-common facets of life in parts of Jerusalem. Mahmoud Abbas has even gone so far as to praise the would-be assassin (a member of Islamic Jihad) of an Israeli political activist shot at close range in Jerusalem. Anyone who cares about keeping Jerusalem a secure, accessible, and orderly place for worshippers of all faiths should be incensed by the environment of fear and chaos being cultivated by Palestinian extremists.

As Jews, regardless of our personal religiosity or observance, it is worth reminding ourselves of the inestimable Jewish blood, sweat, and tears (so to speak) that have gone into Jerusalem and that speak to us from centuries past. This is the city in which our people first built a Temple some three millennia ago. This is the city that was desecrated, besieged, and destroyed by occupier after occupier. This is the city from which Jews were expelled in 70 CE, only to wait 1,897 years for it to be reunited under a sovereign Jewish state – after many Jewish fighters died in its streets in 1948 and 1967.

All of the above is neither myth nor articles of faith, but indelible parts of the historic record. The Jewish people must always be ready to accommodate those who wish to worship alongside us in peace and mutual respect. But our connection to Jerusalem is not up for debate, and our freedom of religion cannot be abrogated by violent extremists.

The Psalms – perhaps the greatest gem of Jewish poetry – beseech us: "If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget [its skill]. May my tongue cling to my palate, if I do not remember you, if I do not bring up Jerusalem at the beginning of my joy."

As the people of Jerusalem find themselves facing insecurities that no one should have to experience, such wise words have particular resonance. We can be proud that the Canadian Jewish community united on November 22nd for a national Shabbat of Solidarity organized by CIJA. In Atlantic Canada, Shabbat of Solidarity was organized in partnership with the AJC, and hosted in shuls located in Halifax, Sydney, St. John's, Moncton, and Fredericton. In so doing, we collectively reaffirmed our indivisible bond with Israelis, our love for Jerusalem, and the sanctity of our synagogues.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) – is the advocacy agent of Canada's Jewish Federations and the Atlantic Jewish Council (AJC).

# Campus News

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

**T**his was a busy semester for Hillel of Atlantic Canada. Shabbat dinners were frequent, holidays were celebrated, and many a coffee date was had. While this semester was largely a transitional period – both for the students and myself – it was also filled with experimentation. The students at Dalhousie tried out a variety of programs that they had not previously offered and received great feedback and, therefore, encouragement to keep raising their bar.

Highlights from Fall 2014:

- Hillel was present at Dalhousie's Field Party and Society Fair, which resulted in many new additions to our mailing lists
- Hillel hosted 6 Shabbat dinners – 1 large scale free dinner per month and 3 potlucks, attended by a smaller group, across the semester
- Sukkot was celebrated with the building and decorating of a sukkah
- Trick Or Treat for Phoenix – students collected toiletry items in the neighbourhood around campus to donate

to Pheonix House

- Hillel hosted 2 events as part of Holocaust Education Week:
- A gallery focused on the diverse communities impacted by the Holocaust
- A conversation about Holocaust denial followed by a Q&A with Phillip Reitman
- Chanukkah was celebrated early with a party for the campus community
- Jewish students at Mount Allison hosted a potluck Shabbat dinner once a month

Looking ahead to next semester there are a lot of exciting programs in the works. Some of the things we're looking forward to are:

- Frost Week program at Dalhousie January 10-17th along with the Winter Society Carnival to engage new students
- Hillel of Atlantic Canada Regional Shabbaton February 6-8th featuring a social media training session from Erin Cohen of CIJA
- Screenings of The Invisible Men and a talkback with its director at Mount Allison, UPEI, and Dalhousie.
- Interfaith Shabbat Dinners at Dalhousie

and Mount Allison and Shabbat Across the Maritimes (SHABAM) on March 20th

- A presentation from Yonah Bob in Fredericton and at St. Francis Xavier Univeristy



- A Night of Comedy in Halifax with a screening of the documentary A Universal Language and a stand up set by comedian Jean Paul, who is featured in the film

...and much much more!

Summer Taglit-Birthright Israel registration OPENS February 3rd !!!(February 2nd for previous applicants) If you know anyone, 18-26 years of age, who should apply, tell them to visit [www.israelforfree.com](http://www.israelforfree.com)

As always, I am happy to meet with anyone to hear your ideas or concerns. Send me an email at [abranitsky@theajc.ns.ca](mailto:abranitsky@theajc.ns.ca)

## Supporting Our “Mishpuche” In the North

Send a Partnership2Gether Gift Card to Celebrate:  
Births, Bar Mitzvahs, Bat Mitzvahs, Graduations, Weddings,  
Anniversaries, Grandchildren, Promotions, Retirements and more!

*Help support these wonderful, valuable projects in Northern Israel*

To purchase your cards call the UJA of Atlantic Canada Office.

**Tel: (902) 422-7491 ext 224**

Visa, Cheque & Cash accepted. Tax receipts issued for gifts of \$10.00 or more.

*Partnership2Gether is a project of United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada*



# Camp Kadimah - The first 120 Days

by Phil David, Executive Director, Camp Kadimah

**W**ell, it's been 4 months since I officially started my duties as the executive director of Camp Kadimah and even though I'm not planted in my cozy camp office at 1681 Barss Corner Road staring at Gus, the 100 year old turtle, bobbing through the still waters of the lagoon, I am sitting in the Toronto version of the Kadimah office, planning and prepping for Summer 2015 with enthusiasm I haven't felt for a job since....I was at camp in the 80's.

I am certainly left wondering how the folks that ran the camp when I was our staff's age- Mark Rosen, Andrew Wolfson and Sheldon Cohen - did all of this back in the old days before internet was a word and when they were working away at their own full time jobs?

Though Sydney and Atlantic Canada will always be home for me, it's been 24 years since I moved to Toronto and one of the cool things about this job is reconnecting with so many fellow east coasters I knew all those years ago. Many of my own former campers now have children attending Kadimah (who are constantly drilling me for gossip about their moms and dads when they were younger). And many others are spread around the continent in Halifax, Moncton, Fredericton, BC, New York, Philadelphia or Boston - to name just a few - and who, themselves, are re-connecting with an eye to sending their kids to camp as soon as they are old enough to say the word "Mifkad".

I'm frequently asked by kids and parents alike, "What's changed since you were at camp WAY back in the 70's and 80's. I always start by answering the question, "What has stayed the same?"

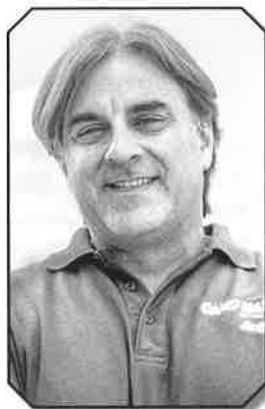
1. The first thing I noticed right away when I returned this past summer was how completely committed the staff are to ensuring their campers had a great time. I still remember my counselors and the impact they had on me and my cabin-

mates...lots of Maritimers like Mike Freedman, Matt Burnstein, Howard Conter, Kenny Gordon, Richard Siegel, Allan Simon, the

Cuperfains....and the long list goes on and on. I see the same level of engagement today not just at camp but when I attend "Kadimah in the City" events in Toronto or Halifax and watch staff and campers interact, far away from the Kadimah bubble. It's really special.

2. Kadimah is still a world within itself, a hamlet within its own hamlet- a place that offers a small town Maritime culture, which itself fosters a level of acceptance and inclusiveness that allows kids to be who they want, unconditionally and with no judgment. Now that I do this for a living, I hear every camp director talking about friendships and a culture unique to their camp - and that's fair - but everyone I speak with who has been at other camps - and then switches to ours - consistently says, "Kadimah is the friendliest and by far, the camp where everyone is made to feel most welcome".

I think that's something everyone associated with our camp should be proud of - from the founding fathers in the 1940's to the AJC and the thousands of kids who have gone through 'the system' and carry the torch for future generations.



*"So what's changed since my day?"*

A lot has changed and, to be honest, it's a good thing - even for purists like me who have such fond memories of the 'old days'.

We now have CIT Land which houses our 16 year olds - a program conceived only recently in camp terms back in 1987. We have Kochot Land, the Chairmans' Field and nature trail, a fully equipped office (Spatz Admin Center) and a significantly extended Chadar. Maccabia is shorter by a day and 3 night Hltyashvuts (hiking trips) have become one-nighters meaning there's more time to spend at camp. House leagues, which I started with Mike Soberman in 1988 to keep our kids occupied on Saturday afternoons, has become extremely popular...and waterskiing has become the 'thing to do' for many more kids than in our day because we have 3 boats vs 1.



*"Kadimah in the City" Halifax, former counselors and campers enjoyed the program.*

*"What are we working on now?"*

So, now that I have the keys to camp, what do I see changing down the road? Well, it's less about blatant change in year 1, and more about an eye to continuous improvement so we can build upon all that we have. Sheldon, Marty, Joanna and Jared have done a wonderful job transforming our camp through each generation.

*continued on page 12*

# CAMP KADIMAH

*continued from page 11*

While our core day-to-day focus will always be about camper retention and recruitment so that we remain a financially strong and healthy camp, our long term strategy is multi-faceted:

## 1) Facility Upkeep and Improvement:

Kadimah is really like a small town and like any town, it has its own infrastructure. We recognize the need to continue re-investing in that infrastructure to ensure all our facilities – above and below ground – meet the needs of today's campers. We are keeping our eye on the future as well, so the planning stages have already begun so that we may start considering our future capital improvements and additions – with a goal of extending the rental season on both sides of our summer session so we can create new revenue opportunities during non-peak periods. Perhaps we can put your name on one of those facilities which are already standing or which we will build in the future? We'll get into fundraising shortly!

## 2) Deliver an outstanding customer experience for campers, parents and alumni:

- Our priority is to deliver an amazing on-site experience for our campers each summer so we earn the privilege of having those kids return and hopefully, they bring a friend or two along. In addition to "friendships", Camper Care and Programming are two of the key factors which campers' perennially cite as what influenced their summer. It's no surprise these are huge priorities as we prep for 2015. We can expand on these initiatives in the 2015 first quarter Shalom update.
- When we talk about our customers, we don't just refer to our campers. How we communicate with, interact with – and add value for – our parent and alumni community is also crucial to our customer experience mandate. So we are developing exciting plans around both groups to keep Kadimah more relevant in the off season or after one's Kadimah's days are done.

## 3) Marketing:

Like any other camp, we are a business - competing against larger and sometimes, swanky resort-style camps with deep pockets in Ontario and Quebec. We must continue to identify effective ways to create awareness and relevance of our brand within Jewish communities from Halifax to Manitoba so Kadimah becomes the preferred option when summer vacation decisions start to get made each fall. There was a time in the 90's when we were the "it" camp. We want to be that again - for a sustained cycle - although we have to be careful not to be too big for fear of losing the community feel that differentiates us.

Ultimately, we know nothing is more powerful than "word of mouth" support from our own campers and parent ambassadors. So we urge our current families and legions of alumni members to realize their importance in the marketing process and to keep telling the world about Kadimah...then watch us grow.

## 4) Alumni Engagement and Fundraising:

Following the 2013 70th anniversary celebration, the first annual campaign – "This Is My Camp" – was launched. Tens of thousands of dollars were raised in the initial campaign and those funds have already been put to good use to help with facility maintenance and upgrades as well as scholarships for kids who otherwise might not be able to enjoy the Kadimah experience – which can be especially transformative for children who have only been in Canada for a very short time.

We will be moving into the second phase of the annual campaign after the holidays and hope you will not only donate what you are comfortable to give, but that you will help us update our alumni list by reaching out to your former cabin mates who are not on the list so we can include them in our alumni community.

Down the road, as we shift attention to capital

improvements and expansion, we hope to be able to offer some great sponsorship opportunities to which you can affix your family or business name. Much more to come on that in the new year.

## "What else is happening?"

Well, we've just run our annual "Kadimah in the City" event in Halifax in early November. All the kids from the Hebrew School were invited to play games and watch our 2014 year end movie together. It was nice to have so many in attendance and it became the first opportunity for newly hired incoming counsellors to ply their summer trade (while picking up invaluable volunteer hours).

Thanks to Zane Brown, Roy Maianski, Jonah McDonald, Jared Solomon and Jacob Suissa for waking up so early for their staff interviews and then doing such a wonderful job entertaining the kids.

Special kudos to Jessica Pink for running a top notch Arts & Crafts station; Josh David for teaching the camp song; Peter Svidler, Shale Brown, Noah Gold and Noah Hymes for their expert supervision and the Kadimah alumni parents who were unbelievably supportive to ensure the event was a success – Jen Wolfson, Rachel Budovitch, Aviva Rubin-Schneider and Shira Rubin.

