

Shalom

CONNECTING THE ATLANTIC JEWISH COMMUNITY



FALL 2016

New Year Greetings

Moncton's Sheldon

Rubin Honoured

Consul General leads

Halifax Pride Parade

CELEBRATING JON GOLDBERG ON HIS RETIREMENT!

JON GOLDBERG WILL END HIS
23-YEAR TERM AS AJC EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR IN NOVEMBER



SHANA
TOVA!
5777
FOR A HAPPY AND
PEACEFUL NEW YEAR



Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation and The Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev are pleased to announce a collaborative health education and research partnership focussing on traumatic brain injury care and the work of Dr. Alon Friedman and his colleagues in both Halifax, Nova Scotia and Beer-Sheva, Negev.

Recognized as a silent epidemic by the world health organization, traumatic brain injury significantly impacts a staggering number of people in Canada and globally. We want to change this.

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Medical research saves lives.

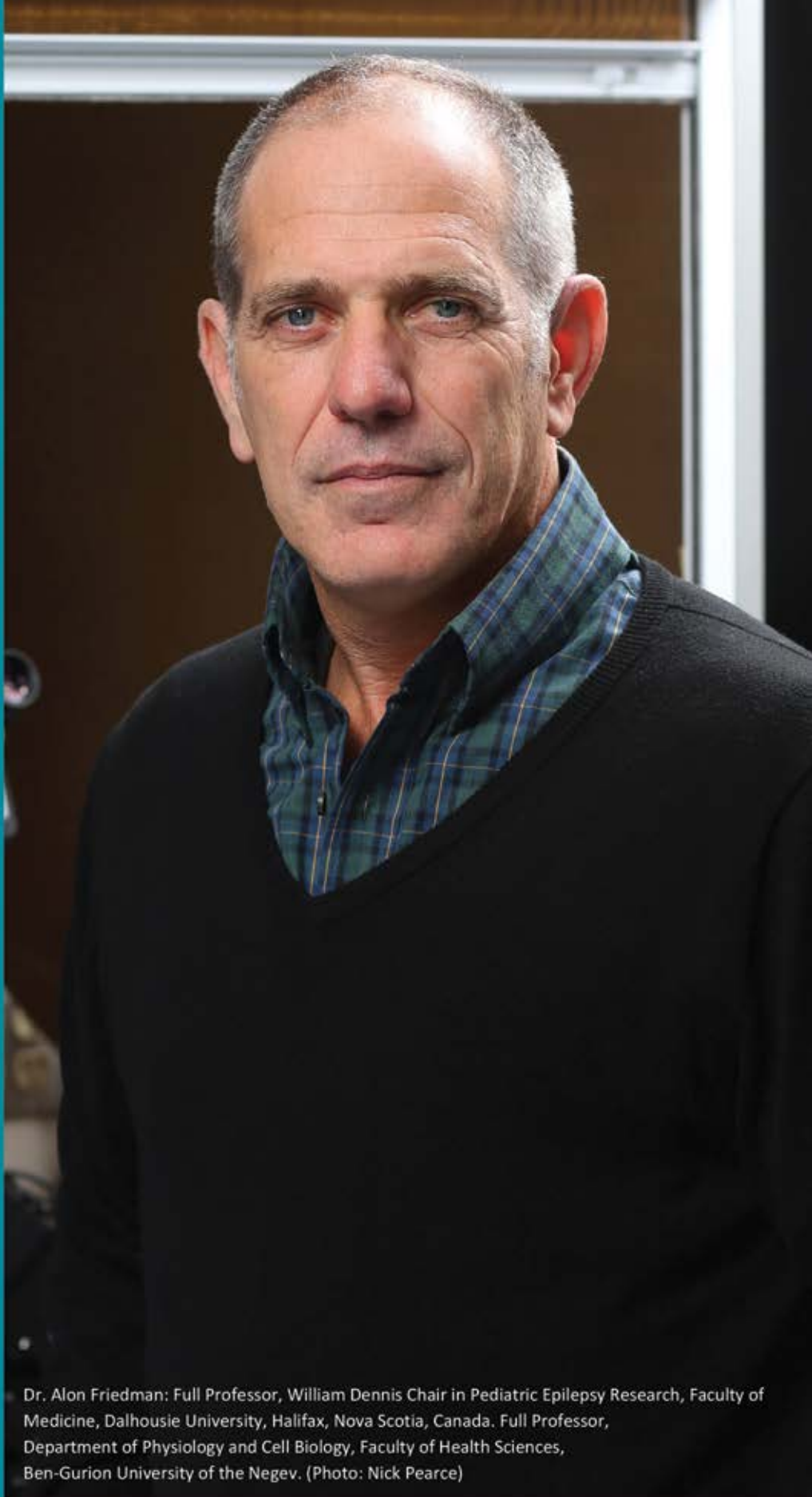
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Dr. Alon Friedman: Full Professor, William Dennis Chair in Pediatric Epilepsy Research, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Full Professor, Department of Physiology and Cell Biology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. (Photo: Nick Pearce)



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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.

Shalom

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COVER FEATURE: PAGE 20
Celebrating Jon Goldberg
on his retirement!

JON GOLDBERG RETIRING AS
AJC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CORRECTION: Shalom Magazine, Spring 2016

Shalom Magazine and writer Joel Jacobson wish to apologize for a major error in the story of Yom Hashoah observances in Halifax in May 2016.

By mistake, reference was made to the Catholic Church helping to protect and save David Korn and his brother, Jacob, from the Nazis during the Holocaust. It was the Lutheran Church and its people who were instrumental in the Korn brothers' survival.

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Message from the Consul General of Israel,
MR. ZIV NEVO KULMAN



Shalom dear Friends,

It is an honour and a pleasure 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 5777.

During the past year, the State of Israel has continued to flourish despite the many challenges that we face at our very doorstep. This ability to adapt to our unfortunate circumstances is rooted in our rich history and heritage as Jews; one that 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, our mission has worked hard to forge closer ties with the governments of all four provinces in Atlantic Canada, as well with your community. Since January, I have had the pleasure to visit and meet political, economic and cultural leaders in Fredericton, St. John's, Charlottetown and Halifax all in the hope of strengthening bilateral relations between our two countries. I am also proud of the Consulate General of Israel's historic decision to celebrate its official reception in honour of Yom Ha'atzmaut in Halifax for the very first time. That milestone attracted a record number of ministers and legislators from across the aisle and is a testament to the warm relations between the people of Atlantic Canada and Israel, and the strength and unity of your community.

I am also delighted to have had the privilege to visit Camp Kadimah for the second year in row – this time for an overnight stay – and to have found new ways and projects to engage with young members of your community.

As we look ahead at the dawn of a New Year, I'd like to also take this opportunity to wish my good friend Jon Goldberg a happy and healthy retirement, while welcoming Ms. Naomi Rosenfeld in her new role as Executive Director of the AJC. I very much look forward to continuing to work in tandem with the AJC and visiting other communities across Atlantic Canada in the year ahead.

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' followed by a stylized surname.

Ziv Nevo Kulman
Consul General of Israel



MICHAEL ARGAND

President of the Atlantic Jewish Council



There is tremendous excitement at the AJC office as we approach the fall. The students will be returning this week and I am pleased to welcome Craig Fox as the Director of Jewish Student Life. Craig is from Halifax, recently served in the IDF and you can read his bio in this issue of Shalom. I know that Craig is very excited and enthusiastic to engage the incoming Jewish students, not only in Halifax but throughout the Atlantic community.

Naomi Rosenfeld our new incoming director began the first of August and has been working with Jon as her mentor. Jon has taken her under his wing and is sharing his valuable experience. Naomi officially begins as Executive Director October 1.

Coincidentally on her first day of her job the AJC had a visit from Premier Stephen McNeil. The Premier was doing constituency visits with the local MLA Labi Kousoulis. Edna LeVine, Jon, Naomi and I were there on behalf of the AJC. It was a very constructive meeting and it is my understanding that this was the first time the Premier formally met with representatives of the Jewish community. Edna spoke to the Premier about our issues with the changes to the provincial immigration policy. Mr. McNeil was very impressed with our success rate in the integration of the newcomers community and especially with the high retention rate. I understand that Edna has contacted staff from his office to follow up on the issues she was concerned about.

Jon was very impressive when he engaged the premier on his pet project of the time during the World War I when David Ben Gurion and the Jewish Legion trained in Windsor. The Premier being from Annapolis was intrigued by the history and Jon was



PHOTO: Premier Stephen McNeil, centre, with from left to right, Naomi Rosenfeld, Jon Goldberg, Edna LeVine, Michael Argand and The Honourable Labi Kousoulis.

able to convey the possibility of creating a tourist site in Windsor to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of this important milestone.

The staff in the office is busy planning the 20th Biennial Convention that this year will run concurrently with the Jewish Film Festival. Marilyn Kaufman from Fredericton along with my wife Jo-Anne Nozick are co-chairs of the convention. Marilyn was kind enough to travel to Halifax last week in order

to discuss the programming for the upcoming convention. I encourage as many of you to attend as it will be a very exciting and innovative program along with the opportunity to see some wonderful Jewish films. One sure highlight will be our thank you and testimonial to Jon for all the many wonderful years of service he has provided to the Atlantic Jewish Community.

I wish everyone a wonderful Shana Tova. ❧

From The Desk Of
JON GOLDBERG

Executive Director



It is early in September and the sun is shining as I look out on a busy Spring Garden Road. Just a few weeks to go and I will no longer be the Executive Director of the Atlantic Jewish Council after twenty-three years in the position.

The years have flown by and as I look back, I do feel some sense of satisfaction as to what I have been able to accomplish and yet, while so much has been done, there is so much more to do. I have served under eight presidents and boards. During my tenure, I have assisted in organizing ten biennial conventions from Halifax to Moncton to Fredericton. I have directed twenty-three United Jewish Appeal campaigns in our region, attended over forty National meetings of major Canadian Jewish organizations on your behalf. I have travelled to Israel at least ten times on behalf of the Coast to Coast Partnership 2000 and was able to organize and staff five missions to Israel during my years as Executive Director.

I represented the AJC on the Camp Kadi-mah committee for the past twenty-three years and helped found the Atlantic Jewish Foundation eighteen years ago. Over fifteen years ago, we established our Regional Chaplaincy with Rabbi David Ellis. We have been able to provide a religious presence to those communities who can no longer sustain full time rabbinical services.

Among my responsibilities are representing our region to the Embassy of Israel in Ottawa and to the Consul General of Israel

in Montreal. I have also been the spokesman for our community to the media and with the advice and assistance of Canadian Jewish Congress and now CIJA; I have been responsible for Israel advocacy and fighting antisemitism where possible throughout our region.

Here at the AJC, we also promote inter-faith dialogue and multicultural ideas with our fellow Atlantic Canadians. I am pleased to have been part of our relationship with the hundreds of Jewish students through Hillel. We obtained a Jewish student Bayit from the Latner Foundation over ten years ago, which now I am pleased to say is owned by the AJC.

Some eight years ago, with the support of both synagogues here in Halifax, we signed an agreement with the provincial government to fast-track Jewish immigration to Nova Scotia. With little or no support from the National Jewish organizations, I am pleased to say that over eighty families have settled in the metro area in the last seven years, over sixty families have bought homes and we have been able to inject a boost into our under forty population. In fact, over sixty percent of the young Jewish children in Halifax under the age of fifteen are from our

newcomer families. Yes, the program hasn't been perfect, but it remains in my mind one of our greatest accomplishments over the past decade.

As the years have gone by, the demographics of our region have changed; the priorities have changed, and of course so have the leadership. The communities outside of Halifax have struggled with a declining and very senior population. I have always felt that these communities were not quite satisfied with Halifax as the center of Atlantic Jewry. Maybe we should and could have done more but I always felt nationally that we stood up for all Atlantic Canada and without the AJC; most of our region would be forgotten by the National Jewish organizations.

My friends, time and space would not allow me to recognize and thank everyone who played such an important role during my years as your Executive Director. My memory may also be fading as the years go by, however, there are a couple of names and people who stand out in my mind for the work that they have done as volunteers for our Atlantic Jewish community. Larry Freeman, Victor Goldberg, Mark Rosen, Kathy Zilbert, and Howard Conter- thank you for the support both for me and for our

region which you continually provided; to Sheva and Shulamith Medjuck and Michael Argand, for your commitment to our community.

To Andrew Wolfson, Mark Rosen, Jim Spatz, Victor Goldberg, Michael Pink, Michael Soberman, and to my good friends Sheldon Cohen, Marty Zatzman, Joanna Wexler, Jared Goldlust, and Phil David, you have all kept Camp Kadimah each in your own way; “our home sweet home”. I have served on the camp committee for over twenty five years and hope to be part of the seventy-fifth reunion in 2018. To the leadership of Club Masada and my friend Phil Alberstat, thank you for our many years together.

My thanks to the great staff that we have had over the past years; particularly Edna LeVine for her work with Holocaust education and *Shalom magazine*, Svetlana Ratchinski for her understanding and wonderful

sense of humour as our bookkeeper for the past seven years. I would also like to thank Dov Harris and Perry Romberg at UIA Toronto for their advice and assistance over the years. To Mark David, an old friend, who was CIJA staff here in Atlantic Canada for the past five years, thank you for your advice and wonderful efforts on behalf of Israel and in fighting antisemitism in our region.

To all the members of the various Boards of Directors, in particular the regional reps, I thank you for your support and your efforts on behalf of our region.

So, my friends, the time has come to say goodbye as your Executive Director. The incoming director, Naomi Rosenfeld, has been here in our office for the past month and she

will take over on October 1st. I know she will do a great job and has already impressed me with her knowledge and acumen. As for me, I will move over to the campaign desk and direct the 2016 UJA Campaign through the end of the year. After that, who knows?

