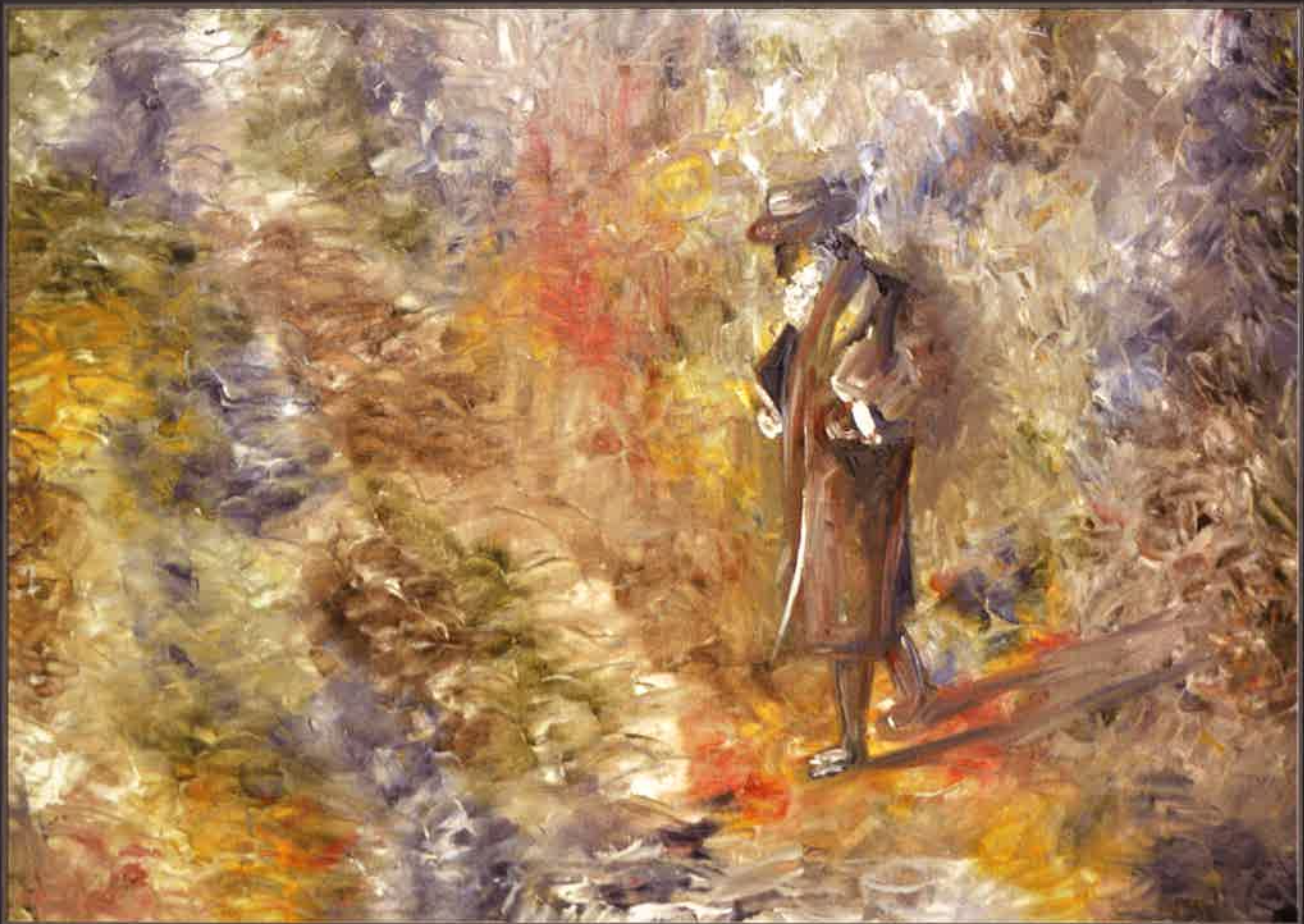


# SHALOM! שָׁלוֹם

Spring 2015: Vol. 40 No. 1

IYAR 5775



Untitled, Oil on Canvas, 30"X40", 2014, Margarita Fainshtein.

- SPECIAL FEATURES:
- ISRAELI CONSUL GENERAL ZIV NEVO KULMAN MAKES FIRST VISIT TO HALIFAX
- YOM HASHOAH IN ATLANTIC CANADA
- A NIGHT TO HONOUR ISRAEL
- NEWS FROM AROUND OUR REGION





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# SHALOM! שלום!

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**Cover Artist**  
*Margarita Fainshtein*

**Margarita Fainshtein** was born in the Ukraine and studied Fine Arts at the Art Academy for 9 years. She moved with her family to Israel where she received her Bachelor of Fine Art at the University of Haifa. Margarita immigrated to Canada and lives in Halifax, NS where she currently works as an art educator in private schools, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, and also at her home Art Studio for kids and adults. She participated in the Arts Smarts project and has designed and delivered numerous art workshops. Her works has been exhibited in the USA, Canada, England, Israel and the Ukraine. Margarita was recently accepted to the MFA Program at the Art Institute of Chicago and will begin her studies this summer.

# שלום!

**President: Michael Argand**

The Atlantic Jewish Council

SPRING 2015

IYAR 5775

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### NOTE TO OUR READERS

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

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

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

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

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



# *President's Message*

by Michael Argand

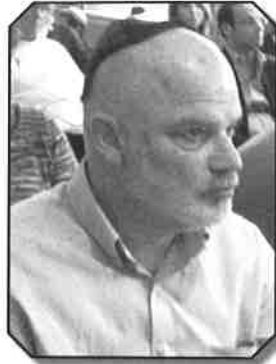
**I** know it has been a very challenging winter for all of us and I was especially concerned for those in the community with mobility challenges. I was away for part of the winter but was here enough to sample some of the glorious snow. The AJC was involved with many programs and I want to thank our staff and the very many volunteers who contributed to the success of the programs.

I am sure that many of you know the AJC has been coordinating the Jewish Student Association now known as Hillel out of the house at 1881 Walnut Street in Halifax. The house was purchased over 10 years ago by the Latner Foundation from Toronto. This spring, after lengthy negotiations, the AJC purchased the property at the same cost the Latner Foundation paid 10 years ago. The only stipulation is that the AJC use the house as a Hillel facility for three years. After that timeframe the AJC can determine the best use of the property. With the help of

Victor Goldberg the AJC was able to obtain a favorable mortgage from RBC that provides approximately \$40,000 in additional funds to make much needed repairs to the house. We hope to use the facilities not only exclusively for Hillel but for the entire Jewish community.

I have discussed this with my executive and Jon and subject to final approval from HRM, the AJC plans to relocate its offices from its current space to the second level at 1881 Walnut Street. This move has the potential of saving our organization close to \$20,000 per year.

The other significant announcement that I have to share with you is that our executive director Jon Goldberg, who has



been with us for over twenty-five years, has decided to retire at the end of my term which will be at the biennial, November 2016. I was recently in Toronto and met with Linda Kislowicz, the CEO of UJA Federations Canada, to seek her assistance in the search for a new executive director for the AJC. I have asked Linda and her team to design a questionnaire for our Atlantic Jewish Community to give input as to what type of direction our organization should take in the future. I look forward to your ideas.

I was pleased to attend the retirement dinner for Dr. Collin Dodds of St. Mary's University. Dr. Dodds and Saint Mary's have always been a strong supporter of our community.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer; we all deserve it after that winter. Best wishes to the students from our community attending the Asper trip and to all those attending our wonderful Camp Kadimah, have a great summer.

## ***Congratulations to the 2015 Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program participants and their families:***

***from Halifax:*** Samantha Chigier, Leah Collins,  
Allison Pedvis and Ben Rittenberg

***from Cape Breton:*** Bailey Karrel

***With thanks and appreciation to their educators:***

Dawn Frail, Adam Ublansky, Rabbi Ari Isenberg,  
and Arielle Branitsky (educator & chaperone)

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

**W**elcome to our spring edition of the Shalom magazine. Lag B'Omer was last week and we are looking forward to Shavuot.

Many years ago, when I was early on in my tenure as Executive Director, I made a decision not to print memorials to our fellow Atlantic Jewish Canadians unless it was an exceptional occurrence. In this issue, you will notice a change. I guess enough time has passed and so many of our people have moved away from region that it becomes a matter of information to let our readers know of the passing of our long-time residents.

Over the past few months here in Halifax, we have lost a number of long-time members of our community. They have also been long-time acquaintances of mine and my family. I have known Shirley Burnstein for almost 30 years. When I began as Executive Director, Shirley worked for the AJC as program coordinator for our senior citizens. She also volunteered as a musical director for a number of wonderful musical which our Jewish youth performed both here in Halifax, in Moncton and even in Cape Breton. Shirley became ill these last few years and I missed her then and we will miss her always.

Leona Freeman was a dear friend of my late mother and all of our family. They were involved in Hadassah for many years and in fact, Leona was Hadassah in Halifax until just a few years ago when she was no longer able to physically handle the strain. Leona served on local, regional and national levels of Hadassah and was an example to many of the women in her era. Leona was a patron of the arts and a strong supporter of Israel. Most of all, Leona cared for her family and our community. She never failed to voice constructive criticism or appreciation for our AJC activities and programs. Rest in peace, dear friend.

Ralph Garson and I go back almost 50

years. He was at Camp Kadimah as administrator for many years. He was involved in Young Judea as a director for many years. Ralph also was active in his synagogue and in many of the programs and productions with Shirley Burnstein. Ralph enjoyed being with young people and we were fortunate to have him in our community for many years as an active participant in a variety of Jewish activities. My best wishes to Ruth and their children. I know Ralph's spirit will live on in the actions and deeds of his children and grandchildren.

Carol Ann Silverman was just bit older than I. We weren't family but her family in some ways was related or good friends with my family. Carol Ann loved to swim and during the summer, for many years I would see her at the outdoor swimming club to which we both belonged. She was a vibrant woman and with her husband David, a long-time supporter of the AJC and our programs. Carol Ann was also in the synagogue choir for many years and I will miss her voice on the High Holidays.

These past few months have been quite busy in the region. Yom Hashoah was a success in every province and congratulations to the coordinators who work so hard in their communities. In February, we celebrated Jewish music month with a wonderful film on the life of Theodore Bikel. The film was shown in Halifax, Fredericton and Cape Breton and I received very favorable comments from those involved. The only problem was the stormy weather. For Yom Ha'atzmaut, we premiered a film called "The Prime Ministers" in Halifax and Fredericton.



I look forward to making this type of program available to more communities next year.

Camp Kadimah is less than four weeks away. Registration is up and we look forward to having a great summer under the directorship of Phil David.

It is with a heavy heart that I say farewell to Rabbi Ari Isenberg who is leaving Halifax for a new pulpit in New York. Ari and I have known each other for over a decade, since he first came to Halifax as a Cantor for Yom Tov. I had the opportunity to attend his graduation at JTS a few years ago. Rabbi Ari was community minded and volunteered at numerous events in our Jewish and non-Jewish communities. Along with his unique style of services, I will miss his company at the hockey games and the many films we attended together. I anticipate nothing but success for Rabbi Ari in his future endeavours.

I want to thank all those who contributed to the Shalom magazine, especially our editor Edna LeVine. My best wishes to our leaders and their families for a happy and healthy summer. See you on visiting day.

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# *A Night to Honour Israel*

by Mark David, Consultant, Advocacy (AJC),  
The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

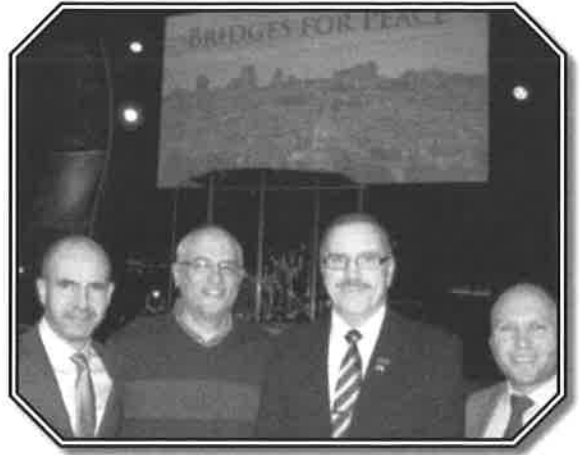
**O**rganized and hosted by Eric Malloy, the National Director for Bridges for Peace Canada, a wonderful night to honour Israel was held on January 15th, 2015, at the Rock Church in Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia.

Approximately 200 people heard keynote speaker Ziv Nevo Kulman, Consul General for Israel in Montreal and received video greetings from Reverend Jess Gibson, Board Chair, Bridges for Peace International; and from Josh Reinstein, Director, Knesset Christian Allies Caucus, Jerusalem. Also in attendance were Jon Goldberg, Executive Director of the Atlantic Jewish Council; and Mark David, CIJA's Atlantic Canada advocacy consultant, together with about 30 members of the local Jewish community. Joshua David signaled the start of proceedings by sounding the shofar, and Rabbi Ari Isenberg of Shaar Shalom Congregation in Halifax led rousing renditions of the national anthems of Canada and Israel, as well as the Prayer for the State. Rebecca Malloy, of Bridges for Peace Canada, shared her personal and moving observations of her time in Jerusalem in November, 2014 when there was a terrorist vehicle attack.



*Rebecca Malloy and Eric Malloy*

On Thursday, June 4th another special Night to Honor Israel will be held in Yarmouth, NS. A committee of Christian leaders in the region approached Bridges for Peace to take the lead on this with them. The committee contacted over 50 churches and is optimistic about the response. Israel Deputy Consul General, Avraham Lev-Louis will be on the program, as well as Jon Goldberg, AJC executive director. All are invited to attend this special evening, please contact the AJC for more information: [info@theajcns.ca](mailto:info@theajcns.ca) or 902-422-7491 x221.



*Consul General of Israel Ziv Nevo Kulman,  
Mark David, Eric Malloy, Rabbi Isenberg*

## *~Save the Date~*

*Bridges for Peace & the Yarmouth Night to Honour  
Israel Committee cordially invite you to...*

**A Night to Honour Israel  
in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia**

**Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 7:00pm  
Evangel Assembly  
2 Myrtle Street, Yarmouth, NS**

**Urgent issues facing Israel,  
the Jewish people and Christians.  
Stand up and be counted for Israel.**

**Contact:**

**Nelson (Yarmouth committee), 902-648-2618,  
[hdemille@hotmail.com](mailto:hdemille@hotmail.com)**



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Christians and Jews in Israel and around the world.

# From the Desk of

## Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement

January 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz Birkenau. To commemorate this event the Atlantic Jewish Council hosted a month long exhibit, *The Courage to Remember*, created by the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Israel Consul General Ziv Nevo Kulman visited Halifax to open the exhibit and was joined by many local dignitaries and community members. Local partner, The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 designed additional panels for this exhibit to reflect the Canadian immigrants' connection. The important role of the Jewish Immigrants Aid Society (JIAS) in helping to settle survivors as they landed at Pier 21 in Halifax was highlighted along with memories from local Halifax resident Marianne Ferguson. The exhibit, held at the Nova Scotia Archives in Halifax, attracted over one thousand people, despite the many snowstorms and weather related cancellations in January. Local Holocaust survivor Philip Riteman volunteered to be in attendance to speak with the many school groups who were encouraged to book a visit to the exhibit. Please

see the article on page 20 regarding the first Atlantic Canada visit of Consul General Ziv Nevo Kulman.