Our intent is to conduct another 'Kadimah in the City' event when the weather warms up again so we can bring all the kids together who will be attending camp in 2015 – both the newbies and the vets.

Til then, we look forward to speaking to potential Kadimah families from the Atlantic Provinces and hope you will give Kadimah a try.



*Josh David entertains the children with familiar camp songs.*



# CAMP KADIMAH

*Register today! Ask about our 2, 3 and 6 week programs.*



**A fun, inclusive experience immersed in Jewish values & authentic Maritime hospitality since 1943.**

**CALL (416) 634-3089**

**WWW.CAMPKADIMAH.COM**



# Travelling Artist and the Voyage of a Print

by David Silverberg

**L**ast week I received a letter from Kathy R. Uyeyama, who some forty years ago had purchased a print of mine shown in exhibition for the first time, entitled "Mahzor" (1/50). It was the first one of a series of images inspired by viewing and studying early Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts and confirming for me the fact that Images of Jewish subjects by Jews was a legitimate and fruitful creative endeavor. She enjoyed it for all that time and decided that she had now found the best place for it to be in the future.

The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre was having its sixth annual Sakura Gala. They had chosen Mr. Chiune Sugihara, who in W.W.2 had saved the lives of 6000 Jewish refugees (many who fled from Poland to Lithuania) to be one of its two Honorees. She presented my Jewish work to the son of Mr. Sugihara, who gave the formal speech standing in for his late father. He accepted it after a careful quite examination of the image.

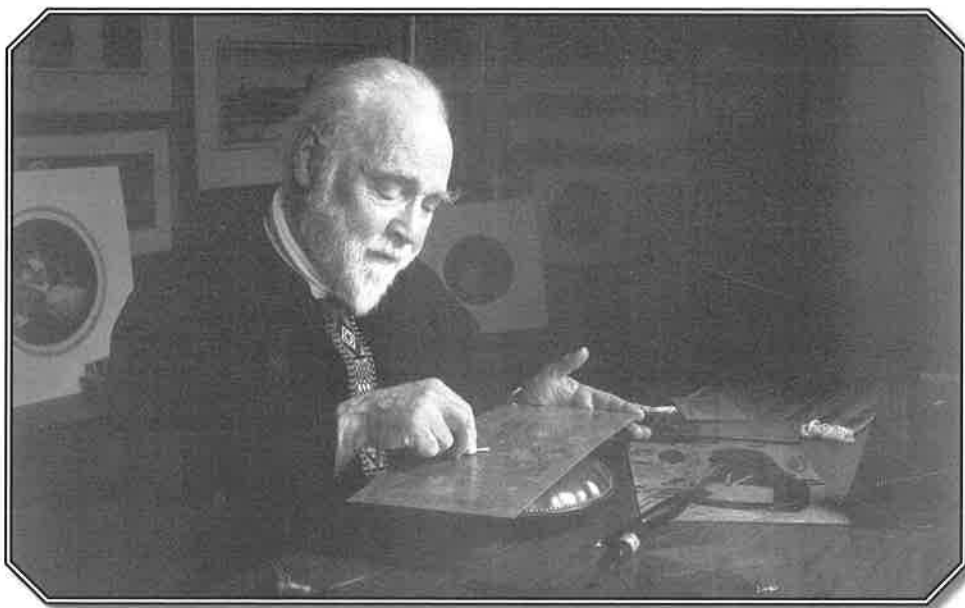
That my image completed such a long voyage in time and place to enter the domain of the family of a Japanese Hero, Saviour of so many Jews is wonderful! This story makes me very happy indeed.

She asked me to translate the eight lines in Hebrew text and to provide an overview of how it developed. Even though it meant extra research and effort I was pleased to do so. An Israeli born friend Dalia Sonnabend translated the eight lines in my work inspired by the Laud Mazhor.

In my long career I have travelled extensively in 86 countries. Studying, working, creating, learning and being inspired by the splendid accomplishments of people all across the globe.

I lived, for a year or more in six countries other than Canada and each presented me with challenges, new friends, invaluable insights and new skills to master.

Now I am made aware that the images I



*Artist David Silverberg pictured in his studio. Photo by Garey Pridham*

created have also travelled and this too contributes to my satisfaction.

After graduating from McGill University, I went to Paris, France to study engraving with William Hayter at Atelier 17 and to the "Ecole National des Beaux Artes". Some of my mother's family who had left Poland and settled in Paris before WW2 had survived the war. They accepted me with loving hospitality. Now numerous, they were most helpful, accepting, Yiddish speaking and gracious. My mother had also experienced this family's kindness years earlier while stopping in Warsaw when she too was on her great voyage to Canada. Thus I was also able to enrich my family history and Yiddishkeit and become more learned with the travels tribulations thoughts of these diaspora Jews.

The second year was spent in the south of France near Grenoble, where my wife Yvette, (whom I met on a trip to Russia), taught school and our son Alexis, was born. After two years in France, we returned to Montreal. There after working in various studios for 4 years I created, engraved and printed my book "The Song of Songs." It was displayed in the Pavilion of Judaism at EXPO 67.

Our second son Daniel was born in Sackville, NB in 1963. I had accepted to teach at Mount Allison, taking the position left vacant after Alex Colville, had left the university. I was quickly put on the Religious Life Committee. (I later became the first Jewish full Professor at that United Church Institution). Though I was brought up in a strong Yiddish cultural family and had attended Jewish School for four years (after the classes at Protestant School Board's Bancroft school) and had later mingled with many Jewish artists, performed in Sholem Aleichem plays and sang in Yiddish musicals; I was upset that I was incapable of properly answer the many theological queries put to me as the first Jew on that committee. So to avoid further embarrassment I entered into a crash program of substantial book purchasing and studying the contents of my growing library on Judaica. This quest has never ceased.

I was fortunate to be invited in 1966 by Fumio Kita Oka, the president of the Japanese Woodcut Printers Association, to teach my colour printing techniques to their artists in Tokyo. While there I took an excursion to Kyoto and fell in love with the



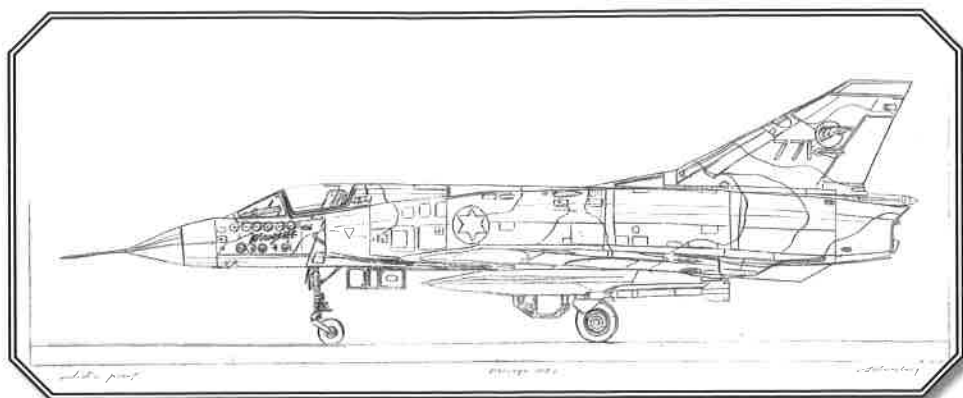
city. The next year I was successful in being awarded The Canada Councils "SENIOR ARTS AWARD"! This enabled me to return to Kyoto with my entire family, for a very productive, inspiring and fulfilling year, 1967-8.

The artist friends made in Japan were to constitute a strong and lasting bond. It was only last year that the last of these entire active, talented, gifted, friends of 45 years passed away. But their contribution to my understanding of Japan will never leave me.

Over the years I had many exhibitions in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka. I invited several to visit the university to exhibit and lecture at Mount Allison and then at Acadia University.

My desire to view and actually study Jewish theology, art and artists, particularly Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts from the 9th to the 13th centuries led me to libraries throughout the world, and to meetings with rabbis other learned men. In Israel, I met and worked with the renowned scholar Bezalel Narkiss in Jerusalem.

In the libraries in England, France, Germany, Denmark, the U.S.A., Czechoslovakia and Poland I carefully and closely examined these original works. This led ultimately to a great need to create



*From David Silverberg's series of Israel Air Force Planes, the Mirage 111CV.*

engravings that reflected my pride and new understanding of the true role of art for Jews in the past and in the present.

The year spent in Lima, Peru 1971-2, where I met other fertile branches from my mother's family which had settled their after leaving Poland. Here again I was treated with love and kindness and learned of how their lives had developed in South America. Almost all have now immigrated to Israel.

Yiddish was the lingua franca as I struggled with Spanish. This was the year not only of series of works on Peru but also where I made time to create new works in ceramics, zinc and steel garnered from my many sketches done from Hebrew Illuminated manuscripts in previous years!

The "Mahzor" images were but one of many of these series.

Later in life I made a pact with myself to tithe 10% of my creative energies to my Jewish Heritage! This I have done: The book "The Psalms and the Story of David"; The Prague Haggadah; the suite on Yiddish authors- "The Berlin Carriage"; My Maternal Grandparents; the commission for the 50th anniversary of the Halifax synagogue Shaar Shalom; and the suite of early Israeli Air Force Aircraft, as well as the many exhibitions on this theme, are examples of this determination.

If the birth of this image and its history of voyaging after it left my studio, can bring to others some thought provoking contemplation, that too makes me content!

## ***Chiune Sugihara (1900-1986)***

Chiune Sugihara was a Japanese diplomat who served as Consul-General in Lithuania during World War II. He defied direct orders of the Japanese government and issued visas to Jewish refugees so they could travel to Japan and escape the Nazi onslaught that was engulfing Europe at the time.

In less than one month during the summer of 1940, he issued over 2,000 visas, resulting in his saving over 6,000 lives. The Japanese government closed the consulate, but he continued writing visas from the train platform where his train was to depart. It is estimated that there are 80,000 Jewish living descendants that attribute their lineage to Sugihara's courageous deeds of saving their relatives. In 1946, Sugihara was dismissed from the Japanese Foreign Service. He understood the reason for this dismissal was his issuing of the transit visas. He took odd jobs for several years following this.

In 1968, a survivor finally located Sugihara after many years of searching. 28 years after his good deed, Sugihara realized that the Jewish refugees he saved actually survived. In 1984, Sugihara was recognized by the State of Israel, receiving the Righteous Among the Nations award from Yad Vashem, the only Asian recipient of this honour. In July 1986, Sugihara passed away in his home near Tokyo. Today he is considered a hero in Japan.



# Stone Hearth Bakery Creates Kosher Products

by Joel Jacobson

**T**he aroma of baking bread wafts through the hot, humid interior of Stone Hearth Bakery in Halifax, the only kosher bakery east of Montreal.

Established in 1982 as a retail and wholesale bakery offering work skills training to people with emotional and mental health difficulties, Stone Hearth is operated today by MetroWorks, a social service agency. With four full-time employees, all community college trained in bakery skills, and up to a dozen trainees working various schedules, Stone Hearth produces premium quality European-style breads, bagels and specialty goods. The product is distributed to major grocery stores, restaurants, burger outlets and even privately for special events.

Halifax rabbis through the years have arranged Kashruth certification for all StoneHearth's goods. And the staff has learned what is required.

Maggie LaPierre is in her fourth year as a baker. The graduate of Nova Scotia Community College's bakery program says she might see the rabbi once a year when he'll "check the fridges and ovens, look at the ingredients and sign off on everything. It's been a learning experience for us to understand what products can and cannot be used."

While not the main part of the production, Stone Hearth's eagerly-anticipated challah satisfies the Jewish population of Atlantic Canada.



*John Hartling, general manager of Stone Hearth Bakery in Halifax, says rye bread is the most popular seller of the only kosher bakery east of Montreal.*

LaPierre says synagogues will order challah in bulk. The Beth Israel Synagogue uses a dozen a month for Shabbat kiddushim and Shalos Seudath. Community folk will place special orders for their own use for special dinners, particularly prior to holidays and even the Sabbath. Challah is available in the major stores as well.

Rabbi Amram Maccabi of the orthodox Beth Israel Synagogue visits Stonehearth

regularly. "I'm usually there once a month or so but the best part is that they don't know when I'm coming. But if they have new machinery or new ingredients, they'll call to be sure it works for us. They're very reliable."

The rabbi says Stonehearth is very supportive of the Jewish community, responding to requests almost no matter how small.

"It's super kosher," he says with a smile. "They follow Jewish ideals by hiring people with disabilities, a kindness shown to less fortunate communities."