To all our readers, my best wishes to you and your families for a happy and healthy 5777 and to my many friends in the Atlantic Jewish community, thank you for your support and your efforts on behalf of Atlantic Jewry.

“Am Yisrael Chai”! ❧

To all the members of the various Boards of Directors, in particular the regional reps, I thank you for your support and your efforts on behalf of our region

Read more
about Jon
on pages
20-23





*The Atlantic
Jewish Council
board of directors
and the staff
wish all our readers
and their families
good health,
happiness & peace
in the new year.*

Shana Tova U'metukah

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From The Desk Of NAOMI ROSENFELD

Incoming Executive Director

I came to Atlantic Canada for the first time as a 10-year old camper in Camp Kadimah's Goshrim section. I didn't know anyone, nor did I have any familial connection to Atlantic Canada. Kadimah was the third overnight summer camp I had attended in as many summers; I was convinced that, much like those other camps, Kadimah wouldn't feel right for me. I remember confessing to one of my counsellors how scared I was that I wouldn't be able to sleep my first night in Barss Corner. In comforting me, her words were: "Don't worry, there's something about the air in the Maritimes. You'll sleep."

Whether it was the air itself, or the 6:00 AM flight I had taken from Toronto that morning, I fell asleep quickly that night. In my subsequent 10 summers at Kadimah, I never forgot that counsellor's sentiment. I never forgot to look for the impact that the Atlantic Canadian surroundings had on my time at Kadimah: I saw it on our camping trips to Kejimikujik National Park, I felt it when the camp came together to sing "We Rise Again" at formal ceremonies, and I experienced it daily in the effect that the cohort of Atlantic Canadian campers had on their peers, myself included.

Yet, through my many years at Kadimah, I never imagined that one day I'd be lucky enough to call this place my home, and this Jewish community my Jewish community.

Many people have asked me why I wanted to move away from family to come to Atlantic Canada. The truth is, from the moment I came here as the Director of Jewish Student Life, a role at the AJC that works with Jewish students on campus across the region, I was struck by the strength and warmth of this unique Jewish community. I was taken aback by this community's tireless commitment to Judaism and Israel, caring nature towards one another, and hospitality in opening its homes to both my students and me. I have lived amongst many Jewish communities – large and small – but the Jewish community here in Atlantic Canada is truly unparalleled.



The AJC has a strong tradition and an even stronger foundation. It is this very foundation that offers us an optimistic future, a future that unites the Atlantic Jewish community within and among the different cities and in the region as a whole. It is a future that is connected to other parts of Canada, North America, and Israel and that leverages the best practices and resources available.

I am confident that together, we can ensure that a new generation of young leaders actively shapes this community, and Jews of every age and background eagerly engage with and strengthen their Jewish identities and develop lifelong relationships with Israel.

While my belief in such a positive future is unwavering, the truth is that I don't know exactly how it will look. In the coming few months, I hope to work together with each of you to help craft a vision for the Atlantic Jewish community's future. I plan to work to create a detailed plan of how we can bring our vision to life. To do this, I need all of your help.

Over the next few months, I will be reaching out to community members representing all segments of this community: young and old, observant and secular, newcomer and Atlantic-Canadian born. I want to hear your perspectives and insights as to the best possible future for Atlantic Canadian Jewry and your thoughts regarding how the AJC can best position itself to deliver what is required and what is aspired. These discussions can and will be ongoing, but I especially look forward to partaking in them during our Biennial Convention, which will occur on Nov. 18th-20th in conjunction with the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival. No matter the

particulars, I am entirely confident that this community's outlook is promising – and I am committed to working tirelessly to ensure that such a future materializes.

Although I have only been back here a short time, I already owe my gratitude to several people. Firstly, I would like to thank our Board of Directors for the trust and support they've shown throughout my hiring and transition process. In particular, I wish to thank our President Michael Argand for his overall guidance and his help with the renovations of our property on Walnut Street in Halifax. I'd also like to express my appreciation to the many volunteers who have provided me with valuable insights into Jewish life across the region as they work diligently to enrich it for all of us. Of course, I am also impressed with the continued hard work and dedication of our staff team at the AJC: Svetlana Ratchinski, our Controller; Edna LeVine our Director of Community Engagement; Rabbi David Ellis, our Regional Chaplain; and Craig Fox, our new Director of Jewish Student Life. I also want to say a special thank you to Jon Goldberg, our Outgoing Executive Director, for his patience and guidance throughout this transition process. Jon's thoughtful leadership and devotion to this Jewish community over the last quarter of a century has been nothing short of remarkable, and it will undoubtedly be an exciting challenge to try and live up to his legacy in this role.

Throughout my childhood, when the summer drew to a close, my time in Atlantic Canada for the year also came to an end. I could not be more excited to be staying well past this summer, and I still sleep well thanks to the great team of professionals and lay leaders here at the AJC, my optimism for the future of Atlantic Canadian Jewry, and, of course, the Maritime air.

May the New Year be filled with sweetness, health, and happiness for all of our readers. I can't wait to get to know you all throughout 5777 and beyond!

Shana Tova! 🌟

ATLANTIC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER **16-20** 2016
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

AJFF.ca

SATURDAY NIGHT GALA

FOLLOWING THE SCREENING OF THE FILM:
IN SEARCH OF ISRAELI CUISINE

NOVEMBER 19, 2016

FEATURING ISRAELI CUISINE

THE GALA & SCREENING WILL BE HELD AT THE
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

1747 SUMMER STREET, HALIFAX

From The Desk Of EDNA LEVINE

Director of Community Engagement

The Canadian Race Relations Foundation hosted a symposium this spring in Halifax, Living Together, initiating discussions on values and identity. The one day event was an opportunity to connect and share with a diverse group of people a vision for an inclusive community in Halifax. Conversations on fighting prejudice, creating a welcoming community for newcomers and identifying existing barriers to inclusiveness dominated the session. Stories from participants echoed many of the obstacles new families to our community encounter as they struggle to adapt to Canadian life.

I continue to facilitate creating a welcoming environment for newcomers in Halifax, a summer barbecue, at the AJC community house at 1881 Walnut Street, provided an occasion for new families to connect with each other and share experiences and information. A further effort to bridge community was the Summer Family Shabbaton at Camp Kadimah. Twenty-seven families enjoyed a fun weekend on Lake William meeting new families and connecting with friends. I was pleased to work with a volunteer committee, headed by Nana Shteinberg, to plan this weekend. Shabbaton highlights are in the Around Our Region section of this magazine.

Programs for the 13th Holocaust Education Week include partnerships with the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, University of King's College and the Halifax Central Library with sponsorship from the Azrieli Foundation. This year Holocaust Education Week expands to New Brunswick. In consultation with Dr. Israel Unger we are organizing the first, of what we hope will be one of many, programs at a local church.

The 3rd Atlantic Jewish Film Festival in Halifax opens November 16th screening international award-winning films for five days. The organizing committee, with returning chair Lynn Rotin, is anticipating another year of capacity crowds and we have been working diligently to ensure an engaging line-up of films. This year's gala party will be just as spectacular coinciding with the 20th AJC



Biennial celebration. Please get your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

Earlier this spring I met with Dr. Daniel Paul, Mi'kmaq Elder and Dr. Dorota Glowacka, University of King's College, to discuss a potential joint program for Holocaust Education Week. First Nations histories, the genocide of Indigenous people, parallels between Jewish and Aboriginal experiences of historical trauma were discussed along with the need for our communities to support each other. I came away with Daniel Paul's book, "We Were Not the Savages, Collision between European and Native America Civilizations" to better understand this crime against humanity. I quickly realized the necessity for a prerequisite First Nations History education session for members of the Jewish community, prior to organizing a program for Holocaust Education Week. Recently Dorota and I met with Rabbi Raysh Weiss, Shaar Shalom Synagogue, to pursue the prospect for jointly hosting an educational session in our community. Rabbi Weiss is keen to explore this opportunity and

we hope to announce a program in the near future. For more information on First Nations History go to www.danielnpaul.com in addition to Paul's biography his website contains maps, historical information, photos, paintings and educational links.

Spur festival, hosted by the Literary Review of Canada, launched in 2013 in Winnipeg, Vancouver and Toronto, has now expanded to Halifax. Based on a collaborative model, Spur brings together the general public with a wide variety of presentations to encourage dialogue and re-create a vision of society. I am currently working on a festival program to host in partnership – a film screening to inspire and initiate conversations on inclusion, please see www.spurfestival.ca for the festival schedule.

Saying goodbye to Jon Goldberg – working at the AJC for nine years with Jon as executive director has been a happy time. I have learned from his leadership, his passionate commitment to our community, his ability to instill Jewish values, his use of humour to inspire, his talent to innovate change, his openness to share knowledge and his willingness to support new community programs. I am extremely grateful that I had this opportunity to develop my skills in such a positive environment and his wit, Yiddishkeit and easy-going nature will be missed.

Wishing you & your family a sweet & healthy new year, Shana Tovah. ❧



(LEFT) Consul General Ziv Nevo Kulman, hosted a celebration for Israel's 68th birthday, at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 (RIGHT) At Israel's 68th birthday celebration, with Dr. Dorota Glowacka, University of King's College, Ann Divine, CEO, Ashanti Leadership and Denise DeLong, Manager Connector Program, Halifax Partnership

CIJA REPORT

"The Times they Are a-Changin'"

BY MARK DAVID

One of Bob Dylan's most famous songs (and albums) is "*The Times they Are a-Changin'*", which was released in January, 1964. The title applies as much in the summer/fall of 2016 to the Jewish community of Atlantic Canada as to the political and social changes that Dylan was describing.

Upon starting a new job at the end of July, I resigned my advocacy consultant position with The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs. There are new Rabbis at Halifax's Shaar Shalom and Beth Israel congregations, and a new Director of Jewish Student Life for campuses across Atlantic Canada. There will soon be a new CEO of the Atlantic Jewish Council, which itself is on the move to the Bayit.

I am proud to call myself a Zionist. I can best explain my Zionist philosophy by quoting Professor Gil Troy:

"I am a Zionist because I am a Jew – and without recognizing a national component in Judaism I cannot explain its unique character. Judaism is a world religion bound to one homeland, a people whose Holy Days are defined by the Israeli agricultural calendar, rooted in theological concepts and linked with historic events."

As a Zionist, and as a person who has been active in Jewish religious life and Israel advocacy for most of my adult life, I think that these are especially challenging times. I am not the type of person to make accusations of antisemitism lightly, but it is clear to me that antisemitism is as prevalent now as it ever was. Even more troubling, it is often deliberately and disingenuously disguised as criticism of Israel – the most prominent example of which is the BDS Movement. And even if one has not personally experienced a direct act of antisemitism, please do not think that its poison is confined to the United Nations, the Middle East or Europe – it is readily available locally, especially in its anti-Israel form, and especially on certain university campuses. While I do not want to overstate what I see as the current reality, I also do not

want to turn a blind eye to it. In that vein, you can interpret the first verse from Dylan's famous song as you wish:

*"Come gather 'round people
Wherever you roam
And admit that the waters
Around you have grown
And accept it that soon
You'll be drenched to the bone
If your time to you
Is worth savin'
Then you better start swimmin'
Or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin'."*

In my previous CIJA columns, I have urged people to become involved in advocacy. It is perhaps fitting that in my last CIJA Report, I make the same exhortation. Give some of your time, energy and talent toward making a difference. There are lots of ways to get involved, and some of the issues that require advocacy, such as genetic discrimination, might surprise you. Re-engage with your synagogue (whether in Halifax or elsewhere) and your local Jewish community. Support the new leadership. Take the time to communicate with them and let them know what matters to you in your community or on your campus. Support the annual UJA Campaign. Whatever you do, get involved, because you can help make a difference.

I want to say "thank you" to a variety of people:

- my colleagues at CIJA; you were always available to assist with issues large and small, and gave prompt and practical advice. Your experience and guidance gave me a better understanding of a strategic approach to advocacy, and made me a better advocate;
- my colleagues at the AJC, for your constant support; and
- the small but dedicated group of individuals across Atlantic Canada, both in the Jewish community and beyond, who were actively involved with advocacy.

A CAUTIONARY TALE: BDS TEARS APART THE GREEN PARTY

BY STEVE MCDONALD

In early August, the Green Party of Canada voted at its national convention to endorse Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions (BDS) measures against segments of Israel's economy and society. BDS advocates were quick to claim victory, citing that the Greens are now the first Canadian political party of any significance to support BDS.

But not so fast

In the wake of the vote, party leader Elizabeth May immediately declared she is "devastated" by the decision and "disappointed that the membership has adopted a policy in favor of a movement that I believe to be polarizing, ineffective, and unhelpful in the quest for peace and security for the peoples of the Middle East." May added that, "as is the right of any member, I will continue to express personal opposition to BDS" – a breath-taking statement to hear from a party leader, particularly when the leader is the party's sole voice in Parliament.

In the weeks that followed, May openly mused to the media about how this entire episode was

Finally, I cannot close this article without expressing my deep appreciation to Jon Goldberg. Our strong friendship goes back further than either of us would care to admit, and we have had our share of both laughs and tears along the way. I am hard-pressed to name someone who is more passionate than Jon when it comes to Israel. We met and spoke regularly about advocacy matters, and I'm going to miss those Sunday morning meetings in particular. Jon always supported my advocacy efforts, even if we occasionally disagreed on tactics. I wish him only good health and happiness in his retirement.

It has been a privilege to serve the Atlantic Canada Jewish community as the CIJA advocacy representative for the past five years. May you all enjoy health, happiness and prosperity in 5777. Thank you. 5

causing her to rethink her future in the Green Party. In an interview with CBC Radio, May talked about the possibility of walking away from the party: "I would say as of this minute I think I'd have real difficulties going not just to an election but through the next month. There are a lot of issues I want to be talking about with Canadians, and this isn't one of them."

