

SHALOM! שלום

Fall 2015: Vol. 40 No. 2

TISHRE 5776

SHANA TOVA 5776!



Jewish Artists in Atlantic Canada Exhibition Poster

- SPECIAL FEATURES:
- GREETING FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL, ISRAEL
- JEWISH ARTISTS IN ATLANTIC CANADA
- AWARDS HONOUR TWO ATLANTIC CANADIANS
- NEWS FROM AROUND OUR REGION





United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada

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On the Cover

Jewish Artists in Atlantic Canada

Chase Gallery,
Nova Scotia Archives

July 4 – 31, 2015

This summer the Atlantic Jewish Council was proud to present an exhibit of Jewish artists in Atlantic Canada. The month long exhibit was well received and proved to be an extremely popular show. Artists work pictured on the cover, clockwise:

Adrian Fish, Lisa Wright, Lisa-Beth Glassman, Herzl Kashetsky, Randy Engelberg and Cynthia Guzner.

An overview of this exhibit is on page 17.

שלום!

President: Michael Argand

The Atlantic Jewish Council

FALL 2015

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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

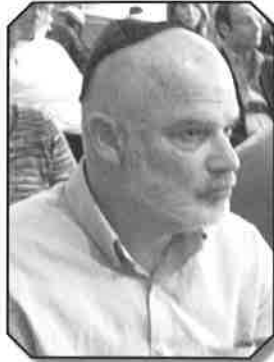
We have had a wonderful summer that is well deserved. The AJC was able to organize a few programs this summer with the highlight the Atlantic Jewish Art Exhibit. There had to be well over one hundred at the opening Gala. The work was of a very high caliber and numerous pieces were sold. On behalf of the AJC I would like to express thanks to Edna LeVine, AJC director of community engagement, and Lynn Rotin along with the rest of the committee for their outstanding effort.

I had the pleasure of hosting Ziv Nevo Kulman, Israel's consul general from Montreal at Camp Kadimah. He had a wonderful day meeting the campers and also took time to engage with our campers and staff from Israel. He also took some personal time to waterski on Lake William. Camp had another great summer and I understand that enrolment

has already commenced for next year. Our community owes a deep appreciation and gratitude to Michael Pink and Michael Soberman and their very dedicated

volunteers on the Camp Kadimah committee. Camp is and will always be the "jewel" of our Atlantic Region. I urge all of you to consider giving your child(ren) the opportunity of attending Camp Kadimah.

I have been very busy this summer overseeing the Bayit (Jewish Student House) renovations that should be completed by the first week of September. I am very grateful to my wife Jo-Anne



Nozick for all her help and support that I am sure all of you are aware of when it comes to renovations. It is my hope that the "Bayit" can be used for not just the students but as a facility for the Jewish community.

This coming 5776 will be extremely important to the AJC. This will be Jon Goldberg's last year as the executive director. Jon has provided effective and dedicated leadership to our community for well over twenty years. An event to honour Jon for all his contributions to our community will be organized next year.

It will be critical for the Atlantic Jewish Community to discuss among ourselves what direction and path we need to take over the next twenty years. We plan to reach out to as many stakeholders as possible to solicit from you your insight for a new direction for the AJC.

On Behalf of the
Atlantic Jewish Council
Board of Directors
and Staff we wish all
our readers
and their families
a healthy and
happy new year!

Shanah Tova
U'metukah,
Michael Argand
President



From the Desk of

Jon Goldberg, Executive Director

"Turn, Turn, Turn"

Welcome to our New Year's edition of Shalom magazine. This morning, there was a hint of fall in the air. A cool breeze swept over the city as I walked to the office. I have been thinking about what to write in this article for the last few days.

As 5775 draws to a close, I can't help but reflect on the famous song, first written by Pete Seeger in the late 50s and then made into a hit by The Byrds in 1969. The song "Turn, Turn, Turn" was taken from the Book of Ecclesiastes. Most of our readers who are over fifty-five are probably familiar with some of the words.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, a time to reap that which is planted; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance."

In the last six weeks, I attended the bris of Reuben Conter, the new grandson of my dear friends Howard and Karen

Conter and Howard and Anne Thaw. A few weeks later, I celebrated the marriage of Nathan Zilbert in Toronto with his wonderful family and friends. Ten

days ago, I stood over the grave of my first cousin Paul, who had suffered a stroke and passed away within a thirty day time frame. Just a few days ago, I had the pleasure of attending the wedding of Debra Freeman, daughter of my great friends Larry and Myra.

Standing in the cemetery, looking at the crowd of grieving friends and family, I thought of the meaning of life. How short our time together as family and friends can really be in the context of what we make of our lives here on earth. Paul



was four years my junior, but as a family, we basically grew up together. We even graduated from Saint Mary's on the same day in 1972. He went on to obtain an MBA and an LLB. My cousin practiced law for almost 40 years here in Halifax. He had a wonderful family and was just beginning to enjoy his grandchildren when he was taken from us. He left his parents, who just celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary and then had to bury their son. I guess that is the circle of life and the older we get, the more we appreciate those precious moments we have together with those we love.

May the New Year be a year of health and happiness to all our readers. Our staff here at the AJC, in particular Edna LeVine, Svetlana Ratchinski, along with Mark David and Arielle Branitsky (Hillel), will join me in doing our utmost in making 5776 as meaningful and informative as possible to the Jewish community of Atlantic Canada.

Shana Tova!

The Atlantic Jewish Council congratulates the following artists who made our exhibition Jewish Artists in Atlantic Canada so successful. A special thank you to volunteers Lynn Rotin and Margarita Fainshtein for their diligence in organizing this show.

- ARTISTS -

Nova Scotia

Miro Davis

Social Sculptor

Randy Engelberg

Painter

Margarita Fainshtein

Painter

Adrian Fish

Photographer/NSCAD

Instructor

Craig Fox

Painter

Cynthia Guzner

Painter

Naomi Judah

Painter

Natan Nevo

Painter

Sergei Ratchinski

Painter

Zehava Power

Painter

Jennifer Raven

Photographer

Lynn Rotin

Drawing & Mixed Media

Jane Schlosberg

Painter & Ceramicist

Eva Toth

Painter

Lisa Wright

Painter

Emily Falencki

Mixed Media

David Silverberg

Printmaker

Samantha April

Photographer

Prince Edward Island

Lisa-Beth Glassman

Encaustic

New Brunswick

Herzl Kashetsky

Painter

12th Annual Holocaust Education Week in Halifax

Opening: Sunday, November 1

Halifax Central Library, Paul O'Regan Hall
5440 Spring Garden Road, Halifax | 2pm
Speaker: Nate Leipziger, Holocaust survivor
In partnership with The Azrieli Foundation
With the support of the Halifax Central Library



Monday, November 2

STUDENT SCHOOL PROGRAM

(location to be confirmed)
advanced booking required
elevine@theajc.ns.ca

Speaker: Nate Leipziger

All students will receive a copy of Nate Leipziger's biography
compliments of The Azrieli Foundation

PAUL WATTSON LECTURE | 7pm | Location TBA

Keynote Speaker: Rabbi Kaiser-Blueth

Tuesday, November 3

Film Screening: (film to be confirmed)
Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21,
Bronfman Theatre
1055 Marginal Rd, Halifax | 7pm
In partnership with Diversity Spotlight

Wednesday, November 4

Film screening: Life? Or Theatre?
(The art of Charlotte Solomon)
Directed By Frans Weisz, 2011, Netherlands
English Subtitles, 85 minutes
Discussion Facilitator:
Dr. Dorota Glowacka, University of King's College
Halifax Central Library, Paul O'Regan Hall |
5440 Spring Garden Road, Halifax | 7:00pm
With the support of the Halifax Central Library
& the University of Kings College

Sunday, November 8

In Remembrance of the 77th Anniversary of Kristallnacht
Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 | 2pm
Keynote Speaker: Sidney Zoltak, Holocaust survivor
Musical Performance: Janice Jackson, new music soprano,
Vocalypse Productions
Short Video: Lullaby, Andrew David Terris,
artist/videographer, ARTS NOVA Productions
In partnership with:
The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

Monday, November 9

STUDENT SCHOOL PROGRAM
school advanced booking required
elevine@theajc.ns.ca
Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
1055 Marginal Rd, Halifax
Speaker - Sidney Zoltak, Holocaust survivor
In partnership with:
The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21



Life? of Theatre? This series of gouaches is an extraordinary and unique document. In great detail it tells the story of Salomon's family and friends, her own internal life, the political background, and her obsessive love affair. Salomon had artistic training and her household was highly cultured. She was transported to Auschwitz on 7 October 1943 and was probably gassed on the same day that she arrived there (October 10).



From the Desk of

Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement

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 1st - 9th. This year we are pleased to have The Azrieli Foundation sponsor the opening program with Holocaust survivor Nate Leipziger from Toronto. The Holocaust Education Week schedule is on page 4 and updates are available on the AJC website: www.theajc.ns.ca.

The Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) will open November 12th in Halifax, screening films for four days. Following the success of last fall's first AJFF the organizing committee is anticipating another year of capacity crowds. The AJFF offers film lovers entertaining, engaging and progressive films including comedies, dramas and documentaries. Special guests this year include Sharon Pucker Rivo, Executive Director and Co-Founder of The National Center for Jewish Film, Brandeis University, who will open the festival. The closing film will feature keynote speaker Dr. Norma Joseph, Concordia University. In addition, this year a German film, in honour of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany will be screened. Both these countries, and others around the world, will be celebrating this auspicious year with a range of cultural events. We are pleased to support and promote the continuing dialogue between Israel and Germany. With the support of the German Embassy in Ottawa we plan to engage the local German community in Nova Scotia. The Saturday night film, *Deli Man* and "deli theme" gala party will bring our community together to celebrate our heritage. We hope you will join in the celebration and plan to spend the weekend in Halifax. Please see page 40 for additional information or the AJFF

website ajff.ca for updates on the program schedule and how you can support the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival.

The Atlantic Jewish Council (AJC) has work closely with the Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP) since 2007 to grow the Jewish community in Halifax and through our success the province has enjoyed the benefit of our high retention rate. The change to the NSNP express entry point based system in 2014 has prevented us from continuing to recommend and support new candidates. We are continuing our dialogue with the provincial government and we hope to continue to attract new immigrants to Halifax. Many candidates who applied prior to 2014 are now arriving in Halifax. In August newcomer families had the opportunity to meet at a picnic in Point Pleasant Park. Programs to facilitate networking and settlement are being organized to warmly welcome our new community members.

The province has assembled committees to develop a plan to implement the government report: Building our New Economy, One Nova Scotia. Stabilizing and increasing the population is an important component to growing the economy and international immigration is one way to achieve that goal. As a Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) action team member we will be working this fall to devise a plan to facilitate in making Halifax a culturally competent city. The LIP is a collaboration of diverse partners committed to progressive approaches ensuring Halifax is an inclusive and welcoming community. The LIP is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Jewish Artists in Atlantic Canada, a wide-ranging juried exhibit of 20 Jewish



artists, was a huge success this summer! Volunteer organizers Lynn Rotin and Margarita Fainshtein were especially diligent. Their expertise, time and effort were greatly appreciated and more about this successful exhibition is on page 17.

The AJC is excited to host the Scottish photo exhibit, *Scots Jews: Identity, Belonging and the Future* at the Nova Scotia Public Archives during the month of December, with a tentative opening date of December 2nd. This show is made possible with the support of the producer Michael Mail. The Scottish Jewish community dates back to at least the 1700s and, for most of that time, constituted the largest non-Christian community in the country. It has produced scientists and doctors, judges and Members of Parliament, artists and writers - and farmers and foresters, and kilt makers and whisky distillers! The story of this community and how it maintains its traditions, while fully embracing Scottish culture is a fascinating one and yet, surprisingly, little has been formally presented on its existence. Outreach to the local Nova Scotian Scottish community has been initiated and we hope you will have the opportunity to view this special show.

Wishing you and your family a happy & healthy New Year, Shana Tova!



Neli Shpoker, pictured with Edna LeVine at the Canadian citizenship ceremony in August, where she, her family and Michael Livshits received their citizenship.

CIJA Outlines Jewish Advocacy Priorities for the Coming Year

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

In Pirkei Avot – the well-spring of ethical wisdom in the Talmud – we are counselled: “It is not incumbent upon you to finish the task, but neither are you free to absolve yourself from it.” Indeed, one look at the news confirms that the work of a Jewish advocate is never finished. The challenges before us require vigilance and a proactive, strategic approach to advancing the public policy interests of Canada’s organized Jewish community.

In August, CIJA (the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, advocacy agent of the Jewish Federations of Canada) published its current set of priorities, encompassing a wide range of areas including human

rights, social justice, community security, and Canada-Israel relations. These priorities will guide our work that will result in new laws and policies to improve the quality of Jewish life in Canada.

While all the issues may be found on our website, here are five highlights to pique



campuses across Canada hosted on fact-finding missions to Israel annually. This year, CIJA launched a new advocacy support resource – campushelp@cija.ca – to enable students to connect with us if they face a challenge on their campus. More than anything, Jewish students need resources, strategic advice, and encouragement as they work to build support for Israel on campus.