The Around Our Region section features information on Yom HaShoah programs that were held in seven communities in Atlantic Canada. The story of Holocaust survivor Steven Markus was presented as part of the Halifax program, co-hosted with local partner the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Olga Milosevich read excerpts from the memoirs of Steven Markus, after an introduction by Dr. Kirrily Freeman. A musical interlude was performed by violinist Yuila Medvedchuk and Viktoria Brunets prior to Steven Markus speaking. Additional information on this event is on page 15.

Holocaust Education Week (HEW) in Halifax is entering its 12th year and local community organizations are once again keen to partner with us to offer thought-provoking educational programs from November 1 - 9. The Azrieli Foundation will host our opening program on Sunday, November 1, with Holocaust survivor Nate Leipziger from Toronto.

The 2nd Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) will open in Halifax on October 15th screening award winning international films. Following the success of last fall's first AJFF, the organizing committee is anticipating another year of capacity crowds. This year marks 50 years of Israel German relations. During the four day festival the AJFF will screen a film in celebration of this relationship. We hope you will enjoy attending the festival and if you are from out-of-town, plan to spend the weekend in Halifax. Please check [ajff.ca](http://ajff.ca) for information on the program schedule (as it becomes available)



*Violinists Yulia Medvedchuk, left, and Viktoria Brunets performed during the Yom HaShoah program, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.*

and how you can support the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival.

Jewish Artists in Atlantic Canada is a new exhibit we are opening at the Nova Scotia Archives in Halifax for the month of July. The Jewish Art committee has been busy organizing and preparing for the July 8th opening with the leadership of Halifax based artists Margarita Fainshtein and Lynn Rotin. We hope that you will support this effort to highlight the talent in our region by visiting the exhibit during the summer, looking forward to seeing you there!



*The Honourable Lena Metlege Diab, MLA, left, attended the Yom HaShoah program, co-hosted with the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.*

### Jewish Artists in Atlantic Canada

Opening July 8th 2015, 7PM

Nova Scotia Archives,  
6016 University Avenue, Halifax

### Last Call For Submissions

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

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

or contact the AJC office:

**(902) 422-7491 x221**

# Reflections on Israel

by Mark David, Consultant, Advocacy (AJC),  
The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

**I**n a Tel Aviv museum on May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion (soon to be Israel's first Prime Minister) read aloud the Declaration of Independence of the modern State of Israel. It would be an understatement to observe that the ensuing 67 years have been replete with historical events that have resonated on a global level.

Indeed, events concerning Israel routinely garner a disproportionate share of the attention of the world's media. Former Associated Press reporter Matti Friedman noted in the summer of 2014 that when he "...was a correspondent at the AP, the agency had more than 40 staffers covering Israel and the Palestinian territories. That was significantly more news staff than the AP had in China, Russia, or India, or in

all of the 50 countries of sub-Saharan Africa combined. It was higher than the total number of news-gathering employees in all the countries where the uprisings of the "Arab Spring" eventually erupted." Friedman further observes that this level of staffing indicates that news organizations believe "...Israel to be the most important story on earth, or very close."



has built a modern, Jewish democratic state from the ground up. It has developed the land – turning swamps into forests, desert into gardens – simultaneously building modern transportation systems and cities. Whether or not certain countries or organizations wish to concede it, Israel has emerged as a world leader in numerous areas – scientific, medical, environmental and technological. Examples of this can be seen locally in Atlantic Canada with the cooperation between Dalhousie University and Ben-Gurion University demonstrated by their Global Oceans Partnership and with the commitment between Dalhousie and Hebrew University to explore opportunities for collaboration on international research.

And Israel is a true citizen of the world. When there have been natural disasters in other countries (and when the politics of the government of the country where the disaster occurred permit), Israel is routinely a first responder. As I write this article, Israel and Israeli aid organizations are deploying personnel and resources to Nepal in the wake of the devastating earthquake in Katmandu just a couple of days ago.

All of which makes Israel very similar to Canada. Canada and Israel have strong, multidimensional bilateral relations, marked by close political, economic, social and cultural ties, all of which are underlined by shared values of freedom, human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

So, while it remains an unfortunate necessity for Canadian pro-Israel advocates to respond to issues of conflict, we know Israel represents much more and we stand justifiably proud of the country's remarkable achievements as Israel enters into the next year of her modern national life.

Almost all focus is conflict oriented – such as the peace process (such as it is) between Israel and the Palestinians, the 2014 Gaza War with Hamas, and the threats from Iran and its proxies. Those are the types of stories that grab headlines and readership.

However, as many people know well, there is an entirely different side to the history of Israel since 1948, one that is almost completely ignored: while under constant existential threat and absorbing millions of immigrants, Israel



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# *Consensus in Israel and Canada against a Nuclear-Armed Iran*

by Steve McDonald, Associate Director, Communications, at the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) – the advocacy agent of Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA

**C**onsumers of Israeli media were gripped by coverage of the framework deal between the P5+1 and Iran, negotiated in Lausanne, Switzerland. The agreed statement of principles will purportedly guide negotiations toward a final agreement on Iran's nuclear program, to be signed by June 30th.

For Israelis and Jews around the world, the deal is more than a bit unnerving – even if there are bizarre (and unexplained) differences between the English and Farsi versions of the text. Various issues remain outstanding and unresolved, including Iran's ability to stall inspectors, the pace of sanctions relief, what will happen once the limits on centrifuges and enrichment expire, and unanswered questions from the UN's IAEA on Iran's weapons research.

Perhaps most worrisome is the idea that Iran would retain a one-year "break out" period, the time it would take the regime to build a nuclear bomb should it decide to do so. The notion that the West could detect such a breach and act to stop it in time is, to put it mildly, an easier pill to swallow if you live in New York than if you reside in Tel Aviv.

That said, we should not disregard the strong political consensus has been developed in Israel – and to a large extent in Canada – on the issue of Iran.

In response to Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech on the Iranian nuclear program to the US Congress on March 3rd, Labour MK Shelley Yachimovich stated on Israeli television that "most Israelis agreed with the content of the speech." Yachimovich, who formerly led the party and was third on Labour's list in the recent elections, added that Labour Leader Isaac Herzog would have made "exactly the same speech". Yachimovich went on to

criticize Netanyahu's handling of the US-Israel relationship (a natural position for the opposition party in any democracy), but this is different from the matter of the Iranian nuclear threat – on which there is broad consensus.

Indeed, it was widely overlooked in Western media that the Zionist Union (Labour-Hatnua) – Israel's defacto official opposition – issued a statement criticizing the Lausanne deal. Days later, Zionist Union Party Chair Eitan Cabel declared on Facebook: "I refuse to join those applauding the agreement with Iran, because the truth is it keeps me awake at night. President Obama promises that if the Iranians cheat, the world will know, but isn't that exactly what the Americans promised after the agreement with North Korea?"

Yair Lapid, Leader of Yesh Atid (Israel's main centrist party) reflected this consensus in the wake of the Lausanne announcement. "On the Iranian nuclear issue there is no opposition and coalition. We are all concerned that the Iranians will circumvent the deal and Israel must protect its own security interests," said Lapid. "The Ayatollah's regime has been peddling fraud and deception for years and progressing with its nuclear program. They will try, from day one, to cheat the international community as they have done in the past."

Similar concerns were expressed by the new centre-right party, Kulanu. Michael Oren, former Israeli diplomat and current Kulanu MK, warned in a Time Magazine column that "the Iranians, we know, cheat. For more than 30 years, they have lied about every aspect of their nuclear program, built secret, fortified facilities, violated the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and hidden their previous work on atomic weapons."

Here in Canada, a similar consensus has arisen around the need for effective measures to cut off Iran's path to a nuclear weapon. "Canada's three major federal parties have all endorsed Canadian sanctions and called for a robust agreement that includes strong verification and comprehensive measures to block Iran's ability to build a nuclear bomb," noted David J. Cape, Chair of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA).

Canada has pledged \$3 Million toward the monitoring program, a tangible contribution to the effort to hold Iran to account. Canadians can be proud that, across party lines, our political leaders have called for vigilance and scepticism in dealing with the Iranian regime. As Canadian Foreign Minister Robert Nicholson noted, Canada will "judge Iran by its actions, not its words."

As pro-Israel advocates, this consensus is a critical part of the story – and one that we have to make known to our friends, colleagues and neighbours. In Israel and Canada alike, there are immense differences of opinion between the parties on most policy issues. That's intrinsic to any healthy democracy. But there are some issues that are so patently obvious, some threats that are so pressing – even existential – that all rational parties inevitably come to the same conclusion, regardless of their other differences.

And that too is intrinsic to any healthy democracy.

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## Moving from the Roots to the Branches: Reflecting on the Year & Looking to the Future of Hillel

by Arielle Branitsky, Director of Jewish Student Life, Hillel of Atlantic Canada

**A**s the 2014-2015 school year comes to a close, I am filled with pride as I reflect on the work that was done this year. New programs were initiated and great student leaders have emerged. This semester, students across Atlantic Canada learned about social issue in Israel. Shabbat dinners were celebrated, Hamantaschen were baked, Passover seders were hosted, and the Jewish values of Tzedakah (charity) and Gmilit Chassidim (Acts of Kindness) resonated throughout the term.

While there has definitely been an increase in anti-Israel activity on campus this year, our students remain optimistic and determined to uphold a peaceful and welcoming community on campus. We anticipate that we might encounter a push for BDS (Boycotts, Divestments, and Sanctions) at Dalhousie University next year, but no matter the outcome feelings on the matter will not change. BDS has no impact on the administration; rather it invokes feelings of discomfort on campus and provokes a rise in anti-Semitism. Those most hurt by these activities are the students that the Student Union are supposed to be protecting. We will do our best to defend students and maintain

campus as a safe space.

With all of this in mind, I am starting to make plans for guest speakers and events to bring to campus in the Fall. If you have any topic or speaker suggestions that you would like to see in your area, please feel free to be in touch.

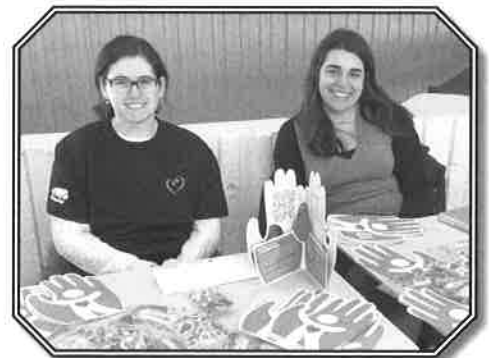
Some Highlights from Winter Semester 2015:

- 15 students gathered in Halifax for Shabbat Shelanu: Atlantic Canada Hillel Shabbaton
- Filmmaker Yariv Mozer, screened his film *The Invisible Men* at Dalhousie, UPEI, and Mount Allison University
- Students at Dalhousie raised almost \$200 on campus for Save A Child's Heart's "Give A Heart" campaign
- 50 students learned about Shabbat customs at Multifaith Shabbat Dinner co-hosted by the Multifaith Centre at Dalhousie
- Yonah Bob, of the Jerusalem Post, spoke to students and community members in Fredericton and Halifax



what I've learned and establish clearer frameworks for the future. The needs of every campus vary greatly, but are equally important.

Over the summer, I will be working on establishing better communication between campuses outside of Halifax and Hillel. I will hopefully do this by building stronger and clearer relationship with the chaplains/multifaith centres on these campuses. Through this network, I hope we can be better connected to Jewish students and better able to inform them of the programs and resources available to them. Students will be encouraged to build their Jewish communities on campus with the assistance of funding available to them from Hillel.



In Halifax, the student board has been revamped to include roles to suit the whole range of student needs. The new student board will be busy making plans over the summer and will return to campus poised to make 2015-2016 a great year. If the potential of the leadership isn't exciting enough, they will be returning to a renovated Bayit, a space I'm sure the students will be thrilled to make use of regularly.

If you would like to discuss Hillel's role in your community, offer ideas for the role we need to play, or hear more about what I have observed this year, please reach out - I'd be happy to share.

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



My work this year has been largely focussed on structure - creating and defining structure for Hillel operations throughout the region. Now that I have had time to evaluate the current model, it is time to apply

# Major Judaica Donation to Atlantic University Libraries

by Joel Jacobson

**I**n an effort to enhance public education about Israel and Jewish history, including the Holocaust, Halifax-born Harold Medjuck has made sizeable donations of new Jewish books to university and public libraries in Atlantic Canada.

A Toronto resident for more than 30 years, Harold has donated thousands of books to Dalhousie University and started similar collections at the University of New Brunswick, Universite de Moncton, Mount Allison University, Memorial University, Halifax Central Library, Glace Bay public library and the Halifax Chabad House. The latter library was dedicated to Harold's brothers, Ralph and Frank.

"I want to be a lamp lighter, especially in these days when more light is needed in the world," philosophized the 74-year-old who was raised and educated in Halifax public school, Dalhousie University. Harold also has cherished memories of Camp Kadimah and Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity.

"In refreshing contrast to unfortunate events around the world, Atlantic Canada has always been a beacon of tolerance, a most encouraging signal especially to newly arrived Canadians. This new dissemination of books on Jewish History, Israel and the Holocaust will continue to foster the Maritime traditions of toleration and education," Harold said.

Harold's donation consists primarily of new books published within the last dozen years. "The greater challenge was to assemble the collection by sourcing international publishers since no one publisher or even the largest bookstore does not carry the quantity necessary to develop a meaningful collection. This project has truly been a labour of love."

Patrick Ellis, Associate University Librarian Resources and Head, Kellogg Health Sciences Library at Dalhousie, said every library struggles to meet its needs. "To have a generous donation like this is beneficial to so many faculties at Dal. We're able to add virtually every volume he sends us and he contributes to more than just Judaica. He gives us books in humanities, Middle Eastern Studies, history, politics, and Native Studies, too." He stressed the importance of a university of Dalhousie's size having a rich and deep collection.

Harold's efforts originally began with the establishment of the Medjuck Judaica Collection almost 30 years ago in memory of his parents, Blanche and Irving Medjuck. The Dalhousie collection has been increased annually to the present time where it is now the largest Judaica book collection in Atlantic Canada. Medjuck says his family is especially proud of their long association with Dalhousie, beginning with their late uncle, Dr. Abraham's entrance to Dalhousie Medical in 1918. As well, the Medjuck family home was on South Street, near Dalhousie, "and as children, my brothers, Ralph, Frank and I grew up on the playing fields of Dalhousie," he recalled.