And May wasn't alone. The leader of the B.C. Green Party, Andrew Weaver, issued a scathing statement disavowing the federal party's decision. "This is not a policy that I nor the B.C. Green Party support," said Weaver. "I think the Green Party of Canada needs to take a careful look at their policy process and ask themselves how a policy that goes against Green Party values could have been allowed on the floor of a convention."

Various Green candidates likewise condemned the decision. One from Ottawa said "I'm in a state of disbelief... I don't agree with it, I don't like having that over me going into [the next] election." Another from Halifax said that the policy is "destructive for the party... Every country has its issues. When we specifically single out Israelis, I worry about the buzzwords and subtext and code language, which is anti-Semitic."

A party torn apart. A leader willing to quit. Controversial headlines eclipsing anything else the party intended to highlight coming out of convention. Is this what a BDS victory looks like?

The fight against BDS revolves around psychology much more than economics. Israel's economy is strong, with trade and ties growing despite calls for BDS. But on the psychological level, BDS activities have the potential to poison attitudes toward Israel among civil society organizations and demoralize the Jewish community. On both levels, BDS proponents failed when it comes to the Green Party.

While May has since declared she will stay on as leader, every Green voter should be outraged that BDS activists – in using the party to promote their own marginal agenda – nearly pushed the Greens' only voice in Parliament out of the party. If anything, this initiative has exposed the toxic nature of BDS to those it intended to seduce. As CIJA Chair David Cape recently wrote: "Once again, BDS has proven bitterly and publicly divisive for political parties that contemplate endorsing it. In this case, BDS has sown resentment among Greens and come at a great cost for anti-Israel activists."

And when it comes to the morale of the Jewish community, this issue has mobilized thousands of Jewish Canadians across the political spectrum (including former Green Party members) to speak out and condemn the party's hostility toward Israel. In a matter of weeks, CIJA galvanized some 7,500 Canadians to email the Green Party's leadership to express their opposition to this initiative. Without question, our united efforts had an impact, with Elizabeth May openly admitting BDS is "very clearly a polarizing movement that leaves most of the Jewish community in Canada feeling that it is anti-Semitic."

Hopefully, this will spur May and other Greens to take the steps needed to annul the BDS policy, and regain control of the party's direction from those behind this hateful agenda.

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



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CAMP KADIMAH NEWS



Why the 2016 summer theme finally answered the “big question”

BY PHIL DAVID, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAMP KADIMAH

Having just closed the gates on Kadimah 2016, our 74th summer, I finally had time to reflect on my 2nd full season as Director during my peaceful and eerily quiet drive back to Toronto following 8 weeks on site. And my thoughts kept coming back to the age old question, “Why is Kadimah so special?” For all my Kadimah friends and anyone I speak with who has spent time in Barss Corner, it’s an age old debate which usually ends with the same conclusion – *“If you go, you’ll get it.”*

But as a 17 summer veteran of what we all call the ‘greatest place on earth’- dating back to the early 70s when Bruce Elman and Shaul Landa were my Directors – I am also in the business of selling Kadimah to prospective families – from Nova Scotia to BC and Israel and well beyond. And the question I get asked on every house visit, information session or casual conversation I engage in from living rooms and parking lots to arenas and coffee shops is “Why Kadimah?”

To those of us who have been to Kadimah, it’s obvious...so Alumni parents who have reaped her benefits rarely have to ask. Now imagine speaking with non-Kadimah parents who already understand the value of sending their child to a Jewish camp but know nothing about Kadimah other than its name.

For Maritimers, we have the advantage of proximity and at least some innate knowledge of the brand, so that’s a bonus, but certainly not a given with so much choice out there for summer fun. For others, the thought of hopping on a plane and then taking a 90 minute bus ride to a place called Barss Corner which is invisible on most maps – where the cabins don’t have Wi Fi, phones, television, Facebook or Twitter – and to do it all for 6 weeks (!)...that’s a pretty big mountain to climb.

But this summer, we were fortunate to welcome 296 campers through our gates...40%+

more than we had just 3 years ago for comparison’s sake. Most campers stayed for the full 6 weeks while others took a more conservative approach and enrolled in the Taste of Kadimah (10 days) and Intro Program (3 weeks). On top of that, we launched a new Sneak Peek program where 6 to 9 year olds stayed overnight leading up to Pre-Gibbie Day in late July.

So when I ask our campers what makes Kadimah so special, the answers were as broad as they were personal. And the blatantly obvious finally dawned on me after a decades long search for an answer. There is no one reason. Kadimah is Kadimah because of what it means to each of us – individually. And that’s how our 2016 theme was born – ***I am Kadimah***. Because at the end of the day, we all return to, or cherish our time at, Kadimah because of what it means to us personally – and as I am learning, it’s never the same for any one Kadimahnik.

To steal from the 2016 Director’s Iton (Yearbook) article – which I’m pretty sure only my mom in Sydney read – we all share a role in making Kadimah what it is and as a result, we are all shaped in some way – big or small – by our experiences at this magical place down in Barss Corner. For some, it’s the daily activities from Swim and Boating to Sports and the Arts...or camp wide events like Maccabia, Israel Day or Haganah Night.

For others, it’s the relationship with their counsellors which I know first-hand has an impact for a lifetime. And the list goes on, but I will say the common thread that binds us all – which everyone spoke about so passionately – relates to the people we meet from far and near and the intense friendships that form as the result of having a 42-night sleepover with a kid sleeping in the next bunk who we may have never met, from a town or country we may have never been to or heard of.

In short, “I am Kadimah” means something different for each of us. For me, I see Kadimah as a place where a kid can be a kid; where Jewish values are proudly on display every day; where identities are shaped judgment free; where self-confidence explodes and our ability to interact and problem-solve with peers and staff happen so naturally, we don’t even notice how far we’ve come until we get back to school and realize just how much further ahead we are than when we left.

But that’s just me. To our campers, alumni and parents...what does Kadimah mean to you? I’m always interested to hear your answers so reach out to the camp office anytime to share your thoughts (info@campkadimah.com).

As a born and bred Cape Bretoner, one of the neatest things for my friends and me who got to attend YJ gatherings in Sydney and Glace Bay was going to camp each year and meeting kids from outside our classroom and our region. Fast forward to 2016 where more than 70 Maritimes’ based campers were interspersed with over 170 Ontarians, 27 Israelis, 13 Americans, 2 Singaporeans (via the Belitsky family in Halifax) and many others from Montreal to Victoria. Back home, where Wi Fi and screens and phones are always within grasp, the contact these kids have with each other makes it easy to stay in touch and only serves to strengthen the bonds they formed at camp.

That’s the camper perspective. What about our staff? With some very explicit pressure facing these fringe Millennials or Generation Z’s to get a ‘real’ summer job in the city so they are not ‘left behind’, our 100 staff – 17 of whom are from the Maritimes – chose Kadimah as their summer workplace.

As a veteran of corporate life for 25 years before landing this awesome role, I’ve preached – probably too loudly – that there

is no more *real world job* than working at a summer camp like ours. Managing a cabin or a specialty activity, problem solving, collaborating under very tight deadlines, addressing conflict, program execution, organizational skills, leadership opportunities...our staff get the full gamut which they may not be remotely exposed to for 5 or 10 years into their careers. The biggest difference is, at camp, they're on the clock 24-7 for 6 weeks straight. In the so-called real world, there are more perks like lunch breaks and weekends off – but it's rare to be immersed in a more challenging, exhausting, exhilarating and rewarding job all at once! Thanks to Maritimers Maya, Robyn, Shael, Zane, Peter, Jonah, Jacob, Roy, Ethan, Or, Yael, Hiyam, Yan, Lola, David, Nik and Kass. Kol Hakavod.

I always get asked, what stands out as my favorite memories of 2016. It's hard to answer because so much happens in the space of 6 weeks. Every day has a month's worth of stuff jammed into it and life moves at warp speed, so I tend to revert to the simple things. Mostly, I am blown away by the enthusiasm of our staff and campers; their endless energy and singing and dancing; their warmth and kindness even during the intensity of Maccabia; the silly things like the lure of Spitz sunflower seeds; the race to the flags at Mikfad and to the dinner bell outside the Chadar; the extremely loud and very obvious cabin hopping; the shpilkas at Mikfad and most importantly, their genuine love for each other and their second home. I'm convinced we have the world's best campers and staff. Without them, this place is just a beautiful camp site. With them, Kadimah really is a *beautiful camp*.

We hope you keep in touch with us throughout the off-season. Visit our website (campkadimah.com); like us on Facebook (facebook.com/campkadimah) and watch our videos on CKTV (vimeo.com/campkadimah).

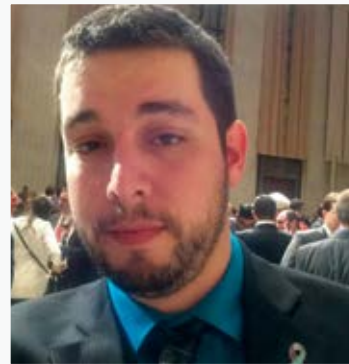
Thanks to all for a terrific summer, 2016 and a special shout out to all the Maritimers who passed through our gates – campers, alumni and parents. Registration is now open and I hope to see you all on July 2, 2017 back at the greatest place on earth.

And remember, *we are all Kadimah*. 5



CAMPUS NEWS

BY CRAIG FOX, DIRECTOR, HILLEL ATLANTIC CANADA



With the new school year, there is also a new Director of Jewish Student Life for Hillel Atlantic Canada. I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce myself properly to the community. My name is Craig Fox, and I am a Halifax native who has spent the last 4 years working

as a paramedic in the city, and before that lived in Israel and completed a combat service in the IDF. I have been an active volunteer in both the local and national Jewish communities and am looking forward to taking on this role.

With the new year I am excited to work with our fantastic student board and to grow Hillel Atlantic Canada both in our numbers of students involved, and in our engagement with the rest of the campus community and our local Jewish communities. This semester we are hoping to engage more with our community on campus and grow both our allies and friendships with other groups on campus. It is important that we don't segregate ourselves on campus and that we reach out and prove ourselves to be a valuable group on the campuses across Atlantic Canada.

The safety and security of the students on campus is always my top priority. I am thankful that our campuses have not seen the same issues that have been facing some of the campuses across Canada with anti-Israel activities that have escalated to the point of making campus an unsafe place. We will continue to work to ensure that our students continue to feel comfortable on campus and to respond appropriately to any issue that may arise.

I look forward to working in the community and helping our students as they grow both in their professional and Jewish lives.

I can be reached at craig@hillelatlantic.ca with any questions you may have.

Shanah Tovah, wishing you a happy and peaceful new year. 5

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MONCTON'S SHELDON RUBIN HONOURED

BY JOEL JACOBSON PHOTO PROVIDED BY ALAN NATHANSON

Sheldon Rubin thought the celebration was to recognize his retirement as a long-time hematologist and oncologist at The Moncton Hospital

Still emotional several days afterwards, the Moncton native said, with choking voice, "I thought there would be a dozen or so people in a small room. But there were more than 200 (crowded into a hospital dining area). I was totally surprised when they named the oncology clinic after me."

Rubin, who treated thousands of patients for cancer and blood disorders, recently retired after 41 years at the hospital. He graduated from Dalhousie University med school in Halifax in 1967, and did four years of residency and training in Halifax, and two years at Princess Margaret's Hospital in Toronto.

"I trained in internal medicine, then hematology which, when I was in med school, I thought would be the best fit," said Rubin. "I wanted to practice in the Maritimes and, with little hematology in New Brunswick, found Moncton to be the best option."

As the first hematologist in Moncton, he had much freedom in setting up the program the way he wanted. "But I had to prove to the hospital's executive that what I was doing was important and deserving of support."

Horizon Health Network board chairman David Ferguson told the Moncton Times-Transcript Rubin fought for advances in cancer treatment locally for all the right reasons – purely for the patients. "It has always been about the patients with him," Ferguson said.

Many paid tribute to the cancer doctor whose knowledge and experience were sought by colleagues across New Brunswick, Canada and internationally.

"Dr. Rubin is a well respected oncologist [and] hematologist," said New Brunswick Minister of health Victor Boudreau. "It is only appropriate to name the facility after him since Dr. Rubin played such a key role in establishing it."

From a clinic with Rubin as sole oncologist, it grew to today's six oncologists in a new oncology wing that features the latest high-tech equipment and a 30-bed cancer ward. Rubin has been credited with many of the advances in cancer treatment in Moncton and New Brunswick.

"Nothing was too good for Rubin's patients," veteran radiologist Dr. James Noonan said. "Rubin would order every test imaginable if that's what it took to get to the heart of the illness he was treating. That technique is now known as 'Rubinization,'" he said.

In a phone interview with CJN, Rubin's voice broke when he talked of the happy outcomes he's seen.


"Every time you see someone cured, there is no greater feeling than seeing the patient's, and their family's, happiness. You can't measure the joy when, as I have, you see a teen leukemia patient grow into a vibrant woman who now has two children and a vibrant career."

He called the honour a testament to those who helped him throughout his career. The clinic has been cited by patients, hospital staff and administrators as the gold standard in cancer care.

Rubin deflected the praise to him. "You can't do it without the people with whom you work," Rubin said.

Rubin has been credited with many of the advances in cancer treatment in Moncton and New Brunswick

Married to wife Sharon for 43 years, Rubin has two children and two grandchildren. Rubin praised his wife who took care of the family when he was working long hours.

With a smile in his voice, he said, "She controlled me when my temper got the better of me. She's the rock of my life." 



PARTNERSHIP TOGETHER

BY HOWARD CONTER, INCOMING CANADIAN CHAIR

In May 2016 Halifax played the role of host City for our Canada-Israeli Partnership Together meetings.

This Partnership is made up of six Canadian Cities Vancouver, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa and Atlantic Canada and five Communities in the North of Israel above the Sea of Galilee.