Second, CIJA is calling for increased government funding for community security. As recent (and terrible) events in Europe have demonstrated, the Jewish community is an at-risk community. CIJA works closely with Jewish institutions across Canada to obtain funding through the federal Security Infrastructure Program (SIP), which helps cover the costs of external security measures – including cameras, lighting, and fencing. However, CIJA is calling for an expansion of the program to include funding for security guards, indoor cameras, and other internal security measure, all of which are key to securing Jewish schools, synagogues, and JCCs.

Third, along with local partners across the country, CIJA is pushing for federal and provincial laws to protect Canadians from genetic discrimination. While this issue is not well known, it is one that significantly impacts the health of many Ashkenazi Jews (who are disproportionately likely to have genetic markers for major diseases like breast and ovarian cancer). Sadly, fearing discrimination from employers or insurance providers, some patients currently refuse essential genetic testing. Our goal is to ensure that Canada is no longer the only G-7 country without laws banning genetic discrimination.

Fourth, we are committed to continue building support for Israel and an understanding of the values shared by Israelis and Canadians. Positive, pro-Israel

your interest and encourage you to learn more and get involved.

First, CIJA will continue supporting Jewish students in the effort to fight anti-Israel boycotts (BDS) on campus. This includes providing training programs, hard-hitting fact cards, creative pro-Israel events and giveaway products, and rapid-response advocacy support – all in partnership with Hillel. It also involves extensive outreach to non-Jewish student leaders, faculty, and university administrators, including some 50 individuals from



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Shana Tova 5776

Day in and day out, the dedicated staff and volunteers of Magen David Adom can be counted on to provide lifesaving and humanitarian aid to anyone in the State of Israel and abroad.

Your contribution plays a vital role in our ability to provide the medical equipment and supplies that are required including ambulances, monitors, defibrillators, all of Israel's blood supply needs and the finest pre-hospital medical care in the world. Israel depends on us and we depend on you.

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

advocacy is at the core of our mandate. We will remain focused on ensuring that Canadian officials understand the regional challenges facing Israel and the remarkable contributions Israelis continue to offer the world. And, whether through fact-finding missions (CIJA brings hundreds of mostly non-Jewish Canadian influencers to Israel annually), media and social media communications, or in-person briefings, we will use multiple tactics to deliver compelling messages that connect with our target audiences.

Fifth, CIJA is working to improve access to kosher food and make it more affordable

for the Canadian Jewish community, a significant quality of life issue for many families, especially in Atlantic Canada. As an example, Ontario's sole kosher chicken processor closed in 2013. CIJA is working closely with private sector partners, the Kashruth Council of Ontario (COR), and the Chicken Farmers of Ontario to overcome regulatory challenges and liaise with the federal government so that Ontario will once again be home to a kosher chicken provider. Securing another made-in-Canada kosher producer, and continuing to intervene when government regulations pose a burden to kosher consumers, will help ensure that families

in our community will not face undue financial hardships for buying kosher.

These are five diverse examples of CIJA's priorities. I encourage you to learn more online and let us know about your priorities at info@cija.ca.

Shana tova – may this year be one of success for Jewish advocates here in Canada and around the world.

Learn more about at cija.ca/priorities

Steve McDonald is Deputy Director, Communications and Public Affairs, of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)

CIJA Calls for Strengthened Jewish-Aboriginal Relations

Shimon Koffler Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)

"In the Jewish tradition, all human beings – regardless of their faith, traditions, or background – are created equally in the divine image, and dignity is therefore our universal birthright," said Jonathan Freedman to a crowd at the closing event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Ottawa on June 2nd. "Sadly, in Canada's own history, our First Nations were denied this dignity for far too long."

Indeed, Freedman, who serves as a member of the community relations committee at the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, was reflecting the deep sense of connection Canadian Jewry has with our First Nations. As the advocacy agent of Canada's Jewish Federations, CIJA has long been involved in supporting our Aboriginal friends and fostering a strong, mutually edifying relationship between our communities.

Working with Federations across Canada, we have facilitated First Nations youth leadership missions to Israel and provided advocacy training to our Aboriginal partners. We have increased mutual understanding, particularly regarding our respective histories of suffering, through impactful Jewish-Aboriginal dialogue

groups. We continue to engage on various policy files at the level of activists and community professionals, on organizing councils and on steering committees.

Among the grassroots, countless synagogues and Jewish non-profits, such as Ve'ahavta, are actively supporting Aboriginal education and health care.

The recent conclusion of the TRC's vital work in acknowledging the impacts and consequences of the Residential Schools experience has only reaffirmed the importance of this work. In partnership with Ve'ahavta, and with support from the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism, Reform Rabbis of Greater Toronto, the Canadian Rabbinic Caucus, and the Toronto Board of Rabbis, CIJA signed a statement of Solidarity and Action in response to the release of the TRC's report. We further joined the historic Walk for Reconciliation, mobilizing a contingent



of Jewish community members in a visible demonstration of our commitment to the healing and empowerment of Canada's First Nations.

The statement, which may be viewed online at www.statementsolidarity.com, is fueled by a call to action for Jewish community members and organizations to engage in meaningful dialogue and collaborative efforts with Aboriginal communities across Canada. Our hope is that, pursuant to the spirit of the TRC, it will foster a greater understanding of the experiences of Canada's indigenous peoples among the Jewish community and broader Canadian society.

While we have only begun to process the painful findings of the TRC's report on Canada's past treatment of our First Nations, the appropriate response is clear. Just as we must ensure the accuracy of the historic record of Aboriginal suffering, we must do more today to support our Aboriginals neighbours as they work to build a positive future for their children. In so doing, we will ultimately be ensuring that our belief in the universal dignity of every human being – a core tenet of our faith and a quintessential Canadian value – is put into action.

Awards Honour two Atlantic Canadians

Martin Chernin & Marlene Unger

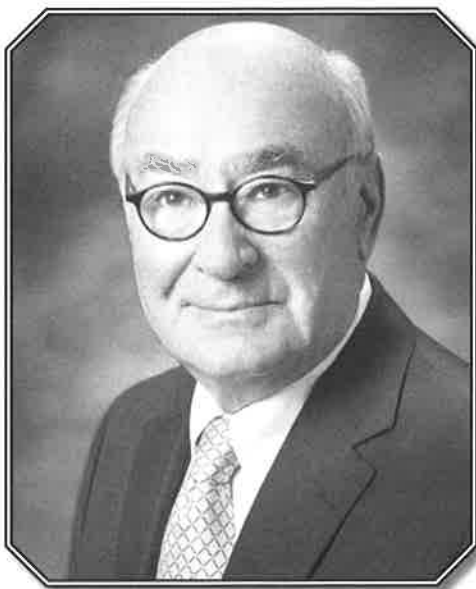
Martin Chernin has been named to the **ORDER OF CANADA**, an award which was established on Canada's 100th birthday in 1967 to recognize outstanding achievement, dedication to the community, and service to the nation. In the newspapers across the country, one will mostly read about "his contributions to the development of Cape Breton Island as both a businessman and a civic booster", but in the Jewish communities in the Maritimes and especially Cape Breton, his name is synonymous with leadership through his involvement in Temple sons of Israel, the Atlantic Jewish Council, United Israel Appeal of Canada, State of Israel Bonds, CJPAC, on the board of The Canadian Jewish Congress and the Canada Israel Committee.

The Cape Breton Post (July 2, by Laura Jean Grant): Chernin said the island is home and he's worked hard to contribute to it through both his business and community efforts. "I was born and brought up in Cape Breton and started off my career in the wholesale grocery business with my father and my uncles. I was in that until 1979 and then we

got involved with a few other partners and did the now Joe's Warehouse, the Commerce Tower, a bunch of real estate things, and cable television," he said. "I guess I'm a true Cape Bretoner and so I wanted to stay here and see if I could do anything here in Cape Breton." Chernin's community involvement over the years has included a term as chairman of the board of Cape Breton University, as well as being actively involved in fundraising for both the Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation and the United Way of Cape Breton. Chernin credits "hard work, honesty and integrity" for his success, noting it's also been important to surround himself with good employees and business partners. Resiliency has also been key. "There's a lot of high points and there's also low points. You don't win in everything but you have to pick up your boots and get back at it," he said. Chernin said he sees positive things on the horizon in Cape Breton and he's excited to be a part of it, noting retirement is not yet on his agenda. "I like business," he said. "It's interesting times, and there's lots to do. I'm trying to do a few more things before I hang up my shingle."

Marlene Unger has been named to the ORDER OF NEW BRUNSWICK, an award which honours residents of New Brunswick who have demonstrated a high level of individual excellence and achievement in any field. Marlene Unger has been resolute in her fight against anti-Semitism. Mrs. Unger led opposition against Malcolm Ross, a school teacher who publicly denied the Holocaust and for his anti-Semitic views were removed from the classroom. She challenged the New Brunswick Teachers' Association (NBTA) to act. Mr. Ross was later transferred to a non-teaching position. She was also instrumental in having William Ross, Mr. Ross's brother, removed from the New Brunswick Curriculum Committee because he, too,

denied the Holocaust. Later, she worked with the NBTA to introduce Holocaust education in the public schools, making New Brunswick a leader in this field in Canada. For many years, she chaired the Holocaust Education Committee of the Atlantic Jewish Council. She served as a member of the Canadian Jewish Congress Holocaust Remembrance Committee. For these efforts, Mrs. Unger received the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Award. Mrs. Unger worked with others to develop An Act to Proclaim Holocaust Memorial Day Yom HaShoah in New Brunswick, which the Government of New Brunswick proclaimed in 1999. Mrs. Unger taught at Fredericton High School for three decades. Shortly before her retirement, she worked on a permanent memorial to commemorate 63 students from the school who had died in war. One of those students was Mrs. Unger's uncle, Major Willard Parker, commander of B Company with the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment, who died in action in February 1945. Marlene Unger is receiving the Order of New Brunswick for her tireless work for human rights, social justice and education.



Martin Chernin



Marlene Unger

"Year One" and Counting

Phil David, Director, Camp Kadimah

What an interesting 14 months! Since leaving the 'real world' of corporate Canada for the even better world of Camp Kadimah last June, this has certainly been a busy but awesome year.

Last summer, fresh out of a job at Toronto Pearson Airport, I had the chance to sit back, learn and observe as I spent year #15 at Kadimah, but my first since way back in 1988. Since becoming Director following the summer of 2014, I can admit there was a tad less time to sit back and reflect as I thought there might be, but during those moments when I had the chance to take a breath and stare at the postcard view of Lake William, I did 'jot' down some mental notes.

Perhaps the most salient of them is that Kadimah never stops evolving – yes, for the better – yet there is still a strong continuity of many traditions, probably dating back to the 40's when we settled in Barss Corner as the meeting point for Jewish kids in the Maritimes.

What has made Kadimah so... "Kadimah"...through the generations is its impeccable reputation for friendliness, warmth and acceptance. That's pretty amazing unto itself after 73 seasons but when we realize that as the Jewish population in the Maritime communities dwindled, we had to look increasingly outside its borders to Ontario and beyond to sustain and grow our camp.

That may be a bit daunting for purists who wondered if the camp vibe would change with all these 'non-Maritimers' coming in. I probably was one of those who wondered aloud during my 25 year sabbatical.

But I can say unequivocally that the specialness of Kadimah is alive, well and as powerful as ever. Having just witnessed a summer where our theme was "Be a Mensch", it became very clear early on that we didn't have to preach, teach or reach for a definition. The underlying common bond the kids and staff shared

was that they were/are true mensches in a way that explains why Kadimah is so special.

No doubt, a sizeable portion (close to 40%) of our camper universe are the children and grandchildren of 1st and 2nd generation Kadimahniks from the Maritimes – many who have moved worldwide – but who passed on their love of camp through their DNA. But that leaves 60% of our camper community – some from the Maritimes but most from Ontario, Quebec, the east and west coasts of the US and Israel – who had no connection to Kadimah before giving us a try. And it was amazing to observe quite



quickly that geography meant nothing, only the kids' desire to welcome each other unconditionally and share their magical moments day in and day out which ultimately created this thing called the "Kadimah Experience".

With our largest enrolment since 2009 (258), we were very pleased to welcome almost 80 Maritimers to Kadimah, of which 30% were from New Brunswick/PEI while the remainder were from Nova Scotia – stretching from Sydney and New



Waterford through to the Greater Halifax Area. We were thrilled to welcome many new families from the east coast, including the kids of newcomers to Canada who flourished during their first summer at camp.

I also want to acknowledge our doctors from Halifax – Howard Conter, Katrina Hurley Drucker, David & Paula Rittenberg and Brendan Rosen – all of whom took time off from their busy careers to run the Infirmary and do so much more. A special thanks also to Dr. Shawna Perlin from Toronto and Dr. Les Rosoph from North Bay as well as our social worker, Paula Gaum Lipkus – all alumni with strong Nova Scotia roots.

This summer, we had many Maritimers on staff with several holding key leadership roles including Assistant Director, Nathan Pink; Head of Photography and Social





Basketball) – the intent was to help campers improve at their own pace in the activities they most liked. It's definitely work in progress but good progress nonetheless.

That really manifested itself in the CIT's annual Philanthropy program, where our 16 year olds worked throughout the summer with Nova

Media, Sammy April; Section Heads Shael Brown and Maya Budovitch; Head of Waterfront, Zach Novack; Head of Sports, Noah Hymes-Vandermeulen; and Head of Mel Yad, Anna Sadofsky. And we want to congratulate Halifax's Robyn Budovitch on capturing the prestigious Peter Stone Award for Best Counsellor.