In addition to benefitting education, Harold is also honouring the memories of specific Rabbis who dedicated their lives to maintaining and perpetuating Judaism in their respective communities. Books given to Dalhousie and the Halifax Regional Library will have bookplates recognizing Rabbi Abraham Greenspan who served the Baron de Hirsch (Beth Israel) congregation of Halifax for 35 years. At UNB, Rabbi David Spiro, of Fredericton's Sgoelai Israel Synagogue for 54 years, will also be recognized on the inscribed book

plates. Worthy of special mention, is that Rabbi Spiro was inspired and guided by his father, Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu Spiro, Rabbi in Agudath Achim Synagogue in Yarmouth from 1922 - 1942 and then in Temple Sons of Israel in Sydney from 1942- 1959. Rabbi Lippa Medjuck of Tiferes Israel Synagogue in Moncton for 35 years, will be named in the books donated to Universite de Moncton. Rabbi Medjuck was one of the last Yeshiva students in 1933 to receive Rabbinical ordination (semicha) from the world renowned Chofetz Chaim ( Rabbi Israel Meir Kagan) obm. in Radin, Poland. Notwithstanding living in remote Moncton, Rabbi Medjuck was a constant contributor to scholarly articles in the *Algemeiner Journal* and *Jewish Daily Forward*, popular American Yiddish newspapers.

"These Rabbis, with the valued support of their families, dedicated their lives to maintaining and perpetuating Judaism in small communities," Harold noted. "Rabbi Greenspan of Halifax was my teacher and mentor and had a major influence on my spiritual development". The other Rabbis mentioned also influenced many members of their congregations as well as their respective communities. In public recognition of their respective communal efforts, Rabbi Spiro received an honorary degree from University of New Brunswick (UNB) while Rabbi Lippa Medjuck received an honorary degree from the Universite de Moncton as well as having a street named after him.

Harold concluded, "I look forward to enhancing these Judaica collections as more books are published. The ultimate goal is to give university students and the general public a better appreciation of Jewish history, culture and of Israel."



# *Kadimah Update, 2015*

by Phil David, Executive Director, Camp Kadimah

## **W**elcome to the Camp Kadimah Spring update.

Well, it's that time of year again. On June 28, we will be opening the gates of Kadimah at 1681 Barss Corner Road for our 73rd season.



With just a few weeks to go, we expect to have about 245 campers, our largest enrolment since 2009. Campers between ages 6 to 16 from all over the Maritimes will be joining new and old friends from Quebec, Ontario and BC as well as Boston, Philly, New York, Florida, California and Israel on the shores of Lake William. Based on all the camp gatherings that we see emerging on Facebook, the countdown is definitely on!

With Spring finally upon us, we are about to launch our annual maintenance program following Nova Scotia's record snowfall. Though this picture was taken just a few short weeks ago, the first piece of good news is that the snow IS in fact melting so our campers will be able to swim, not skate, during General Swim this summer.

We are happy to welcome more than 20 staff from the Maritimes who will be filling roles from Bunk Counsellor and Specialist to Section Head and Assistant Director. We'd especially like to welcome our newbies who will be joining the staff ranks for the first time: Zane Brown, Jonah MacDonald, Roy Mainiski, Kass Palter, Jared Solomon and Jacob Suissa.

## **Visiting Day**

Our annual Visiting Day celebration will be held on Sunday, July 19th. In advance of the big day, a parents and alumni pre-party is being planned at the Marginal Road Seaport Farmers Market on Saturday night from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m.



Visiting Day will run from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ADT on Sunday and we invite all Maritime families and our Alumni to visit camp, meet new and old faces and take part in many of the activities our campers get to enjoy each day.

## **Shirley Burnstein & Ralph Garson**

We were all very saddened by the passing of Shirley Burnstein and Ralph Garson within weeks of each other this past winter. Shirley and Ralph were giants in the Kadimah community and their camp song – "As Long As We All Pull Together" – will remain an important and

lasting legacy at Kadimah for years to come. Our sincerest condolences to the Burnstein and Garson families.

## **Alumni Engagement**

One of the really neat parts of this job is the chance to re-connect with long, lost camp friends and counsellors from the 70s and 80s. However, a special bonus is the chance to meet alumni who went to camp in the 40's, 50's and 60's – Kadimahniks who our generation only knew by the names written on the cabin walls. We tend to forget that in this bubble we lived in while we were AT camp, there was a whole world that existed before us and it is amazing to meet them now, years later, and hear stories about how camp has evolved through the decades.

Many alumni members are starting to send in pictures, testimonials and anecdotes from their days at Kadimah like this 1958 staff picture.

Note the familiar Pavilion jutting out from behind, looking exactly the same in 1958 as it does in 2015.





So that we can add more content on our new website's Kadimah Alumni pages, we invite you to send pictures; old movies (ideally converted to DVD or on a USB stick); personal anecdotes and whatever else you think will be intriguing to share with the alumni community at large. Please send digital files to [info@campkadimah.com](mailto:info@campkadimah.com). All other materials can be sent to the AJC office or the Camp office in Toronto. Those addresses are listed at the bottom of the Kadimah website.

On that note, we have begun to re-build our Alumni Database to better connect our extended community together so if you are a former Kadimahnik, please remember to visit [www.campkadimah.com](http://www.campkadimah.com). There is an "Alumni Login" tab at the top right of each page where you can either register or log in.

## Alumni in the News

Speaking of re-connecting with alumni, I am very pleased that Kadimah alumnus and noted culinary expert, Bonnie Stern, has offered to visit us at camp to run Challah making classes for some lucky campers on Friday, July 10th.



Bonnie is the founder of the Bonnie Stern School of Cooking; has hosted national shows on WTN; appears regularly on television and radio shows like Canada AM and CBC's Morningside and has written 12 cookbooks, all of which have become national best-sellers. So as you can imagine, we can't wait to host Bonnie at the camp she attended a few years back to help our campers prepare Challah for the whole camp to enjoy at our Shabbat meal that night.



And we couldn't close off the Alumni section without tipping our hat to Andrew Prossin - a proud Cape Bretoner and Maritimer; son of Albie and Andrea; former Head of Boating at Kadimah; and now, the founder and Managing Director of One Ocean Expeditions, a globally recognized polar expedition operator with a fleet of ships in the Arctic and Antarctica.

Andrew's company and one of his ships, One Ocean Voyager, was among three commissioned by Parks Canada and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society in last year's search for the long lost Franklin Expedition Ships which disappeared during the 1845 quest for the Northwest Passage.

As you may know, one of the two ships was finally discovered and for his role, Andrew was among those honored in a live ceremony where he was awarded the one-time Erebus Medal by the Royal Canadian Geographic Society.

Pictured here is Andrew - looking as trim as he did when he ran sailing Peulot at camp. But this time, instead of standing next to Sheldon Cohen, Jonathan Allen

or Bill H. Chernin at the front of Mifkad, he is flanked by John Geiger, CEO of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society, along with our Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, and wife, Laureen. You may



debate amongst yourself if he is keeping better company these days (no offense to Sheldon, Jon or Bill). Way to go Andrew. Now if you can just use your Franklin skills to find Red Team's Maccabathon baton that was accidentally dropped into the Lagoon way back in 1985, we'd give you an even bigger medal to chew on.

Andrew will be back in Cape Breton this summer, setting off from Louisburg on one of his ships for a 9 night tour of the Atlantic Provinces for what is believed to be the first ever cruise of its kind starting in Cape Breton ([voyages@oneoceanexpeditions.com](mailto:voyages@oneoceanexpeditions.com)). We've invited Andrew to make a hard right turn at Bridgewater and take a detour into Lake William. But even if he can't navigate up the tricky La Have River, we've still invited him back to Barss Corner to run a Sailing Chug for some lucky campers.

## 2015 Fundraising Campaign

As with any non-profit company, Kadimah is extremely grateful for monetary donations from our alumni and the community at large.

This past year, a new Sub-Committee was formed, headed by Mike Yablon (formerly of Halifax) and Michael Freedman (St. John native) to build a long term, formal fundraising strategy. Working closely with Karen Miller of K.I.M. Inc Fundraising Strategists in Toronto (Kadimah alumni, St. John native and now a camp grandmother), our new multi-faceted campaign will begin as Summer approaches and will broaden in scope over the next three years.

Funds raised are allocated towards site improvement, maintenance, new facilities, equipment, training and scholarships - which allows us to help kids attend camp

## CAMP KADIMAH

who otherwise may not be able to afford to do so. Whether you are able to make a small monthly donation or contribute to the building of a new facility, our goal is to develop a program that is relevant to our entire alumni community because it will offer an affordable choice for everyone based on what each alumni member is most comfortable to give.

### Social Media: Connecting Us All

You may be aware that we have a very robust social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram which is the envy of the camp world, thanks to our Halifax-based guru, Sammy April.

We encourage you to join our Camp Kadimah Facebook page. It's a terrific way to stay in touch with the latest camp news on a real time basis and to re-connect with

cabin-mates from every generation.

### Did you know...?

**Pre Gibbie Day** will take place on Tuesday, July 21 starting at 11 a.m. ADT. If you have a child - or have friends with children - from age 6 to 9 who you think might be interested in attending Kadimah in the next year or so, they are invited to experience a day in the life of a Kadimah Gibbie. Please RSVP to [info@campkadimah.com](mailto:info@campkadimah.com)

**Hosting Israeli campers:** We are very fortunate to have Israeli children attending Kadimah. Because they all fly to Canada on a chaperoned flight with the CITs who start camp two days early on June 26, we are looking for families to host our Israeli campers (ideally in pairs) from June 26 to June 28. If interested, please respond to [info@campkadimah.com](mailto:info@campkadimah.com)

**Spring Cleaning:** Camp is always looking for good used furniture like couches, desks, chairs as well as fitness equipment, working computer monitors, kids' board games, sheets and blankets. If you are doing your Spring Cleaning and want to discard an item you think can be valuable at camp, please contact us at [info@campkadimah.com](mailto:info@campkadimah.com)

Finally, don't forget to watch for our daily photos and weekly videos posted on the Camp Kadimah website throughout the summer. It's a great way to stay connected with Kadimah. Simply register on the Kadimah website ([www.campkadimah.com](http://www.campkadimah.com)).

Have a wonderful summer. We hope to see you all this summer at beautiful Camp Kadimah.

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# Roselle Green Awarded Honorary Degree

**T**he University of King's College awarded Roselle Green an honorary doctorate at its spring Encaenia ceremony at the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax.

Green was one of four individuals to receive the Doctor of Civil Law, honoris causa. "We honor these individuals for their life-time contribution to media, journalism, communications, education, and the community. Each of them, through their courage, imagination, and leadership, have helped in their own unique ways to build a better Canada and a better world," said George Cooper, President and Vice-Chancellor.

Roselle Green graduated from King's in 1965 with a diploma in journalism. She holds a BA, MA (history) and a diploma in public administration from Dalhousie

University. All of her degrees were earned as a part-time, mature student dedicated to life-long learning. Mrs. Green spent the last 19 years of her 37-year career in public relations as head of her own consultancy. Over the course of her career, she received many distinctions for both her professional work and as a community volunteer.

Mrs. Green was a founding member of Halifax's Shaar Shalom Congregation. Through a gift from Mrs. Green, King's and the Shaar Shalom Synagogue co-present the Dr. Saul Green Memorial Lectures, held at King's in honour of her late husband. These lectures examine themes pertaining to medicine, Judaism, and humanitarianism.

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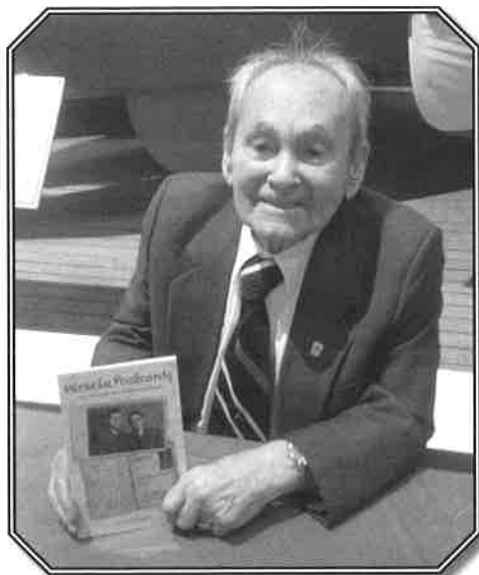
# Holocaust Memorial Day: Steven Markus

by Joel Jacobson

**L**iberation meant freedom.

Yet liberation also meant struggle, uncertainty and anguish for thousands and thousands of Jews freed from the agony of German concentration camps at the end of World War II.

During an emotional Holocaust Memorial Day program in Halifax, Dr. Kirrily Freeman, chair of the history department at Saint Mary's University, spoke of the short and long term challenges faced by those liberated from years of torturous existence. They did not face an easy return to life.



Steven Markus

"For many, tasting food again meant a sip of soup as their systems couldn't handle much more after years of starvation," she said to more than 120 people at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax. "It was a long time before they could eat a normal meal."

She said the joy and relief of liberation was short-lived as so many had nowhere to go, other than displaced person camps. There was still strong anti-semitism through Europe. Homes, businesses and families had been lost, leaving major voids in people's lives. There was no normal life to which to return.

"Emigration was one answer, and many did find new homes – in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Australia and Israel," said the historian, citing the anguish of leaving home, whatever family was left and building a new life. "In the last 70 years, since liberation in 1945, it has been a story of anguish but also a story of courage."

Courage was personified at the Memorial program when survivor Steven Markus of Halifax talked of the book he wrote in 2014 about his experiences in war-time Hungary and post-war Israel before moving to Halifax in



His Honour Brigadier-General, the Honourable J.J. Grant, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and Her Honour Mrs. Joan Grant, with Steven Markus, seated.

1959. Excerpts from his book, *Miracle Postcards*, were poignantly read by retired CBC Radio program host Olga Milosevich of Halifax.

Prior to the chanting of the Memorial Prayer by Rabbi Amram Maccabi of Beth Israel Synagogue, candles were lit to honour the six million Jews slaughtered during the War. His Honor J.J. Grant, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia represented the Queen. MP Geoff Regan (Canada), Labi Kousoulis (Nova Scotia), Lorelei Nicoll (Halifax Regional Municipality), Sgt Jock McStay (WWII veteran), and Howard Budovitch (AJC vice president) also participated in the lighting ceremony, along with Halifax-area Holocaust survivors (or their representatives), Steven and Marta Markus, Laszlo and Anna Fried, Jacob Koren, David Korn, Morris Strug, Lilian and Michael Falk, Philip Riteman and Helena Jockel.



Olga Milosevich, Marta Markus and Dr. Kirrily Freeman.

# Immigration to Nova Scotia on Hold

by Joel Jacobson

**A successful immigration program that brought more than 120 Jewish families to Nova Scotia since 2008 has been placed on a temporary hold.**

The Atlantic Jewish Council attracted Israeli Jews to Halifax where they found jobs, bought homes and cars, and placed hundreds of children in schools while attempting to revitalize a dwindling Jewish community. Yet changes in Canadian immigration standards, which filtered to Nova Scotia, have caused a halt to this immigration.