The partnership allows Canada and Israel to work on a series of projects that involve, education, health care and youth at risk. We are able as a group to identify projects in Israel that are then funded by our communities, individual donors in Canada and institutions in Israel.

This partnership has also been involved in providing a Canadian summer camp experience for Israeli 16 year olds from the Northern Galilee each summer for the past 20 years. It's been a wonderful opportunity for our Atlantic Canadian kids to make ever lasting friendships with their fellow Israeli campers.

The meetings take place in a different Canadian city each spring and in Israel each fall. They present face to face opportunities to discuss the ongoing state of affairs in Northern Israel and allows us to provide solutions and funding.

It is the only real chance for Atlantic Canada to have an actual say in how money is used to benefit our Israeli partners.



It also provides an amazing social opportunity to form lasting friendships with our Israeli comrades. During this year's May meeting, besides necessary working sessions held at the Lord Nelson Hotel, our Canadian and Israeli guests had the chance to meet the community at our opening event at the new 'Central Library', tour the Annapolis Valley, spend time at Pier 21 and learn more about the history of Halifax while on the Harbour Hopper.

The meetings were a great success from both a work and social perspective. Thanks for the success of the events has to go to Jon Goldberg who has been involved with the Partnership since its inception approximately twenty years ago, and his organizational team. Nothing could have been done without our volunteers led by the insight and hard work of Karen Conter as every detail was dealt with love and professionalism.

For more information about Partnership Together and the vital link it provides Atlantic Canadian Jewry please contact the AJC or Karen and Howard Conter.

We are all looking forward to our next meeting that will take place in Israel in November. 5



ISRAEL-CANADA COAST-TO-COAST MEET IN HALIFAX

BY JOEL JACOBSON

Forty men and women, more than half Canadian and the remainder from Israel, surround the meeting table at a Halifax hotel, sharing, planning and continuing to build relationships between Israel's north and Canadian communities.

The semi-annual meeting of Coast to Coast Partnership 2000's steering committee ran three days in Halifax fostering Canada's commitment to promote the well-being of Israel.

"The partnership has been an opportunity for Canadians to make things better in the North Galilee," said Stephen Gaerber of Vancouver, Coast to Coast co-chair (with Lior Rochman of Ayelet Hashachar, a kibbutz in northern Israel). "We meet with leaders from both countries twice a year, once in Canada and once in Israel, to decide where (Canadian-raised) dollars will go to help develop their region."

Representatives from Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Ottawa and Atlantic Canada serve on Coast to Coast. In Halifax in mid-May, they met with mayors and lay people from several Northern Israeli communities.

The main areas of need described by the Israelis were youth and education, and capacity building, leading to a better quality of life.

"Some of our biggest successes include investing in programs for youth at risk, enabling them to get education and guidance, and placing them in leadership-development programs," said Gaerber, a businessman completing his four-year term as Canadian co-chair in November. "We've also been instrumental in building a new medical school in the north."

Ilan Orr, mayor of Yesod Hama'ala, a community of about 2,300, seven km from the Lebanese border established in 1883 by the first pioneers who came to Israel, praises the help they've received to develop the med school.

"I see us as pioneers, too. As a somewhat-isolated region, we saw our level of health care could not compare to Tel Aviv, for example. Our life span in the north is less than in Central Israel because of our health services. Before my time as mayor (he's been in office two and half years after a career in government service), our northern leaders decided to improve health and academic services.

"The Partnership (with Canada) decided to invest in the med school and today there is one in Zefat. As community leaders, we understand the benefits of working together as a region, rather than individual communities, and have made major advances."

He and Gaerber both highlighted the Geshar Chai program which connects people of the two countries. Since 2000 (Coast to Coast



PHOTO: Halifax mayor Mike Savage spoke to the Coast to Coast Partnership meeting in Halifax recently. Binyamin Ben-Muchvar, mayor of Mevot Ha'hermon, presented a commemorative pennant

"Some of our biggest successes include investing in programs for youth at risk, enabling them to get education and guidance, and placing them in leadership-development programs,"

started in 1997), 70 northern Galilean youth have attended the counselor-in-training program at Camp Kadimah near Halifax. This year, four more will attend along with younger campers.

"The benefits of having these children at Kadimah is great for our Canadian kids who learn about another culture and are so willing to share theirs with the Israelis," said camp executive director Phil David.

Orr's daughter, Shira, was at Kadimah in 2013 and he said her experience was marvelous. He has another child who could be there in a year or so.

Gaerber stressed how gratifying it is to see the successes made through over \$1 million annually raised by the six Canadian centers, often from private donors, to support projects identified by the Israeli communities.

"Our meetings this week will help nail down projects to be taken on in the next year or so," he said.

The longest serving committee member, Binyamin Ben-Muchvar, mayor of Mevot Ha'hermon, told the meeting, "You are my family. I will never forget how Atlantic Canada gave me \$60,000 toward building a hydrotherapy pool (for children and adults with disabilities) and I was able to get 22 million shekels (\$7 million Can), from government and fundraising to complete it. When we meet next in Israel in November, you'll see our new building and I can thank you all for it."

He smiled and hinted, "We have a gym but we need \$400,000Can for equipment. Maybe if you give us the beginning, the government will follow up." ☺

JON GOLDBERG RETIRING AS AJC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Twenty-three years ago, Jon Goldberg was one of several applicants for the vacant AJC executive director post

BY JOEL JACOBSON



A Toronto Jewish leader who knew Jon said, “He’ll never last in Jewish community work.”

Twenty-three years later, the 70-year-old Halifax man proved him, and other skeptics, wrong.

Jon Goldberg will end his 23-year term after the biennial AJC Convention in November. Toronto-native Naomi Rosenfeld, who attended Camp Kadimah in Nova Scotia and later served as Hillel director for Atlantic Canada, will take over the position.

Goldberg is proud of his 23 years at the AJC helm.

“With the support of dedicated lay leaders, we have promoted and maintained an Atlantic Jewish community to the national Jewish organizations,” Goldberg said. “There’s been a voice for Atlantic Canada at the highest levels of Canadian Jewry.”

He listed major accomplishments of his tenure such as the strength of Yom HaShoah and Holocaust Education Week programs, through staff member Edna LeVine and dedicated volunteers in the region. Newcomers settling in the region from Israel have increased the population by 20 percent. A Jewish Film Festival is now in its third year in Halifax. He was instrumental in starting the Atlantic Jewish Foundation with over \$1 million in its coffers to provide education and Camp Kadimah scholarships, and assist with projects.

He built lasting bonds between Israel and Atlantic Canada. He has been media spokesperson for Atlantic Jewry, dealing with many issues and getting the pro-Jewish message across against anti-Semitic forces.

His connection to Jewish service came from an active Jewish family life. As a child, Jon was active in the Young Judea movement, and attended Camp Kadimah and Biluim. As a young adult, he was involved in State of Israel Bonds and the UJA annual campaign and still holds the record for being the youngest UJA of Atlantic Canada campaign chair in history. He was a charter member of the Canadian Zionist Federation and was present at the founding of the Atlantic Jewish Council in 1975.

In his first career, as a retailer, Jon helped grow the family business from one to 15 stores by the late 1970s. However, as the economy faltered, he explored career opportunities within the Jewish Community. A six-month stretch in 1990 managing the Winnipeg UJA annual campaign began his time as a professional, and in 1992, he assumed the role of Executive Director of the AJC.

Larry Freeman, a past AJC president, said the Atlantic Jewish Council became Jon’s family.

“He devoted his career to ensuring the continuity of Jewish life and Jewish programming in Atlantic Canada. Under his watch, Atlantic Jewry had a strong voice at the national table and the Jewish community in Atlantic Canada continued its strong support for the State of Israel. Jon leaves a legacy of raising the awareness of Atlantic Jewry and the State of Israel in the broader community.”

Kathy Zilbert, a past president of AJC, has worked with Goldberg for 20 years in various capacities.

“Jon is often thought of as a gruff guy who speaks his mind but I’ve seen his heart and soft side. I’ve seen little Israeli children in our Coast to Coast partnership region in the Upper Galilee refer to “Big Jon” as their friend and rush to see him year after year.

See more
pictures of
Jon on pages
22-23

"I've sat in Jon's office countless times and observed how he truly cares what happens to all of us as he's worked diligently to keep the (Atlantic) Jewish community alive. Far more goes on behind the scenes than most people know – trouble shooting issues of antisemitism in Atlantic Canada, quietly dealing with social services situations, representing us at events and planning others."

Goldberg gets a bit emotional when he remembers one of his crowning achievements.

"I was seeking ways to help the community of Mevot Ha'hermon in northern Israel many years ago as part of a mission. The mayor said they needed scholarships and computers but I suggested something more meaningful, something that would touch the hearts of our donors.

"It was summer and he took me to a school with severely disabled children where there was no air conditioning, old fashioned wheelchairs, even old eating utensils for these children who needed personal feeding. I asked 'What do you really need?' and the mayor gave me a list. I came home and raised some money."

In the last 10 years, generous Atlantic Canadians have donated \$250,000 to provide and upgrade facilities.

"At the time, the Israeli government didn't have funds to support the community's needs but the mayor convinced them to match what we gave. The facilities now serve the north of Israel."

As a former men's wear retailer, Jon brought his sense of entrepreneurship to the AJC in 1993. He had dealt with the public and made connections and, being gregarious, was easily able to interact with the Jewish and sectarian communities.

While in retail, he volunteered as a canvasser and chair of UJA and Israel Bonds campaigns, working with Dov Harris, Director of Financial Resource Development, Regional communities, UIA.

On hearing of his friend's impending retirement, Dov wrote, "Some of my best working years were shared with you, all unforgettable. Your achievements have been outstanding. Under your leadership you lent stature to the AJC that placed you among the best of federation executives."

Goldberg served on the Camp Kadimah administration committee, completed the Sar-El program in Israel and "came back in the early '90s revved up about Israel."

Assisting in bringing newcomers to Nova Scotia, Goldberg notes more than 80 families from Israel have settled in Halifax in the last seven years.

"(The AJC) couldn't help much in New Brunswick, where the program has been going even longer, because there are different immigrant regulations."

Michael Geifman praised Goldberg's contribution to his family's arrival in Halifax several years ago.

"He gave us the chance to be here," says Geifman, now a successful mechanic in Halifax. "He's helped a lot of families that we know. He also gave our children the opportunity to attend Camp Kadimah which they've loved."

Well-known artist, David Silverberg, who taught at Mount Allison and Acadia universities, praised Jon for bringing him into the Atlantic community from small-town Jewish life.

"You were responsible for awakening a new and lifelong commitment in me to learning about and supporting Israel in as many ways as I could, by my missions to Israel, by all the many kind Jewish

friends I've made and by the many special Zionist gatherings I was invited to attend. This reinforced my previous commitment when I resolved that 15% of all my creative artwork will be devoted to Themes of My Jewish Heritage. Thank you for making my Jewish stay in the region so enriching."

Mark Rosen is another past AJC president with fond recollections of working with Jon.

"My relationship with Jon began at Camp Kadimah in the mid-60s," recalls Mark. "I was younger and much smaller than I am now and I was looking up, way up, at what I thought was the largest man I had ever seen. Jon was indeed larger than life at Kadimah and I, among others, marveled at his ability to dunk a ball and we cheered him on in leading Kadimah to basketball victories over the nasty Halifax alumni those many years ago.

"Years later, while serving on the AJC board, I felt very comfortable in our decision to bring Jon home to Halifax to be our executive director. We knew he understood our needs and that his heart was with the Atlantic Jewish community. He has been the mainstay at the AJC."

Mark stressed one of Jon's strengths has been as the voice of the Jewish community in the turbulent times when Israel is the focus of a negative media.

"He has been able to put forward the proper tone to the discussion while remaining steadfast in support of Israel. And with a keen political mind, Jon has presented our side with political leadership arranging meetings locally with community members but also arranging for our politicians to travel to Israel to learn for themselves what Israel is facing in a sea of hate and distrust."

Goldberg says the Executive Director's job is almost impossible to get done. "We have five staff people who can't provide all the services needed in our region. The distances are too great, the population too small and the dollars aren't there. There will be a great deal of internal and external pressure on Naomi to hold the organization together. I truly hope she'll be able to regenerate the community. As long as we have great volunteers and lay leaders, we should be OK."

When asked what he would tell potential lay leaders and community volunteers, "If they don't get involved in community today, there will be no community. There is a dearth of lay leadership. It's critical that people get involved."

He'd tell professionals to jump in. "It's a very rewarding career. To witness the success of young people, to help them grow within themselves and as leaders within their communities, there's nothing like it."

He added, "I'll miss the office and all it represented, the chevron with staff and volunteers. I'll miss the connections with people from Israel, Ottawa and Toronto and, of course, the opportunity to help people by answering questions and directing them to Jewish connections in the community.

"The years catch up to you but I think I'm the same guy I was 50 years ago. I always felt I was young at heart, I guess, until I realized it was time to leave (this position).

"I'm not sure what I'll do but there will be things to keep me busy." 5

JON GOLDBERG RETIRING AS AJC



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CONSUL GENERAL LEADS HALIFAX PRIDE PARADE

BY JOEL JACOBSON



Ziv Nevo Kulman was all smiles as he led a Jewish delegation in the annual Halifax Pride Parade in mid-July.

It was the first time ever in Atlantic Canada that a Jewish group marched in solidarity with the LGBT community and the Consul General of Israel in Montreal and Atlantic Canada admitted that, as part of that group, he was proud to lead this initial effort.

"I was thrilled to have so many from the Jewish community, more than 20 people of all ages, walk with me," he said two days after the event. "I was proud of the Halifax community members who organized their participation which proudly showed how Jewish Maritimers and, by extension, Israel treats the LGBT sector."