When I was asked what I'd like to add to the camp program in my first year as Director, two answers came to mind quite quickly.

1. Celebrate our Maritimes roots:

With so many non-Maritimers attending camp, most have never experienced anything but the Halifax Airport, our camp and a rustic overnight campsite. And few ever really listened to east coast music.

But as we all know, there is so much beauty in the villages surrounding Kadimah. So this summer, every section had a chance to visit a 'piece' of Nova Scotia – whether it was getting up close and personal with the Bluenose in Lunenburg or dipping their toe in the Atlantic Ocean at Risser's Beach. The CITs of course completed their annual 5 day trip through New Brunswick, PEI and Nova Scotia and even the most skeptical of big city dwellers remarked how they were blown away by the beauty and warmth of the places they visited.

And on Visiting Day, 350 campers and staff sang an inspiring rendition of a

song most had never heard before - "We Rise Again" - a Maritimes' anthem made famous in the 90's by Anne Murray and then the Rankin Family, but written by Cape Bretoner and Kadimah alumnus, Leon Dubinsky.

2. Creating an active learning environment

What else did we want to try out? Well, I heard last summer from many kids of all ages that they didn't want to "learn"; they just wanted to "do" because learning was boring and it was for the school year.

Whether that related to Shira/Rikud, Mel Yad, Sail, Waterski or Sports, we decided this year that if we wanted to create any semblance of a learning environment, we'd definitely have to be creative about it.

From baking challah with alumni Bonnie Stern and Myrna Yazer; learning the Friday night Oneg dances to hip hop Israeli songs with our Israeli dance instructor – Shoham – and working with certified instructors from Sports Nova Scotia (Softball, Waterski, Tennis,

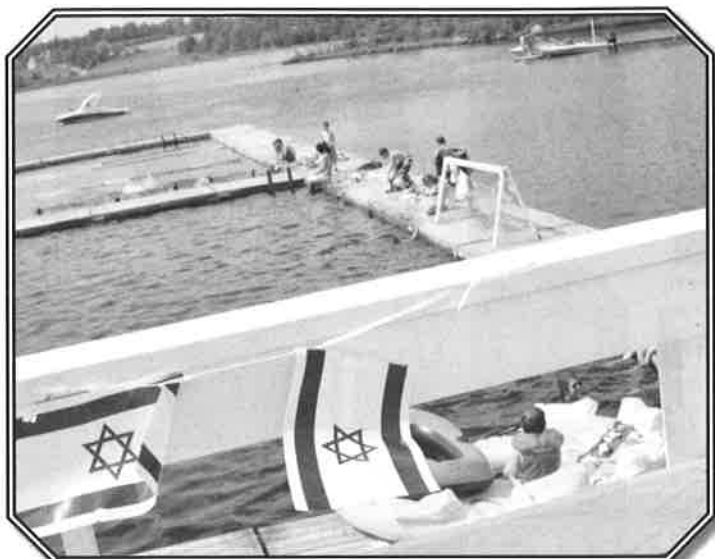
Scotia Special Olympics to host a group of special needs athletes. The mandate was to give them a chance to view and enjoy camp life the way the CITs do every day. It was an amazing learning experience which the athletes enjoyed and meshed perfectly with our Tikkun Olam core value.

The program was funded by The Ve'ahavta Dugmah Grant for summer camps, powered by Ve'ahavta (veahavta.org), which is awarded for summer camp initiatives that challenge their campers and staff to become examples of leaders in repairing the world.

Does Jewish camp really matter?

Most parents I speak with within and external to the Jewish community intuitively recognize the benefit of sending their kids to a summer camp.





After a year in this job, I realize there's a lot of choice. But why Jewish camp?

As I wrote in our Iton (Yearbook), Jewish camps have proven to better connect kids with Jewish life in a more meaningful way. There is mounds of research which prove this to be the case. Hundreds of camps exist which offer a fun summertime experience. Dozens exist which host a majority of kids who are Jewish but there are just a handful throughout Canada which are considered truly Jewish camps - where kids can be immersed in a Jewish focused program and where they are empowered to develop their Jewish pride while deepening their connection with Israel.

We have proudly been one of those camps since 1943 - and obviously, the only one in the Maritimes. And there is so much more beneath the surface which makes this camp incredibly special. For lack of a better term, we call it the Kadimah Experience.

The Kadimah Experience is powerful. It can be transformational. It is certainly very personal and thankfully, it stays a part of us always.

What's neat about being at Kadimah is that our campers see each other every minute of every day and that could be at their very best and very worst, just as they would with brothers or sisters at home. They may fight but they know they have to make up quickly because they're so close at camp, they can't fight forever. The truth is, they're probably going to

be sharing a cabin with the same kids for years to come so they know they need to find a way to make it work. The lessons of teamwork, collaboration and camaraderie start at the earliest ages in Gibbie Land.

And when we look back, we realize, a day at camp is like a whole month in the city. That's why it often takes about a week to acclimatize to the city once we all get back home.

And then another summer comes and it starts all over again, but it's never really the same and that's what is so great. The planes land, the busses leave the Forum and 90 minutes later, pull into Kadimah's gates. Everyone immediately steps into this surreal world where they get to meet new friends and pick up where they left off with old friends, kids who have inevitably changed over the past year. It's like being in a time capsule summer after summer and what's most important is that when the journey at Kadimah stops, the friendships never will!

Kadimah stands for so much. It's about Jewish life and feeling prouder of our heritage than we might have ever thought possible. It's about gaining a better



understanding of the importance of Israel in our Jewish lives.

But it's also a place where you can try out who you want to become...and who you don't. It's a place for self-discovery where you don't just find yourself - you have the chance to create and reinvent yourself every day to see what sticks and what doesn't - with full acceptance in an environment that is proudly judgment free.

With 2016 registration now open, we look forward to welcoming back our returning campers in 2016 and hope to see new faces from the Maritime Jewish community build their own Kadimah Experience. To contact the camp office and to get more information about Kadimah, email us at info@campkadimah.com or call 1 (866) KAD-IMAH.



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Consul Impressed With Kadimah - and Why Not?

by Joel Jacobson

On a glorious July afternoon, the eyes of Ziv Nevo Kulman expressed his admiration and sometimes envy of what Camp Kadimah in Nova Scotia offered more than 250 campers and 100 staff.

"What a wonderful place," said the Israeli Consul General for Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces in various phrases during a three-hour visit to the venerable camp that opened in 1943 at Barss Corner, about 100 km from Halifax on Nova Scotia's south shore.

"Growing up in Israel, I went to day camps for a week at a time but never at a six-week camp like this. This is so special for these young people. In Israel, your Jewish identity is guaranteed because you live in Israel, unlike (in Canada) with such a diverse population. This (camp) feels like a kibbutz. It's so well organized and everyone knows each other."

Nearing the end of the first year of a four-year term as Consul General, Nevo Kulman was making his first visit to the camp and second to the region. "Now that it's summer, it's like discovering a

new country (after a severe winter in Quebec). I'm seeing Canada now with a new perspective. The people (in summer) are totally different," he smiled.

During a tour of the camp grounds, Phil David, in his first year as Camp Director after spending the summers of his youth as a camper and staff member, stressed to Nevo Kulman how Kadimah is warm, accepting and judgment-free.

"Our theme this summer is Be A Mensch, which really has different definitions but boils down to 'be nice to people and be supportive.'"

David said camp enrollment is up by over 10 per cent with 257 campers, 70 from Atlantic Canada, 15 from areas outside Ontario, and the balance (about 175) from Ontario and mostly Toronto. "Many are children, and grandchildren, of camp alumni from the Atlantic Provinces who are now living in the Toronto-area," he said. "We are into our fourth generation of Maritime families at Kadimah. There is a very strong retention rate, probably close to 90 per cent, and the children and their families have been solid ambassadors for Kadimah."

On this day, Nevo Kulman observed a one-day Tennis Nova Scotia clinic for all age groups. It's part of a program, coordinated through Sport Nova Scotia, that has also brought instructors from the provincial organizations in softball, basketball and water skiing to the camp.

Yet the importance of the Jewish aspect can't be overlooked, said Michael Pink of Halifax, camp committee co-chair with Michael Soberman of Toronto. "Camp



Consul General Ziv Nevo Kulman, left, with Camp director Phil David, centre, and AJC president Michael Argand.

Kadimah fills a strong educational and developmental role for those who don't attend Jewish day schools. Our cultural program gives our children, from the smallest communities in this region, and those Ontarians who don't attend day school, a sense of their Jewishness."

David, Cape Breton-born but a Toronto resident for many years, has a full-time Kadimah office during the off-camp seasons. He stressed how he and the Atlantic Jewish Council, which owns and supports the camp property, have been proactive in the Toronto market. "When we can offer what we do for much less cost than other private and/or Jewish-focused camps, even when you take into account the airfare for the campers to and from Toronto, it's a bargain for these families. And we include laundry, tuck, out-of-camp trips and even the bus to and from Halifax or the airport to Kadimah."

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Consul General Ziv Nevo Kulman enjoys the view from the bridge at Camp Kadimah.

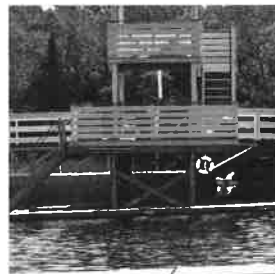
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The Atlantic Jewish Foundation: Scholarships & Bursaries for 2016

All applications must be received by April 30th, 2016

The Noa & Sarah Heinish Scholarship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Miasnik-Rein Trust

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

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

Halifax Endowment Fund (Jayson Greenblatt Bursary)

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

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

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

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

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

New Year, New Chapter

by Arielle Branitsky, Director, Hillel Atlantic Canada

As the 2015-2016 school year gets under way, Hillel Atlantic Canada is truly beginning a new chapter. Over the past few months, the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life has been undergoing a makeover and with the start of the school year the product is now out there for everyone to see.

The Bayit has been renovated and is ready to welcome students like never before. The house feels like new and creates a warm inviting atmosphere for students to use to its full potential. The kitchen is more open, allowing for more space, and has been completely redone with new appliances so that we can provide more meals more easily. With the new layout, there is now a designated lounge space with comfortable couches and space for intimate conversations. The open multi-purpose space allows us to welcome more people at a time. It is our hope, that students will frequent the space more regularly and add life to the house, along with the fresh coat of paint.

One of the key ingredients to attracting more students to our space is a clear brand. With that in mind, Hillel has been focusing on our branding and organization. We have a new website, new social media accounts, and a new set of logos. Check us out at www.hillelatlantic.ca, follow us on Instagram and Twitter @HillelAtlantic, or like us on Facebook

- each campus has a different group, but the most active pages for information about what's happening are Hillel Halifax and Israel on Campus Halifax. For the sake of identifying us properly and building buzz amongst students, it is important to use our names correctly, so to clarify: Hillel Atlantic Canada refers to the organization that serves all campuses from New Brunswick to Newfoundland, Hillel Halifax refers specifically to



Hillel operations on campus in Halifax. In Halifax we also have a subgroup for matters specific to Israel, called Israel on Campus.

The Hillel Halifax student board is hitting the ground running and focused on getting our brand out there. They are hosting events in creative spaces to grab attention, manning tables to have a regular presence, and have put an emphasis on ensuring a consistent and regular availability of events tied to Jewish ritual in order to be the reliable source of Jewish life that Hillel should be. Outside of Halifax, students are being encouraged to connect with us - let us

know you're out there! We have distributed promotional materials to each campus and are promoting the availability of grants to help them host Jewish events.

We are very excited to see how this semester plays out.

Shana Tova - Best Wishes for a happy and healthy 5776!

Hillel

ATLANTIC CANADA

Who
we
are

Hillel is the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

Hillel Atlantic Canada serves to support Jewish life and education in NB, NS, PEI, and NFLD

Hillel operates on campuses across North America, Europe, Israel, and now South America too! It is the mission of all Hillels to enrich the life of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world.