John Hartling has been general manager of the bakery for just two months. He has wide experience in the non-profit sector and stresses Stone Hearth's mandate is to "at least break even while filling a social need. Our social goal is as important as our financial goal."

LaPierre says rye bread in various forms - dark, light, with caraway etc. - is the biggest seller.

"In some places, challah will sell out. In others, it is a 'shelf warmer', just there to fill a space, usually where people don't know what it is."

Stone Hearth also provides hamburger buns to many restaurants that specialize in that offering.

"Our products, all Parve, are all natural," says Hartling, "no chemicals, no animal fats, preservatives or dairy products. We mix the raw ingredients and bake from scratch, unlike many of the large bakeries where time is money, speed of preparation is of the essence and profit is the driver."

He's proud of the history of Stone Hearth. "Our trainees are here for a minimum of 10 months, many for longer until they build the confidence to work in a community, commercial operation, either in a bakery or elsewhere. When most arrive, they lack the confidence to work with others, work under pressure of time, or, in our case, temperature. By the time they leave, they have a greater sense of self."

"When people leave us, they know more than others in a normal bakery because they've experienced baking from scratch. And being careful with ingredients to ensure the Kashruth aspect helps their general knowledge, too."



## SHOW ISRAEL YOU CARE!

**Be a Civilian Volunteer on an  
Israeli army supply base with  
Sar-El Canada**

Free: base accommodations,  
kosher meals, and events.

Cost: flight, \$100 registration fee,  
weekend expenses.

Programs start approximately every 3 weeks.



**www.sarelcanada.org**  
**902.422.7491 Atlantic Jewish Council**

# 2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival, Halifax

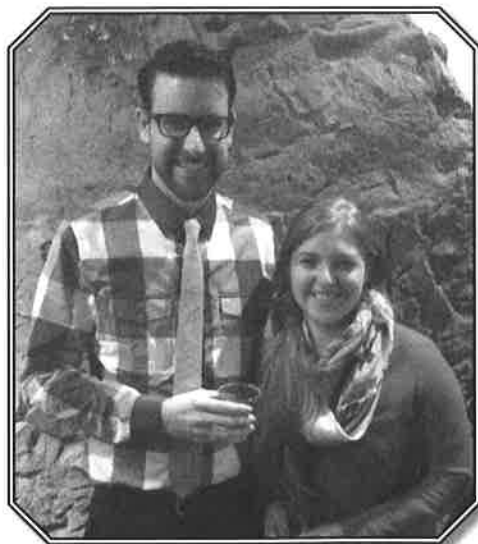
by Lynn Rotin

**T**his past November saw the emergence of the first Atlantic Jewish Film Festival in over ten years. With film-goers coming from as far away as Fredericton, it was a resounding success. Films ranged from comedies to dramas to documentaries. Invited guests introduced them and shared their thoughts afterwards. Three out of six films sold out. Audiences responded with laughter to some, questions about others and even, after one film, shocked silence. Saturday evening, the gala party, with music from the Daniel Matto Trio, saw over 200 people toasting vodka shots in honour of that night's film, *How to Re-establish a Vodka Empire*, and nibbling on Israeli appetizers, smoked salmon, and baked goodies.

The organizing committee thanks the sponsors and volunteers and especially all those who bought a ticket or two (or three) to support and show faith in this endeavour to put Jewish culture on the Halifax map.

Mark your calendars for our next festival... the 2015 AJFF: October 15 to 18.

**2014 AJFF Committee :** Lynn Rotin, Marcie-Ann Gilsig, Peggy Walt, Rosalind Belitsky, Anna Epshtein and Edna LeVine.



Jordan Schlew and Krista celebrate at the AJFF gala party. Photo by Shimon Walt



UK Filmmaker and Vodka entrepreneur Daniel Edelstyn at the AJFF gala party with Lynn Rotin sampling his Zorokovich 1917 vodka. Photo by Shimon Walt



Anna Epshtein with Celine Argacha, who was a guest speaker at the closing film 24 Days, relating her personal story of living in France as the tragedy of Ilan Halimi unfolded. Photo by Maxim Hazankin



Roman Romanov enjoys the AJFF gala with l to r, Lisa Baida, Yulia Sultan Shakh and Daniela Brandstaetter-Bar. Photo by Maxim Hazankin



Rita Pink, left, and Joel Pink, right, with daughter Jennifer at the Saturday evening gala. Photo by Maxim Hazankin



Pictured from l to r, Avia Maccabi, Nana Shteinberg, Inna Morgulis and Margarita Fainshtein enjoy the gala celebrations. Photo by Maxim Hazankin

# The real life rags-to-riches story of lawyer Reuben Cohen

by Allison Lawlor, Special to The Globe and Mail



**R**euben Cohen was a New Brunswick lawyer, financier, philanthropist and university chancellor. His life reads like an epic rags-to-riches tale – complete with the impoverished protagonist acquiring power, wealth and the love of his life, only to tragically lose it all before fighting his way back through strength of character.

Mr. Cohen, who died in Moncton on Oct. 24 at the age of 93, was a successful lawyer before establishing a financial empire that spread beyond New Brunswick. In 1974, he co-founded, with Leonard Ellen, the Central and Nova Scotia Trust Company, which later became Central Guaranty Trust Corporation. For a brief time, the multi-billion dollar corporation was among the top five trust companies in Canada, before its collapse in the early 1990s.

"Reuben Cohen was an original. A one-of-a-kind character that could have been drawn directly from the pages of a rags-to-riches novel by Horatio Alger," said Frank McKenna, a friend and former premier of New Brunswick.

Born in 1921 in Moncton, Mr. Cohen was the son of immigrant parents. His mother, Molly, came from a village that became part of Poland after the First World War, he wrote in his memoir. He described her as a determined woman with "boundless ambition and tireless energy," which he inherited. She lost her hearing early in life and learned to

speak limited English by lip reading. His Russian-born father, David, travelled throughout the Maritimes selling draft horses before opening a small grocery store on Moncton's Main Street. The Yiddish-speaking family lived above the store in an apartment that had only cold water. With few Jewish families in the city at the time, Mr. Cohen developed strong connections with other immigrants and non-English speakers, such as Acadians. Later in life, he used his wealth to support the preservation of Acadian art and culture.

When Mr. Cohen was 14, his father died of cerebral thrombosis. An early entrepreneur, young Reuben started selling newspapers before renting a horse and wagon to peddle bananas for 10 cents a bundle. After finishing at the top of his high school class, he went to Dalhousie University on a scholarship to study law.

He graduated from university in 1944 and returned home to Moncton to open his own law practice in a two-room office on Main Street. He soon built up an active practice in almost every type of law and before long branched into business, buying shares in local companies, such as the Central Trust Company of Canada, which was headquartered in Moncton.

"He was deceptive," Mr. McKenna said. "He used all kinds of ruses to be self-deprecating and modest."

A thin, small man, he spoke in a monotone, often with his eyes half closed, Mr. McKenna said. But when words came out of his mouth, you instantly knew he had a brilliant mind.

"He was extraordinarily bright and interested in everything under the sun," Mr. McKenna said, adding that his friend loved to recite poetry, often in Greek or Latin and could speak nine languages.

In the summer of 1950, a friend in Moncton introduced him to Louise Glustein. "She was 21 and the most vivacious young woman I had ever seen, with a smile that was magical and completely entrancing," Mr. Cohen wrote



**CANADIAN  
MAGEN  
DAVID  
ADOM  
CANADIEN**  
For Israel • Pour Israël

**The Magen David Adom Yochai Porat**  
**STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

**When your culture values life, you'll spare almost nothing to save one**

**The Magen David Adom Yochai Porat Ambulance Volunteer Program**

Gives young adults ages 18-25 from all over the world the opportunity to become certified first responders and to work on ambulances in Israel as part of MDA's life-saving efforts. Participants can volunteer for periods ranging from six weeks to one year and also have the opportunity to continue to higher levels of first-aid training.

This formal training and hands-on experience is invaluable when applying to medical/nursing school, yet builds Israeli pride, self-confidence, and life-saving skills for all youth – regardless of their career path, with no prior medical background required.

With **YOUR** help Magen David Adom continues its mission to provide uninterrupted emergency services to the people of Israel

Call **TOLL FREE:**  
**1-800-731-2848**  
or visit  
**www.cmdai.org**  
to donate now!



ISRAEL CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT MAGEN DAVID ADOM  
MAGEN DAVID ADOM CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT YOU



in his 1998 autobiography, *A Time to Tell: The Public Life of a Private Man*. On Feb. 10, 1951, they married and spent the next 37 years together. Unable to have children, they adopted two girls, Debra and Natalie.

Largely crediting her for educating him about art and for supporting his philanthropic work, Mr. Cohen raised more than \$250-million for various causes over the years, Mr. McKenna said.

In 1985, a \$100,000 donation turned into the Louise and Reuben Cohen Endowment Fund at the University of Moncton, which allowed the gallery to acquire a large collection of Acadian art. The school renamed the facility Galerie d'art Louise-et-Reuben-Cohen.

The YMCA of Greater Moncton was another institution to which he gave generously. Zane Korytko, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Moncton, recalls stories of Mr. Cohen spending hours in the Y's small library as a young boy. It was a place that didn't discriminate, so he felt comfortable there, Mr. Korytko said.

Mr. Korytko fondly remembers calls he received from Mr. Cohen. "It's the old man calling," he'd say. (Mr. Cohen started referring to himself that way in the 1960s). "I'm driving by and the parking lot is full. That makes me feel good."

With his "puckish sense of humour," Mr. Cohen loved to tease, especially women. He was an "outrageous flirt," Mr. McKenna said. But his wife remained the sole recipient of his love and devotion until her death in 1988. "It was a Hollywood type of love story," Mr. McKenna said.

In the summer of 1984, Ms. Cohen started complaining of abdominal pain. The following year she was diagnosed with a malignant ovarian tumour and went to Toronto for medical treatment. He kept vigil by her hospital bed during her long sickness and painful death,

which took him away from his business at Central Guaranty.

While he grieved, his company was burdened with a debt of millions of dollars' worth of investments. The

the disappearance of an important player in the Maritime economy and was a bitter blow," Mr. Cohen wrote.

"He often said he would give every cent that he had earned for one more day in her [Louise's] embrace," Mr. McKenna said.

In his book, Mr. Cohen offered little other explanation of how the financial services company he helped build came to its ultimate demise. He wrote that he still could not understand how it happened so quickly that, "... the better part of a billion dollars in capital and reserves were wiped out practically overnight."

"When the corporate collapse became known, it was as if a Churchillian 'iron curtain' descended on my life almost overnight," Mr. Cohen wrote. "It is almost as if I had died and gone to my reward."

Mr. Cohen gradually pulled himself out of his depression and created a new life for himself. He was asked to serve as Dalhousie University's third chancellor and held that post from 1990 to 1994. He was instrumental in securing seed funding for the first Canadian chair in black studies and helped build the foundations for a more modern fundraising campaign.

He also found love again and at age 90 married Astrid Lundrigan, a woman he had known for years. He liked to tease that they weren't going to have children because they couldn't decide on a faith in which to raise them.

For his work, Mr. Cohen was named to the Order of Canada and received honorary degrees from several universities including the University of Moncton and Dalhousie University.

He leaves his wife, Astrid; daughters, Debra Moffatt and Natalie Smith, and five grandchildren.

*This article was originally printed in The Globe and Mail.*



*An engraving of Reuben Cohen as Chancellor of Dalhousie University, by David Silverberg, 1994.*

debt, combined with a global economic downturn, resulted in the company's demise. In 1992, a court-ordered restructuring put the company's "... assets into the hands of lenders, who then entered into the disposition of some of the assets. The loss of the trust company, which ended up in the hands of the Toronto Dominion Bank, meant

## AROUND OUR REGION: HALIFAX



The AJFF committee with special guest, Daniel Edelstyn, from London, UK, front row centre, at the gala party after the screening of his film, *How to Reestablish a Vodka Empire*. Pictured from l to r, Edna LeVine, Marcie-Ann Gilsig, Peggy Walt, Anna Epshtein, Lynn Rotin and Roz Belitsky. Photo by Maxim Hazankin



Children listen enthusiastically as Bassie Feldman of Chabad reads a Chanukah Story at Chapters, Halifax.



Derek Brett, AJC board member, was formally sworn-in to join the ranks of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society and he looks forward to serving clients both in Nova Scotia and in Florida.