"The province made changes in 2014 and 2015 in consultation with the federal government and has left us little opportunity to continue our program," said a disappointed Edna LeVine, director of community engagement for the AJC. "We were successful, but because of the federal government's revised policies, support from the AJC won't help new immigrants gain entry. It's been more than a year since we've interviewed new candidates."

The program, also running well in Saint John N.B. and with AJC support for similar immigration to Moncton and Fredericton, has helped a region with diminishing Jewish population revive itself and create some enthusiasm.

"We've been told by the province's department of immigration that they'll discuss with us the next steps," said LeVine.

That was confirmed Monday by Suzanne Ley, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Office of Immigration.

"In 2013, the Federal Government said to close the stream whereby communities could identify and support applications. In Nova Scotia, we started a new program last January, a pilot called Nova Scotia Demand Express Entry, but it does not give any weight to support from community groups such as the AJC. And we can't make any changes to our

programs without negotiating with the federal government."

Ley stressed the AJC "still plays a role" but it's a different role. The province, continuing to encourage meetings with the AJC, ensures the AJC is in the queue as a support and welcoming factor for new immigrants. The bottom line today is the AJC is still promoting Nova Scotia (as an immigrant destination) but is not part of the application process.

She continued. "The federal government has the final say (as to who is admitted to Canada) and we have to follow its legislation. They make the final decision on all nominations."

LeVine stressed the AJC-supported program "was a success because we facilitated settlement. We welcomed these families and provided a community connection.

We had a very high retention rate, with most of the candidates we identified remaining here in Halifax, settling into homes and jobs which is exactly what the provincial government is looking for."

Ley added, "We're hoping the Express Entry program works. We're continually



*New immigrants Anna Epshtein and Neli Shpoker volunteer at the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival.*

assessing our streams and will make adjustments if necessary." LeVine concluded, "The big question is how can (the province) find a way to create criteria so we can continue our program."

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# Young Professional Leaders

by Craig Fox

**T**he last weekend of April a group of young professionals from across Canada met in Montebello, QC. They met with the goal of organizing Canada's young professional leaders from the Jewish communities across Canada. With representation from Vancouver to Halifax, the group was diverse in both geography and professional backgrounds.

It was the first meeting of the group, organized by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA). The group spoke extensively about their goals and how to achieve them over the coming year. Topics ranged from how to establish young professional organizations in smaller cities such as Halifax, to specific issues of concern to some members of the Jewish community (Jewish schooling, mental

health programs and access, integration of immigrants to communities, and other topics).

As the only representative from the Atlantic Provinces, I had specific concerns due to the size of the Halifax community compared to those such as Toronto, or Montreal. Hopefully in the coming months some progress can be made on some of the issues that were identified that I specifically have interest in working on, as well as those in general of small Jewish communities.

A large and reoccurring message from CIJA was that the young voices mattered. Two board seats have been appointed to members of the group, and CIJA's CEO (Shimon Fogel) met with the group on the last day of the retreat to hear their concerns and ideas to take to the board

meeting the following week. Communities across Canada understand the importance of their young Jewish professionals and have been taking steps to ensure that the next generation will become the community leaders that are needed.

Of course, if anyone is interested in hearing more about the weekend in Montebello or would like to get involved in some way, I'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to email me: [craigfox@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:craigfox@ns.sympatico.ca)

*Craig Fox was born and raised in Halifax. In 2006 he moved to Israel to serve in a combat unit in the IDF. Craig fought in Operation Cast Lead in Gaza in 2009, and returned to Halifax after completion of his service in 2010. Since returning to Halifax, Craig has been working as a paramedic and still actively involved in Israel advocacy.*

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## **Memorial to Shirley Burnstein z"l December 1, 1928 - January 25, 2015**

*Editor's note: Excerpts from an AJC tribute delivered by Barbara Alberstat.*

Shirley Newman was born some 80 years ago to parents who had immigrated to Halifax from Europe. Shirley had a sister and younger brother. From a very early age she showed signs of being a singer. When Shirley was 8 years old, she performed on the Uncle Mell Talent Show on radio, and that is where she got her start. From that early age she performed in many concerts and throughout her life directed plays and concerts around the Maritimes.

During the war years she helped entertain the service men and women around the area. Shirley studied "Voice" at the Maritime Conservatory in Halifax and then furthered her studies at the Toronto Conservatory of Music. She went on to be a soloist with the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir. She sang with the choir at Massey Hall.



In 1954 she eloped with Mendle. Dr. Burnstein had the opportunity to take over a medical practice in Halifax, and had a successful practice for many years until he was diagnosed with a form of ALS. During the time of being a parent to 2 boys and a girl, Shirley was the Camp Kadimah resident mother and Mendle was the doctor at the camp for many summers. After Mendle died, Shirley became the coordinator of a seniors group named Massada for Jewish men and women who met in Northwood for lunch, entertainment and socializing for many years. In 1988 Shirley had the idea to bring songs and singers to Northwood and so the Northwood Players came into being. On any given Friday afternoon the sound of 80 men and women could be heard in the auditorium at Northwood. She conducted many concerts through years spreading joy. The Northwood Players travelled around Nova Scotia and brought smiles and happiness to many people. They even produced their own CD and it has been played on CBC radio.

In November 2006 Northwood honoured Shirley by dedicating the Auditorium to this amazing woman. It is known as the Shirley Burnstein Hall and many concerts, entertainment and gatherings have been held there.

In all her life Shirley brought laughter and hope to very many people. There won't be anyone else like Shirley – may she rest in peace.

## **Leona Freeman z"l September 30, 1926 - February 15, 2015**

*Editor's note: excerpts from a eulogy delivered by her grandson Jonathan.*

Leona Freeman, a caring and loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend to all, was born September 1926 in Hamilton, Ontario to Myer and Dinah Pliskow. She was the fourth of five children and is survived by her younger sister Joyce Gordon. She is predeceased by her parents, and siblings, Harold, Mickey and Morty. The Pliskow family moved to Halifax when Leona was nine years old, and like her son and grandchildren after her, Leona attended Queen Elizabeth High School.



Leona met her husband and soul-mate Harry Freeman, shortly after the Second World War at a ball hosted for Jewish Ex-Servicemen. Harry was a shy veteran with an easy manner and warm smile. Their tender love remained undiminished for the next 63 years. Of all the blessings in Leona's life, she treasured above all else, her marriage to Harry, and the family they created.

Community service was a cornerstone in Leona's life, both because of the friendships she made as well as the pleasure she derived from improving the lives of others. Over the years, Leona would play an active role in, and be recognized for her leadership of, a number of organizations, in particular Hadassah WIZO, where she served as Halifax Chapter President, Regional Chair, and as member of the National Executive. Leona's love for aesthetics translated into her engagement with the arts community; she organized charity antique fairs, and she volunteered on the accessions committee for the art sales and rental department at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. She worked in Halifax at Shades of Faces and the gift shop, A Step Up and was a personally shopper for many. She was a fixture in the synagogue, serving as a member of its sisterhood and as a faithful congregant who attended regularly.

Friends will always remember that Leona took a very personal interest in everyone she met. What was important to her was not someone's age, or background, but whether they shared her spark and her zest for living. And when she found such a kindred spirit, she had the unique ability to bring them into her life, and KEEP them there.

As much as she loved her friends, nothing was more important to Grandma than her family – and the profound love and pride she had for all of us.

She was an inspiration to us all. As a model of civility and kindness, she will be remembered as the matriarch of our family and as everyone's special friend, Leona. She was the strong, steady hand that guided us all. She was our unwavering supporter and true champion. Her place in our history will always be remembered fondly and her strong spirit will live on through all of us who had the pleasure of knowing her.



## **Ralph Garson z"l June 20, 1928 - March 26, 2015**

*Editor's note: excerpts from a eulogy delivered by Andrea Garson.*

Since I was old enough to speak, I never called my father "dad". He was always Malph to my brothers and I, affectionately named after the Happy Days character Ralph Malph by my brothers. That name extended to all of our friends as well so everyone knows him as Malph.

My father moved to Detroit in the early 50's to work with his cousin in the construction business. He got introduced to my mother through relatives and after on and off dating, they got married in December, 1955. They had their first child Craig and a few years later they moved to Halifax. My parents would be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this year.

Health was not in my father's favor at an early stage in life. He suffered his first of several heart attacks 45 year ago. He was forced to be out of the workforce at the prime of his working life. Childhood memories for Craig, Marc and I are of hundreds of days spent at the VG hospital, his many surgeries, chest pain, ambulance trips and often being shuffled to relatives while our mother was by his side at the hospital. After his heart condition finally stabilized he was able to re-enter the workforce and found a wonderful opportunity to excel in an area that he loved – men's clothing. For many years, he happily toiled at Moore's clothing. Before the grandchildren came along, my father was exceedingly proud of his children. He derived immense pleasure from our successes and couldn't wait to share the stories with his friends and family.

No one enjoyed their years at Camp Kadimah more than my father. He is an icon there, serving on staff and as Director for many years. In turn, the three of us spent endless summers at camp with the same level of enjoyment and pride. He has left a legacy at Kadimah, most notably by co-authoring the camp song with his cousin Shirley Burnstein – "our camp is a thing of great beauty, let's love it with all of our might. To love one another's our duty, united we'll all win the fight..."

We have received countless messages from friends and family and they all have a consistent message – he was a man of music, laughter, kindness and giving. He will be remembered and missed by many. Rest peacefully Malph.



## **A Life Time Of Loving Friendship**

**Carol Ann Silverman z"l August 4, 1938 - March 18, 2015**

*I wrote the following article three nights before Carol Ann's funeral service to relieve me of some of the deep sadness on her passing. - Helene (Zebberman) Rosen*

Carol Ann and I became friends, from what I remember about 65 years ago. We grew up in Halifax and were in a crowd of approximately 14 girls. Many of us remain good friends. We attended Camp Kadimah and Young Judea for several years.

In 1972, my late husband Herb, my daughters Elisa and Adina moved to Vancouver, Carol Ann was very sad but she said, "Helene, if you are not happy, I'll be waiting for your return". We tried to see one another at least once a year since that time. Carol Ann came to visit at least 16 times, my friends became her friends. She loved coming to Vancouver and always said "it was my best vacation". Everyone loved her.

Carol Ann had many skills. She had a beautiful voice and enjoyed singing in choirs, particularly Shaar Shalom. She loved to swim, no matter what the weather was like; she was a great shopper and most of all she was an "unlicensed" tour guide. Whenever someone was going to Halifax, Carol Ann was ready to drive them to some of her favorite spots, such as Chester, Hubbards, Lunenburg, Moncton, plus trips to Bangor, Maine. She never missed a Simcha, it could be a wedding, Bar or Bat Mitzvah or a birthday party, she was always there. Carol Ann visited Betty Rubin & family in Moncton very often, it was always the three of us. She loved her many friends and was always ready to go.

Carol Ann never had a bad word to say about anyone, she found the good in everything. She will be missed by all. I received phone calls from Halifax, Moncton, Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Washington DC, California, Baltimore and Florida, when we all heard the sad news.

Condolences to David, Lori, her sister Ruthie and the family. I will miss her so very much. May you Rest in Peace, my dear friend. You will never be forgotten.

*Helene (Zebberman) Rosen lives in Vancouver and has two daughters, five grandchildren and one great-grandson.*



*Helene Rosen, right, pictured with her good friend, Carol Ann Silverman z"l*

# Israeli Consul General Makes First Visit to Halifax

by Joel Jacobson

**Z**iv Nevo Kulman expected a warm welcome on his first visit to Halifax – and he received it.

What he didn't expect were questions surrounding an anti-Semitic Twitter rant by a local hot dog vendor.

The visit of the recently appointed consul general of Israel to Quebec and the Atlantic provinces was marked with questions about the rant by the Muslim vendor who tweeted inflammatory statements Jan. 14 (see story on page 24). Jerry Reddick, known as the Dawgfather, talked about Jews and the Holocaust as he tried to make a point about free speech and the Charlie Hebdo Muhammad cartoons.

"All I can really say is that if this is the way he wants to promote his hot dog business, I'm glad I'm a vegetarian," Nevo Kulman joked during an interview on Global TV's morning show Jan 15.

Nevo Kulman was in Halifax to open The Courage To Remember exhibit, recognizing International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

Nevo Kulman also had business meetings with Nova Scotia government officials and researchers at Dalhousie University to promote co-operation between the Atlantic region and Israel. He addressed a church gathering of Bridges For Peace, a Christian group with strong Israeli ties, and he addressed a luncheon of Jewish seniors at the Masada Club.

Nevo Kulman, 45, the son of a Holocaust survivor from Poland, was born in Tel Aviv. He's held several positions in cultural affairs in Israel and abroad and most recently worked in the ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem in charge of diplomatic professional training.

He told the Masada group about his role as consul in promoting commercial, educational, scientific and cultural interests between the region and Israel.

"Commercial ties, specifically, between Canada and Israel could be better, because Israelis think of the United States more so than Canada. I have to work on that. But Israel is an open society based on immigration and multiculturalism, just like Canada, so I hope things can work better."

To the Masada and church groups, Nevo Kulman spoke of issues between Israel and the Palestinians.

"If Palestinians want to negotiate, but only using their moderates, establishing two states can be solved. Yet Hamas won't accept our presence and that's where it becomes dangerous."

He touched on the recent violence in France. "Perhaps now the world can see what radical terrorism can do," he said. "Western governments can see what might happen in their own cities. Israel has been quiet about this because we know the dangers of terror. We live with it every day. This is an international problem that needs international co-operation to stifle it."

Nevo Kulman expressed concern for the 500,000 Jews of France, who comprise one per cent of the country's population, compared to six million Muslims.

"Half the incidents of attacks in France in the last year were against Jews. The French government has to secure its citizens, but isn't doing enough. More than 7,000 Jews made aliyah to Israel last year. We can't tell others to come to Israel. It's their decision on their own but we'll open our doors if they choose."

Nevo Kulman's meeting with government and Dalhousie officials were successful,



*Israeli Consul Ziv Nevo Kulman helped open The Courage To Remember exhibit in Halifax.*

he said. "The Nova Scotia government emphasizes industrial ties and we spoke positively about agriculture and aquaculture opportunities."

"Martha Crago, Dalhousie's vice-president of research, was full of ideas and knows Israel well through our connections with Dal and Hebrew University, Ben-Gurion University and [BGU's Eilat campus]. Exchanges, involving dozens of people, are already going on in ocean research, water monitoring and neuroscience. There are good things happening."

The consul also met with the Halifax Chronicle Herald's editorial board, finding it "friendly, in an open and frank discussion. They asked intelligent questions."

Overall, Nevo Kulman was "overwhelmed with the hospitality of the people. Nova Scotia is a friendly province and I will be back," he stressed, adding, with a smile, "in the spring, when the weather is friendlier."