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Ask us your questions and learn more about Jewish identity, culture, and religion

Hillel Atlantic Canada
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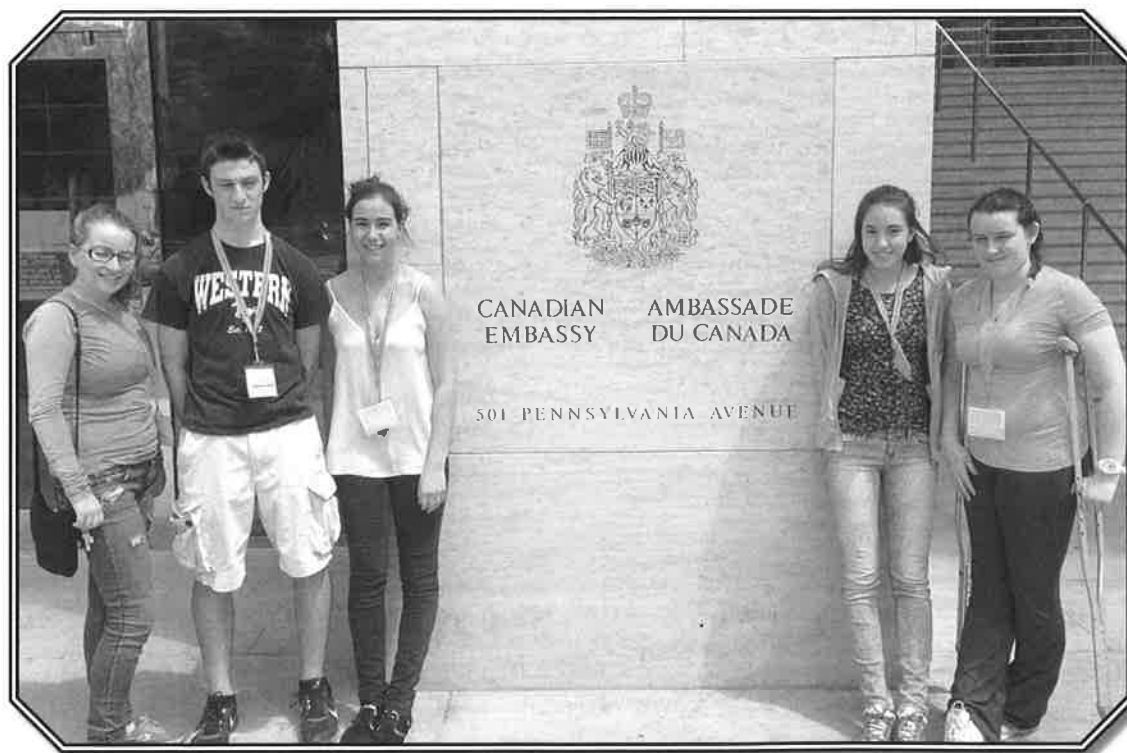
ATLANTIC CANADA

Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program

Editor's note: This spring five students from Halifax and Cape Breton travelled to Washington D.C as part of the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program. The program's objectives are to promote respect for others and sensitize Canadian students to the consequences of racism through a specially designed education program. The 18-hour education program focuses on human rights and the Holocaust, with an added emphasis on American history, the civil rights movement and the current situation in the world today. The curriculum for the educational component of the program was developed specifically by Holocaust and human rights educators for The Asper Foundation. The students are also required to volunteer for 16 hours in their communities on public projects that meet program requirements. After the educational component was completed, students participated in a trip to Washington, DC, where they spent several days at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and other important monuments relating to freedom. Below are the reflections from three students after they completed the program. www.humanrights.asperfoundation.com

Samantha Chigier, Halifax, NS: Going into the Asper program, I had a pretty basic understanding of the Holocaust. I knew approximate dates, that six million Jews had been murdered, and the events that lead to Hitler's demise. What I didn't understand was the discrimination that other minorities faced during this time. I didn't understand that Gypsies were treated just as badly as the Jews. The thought of Hitler's view on the disabled hadn't even crossed my mind. Reading testimonies of non-Jewish survivors who experienced similar cruelty that we did and reading the statistics really opened my eyes to the fact that Jews were not the only victim of Hitler's laws. Another main point of focus during the Asper training and trip was that of discrimination after the Holocaust and genocide happening in the present day. Sure, I was aware of the struggle that people of colour had had throughout the years, but I was under

the wrong impression that that sort of discrimination had only happened in the United States. I had no idea that not so long ago, it was allowed to pay Mexican and Chinese immigrants in British Columbia far less than minimum wage for jobs that 'Canadians' wouldn't want to do such as cleaning McDonald's restaurants. Also, the first thing we learned upon arrival at the Holocaust museum in D.C. was about present day genocide. I was thoroughly shocked and saddened at the amount of genocide that is still taking place in our world today. Though I learned a fair chunk about the history of our country and world during the Asper program, the main point that was clearly made was the horrible effect that discrimination has taken on the people of this world. I'm certainly no expert, but I am very proud to say that I have a deeper understanding of and will stand up against discrimination of every person or people.



2015 Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies program student, from L to R: Allison Pedvis, Ben Rittenberg, Bailey Karrel, Leah Collins and Samantha Chigier.

Bailey Karrel, Cape Breton, NS: Going into the Asper program I really didn't know what to expect but coming out of the program I am so happy that I took part in it. This program taught me a lot about the Holocaust, the history of the Jews and about other horrible atrocities that took place. I learned about how the Canadian government marginalized groups like the Natives, women, Blacks, Chinese and the Dukabors. I really liked how the things we did on the trip in Washington were split up so it wasn't just a day of serious and sad

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Jewish Artists in Atlantic Canada: a resounding success!

by Rebecca David, AJC Summer Student/Administrative Assistant

From July 4th to the 29th, the public was invited to the Chase Gallery in the Nova Scotia Archives to view the Jewish Artists in Atlantic Canada art show. Beginning with a prompt of "how has being Jewish affected your art?" artists created statements to accompany their work. In these, they discussed connections between their art and a multitude of things, namely religion, culture, and remembrance. By drawing on their personal memories of growing up Jewish and experiencing a Jewish culture, the artists were able to showcase pieces that not only resonated with general viewers of the exhibit, but the Atlantic Jewish community as a whole.

A guestbook was left at the front of the gallery, and as expected, the comments were rife with well wishes

and congratulations on a job well done. "Yasher Koach!", "Fantastic!", "Beautiful exhibit!", and "Amazing show!" are just a selection of the positive remarks. Many people mentioned that they felt a personal connection to the show, noting that the exhibit made them feel even more Jewish than before. Others noted that they could relate to the reflections on Jewish life, as influences listed within each artist's statement become an example of truth about Jewish life in Atlantic Canada. A mother and her daughter, who is a budding artist, visited the show and were both mesmerized by the display. For them, the show was moving and inspiring – just as it was for everyone else.

Elissa Barnard from The Chronicle Herald noted that the show included an assortment of works in terms of both media type and execution, and it is this variety that perfectly demonstrated the theme of Jewish life. The exhibit

showcased differences within each artist's background, yet still maintained its common motif. Porcelain, acrylics, hot glue, oil on canvas – the selection of materials alone showcased each artist's range. Beyond this, each artist took their work in a different direction. While some works were inherently Jewish, others more subtly toyed with the idea of a Jewish identity. Some artists created menorahs, while others created works that played with bright, bold Mediterranean light displayed through everyday objects. Artists were able to relate their work back to themes within religion and culture through their statements, each integrating the idea of a Jewish Identity in a different way.

In both cases, however, Jewish themes found their way into the art, which helped create a fantastic show that was enjoyed by all. Uplifting, beautiful, entertaining – the exhibit was truly a success.

Art Display Highlights Atlantic Talent

by Joel Jacobson

More than 100 people attended the July 8 premiere showing of art creations at "Jewish Artists in Atlantic Canada" a magnificent display at the first-ever exhibit of Jewish artists from the Atlantic Provinces.

The Halifax event, (July 4- July 31) at the Nova Scotia Archives Chase Gallery, drew 20 regional artists in several media showing more than 60 pieces.

"Who would have thought we had this number of wonderful artists doing Judaica work," said an impressed Darrell Pink of Halifax, one of many observers



Artist Natan Nevo, left, speaks with Polish Consul Jan Skora and his wife Teresa at the opening.

praising organizer and artist Lynn Rotin of West Pennant NS, near Halifax. Toronto-born and raised, Rotin has lived in the Halifax-area for 26 years. "People don't know who we are as artists," she exclaimed. "Judaism is more than religion. It's a culture and this show enables people to see how we express our values through art."

She emphasized the show gives exposure to "top quality people – instructors at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD), award winners, regular folk, who show a broad range of work from sculpture and photography, to work in oil

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Mark Rosen signs the guestbook for the exhibit.



Artist Adrian Fish, left, welcomes guests during the opening reception.

continued from page 17

and many other media, to print making. I'm totally encouraged by the number and quality of work on display."

The show, co-coordinated by Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement, Atlantic Jewish Council, was officially opened by Michael Argand, board chair of the Atlantic Jewish Council which lent its support to the event. "We're so proud to promote this exhibit of the creativity of our Atlantic Canadian artists," Argand stated. "The works are for sale and I hope people will welcome this art into their homes and offices."

Photo-based artist, Adrian Fish, associate professor in media arts at NSCAD, came to Halifax 11 years ago. With an MFA from



Jon Goldberg, AJC Executive Director, left, speaks with artist David Silverberg and Judith Goldberg during the reception.

York University, his work has been shown in galleries across the continent and in Japan. He showed three pieces at this exhibit, photographic portraits of Chasidic

Jews of Crown Heights, NY, and Montreal. "I spent time there, collected dozens of images and enabled people to see I was genuinely interested in their community, not just an outsider," he says. "I selected three for here because of the intensity of their look." He says this project is an examination of his transition from a childhood in a conservative middle-class suburban Jewish environment in Toronto to now living as a proud secular Jew living in Halifax.

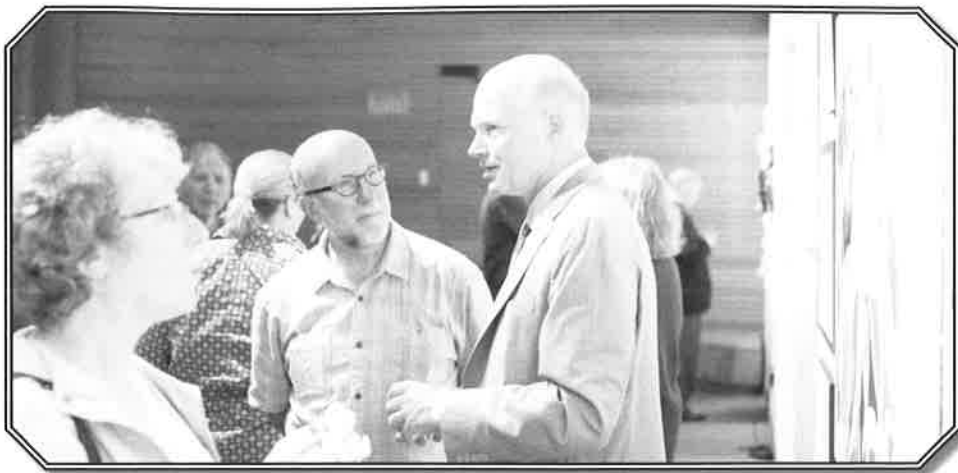
Lisa-Beth Glassman lives in Murray River, PEI, far from her Toronto roots where, until six years ago, she was a professional caterer. Moving to very rural PEI, "... in a place practically devoid of ethnic content, I still identify and often qualify



AJC President Michael Argand recognizes volunteer organizer Lynn Rotin at the opening.



Artist Randy Engelberg, right, discusses her artwork at the reception.



MP Geoff Regan, right, speaks with Darrel Pink during the opening reception.

my existence in terms of my Jewish heritage. I am struck by remembered Hebrew phrases and biblical passages, the melodies of prayers, the memory of sitting with my grandparents in shul on countless Shabbats, all possibly remnants of a parochial day school education." I started painting seriously about seven years ago," she recalls. She attended a week long workshop in encaustic (wax

and oil pigment) and most frequently use found materials for my substrates. "Though I never imagined it would manifest as significant subject matter for my art, it has, none the less managed to do just that. Perhaps it is a function of age to become increasingly nostalgic."

Sculptor Miro Davis was born in Vancouver, British Columbia but formally

trained at NSCAD. In her mixed media practice, her artistic work brings together individuals and groups through visual art as she guides people through mental and physical struggles through the creative practice. As a social sculptor, Davis' collaborative sculptural murals have garnered critical and popular acclaim in the US and Canada and are permanently installed throughout an extensive collection of organizations and institutions.

Halifax born and raised Craig Fox is a self-taught artist who served in the Israel Defense Forces as a lone soldier. Suffering Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder after being shot in Gaza and now working as a paramedic in Halifax, Fox paints animals in oil-on-canvas as stress relief. "Some of the art that I create has obvious influence from my time in Israel, as well as honouring the soldiers I fought with."

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All photos in this article by Maxim Hazankin



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Greetings from the Consul General, Israel

Shalom dear Friends,
It is a pleasure and an honour in my capacity as Consul General of Israel for Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces to extend my most heartfelt best wishes to the Jewish communities of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador and Prince Edward Island on the occasion of Rosh Hashanah 5776.

During the past year, the State of Israel has continued to face many challenges, including the looming threat of an Iran armed with nuclear weapons.

Our rich history and heritage as Jews, however, allows us to draw inspiration from our prophets and founding pioneers, who taught us that we must never relent and always seek to pursue our dream of living freely and in peace regardless of the threats and challenges that loom in the fore.

Today, as in the past, the solidarity and unity between Israel and the Jewish



community in the Diaspora continues to be an invaluable asset. On behalf of the State of Israel I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued love and support for your brothers and sisters in Israel.

Throughout the past year, I have had the pleasure to visit both Halifax and Camp

Kadimah, where I was fortunate enough to engage with your community's leadership, both current and future. Our mission's Deputy Consul General also had the privilege to travel to Moncton, where he witnessed firsthand the fruits of the Atlantic Jewish Council (AJC)'s labor in strengthening that community. As we look ahead at the dawn of a New Year, I very much look forward to continuing to work in tandem with the AJC and visiting other communities across Atlantic Canada during my mandate.

May you and your families enjoy a joyous and reflective holiday period, and a New Year blessed with peace, health and

happiness.