The Gilsig Series in Jewish Arts & Culture, Dalhousie University, presented *The Yellow Ticket*, a multimedia event which brought together live, original music and silent film to tell a story of perseverance and strength in the face of ethnic and religious discrimination. The score by famed Klezmer fiddlist and vocalist Alicia Svigals, centre, with accompaniment by Canadian virtuoso pianist Marilyn Lerner, right, added a new dimension to this 1918 film. Dr. Dorota Gohwacka, left, facilitated a discussion after their exhilarating performance.



Rabbi Mendel Feldman of Chabad and Former Chief Justice Constance Glube light the giant Menorah at City Hall, Halifax, celebrating the 2nd night of Chanukah.



Polish Consul Jan Skora, and his wife, Teresa, left, attend the *Kristallnacht* program featuring the performance from Kansas, *Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Story*, pictured with performers Megan Felt, right, and Mary Fisher.



Senator James Cowan, right, lights a memorial candle during the *Kristallnacht* ceremony, pictured with Shael Brown. Photo by Shimon Walt



Steven Markus spoke at the book launch of his recently published book, *Miracle Postcards*, the story of his life in Hungary before, during and after World War II, and his life in Halifax, Beth Israel Synagogue.



Dr. Dorota Glowacka, right, University of King's College, facilitated a discussion after the screening of *A People Uncounted: the Untold Story of the Roma during Holocaust Education Week*. The Roma endured centuries of persecution and over 500,000 were murdered in the Holocaust genocide. Pictured with Peggy Walt. Photo by Shimon Walt



Jon Goldberg at the Bell Centre, Montreal, attended the memorial for Jean Beliveau.



Jon Goldberg thanks historian Sara Beanlands after her presentation to an AJC and CIJA-sponsored breakfast at Beth Israel Synagogue in Halifax in September. Beanlands spoke about the Jewish Legion of World War I in which David Ben Gurion played a prominent role.



Nana Shteinberg participated in the March for Israel at Victoria Park, in Halifax.



The 3rd Annual Christmas Lunch at Spencer House Seniors' Centre: community volunteers brought joy to all, serving a delicious lunch, caroling, live music and lively conversations created a fun festive atmosphere, pictured from l to r, 1st row: Mort Felds, Rabbi Ari Isenberg, Myrna Yazer, Rona Schwartz, Lynn Rotin, Linda Schroeder, Celine Argacha and Ted Tax. 2nd row, l to r: David Tax, Murray Schwartz, Mindy Jacobson, Cara Tax, Leo Weniger and Jamie Tax. 3rd row, l to r: Margaret Vitkin, Stephen Bates, Schuyler Smith, Judith Bates, Barb Alberstat and Olga Kulakevich. Missing: Phil Alberstat, Adam Conter, Fanny Nathanson and Edna LeVine.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: Jewish Artists in Atlantic Canada OPENING JULY 2015

Are you a Jewish artist living in Atlantic Canada and interested in exhibiting your work at this show?

How has being Jewish shaped you or your art practice?

For more information and to receive an application form, please email:

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

or contact the AJC office:

(902) 422-7491 x221



# Moncton News

by Nancy Cohen



*City Hall Menorah lighting.*

**I**t has been a busy fall in Moncton with several events, celebrations and sadly some funerals.

Once the high holidays were over it was time to build the succah. The annual succah building is always popular with families, and this year an enthusiastic crowd showed up to help with the task. Decorations were made and hung, and afterwards everyone enjoyed barbecued hotdogs and hamburgers. During the week of succot there was also a party in the succah for the Cheder children.

Over a few weeks this fall several of life's milestones took place in the community. On October 25 there was the Bar Mitzvah of Adam Makarov, son of Victoria Volkanova and Michael Makarov.

This joyful event was, sadly, followed by the funeral of Reuben Cohen. Reuben was one of Moncton's most famous citizens and the synagogue was filled with members of the Jewish and non Jewish communities, as well as people from across the country who came to pay their respects.

Condolences to his wife Astrid, his daughters Nathalie and Debra, and their families.

Later that same week Vadimka Shubayev and Renee Davidzada who had recently moved to Moncton from Toronto, welcomed their first child, Arye Ephraim, and a brit milah was held at the shul.

Another happy occasion was a baby naming for Yael Bracha (Elliot Claire) the daughter of Aviva Cohen and Alex Metcalfe. Elliot is the first

grandchild for Ivan and Nancy Cohen and Joseph and Elizabeth Metcalfe.

A couple of weeks later a special Kiddush was held to welcome Alexander and Irina Izichkis and their three children, who immigrated to Canada in November.

We were saddened to hear that Minnie Attis, a longtime member of the Jewish community passed away on December 17. Minnie lived her entire life in Moncton. Widowed at a young age she devoted herself to her children. Her door was always open to family and friends and she was famous for her homemade bagels and cakes. Condolences to her children David, Hilton, and Sanford, and their families.

On December 20 there was another celebration – the naming of Ketorah, daughter of Shawna Rinzler and her husband Andrew. Ketorah is the sister of Rhianna and Bryson, and the granddaughter of David and Carol Rinzler.

Several events were held during Hanukkah. There were annual menorah lighting ceremonies at the Moncton hospital and Moncton City Hall. Mayor George LeBlanc and several city councilors attended the city hall lighting and the mayor addressed the crowd. There were also many children there to help recite the blessings.

The shul Hanukkah party took place on December 21. This year some of our newest members pitched in and made some traditional Russian Hanukkah dishes to accompany the usual turkey dinner and latkes.



*Building the Succah.*



# Cape Breton News

by Sharon Jacobson

**F**or such a small community, we are extraordinarily busy.

Our gathering to break the fast at the end of Yom Kippur with a delicious meal was appreciated by the 40 people who attended.

Barbara Nathanson had a Eureka moment when she suggested there be a Women's Service for

ROSH CHODESH in November, and made several calls, twisted arms, and assigned various roles in the service.



*Evy Carnat, right, enjoys the Challah Bake Project while in Toronto, with daughter-in-law Kelly Wood, left, pictured with leading Canadian Kosher cookbook author, Noreen Gilletz,*

Three women were called to the Torah for the first time - very touching for all of us.

From Shachris to Musaf and in between reading the Torah, we did it all. The BEST KIDDUSH LUNCHEON EVER was provided by the men.

Evy Carnat attended the Shabbat Project while in Toronto in October. Twenty-five hundred girls and women of all ages gathered to make challah in one enormous ballroom. This was part of a movement begun in South Africa to draw Jews together to keep Shabbat, and has spread worldwide to 340 cities. Other Cape Bretoners in the room included Helene (David) Medjuck, and Marsha (David) Freeman.

We could probably write a sequel to the children's book, WHERE'S WALDO? called WHERE'S EVY? If you stare at the map of Italy, you might spy her there with a group of women, including Myrna Yazer and Marcia (Green) Aronson, visiting Jewish sites in several Italian cities! If you are fortunate enough to catch the peripatetic Evy, ask her about her experience.

MAZAL TOV to

- The Zissersons, Marilyn and Warren on becoming grandparents to twins

- Harold and Diane Schwartz on celebrating the Bat Mitzvah in New Jersey of their granddaughter, Rebecca Amelia Feiner, daughter of Shoshana (Schwartz) and Len Feiner

- Shirley Dubinsky on attending the marriage of her grandson Ira Dubinsky, son of Lon Dubinsky, to Jessica Litwin in Quebec

And finally,

Chanukah and Christmas would be very different in Cape Breton without the Nathansons!

Herman Nathanson, who was one of the first businessmen responsible for the inception of the Christmas Parade that originates from Whitney Pier and wends its way through the streets of downtown Sydney, was honoured with the role of Grand Marshall. I believe Herman was also the reason this original parade route was enforced despite an attempt this year to change it. With Barbara by his side, they led the grand parade.

Their son, Sheldon provided a Christmas Cartoon Caravan that is always the delight of the children! Yes Virginia, "there is a Santa Claus" and sometimes his name is Herman or Sheldon?

The Nathansons have all the bases covered. Son Alan is the organizer and chief latka maker for our annual joyous community Chanukah party which is held at the Synagogue and draws in a large crowd. Singing, dancing, a lot of Family and a lot of



*Helene (David) Medjuck, Evy Carnat, Marcia (David) Freeman at the Challah Bake Shabbat Project, Toronto.*

Fun! If you look really hard, I bet you will find Evy there...

Fanny Cohen: Funny and Fabulous at 106

We had just seen the National Theatre Production "Of Mice and Men" at our local cineplex- a Steinbeck tale which deals with The American Dream and the spectrum of humanity who have become the marginal of society. In the end, it speaks of a greater theme, one of community and connection.

Despite her age, and the "wear and tear" of life, Fanny Cohen's 106 years of enthusiasm and exuberance does not allow her to become marginalized by any society. Mentally vibrant, she emanates a large personality from the corner chair of her living room. One quickly learns it is "Her Life, Her Perspective, Her Way," for, as she emphatically puts it in her own vernacular..."And why not?"

We had gathered at her request for a Hadassah Meeting with some of the women from what was left of 2 Jewish Communities, Glace Bay and Sydney. She brought together the 6 stalwart members from the Glace Bay Chapter which has continued to function despite its size, and about 6 visitors from Sydney. Fanny welcomed into her home each one as they arrived with a prodigious exclamation of gratitude.

As it was around Remembrance Day, she

*continued on page 24*

## AROUND OUR REGION: CAPE BRETON

continued from page 23



Eleanor Yazer, left, and Fanny Cohen at 106, right, at a Haddasah meeting.

rose "in her school principal persona" and gave a poignant speech that recalled the First World War and what she remembered of our boys going off across the sea. The room was quiet...the human connection with this woman so palpable...

She has said that visitors give her Life; we learned that day it goes both ways.

Shirley Chernin: "I'll do it." The Constant Volunteer

Our very own Shirley Chernin was recognized yet again for 70 years of service as an outstanding example of volunteerism.

She was the 2014 recipient of the Katherine McLennan Award that recognizes, as stated in the Cape Breton Post, "exemplary community contributions to the arts, culture and historical preservation of Cape Breton.

To quote Susan Plath, Citizen Service League's executive director- Shirley has shown " a sense of respect and responsibility to others in the community and has been conscientious, determined and imaginative."

Shirley Wolfson moved to Glace Bay upon marrying Joseph Chernin where she became and has been ever since "our jewel in the crown"!

Pert, energetic with a wry sense of humour, Shirley's dynamic ability to make things happen is the stuff of which corporate CEOs are made...

Some of her involvements include-

Local Council of Hadassah-Wizo

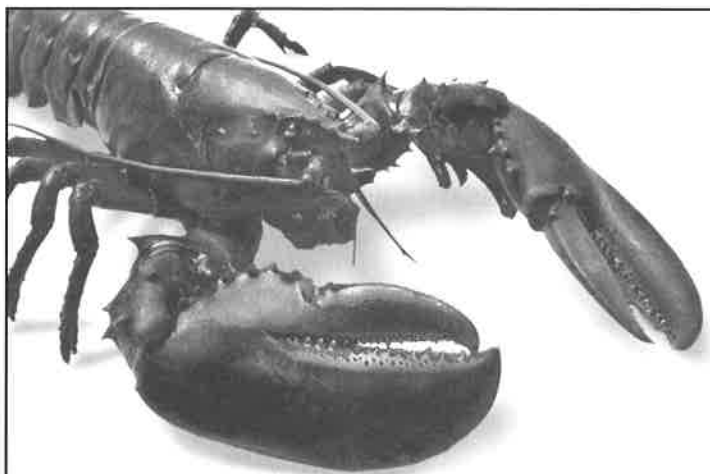
42 years of a very successful Hadassah Bazaar Contribution

to the Beaton Institute at CBU of her personal collection of photos and papers, thus adding to the preservation of the History of the Jewish Community in Glace Bay Founding member of Glace Bay Citizens Service League ( Town House ) which developed and maintained such services as Meals on Wheels, Nursery School, Clothing Depot, and Literary and Hospital programs.

First Chairperson of Town Daycare in Glace Bay Active participant in Transition House, Gerontology Association of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton University, Glace Bay Heritage Society, Canadian Federation of University Women and Glace Bay Community Health Centre...and...might I add she is a fantastic Baker! (Come to our weekly Kiddush following services)

Shirley described herself as a professional volunteer who "gets more than she gives"...

Such people are rare in DEED!



fresh from the ocean

shop in store

757 Bedford Highway | Halifax Stanfield International Airport  
902-443-0333 | 9am-7pm daily | 902-873-4509 | 5am-8pm daily

shop online at [clearwater.ca](http://clearwater.ca)



remarkable seafood, responsible choice

## PRECISION-CRAFTED ADRENALINE.

IT'S THAT KIND OF THRILL.