*Reprinted with permission from the Canadian Jewish News.*



*Pastor Russ, right, Lead Pastor at the Rock Church, Sackville, NS, hosted the Bridges for Peace, "A Night to Honour Israel" gala celebration, pictured with Jon Goldberg, AJC executive director.*



*Avia Maccabi and son enjoy the Megilah reading at the Beth Israel Synagogue.*



*Olga Shepelshevich celebrates Purim at the Karaoke evening, Beth Israel Synagogue.*



*Attending the Yom HaShoah commemoration at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, from l to r, Judith and Victor Goldberg, the Honourable Geoff Regan, M.P and Mark David.*



*Children enjoyed a fun filled BBQ celebration for Lag B'Omer, hosted by Chabad of the Maritimes.*



*Lawrence Freeman left, talks with former colleagues, the Honourable Lena Metlege Diab, MLA, and Andrew Wolfson, after the Yom HaShoah service.*



*Marta Markus, 2nd from left, chats with friends, after the story of her husband, Steven Markus was presented at the Yom Hashoah service. Pictured with her from l to r, Myrna Yazer, Morris Strug, Shoshana Katz, and Dorothy Riteman.*

# Cape Breton News

by Evy & Barrie Carnat

**T**he Chanukah dinner organized by Allan Nathanson was a big success. The latkes were delicious, as always, and Evy Carnat had us singing.

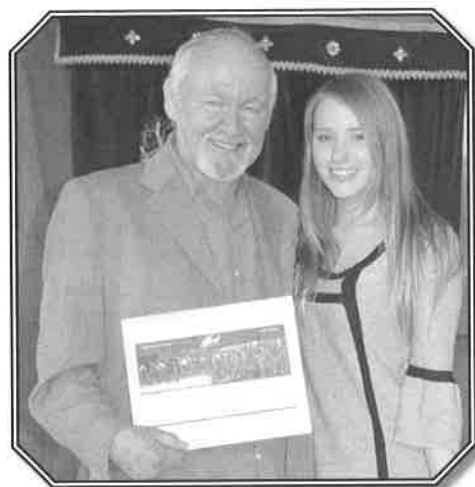
Snow birds returning are giving our Shabbat minyan a boost. Community members continue to make an effort to ensure that we have a weekly service. Thanks to our organizers, Shirley Chernin and Wendy Cohen-Ross, and to various community members for our stand-out Kiddush offerings each week.

Mazal tov to Sharon and Stanley Jacobson on the birth of their second grandchild, Dov Asher, born April 6 in San Francisco. Jack Yazer celebrated his 102nd birthday in April. His weekly attendance at shul is an example to all of us.

Three hundred attendees filled our synagogue to near capacity for the Holocaust Memorial ceremony. The guest speaker was Dr. Mario Silva, former chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and former Member of Parliament. He related the holocaust to current events in Syria, Nigeria. The highlight was a presentation to Leon Dubinsky from the March of the Living -Canada group, to recognize his song, We Rise Again, which is sung annually at the March of the Living. Leon's sister, Evy Carnat, presented the award with the following words:

I stand here to talk about a song writer and a song. Leon Dubinsky and his siblings grew up in a house overflowing with love and music. From our parents, Esther and Newman Dubinsky, Rabbi Kenner, our spiritual leader for 40 + years, from our Jewish community and from our Sydney and Cape Breton community, we were given a deep understanding of who and what we are.

It was in this synagogue that Leon and all of us were gifted with the heritage of beautiful music both at our services and involvement in the choir that sang on the high holidays. Leon became a full time musician and song writer, and you may remember him in the group, BUDDY AND THE BOYS, as the music director of the Rise and Follies and later, the Cape Breton Summertime Review. I remember a visit from Ralph Dillon, Leon's friend, and part of the house band for the Follies. They had just started rehearsing for the 1985 production, and Ralph's report on it to us was, "You just wait until you hear the new song your brother wrote!" And that was WE RISE AGAIN, which Raylene Rankin performed. It was THE show-stopper at every performance. The seed of the song, I suppose could date to Leon watching our ailing father watching his grandchildren at the pool in Englishtown. And since the summer of 85, WE RISE AGAIN has taken on a life of its own. It's sung at funerals,



*Leon Dubinsky receiving the award from the March of the Living, pictured with his daughter Ella.*

graduations, weddings, life cycle events, choral concerts world-wide, adopted by the Cape Bretoners dragon boat team as I learned last night, the official song of Cape Breton University, and sung at the 2010 Vancouver Paralympics opening ceremony with 2010 singers. Leon has attended each of the past 15 Holocaust Remembrance ceremonies in Cape Breton to play We Rise Again at the end of the program with the participation of a variety of soloists, and with the very moving chorus sung by all assembled.

But perhaps the most touching and meaningful part of the life of this song to Leon, is when it is sung at the MARCH OF THE LIVING.



*Barrie Carnat, left, and Martin Chernin reciting the Kaddish.*



*Veterans salute, pictured with Diane Lewis, right.*



The March is an annual educational program, which brings high school students from all over the world to Poland, in order to study the history of the Holocaust and to examine the roots of prejudice, intolerance and hate.

Some of their goals for participants:

1. To remember those who perished and to be a WITNESS
2. To pay tribute to the courage of those who survived the H. - who rebuilt their lives despite the haunting memories of their past.
3. To recognize and learn from the altruistic actions of the "the righteous amongst us", who teach us NEVER to be a bystander in the face of oppression.
4. To inspire participants to commit to building a world free of oppression and intolerance, a world of freedom, democracy, and justice for all members of the human family.
5. To honor the heroic veterans of WWII

who fought to liberate Europe from the hands of Nazi tyranny.

Since the first March of the Living in 1988, over 200,000 participants, from 35 countries, have marched down the same path leading from Auschwitz to Birkenau on Holocaust Remembrance Day which was this past Thursday. It culminates in a trip to Israel which coincides with Israel's Independence Day - YOM HAATZMAUT.

THE MARCH OF THE LIVING CANADA is honoured to recognize Leon Dubinsky's gift of WE RISE AGAIN which has been sung by the Canadian participants for so many years. The certificate reads as follows: "For donating your outstanding musical gifts in the service of your community and for allowing the March of the Living to perform your song which has touched thousands of young marchers



Keynote speaker, Dr. Mario Silva, pictured with students from Mt. Carmel Elementary and St. Agnes Elementary, New Waterford.

across Canada thereby helping educate future generations concerning the history and lessons of the holocaust. Your selfless example inspires us all." I would like to invite Leon to join me, and Leon's nephews, Ethan and Manny Strong to present this March of the Living certificate to Leon.

## Sydney Holocaust Observance told of need for Government-Supported Education

By Chris Shannon, Cape Breton Post

**The ill health of a Holocaust survivor forced organizers of this year's Yom Hashoah Holocaust Memorial Observance in Sydney to seek out another suitable guest speaker.**

Philip Riteman, who is an Auschwitz survivor, has given lectures on his experiences in schools, community centres and universities across North America.

International legal scholar Mario Silva, while too young to experience the cruelty of war, stepped in with a lecture detailing the magnitude of the Holocaust and the need for government-supported Holocaust education in schools.

"Governments must pledge to strengthen efforts to promote Holocaust education and research," said Silva, who was appointed chair of the International Holocaust

Remembrance Alliance for a one-year term by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in 2011. Silva served as an Ontario Liberal MP from 2004 to 2011. Silva said organizations such as the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the Council of Europe have made Holocaust remembrance a "fundamental" part of their mission.

"The seed of this collective effort was sewn 67 years ago. The United Nations general assembly adopted resolution 260 — the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes and Genocide — on Dec. 9, 1948." Even today, crimes against humanity continue, he said.

With wars being fought in Syria and across the Middle East and Africa, new groups such as ISIS and Al-Shabaab have gained prominence, creating a world "steeped in

tyranny and terror."

In North America, anti-Semitism is still a daily struggle for many Jewish people who see it in different contexts and ideologies, he said.

Yom Hashoah guest speaker, Mario Silva, is an International legal scholar who obtained a PhD in International Law from the National University of Ireland, Galway. He has held positions in Ryerson University and McGill University where he is currently a visiting professor. Silva is a fellow at the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at Concordia University. Silva served as Liberal MP for Davenport from 2004-2011; and began political career as Toronto city councilor from 1994 to 2003. He was the first Portuguese-Canadian Member of Parliament.

*Reprinted with the permission of the Cape Breton Post*

# News from Fredericton

by Ayten Kranat

## Purim

The festival of Purim, always one of our most enjoyed holidays, we had our Magillah readings, and then on the day at the shul we had our party which was attended by Children of all ages. The younger children enjoyed making paper puppets to retell the story of Esther.

## My First Passover Seder in Fredericton, by Liat Cohen

I'm a new comer in Fredericton and I would like to tell you about my first Passover in Fredericton. The Fredericton Jewish community is very friendly and welcoming; it's one of those places that makes you feel like home when you are far away from home.

I attended the Sisterhood meeting about Purim and Passover. Passover, of course, took most of the meeting because it's a more important holiday and you need a lot of preparation in order to be ready for it.

I was attracted by what was said, that a community Seder was started here 12 years ago, because it's a family Holy Day, and when you are far away from your family, at least you can celebrate with friends instead of doing it by yourself.

I felt she was right. Passover is that kind of holiday that you should celebrate with your family, but when you can't do it, to celebrate with friends is much more fun

than doing it by yourself.

In that sisterhood meeting the members discussed all the details of the community Seder.

I learned that a year ago there were 70 people in the Seder. Its sounds like the Jewish community in Fredericton is very well organized and everything will be good.

But there were a few doubts whether or not there would be a community Seder this year due to the fact that many members in the community are celebrating this year in other places or with their family at home. The decision was that an e-mail would be sent out with a March deadline for RSVP's and if there would be enough people registered we would have the seder.

As a person that loves community events, I thought to myself I'm coming to the community Seder and I'm willing to help in what is needed so the Seder will be as planned.

Another woman, also new in Fredericton,

told me that she will help in what she can to make this community Passover a reality.

We met, made a list of people, then started to make phone calls. There were also all the arrangements as who will set the tables and who will help in the kitchen and so on.

The mission wasn't an easy one. There were many doubts as to whether or not we had enough people to make a community Seder; do we have enough volunteers to make matzoth and other things that we need to prepare before the Seder?

From one conference call to another we understood that there was a group of people not so big, but not so small, that will come to the community Seder.

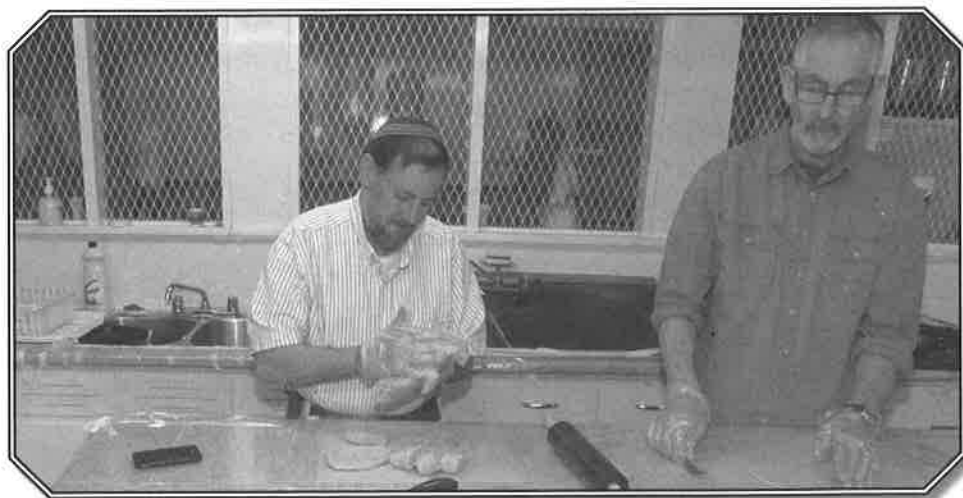
There was a very nice group of community members that volunteered to make matzoth. And everything was looking good.

On the evening of Passover the shul was more crowded than usual. The holiday feeling was all around. The hall was organized. Very festive. There was a feeling of excitement in the air.

Everyone that came to the Seder was asked by the children for his name and then he got a name tag with his name so



*Marilyn Kaufman enjoys preparing for the celebration.*



*Rabbi Yosef Goldman and Larry Finkelman*



*Celebrating Purim.*



*Lait Cohen & her family celebrate Passover.*

everybody would know one another.

The Knights of Columbus came and were busy learning what to do before the Seder was to start.

Everybody sat around the tables and the Rabbi started the Seder. One by one we read the Haggadah and drank the cups of wine and grape juice, telling the story of the Exodus from Egypt, and singing the same songs that we sing every year. I enjoyed the company of my new friends and I was very happy to celebrate the

Seder with the community.

I felt very proud to be in a community that has such a nice Seder and although we weren't many we were not alone. We celebrated this holiday together.

The food was delicious. The kids and the Rabbi found the Afikoman and got presents.

At the end of the evening, I had a feeling of pride that a small group of people with team work can do many things.

As it says in the Haggadah ...."With a strong hand and straight arm..."

"beyad Chazaka ubizroa netuyah"

I can just try to imagine what the community of Fredericton can do in the future if now when we are not so many we are doing such nice things.

The sky is the limit!