Shana tova!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ziv', written over a horizontal line.

Ziv Nevo Kulman
Consul General of Israel



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Pride Day, working the booth, pictured left to right, Micha Farber, David Farber, Hannah Walt, Arielle Branitsky and Bobbi Zahra.



Volunteers at the AJC booth at the Multicultural Festival: left to right: Rabbi David Ellis, Allisan Tucker, Charlotte Mendel and AJC staffer Anna Epshtein.



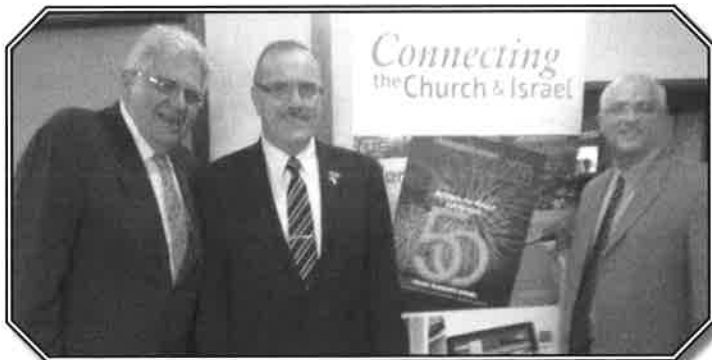
Israel Consul General Ziv Nevo Kulman speaks to campers at Camp Kadimah.



Rabbi Amram Maccabi centre, attended the newcomers picnic at Point Pleasant Park, pictured with Slava Svidler and recently arrived newcomer Oshrit Harel.



Lynn Rotin, exhibit co-chair, addresses the crowd at the opening of Jewish Artists in Atlantic Canada at the Nova Scotia Archives.



Jon Goldberg, AJC Executive Director, Eric Malloy, National Director, Bridges for Peace and Mark David, CIJA Consultant attended the Salute to Israel, in Yarmouth, NS.



Mark David, CIJA Consultant, addressed the audience at the Salute to Israel in Yarmouth, NS.



Newcomers Raisa Samjlovski and Olga Lerner enjoyed meeting newcomers at the picnic at Point Pleasant Park.



Welcoming newcomers at the picnic in Point Pleasant Park, Irina Khordokovsky, Elena Mikelman, Natalya Gribanov, Svetlana Spirt and Yulia Sultan Shah.

Cape Breton Icon Passes Away

by Joel Jacobson

With the August 5 passing of 102-year-old Jack Yazer, the Sydney, NS Jewish community has lost an icon who created a successful business from nothing in the 1930s, and developed a reputation as a "mensch" in the wider environs of Cape Breton and Nova Scotia.

Yazer, born in 1913 in Suprasl, Poland, arrived in Canada as a mid-teenager in 1928 after an Atlantic crossing in steerage on the Empress of France, without family or friends. His English vocabulary consisted of two words – "can't speak."

He quickly showed ingenuity by lugging a heavy pack that weighed more than he did as a travelling peddler, with his older brother Mendle, through rural Cape Breton. They later opened Yazer Brothers Limited Friendly Clothing Store in Sydney Mines. At the outbreak of the Second World War, Jack joined the Canadian Armed Forces and upon his return home, the brothers opened Yazer Brothers Clothing Store in downtown Sydney which Jack managed until it was sold in 1976.

Cape Breton businessman Scott MacLean reflected to the Cape Breton Post how Jack Yazer was his first boss. Hired at age 15, MacLean worked for Yazer throughout high school and enjoyed the mentorship. "He taught you the basics in sales – honesty ... Jack had a genuine interest in everyone. He was always telling you, you were always working on the next sale, not today's sale. That's why he was successful in business, because he treated everybody fairly," he said. "He would never ask you to do something he wouldn't do himself."

MacLean said his relationship with Yazer evolved throughout the years, including service work related to their shared involvement in the Rotary Club. Yazer was involved with Home and School, Children's Aid, Easter Seals, Salvation Army, Canadian Club, Kidney Foundation, Red Cross, was a devoted member of

Temple Sons of Israel congregation, and served Jewish United Appeal and Bond Drives. Yazer worked with the Cancer Society, Police Boys Club, Social Housing, Nova Scotia Family and Child Welfare, and the Vanier Institute of the Family. He inaugurated the building of the Centennial Rink and was the founding chair of the Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation. He also found time to coach the Yazer Juniors hockey team, counsel small business for the Federal Development Bank, was a member of the Board of Trade Council, worked to promote new industry in Cape Breton, and was always available to provide help to individuals in need. He was especially determined in his drive to establish a Graduated Licence Merit Plan for Nova Scotia.

Ron Caplan, founder of Cape Breton's Magazine, featured Yazer in a 1992 issue. "He remained concerned for young people and always believed they needed another chance," said Caplan of the then-80-year-old Yazer. "Wherever you turn, someone will have a story about how Jack Yazer helped them or encouraged them. "His is a legendary story of a Cape Breton immigrant who made a good life and made life better for the rest of us."

Adrian White, executive director of the Sydney and Area Chamber of Commerce, noted Yazer wasn't only known as a smart businessman but also as a caring philanthropist.

"What a terrific example of what an entrepreneur can do and did, emigrating to a country, starting fresh, starting very modestly and growing into a tremendous business empire during his fruitful years of being in business," White said.

Yazer was known as someone with whom you could close a deal based on nothing



more than a handshake and be confident it would be honoured, White added. "He was a tremendous asset to our community. What a loss."

Yazer received many community awards, two honorary doctorates (St. Francis Xavier University and Cape Breton University), the 125th Commemorative Medal, Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, was a Member of the Order of Canada, the Order of Nova Scotia, and was inducted into the Cape Breton Hall of Fame. He received the Kinsmen's "Citizen of the Year", Federal Department of Manpower and Immigration "Man of the Year", Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellow, life membership in the Nova Scotia Family and Child Welfare Association, life membership in the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union, special recognition for Outstanding and Selfless Commitment for the establishment of the Cape Breton Regional Hospital and for his exceptional leadership in the area of community development and health care. The Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation's Caring Spirit Award was renamed the Dr. Jack Yazer Caring Spirit Award.

Yazer met his future wife, Zelda Gillman, while visiting relatives in Montreal. Together, the couple raised four children – sons Harold and Brendon and daughters Celia and Karin – with Zelda passing away in 2010 and Brendon dying in 2013 after a long battle with cancer. Besides Harold, Celia and Karin, Yazer is survived by eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

One of Yazer's final requests was that, in lieu of flowers or donations, people go into the community and perform a random act of kindness in his memory, making it a better and a kinder place to live. In Jack's own words, "It has been my pleasure to have given to a community and a country that have given so much to me."

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Cape Breton News

by Sharon Jacobson

I am reporting from aboard the "Frumsie" on the Mira River with the far-off deadline of tomorrow!!!

It is August 20th, the middle of the beginning of summer here in Cape Breton...

There is a rumour rampant in the Atlantic Jewish area that the Sydney synagogue has the largest attendance rate at Saturday morning services? (Unverified of course!) This is probably due to a summer influx of the usual suspects as well as visitors to the island, not to mention our regular attendees of the merry Kiddush luncheons which are sponsored by in-town people and out-of-town people!

As many of you probably are aware, we lost a wonderful member of our congregation. Jack Yazer (102 years young) was lauded many times over for his contributions to Cape Breton at large as well as the Sydney Jewish community. I have a lasting image of him dressed in his Veteran soldier's uniform with its swath of medals on a chest that was so proud and grateful to be Canadian. Dressed as a member of the military on Remembrance Day and over a hundred years old, he would make his way up to the bimah for the first Aliyah. He would joyfully sing

with Evy as the Torah was brought back to the ark....

We also had several unveilings this summer, Robert Ein and Minnie Nathanson and Linda Hirsch. Doris Shore passed away recently in Toronto and as of this writing, we will be congregating for the funeral of Ada Simon (100 years of age) a longtime resident of Glacé Bay.

But, we do have our Good Shmooze as well -

The Perennial Fanny Cohen blooming on her 107th Birthday welcomes visitors from far and wide. Ron James, famous for his comedic talent and a former



Ethan Strong's Project

student, constantly inquires about her and has powerful memories.

The Broken Leg of Robert Allen MacDonald by Evelyn Moraff Davis, a children's book published by Boulardrie Press proves one can continually grow and create as you advance in years.

Evelyn joins the ranks of Georgia O'Keefe and Winston Churchill who displayed prolific talent in later life!

The energetic Shirley Chernin who does not stop contributing to her community (I keep telling my lazy self that maybe Energy comes with age!?) is being deservedly recognized by The Beaton Institute, Cape Breton Regional Library, and the Fortress Louisbourg Association



Kiddush Lunch at Sydney Shul

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Fanny Cohen enjoys Evelyn Davis' book

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and Parks Canada with a special performance of Katharine's Island at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site on August 26, 2015. Proceeds will support a charity of Shirley's choice.

And-

Sydney's own Martin Chernin received the Order of Canada. What are those Chernins eating? Marty does not seem to be slowing down either...always involved, working, doing, and quietly helping others.

We even have to report on a much younger member of our community-

Ethan Strong, 10 years of age, won 1st prize in a school project as part of a Historical Fair. Titled "The History of the

Jewish People in Cape Breton", he went on to enter it in the Regional Competition and received 2 awards, one being the most innovative project. His partner in this endeavour was Andrew Campbell who wanted to know more about Judaism so he could learn more about his friend, Ethan!

It was on display at Cape Breton University. While they were manning the booth, the Governor General and his wife stopped by and chatted with the boys. There was a photo op!

Ethan also presented his project to the Shabbat congregation in the shul where it is currently being displayed!

Perhaps there is a future Order of Canada coming this way?

Jewish Community Havura

by Ruth Noel & Nancy Bennett

This year's top question was, summer where are you? July brought rain, drizzle and fog and temperatures in the single digits. The dismal weather provoked a joke arrest of our two local tv meteorologists - for trafficking rain drizzle and fog. The fog, coupled with a runway upgrade at our local airport, made air travel on and off the island very iffy.

Spring saw the last push for schools to invite religious leaders in to talk about their religion before the school holidays and Havura members were invited to

peak.

We continued our biweekly services through the summer with healthy attendance. A core group of young children and university students make the services a delight to attend. Our Havura is a cooperative and several of our students are leading services with the help of more seasoned leaders when needed. We also hold a special children's Shabbat service from time to time. This spring and summer we welcomed a number of out of town visitors to our services and events.

Members have been heavily involved in summertime activities including dragon

boating and the Newfoundland and Labrador Folk Festival. And several of our members are busy campaigning for their favorite party and candidates for federal and provincial elections this fall.

Bar Mitzvah

In early May, Jacob Siegel made his Bar Mitzvah, the second Bar Mitzvah this year for the Havura. As with past Havura Bar Mitzvahs, it was a community affair with many of our members assisting with Jacob's education and all of us giving him support. Elizabeth Loder, Ruth Noel and Inbal Bahar were three who taught Jacob his Hebrew, prayers, Torah reading, and different aspects of Judaism and Torah. As part of the programme, Jacob had to do community service which was important to him. Family members came from Ontario and the United States. Proud parents Elizabeth Siegel and Dean Masih, grandparents Diane and Marvin Siegel, other relatives and friends watched as Jacob said his blessings, chanted from the Torah and gave his speech on the Torah and the importance of the Bar Mitzvah to him. Elizabeth Loder led the service and explained relevant parts to the non-Jewish guests in attendance. She and Jacob made everyone feel warm and welcome. Mazel



Jewish Community Havura year-end picnic June 28—luckily a lovely warm summer day!



Havura Baal Tefillah Elizabeth Loder and Bar Mitzvah celebrant Jacob Siegel, May 2, 2015.

Forum to engage representatives from all faith communities within our city to develop and pursue coordinated actions that support community plans to end homelessness and meet local housing needs. Shari Ritter has been our Havura representative since its inception and has been an active member in promoting affordable housing. The committee is seeing some positive results in their hard work. At the second Faith and Housing Forum held in mid-May, Shari was asked to give a blessing at the beginning of the meal. She brought a challah cover and challah and explained the blessing as well as saying the Hamotzi. The blessing and explanation were appreciated by

those in attendance as it was the first time they had experienced and understood this tradition.

End of the year barbeque

The annual end of the year barbeque was held the end of July at Nancy Bennett's home and everyone hoped for a sunny day. We got lucky for not only did we have sun but it was warm – one of the few warm days in June. More than 40 adults and 20 children turned out for grilled salmon, corn, and vegetarian hot dogs and hamburgers as well as appetizers, salads, Nancy's famous beblach mit honik and desserts. Ruth Noel and Nancy did the shopping for the event. Brenda and Mark Rishia helped with the set up

and Robert Sweeny spent most of the afternoon tending the grill. Elizabeth-Anne Malischewski, Karen Lippold, and Joy Hecht were great on the clean-up crew and others helped throughout the afternoon. We said a sad goodbye to Inbal Bahar and Sharon Koubi and family and presented them with going away gifts. We also wished Mark Zaretsky well as he leaves St. John's, having finished his medical residency. We were happy to welcome a new couple into our Havura.

News and notes

Mazel tov to Angelique Myles on earning her MD. During her medical training she and her supportive partner Carl Schofield had two children and she has been commended by the medical school for balancing her studies and family

life. Angelique has started her residency in psychiatry in St. John's.