THE ALL-NEW 2015 ACURA TLX. STARTING FROM \$34,990.\*

The 2015 TLX heralds a thrilling leap forward, fusing sports sedan athleticism with premium refinement. With handling prowess wrought from the next-generation Precision All-Wheel Steer™ and available Super Handling All-Wheel Drive™ (SH-AWD™) systems, acceleration delivered by an available 3.5-litre V6 engine, and advanced tech features like available AcuraLink™, the result is an all-new line of performance sedans that deliver a thrill like no other.

LEASE THE ALL-NEW 2015 TLX FROM  
**\$238\*\*** | **\$0** | **2.9%**  
BI-WEEKLY DOWN FOR 36  
PAYMENT PAYMENT MONTHS



All information contained herein applies to Canadian products only. \*Selling price is \$34,990//\$38,200 on a new 2015 Acura TLX (Model UB1F3F) // 2015 Acura TLX with Launch Package (UB1F3F). Prices exclude \$1,995 freight and PDI, fees, license, insurance, registration and taxes (including GST/HST/QST). \*\*Limited time lease offer based on a new 2015 Acura TLX (UB1F3F) // 2015 Acura TLX with Launch Package (UB1F3F) available through Acura Financial Services on approved credit. Representative lease example: 2.9% lease rate for 36 months (78 payments). Bi-Weekly payment is \$238 // \$258 (includes \$1,995 freight & PDI) with \$0 // \$0 down payment. 16,000 km allowance/year; charge of \$0.15/km for excess kilometers. Total lease obligation is \$16,564 // \$20,124. License, insurance, registration, options and applicable fees, duties and taxes are extra (includes GST/HST/QST as applicable). PFSA (lien registration fee and lien registering agent's fee are due at time of delivery and are not included. Lease offer ends September 2, 2014 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Some terms/conditions apply. Model shown for illustration purposes only. Offer is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. While quantities last. Visit [acura.ca](http://acura.ca) or your Acura dealer for details. © 2014 Acura, a division of Honda Canada Inc.

## Report from The Rock

by Claire Frankel-Salama

**A**s 2014 comes to an end, we, as Canadian Jews, reflect upon a difficult period for Jews in many countries. We, in Newfoundland in particular, are thankful for our safety and the blessings we enjoy in this wonderful part of the world.

This fall began with the High Holyday celebrations. We began as usual with our annual Shacharit service at Cape Spear which was followed by a cemetery service at Blackmarsh Road and brunch at the synagogue. Rosh Hashanah was celebrated at Beth El with full services conducted by Prof. Messod Salama and Dr. Michael Paul with the help of all the congregants. We missed the sweet voice and familiar tunes of Ernie Mauskopf and wish him a "Refuah Shlemah". On the first night we held our traditional Kosher dinner washed down with Israeli

wine which, unfortunately, has been delisted. As always, we try to incorporate as many Israeli products (e.g. herbs, dates, etc.) as possible in all of our activities. Our services and celebrations were enhanced by the presence of Terri Allister of Montreal who also brought us wonderful honey cakes from Montreal, and Niso and Ronit Maman on their way back to Florida from their summer stay on the island. Thanks as well to Prof. Richard Rifkin for his excellent



*Trudy Morgan-Cole with students from Brother T.I. Murphy,*

Challahs. After Yom Kippur we broke the fast as a community and prepared for the construction of the Sukkah. Despite the ongoing construction, a lovely Sukkah was built and decorated for the holiday.

*continued on page 27*

## HERE & THERE

With law offices across Atlantic Canada, we are where you need us.

coxandpalmerlaw.com  
@coxandpalmer

**COX & PALMER**  
The difference is a great relationship

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND ATLANTIC CANADA

TU BI'SHEVAT TELETHON FEB. 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

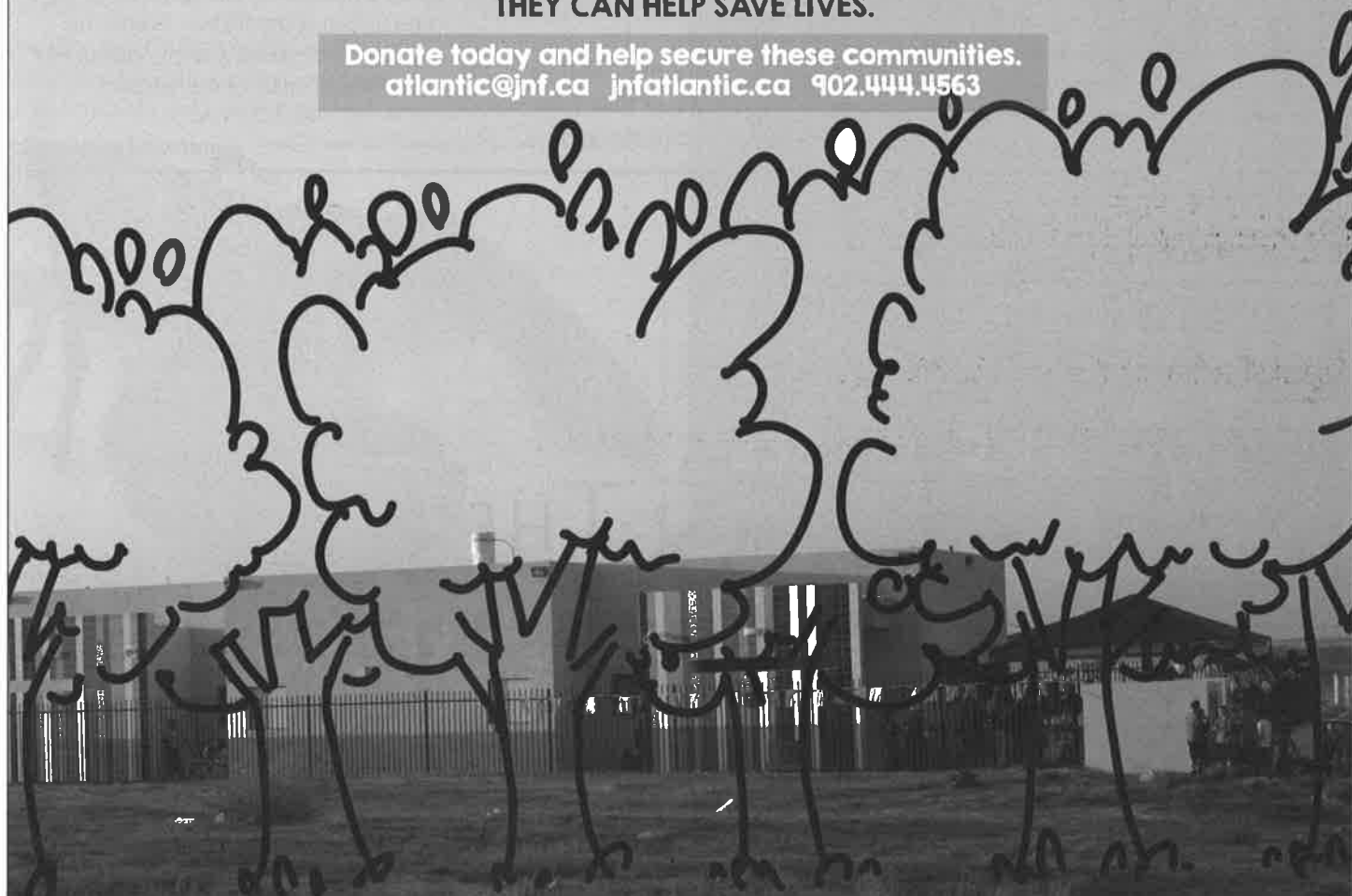
WHEN IS A TREE MORE  
THAN JUST A TREE?

# TU BI'SHEVAT SECURITY PLANTINGS

The communities of Halutza, along the Gaza border, live under the constant threat of rocket fire. JNF will be committing all tree planting efforts to improve the protection of these citizens. Security plantings allow trees to act as a physical and visual barrier.

TREES CAN BE MORE THAN JUST TREES.  
THEY CAN HELP SAVE LIVES.

Donate today and help secure these communities.  
[atlantic@jnf.ca](mailto:atlantic@jnf.ca) [jnfatlantic.ca](http://jnfatlantic.ca) 902.444.4563



This Tu Bi'Shevat, plant a tree for only \$18, buy a tree bank (10 tree cards for \$150) or consider a Friendship project for \$6,000 and get a named plaque on site.

All donations are eligible for a donation receipt for the 2015 taxation year.



*Synagogue tour Mary Queen of Peace group 1.*



*Group 2 of grade 4s from Mary Queen of Peace.*

***continued from page 25***

In November we welcomed the students from Brother T.I. Murphy Centre who were accompanied by their teacher, the well-known author, Trudy Morgan-Cole (see photo). As usual, they posed interesting questions and we all benefitted from the visit. Two weeks later we received a group of French Immersion students from Stephenville High School, accompanied

by their teacher, Nancy House. They were quite amazed to hear that during WWII Stephenville had a little makeshift synagogue for the Jewish troops stationed there. One week later our doors opened to 110 Grade 4 pupils from Mary Queen of Peace, arranged by their teacher, Charlene White (see photos). As usual, they were bright, lively, and a great pleasure to teach.

In November Michael Paul led a small

mission to Israel with a great friend of our community, Roger Maunder. It was Roger's first trip to the Holy Land, and he has been speaking to many groups in several churches and advocating for Israel on our behalf.

As we light the final candles of Chanukah, we must be optimistic and celebrate little victories such as the release of Alan Gross after five years of captivity in Cuba. Am Yisrael Chai!

# Kosher Wines

available at



Bishop's Landing | 1477 Lower Water Street | 490-2675

**WWW.BISHOPSCELLAR.COM**



## *Jewish Community Havura of Newfoundland & Labrador*

by Ruth Noel and Nancy Bennett

**W**e always look forward to September, not only for the time of reflection during the High Holidays but also to welcome new people to our community—and this year was no exception.

### **Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur**

In September we welcomed several new young members to our Havura as well as welcoming guests who were visiting during the High Holidays. One of our new members welcomed her father who visited from Toronto for Rosh Hashana. He's still talking about the delicious lukshon kugel—a specialty of Havura member Jillian Gould—from her mother-in-law's recipe that she made for the Erev Rosh Hashana community dinner. These new additions bring a renewal of spirit to our group.



*Israeli dancing taught by Inbal Bahar lights up the Havura's Hanukah party.*

Elizabeth Loder organized Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services and led most of them, with several members volunteering

to lead some of the services, read from the Torah, and give D'var Torahs. Elizabeth's Kol Nidre was absolutely beautiful. The

# \*Bacon optional.

Sponsor of the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival  
[eggstudios.ca](http://eggstudios.ca)

# e99



*The Havura enjoyed a delicious Sukkot brunch while the rain poured down outside.*

community Rosh Hashana dinner and brunch and break fast for Yom Kippur were organized by Elizabeth-Anne Malischewski.

## Sukkot

Sukkot was held at the home shared by Dave Jerome and Jonathan Richler. Sharon Koubi helped them build our sukkah. On the evening of Sukkot, we held a short service in the sukkah, complete with lulov and etrog and juice and snacks. On the Sunday of our Sukkot brunch, there was such a heavy rain, we held the service in the house. The rain didn't dampen our spirits and we had a nice turnout. The food was delicious and everyone enjoyed themselves.

## Simchat Torah

Simchat Torah was hosted by Kari Brown, Shamus, Eli and Paddy Mackey and we had a wonderful time dancing with the Torah. After dancing, we were ready for the yummy desserts and snacks. The party lasted well after 9 pm and even the small children stayed late that evening.

## Hanukah

We rented a hall in one of the local churches for our annual Hanukah party. We lit candles, sang the blessings and then joined in the singing of Maoz Tzur, led by our president, Jonathan Richler. Then it was time for homemade latkes—potato, sweet potato and leek—with sour

cream and homemade applesauce, and other main dishes, salads and desserts, organized by Elizabeth Malischewski and Nancy Bennett. Inbal Bahar taught several Israeli dances and kids and parents had a great time dancing the night away.

## Shabbat Services

Havura services continue on a bi-weekly basis. We had a wonderful Friday night children's service this fall with over a dozen children in attendance, organized by Elizabeth Loder. It was hard to tell who enjoyed it more—the kids or the adults. We plan to hold more over the next year. Our services continue to evolve.

## Community Activities

Some of our members were busy this fall speaking with school and church groups. One class from Stephenville made the eight to nine hour drive to St.