Jon Goldberg, executive director of the Atlantic Jewish Council which helped coordinate the Jewish contingent, said "we used to have only a booth in the Halifax Pride events but there had been little impetus to march in the parade (which drew more than 10,000 marchers and thousands more spectators). The Consul General pushed us. We had to register as an organization, and we did, and we were placed very near the front of the parade, 17th of about 240 organizations registered."

Kulman added, "I was told this was one of the biggest parades ever in the city. All stripes of politicians were there. I was so proud that it shared the values of Canada and Israel. Israel is the only country in the Middle East where pride events are held. I've certainly had support from my superiors in the Israeli government."

He continued, "This gave me chance to march in solidarity with the community to which I belong and show that I'm a proud Israeli, too."

Kulman will be in Charlottetown PEI this weekend (July 29-31) for similar events which he expects will be smaller than Halifax "but

will give me a good way to connect with both the Jewish and secular communities."

With members of the Nova Scotia legislature and a federal representative from the Nova Scotia South Shore, Kulman also visited Camp Kadimah in Barss Corner, NS during his visit to the province. He addressed more than 350 campers and staff, met with a group of 33 campers and staff from Israel, and swam in Lake William.

"I slept in a 5-star cabin Shabbat night," he added, tongue-in-cheek, "and experienced cinnamon rolls which are famous at Kadimah and available only on Shabbat morning. I even printed my name on a graffiti wall in the newly-decorated director's cabin. That was fun." ☺



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

ALL HUMANS ARE FALLIBLE *INCLUDING GREAT SCIENTISTS*


BY MORRIS GIVNER

Sometimes the death of one man intervenes and saves another man's reputation. Fritz Haber was a flawed genius, a super patriotic German Jew, a convert to Christianity and whose discoveries were responsible for increasing the world's food supply (he won the Nobel Prize for this discovery) and the poison gas used to kill allied troops in World War I. Haber himself strongly suggested to the German military the use of poison gas to help win the war. The gas used to exterminate Jews in crematoria during WWII was also derived from Haber's original chemical work. Haber's own relatives were exterminated with this gas. Haber himself was totally rejected by Hitler's Germany because he was considered a Jew and had to flee for his survival. Chaim Weizmann offered him the job before WWII to head the newly conceived Weizmann Institute. Fortunately for Weizmann's ultimate reputation, Haber died on his way to Palestine. Weizmann's own major discovery was used to make explosives for the British in WWI. In appreciation, the British Government supported the Balfour Declaration for the creation of the State of Israel. There are wider, fascinating, moral and ethical issues in the lives of these two men: the criminal application of scientific discoveries and how much blame should be placed on the discoverers. Einstein himself was also troubled that his most basic intellectual discovery was ultimately used to make A-bombs that incinerated the men, women and children in Nagasaki and Hiroshima. However, he earlier wrote to Roosevelt and advocated a major research effort to develop the A-bomb before the Nazis. All humans are fallible and do not want to know or even care or are unable to see all the consequences of their discoveries. ③

Morris Givner is a retired Professor of Pathology and Associate Professor of Medicine who lives in Halifax




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ISRAEL'S 68TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

On May 24th the Consul General of Israel, Ziv Nevo Kulman hosted a celebration for Israel's 68th birthday at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. The Honourable Lena Diab, Minister of Immigration brought greetings and a congratulatory message to the celebration.

PHOTOS BY MARK DAVID



Victor Goldberg, Jamie Baillie, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party with Ziv Nevo Kulman



Deputy Chief of Police Bill Moore with Ziv Nevo Kulman



Celebrating Israel's 68th Independence Day, Consul General Ziv Nevo Kulman second from right, with from l to r, Kevin Murphy MLA, Patricia Arab MLA, Lena M. Diab MLA, Keith Colwell MLA and Andy Fillmore, MP



Philip Riteman with Ziv Nevo Kulman



Jon Goldberg with Ziv Nevo Kulman



The Honourable Myra and Larry Freeman with Ziv Nevo Kulman



Jason Brown with Ziv Nevo Kulman



The Honourable Lena Diab, Robert Summerby-Murray, President Saint Mary's University with Ziv Nevo Kulman



Michael Argand with Ziv Nevo Kulman



Jan Skora, Honourary Polish Consul with Ziv Nevo Kulman

SUMMER FAMILY SHABBATON AT **CAMP KADIMAH**



SUMMER FAMILY SHABBATON AT CAMP KADIMAH: This year I was delighted to organize a Shabbaton at Camp Kadimah, inspired by the success of our previous Shabbaton for Newcomers in 2011 and a Day at Camp in 2014. To build better bridges in our community and bring young families together I worked with a committee -Nana Shteinberg, Michael Gadilov, Michael Pichkar and Slava Svidler and AJC summer students Lily Daiman and Hannah Novack to organize a fun family weekend. Meeting new families, connecting with friends, enjoying delicious kosher meals, musical Kabbalat Shabbat with David Zer-Aviv, crafts, sports & water activities, evening bonfire complete with kosher marshmallows, were some of the weekend highlights. Families also had the opportunity to meet and chat with incoming AJC executive director Naomi Rosenfeld who spent the weekend at Camp Kadimah ensuring a good time for all participants. Most popular feedback from families: let's do it again next summer!

— Edna LeVine, AJC director of community engagement

PHOTOS BY: SAGY & IRINA GAEVSKY, NAOMI ROSENFELD

GORD DANKNER Z" L

Iconic Shaar Shalom teacher, passes away

BY JOEL JACOBSON, ATLANTIC CORRESPONDENT

If you look up a definition for “mensch” in any dictionary, the illustration used will be a picture of Gordie Dankner.

He lit up so many lives in so many ways.

The Halifax man, who passed away June 3, 2016, after a short illness, was a loving husband to Renee for 54 years. His three children, Dina in Ottawa, Mitchell in Guelph, ON, and Penny in Halifax, blessed Gord with seven grandchildren.

The family was tight. Even though the miles separated some of them, visits were regular and an annual couple of weeks together in Prince Edward Island was treasured by everyone.

Gord's second family was his Hebrew School children at Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Halifax. For 34 years, he taught at the school, after his regular working day as an insurance agent concluded. He loved that part of his life and the kids loved him.

As an early member of Shaar Shalom (Renee's father, Dave Devlin, was a founding member in 1957), Gord saw the need for Hebrew education and volunteered to teach. Virtually every bar and bat mitzvah student for the last four decades learned from him and performed very well on their special day, with Gord beaming like a proud poppa as they led services.

One of his students, Jennie David, expressed her affection for her teacher with these moving words to Sharon Waxman of the Shaar Shalom (Synagogue) New Year's Bulletin.

“Gordie will always represent a wise beyond-his-years brand of intelligence, irreverent charm, warmth and kindness, a caring paternal figure, a peaceful calmness. I have countless memories of “Mr. D” teaching Hebrew School (he was always my favorite teacher), his even-handed patience fostered my learning, respect and admiration of Judaism, community and academia. His joy for learning lit my own, which is something I will work to pass on and encourage in another to try to repay his sage understanding of the world and the importance of an exhaustive education.”

A fellow teacher, Bracha Koren, added, “Gordie was blessed with a loving heart and a very pleasant personality. He possessed a good nature; he was kind to every person he knew, and he treated all his friends with respect, love and dignity. Gordie was very kind to his students. He never raised his voice or lost his temper. He truly loved his work and his students.”

Gord had the perfect demeanor of a loving father, dedicated teacher and warm human. He rarely raised his voice. He laughed off troubles and pushed ahead to overcome them. He suffered quietly from several illnesses – a heart attack many years ago, one hip replacement and another being anticipated at the time of his passing.



PHOTO (L-R): FRONT ROW: Grandchildren Alex, Evan, Julia, Sophie, Sarah and Sam. BACK ROW: Brian and Dena Kingstone, Penny and Jeff Harding, Sarita and Mitch Dankner, Gordon and Renee

While 20/20 hindsight, and so many people, would tell Gord that he should have pursued a career in education, he worked at several jobs through the years.

As a kid after school and on weekends, he helped his father in the small family grocery store that was iconic in its south end neighborhood. When he finished high school and married Renee Devlin, he tried a couple of things in Toronto but yearned for home and returned to Halifax to operate the store before his father passed away.

Gord was the type of merchant who offered credit in the grocery business when it was not the normal thing to do. He recognized the difficulties people had, and made it easy for them to pay, and therefore feed their families. Gord the Mensch.

As his family grew, Gord saw the opportunity to enter insurance and made sales a successful career.

Co-workers Adele Wamboldt, Karen Findlay and Denise Hopkins had this to say about Gord to Sharon Waxman. “Gordon always came in to the office with a smile on his face, even when he wasn't feeling all that well. He always made time to explain things to us if we didn't understand something. He was a wealth of knowledge. Gordon was respected and loved not only by the staff members, but his clients as well. Gordon was not only a co-worker, but our very close friend and father figure as well.”

Gordie rarely rocked boats. Even as a kid in Baron de Hirsch Hebrew School at the old Hostel on Quinpool Road, he was the “good” boy while mischief makers carried on behind the teachers' backs.

As a teenager, he was a fine basketball player. Generally taller than his friends, he excelled at an inside game where he rebounded over everyone. He was talented enough to play for the A team at Queen Elizabeth High School and win city championships and a Canadian Juvenile Men's championship.

In Halifax in the 1950s, the Jewish youth scene flourished and Gord was always at the center of things – at Young Judea, and with the large gaggle of friends – 25 or more – who hung out together every Saturday night at someone's house for dancing, eating, and even a little carousing, but nothing too risqué.

That's when the Gord-Renee relationship started. We'd pair off Gord and Renee had a torrid relationship –they'd even kiss once or twice – and their love blossomed during those amusing, yet baffling, times when the girls would all rush to the bathroom to cry or laugh and the guys never understood what was going on.

Six years after they started going out together, they married with the blessings of all of us and started a 54-year life together that produced three kids and a ton of love.

Gord and Renee had a short stint in Toronto and, as the years passed, many of that large gang followed and stayed. Those us left in Halifax missed them but Gord and Renee saw the benefits of east coast living and came home to stay. Gord built a successful insurance career while Renee did office admin work and together they raised their three marvelous children and welcomed grandchildren.

Gord remained physically active, as long as his body allowed. He was an avid golfer, walked a lot until his hips said "NO".

His work ethic, hammered into him by dad Phil at the grocery store, wouldn't quit. Even though they travelled to Arizona most winters for a few weeks relaxation, he enjoyed returning home to the desk and to Hebrew school. He never feared or shunned work.

*Gordie was very kind to his students.
He never raised his voice or lost his temper.
He truly loved his work and his students.*

When Gordie and I talked, the conversation always trended to our beloved New York Yankees and we'd smile with memories of the Yankees glory days of our youth, talk of today's so-so team and then recall fondly all the days growing up together.

Gord and Renee's son Mitchell remembered his Dad fondly at the memorial service. He reminisced about growing up in a house filled with love and respect. He talked of the children and grandchildren and their unending affection for Dad and Zaide.

And he concluded his remarks with words that described Gordie, the mensch, perfectly.

"Everyday we meet people that impress us. They have a quality or two that we wish we could duplicate. You also meet or know others that when you walk away you know they are truly impressive. Our father showed this to us everyday. The love and understanding he showed each of us throughout our lives, and the commitment to everything any of us ever undertook is something that we will never forget. These are the memories that will take us into the future and will make us better than we are today." 🌟

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A GRANDFATHER'S JDC LEGACY

BY LESLEE KOWALSKY-SACK

"I need not tell you that everybody loves Kowalsky in Poland, and how can they help it? His love is not only an emotional love but a love of respect and admiration.

I am exceedingly pleased with his wonderful achievements, and appreciate very much the privilege of having Kowalsky connected with our work in Poland. At present he is director of the Brest-Litowsk district...

In addition to his being efficient and successful in his work, he is an example of devotion to the cause, and is an inspiration to all other boys (so we call the members of Unit #1).

– Letter from Boris Bogen to Mrs. I.M. Kowalsky. June 24, 1920

Along with a recent donation to the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), Leslee Kowalsky-Sack noted that her grandfather, Rabbi I.M. (Ichel Meier) Kowalsky could be found throughout the JDC Archives in the 1920s. A quick and curious search by a JDC archivist in the Archives' online database yielded reports, correspondence, and photos of a man who achieved much in his time as an early JDC staffer.

Leslee's grandfather, Rabbi Kowalsky, was born in 1890 in Zagarow, Poland, but left in 1908 to settle in the United States. Once in the States, Rabbi Kowalsky traveled the country and served as Rabbi in a different synagogue every weekend in those towns that could not afford to hire a Rabbi full-time. When not on assignment for JDC, Rabbi Kowalsky, his wife, and three children (his son, Harry Aaron Kowalsky was Leslee's father), lived in Brooklyn, but they did join him in Europe for a period of time.


Though she was only five years old when he passed, Leslee had always known of her grandfather's connection to the Joint. She had copies of letters he sent and that were sent to him, as did her father. Despite all of that, however, Leslee says she has learned much more about her grandfather in the past few years since the JDC Archives began to digitize and provide access to its materials on its online database. Since then, she says,

she has found more correspondence and was even able to identify her grandfather in some of the JDC Archives' photos. After browsing these photos, reports, and letters, Leslee was surprised to learn that her grandfather wore a uniform in his line of work and that he could write English so flawlessly. As it turns out, Rabbi Kowalsky was not only an early JDC staffer, but more specifically he was also a member of JDC's Overseas Unit No. 1.