[www.jewishfredericton.com](http://www.jewishfredericton.com)

## Yom HaShoah Service in Fredericton

by Sydelle Grobe



*Guest speaker Pinchas Gutter.*

"Take heed ...lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and ...Teach them to your children and to your children's children." Deuteronomy 4:9

**T**he first mild, sunlit Sunday afternoon of the spring season, welcomed guest speaker Pinhas Gutter to Fredericton for

**the annual Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Service at Sgoollai Israel Synagogue. Gutter's presentation captivated the attention of a standing room only interfaith audience. Attendees overflowed sanctuary and supplemental seating, sat on the floor and stairs and crowded the stairwells.**

Gutter was born in Lodz, Poland. His well-established family had been in Poland for 400 years. When war broke out, he was seven years old. The family fled to Warsaw, a place they assumed would be a safe haven after Gutter's father was brutally beaten by Nazis in Lodz. Safe haven was brief, as with other Polish Jews, they were confined within the Warsaw Ghetto for over three years until April 1943, the date

of the valiant but ill-fated Ghetto uprising. Three weeks after the uprising, the family was placed on a transport and endured a horrendous journey to the Majdanek death camp. Upon arrival at the camp, Gutter's father, mother and twin sister were put to death in the gas chambers. Gutter was assigned to a slave labour camp where people were beaten, worked to death and shot. He worked at several concentration camps, including notorious Buchenwald. Among other duties he was expected to load and unload enormous weights of iron. Toward the end of the war Gutter barely survived a Nazi death march from Germany to Theresienstadt in northwestern Czechoslovakia. He was liberated by the Russian army on May 8,

*continued on page 26*

## AROUND OUR REGION: FREDERICTON

*continued from page 25*

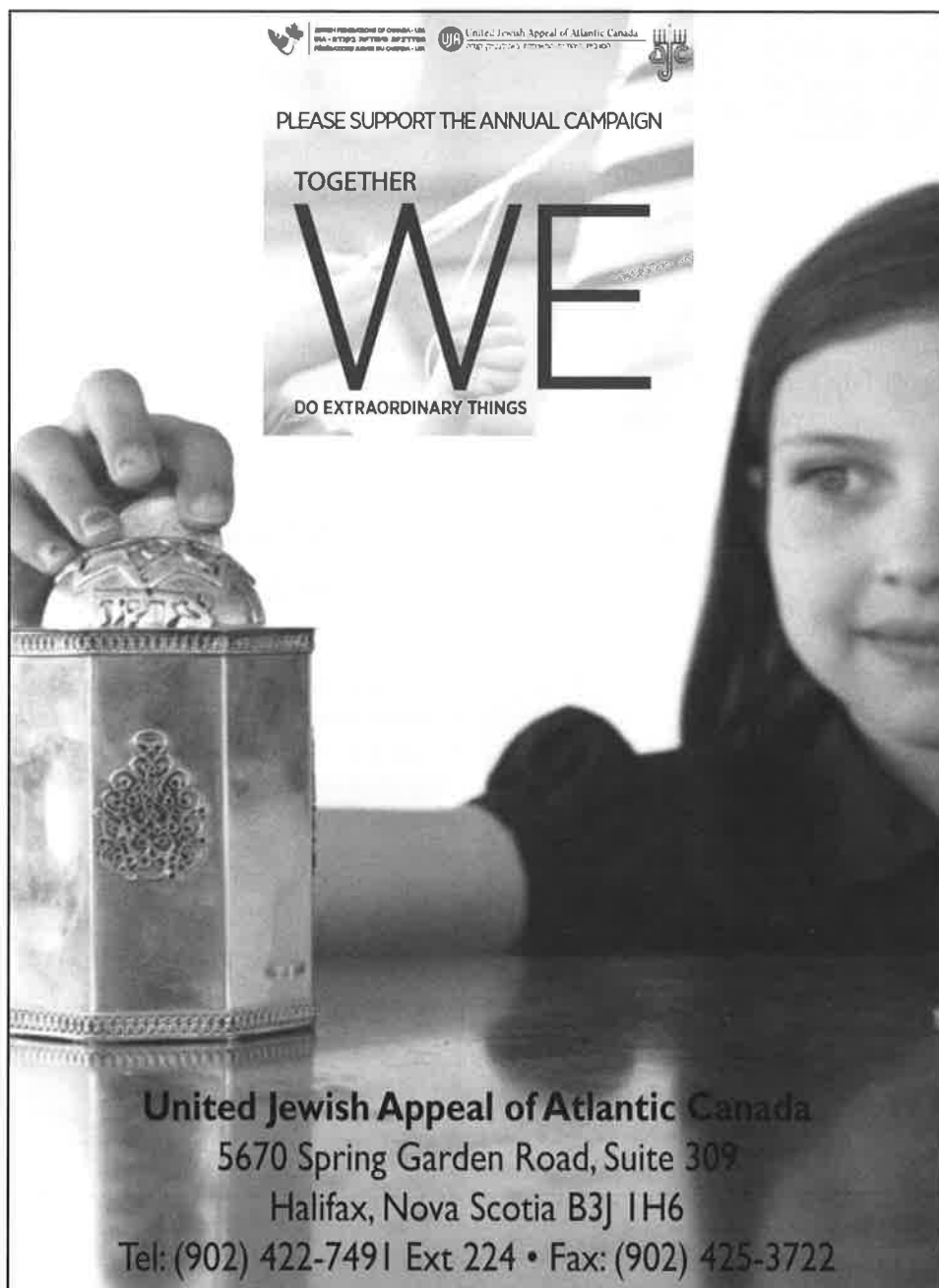
1945. Under the auspices of the United Nations Refugee Relief Agency (UNRRA) he was taken to Britain with other children for rehabilitation. Gutter spent many years in South Africa before immigrating to Canada. Today he divides his time bearing witness to the atrocities of the Holocaust, volunteering as a chaplain and serving as honorary, full-time Cantor at Congregation Rodei Sholem Anshei Kiev (Toronto) founded in 1912.

Lieutenant-Governor Jocelyne Roy Vienneau, Minister of Justice Stephen Horsman, Gerry Crawford, Royal Canadian Legion Branch No.11 Woodstock and veterans of the Royal Canadian Legion, Kevin Price, Executive Assistant to MP Keith Ashfield, Saint Thomas University President Dawn Russell and students from Ecole Sainte Anne who are participating in the Asper program were guests of honour at the service. Sgoolai Israel President Marilyn Kaufman welcomed everyone to the service. Leonid Gimelshtein and Robert Gerard read a selection from the Book of Joel that praises the virtue of bearing witness. "Hear this, ye old man, and give ear. All ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? Tell ye your children of it, and let your children, and their children another generation." Saint Thomas University Chaplain Janice Ryan read "Auschwitz," an original poem that was inspired by her participation in the March of Holocaust and Remembrance. Alex Ashbel and Shelley Stephens read the 23rd Psalm. Six memorial candles were kindled. Speaker Pinhas Gutter lit a candle in memory of the six million Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust. Gerry Crawford lit a candle to honour members of the Canadian military who lost their lives during WWII. Marlene Unger lit a candle honouring the memory of Righteous Gentiles. Stas Tichonov and Louis Budovitch each lit candles representing remembrance from new and long-time members of the Sgoolai Israel community. Israel Unger invited the students from Ecole Sainte Anne to join him, and together they lit a candle to memorialize all the Jewish children who

were murdered by the Nazis. Priestman Street School student Ron Gimelshtein lit a seventh candle in hope of a bright future for all young people. Marilyn Kaufman sang the haunting hymn Ani Ma'amin, "I believe," a confirmation of faith which death camp victims sang on their way to the gas chambers. Rabbi Goldman recited the traditional memorial prayer Kael Molai Rachamim, "Exalted, Compassionate God, grant perfect peace in your sheltering presence among the Holy and the Pure to the souls of all our brethren; men, women and children of the House of Israel, who were slaughtered and burned." Israel Unger recited the Mourner's Kaddish.

"May the Father of peace grant peace to us, to all Israel and to all mankind ..." Following the service, everyone was invited to a reception in the social hall of the synagogue hosted by the Jewish community.

"I'm encouraged," said Holocaust Remembrance Chair Dr. Israel Unger, "that year after year, even 70 years after the Holocaust, young people like the students from Ecole Sainte Anne who are with us today continue to attend this service, show interest and make themselves aware of the lessons that the Holocaust has for all of humanity."



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# News from Saint John

by Susan Isaacs Lubin

**S**aint John, as well as the rest of the Maritimes, had a very harsh winter, but our Synagogue activities continued. Our snowbirds are all on their way home, and we look forward to their return. We held Services as often as possible (given the cancellations for snowstorms), and special activities continued in our multi-purpose room. The Chess Club met on Sunday mornings under the direction of Dan Elman. Amir David went to the Provincial tournament, and came in third, earning him a trip to the Maritime tournament at a later date. Good luck to Amir and Mazeltov on his third place finish. Amir is the son of Isaac and Avishag David.

We have a group of very talented, dedicated and enthusiastic women who organized both Tu B'Shevat and Purim activities. Thank you to Avishag David, Katya Dubnikov, Orly Melech, Tseela Aharon- Yariv, Meital Waks, and Cathy Cohen- Tait. Children decorated

flower pots and planted them for Tu B'Shevat, and also decorated a tree with their handprints. Purim saw a variety of costumes, with the Megillah being read by Ilan Muskall in rocker costume! Mazeltov to Teri and Ellis Levine on the birth of a granddaughter, Maia Anne – born to their son, Micah and daughter-in-law, Orly in Ottawa. Mazeltov to Ricardo and Lois Bessoudo on the engagement of their son Mark to Sandra Lax, daughter of Ted and Bonnie Lax of Toronto. A May wedding is planned in Toronto.

Our Yom HaShoah program, which is presented by the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, saw a standing room only crowd to hear Pinchas Gutter speak of his experiences during the War. Mr. Gutter is a wonderful speaker, and it was very moving to listen to him. The Museum, along with the Saint John Theatre Company, and several corporate sponsors brought in Two Planks and a Passion Theatre to perform "Project 937". The play, which has no spoken words, was incredibly powerful. The theatre company also took this play to

schools in the Saint John and southern New Brunswick areas. Plans are afoot for a community picnic this summer. No definite date yet, but we are all looking forward to this fun event.



*Children using handprints to create a tree for Tu B'Shevat.*



*Children decorating flower pots & making "trees" for Tu B'Shevat.*



*President of the Museum, Gary Davis, and Vice President of the Synagogue, Cathy Cohen Tait lighting a candle at Yom Hashoah.*



*Yom Hashoah crowd.*



# *Saint John Jewish Historical Museum*

by Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator

## **Upcoming events and exhibits**

On May 7th, the Museum will hold its Third Annual Spring Variety Concert. The programme will feature two local choirs – The Rotary Kings District Honour Choir composed of grade 4 and 5 students from the Saint John area and Cantabile Choir, a women's chorus, as well as a number of young vocal soloists. Piano, clarinet and cello solos will round out the evening. The evening will be led by Robert Selby, master of ceremonies. Tickets are available from the Museum and its board members for only \$10.00 each. Please purchase your tickets and join us for an evening of beautiful music.

The upcoming summer season will begin on May 11th with the first cruise ship of the season and run until the end of the cruise season on November 3rd. We hope to welcome many of the 120,000 cruise passengers who are expected to arrive over the six months, as well as many others travelling to Saint John.

We have chosen to retain our popular exhibit about the Jewish summer community of Pampdenec for another season. Visitors will notice changes to the exhibits over the summer as we gradually change our exhibit to focus on the Jewish war veterans. Over the next 6 to 12 months, we will be researching the stories of the Jewish Canadian men and women from the Saint John area who served their country in the First and Second World Wars, in Korea and in peacetime roles. The completed project will take the form of a "Memory Book" The exhibit will open in early November 2015.

The information we are seeking on each service member includes dates of birth and death, burial location, branch of service and service ranks held, service numbers, dates of enlistment and discharge, medals received and details of

their war service

We want to include photographs from the time period, including formal portraits in uniform and photographs taken with fellow veterans and in the field as well as copies of various documents including diaries, newspaper clippings, military documents and photographs of medals. To ensure the success of this project we invite veterans and family members to share memorabilia (either as a permanent gift to the museum or by loan with permission to copy or photograph the material), by recalling and sharing memories you have of a family member's service during the war and by writing a letter and filling in a request form which will release information from the Library and Archives of Canada about a family member's war service.

## **Yom Hashoah**

This year the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum marked Yom Hashoah with two events.

The Museum partnered with the Saint John Theatre Company to coordinate a two-week presentation of the play 937 by the Two Planks and A Passion Theatre Company, based in Annapolis County of Nova Scotia. This play recounts the tragic story of the S.S. St. Louis which sailed from Hamburg, Germany in May 1939 and was turned away from landing its Jewish passengers in Cuba, the United States and Canada. Using trunks and coats, hats and small props expertly manipulated by the actors, the play tells the story without dialogue. The play was presented in a private event for sponsors on April 15th and in two public showings at the Saint John Theatre Company's BMO Theatre and was taken "on the road" to ten high schools in Saint John and southern New Brunswick where it was seen by hundreds of students. The actors and director generously



*Guest speaker Pinchas Gutter*

answered questions at the end of each performance.

The Museum marked Yom Hashoah on April 20th with an overflow crowd of more than 150 in the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue. Our programme featured an address by Mr. Pinchas Gutter. Mr. Gutter was born in Lodz, Poland in 1932. His family had been winemakers for 400 years and a young Pinchas was introduced to the family trade at a very early age. After the Nazi invasion of Poland, his father was brutally beaten by Nazis in Lodz. The family fled to what they thought was safety in Warsaw, Pinchas travelling by train with his mother and twin sister, while his father spent weeks walking over the same distance.

The Gutter family was imprisoned in the Warsaw Ghetto for three and a half years until the ghetto uprising in April 1943. In May 1943, the family was deported to the death camp, Majdanek, where his parents and twin sister were murdered shortly after arrival. The most moving moment came as he related how all he can remember of his sister is the long, blond braid she had – this was the last image of her as she was hugging their

mother on arrival in Majdanek.

Left alone in the camp at age eleven, Pinchas was sent to a series of work camps where people were beaten, shot or worked to death. He was able to escape selections by hiding, working as a nurse and being helped by friendly Jewish police guards. Towards the end of the war, he was taken on a forced march, which he barely survived. He was liberated in Theresienstadt by the Russians on May 8, 1945 and was later taken to Britain with other children for rehabilitation. After living in Israel, Brazil and South Africa, he moved to Canada in 1985.

At the conclusion of the programme, Mr. Gutter spoke with many who were in attendance and answered many questions about his experiences. Many also thanked him for taking the time to share his memories of his survival.

As the memorial candles were lit in memory of victims of the Holocaust, several candlelighters dedicated their

candle to loved ones – Mr. Gutter to the memory of his beloved sister, Jacqueline Meltzer in memory of 85 family members who were murdered and in honour of three of her grandchildren who were participating in the March of the Living, Stephen Tobias, artistic director of the Saint John Theatre Company, in memory of the passengers of the St. Louis. We also welcomed Inbar Aharon and her father Erez, recent immigrants from Israel, who lighted the candle to represent the future.

The programme in the Museum was made possible with financial assistance from The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany through the Atlantic Jewish Council and donations to the Harry and Mary Selick Cohen Memorial Fund at the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum. We also made arrangements to videotape the programme and it will be available in the Museum later this year.

To keep up to date on Museum



Jackie Meltzer, right, lighting a Memorial candle.

activities check our webpage - <http://jewishmuseumsj.com> - and our Facebook page regularly. There is always something new to report about activities and exhibits. We also encourage you to take advantage of an introductory membership in the Museum for only \$10.00 – this rate is available only until the end of December 2015.



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## *News from Moncton*

by Nancy Cohen

**M**oncton, like most of the Maritimes was buried under several feet of snow this winter, but people still managed to dig themselves out and find their way to the shul for various activities. Minyans on Monday and Wednesday evenings and on Shabbat continued with only a few cancelled because of weather.

Purim was celebrated with a lovely community dinner and a carnival for the kids. There were the usual games and, of course, lots of kids in costumes. The adults were entertained by a mini concert, and sing-a-long led by our talented pianist Evgeni Yazgur.

Another popular and successful activity was the Spaghetti supper organized by Carole Rinzler and Anne Jochelman.



The purpose of this supper was to raise money to help the new families send their children to Camp Kadimah this summer. Carole and Anne, with a few

helpers, made the dinner and also held an art auction with pieces by some local artists including several made by the children. There was also a Tom Forestall print up for bids. The children got involved in other ways as well. Some of the experienced campers did a little skit on camp life and explained why they love camp so much. The Maicas family made lovely beaded necklaces to be sold, and were even taking orders for on the spot custom designs. The evening ended with a very nice film on Camp Kadimah.