John's to visit various religious groups in the city. They met with both the Jewish Community Havura and Beth El Synagogue as well other religious groups in the day and a half they were here. The teacher is to be commended for organizing this trip.

Gil Shalev represented the Jewish Community and took part in a memorial service at the Basilica to mark the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of World War I. Newfoundlanders and Labradorians suffered heavy losses during this war and this service was the first of many events which will take place here and in Europe over the next several years.

## News and Notes

We are delighted that the Koubis have returned from their summer in P.E.I. and will be here until next summer. We're trying not to think about their plans to move to New Brunswick where Sharon will become a staff surgeon at Upper River Valley Hospital in Waterville.

Mazel tov to Dave Jerome. He was presented the 2014 NLMA President's Award – a \$1,000 scholarship – at Memorial University's Scholarship and Awards Luncheon for medical students. The award recognized his interest in organizational aspects of the medical profession as judged by his contributions to the governance of Memorial University's Faculty of Medicine.

Please let us know if you are in St. John's. We welcome visitors to our services. You can write to us at [info@havura.org](mailto:info@havura.org) or check out our website at [havura.org](http://havura.org). We wish you a healthy and happy 2015.



*The Jewish Community Havura celebrates Hanukah 2014.*

# News from Fredericton

by Ayten Kranat



*Jake Kranat's Bar Mitzvah celebration.*



## Chanukah Party at the Synagogue

Our Hanukkah party held at the shul on the 6th night was well attended, with a

### AT CHANUKAH TIME

By Larry Finkelman, Fredericton

As Santa haunts the malls and sales begin,  
Christmas music blares in ears that strain to  
hear above the din, the silent sound of  
Jewish tunes playing softly in the heart.

In ages past, before the war began,  
we walked unconsciously into the night,  
lost ourselves, long before the fateful fight  
brought the day, and our people to the light.

We changed our names and spoke the Grecian tongue,

developed a taste for Aegean wine,  
used painted plates that bore Athena's face,  
and sought to be citizens of the world.

Until the Maccabees rebelled, and shed  
the clothes, customs, and the speech, and then our

Temple was redeemed; they lit the oil that  
lasted eight long nights and two thousand years.

With that, we morphed our faith into the home

and made a wine and culture of our own;  
put pure food on simple plates that we formed  
and set ourselves a part from those around.

Turn up the brightness in the Jewish soul.

Let's turn up the brightness so we can see  
the blue and white, in seas of red and green,  
and the candle light through the window pane.

large and tasty variety  
of Ayten, Shelly Ross

and Marilyn's doughnuts and canopies  
eaten to the festive songs of Michelle  
Buyko and Howard. Menorahs were lit  
and draidels were provided by Shandy and  
played with by the kids (both young and  
old). Thank you to all the other volunteers  
that made the evening such a success.

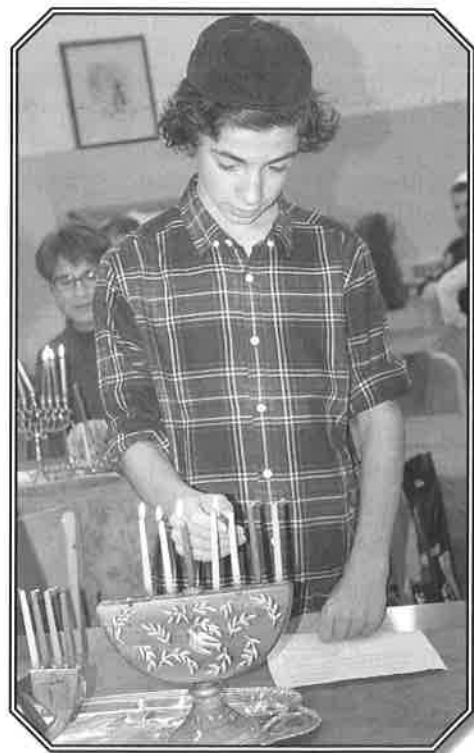
Once again this year, we collaborated with  
the Fredericton Public Library hosting our  
annual Chanukah Story time Party.

The evening was well attended despite  
the snowstorm. It was held on Wednesday,  
December 17, 6:30 pm. All children and  
families from the Jewish community  
and the public were invited to celebrate  
the festival of lights with a special story  
time. They played games, crafts and music  
was provided. Delicious Chanukah treats  
were provided by Sisterhood, Sgoolai  
Israel Synagogue. Special thanks to the  
volunteers and the Fredericton Public  
Library.

### Bar Mitzvah Celebration

Mazel tov to Jake Kranat on his being  
called to the Torah Sept.20th in celebration  
of his Bar Mitzvah. Best wishes are also  
extended to his proud parents, Ayten  
and Marc, his sister Jasmine and his  
relatives who traveled from England,

Zaidie Laury, Bobie Florence and Uncle  
Ken. The milestone of reaching the age  
of Bar Mitzvah in one's life marks the  
beginning of one's journey as an adult in  
Judaism, the age to do good deeds, and  
the age to continue practising the tenants  
and traditions of one's Jewish heritage.



*The Jewish Community Havura  
celebrates Hanukkah 2014.*



*Ruth Chippin lights the Chanukah candles, pictured with Marisa Blanchard at the community celebration.*

Jake's fluent reading of the parashah, Nitzavim, at the Shabbat morning service, emphasized the importance of the covenant G-d had established with our Jewish ancestors and its enduring legacy in the lives of all Jews over the years.

#### **Early Childhood Education**

Early Childhood Education classes began at Sgoolai Israel on September 7th with 8 children in attendance. The themes for this class were "Getting to know your Synagogue" and "Rosh Hashana". Our

two parent leaders held the children's attention with a game of Clue, the making of their own "Ner Tamid" to take home, a Rosh Hashana story, and treats of apple and honey. A beautiful round challah was made in the synagogue kitchen and donated by Larry Finkelman for the children to enjoy. A very successful start to the program.

#### **Celebrating Sukkot at Sgoolai Israel Synagogue**

Early Childhood children got together for their second class on October 5th and spent part of their class making decorations for the community sukkah. Parents and children had a great time working together on this project. On Sunday October 12 children and parents came to the sukkah to put up their decorations, shared good wishes, and had snacks in the sukkah.

Throughout the week, the Rabbi and his visiting cousins invited many in the community to come and enjoy eating outside in the crisp fall air and fulfilling the mitzvah of eating in the Sukkah.

## **Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW)**

**Helping Children. Improving Healthcare. Supporting Women.**



**CHW** Children Healthcare Women



When you send a card to a special person in your life, you are changing the world for the better for countless children and women who rely on the generosity of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) donors and friends, like you.

With your donation, CHW sends a beautiful card on your behalf and includes your personalized message.

Your gift supports CHW Projects for Children, Healthcare and Women in Israel and Canada.

## **Send a donation card and support Canadian Hadassah-WIZO**

Order online or send an e-card at [www.chw.ca](http://www.chw.ca)

To order by phone contact CHW's Representative  
**Shirley Chernin 902-539-7060**

- or - CHW Toll-Free 1-866-937-9431 (option 1)



When you send a card, you provide nutritious meals and so much more for children at the CHW Nina Cohen Atlantic Provinces Daycare in Jerusalem.

## News from Saint John

by Susan Isaacs-Lubin

**T**he Jewish Museum Israeli Film Festival fundraiser was held the end of October and was a very big success. The opening film and even at the New Brunswick Museum was well attended, as were the subsequent films. The event made money, and hopefully will become an annual event. Our thanks to Lloyd Goldsmith for bringing the idea and for chairing the event.

At our Annual General Meeting on November 3rd, we had an election for a new Board. The new Executive is: Norman Hamburg, President; Cathy Cohen Tait Vice President; Keren Shalom, Treasurer; Lorie Cohen-Hackett, Recording Secretary, and Susan Isaacs-Lubin, Corresponding



*Lighting the outdoor Menorah for the sixth candle.  
The general public was invited for the lighting and Chanukah cookies.*

Secretary. A new Board of Directors consisting of 9 members was also elected. Phil Bloom becomes Gabbai Rishon, and Norman Hamburg remains as Gabbai Chevra Kadisha.

Once again, Diane Bloom invited all the children into the kitchen with her to help make Chanukah cookies. This has become an annual event that the children look forward to. I am not sure



CANADIAN ASSOCIATES OF  
Ben-Gurion University  
of the Negev

'ISRAEL'S NATION BUILDING UNIVERSITY'

A donation in support of Ben-Gurion University is a statement of commitment to innovative research and to the development of a strong and thriving Negev.

Contact the Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University to find out about matching your interest with one of our many funding opportunities. Donations can be made as one time payments or as monthly installments and can be designated in honour of or in memory of a loved one.

**TO DONATE, SUPPORT CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH, MAKE A  
BEQUEST OR SEND A TRIBUTE CARD CONTACT:**

Jonathan Allen, *Executive Director, Ontario & Atlantic Canada*  
1000 Finch Avenue West # 506, Toronto, ON M3J 2V5  
Tel: 416-665-0854 Fax: 416-665-8055  
Email: jonathanallen@bengurion.ca Website: www.bengurion.ca

Feel the Energy  
אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב  
Ben Gurion University of the Negev



whether there were more cookies eaten or decorated!

Our new Multi-purpose room is now furnished, and the children and adults are making good use of it. We had a "get ready for Chanukah" day, with all ages of children attending and having fun making Chanukah symbols for decoration, learning Chanukah songs, playing chess, etc. It was wonderful to see so many congregants having a good time and enjoying the comraderie.

On Saturday, December 20th, Youval Aharon-Yariv will have a "Chanukah" Bar Mitzvah. The Aharons have invited the whole community to the Bar Mitzvah and will have Latkes as well



*Playing Chess the Sunday before Chanukah.*



*Front row: Dan Elman, Tamir Waks, Shaul Waks, Youval Aharon Yariv (Bar Mitzvah), Erez Aharon, Alon Zilberstein. Back Row: Phil Bloom, Issie Davis taken at the Thursday morning Tefillin Service for Youval Aharon Yariv.*



*Sunday before Chanukah doing arts & crafts.*

as the usual Bar Mitzvah fare. Youval will also have a Tefillin ceremony on Thursday prior to the Bar Mitzvah, and the Aharon family will be joined by visitors from Israel. Mazeltov to the whole family.

We continue to work hand-in-hand with the Jewish Museum to get our building back to order, after undergoing construction for the multi-purpose room. People from both the Museum and the Shul have been busy cleaning out and organizing our new storage rooms.



*The Shaul Waks family lighting the Menorah.*

## Israeli Ambassador to Canada Visits PEI

by Joel Jacobson

**O**n a landmark occasion, Jewish residents on Prince Edward Island had an hour-long meeting with Rafael Barak Thursday September 4.

"It's one of the few times we've had an ambassador of Israel to Canada visit here," said 21-year Islander Nessya Neemron of the inspiring session at Canadian Legion Hall in Charlottetown. "With his varied diplomatic background, and being an immigrant to Israel, Mr. Barak understands the people of the diaspora. He was forceful in what he said to us, about respecting other people's point of view (about Israel) but being adamant about expressing our point of view, too."

Following a similar trip to Halifax two weeks before, Mr. Barak's one-day visit to PEI, consisted of meetings with Premier Robert Ghiz and other government officials, the president and department heads at University of Prince Edward Island and the veterinary school of Holland College, city leaders of Charlottetown and the editors of the Charlottetown Guardian newspaper.

"I had a very fruitful visit to PEI," His Excellency said in an e-mail to CJN at the end of his visit. "In addition to our small size, there is so much that Israel and PEI share in common."

"I invited Premier Ghiz to visit Israel to see how we can cooperate in agriculture, energy and aeronautics. During my meetings with representatives from the university and the veterinarian college, we discussed ways to increase ties between our researchers."

Ms. Neemron, owner of two jewellery stores, said the ambassador admitted larger numbers of Jews in Ontario meant a more active response to anti-Israel



*Ambassador Barak speaks to the Charlottetown Jewish community.*

feeling during the recent events in the Middle East but "he urged us that, even though we're small, we can help show a more balanced point of view. It was thrilling for me to see 35 people turn out to meet with him, on a workday, of the 75 or 80 Jewish residents on the Island."

Kobi Schwartz, a former university teacher in Israel who immigrated to Canada 10 years ago and moved to PEI in 2012 to work in the IT and aerospace sector, introduced Mr. Barak to the community and emceed the session.

"Mr. Barak spoke for about 30 minutes before answering questions," said Schwartz. "He spoke extensively of the situation in Israel between the Palestinians, Iran and other countries, and then discussed the strong relationship between Canada and Israel. He was very open with us."