Rabbi Kowalsky's involvement with the Joint began in the 1920s when he was recommended to the Governor of Massachusetts as someone who could help Jews in need overseas. He was especially qualified, as he was fluent in 17 languages and dialects! Dozens of qualified field workers, primarily American social workers, were recruited in late 1919 to plan activities and to investigate local and regional needs firsthand in Poland. The members of Overseas Unit No. 1, including Leslee's grandfather, represented "every element of American Jewry" and were the first staff unit that JDC sent overseas. The Unit arrived in Paris en route to Poland in February 1920 and branched out from Warsaw to



set up urgently needed sanitary, medical, and child care programs throughout the region. According to a report by Boris Bogen, Rabbi Kowalsky's first field assignment was in Lodz "...to adjust serious difficulties that ha[d] arisen between the distributing committees there." From there, Rabbi Kowalsky worked across Eastern Europe, first as the Director for the Brest-Litowsk territory and later as JDC's representative in Kiev. In these roles with JDC, he rendered relief to impoverished Jews in Eastern Europe and was beloved by his colleagues and those he helped in the field.

With help from the JDC Archives online database, Leslee was able to fill in the gaps of her grandfather's story. Explore your own family history with the JDC Names Index. 

Leslee Kowalsky-Sack lives in Prince Edward Island. This story has been shared with her permission.

NEWFOUNDLAND NEWS

Jewish Community Havura of Newfoundland and Labrador

BY NANCY BENNETT AND RUTH NOEL

Late spring and early summer saw cold temperatures but in the final days of June, summer broke and except for a cold ten days during “capelin spawning time”, we had a hot summer. Summer also brought new single members and new families joining our group. Shabbat services were held throughout the summer and out of town guests added a wonderful dimension. In addition, our Havura celebrated its 10th anniversary and Joel Jacobson, Atlantic Correspondent for the Canadian Jewish News, documented it in an article in this national newspaper.

HINDU TEMPLE MULTI-FAITH SYMPOSIUM

In May, Jonathan Richler spoke at the Hindu temple Multi-Faith Symposium, giving a Jewish Perspective on the topic Material Wealth and Spiritual Health. Jonathan asked the question: Should There Be a Connection between *Material Wealth and Spiritual Health*? Quoting from Leviticus, Deuteronomy and Proverbs, Jonathan gave a meaningful presentation on the topic. His witty and honest discussion captivated the audience and he held their attention for the allotted twenty minute presentation. This is the eleventh year the Hindu Temple has hosted this event and the Havura looks forward to continuing to be a part of this effort to build understanding and respect in our community.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Havura celebrated Israel's 68th anniversary at an Oneg Shabbat with a birthday cake made by Carina Trasmundi. It was nice to have our Israeli members present as we recognized this historical and emotional event.

RELIGIOUS SOCIAL ACTION COALITION

Premier Dwight Ball hosted a breakfast for representatives of the province's religious organizations and Jonathan Richler, President of the Havura and member of the Religious Social Action Coalition, attended. These breakfasts have been hosted by various Premiers and it has been the custom for representatives to give the Premier a prayer book.

True to Jonathan's wit, he informed the Premier that he would only have to read half the Jewish book as it is written in both Hebrew and English.

10TH ANNIVERSARY BARBEQUE

The annual barbeque was held at Nancy Bennett's on Father's Day. It's always a game of Russian roulette as the weather can be warm or cold in the month of June. Fortunately, that Sunday proved to be warm and we celebrated our 10th Anniversary – not with the usual anniversary cake but with white and blue cake pops made by our superb baker, Havura member Carina Trasmundi. Both adults and children had a wonderful time kibitzing, playing games and, of course, eating. Ruth Noel and Nancy Bennett did the shop and Gil Shalev and Carina Trasmundi did the grilling of barbecued salmon, corn, vegetarian burgers and hotdogs. Others brought delicious salads, side dishes and desserts.

GAY PRIDE WEEK

For the first time in the history of St. John's Gay Pride Week, religious groups were asked to participate in a multi-faith service and in the Gay Pride Parade. Jillian Gould and Xavier Campbell were the Havura's representatives on this committee and they did a great job in the organization of these two events. Their contribution to the service was the song Hinei Ma Tov. Xavier introduced it and it was sung by the gay pride choir as well as some church members. The song was then sung as a round and the audience joined in. Hinei Ma Tov has various translations, but they all mean the same thing—how good it is to sit together in unity—which is a fitting song for Gay Pride Week.

The Gay Pride Parade started at City Hall and ended at Bannerman Park. We had a banner made with our logo on it and with one



Matthew Bendzsa (top row, far left), and his Birthright group in Israel in early August.

newborn in a carriage, small children, teenagers, and adults, we walked with pride behind the Havura banner. Some walked all the way and some joined in “en route”. At times we were overcome with the show of support we had along the way. One gentleman from Montreal took our picture and sent it to us with a commendation of our participation.

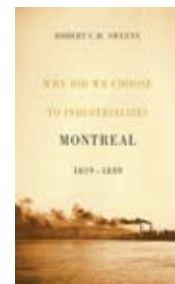
NEWS AND NOTES

Mazel tov to Talia Padawer and Valerio Tonelli Enrico on the birth of their daughter Alma.

Mazel tov to Kari Brown on completing her Master's in Nursing, nurse practitioner stream. Kari completed her Master's while working fulltime as a nurse and being a parent.

Mazel tov to David Jerome who graduated from Memorial's medical school and is now doing his residency in family practice in Ontario.

Mazel tov to Robert Sweeny, winner of the Sir John A. Macdonald Prize for 2016 for his book, *Why Did We Choose to Industrialize? Montreal, 1819-1849*. This prestigious prize is given annually by the Canadian Historical Association/La Société historique du Canada to the best scholarly book on Canadian history. According to the Association, “Sweeny offers an erudite yet also passionate argument for the re-thinking of Canadian history”. The award included a prize of \$5,000.



Continue on page 32



Zanele Myles and Gil Shalev's wedding brought the sounds of a glass being crushed and klezmer dancing to St. John's Pippy Park. Mazel tov!

Mazel tov to Joy Hecht who was sworn in as a Canadian citizen on July 1st.

Matthew Bendza was chosen to participate in the Birthright program in early August. He found it to be an enriching cultural experience and felt deeply connected to Israel.

Mazel tov to Gil Shalev and his bride Zanele Myles Shalev on their August wedding. They had a small ceremony in April, but wanted to do it again for a larger group of friends and family. Gil's family traveled to St. John's from Israel and New York. Zanele's family from Kingston and other Canadian and U.S. cities. Elizabeth Loder conducted the very Jewish ceremony in Pippy Park and then festivities moved into the North Bank Lodge and a large wedding tent. After the champagne toast, the klezmer band provided the music for one hora after another. Havura member Carina Trasmundi catered the grilled salmon dinner and made the beautiful wedding cake. A night to remember!

Mazel tov to Elizabeth and Tom Loder and daughters Abby and Aurora on the birth of Darby Solomon Loder on August 18th. The hospital had sent them home, thinking there was lots of time, but Darby had other plans. He was born in the hospital parking lot. Tom caught him in his arms! What an entrance! 🍷

If you are visiting us, please contact us at info@havura.org or 709-834-7866. We would love to meet you and welcome you into our Havura family.

REPORT FROM THE ROCK

BY CLAIRE FRANKEL SALAMA

Miam, miam. Ta'im me'od. Yum, yum. Whichever language one chooses, our culinary evening on August 15th featuring Kosher pastries, breads and gefilte fish from Homemade Kosher in Montreal was a resounding success. A huge "merci" goes to Ellie Israel who contacted us and offered to help us order in prepared and fresh Kosher food for holidays and private use. Between the cheese beigelach and the cinnamon strudel, we all had a great time. It was also a treat to see Robin McGrath and John Joy who were visiting from Labrador.

We have had some wonderful community meals and events, including Purim, courtesy of the visiting Lubavitch couple, Rabbi Chanan Chernitsky and his lovely wife, Tuba. After a very tasty dinner, we read the Megillah and played several entertaining games. (I'm beginning to think that the theme of this article is definitely "food".)

Passover was the usual flurry of activity and culminated in a Seder involving around 25 participants. Again, thanks go to Rabbi Chanan and Tuba as well as to Shimon and Lin Wilansky for their tireless efforts. Further thanks to Belbin's Grocery for the prompt arrival of our Passover goods and to Sobey's for their delivery of Kosher poultry.

This past May we welcomed four Grade 4 classes from Mary Queen of Peace who visited the synagogue. As usual, they were well behaved and full of questions. Because of the fine weather both the English and French visits were made on foot. And, as per usual, they left with a box of leftover Matza.

In July Professor Messod Salama delivered a lecture at the Mediaeval Congress in Leeds, England, on the strategies used by Conversos to avoid eating pork during the Spanish inquisition. Needless to say, the theme of the largest mediaeval conference in the world was "food".

This year's annual picnic was again held at Tors Cove at the seaside home of David and Christine Wright. The day was perfect, as was the hospitality. We were pleased that Jacquie Brodsky was in town and could attend with Ross Feldman.

We welcomed many visitors from the United States and Canada including Howard Isaac and his family, Zev and Jeremy Moses,

sons of Rabbi Lionel Moses of Montreal, David Mercer and Arlene Bloomfield, Judy Wilansky and David Levine.

Our sincere condolences to David and Marcie Feder on the loss of David's mother, Dr. Allison Feder, wife of the late Herb Feder. Dr. Feder was the first Newfoundland woman to hold both a doctorate and a professorship at Memorial University. MUN also awarded her an honorary doctorate in 2006.

We were also sorry to say goodbye to Oded Wolfson, but glad to hear that he is returning to Israel. We also bade farewell to the Kashtanov family who left for Israel after a year and a half in St. John's. A huge Mazal Tov to Esther and Adam on the birth of their fourth child.

As the New Year approaches, we at Beth El wish all Shalom readers a very happy, healthy and sweet New Year. Also many yummy meals. 🍷



Ellie Israel representing Homemade Kosher of Montreal at Culinary evening.



Annual shul picnic at the home of David and Christine Wright, Tors Cove.

MONCTON NEWS

BY NANCY COHEN

The community was kvelling recently when we learned that the oncology centre at the Moncton Hospital was being named the Dr. Sheldon Rubin Oncology Clinic. This well deserved honour follows Dr. Rubin's recent retirement after 41 years at the hospital. "Dr. Rubin is a well-respected oncologist/hematologist in both New Brunswick and Canada," said Health Minister Victor Boudreau. "It is only appropriate to name the facility after him since Dr. Rubin played such a key role in establishing it." Sheldon was also named a 2016 recipient of the Order of New Brunswick "for his compassion, his high quality of patient care and for his tremendous contributions to cancer prevention and treatment." Mazel tov Dr. Rubin!

Moncton's annual Holocaust Memorial was held on May 15 and once again it was very well attended. Our guest speaker was Dorota Glowacka, Professor of Humanities at University of King's College in Halifax, who gave a very moving account of her father's survival of the Holocaust, and her own journey to discover and reclaim her Jewish identity.

Four new families with a total of eight children have recently arrived in Moncton and are busy getting settled. Some of them were able to attend the annual shul barbeque which was held on August 21 at Betty Druckman's house in Shediac. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful afternoon at the shore and had fun bidding in the auction presided over by auctioneer Hannah Davison.

Our community would not survive without our dedicated volunteers who do so much to keep things running, whether it be leading services, working with the chevrah kadisha, cooking and baking, publishing the bulletin or doing maintenance around the shul. We are indeed grateful to all of them, but want to give a special shout out at this time to Richard Donovan and John Flanagan. Richard, who has recently returned to Moncton after living in Israel for a number of years, spent many hours cleaning up the yard, filling 20 large garbage bags. John Flanagan has been instrumental in helping to maintain our building and recently did a lot of work at both the shul and the cemetery. Yasher koach to them both.



Photos (L-R) Mezuzah circa 1930 found beneath layer of paint on home next to the shul. / Some new "sisters" at the closing Sisterhood dinner on June 23, 2016 and some long time members.

Richard also noticed that there was a mezuzah on an old house undergoing renovations next to the shul. The house has not been lived in by a Jewish family for many years and the mezuzah lay buried underneath many layers of paint and rust. After getting permission from the the owners, Richard removed the mezuzah. The parchment seemed to be in very good condition, but it is being checked by the rabbi. After cleaning the case, a beautiful mezuzah thought to be from the 1930's emerged. If all goes well it will soon have a new home.

On August 21 Francis Weil represented the Jewish community at a ceremony in Dieppe, New Brunswick to commemorate the 74th anniversary of the Dieppe raid in France during WWII. The ceremony held in cooperation

with the Dieppe Military Veterans Association began with a military parade paying tribute to Canada's fallen soldiers.

Mazel tov to Yuval Mashiach who celebrated his bar mitzvah at Tiferes Israel on July 9. His proud parents Orit and Eran, and sister Peleg are recent newcomers to Moncton.

Our condolences to Evgeni Yazgur and his family on the passing of his father, Shimon ben Solomon (Stanislav) Yazgur. Evgeni's parents were visiting from Israel, and had just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary when he suffered a heart attack.

On behalf of the Moncton Community I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. Shannah Tova Umetukah. 🕊

FREDERICTON NEWS

BY SHELLEY STEPHENS, SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT, SGOOLAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Wish Mazel Tov to Jasmine Kranat upon her graduation from STU and we wish her a great year studying Law in Leicester University England.

Wish the community a Happy Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur from Sisterhood, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue.

Fredericton was a busy city this summer, I personally, welcomed my cousins, Michael, Barbara, Cory and Logan travelling from Toronto, wonderful memories were made. Another cousin just arrived, Morton Cohen travelling from Toronto.

Sending condolences to Morton and Warren Cohen and family, upon the passing of their late Mother, Lillian Budovitch. 🕊

SAINT JOHN NEWS

BY SUSAN ISAACS LUBIN

Shaarei Zedek had a wonderful celebration for Shavuot. The children and adults all gathered in the Acker Room at the Synagogue. The adults held a round table discussion, and the children learned the meaning of the holiday, and participated in crafts for Shavuot. We all then joined together for wonderful food!