Mazel tov to Charlotte Anne Malischewski, who completed her double civil and common law



degree at McGill University, passed her bar exams, and is now clerking at the Federal Court of Appeal in Ottawa.

Mazel tov to Dr. Katherine Side, Interim Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies at Memorial University, for her book, *Patching Peace: Women's Civil Society Organising in Northern Ireland*, published by ISER Books, St. John's. The book is based on federally-funded research, conducted with women's peace building organisations in Northern Ireland. The academic publisher for ISER Books is Sharon Roseman, who also participates in the Havura. The book can be purchased online from ISER Books or from amazon.ca.

Mazel tov to Dr. Robert Sweeny, professor of history at Memorial University, on his book *Why Did We Choose to Industrialize? Montreal, 1819-1849*. He maintains our choice to industrialize has changed the world more than any other decision in

tov to Jacob and family.

Multi-Faith Symposium

Once again the Havura participated in the Hindu Temple's Multi-Faith Symposium -- this year was the 10th Anniversary and the topic was The role of Knowledge of SELF in Spiritual Growth. The Havura's speaker was Valerio Toneilli Enrico. Valerio titled his presentation Kabbalah and Spirituality. Valerio is a physiotherapist who also teaches yoga and has read extensively about spirituality and the Kabbalah. His talk was very well received.

Faith and Housing Partnership Committee

This committee was formed at the November 2013 Affordable Housing



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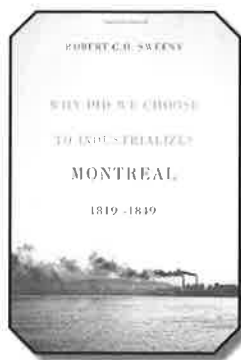


www.sarelcanada.org
902.422.7491 Atlantic Jewish Council

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human history. He uses Montreal, the first colonial city to industrialize, as his source of material. Published by McGill-Queen's



University Press in August.

Zane Colt from CJPAC was in St. John's to encourage Jewish and pro-Israeli Canadians to become active in the upcoming federal election

and met with Havura board members.

We sadly say good bye to Inbal Bahar, Sharon Koubi, and children, Noam, Daphna, Ayalah and Amit. They have been with us for over 10 years and have become a fixture in our community. Inbal and Sharon were founders of the Havura and always very active. From helping with services, reading from Torah, building the Sukka, hosting events in their home, teaching the children, giving advice and lending an ear, they were always there for the community. The children attended services with their parents on a regular basis and we enjoyed having the family

with us on Friday evenings. Sharon completed his surgical residency here and has a position in Woodstock, NB, so our loss is New Brunswick's gain.

If you are coming this way please join us for Friday night services and the High Holidays. The Havura always welcomes visitors and new members. Our events and services are listed on our website: havura.org. Contact us at info@havura.org or 709-834-7866.

News from the Rock

by Claire Frankel-Salama

Today brings yet another deplorable letter from an anti-Israeli woman who was responsible for a shameful demonstration in front of Beth El synagogue during Ambassador Barak's recent visit. Surely we should not have to see glaring, angry faces as we enter our own place of worship in this country. Not a comfortable feeling. Ambassador Barak's visit was, however, a great success and drew a large crowd of supporters despite the negative letters in the local press. Furthermore, it attracted several positive letters which were well researched and spoke to the factual errors. Nevertheless, once some people have their minds made up, it is difficult to change them.

The Ambassador, who was accompanied by his wife, Miriam, had a short visit on the Avalon Peninsula before his talk to the Jewish communities of Newfoundland and Labrador. He spoke first about the possibilities of joint research and business between our province and Israel and then about the situation in the Middle East with reference to Iran. He was quite positive about the relationships between Israel and several of its neighbours. Over coffee after the talk, we had a chance to meet a number of non-Jewish supporters of Israel

who decided to attend after reading the original negative letter in the Telegram (the proverbial silver lining). We also discovered that my husband, Messod, knows several of the Ambassador's relatives thereby confirming that there are no more than one or two degrees of separation between all Jews.

This year has been busy with visits from Elementary and High Schools as usual. We were pleased to have a number of out-of-town visitors as well. One of our most memorable visits was that of Rabbi Barry and Debby Schwartz. Barry, a Reform rabbi, is the director of the Jewish Publication Society, the oldest Jewish publisher in North America. He and his wife Debby were our guests for dinner on Friday, July 24th, after which they participated in our Kabbalat Shabbat service. Barry then gave a presentation on JPS and its history. The following week, on Sunday, August 2nd, they attended our annual picnic at the beautiful Tors Cove home of Dr. David and Christine Wright. The weather

had finally improved and we enjoyed the tremendous hospitality of the Wrights on their sunny deck overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. We were also happy to welcome Mrs. Sylvia Kohen, Michael Paul's mother, from Montreal who was celebrating her 84th birthday.

In June we were sorry to bid farewell to Dr. Mark Zaretsky who finished the first three years of his residency in Paediatrics at the Janeway Hospital in St. John's. He has moved to Hamilton where he will continue his sub-specialty at MacMaster. A huge be'hatzlachah to a fine young man whom we will all miss.

At the beginning of July we were pleased to see Yossi Abkin, a young Israeli who came to Newfoundland for his post-



Ambassador Barak addressing Jewish communities in St. John's



Visit of Zane Colt from CJPAC

army experience ten years ago. Now an architect working for the municipality of Jerusalem, Yossi decided that it was time to visit us all again. He and a friend began with Shabbat at Beth El and ended their trip in St. John's as well. We were also happy to meet Yochai Gabsi, the brother of a former teacher, Moriah Gabsi, who was visiting David and Marcy Feder. Messod and I had the good fortune of being able to meet with another former teacher, Efrat Tzadik, in Brussels during our trip to the Netherlands and France this past June. Efrat, who spent a year teaching here twenty years ago, married a young man she met on her flight to St. John's and now has three children. Our community was tremendously enriched by the work of

the many young people sent by WUJS and the Jewish Agency to teach our children and adults and to plan programmes. We have enjoyed keeping in touch and learning of the successful lives they have gone on to lead, mostly in Jewish community affairs.

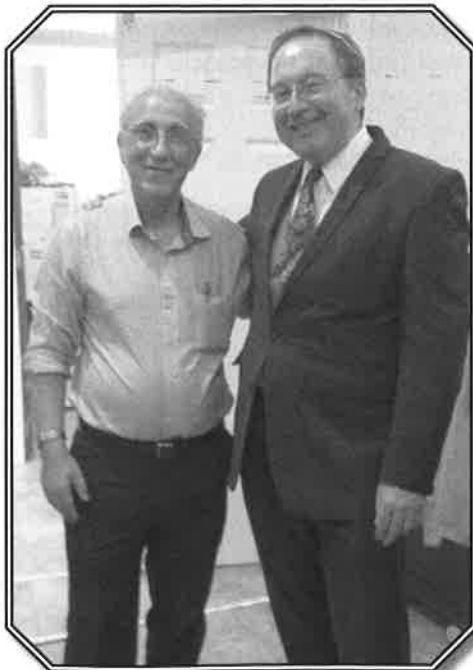
Sadly, we lost a very important member of Beth El this summer. Ernie Mauskopf, the gentleman who sang Kol Nidrei almost every year since we arrived in 1985, who chanted Megillat Esther and who read the Torah so beautifully, passed away after a lengthy illness. A large funeral was held at Beth El on August 5th. Special thanks are given to the Chevrah Kadishah consisting of Elliott Leyton, David Wright and Michael Paul. We wish Ernie's son, Randy, no further sorrow as he has had a very difficult year. Although Ernie was unable to help with the High Holydays this past year, we will really miss him next month. It will simply not be the same. We also said goodbye to an out-of-town member, Ms. Barbara Cohen (Kolonel), who passed away in Springdale. Again, special thanks go to Bonnie Leyton and Barbara Grandy who performed the Taharot. The service took place at the Blackmarsh Road cemetery on August 5th.

Other visitors include Robin McGrath, our community historian, who is living in Goose Bay, Labrador, and Hannah and Judy Wilansky who came to plan the event of the year, the Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Pinkus, Hannah's

daughter. At the moment we are preparing for some 60 people who will be arriving next week for the happy occasion. The Synagogue has been fixed and cleaned and we are looking forward to welcoming our guests, many of whom had ancestors in this community, to this great simchah and mini-"kum ahaym". We are already enjoying the company and wisdom of Dr. Douglas and Ruth Wilansky who have been here for several weeks with Judy.

Last, but not least, we had a very interesting evening with Zane Colt, Small Communities Coordinator at CJPAC, who visited St. John's and spoke to the communities on July 29th. His non-partisan presentation was extremely interesting and logical as he urged all of us to volunteer for any political candidate in order to develop connections to the Jewish Community. As a result, there will definitely be more multi-partisan engagement from the audience he addressed.

On behalf of Beth El I wish all readers a very happy and healthy 5776. Should you be around for the High Holydays, please get in touch as we plan to have a community Rosh Hashanah meal and breaking of the Yom Kippur fast in the synagogue. Please let any new/present Memorial students know that they will be most welcome to help us celebrate this important Chag. I have already been promised Challahs by one of our newest residents, Esther Kashtanov, who is here with her family from Toronto. Thanks to her as well for her enthusiasm and support for the community.



Messod Salama and Ambassador Barak



Shimon Wilansky, Ambassador Barak, Miriam Barak, Claire Frankel-Salama

News from Moncton

by Nancy Cohen

Note: The AJC and CIJA were pleased to sponsor this year's Community BBQ in Moncton. Unfortunately due to deaths in our families both Mark David, CIJA Consultant, and I could not attend.

Jon Goldberg, AJC Executive Director



Avi Lev-Louis taking to Rebbitzen Yagod at the community barbecue.

A large contingent of children from Moncton enjoyed summer at Camp Kadimah this year, including 6 children from our new immigrant families. They all had a wonderful time with several describing camp as "awesome". Now they are counting down the days until next summer.



Myer Rabin with local candidates for federal election.

In June we welcomed another new family to Moncton. Fabio Jacobovitz, his wife Gal, and their three young children have moved here from Israel. Fabio is originally from Brazil and is a dentist. He spent the last couple of years getting his qualifications to practice dentistry in Canada and is now working in Moncton.

The annual community barbecue took place on August 23 at Betty Druckman's beautiful home in Shediac Cape. Rain was predicted, but it turned out to be a very hot, mostly sunny day. There was a great turnout of people of all ages including several of Moncton's new families. Fortunately Betty has lots of room for kids to run around. Deputy Consul, Avi Lev-Louis and Zane Colt of CJPAC were there, as well as several local candidates for the upcoming federal election. It was a good opportunity to chat with the candidates.

Mazel tov to:

Rhianna Rinzler-Johnston, daughter of Shawna Rinzler-Johnston and Andrew Johnston who had a fabulous Bat Mitzvah at Camp Kadimah. The proud grandparents are David and Carol Rinzler. Aviva Cohen, daughter of Ivan and Nancy Cohen on her marriage to Alexander Metcalfe on July 19. Aviva Attis and Jeremy Poriah Koven on the birth of their



Moncton MP Robert Goguen with Betty Druckman.

son Joseph. Proud grandparents are David and Margie Attis. Rachel Cohen, daughter of Carolyn Baer and David Cohen on her graduation from McNaughton High School. Rachel is off to the University of Ottawa.

Condolences to the family of Cy Stein who passed away on August 7. Cy was well known as the proprietor of Cy's Seafood Restaurant, which was long regarded as one of the best seafood restaurants in Canada.



Enjoying the Barbecue!

News from Saint John

by Susan Isaacs Lubin

We have had an exciting summer with many new families settling in Saint John from Israel. Welcoming them and helping them get settled has kept many of us busy. We now have over 20 families who have settled in the Saint John area.

Shavuot was a special event for us, with a service in the Synagogue, and activities in the multi-purpose room for the children. Following the service, we had a traditional dairy Kiddush including ice cream for the children.

We wish Teri and Ellis Levine all the best on their retirement and move to Ottawa. Teri grew up in Ottawa, and now two of their three children live the Ottawa area. I am sure they will receive much "nachas" from being near their grandchildren.

Many families went to the annual Sand Sculptures at New River Beach, and enjoyed trying their hand at sculpturing with sand for the first time.

Three of the men from our new families who wish to remain anonymous volunteered to paint the gates and sign for the Cemetery. Our thanks to them.