Just before Pesach Rebbitzén Yagod held a model Seder for the children, their parents and a few invited guests. She also had Haggadahs especially made for this occasion to help everyone understand the Seder.

Moncton's annual Yom Hashoah Service

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was held at the shul on April 19 and was attended by approximately 120 people. There were several politicians in attendance including Robert Goguen, the MP for Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe, several MLA's and City Councilors. The Consul General for France, Vincent Hommeril and his wife Marie-Christine also attended, and we were pleased to welcome an impressive number of veterans.

Our program included the film "Both Sides of the Wire" and Neal Livingston, the producer, writer and director was here to introduce the film and answer questions. Although the film has been



*A full audience for our Yom HaShoah program.*

around for several years, most people in the audience has never seen it, and had did not know that over 700 Jewish



*Purim Celebration.*

refugees from Nazis occupied Europe had been considered dangerous alien enemies and were interned in New Brunswick.

## *Report on PEI Jewish Community Events*

by Rosalie Simeone

**D**espite having had a very stormy winter we have tried to have at least one event per month.

On November 21, the Community Erev Shabbat was a Shabbat of Solidarity, in memory of the murdered and wounded people of the synagogue attack at Har Nof. The annual Chanukah party was held at the home of Leslee Sack. There was a good turnout, and lots of delicious latkes.

Jan 23, a Kabbalat Shabbat was held at the home of Shira Zipursky. Our gracious host lead a Shabbat Kiddush, and the crowd of about 15 enjoyed one of the legendary

PEI pot luck dinner.

On February 1, a cold and blustery day, Tu B'shvat was celebrated by a sleigh ride, and Tu B'Shvat Seder. Unfortunately only four of us braved the elements. However, the scenery was lovely, the blankets warm, and we sampled fruits and nuts in honour of Tu B'Shvat.

Our Community Pesach Seder was



*Tu B'Shevat sleigh ride.*

held on the first Seder night, with 45 people in attendance, including 9 young Afikomen hunters, and a phenomenal Festival Dinner. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Our 15th annual Yom Hashoah was observed on Thursday April 16th. Held at the Murphy Community Centre, approx. 75 people gathered for a Memorial Service, and to hear Beatrice Linzel speak about her family's experience in Holland. Please see the separate article about Mrs. Linzel's presentation.

As spring and Summer (wishful thinking) return we are looking forward to seeing the grass emerge, and our Summer members returning.



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# 2015 Yom HaShoah in PEI

by Sandra Ireland

**The 16th Annual Yom Hashoah memorial Service began with the reading of "I Will Be the One" by Catherineann Martin who was a participant of the first PEI Public School Asper Holocaust and Human Rights programme in 2005, and continues to be a part of our annual observances.**

The photograph shows Catherinann and Leo Mednick participating in the Candle Lighting Ceremony. The remembrance part of the evening concluded with attendees reading aloud the name of a person who was murdered, and placing the name tag and a stone on the Memorial table as a special way to remember those whose place of burial is unknown. One woman remarked that she was impressed with that gesture, and said, "I will always remember the name I read aloud and placed on the table." Beatrice Linzel, Charlottetown, originally from Holland, was the guest speaker for the PEI 16th Annual Yom haShoah. Mrs. Linzel shared the story of her family's bravery of hiding a family of three Jews, and another Jewish woman, from the Nazis in their home during the dark years of WWII. In telling the story of her family, Mrs. Linzel emphasized that her parents' determination and decision to hide the

family of three in the upper story of their home was something they decided was right to do even though it could mean death for everyone. Later on, they were able to hide another Jewish friend in their home, who was able to "pass as a non-Jewish person". She became the live-in child caretaker and house maid. She was able to so as she didn't "fit" into the labeled, physical and stereotyping done by the Nazis. Beatrice's father, worked with the Resistance movement, the strong underground anti-war/anti-Nazi group, active during the years the Nazis occupied Holland. While her father went about his profession as a butcher, he spent time doing what he could to protect his Jewish friends and neighbours without getting caught by the Nazis. Beatrice described how she and her siblings were taught and practiced the "vow of silence" regarding hiding their Jewish neighbours, but also how to manage accidentally divulging the presence of their secret guests. Daily life, such as groceries, laundry and other chores were carefully maintained by many arrangements to successfully thwart the Nazi from finding the other level of hiding places and specialized compartments within the walls of the house that was accessed via the floor in the upper level of the house. There was an access route hidden in the floor, over which a rug and a table were placed to conceal this access to additional hiding places during the Nazi raids. When the

war was over and freedom was the norm, Beatrice said that everyone took to the streets with lots of celebrations and joyfulness Beatrice told the audience that the two families remained friends, as did their other "hidden" guest following the war, which included visits and letters until health and age issues changed that status. Beatrice Linzel's parents were recognized as the "Righteous Among Nations" at a ceremony several years after the war ended.



Keynote speaker Beatrice Linzel.



Catherineann Martin and Leo Mednick light a Memorial candle.

## I WILL BE the ONE

by Catherineann Martin

*I will be the one  
to remember the forgotten  
To tell their story  
A story based on how they lived  
Making sure their  
memory will live on forever.  
I will be the one to speak for the silent  
To give them a voice they deserve  
Everyone needs to be  
heard, even the quiet  
And speak to the  
generations yet to come.  
I will be the one to find the lost,  
To shine an everlasting light  
Letting them know that  
"good can be found"  
No matter how dark  
the world can look,  
I will be the one to love the scared  
Showing them that love doesn't hurt  
I will nurture them with every step  
Into a stronger person who  
believes in them self.  
I will be the one friend  
that you can count on  
When the world turns their back  
We'll walk through life together  
So you'll never feel alone again.  
I will be the one tomorrow  
you can look forward to  
You can always count  
on me to be there  
Side by side, step by step  
So we make memories together  
But for today and always  
I will be the one.*



# Jewish Community Havura of Newfoundland and Labrador

by Ruth Noel & Nancy Bennett

**T**his winter St. John's got more than its fair share of snow, freezing rain, cold and high winds – almost as much as the rest of Atlantic Canada. Somehow it worked out that we were able to hold our Friday night Shabbat services without needing to cancel. The winter also brought new members who arrived in our province in January and February.

## Purim

The night of Purim there was a huge storm. But amazingly, the wind and snow didn't stop the nearly fifty adults and children from celebrating the holiday in style. Even though a few members decided not to brave the storm, we barely had enough room for our play, the band, the dancing and the food. Elizabeth Loder organized a Purim play which we all enjoyed and participated in. Inbal Bahar made the shalach baskets for the children which were a big hit. Some members brought gift baskets and exchanged with others. Carina Trasmundi made delicious falafel which was served in locally made pita bread provided by

Jonathan Richler. Falafel toppings, salads, and other dishes made for a healthy delicious meal. Hamentashen, cinnamon buns and birthday cake rounded out our gourmet evening. Ruth Noel was the chief organizer and Elizabeth Malischewski kept us all informed with timely emails. We welcomed the klezmer band. They filled the night with music. They had to pause a few times so our dance instructors, Ruth and Inbal, could teach some dances. All in all a perfect evening in spite of the weather.

## Bar Mitzvah

On the Saturday after Purim, Eli Brown made his bar Mitzvah in front of our community. Elizabeth Loder led the beautiful and inclusive service. Eli's blessings and Torah readings were flawless and his speech reflected the studying and volunteer work he had done over the past few years. Many members of the community participated in giving various lessons to Eli and he was an eager learner. Mazel Tov to family members, Kari Brown and Paddy McKay, brother Shamus Brown, grandmother Debby Brown and the many relatives from Canada, the U.S. and Europe who came for this special day.

## Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue

The Dialogue explores the connections between the three Abrahamic religions and plays an important role in building understanding and respect in our community. This year's topic was Religious Core Values and Their Misinterpretations. It was held at the Bruneau Centre at Memorial University on March 10. This 10th annual Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue attracted an audience of over 150. The Honourable Edward Roberts, former Lieutenant Governor, was the moderator. Nancy Bennett spoke from a Jewish Perspective and talked about the sources of Jewish core values, the Torah, Talmud, and Halakhic Law, and the many ways in which these values have been interpreted, with sometimes conflicting views, by scholars and commentators over the millennia. Muslim speaker Dr. Mahmoud Haddara addressed Muslim core values and ended his remarks by disputing the claims of certain militant groups in the news, that they are basing their actions on Muslim religious values. The Christian speaker, Kay Short, spoke about her personal reasons for deciding to become an Anglican priest. There was a lively Q&A with the audience, followed by

*continued on page 34*



Kay Short, Nancy Bennett, and Dr. Mahmoud Haddara, speakers at the 10th Annual Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue.



Jonathan Richler, Matthew Bendzsa, Zanele Myles, and Lorne Sulsky take part in the Havura's Holocaust Memorial Service.



*Elizabeth Loder, Havura Hebrew teacher who led the service, and Bar Mitzvah celebrant Eli Brown.*



*The Purim Shpiel cast make their debut: Tom, Abbey, Jillian, Jeremy, Virginia, and Ruth, while Max looks on.*

### *continued from page 33*

delicious refreshments provided by the Muslim Student Association.

### **Passover**

Despite the ice in the Gulf which delayed truck shipments, Belbin's Grocery received our Passover order a week before the first Seder. Nancy Bennett had been in charge of the ordering and Jonathan Richler was distributor-in-chief. Havura members attended home Seders and some attended one of the two Seders hosted by Chabad visitors. This year, a number of Havura members celebrated the holiday with family outside the Province.

### **Holocaust Memorial Service**

Our annual Holocaust Memorial Service was held on Sunday evening, April 12th. Several hundred people attended. Local actress Lisa Hurd was our speaker. She

told her personal story of survival. Lisa was born in Vienna in 1933. She and her parents escaped in 1939. Her parents, anticipating the plight of Viennese Jews, had learned a trade which enabled them to gain employment in Britain, which was accepting Jews at that time. Many family members did not escape and perished. Lisa has only recently been able to tell her story and that of her family and the audience sat spellbound spoke.

Paul Bendzsa composed a beautiful piece of music for the event. Paul, his wife Lisa and their son Nicolas performed it. The audience couldn't help shuddering as we heard the plaintive train whistle which sounded periodically throughout the piece. After six candles, representing the six million, were lit, Catherine Drodge lit

a seventh candle in memory of the many others killed by the Nazis. Catherine is a social justice advocate with involvement in many community organizations that fight discrimination against minority groups. Gil Shalev was our moderator and his talk gave meaning and context to the evening. He also recited the Shema in his powerful voice, standing in front of the candles, which brought tears to many eyes. After the service, the "Scholarship in the Arts" Programme, Department of History, Memorial University of Newfoundland, hosted a reception. Audience members were able to speak with Lisa and other members of the Havura. All in all, it was a stirring and emotional experience. Jonathan Richler chaired the organizing committee and



*Audience for the Havura's Holocaust Memorial Service with speaker Lisa Hurd at the far right.*



*Paul, Matthew, and Lisa Bendzsa performing Paul's original composition at the Havura's Holocaust Memorial Service.*



Watching the Purim Spiel—down with Haman!



The Gould-Citromes lead the Purim dancing while the "Newish Klezmers" play a freilach.

Elizabeth-Anne Malischewski, Ruth Noel and Gil Shalev were on the committee. Nancy Bennett provided the publicity. The Havura is grateful to the AJC and the Claims Conference which provided financial assistance for this service.

### Volunteer Appreciation

Nancy Bennett represented the Havura at a Volunteer Appreciation reception at Government House on April 16, hosted by Lieutenant Governor Frank Fagan and Patricia Fagan.

### News and Notes:

- Mazel tov to Dr. Noreen Golfman on her appointment as Provost and Vice-President (Academic) of Memorial

University. She will have overall responsibility for all academic matters, including the development and delivery of programs to Memorial's more than 18,000 undergraduate and graduate students across a wide range of disciplines. She was selected following an intensive national search by a committee that represented the university and the community.

- Mazel tov to David Jerome who is studying medicine at Memorial. In addition to the 2014 NLMA President's Award \$1,000 Scholarship mentioned in the December Shalom, he has won

Honorable Mention for the Gerry Lynch Memorial Scholarship. This Scholarship is awarded annually for a research paper on a medical history or medical humanities topic.

- Mazel tov to grandparents Ruth and John Noel on the birth of their second grandchild, Leopold Solomon Noel, to son Elliott Noel and daughter-in-law Kayu Chin.

Let us know if you or yours are coming this way. We'd love to meet you. Our events and services are listed on our website: [havura.org](http://havura.org). Contact us at [info@havura.org](mailto:info@havura.org) or 709-834-7866.

## The Long Winter

by Rabbi David Ellis, Regional Chaplain, Atlantic Jewish Council

**E**verything is in the hands of heaven except for hot and cold.

Talmud--Ketubot 30a

Some years ago I read to my daughters The Long Winter, one in the series of Laura Ingalls Wilders' "Little House" books. It is perhaps the best of them all. It is a graphic account of the family surviving the horrible storms of the U.S. midwest in the late 19th century. If you know the book, you probably felt you were living it out during the last few months. Within Halifax events were cancelled or not scheduled. My many phone calls

and emails told me that New Brunswick and PEI were even worse. No use planning any travel. Even in April though, two more trips had to be cancelled. I was going to help with a tour at the Saint John Jewish Museum, but I was told that there was a roof leak and that I



wouldn't be able to stay over.

A Holocaust memorial held for the last number of years in Bass River had to be cancelled, as there were still several feet of snow at the cenotaph, even in mid-April.

But it looks like we've made it into spring. Rose and I and the family are hoping to catch up with all our lost friends during the next few months.

Hoping to see you soon, and only for simchahs.

# Compassionate Murder

by Rabbi Amram Maccabi, Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax

**M**y father is a man of great courage and strength. Even today, when is in his mid-sixties, he can probably wrestle down me and my three siblings with one hand tied behind his back. This, together with a big scoop of independence, led him to travel over most of the world for the purpose of counselling, planning and running agro-tech businesses with governments and world leaders. My father is very proud of his strength, his independence and his dignity. When still very young, he used to tell us, his children in a forbearing tone: "When I won't be able to take care of myself, my only cure should be a 'nine millimetres' (I.e. the width of an Israeli bullet).

On Feb 6 this year, the Supreme Court in Ottawa decided to allow doctors to "assist suicide in specific cases" (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/supreme-court-says-yes-to-doctor-assisted-suicide-in-specific-cases-1.2947487>). This article is not an answer to their decision. Rather, it is an attempt to contemplate on the following moral and social question: under which circumstances, if at all, is one allowed to take his or someone else's life?

Normal human beings under normal circumstances, do not debate whether to murder or not. But life is complex. Hence,

it is not unnatural to develop, out of intrinsic compassion, an urge to erase one's pain and suffering in case his harsh fate is deemed as irreversible.