The summer was quiet at the Synagogue. We held our weekly services, but other than one Friday night Oneg Shabbat after Services, which was well attended, there was no other activities.

Our second annual picnic was held on August 28th, at Meenan's Cove in Quispamsis. We barbecued, had games and organized sports and swimming for the children. Plenty of food, and a record attendance. We hope to continue this tradition, it everyone loves it.

Labour Day weekend saw the Bar Mitzvah of Eldar Barnea, son of Anna Barnea and Yaniv Yitzhak. The family has been in Saint John since last July, and are regular attendees at Services. Yaniv Yizhak also had good news – he passed the practical exam for being certified as a dentist in Canada. Only one more exam to go, and he can practice dentistry!

Diane and Phil Bloom are leaving in October to volunteer with the Sar-el program, which takes volunteers to work with the Israeli Defense Forces. This is a six week program, and it sounds very exciting. Good luck to Phil and Diane.

Jackie Meltzer, a long-time resident of Saint John, and widow of Gar Meltzer, has sold her house in Saint John. She has moved to Montreal to be closer to some of her family. We wish her the best of luck.

We are looking forward to our new Rabbi for the High Holidays – Rabbi Printz, from Toronto.

Our long-time leader, Cantor Jeff Spitzer, who came to us for the High Holidays for approximately 13 years, could not come this year.

SAINT JOHN JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL 2016

Oct. 29 - Nov. 3

SATURDAY OCTOBER 29, 7PM
Gala Opening Film and Reception
Mary Oland Theatre, New Brunswick Museum

Dough - Directed by John Goldschmidt - USA 2016.
An old Jewish baker struggles to keep his business afloat until his young Muslim apprentice drops cannabis in the dough and sends sales sky high.
(Gala Opening Film and Reception is for Sponsors only)

TICKETS \$10 - 7PM SHOWINGS
The following films will be shown at Shaarei Zedek Synagogue, 91 Leinster Street.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 30, 7PM
In Search of Israeli Cuisine - Directed by Roger Sherman - USA 2016.
A portrait of the Israeli people told through food. We shot in fine restaurants, in home kitchens, wineries, cheese makers, on the street and much more. Americans see Israelis and Palestinians as always in conflict. Those are not the people of Israel for the most part. "The Search for Israeli Cuisine" will show the 70+ cultures that make up the Israeli people, each with wonderful and unique food traditions.

MONDAY OCTOBER 31, 7PM
Once in a Lifetime - Directed by Marie-Castille Mention Schaar - France 2014.
A dedicated history teacher at a French high school taps lessons of the Holocaust in an effort to motivate her troubled students in ONCE IN A LIFETIME, an uplifting schoolhouse drama based on a true story.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 1, 7PM
Raise the Roof - Directed by Yari Wolinsky - USA 2015.
Inspired by images of the magnificent wooden synagogues of 18th century Poland, the last of which were destroyed by the Nazis, artists Rick & Laura Brown of Handshouse Studio set out to reconstruct a replica of the stunning, mural-covered Gwoździec synagogue.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2, 7PM
To Life - Directed by Jean-Jacques Zilbermann - France 2014.
Helen, Rose and Lili have survived the Holocaust and have never seen each other since the war has ended. In 1960, they meet again in Berck, France. They learn to enjoy together simple pleasures in life: nice meals, ballads on the beach, playing in the waves...

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3, 7PM
Rock in the Red Zone - Directed by Barry Avrich - USA 2013.
Rock in the Red Zone is an intimate portrayal of life on the edge in the war-torn city of Sderot. Once known for its prolific rock scene that revolutionized Israeli music, for thirteen years the town has been the target of ongoing rocket fire from the Gaza strip. Through the personal lives and music of Sderot's diverse musicians, and the personal narrative of the filmmaker, who ends up calling the town home, the film chronicles the town's trauma and reveals its enduring spirit.

TICKETS ON SALE

Imperial Theatre
Kings Square
Tel: 674-4100 or
800-323-7469

Jewish Museum
91 Leinster St.
Saint John

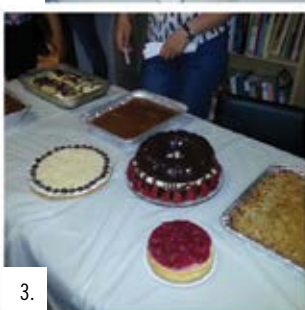
For more info
Contact Katherine
506-633-1833



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

PHOTOS: 1. Yummy baked goods 2. Yummy baked goods 3. Yummy baked goods 4. Moses visits for Shavuot! 5. Children learning about Shavuot 6. 7. Children busy making crafts

CAPE BRETON NEWS

BY SHARON JACOBSON

Whoever said “ Ah... Nostalgia isn't what it used to be!” was not present at the Sydney Shul 100 Reunion held over the July 29-31 weekend.

Slowly the crowd grew outside the front steps of the Shul in the soft light of Erev Shabbat...in biblical times, one would have perhaps perceived this as a gathering of the tribes coming together to pray. Gradually the sounds of exchange and lively chatter filled the air. Recognition, pleasure, goodwill, and surprise – Anatevka had reassembled? And, everyone knew who and why they were there. A community had come Home.

I could give you an endless list of individuals and families and people of all ages who thronged the entryway to the synagogue but, should I leave someone out!!!! Oy, the true spirit of the Jewish shtetl would surface, some would become incensed and put a curse on me! Right? Of course, right! So, let's go back to Shul....

Inside, the array of the tartan kippahs gave a gentle nod to our twin roots. The setting immediately propelled everyone back in time. The familiar tunes to the prayers... the buzz of small talk, the lack of air conditioning,...

Afterwards everyone moved downstairs to a banquet-style Friday night dinner, catered deftly by Sybil and Victor Fineberg from Halifax with a staff that included local Cape Bretoners who looked forward to this occasion as well. Like Proust whose whole past was summoned up when he tasted the madeleine he had dipped into his cup of tea, the taste of roast chicken and challah must have brought immediate memories to all present of their own Shabbat dinners in their homes on St. Peter's Road, the Esplanade, Shandwick St., Park Street, Cottage Rd....

The next morning, everyone filed in for services followed by a kiddush luncheon. They came again for a Brunch at the Dobson Yacht Club. (As Ron Caplan quipped: “ We Eat Again!”) Alas, no one seemed to tire of meeting each day to re-connect with each other.

When I casually asked Carol Ann Davidson and Judy (Chernin) Budovitch how they felt

about this reunion, each response was one of a fondness for growing up in a special place and the deep enjoyment they experienced just meeting everyone again. How do you say “warm and fuzzy” in Yiddish?

However, I believe they also felt the absence of the older generation of their parents, especially Rabbi and Mrs. Kenner who had made an indelible impression on their formative years. And yet, in a way, their families were there as was evident by their legacy.

This brings me to a special moment ...the unveiling ceremony of Jack Yazer's headstone. Past generations may have gone, but – not really. With Jack's family assembled, Rabbi Ellis eloquently quoted Matthew Arnold's poem, Dover Beach. The eulogy went on....Jack Yazer's service to his adopted country brought with it, despite the harsh and cruel realities of his country of birth, the values he had learned from his small Jewish community in Poland. These values were the same values that all who had come back to the Sydney Shul, recognized as those that had been passed down to them – the values of a community that forged who they were...and when Evy Carnat and Leslie Dubinsky led everyone present in a stirring rendition of brother Leon's “We'll Rise Again!” ...well let's just say we had all come full circle.

Here are a few comments from some attendees:

Heidi Schwartz felt the event was like a portal to one's pastfull of strong and good memories where you saw again that world in which you grew up....

Myrna Yazer thought it was wonderful that so many people came from away!

Marlene Elman said it was like a good dinner party with friendships revisited.

And Shirley Chernin topped it off with: “it was wonderful to see people! Is that not what Life is all about?”

Amid the frenzy,

Marty Chernin President of the Congregation welcomed everyone and Mark Wolfson and Joe Claener took photos. Mark's link is markwolfsonphotos.com Put



**MORE TEMPLE SONS OF ISRAEL
100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
PHOTOS ON THE NEXT TWO PAGES!**

in your email address. Password is “Sydney” (case sensitive).

Before this event took place, I would notice excellent archival photos and artifacts being displayed and going up on the walls of the Shul; I noticed dishes out to be cleaned in preparation for the dinner and kiddush ; I noticed on the counter at the dry cleaner a Tallis or two that was to be cleaned for the service, and I also noticed several potted flowers outside the front door of the Shul – a pretty greeting. These are but a few of many details that I noticed.

There were gift bags and a wonderful banner and lots of stuff that needed tending. With only 4 months to organize the reunion, I would truly be remiss not to mention Alan and Stephen Nathanson and their team.

It has been said that the Jew occupies multiple spaces and multiple times.

His heart can be in the past, (his history) while his body is always moving in a different Geography, and well, his mind, it is simultaneously in the present, past and future of a Modern social, political, cultural climate. Perhaps we are destined to have this fragmented existential life. So, when we feel Home, it is truly special. ☺

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TEMPLE SONS OF ISRAEL 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION





TEMPLE SONS OF ISRAEL 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SYDNEY, CAPE BRETON

Photos by Mark Wolfson | wolfkid@rogers.com

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Double click on the first photo to enlarge and scroll through all photos!



BISHOP JAMES HAYES / NOSTRA AETATE

BY RABBI DAVID ELLIS, AJC REGIONAL CHAPLAIN

Jewish groups around the world have commemorated this past year the publication of *Nostra Aetate*, “our present state.” It was published as a result of the Vatican II council and the work of Pope John XXIII. This mission was continued by all of his successors. The work marked a sea change in relations with the Jewish community. Prior to then it was simply impossible for rabbis and Jewish scholars even to be in a room with their Catholic counterparts. The church was in denial of basic facts about its role in persecution of Jews over the years.

To be fair its role was often moderate, compared to secular tyrants and their regimes. But it was still there. And there was a serious misreading of Jewish texts and sources. Today all of this has changed completely.

The most authoritative works on church anti-Semitism are now written by Catholics. The Jewish tradition has come to be understood by Catholics in its own terms. An understanding of the significance of Israel in Jewish life is now ongoing.

In light of the new world *Nostra Aetate* created between Jews and Roman Catholics, I share a recent release I made to the local

archdiocese and our own communities, on the recent passing of Bishop James Hayes, who carried out the mission of *Nostra Aetate* in our province.

FOR DISTRIBUTION TO BULLETINS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE DEATH OF BISHOP JAMES HAYES:

The Jewish congregations of the Maritimes join our Roman Catholic brethren and the general community, in mourning the passing of Bishop James Hayes, archbishop emeritus of the Archdiocese of Halifax.

Bishop Hayes embodied many virtues which one would think were contradictory, but were totally synthesized by him. He spoke with a local Nova Scotia humility. Yet he was also aware of the world-wide changes in the Catholic Church. He was a firm believer in his faith. But he always reached out to other traditions, to understand their message.

In particular he was at the forefront of reconciliation and understanding with the world Jewish community. The Hebrew Scriptures and Jewish history were a source of inspiration to him, as much to they are to any Jew.

He was painfully aware of wrongs done to

Jewish communities by the church. Hence he was at the forefront

of liturgical changes in the mass and in learning the Jewish reading of the Bible. His job required him to work with and be in accord with those in church structure. Yet his forte was also to be with the little person in their time of trouble – the parents who lost a child, the grieving widow, those lost in life’s troubles.

I last saw him at St. Mary’s, as he attended a seminar on end of life issues. Obviously the topic was immediate and poignant to him in his feeble state. Yet he attended and participated. As he left the building, I was privileged to be among several who were accompanying him down the hallway, helping him out the door and down the steps.

Let us hope that many will learn of his life of service and do their best in emulating the good works of this wonderful man.

May our Catholic friends be comforted in their loss, among the mourners for Zion and Jerusalem. ☺



PHOTO CREDIT: JOE CLAENER

FAREWELL FROM RABBI AMRAM MACCABI

PAST RABBI AT THE BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, HALIFAX

Dear friends,

It is impossible for me to convert the mixed emotions in my heart, and the clouds of thoughts in my mind, into one coherent article. This time, my article is a farewell letter to you.

For the past four years, since the beginning of our service at the Beth Israel pulpit, the main goal of Avia and myself, was to make our house a home for any Jew who would collaborate and show interest. We strived to teach and to demonstrate that the way for a Jew to build a strong, meaningful and joyous home, passes through our long and truthful tradition.

We tried to enrich every individual’s life as much as possible. To facilitate and lenient every person’s relations with God, while showing that although the burden exists, it is yet rewarded

by making one’s life better and more meaningful. And finally, to support the community, as a foundation and as a ground of growth for Judaism; for Jews in particular, and a blessing for Nova Scotia at large.

Everything we did was what we believed to be for the benefit of the community and not for our personal gain. We are thankful for your trust and for the opportunity you gave us to do what we believed to be expected of us from you, and from God.

That being said, I now allow myself to express one of the thoughts I have about the Haligonian future. It is not a secret that we face a local Jewish demographic problem. Most of the Haligonian children do not find Halifax a suitable place to dwell in, for a variety of reasons. However, this demographic challenge

comes with a remedy; the group of Jewish newcomers to our city. Look at the ages, and you will easily figure out, that this group of Jewish newcomers who want to make Halifax their home, fill exactly the two missing generations we lack so much from your own offspring.

Like most pills, this one also doesn’t necessary taste like honey and milk for all, but as a community in diaspora, a needy patient (the Halogonian community as a whole) cannot afford to be too picky.

We were glad to serve the Haligonian Jewish community, and we pray for your future success, feeling that although we are now leaving you, a part of you will never leave us.