A summer picnic and barbecue was held for the Jewish Community on August 16th. We had approximately 100 people attend, and from all accounts, it was



Enjoying the BBQ.

a huge success. The children had a lot of fun, swimming and playing games, and the adults had just as much fun

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CHW

Children
Healthcare
Women

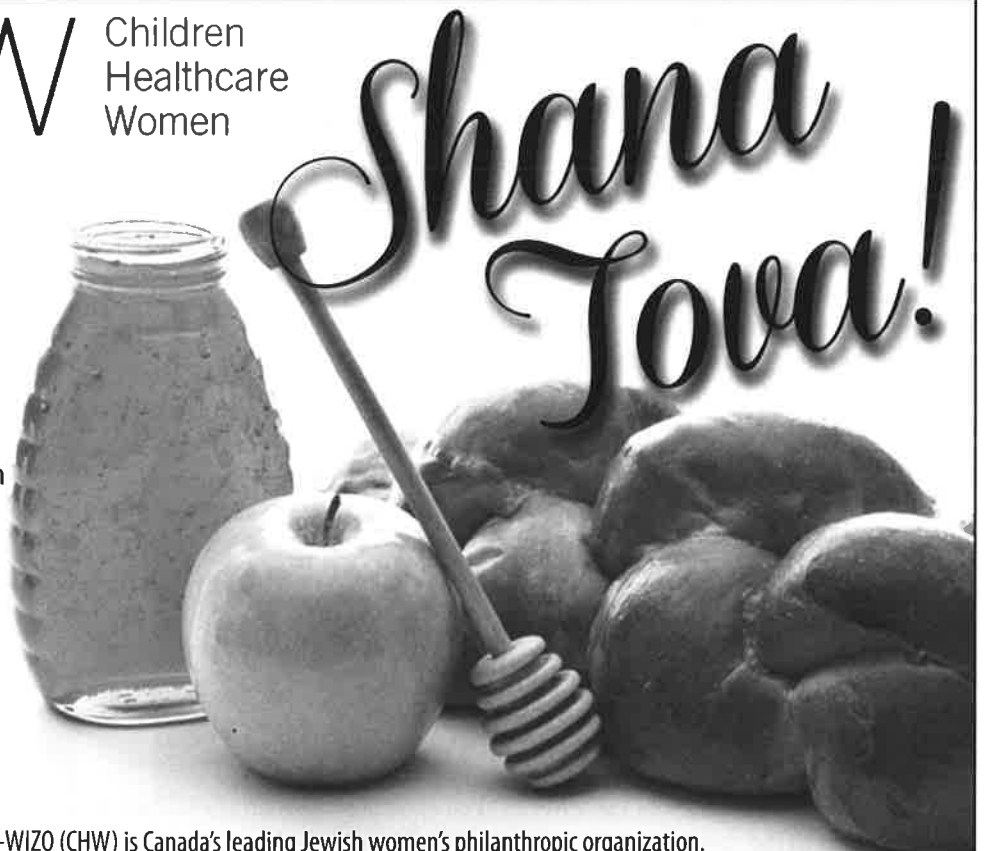
Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) wishes our members and friends a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!

Thank you for your continued support of CHW's projects for Children, Healthcare and Women in Israel and Canada.

Claudia Goldman,
CHW National President

CHW Board of Directors

Alina Ianson, CHW National
Executive Director



Shana Tova!

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Summer picnic!

continued from page 29

participating in some of the games and watching the children. We can't wait for



Having fun at the summer picnic & BBQ!

next year's picnic!

We are looking forward to welcoming back Cantor Jeff Spitzer for the High Holidays. Cantor Spitzer always adds something special to the Services, and after so many years of coming to Saint John, he has become a friend to so many



The newly painted gates thanks to anonymous volunteers.

of us. Sisterhood is again planning a Break the Fast following the last Shofar on Yom Kippur.

Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

by Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator

Visitor numbers are up a bit from last year at the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum. All who have visited so far this season have been enthusiastically welcomed by our summer students and given guided tours of our exhibits on the Jewish way of life, Holocaust Survivors, businesses, profiles of exceptional community members and of the summer community of Pampdenec. With almost 50 cruise ships expected to dock in Saint John from late August to early November, the autumn months will be very busy ones as we welcome visitors from across the US and from around the world to our Museum.

In early August, a tour of the Shaarei Zedek Cemetery was led by Museum Curator, Katherine Biggs-Craft. She explained the history of the grounds and Jewish burial traditions. Stops were made at a number of gravestones where a brief biography was presented. Those in attendance learned much about the early Jewish settlers in the city and some of the prominent community members from more recent years. A repeat of the tour will

take place sometime in the summer of 2016. The tour was sponsored by Fernhill Cemetery through the Walks 'n' Talks Program coordinated by local historian, David Goss.

In early November we plan to unveil our new exhibit on Jewish war veterans. The goal is to share the stories of each of the men and women who came from Saint John and who served in uniform as part of the Canadian Army, the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force during the First and Second World Wars, as well as those who participated in the Korean War. We have been collecting information from our own archives, from the Provincial and National Archives, and from family members. The exhibit is supported with financial help from the Exhibits Renewal Program from Heritage Branch and the Greater Saint John Community Foundation.

The 2nd Annual Saint John Jewish Film Festival

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum will hold its Second Annual Jewish Film Festival from Sunday, October 17 to Thursday, October 22. The opening

gala with a showing of "Deli Man" will be held on October 17 and is reserved for festival sponsors. The success of this event depends on the support of many community and individual sponsors. To learn more about becoming a sponsor please contact the Jewish Museum at (506) 633-1833 / sjjhm@nbnet.nb.ca.

Six film showings will be held at the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue, 91 Leinster Street from Sunday to Thursday:

- Sunday – 2:00 p.m. – "Mr. Kaplan"
- Sunday – 7:00 p.m. – "24 Days"
- Monday – 7:00 p.m. – "Above and Beyond"
- Tuesday – 7:00 p.m. – "Run Boy Run"
- Wednesday – 7:00 p.m. – "The Art Dealer"
- Thursday – 7:00 p.m. – "Quality Balls : The David Steinberg Story" / "Hannah Cohen's Holy Communion"

Individual tickets for shows are available in advance or at the door for \$10.00 each. The Museum exhibit will be open each evening until ten minutes before show time.

Fredericton News

by Ayten Kranat



Marilyn Kaufman, fourth from left, chair of the LPC (Local Partnership Committee) of CIJA, attended a national meeting in Ottawa, pictured with other local area chairs.



Mazel Tov to the following graduates:

Jake Kranat

Bliss Carman Middle School

Igal Tichonov

Leo Hayes High School

Jonathan Lazarev

Fredericton High School

Joshua Stephens

Atlantic Business College

Policing and Security Foundations

Phillip Soicher

University of New Brunswick

Bachelor in Engineering

Jacqueline Soicher

University of British Columbia

Masters in Engineering

Shelley Stephens, Sisterhood President,

Sgoolai Israel Synagogue wishes all a

Happy Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.



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Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Report on PEI Jewish Community Events

by Rosalie Simeone

Throughout the spring and summer, we have continued to try to have one event per month. The Kabbaat Shabbat evenings continue to develop, with a Friday evening service developing.

May 29- Sol Feldstein hosted a Kabbalat Shabbat.

July 17- Kabbalat Shabbat at the summer home of Martin Rutte and Maida Rogerson. There was a nice turnout, and a

delicious Shabbat meal.

Aug. 9- The annual Summer Picnic at Ayelet and Larry Stewart's home was well attended.

Our Annual General meeting is planned for Sunday afternoon August 23.

Rosh Hashanah will take place September 14, and the morning followed by a pot-luck.

Kol Nidre will be the evening of

September 22, and a short Yom Kippur Service will be held the morning of September 23.

If there is anyone who will be in PEI, and wishes to participate in any of our Community lead events, please contact us through www.peijc.org

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy New Year.

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Lest We Forget: The Day of Remembrance

by Rabbi David Ellis, Regional Chaplain, Atlantic Jewish Council

"We will have these moments to remember..."

Four Lads song from the 50s

We are very shortly approaching Rosh HaShanah, the Jewish New Year. But our tradition calls it another name--Yom HaZikaron, the Day of Remembrance. We are aware of the Canadian Remembrance Day on November 11. Its message is not entirely different from ours. But the Jewish tradition adds a note. Whenever it says in our writings that we should remember something, it is not talking about a mental act only. It means doing something in action which notes and commemorates the event. Thus on Friday night we remember the Sabbath by reciting kiddush. Before Purim we remember Amalek by reading the portion from Ki Tetze in Deuteronomy. On Passover we remember coming out of Egypt by retelling its story at the seder. And on Rosh HaShanah we remember the beginning of the year with the shofar sounds.

However, with our modern technology and media age, we have new resources to enhance our remembrance.

I am thinking specifically of the website Find-A-Grave, www.findagrave.com. It is where you can, as it says, find a grave anywhere in the world.

According to its home page, it has more than 100,000,000 graves at its site. The search page is easy to follow and self-explanatory. I have found lost family members and friends there. Often on a Wikipedia page about a prominent person, there will be a link to their monument at Find-A-Grave. Everyone is there--celebrities, historical figures, sports heroes, politicians and--just ordinary, everyday people from everywhere at hundreds of places. All it takes is for someone to have taken the effort to put up the cemetery and names at the

website. Nowadays all our communities have someone much more talented than I at mastering web pages. It would take a one-time effort to gather and insert the material at the website, but it would be interesting and surely a labour of love. Then one or several people would continually monitor it, adding information as was needed. Many of your communities have photographed your graves and put them on your community's website. That is highly commendable. But without taking the place of that good effort, your communities should also transfer the same information to Find-A-Grave. For several reasons. Find-A-Grave will undoubtedly be around long after we are all gone. So the records there will be for many generations to access. It is already well known as a tool for genealogy and research. Someone might not know that your community has its records. But someone might, say, have had an uncle who lived in New Brunswick. He may have forgotten his first name and exactly when he passed away. But even with some partial information, the Find-A-Grave apparatus can locate the person and their final resting spot. Family members, by registering at the website (or helping those without web skills) can download and add their own tokens of remembrance--stories, photographs, mementos. It is also possible to add click-on links to the graves of relatives--parents, siblings, children--for each person listed.

There are also various Find-A-Grave groups which one can subscribe to, to enhance, network and coordinate their tasks with others. In short, thanks to the marvels of cyber technology, we now have a valuable instrument which we can use for the mitzvah of remembrance, to keep



our memories forever. All our Maritime Jewish communities should make their additions; none has done so yet, to my knowledge.

So this holiday season, greet everyone. Have a good New Year.

But also find a couple of people in each community to take on the task of mastering the Find-A-Grave procedures.

Let's hope by this time next year that all communities in our region will have done so, that they will let others know about it, and that many of us will be adding our own contributions to this valuable project. There is so much valuable information that we now can easily share with all generations.

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Universal Judaism in a nutshell

by Rabbi Amram Maccabi, Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax

How can one dare proclaim to compress the vastness of Judaism, the bedrock of all monotheistic religions, in a... nutshell? Is that not insultingly pretentious?

I would have thought so, if it weren't for the precedents that our sages set down some two millennia ago. Rabbi Akiva narrowed down the 613 commandments to one nuclear guideline for interacting with your fellow man or woman as stated in the Book of Vayikra: "Love your neighbor as yourself, I am the Hashem" (known as 'Ve Ahavta'). Follow that, said Rabbi Akiva, and you're good. All the rest are details that derive from that one golden rule.

Later Rabbis, when asked what is it that God wants from us, coined the phrase:

To Perfect the world under the sovereignty of God (known as 'Tikun Olam'). That, they explained, is the underlying reason for the creation of man and woman. Therefore, making the world a better place should indeed be every individual's drive and purpose in life.

But let us take it a step further.

You see, in Yiddish one might comment on the above: "*a groisse de metsiya*" which in typical Jewish sarcasm would idiomatically translate as: "what's the big deal?!" or "Is that's what it's all about?"

Shouldn't the choice of "love over war" be self-evidential? Is it not the obvious aspiration for a normal society to choose life over death; a universal value to prefer good over evil?

Let me answer by questioning back: if it is so obvious, if "everybody knows that!", then pray tell me - why is our world so far away from the obvious? Why are there battles and rivalry in every continent, country, state, settlement, neighbor hood, street, even family?

One must conclude that, for some reason or other, there exists a rift between what is desired and what is in fact, a reality.

The uniqueness of Judaism is that it has a plan. The

Bible includes a detailed program of thirty points for the non-Jew, and of six hundred and thirteen points for the Jew. God Himself laid down these carefully planned operative instructions. What better guarantee that they should work? One need not convert to Judaism in order to fulfill one's destination in life. All people were created in the image of God. All people are given a choice: to follow His instructions and spread good in the world, or to act upon the alternative. If they choose to travel the road paved by God's manuscript, the good road, they will merit to leave it as purely as they entered it, with an additional sense of satisfaction for accomplishing His mission and with a bonus of Reward in the 'World to Come. It's as simple as that. If only all of who were created in His image, would follow His plan...

Moreover, say our sages of blessed memory notice that in both instances quoted above, (as in many more throughout the Bible) there is a reference to God in what would otherwise seemingly appear superfluous. I requote: "*Love your neighbor as yourself, I am the Lord.*" And: "*Perfect the world under the sovereignty of God*". Once one acknowledges the divine source for these humanitarian values, his faith can solidify them, from the lofty idea - to the imperative drive.

Because, the fact that these humanitarian values stem from the Almighty, implies that they are absolute truths. Not comparative, not flexible, not politically correct and definitely non-negotioanable.