Mr. Barak added, "While I was graciously welcomed by everyone on the island, I was especially touched by the warm reception from PEI's small but strong Jewish community. This community truly cares about Israel and wanted to learn how to share with their friends and colleagues Israel's unique situation as an island of stability in a sea of volatility."

### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: Jewish Artists in Atlantic Canada OPENING JULY 2015

Are you a Jewish artist living in Atlantic Canada and interested in exhibiting your work at this show?

How has being Jewish shaped you or your art practice?

For more information and to receive an application form, please email:

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

or contact the AJC office:

(902) 422-7491 x221

# Ruth Pink z"l:

## A Pillar in her Community

*Editor's Note: Excerpts from a eulogy delivered by Rabbi Ari Isenberg at the funeral for Ruth Pink z"l*

**I don't know if Ruth had a Facebook account, but it wouldn't surprise me if she did. Ruth was exceptionally progressive in her outlook on life and embraced new approaches and means of personal expression. I think she'd have been pleased by the outpouring of messages of condolence on Facebook. Last night, I noticed one such tribute by Ruth's granddaughter, Rachel.**

Below a picture of Ruth with her 4 boys, Rachel added the following caption:

"all of us are traveling to Yarmouth, to where it all began. Some of us will be there in person, and those who can't be, will be there in spirit. We are all gathering to say goodbye to arguably the most inspirational woman any of us will ever meet. At 99 years young, our Nanny Pink taught us the importance of generosity, selflessness, and giving back to our community. Yarmouth has lost one of its pillars."

I believe that with one word, Rachel managed to capture the uniqueness and preciousness of Ruth's contributions in life: she was a pillar.

A pillar in her family life:

As was expressed in the obituary, Ruth oversaw a busy home where her domestic skills ensured that the freezer was always full; there were always home-baked goods on the counter; she pickled and preserved the bounty of her wonderful vegetable garden; and there was always an extra place at the table for whomever might arrive.

For over 65 years, Ruth supported her late husband Irving, who carried on the preeminent law practice in western Nova Scotia.

As a mother, Ruth watched, cheered, and supported her boys, not by overly prying into their lives, but by offering the tools, sustenance, and support to ensure that each of her sons would become independent with a strong sense-of-identity.

Of all the hobbies and treasures in her life, the most precious of them all were her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ruth had 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Up until a few days ago, she continued remembering every one of their birthdays and never missed sending a greeting. And when Ruth would receive visits from them, those ginger snaps were always fresh, waiting to be consumed with love.

A pillar in her Jewish community and worldwide Jewish family:

Ruth and Irving took their first trip to Israel in 1964. The country was still in its adolescence, and Ruth went to explore it and discover how her efforts and contributions could help it develop and evolve.

Ruth would become the National Vice President of the Hadassah Organization. She never missed an opportunity to support Jewish and Israeli causes, including the United Israel Appeal, the United Jewish Appeal, and supporting Hebrew University. Perhaps her most creative means of support was ensuring that the proceeds from the sale of her pottery would go to Hadassah.

If you go to Israel and visit the JNF Park, Ruth, along with her late husband Irving, is immortalized there on a plaque recognizing her contributions.

A pillar of Yarmouth society:

Ruth volunteered all the time. She may have spent as much time volunteering at the hospital as she did at home. As an educated and sharp woman, Ruth had the opportunity, not only to contribute to institutions like the YMCA and the

hospital, but also to help enhance them and their programming.

Ruth maintained her local civic duties with as much dedication as her Jewish duties. She contributed to the Canadian Alzheimer's Society, the Canadian Wildlife Fund, the law school at Dalhousie University, and the list goes on. It would be difficult to find a charitable cause to which Ruth was not a donor.

Just last week in our cycle of Torah readings, we said goodbye to another ageless figure - Moses delivered his final speech to the Israelites, then appointed Joshua as their new leader before ascending Mount Nevo where he dies overlooking the Land of Israel. This week, we begin the Torah anew - with Bereishit, the story of creation. Both are stories of promise and renewal. The cycle of life. The cycle of our seasons.

Both Moses and your Ruth, ageless and seemingly immortal, recognized the importance of planting seeds, establishing progeny, morals, and foundations to last in perpetuity.

Perhaps in all facets of her life, Ruth's approach was similar to that of her garden. Plant seeds, nurture them, invest in them, and then sit back in admiration as they enhance the world with beauty.

Ruth used to say: every year, my garden is a surprise, even to me.

But, it's impossible to prevent the seasons from changing. Ruth's body returns to the earth, but her soul will remain, immortal, through our collective memory, our deeds, our actions, and by maintaining all that she worked so hard to plant and nurture. I'm told that Ruth had already begun purchasing bulbs for next year's garden; but perhaps she was purchasing them for you.

Steven, Gloria, Joel, Rita, Ronald, Joan, Darrel, Elizabeth, the seeds of this great pillar in life now belong to you and your children.

Amen.

# A Question

by Rabbi David Ellis, Regional Chaplain, Atlantic Jewish Council

Is that all there is . . .  
Is that all there is?

Peggy Lee song from the 50s

**S**o what will be this year? Let's find some new commitments. The need for one of them was recalled to me recently. I was going to St. Mary's University to speak to a religion class. The professor had asked her class to submit questions to her in advance. But when I met with her to go over them, she was very apologetic.

"I'm sorry, Rabbi. But these kids are mostly from faraway lands or small communities in the Maritimes. They don't know much about Judaism. All they seem to know about it is Hanukkah, Bar Mitzvah and the Holocaust." Well, no problem, I said. I start wherever people are. But then I got to thinking and I said to her--you know, I'm afraid many of my people don't know much more than your students. Okay, they know a bit more. There's Passover. Maybe some other holidays.

And there's Israel.

But even these subjects--how much do we know about them? Are we still relying on only a 5th grade knowledge of Jewish life and culture that we learned (and largely

forgot) from cheder? Where is Jewish life in our complex contemporary world? And Israel. We know that standard stories of 1948 and 1967. But how much do we know today beyond

the headlines? What do we know about the biblical and historical sources for our commitment? The truth is we need a lot more knowledge about our Jewish life. What a shanda, to have spent thousands of hours advanced degrees in complicated subjects at the university--and not to have spent five minutes in many years significantly improving our Jewish knowledge.

So let's make this year a time of getting back to our Jewish education. Whether much or little, the main thing is to be consistent.

Otherwise, Peggy Lee's song comes back to haunt us. After centuries of tradition, strenuous efforts to live and celebrate, are



Amherst and Moncton way.

I am working with the newly formed Kairos Pneuma Chaplaincy group, run throughout all of Canada by one Rev. Lloyd Bruce of Sackville, New Brunswick.

I will be visiting in the correctional facilities in Spring Hill, Nova Scotia, and Dorchester/Westmorland in New Brunswick. In alternate months, weather allowing, I will take the long trek to the maximum security unit in Renous, New Brunswick.

I hope to see folks along the way.

I went to Renous a couple weeks ago, notwithstanding an hour detour off Hwy. 126 out of Magnetic Hill.

I spoke with a young man there. His incarceration was, unfortunately, for much more serious things than "playin' cards and shootin' dice." He had assaulted persons and had abused many women.

And yet, as he spoke to me in a locked, cage-like room, handcuffed behind a metal screen, he said to me, "I want to be Jewish." Well, I said, you can't really become Jewish in prison. And you don't have to "become Jewish" to understand and appreciate things Jewish. How about reading about it?

He said, yes, that's what he wanted to do. So some basic books are en route to him. Then we talked for another forty minutes or so. We went over some basic concepts--the Bible, ethical choices, attitudes toward money and charity. All of his questions were on the path. So--here is a young man who will be doing some serious reading and thinking in the next few months about what being Jewish means.

How about you? You have so much more opportunity than does he--the internet, books, and cassettes. Let's see you improve your Jewish knowledge.

Let's not come back a year from now with no results.

Is that all there is, is that all there is...?





**PREMIERE**  
SUITES

At Premiere Suites, guests always come first. The ability to tailor your amenities, location and accommodations according to your own individual needs means a perfect fit, every time.

- Nightly, weekly and monthly rates
- Fully equipped kitchens
- Separate bedrooms
- Laundry facilities in-suite or on-site
- Free wireless internet, cable & local calls
- Waterfront locations with water views

For availability and rates please call:  
1-866-844-1333  
[www.PremiereSuites.com](http://www.PremiereSuites.com)

we only satisfied with the meager?

Is that all there is?  
Is that all there is?

## Go To Jail

...I told him once or twice

To quit playin' cards  
and a' shootin' dice  
He's in the jail house  
now.

Webb Pierce song  
from the 50s

My "On the Road Again" travels will now take me once a month up Truro,

# Chanukah Miracle

by Rabbi Amram Maccabi, Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax

**C**hanukah has become an almost world-wide known holiday of lights. Just before the Christmas tree is set- the Jews whisk out their menorah and hallelujah! Candles, gifts and Chanukah "carols" are embraced and celebrated all over English speaking countries (and o', of course- Israel too...).

What is the reason of celebration?

Many answers have been given. I would like to offer yet another insight, perhaps less illuminated.

Indeed, there is no way to belittle the miraculous victory of few Jewish men over an armed army of the Greek empire (!) but isn't that the story of every holiday we celebrate? God has also smitten the mighty Egyptians and split the sea for His people. In a month and a half we'll, God willing, celebrate the downfall of Haman

and our salvation from the Persian Empire which held the flag of anti-Semitism in those days... and so on and so forth.

If we were appreciative enough, we would

not have ceased to praise Hashem for his every-day miracles too. Those redundant wonders that we take for granted; babies that are born, the sun that keeps shining no matter how much we abuse the ozone, and all those fascinating achievements we encounter on an every-day basis usually without pausing to think of our source of inspiration. And how on earth are we not washed away from a planet which is covered and founded on 2/3 water?!



Point is: there was something else in the miracle of Chanukah. A new idea for us to learn from and appreciate: the 8 day oil miracle only happened a t t h e e n d. but the ongoing fighting (that went on for 20 years!) was a day to day lesson. The believing and God fearing Jews stood for what they saw right, against all odds. Day after day, year after year, battle after battle.

The fact that the human spirit can derive from his soul the spiritual power to hold up; the courage to fight for what one believes is right *without knowing the end result*, but doing what he feels he should nevertheless. That is the epitome of living up to your ideals. That is education for the generations after. If you do what you have to do. And if you do what is right- God will be at your side.

*The olive oil that lasted 8 days-will prove it!*

## An Update

by Rabbi Ari Isenberg, Shaar Shalom Congregation, Halifax

shaar shalom  
**shabbaton**  
*let your spirit soar*

with Rabbi Ari Isenberg, musical guests, and featuring Scholar in Residence Rabbi Steve Greenberg, author of the award-winning book *Wrestling with God and Men*

**June 5th & 6th, 2015 *save the date!***

Shaar Shalom Congregation  
1881 Oxford Street, Halifax

A community celebration not to be missed - the weekend includes a festive Shabbat dinner, musical Kabbalat Shabbat, Israeli-style lunch following Shabbat morning prayer, inspiring learning, beautiful chanting, youth activities, childcare, and much more!

Public Lecture with Rabbi Greenberg on June 4th

Shaar Shalom  
CONGREGATION

**T**he past year saw new heights for our community, and we look forward to what 2015 will bring.

**Join us!**

Looking for community? Looking to Learn? Looking to play? Looking to make a difference? Looking to grow?

Look to Shaar Shalom!

Shaar Shalom Congregation is a sacred and caring community of over 200 households. We are Halifax's home for egalitarian, inclusive, and impactful Judaism, guided by the principles of Torah (our sacred tradition), Avodah (meaningful worship, programming, and learning), and Gemilut Chasadim (acts of loving-kindness and social action). We offer a supportive network b'eit yagon uv'eit simcha, at trying times and joyous times.

Our membership packages include many key benefits, such as:

- Rabbinic Services for lifecycle events, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and pastoral counseling
- High Holiday tickets
- Hebrew School Enrollment & Adult Education
- Year-round access to worship services
- Social/cultural volunteer opportunities, events, and programs

We look forward to welcoming you personally. With you, our community is stronger.

Join us this June for our Shabbaton.





# *Rosh Chodesh - The Jewish Woman's Holiday*

by Rebbetzin Frimet S. Yagod, Congregation Tiferes Israel

**R**osh Chodesh, the First day or two of every Jewish Month, is a special Holiday for the Jewish Woman. A woman refrains from certain household activities and has a special meal equivalent to a Yontef meal. What is so significant about Rosh Chodesh and why has the Torah designated it as a special Yontef for the Jewish Woman?