Always yours, Amram, Avia, Bnaya, Rumya, Amichai and Naomi Maccabi. ☺

KATUV BA'EETON – It Is Written in the Newspaper

BY RABBI YOSEF GOLDMAN, SGOOLAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, FREDERICTON

When we (a bunch of Maritime teenagers and myself) visited Washington D.C. as part of the Asper Foundation Human Rights & Holocaust education trip, we visited the Newseum, a wonderful museum that shows how news and reporting developed over the years. In this museum, there is a display of all of the newspapers from important dates and major events in mankind's history. We learned how honest and critical reporting developed, and how newspapers may serve as the "watch dogs" of democracy. When I was growing up in Israel, I used to be a "news junkie", I used to record news shows and collect newspaper clippings. I fondly remember that time as an era that I could trust that whatever was written (and published) must be true! Oh, how wrong I was! My first experience of doubting & questioning what I read, was after a friend of mine who was a fellow patient with me in Soroka Hospital was killed in a car accident, and the report in the newspaper the following day was that he committed suicide. The reason I knew this could not be true, was because he had just gone through a successful

bone marrow transplant, and was on his way from his Kibbutz to the hospital for an ordinary follow-up check-out. By the way, this was the first successful bone marrow transplant in the Soroka Hospital, and the doctors were very happy with his health progress.

Arik Einstein was an Israeli singer, songwriter, actor, and screenwriter. Yoav Kutner described him as: "not only the greatest Israeli singer, Einstein is the true ERETZ YISROEL (the land of Israel)". One of the things that he fought against, was how news was being written in the Israeli newspapers. He wrote two songs about this topic, one is: "How can you sleep at night, my little news reporter?"; the other is: "They wrote about him in the newspaper, and he didn't even know he was like that..."

The Torah way is that you are not allowed to say Loshon Hara, even if it is absolutely true, except in situations where the knowledge of what was said or done can bring real effective results by exposing the truth. We all sin with this, but the purpose of this article was just to make us a little more aware of

what was said or done can bring real effective results by exposing the truth. We all sin with this, but the purpose of this article was just to make us a little more aware of what we say, and that we can, as consumers, demand more honest and unbiased reporting.

There are very few newspapers and websites that report with complete honesty, and there are even fewer that tell us about all the good that happens in the world. Let us pray that when the Messiah comes, this will change, and that we will only hear good news. And may I suggest, that for this New Jewish Year of 5,777, we try at least once a day, to find and share one happy or good news with our family and friends.

This will definitely ensure that we will have a good, sweet & Happy New Year! B'Shalom, G-d Bless. 🕊



JEWISH GUILT REVISITED

BY RABBI YAKOV KERZNER, BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, HALIFAX

The High Holiday season is fast approaching and our minds turn from the freedom of summer to the serious business of assessing our lives and attempting to achieve greater personal and spiritual heights. The period between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are known as the Ten days Of Repentance. The month of Ellul preceding them are traditionally associated with contemplation, prayer and attention to reassessing our past and correcting our future. Strangely, a quick glance at the Torah and its description of those days does not even hint at repentance. There are only some very obscure hints at teshuvah, repentance, in the Book Of Deuteronomy. So where does our famed Jewish Guilt derive its nourishment? True, the Talmud and the prayers established for Yom Kippur are full of cries of our sinfulness and our yearning for change. We spend a good

part of the day literally beating up on ourselves for all our crimes of the past year and Yom Kippur actually translates as "Day of Atonement", attained by rituals of sacrifice. Look further and you will note that there is another goal stated quite clearly in the Bible, "Taharah", "Purification". Perhaps, that negative, dark view of life and the focus on guilt is only one pathway to the real end goal of Purification. Actually, when we review the liturgy of Rosh Hashanah, there is almost no mention of Repentance, Sinning, Guilt or Atonement. Rather, the liturgy, ritual, and celebration of the day and the overall spirit of Rosh Hashanah are focused on developing a renewed relationship with G-D. The theme of the day is Malchut, accepting G-D's sovereignty over the world and our everyday lives. The shofar, as traditionally understood, is a wake up call. Awake and arise to a new

spirit of happiness and rejoicing. Eat festive meals and spend time with family. Not frivolous partying but a celebration of life and a joy in connecting, or reconnecting, with G-D. In Rabbinic literature, there are two types of Teshuvah, Repentance. Teshuvah out of love and Teshuvah resulting from fear. Before we revert to the guilt trips, the fear and the unhappy memory of our mistakes, let us celebrate all the positive energy that naturally flows from the wellsprings of our G-D created souls. Let our spiritual life reflect a newfound love that always existed beneath the surface of our mundane lives. Let this year's celebration of the New Year create a new spirit in ourselves and within the Jewish People, a spirit that will lead to happiness and peace for all who walk on the face of the Earth. 🕊



WHO WILL SAY KADDISH?

BY REBBETZIN FRIMET YAGOD, CONGREGATION TIFERES ISRAEL, MONCTON

Kaddish – the very word evokes hallowed memories and a deep reverence. The respect for Kaddish is universal yet what is really in this sacred Prayer? Furthermore, why, at each stage of any of the Prayer Services, do we pause to say the Kaddish in its various forms? Why as well, the mourners Kaddish that is unique to a burial R”L is also said at a Siyum, the completion of a Tractate in Mishna or Gemorrah, regardless if the one making the Siyum is a mourner or not?

While we are at it, let us ask a more advanced question. What is in this sacred Prayer, that for the past two and a half millennia, has been the cornerstone of Jewish connection and Jewish continuity? Allow me to give you this Rebbetzin’s perspective.

Kaddish is the expression of our acknowledgment that G-d is the Creator of the world and The One who directs our lives. It is a variation of the Shema Yisrael Prayer, said in the language of the Talmud, to reminds us

Hear O’Israel, Hashem is your G-d, Hashem is one. It is essential to pause the Prayer Service to give expression to this basis of Judaism which is One G-d. It is even more essential, that one who has lost someone so dear and near, to express their mourning in their belief in G-d. G-d gave us this precious person and now G-d has taken them back. This expression allows the person to mourn and simultaneously feel comfort knowing their loved one is in G-d’s special place for those who have completed their life’s mission and will IY”H be returned in the coming of the Resurrection. The same unique Kaddish said at the burial is also said at a Siyum to acknowledge that Torah Learning and teachings of the Tradition as given from Sinai, are the basis of Jewish Continuity. This is why a Siyum is traditionally made at a Shloshim marking the 30th day after burial and to each subsequent Yuhrtzeit. We honor their memory with Jewish Continuity. For the Jewish Mother, this

Prayer, along with Shema and the Amida, arWhile e the the strength in which we raise our children to emotionally connect to G-d and their Judaism, to make it one with them and afford them the opportunity to continue and build from it for their children and their children’s children and for the generations that will follow after them. This connection that we impart to our children is then reinforced and enhanced in the Jewish institution of Jewish Learning that we intrust our children to. When we answer the Kaddish, with all proper intent, the emotion and reverence that it evokes in us, our children will do the same and pass it on to their children. It starts first with the home and then continues with proper Jewish Education.

As we pray this Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, let us contemplate not just what we are praying for but also what impact are we making on our children especially vis-a-vis Jewish Continuity of our communities and specifically regarding the Jewish Continuity of our own families.

On behalf of my family and my myself, we wish you a Happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Shana Tova. 5

“AVINU MALKEINU – OUR FATHER OUR KING.”

BY RABBI MENDEL FELDMAN, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF THE MARITIMES

The theme of G-d as our Father our King dominates Rosh Hashana.

The Baal Shem Tov taught that the love G-d has for each one of us is analogous to the love that a father has for an only child born to him in his old age. Rosh Hashana is the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve. Thus, it corresponds to the rebirth of humanity and we reestablish our relationship as children of G-d on this day.

The sounding of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah is connected to this central theme of G-dx as our Divine Parent.

To better understand this we look to another parable of the Baal Shem Tov: An errant prince, an only son, traveled far from the palace. After many years had passed, the prince yearned to be reunited with his father, the king. However, by the time he returned to his native land, he had forgotten his mother tongue. Approaching the palace unable to communicate with his father the king, a cry emerged from deep within his soul, a cry that – no matter how estranged the child – the father could recognize and understand his son.

This fervent broken-hearted plea, of “Father, it is I, your only son, help me!” broke through the barriers separating father and son more eloquently than any words the prince might have uttered. At this moment, the king embraced the errant son.

Throughout the year we wander and go about our lives, not paying much attention to our spiritual needs. At times, we even seem to have lost our means of communicating with our Father. We are very much like the proverbial prince, who when facing his father the king could only cry.

We are in pain not only because our self-created barriers separate us from G-d. But also because even when we wish to return, we encounter all sorts of seemingly insurmountable obstacles born of the national and spiritual exile of our people.

The sound of the shofar represents the speechless cry of the only child within each of us. Chosen because of its simplicity, it symbolizes the incorruptible nature of the soul that is intrinsically connected to the essence of G-d.

Transcending the conventional modes of communication, the shofar’s shattering wail arouses in us an awareness of the most powerful bond uniting

Father and child. No matter how far we may feel we’ve strayed throughout the year, no matter how muted or inadequate our ability to communicate with G-d, the shofar of Rosh Hashana enables us to reconnect in a more fundamental and powerful way than we can envision.

The “Great Shofar” that will be sounded by G-d signaling the Messianic Era, will pierce all barriers and penetrate beneath the surface of our very beings. When G-d sounds the Great Shofar we will be able to express, completely and openly, the fundamental child/parent relationship we intrinsically have with G-d. The shofar of Redemption will usher in a time when the love between G-d and the Jewish people – concealed throughout our trial-ridden exile – will be fully revealed. May we merit the coming of our Righteous Moshiah speedily in our days.

May we all be inscribed and sealed for a good and sweet year. 5



SHALOM JEWISH ATLANTIC CANADA

BY RABBI RAYSH WEISS,
SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE

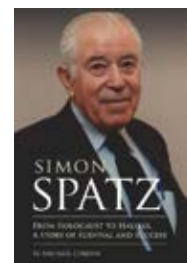
For my initial article in *Shalom Magazine*, I have been asked to introduce myself. The Zohar teaches, “there is no place devoid of G-d”. Just as a rainbow can be best experienced only from a certain angle, so too the beauty and grandeur of the Divine is most powerfully encountered when we know where and how to look. My spiritual journey represents the wondrous and often unlikely synthesis of a variety of experiences and individuals who have guided me on my path to this exciting new chapter in my life. My educational odyssey has included 14 formative years of Jewish day school education, followed by a broad, interdisciplinary undergraduate education at Northwestern University (Evanston IL), and then, an enlightening tenure as a Fulbright Research Fellow in Ethnomusicology Berlin (Germany), followed by five years at the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, MN) earning my PhD in Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, and, finally, of course, my life-changing years as a Wexner Graduate Fellow and rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (New York, NY), where I met my spouse, Rabbi Jonah Rank. I have been blessed to serve a number of communities within North America and Israel and have always been especially moved by the intentionality and committed cohesion of small communities. It is a true *zechut* (privilege and honor) to serve now the Jews of Halifax, and I look forward to making this community our home and building deep and meaningful relationships across our community. Rabbi Rank and I, along with our daughter Ariana, are thrilled to join the Shaar community, as well the Jewish community of Halifax at large. We wish you a most blessed and sweet new year full of personal and communal fulfillment, love, and sacred purpose. ☺



BOOK REVIEW

SIMON SPATZ – FROM HOLOCAUST TO HALIFAX – A STORY OF SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS

AUTHOR: MICHAEL COBDEN / WITH A FORWARD BY JIM SPATZ
NIMBUS PUBLISHING, 2016



SIMON SPATZ BIOGRAPHY A FINE READ

BY JOEL JACOBSON

In the introduction to the book about his father, Simon, Jim Spatz wrote, “I wanted a book about Simon’s life for a couple of reasons. He was my father and was always a heroic figure to me. But he was also a remarkable person who lived a remarkable life, one filled with both great loss and sadness, and even in the face of that, great achievement.”

In a recently-released biography called *Simon Spatz: From Holocaust to Halifax: A Story of Survival and Success*, author Michael Cobden weaves Simon’s story from his early days in a poor existence in Poland, through suffering during the Holocaust, until he came to Canada with virtually the shirt on his back, a wife, young son, and tons of ambition.

The book recalls Simon’s arrival at Pier 21 in Halifax February 8, 1950, his weak attempt at learning English as his wife Reva attended ESL classes and he ignored them. The Spatzs lived with Reva’s sister, Ina, and her husband Morris and their two daughters in cramped space while Simon worked in a small grocery store, a few miles away, to which he walked each day because his English was so inefficient, he couldn’t ask for a bus ticket or know where to get off.

Things changed quickly. He bought a grocery store with Morris but soon had enough money to buy his own shop. Driven to succeed and full of energy, he worked very long hours and made a good living for his family.

The real estate career started with the store which had a flat for the Spatzs’ and a flat divided into a rooming house. Cobden’s research leads to building after building being erected by Simon, to the arrival home of

Doctor Jim Spatz who gave up a successful medical career in Montreal to help his father with the development business and to today’s Southwest Properties, a huge real estate and development company with assets in the multi-millions.

Cobden concludes by writing, “Simon showed the world the value of integrity, determination, hard work and a positive attitude toward life.”

The book is a well-written and well-researched study of a man who had warmth, charm and optimism. ☺

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date!

ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL 20th Biennial

SPEND YOUR WEEKEND IN HALIFAX
NOVEMBER 18–20 2016

Program highlights

Shabbat Dinner Tribute to Jon Goldberg,
special guest speakers, programs, weekend brunches,
AGM, Saturday Night Gala Celebration at the

ATLANTIC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



JEWISH FEDERATIONS OF CANADA - UIA
הפדרציות היהודיות בקנדה - UIA
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United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada

המגבית היהודית המאוחדת באטלנטיק קנדה

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Jewish people in Atlantic Canada, Israel & Overseas.**

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tomorrow for thousands of Jews across the globe.**

Please support our annual 2016 UJA Campaign.