The seven Noahide laws that are expected to be adapted by all the nations of the world (not just the Jews), are seven

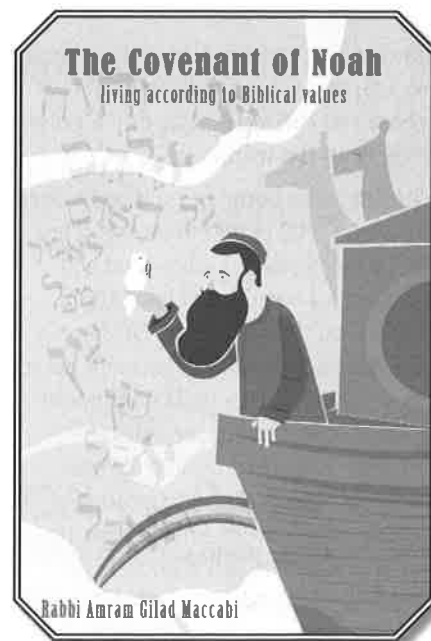


magnificent branches stemming from the trunk of the aforementioned golden rule: "*perfecting the world under the sovereignty of God*". Of course these branches have many more that diverge from them. All in all creating what we refer to as "the tree of life".

What are the Noahide Laws? How can we study them? Where have we been till now? Why isn't all of the above common knowledge? If the Bible holds the key for Man's search for meaning; if it includes a manual for "how to do it?", then, why is it not done?!

All these are valid questions on the path of the righteous. One of the beauties of life is that one can spend a lifetime and never cease to learn something new. There are answers, of course to all these questions and more. But the core principle is as aforementioned: Do good; Perfect the World. That is Judaism in a nutshell. All the rest - is elaboration. We have the rest of our lives to study and to implement the Divine into this world. May there be fulfilled for us the words of the Prophet Isaiah:

"for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples" (56:7).



Shaar Shalom Rabbi Takes New Posting

by Joel Jacobson

Ari Isenberg was only 19 years old, a Concordia University student and a young man from Montreal enthralled with cantorial and secular Jewish music. He heard of a High Holiday cantorial position at Halifax's conservative Shaar Shalom Synagogue, and took the job.

Fourteen years later, he leaves the Shaar Shalom congregants, "saying the hardest 'yes' I've ever said" when offered a new position. "I'm leaving a cherished, beloved community, an adopted family moreso than congregants."

Late this summer, Rabbi Isenberg, 33, will become Associate Rabbi at Temple Israel Centre in White Plains, NY, moving from basically a one-man operation to be part of team of 20, from a congregation of about 200 families to one four times that size.

He will teach adult classes, work with small children on occasion, engage with teenagers and "start a great adventure. It's the perfect next step for me," says Rabbi Isenberg, adding, when asked how far beyond this appointment he has looked, "Man plans and God laughs."

Rabbi Isenberg was High Holidays cantor for three years when Shaar Shalom lost its rabbi. He moved to Halifax to fill some rabbinic functions as spiritual leader of the congregation. Seven years ago, the passion for the rabbinate had been discovered.



Rabbi Ari Isenberg

"There were too many 'aha' moments to mention that triggered the desire," he says. "Some were joyful as families relied on me to help make a simcha unique and meaningful. There was grief, loss and pain which showed me just being there was so necessary. I realized how important what I was doing could be."

The Shaar Shalom members and board were very supportive when he asked to attend Jewish Theological Seminary in New York on a full time basis, planning to spend as much time as allowed continuing his spiritual leader role in Halifax. He returned as many as 20 times a year during his studies, particularly for major holidays. He was learning the theory of the rabbinate and putting that learning to use at the pulpit.

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Murray Schwartz was president when Rabbi Isenberg first arrived. "He was a young man, very amiable, great voice, got along well with everyone," he recalls. "When we were looking for a rabbi, he said he could do the job, with some exceptions. We had had some contentiousness at the pulpit and he brought calm as spiritual leader. It's been a pleasure to see him grow, Schwartz continued. "He earned the respect of the people which was probably difficult for a very young man. "

Mark Rosen, a member of the shul's current executive committee, noted how Rabbi

Isenberg brought a new style to the pulpit. "He ran an enjoyable service with new melodies and connected so well with all generations." Rosen said the Rabbi has been a major influence on the wider community, working on inter-faith endeavors, often representing the community in the media and taking part in public events. He guest lectured at universities. He participated as a vocal artist at the Atlantic Jazz Festival in Halifax and is an aficionado of salsa dancing.

While a search committee has been struck, Rosen said, "We can't look for a replacement because no one can replace Rabbi Ari. He's

a special person. We were truly blessed to have a rabbi and a cantor in one." At a farewell function, Rosen, who attended many Halifax Moosehead (Quebec Major Junior Hockey League) games with the rabbi and shared a love of the Montreal Canadiens, gave the rabbi a Moosehead scarf "to keep him warm" and his personal Habs yarmulke.

Rosen joked. "I've also started a process to have his US visa denied."

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New Year Greeting: 5776/2015

by Rabbi Yitzchok I Yagod, Congregation Tiferes Israel, Moncton

"The message of Elul"

We live in interesting times. We are now at the cusp of a New Year. The world is not at peace and Israel faces new existential threats.

What will be? When will it be safe and secure? As we wonder and ponder, we can also take comfort from the reality that we have faced similar threats before and yet we are still here! The Divine promise is always there and our continued survival is the result.

At the same time there is "The message of Elul": The New Year is preceded by the

Hebrew month of Elul. The word ELUL in Hebrew is also an acronym for the words of the verse (in Shir-HaShirim/Song of Songs) "Ani-Ledodi-V'dodi Li" which means : I am to my beloved and my beloved is to me. Reciprocity and Love the Creator of the World asks us to come and meet Him in His House. He will protect us from



external threats but the continuity and the very survival of the Jewish people is dependent on our continued care and connection to our Traditions. G-d protects and we are to reciprocate with love and responsibility. Let us do our part of the grand, divine deal.

Of course I'd be glad to welcome you to try our wonderful services...but most of all, just connect and join any shul that you feel will work best for you!

See you in shul!

May You Have a Sweet New Year!

Fear of the King vs Love of the King

by Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, Fredericton

Iam reading a novel by David Baldacci named The Escape (hopefully, by the time you read this, I will be done...). The story is about a prisoner in a military correction facility who escapes, and his brother who is an investigator in the army who tries to find him. What I learned so far, is that both brothers have a tremendous respect for their father, who is a retired decorated General, and both learned (and

internalized) many life lessons from their father.

One of these lessons was a little difficult for me to accept! Being an army veteran



myself, it was hard for me to relate to this particular message: "You can't command men in battle if they like you, Bob" his father had said. "They have to have equal parts fear and respect. And I would say fear is even more important than respect. Respect only gets you so far. Fear can get you through every damn obstacle devised by the enemy. Men will follow you to hell if they fear you. Because failing you will scare them more than any other thing they will ever face on the battlefield. You

remember that, son. You remember that if you remember nothing else I've ever told you."

When I was serving as a tank driver in the IDF (TzaHaL), my commanders wanted me to go to a Tank Commander course, and I declined the offer, since I was always joking about everything, and didn't think I could be serious enough to lead a team in battle. But, I never felt that fear is a quality a commander should have, or instilling fear in others.

In our prayers on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, we ask Hashem to: "instill

Your awe upon all your works, and your dread upon all that You have created" (3rd Blessing of the Amida Service). I believe that our Rabbis felt that fear, like General Puller's words, is more important than 'love'. But, my personal belief is that love is more important than fear. I think that to "settle" this paradox, it is best to go back to the Torah for guidance.

In the Ten Commandments, it says first that we must accept G-d's reign over us, without expressing what feeling should be shown, and in the second Commandment, it says that Hashem will get extremely upset if we believed in other gods. The

word in Hebrew for a young man is BACHUR, and the word for a young woman is BACHURA, these words come from the verb 'to choose'. When Hashem chose Abraham and his descendants, I believe that He was like a young lad looking for the 'perfect match'. With the other nations, G-d wishes to have a loving relationship, but if they don't want it or practice it, the minimum requirement is fear!

Wishing you all a very Happy & sweet New Year, and may we all be inscribed in the Book of Life!

The Sukkah - True Security

by Rabbi Mendel Feldman, Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes

There was once a Cheder teacher whom a well-to-do industrialist engaged to serve as the village resident tutor for a period of time. It so happened that during this same period the prosperous businessman built himself a magnificent mansion.

During the housewarming festivities all the household members were, as can be expected, in highly celebratory and cheerful spirits. When the owner of the new home noticed that the visiting teacher was quite caught up in the joyous festivities as well, he turned to him in surprise: "Why so much joy? After all, you are only here temporarily!"

The Melamed, who might have been of humble means but not of humble mind, quickly glanced back at the owner/employer and rejoined: "And you Sir? Do you think you're here forever? You too, are only here temporarily!"

On Sukkot the most abundant season of the year - the time of the harvest, we are called upon to leave our comfortable, secure homes and move into temporary booths.

Prosperity and the power it provides are usually employed towards man's instinctive quest for security and comfort. Governments, like individuals, spare no amount of wealth and skill to acquire well-equipped and well-trained military forces, good security devices for the sake

of protection and comfort.

If we are, in fact, celebrating the festive harvest season - a time of abundance and assurance - why are we asked to leave our secure and comfortable environments in exchange for temporary frail huts? Why, in this most affluent time of year, should we take-up residence in a non-secure, non-insulated, rickety shed?

Even more perplexing is the fact that the holiday of Sukkot is synonymous with joy and happiness - it is actually referred to in our prayers as "The season of our joy." Does a flimsy, unprotected Sukkah, with a fragile and porous roof, truly symbolize prosperity and gladness?

Our Sages explain that by dwelling in the Sukkah we are reminded that all material riches and power are illusory - here today, gone tomorrow. Judaism has, from its earliest inception maintained that security ultimately lies in the hands of the Almighty, and we are to place our trust and faith in Him, not in our own fortresses.

While our insulated, centrally heated and air conditioned brick homes may provide a good measure of bodily comfort, its sense



of security and durability may be false. There are so many threats, both natural and manmade, that can penetrate, even shatter, our secure havens in an instant.

We need only consider the events of the last few years - the most modern and scientifically advanced era in history. Of what use were our fortresses when Kassam rockets came raining down on Northern Israel? Of what use were our secure dwellings when hurricane Sandy came barreling through and wreaking havoc to the entire eastern seaboard?

The Sukkah and the holiday of Sukkot teach us not to put our faith in our own power and might. Not to place all our trust in mortar and brick. It is not enough to depend solely on military and technological capabilities; we must remember that true safety and security are in the hands of a "Higher Authority." Even when our storage houses are filled; when we feel mighty and prosperous, we are reminded not to develop a false sense of permanence and comfort in our manmade castles.

The Festival of Sukkot is a call to set our priorities in life straight. As we enter our fragile and volatile Sukkah with its porous and exposed covering, let us remember that our ability to secure the four sides notwithstanding, the roof always remains gaping and unsecured, only the Creator of the Universe can control the heavens.

continued from page 16

things. The days were made up so that happy, fun, serious and sad things were all together. The holocaust museum definitely gave me a new perspective and a new understanding about the holocaust. It helped me to really connect to my Jewish identity and to further understand what horror the holocaust was and why the Charter of Human Rights was imposed to ensure that it will hopefully never happen again. I really enjoyed how the sessions before the trip got you prepared and gave you information on what you were going to see without giving everything away. You were ready for what you were seeing while still being able to learn a lot. The speakers on the trip also had a huge impact on me. They seemed to make everything you learned come together. It's amazing what they lived through and how they can still tell their story. Overall I think that this program has greatly affected how I connect to Judaism and I

hope that many others will be the chance to participate in this great program.

Ben Rittenberg: The 2015 Asper program for me changed my perspective and understanding of the world in many ways. Every Sunday, the 6 of us would meet and discuss the program material in a unique and fun environment. The topics we covered were mainly based on human rights and Holocaust studies. Our teachers taught us not only about the history of human rights and the Holocaust, but found a way to tie these events into our own lives and make us critical thinkers. I now have a much deeper understanding of the life the Jewish people had to live during the Holocaust in terms of conditions, exclusion, torture, and many other terrible things. This may be looked at as a bad thing, to have such a deep understanding, but it's helped and cleared up questions that I have been asking myself for years. The trip to Washington, D.C., was not only

educational, but lots of fun! I met so many new people from all around the country, including the "Truro boys". Not only is this program so incredible educationally, it opens up other relationships with kids all around the country, which I think is really amazing. In Washington, the group visited many museums including the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. This experience was so emotional and powerful. The museum did such a great job of explaining the hardships of the Holocaust in a way that is indescribable. Using audio, visuals, and text, the Holocaust museum kept my attention throughout my time in the museum, like no other museum I have ever been in. It was truly incredible. My goal coming into this program was to learn more about the Holocaust and human rights, while meeting new people and making great memories that will last a lifetime and I believe that I accomplished this goal through the help of the Asper program.

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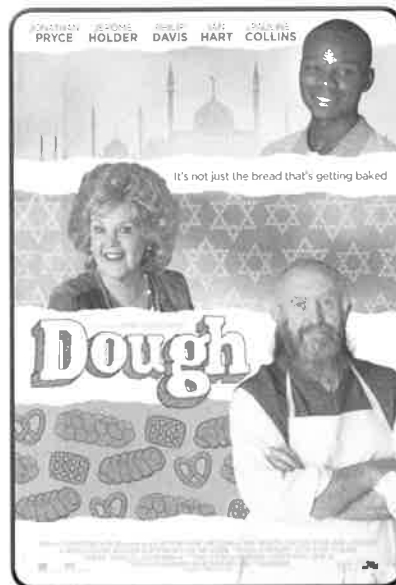
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