In order to understand this, let us take an insight from Chanukah. During the Greek domination of the Land of Israel prior to the Macabees miraculous victory, Rosh Chodesh was a capital offense. The other decrees outlawing Shabbat and Brit Milah - Circumcision were quite understandable. As the hallmarks of Jewish life, they diametrically opposed the Greek Hellenistic philosophy.

Shabbat observance demonstrates belief in One G-d who created everything. Brit Milah, as defined in Bereisheet 17:9-14, was the sign of the Covenant that G-d gave

to Abraham and all his descendants.

This sign marks every male as a member of the Abrahamic Covenant and defines Jewish Marriages as a Holy Union. The Greek Hellenistic philosophy celebrated the physical, sensual aspects of living with disregard of any belief and responsibility to the Creator of the World.

Rosh Chodesh, representative of the Jewish Calendar, was another aspect of destruction of Jewish life by the Greeks. The Jewish Calendar, since the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai, has always instructed us vis-a-vis the Jewish Holidays. Rosh Chodesh, and its celebration, has consistently been the practical demonstration of our Sinitic Covenant and our belief in Hashem. It is no wonder the Greeks used this as a method to obliterate Judaism.

Why did the Jewish Women merit this monthly Holiday? During the incident of the Golden Calf, (Exodus 32:1-35) the

Jewish Women would not allow their husbands to take their jewelry to form this idol.

As a reward in their G-dly faith, Hashem presented them with the Rosh Chodesh Holiday.

Jewish Women are the mainstay of the Jewish People. They infuse their domiciles with love for their spouses and children. They bring the spirit of Judaism into their homes and permeate their families' lives with an elevated sense of G-dliness for the mundane.

They are our N'shei Chayil - Women of Valour.

Rosh Chodesh is a very precious and apropos Holiday for our Jewish Women. It celebrates their uniqueness and contribution to our communities. Jewish life through the millenia and the survival of the Jewish People is mainly due to them. Truly, Rosh Chodesh IS Jewish Woman's Holiday.

# *B'Lechtecha Baderech - On Your Way*

by Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, Fredericton

**I**n the Torah portion known as the Shema we are commanded to carry this message of the belief in one G-d to our children, and to study these words in the morning and in the evening when we are sitting at home and when we are travelling, and to write them in the Tefillin and on our Mezuzot. The word "Derech" - "Way" appears in the Torah more than 200 times and the very first time it is mentioned is in Chapter 3 of Genesis when Adam and Eve are expelled from the Garden of Eden and the angels are posted to guard "the way of the Tree of Life". Today with modern

technology, when most people have cell phones or other portable media devices we can listen to classes and lessons called "Shiurim" wherever and whenever we want to. In my opinion this is the best way to learn Torah and you can choose whatever subject and whatever way of thinking that interests you.

Until about 300 years ago the only people who studied the Torah were an elite group who devoted their life to learning Torah, but since the time of the spreading of the Hassidic ideas there are millions of people learning Torah today in many different ways and every day new books and online

classes are published free of charge.

During the time that the miracle of Chanukah took place, Jews were not allowed to study the Torah, and even after the miracle happened, of re-dedicating the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, most people didn't believe that they can do it in the



same way that it was done during the 40 years in the desert.

When a person today leaves the Jewish way of life we refer to it as someone "who has gone off the Derech" but the opposite is also true. In the first chapter of Hilchot Teshuvah (the Laws of Repentance) Maimonides writes "Midarchei Hatshuva" meaning this is the way of Teshuvah - Repentance.

Recently, I was introduced to two speakers - Rabbi Kraft and Rabbi Mizrachi who teach every week a few lessons and most of their Shiurim can be found at torahanytime.com free of charge. Any question you ever had about the Jewish Way of Life are answered by these Rabbis.

During the long months of the winter, we all have an obligation and an opportunity to find our own way of carrying the

message of the Jewish Way of Life in many different ways. Whether it is when we are taking a trip in our car or on the train or whether it is discussing matters of Jewish belief with our children or colleagues at work, we are fulfilling this commandment.

Wishing you all a healthy and good winter.

## *A Message from the Chanukah Candles*

by Rabbi Mendel Feldman, Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes

**A**lthough Chanukah is celebrated only for eight days its message lasts all year.

There are three Mitzvot associated with lighting candles. 1) The candles that were lit every evening in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. 2) The Shabbat candles lit in the Jewish home every Friday evening to usher in the Shabbat. 3) The Chanukah candles lit during the eight nights of Chanukah.

There is however three distinctions between the Mitzvah of the Chanukah candles and the Mitzvah associated with the other two candle lightings.

1. The candelabra in the Holy Temple was located *inside*, in an inner sanctuary, similarly the Shabbat candles are to be lit *indoors* on (or near) the Shabbat table. In contrast the Chanukah candles are to be kindled at a door or window where the light should be facing the *outside*.
2. The candles in the Holy Temple as well as the Shabbat candles must be lit *before* sunset. The Chanukah candles on the other hand, must be kindled *after* sunset, when it is already dark.
3. The number of candles lit, both, every evening in the holy temple, as well as, every Friday in our homes *remains the same*. However, the candles lit during Chanukah are steadily *increased every evening*.

The message of the Chanukah candles seems clear.

It is incumbent upon each of us to not only light up - perform Mitzvot which is compared to a flame - "inside" in our homes and Shuls, but rather also to bring the light and warmth of Yiddishkeit with us even to the outside, despite what our friends and neighbors might think or say.

Furthermore even when we live in areas where it may not be so popular to keep kosher or to light Shabbat candles "it may be dark outside", still, we must have the moral courage to follow our ideals and beliefs.

Finally, it is not enough to light a single candle, it is not enough to remain complacent

with the Mitzvah we did yesterday, we must steadily increase our efforts to add an additional Mitzvah, and increase our acts of goodness and kindness in our surroundings.

Wishing you all a healthy winter



**ROYAL LEPAGE**  
**Anchor Realty**  
Independently Owned & Operated

**Carol Ginsberg, MBA**  
**REALTOR®**  
**Royal LePage Anchor Realty**  
**277 Bedford Hwy**  
**Halifax, NS B3M 2K5**



**To deal with an experienced,  
professional agent,  
Call Carol for all of your real estate needs.**

**Cell: (902) 488.7467**  
**E-mail: 2carolginsberg@gmail.com**  
**Office: (902) 457-1569**

# Miracle Postcards: Two Jewish Brothers in Wartime Hungary

An excerpt from the Memoirs of Steven Markus, pages 37-38.

**“While writing this story of our lives during the Second World War in Hungary, I think back to the many close encounters my brother Feri and I had with death. Time and time again, people and circumstances saved us from destruction. We followed our parents’ advice to look after each other and this helped us survive through those dark days.” -Steven Markus**

Early one morning, I took off the yellow armband and left for the Swiss Consulate. There was an enormous line of people. The police, mounted on horses, surrounded the crowd and pushed them

back by striking them with the flat part of their swords. As people moved, I was able to get past the police and get to the entrance. I could not believe it when I finally got into the consulate. I could not see anyone. I was scared and hid under one of the desks. I don’t know how long I was there or what would happen if the doors would close, locking me in. And if I went out, I could not get back in. If it took too long, Feri would think that the Arrow Cross had got me.

Eventually, I heard people moving. Someone said, “You can come out.” It was a young female member of the Consulate staff. She asked me, “Have you come to get Consulate documents?

How did you get in?” She also asked me to tell her something about me. I explained that I was in a forced labour camp and that if I could get the Swiss document, the Schutz-pass, it would save my life.

“Yes,” she said, “Tell me your name, where you were born, father’s name, mother’s name, and which organizations you belong to.”

I never belonged to any organization in Vac. I did know of some men who belonged to Betar, so I told her I belonged to Betar. I did not know that, at this time, Betar was considered a terrorist organization in the world’s eyes.

She said, “No, don’t say that. Say you belong to Mizrahi.” So, I answered her again and



said, “I belong to Mizrahi.” She filled out a questionnaire and gave me the Swiss document. I then asked, “Can you give me one for my brother?”

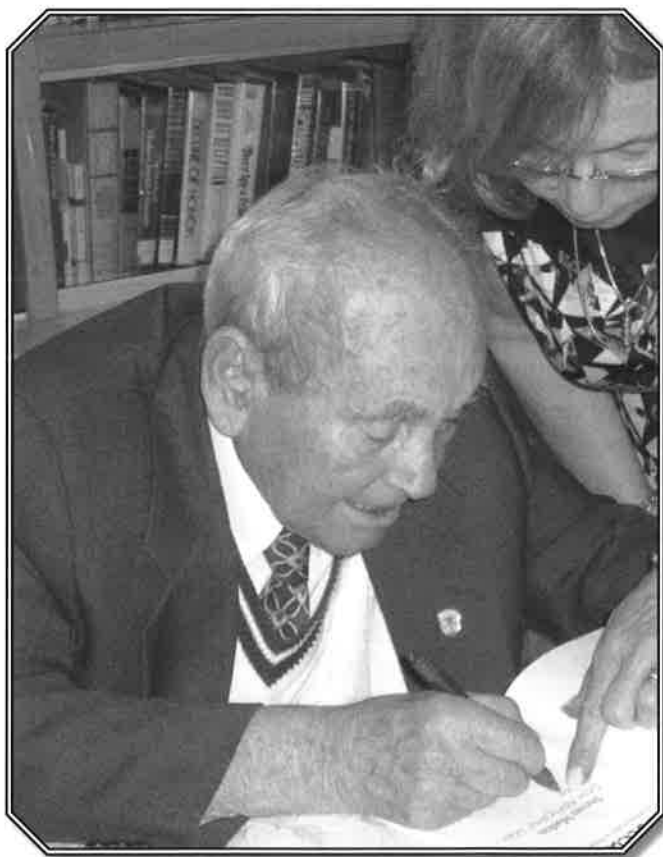
“Yes,” was the answer and I received two documents.

When I returned to our district, I said Feri, “We have the life-saving documents. We are Swiss citizens now.”

We were taken to a place that I knew was a synagogue, where we stayed for several days. Every day more and more people came with false documents. I had a feeling that something was wrong. I said to my brother, “Feri, this situation will not be good.”

He responded, “We are stuck.”

I asked Feri what we could do if we escaped, where we would go. We had no place to sleep nor could we change our clothes. We had boots but no shoes. The next day, I had a premonition that we must escape.



Steven Markus signs books at the extremely successful launch of his memoirs, this fall at the Beth Israel Synagogue.

Miracle Postcards is available for purchase from the author.  
Please email Steven Markus: [smtel@eastlink.ca](mailto:smtel@eastlink.ca)

*Thank you to all of our donors for supporting  
the 2014 UJA campaign!*

*Your generosity is changing lives in Israel, the  
Former Soviet Union, across the nation and right  
here in Atlantic Canada.*

*Toda Raba!*

*The Atlantic Jewish Council and its campaign volunteers*



**United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada**

המגבית היהודית המאוחדת באטלנטיק קנדה



# Israel Bonds

The promise of the State of Israel and you

Discover a promise kept and a perfect record of repayment  
— since 1951 —

- ✔ Fixed Rate
- ✔ Semi-Annual Interest
- ✔ Compound Interest
- ✔ Eligible for your Self-Directed RRSP / RRIF / Tax-Free Savings Account / RESP

Marcia Cantor,  
Executive Director  
Ottawa & Atlantic Canada  
**613.792.1142**  
[mcantor@israelbonds.ca](mailto:mcantor@israelbonds.ca)  
For all current rates visit  
**IsraelBonds.ca**



State of  
**Israel  
Bonds**  
Canada

**Buy. Build. Believe.®**

**Israel Bonds are sold all year in Canada exclusively through Canada-Israel Securities, Limited**

STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS/CANADA-ISRAEL SECURITIES, LIMITED.

State of Israel Bonds Canada; Buy.Build.Believe; Invest in Your Values; TopBond; Promise of a Bond, RRSPromise; Young Builders of Israel and Because Values Matter are all registered trademarks of Canada-Israel Securities, Limited. Canada-Israel Securities, Limited disclaims the right to the exclusive use and registration of the Crest of Israel. This is not an offering. Investment amounts, interest rates and maturities available on all bonds will vary according to current offerings by the State of Israel. Rates, terms and bond issues as listed and/or advertised are subject to change or be discontinued without notice. As with any part of your financial plan, you should always consult with your financial advisor and/or accountant to ensure the plan is suitable for your situation. E/OE, Dec. 2014.

## INVEST TODAY!

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40052452  
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:  
The Atlantic Jewish Council, 5670 Spring Garden Road  
Suite 309, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1H6