Even more so, when there is a clear stated consent, or even an explicit request, by the sufferer himself, to end his life which he perceives as miserable and unworthy. Such an act is otherwise known as 'murder out of compassion', or if you prefer, a 'realization that one's death is better for him more than the continuation of his present state of life'.

At the heart of this ethical debate, we search to understand the following:

Does every individual have an independent 'human right' to her/his own life? If such is the case then, consequently, if one gets to a point in which one feels useless, in pain, or a burden to one's surrounding (physically and emotionally), or if one reaches the unfortunate state of losing her/his reasonable human dignity - Are we allowed, maybe even obligated, to do him/ourselves and do society a favor by ending such a form of life?

Or, perhaps, human's right for life is an absolute one, in a sense that taking one's life is an unalienable prohibition.

Let's try to (artificially) separate the answer to philosophical, ethical (Jewish), social and emotional answers:

## Philosophical answer:

Our existence has no rational reasoning. We are because we exist. Since our existence is



an independent axiom, the continuation or disruption of our existence must also be disconnected from our judgement. There is no way, from a pure philosophical view, to legalize or evaluate people's lives since there is no rational behind them in the first place. Thus, there is no found basis for "compassionate murder".

## Moral answer:

This viewpoint is one step progressed from the more abstract philosophical answer just stated above.

Our greatness as human beings is derived from the Creator, as it is written: "for in the image of God He made man" (Gen 9:6). No individual owns her/his own life. It is a trust that was given to us regardless of our opinion. Consequently, only God Himself holds the right to retrieve His deposit. Whether we like it or not, this makes complete logical sense. Is it not true that: "against your will you are formed, against your will you are born, against your will you live, against your will you die."? (Ethics of the fathers 4:22). Hence, Human's life, every single moment of it, has an absolute value. It stands above the 'quality of life' tag that we so presumptuously attempt to attach to ourselves or to others in a subjective manner.

## Social answer:

A major social aspect, and one of the fundamental pillars of a healthy society, is the clear realization that a society is based on individuals. Living ones. Ending lives should basically be off limits for the normal survival of any society.

In case one would ask: "should we not have any compassion? What of those who cannot endure their physical suffering? Or the emotional and moral suffering inflicted by the deter of dignity?"

Such emotional arguments even when benign are dangerous. If the principle of easing one's misery is accepted, the execution of such behavior is debatable



*Rabbi Amram and his father.*

to say the least. For how does one draw the line of endurable pain? It is a slippery slope, for "man is thy most awful instrument In working out a pure intent"(Wordsworth). Just seventy years ago, the ruler of a distinguished European country executed, as an "act of humanity(!)" seventy thousand crippled and mentally ill citizens who were regarded as lebensunwert i.e worthless miserable lives. They were not asked for their opinion if indeed they regard themselves as such. His name was, of course, Adolf Hitler.

### Emotional answer:

Emotionally, there are personal differences between various cases. From my personal standpoint at this point of my life I, like my father, would prefer death over becoming a dependant burden on both my surroundings and myself. Who can guarantee that I won't change my mind if, or whenever, I approach such a state?

Yet, in any case, drawing the life of 'who shall live and who shall die', is not something for me to decide. Wherewithal,

there is no difference if a murder is committed by shooting, beheading or giving one a death potion or a "love shot".

That being said, as we stated in the beginning, life is complex. Practically, under severe conditions, there are ways to allow the prevention of continuing life support or, on the same line yet less dramatic, to pray for one's painless death (Shu"a Yo"d 339, Talmud Avoda Zara 18). In case of such extreme circumstances, one should counsel her/his Rabbi.

## An Update

by Rabbi Ari Isenberg, Shaar Shalom Congregation, Halifax

**M**y Dear Congregants & Friends of Shaar Shalom,

Thank you for taking a few minutes to read this note as I share some important news about my future.

It was exactly one decade ago, in January 2005, that I moved to Halifax to assume the spiritual leadership of this kehillah kedoshah (holy congregation). I spent my first week camped out in Murray and Rona Schwartz's house and my second week with Roz and Phil Belitsky. My very first Shabbat, I dined with Judith and Victor Goldberg, the first of hundreds of meals in their home. As I go down the list of congregants and friends of Shaar Shalom, I realize that I have been a guest in most of your homes, spending meaningful time together.

From day one I have enjoyed the warm embrace of this community, and over the past decade our sacred relationship

as rabbi and congregation has evolved into a truly covenantal bond.

Together, we have grieved and mourned. From the loss of a Board member in the prime of her life to the loss of founding members of our congregation in old age, and enduring other forms of sadness, we have journeyed through many moments of despair and sorrow, finding solace in the warm embrace of our community.

Together, we have rejoiced in milestones and celebrations. I remember the very first Bat Mitzvah at which I officiated. Just before the Bat Mitzvah was to chant her Haftarah, she seized up in a brief moment of doubt. I raced over to her, turned her



face away from the congregation and offered her words of courage. She carried on beautifully and we celebrated the weekend with delight. From baby namings and Bnai Mitzvah to weddings, anniversaries, and

other milestones, we have celebrated countless semachot (simchas) together.

Together, we have immersed ourselves in prayer and worship. One of the highlights for me was the year I chose to move Tashlich to the waterfront at Bishop's Landing. We had over 100 people join us. I have been so proud of the congregation's responsiveness as we have become more innovative in our spiritual lives, whether through Chanting & Chocolate, Havdalah at my place, Friday Night Family Shabbat Dinners, scholar programs, and the list goes on.

It will come as no surprise to you, then, for me to say that over these years I have come to think of you as my extended family, a family that I love and cherish. We have had a tremendous decade together.

This is why it was with mixed emotions that I decided to explore professional opportunities outside of Halifax. In the end, things developed rapidly and positively for me.

Today, I share with you that I have accepted an offer to assume the position of Associate Rabbi at Temple Israel Center in White Plains, New York. As over a decade of blessed and rewarding work in Halifax draws to a close, know that I will carry you in my heart and I hope that the bond we have forged endures.

May we all go from strength to strength. Am Yisrael Chai.





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## New Brunswick's Nature meets Kosher

by Rabbi Yitzchok I Yagod, Congregation Tiferes Israel, Moncton

**A**s you know, I work as an industrial kosher professional for over 10 agencies in various roles: kosher supervisor, inspector and Administrator. It has been a wonderful time to work in this industry and help provide what frequently unites Jews and Jewish identity: Kosher food. On a bright note: there has been splendid progress in this area. It may not be well noticed yet, but there has been enormous growth in local kosher supervision. Let us discuss the sweetest topic: Maple.

No food product quite says "Canada" more than Maple Syrup..!

Let me take you on a brief tour. I start at Edmundston, NB and drive on a rural road for about 10 km in my special off-road Jeep bouncing about in the heaving, potholed road made much worse than usual due to the record harsh winter of 2015. Then the paved road ends, the sand, rock and gravel road begins and this is where the Jeep is really essential! The next 20 minutes are a roller-coaster-like

ride of ups and downs and much bumping and jumping. Finally we are at the huge "Le-Sugarbush" where the a massive network of pipes small, large and very large lead to a processing plant.

Years ago, "Le-Sugarbush" was a small shack with a wood fire and pot of boiling sap that often boiled over and was brought under control with a dose of lard or a small piece of pork dropped quickly into the foaming cauldron. Today, there is an array of technology to increase production efficiently and prevent bacteria, from sophisticated reverse osmosis units vacuum pumps and filter all the way to state of the art gleaming stainless steel -electronic controlled boilers that stand 3 stories tall! The defoamers, here have changed too and are now kosher. From the boiler it goes in sealed piping to a bottler



and is packaged in a pristine, super clean facility. However, in other parts of the maple world there are some older facilities that still use the pork/lard and yes, this is why syrup needs the kosher certification.

You can find the kosher NB maple syrup in Sobey's and other fine stores with an "EK" symbol on it!

Most businesses do not like to help their competition grow and flourish but these folks do! The maple syrup companies all compete with each other for business and yet do not allow that to divide them, rather they have a superlative sense of unity and a cooperative, peaceful and helpful relationship with each other in a cooperative that has helped all of them achieve much greater success than what they would have now if they were totally "on their own". This manner that inspires me to take a moral lesson. Our own Jewish communities can bring greater success to each other if we meet more often in our shuls, if we network better and more often than if we opt to "go it alone" or "stay home".

## Happiness Mixed with Sadness

by Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, Fredericton

**T**his year, our community experienced the loss of Michael Goldenberg Z"L. The timing of the Shiv'ah could not have been more confusing. We were to begin the mourning period in the afternoon on the day before the holiday of Purim. According to the opinion of an anonymous Rabbi in the Midrash: "all of the Jewish holidays will be cancelled (some commentaries explain: 'meaningless') when the Messiah comes, except for the holiday of Purim" (Midrash Yalkut Shimoni). In this sense, Purim is such a joyous occasion,

that even the happiness of our People when the Mashiach comes, will not override the happiness of Purim.

So, how do we deal with such a situation?!

Another example from our modern day experience,



is how the State of Israel remembers its fallen soldiers and terror-attack victims on the eve of Israel's Independence Day. If you have not had this experience, you should make an effort (next year, I guess) to be in Israel for these two days, or tune in online to listen and see how a whole Nation does this. Every year I am amazed how we make this 'paradigm shift' from mourning to happiness.

There is a Halachic discussion among our Rabbis about an even harder-to-deal-with situation. What if, after (or during) the Chuppah ceremony, the parent of the bride

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or groom passes away? Should we continue with the wedding, have the seven festive days, and only afterwards sit Shiv'ah; or, should we cancel the wedding, take care of burying the deceased, sit Shiv'ah, and completely forget about celebrating the marriage with the seven joyous days?

I am not here to give the answer to this dilemma, I believe that each situation has

its own unique circumstances, and your local rabbi should be asked. But, in terms of understanding the situation in general, I think G-d gives us a good intuition based on our feelings of what we can or can't handle.

Instead of looking at this as a "roller-coaster" of emotions, Hashem gives us the tools, and the support we need, to get through difficult times. But, our responsibility as a community, is to provide our friends and family with the courage to see things

through, so that they remember that just because we are celebrating a holiday or joyous occasion, does not mean that we are ignoring their pain and sorrow. In the Israeli army, we used to chant: "ECHAD BISHVIL KOOLAM - KOOLAM BISHVIL ECHAD" - 'the individual for the sake of the collective - the collective for the sake of the individual. I believe this is the way to experience these 'paradoxes in life', and may G-d bless us so that we do not experience any more sorrow.

## Splitting your Sea

by Rabbi Mendel Feldman, Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes

**W**e just celebrated the holiday of Passover, one of the great miracles that we celebrate on the seventh day of Pesach is the splitting of the sea.

After the waters parted and the Jews crossed the Sea of Reeds the waters reverted back to its former status. The verse describes it as follows "So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and toward morning the sea returned to its strength..."

The Midrash focuses on the strange term employed in this verse, "the sea returned to its strength" and presents a fascinating insight. The Hebrew word strength "L'aitano" has the same letters as "L'tanao" which means condition (stipulation), thus the verse can read "the sea returned to its former condition."

The Midrash explains that during the six days of creation G-d made an agreement with the Sea of Reeds that when the Jews will leave Egypt and need to cross through, the sea will agree to split for them. By making this condition with the sea at the time of creation, G-d instilled in the sea the capacity to transcend its natural state when the moment so necessitates.

In essence what occurred was, the sea changed its nature of being raging waters and agreed to be transformed into something completely opposite to its natural state - dry land - in order to make room for "other", in order to save the Jewish people that needed to traverse. Only once the sea fulfilled its condition

and parted to enable the Israelites to pass-through to safety, only then did it achieve its purpose in being sea.

The Midrash continues, that G-d made this same condition with every one of us and embedded in us the ability to "split our sea" to transcend our nature and extend ourselves to others who might require our assistance.

In general we each have our nature with which we were created, our natural instincts, our habits and our "comfort zone" and we reject anything that goes against our nature or make us uncomfortable. We are accustomed to being nice and cordial, tolerant and respectful, but we resist real sacrifices that challenge our pleasures, force us out of our comfort zones and require profound change.

This is the message of the Torah "the sea reverted back to its strength," only when the sea fulfilled its condition, when it was ready to "sacrifice," to go against its nature for the sake of something other than self, for the sake of a nation in need, only then did it



acquire its true identity.

So too, in our lives there are times that we must be prepared to replicate the splitting of the sea, we must be prepared to change our nature, go out of our comfort zone for G-d, for another human being, for our marriage, for our nation, for our values, for making the world a better place. Only when we extend ourselves beyond our natural self, only then do we reach our full potential and purpose for which we were created.

May we extend ourselves for others, may others extend themselves for us and may we merit a world of peace and harmony with the coming of Moshiach speedily in our days, Amen!

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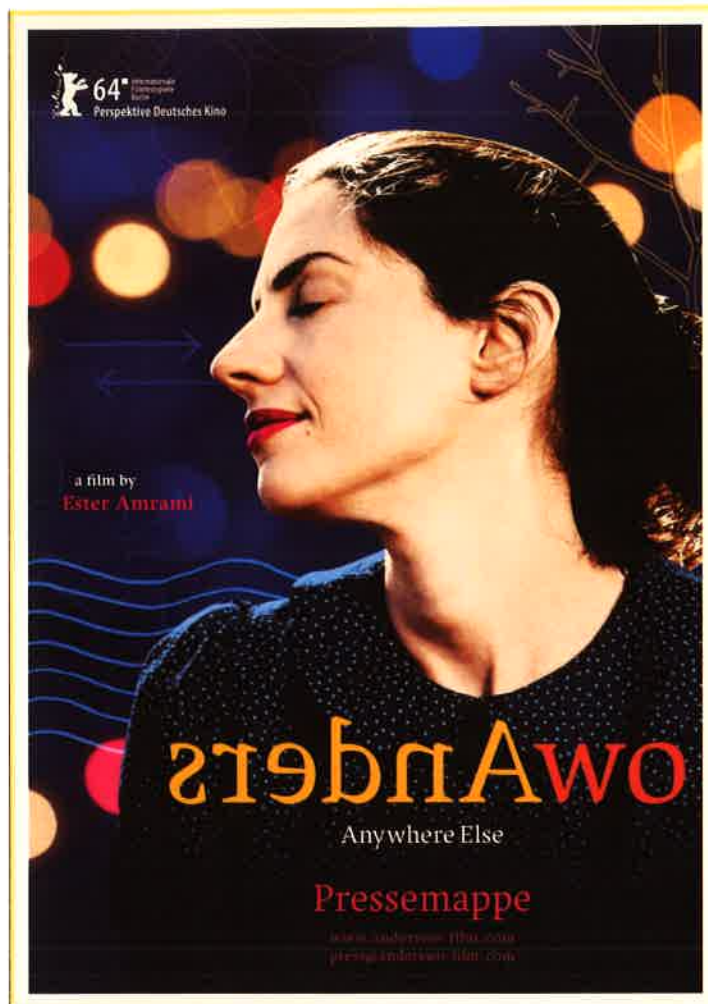
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