

Shalom

CONNECTING THE ATLANTIC JEWISH COMMUNITY

 Atlantic
Jewish
Council

WINTER 2016-2017

Philip Riteman, Receives
Order of Nfld and Labrador
Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

Spatz Chair in Jewish
Studies Coming Soon



AJC BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

SEES SMOOTH TRANSITION

Tom Forrestall
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SHALOM MAGAZINE

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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

WINTER 2016-17

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SHEVAT 5777



Christmas Day lunch at Spencer House
Holds Great Meaning. Page 23



ON THE COVER

The Dung Gate, Jerusalem,
by Tom Forrestall



This beautiful, original watercolour **The Dung Gate, Jerusalem**, 14" x 22", from the series 35 Days in Israel is available for purchase from the AJC: **\$4,100** framed (plus delivery).

Tom Forrestall is one of Canada's most acclaimed and exciting realist painters. Forrestall was born in Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia in 1936. In 1965, he held his first solo show at Roberts Gallery in Toronto and has since continued to show in galleries and museums across Canada. He completed a large outdoor piece for Expo '67. He was elected a member of the Royal Canadian Academy in 1973.

"Watercolor has been with me since my earliest days of painting and has always been the most enjoyable side of my painting experience; allowing me to work while I travel throughout my own country and abroad... The watercolors I did in Israel are, I feel, some of my finest efforts. I was honored and delighted for the opportunity to work and travel throughout this beautiful country. The sights and people of the land will continue to inspire me for years to come." – Tom Forrestall, March, 2011

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MICHAEL ARGAND

President of the Atlantic Jewish Council

We frequently talk about our need to re-energize our Jewish community, but now with the new leadership at both synagogues in Halifax and the AJC, the growing impact of our newcomer community, the purchase and renovations of the Bayit, and the opportunity provided to us from the Leventhal Bequest, we have a very exciting opportunity to revitalize ourselves.

This fall has been an incredibly busy and productive time at the AJC.

Naomi Rosenfeld officially became our Executive Director on Oct. 1st. While Naomi undoubtedly has some tremendously big shoes to fill (in all sense of the term!), Jon has been incredibly supportive and helpful to Naomi, and I want to thank him sincerely for that.

After the rush of the Jewish Holidays in October, we held a private screening of movie *Denial* featuring a special surprise talk by Rabbi Raysh Weiss, who actually grew up with Deborah Lipstadt! I think everyone was fascinated to learn about our community's connection to the movie and agreed it was a very engaging evening.




We then moved into November with what have now become two of the AJC's flagship programs: Holocaust Education Week and the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival. As always, Edna LeVine, our Director of Community Engagement, did a superb job in organizing these two programs. These two events are crucial in the way that we, as a Jewish community, present ourselves collectively to the wider community in Atlantic Canada, and I am very proud of the way they reflect on us.

Finally, we ended the month of November with our 20th Biennial Convention. It was very fitting that at this milestone 20th Biennial, we recognized Jon Goldberg's contribution to our community for the last 23 years.

It has been my privilege and honour to work with Jon for many years, the past four as President of the AJC. We share a love of community, of Jewish tradition, of Israel, and our NFL pool. Being the AJC Executive Director was not a job to Jon, it was who he is. Jon's dedication and hard work has laid the foundation for our Atlantic community to evolve, to meet the needs of a new generation.

Of course, these events do not take place without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and staff. I, once again, want to give a hearty yashar koach and thank you to Marilyn Kaufman and, my wife, Jo-Anne Nozick, the 20th Biennial co-chairs.

As I began, I would like to reiterate what a tremendously exciting time it is for our Atlantic Jewish community. I look forward to seeing how we move forward with all of these opportunities. 



PHOTOS (L-R): Bracha Koren accompanies the Hebrew school students performing during the biennial celebration; Biennial co-chair Jo-Anne Nozick prepares sweets for the biennial Shabbat dinner; Linda Kislwicz, President and CEO of JFC-UIA, addresses the biennial weekend attendees.



From The Desk Of NAOMI ROSENFELD

Executive Director

In the weeks between signing on as the new Executive Director of the AJC and actually beginning the job on August 1st, I spent much time imagining what my first few months on the job would be like: slowly familiarizing myself with the Halifax Jewish community, sifting through old filing cabinets to better understand this organization's history and systems, and leisurely grabbing coffee with our community members and Jewish community professionals.

I never imagined my first five months here in Atlantic Canada would be as eventful as they've been.

For many of you reading this article, your introduction to me as Executive Director of the AJC probably revolved around the Halifax Pride Annual General Meeting (AGM).¹ For those of you unaware of the occurrences of Oct. 5th, it can be summed up succinctly as follows: At the annual general meeting of the Halifax Pride Society, a vote was held on a resolution which essentially asked for the removal of any material speaking positively about Israel from the Halifax Pride Parade and related events. Due in part to the strong attendance of approximately 100 people from the Halifax Jewish community – and major behind-the-scenes work done by the AJC, our national partner the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), and an organization called *A Wider Bridge* in the US – this discriminatory and hateful resolution was voted down by a two-to-one margin.

Now, since that AGM, many voices – many being the same voices that voted for the blatantly intolerant resolution – have said that it was inappropriate for our community to have attended the meeting en masse to vote down this anti-Israel resolution. Thus far, I saw no need to respond to these voices, knowing that many of these individuals have no interest in real dialogue with the pro-Israel community. However, I want to officially set the record straight for those of you reading who may have outstanding questions about this issue.

The Halifax Pride AGM was just “the tip of the iceberg”. It was the culmination of more than two months of work here at the AJC, alongside our partners at CIJA, to try and do everything we could to prevent such a prejudiced vote from even coming forward. We met with all of the leaders of Halifax Pride several times, spoke to members of the groups targeting us, and – to no avail – urged them to correct the misinformation they were spreading about the AJC and CIJA. We helped get several voices published to raise awareness of the danger of this resolution, including everyone from local community members to the 70+ LGBTQ+ leaders that signed an open letter written by MP Scott Brison. We even encouraged each of Halifax Pride's sponsors to speak out to Pride against allowing such a resolution to come to a vote. However, while each of these actions undoubtedly helped persuade others to come to the meeting and help us vote down the resolution, the board of Halifax Pride continually denied our request to remove the resolution from going to a vote. Then, and only then – and might I add – with the Pride board's full knowledge, did we start encouraging our community to come out to the AGM. The Pride Board was fine with my encouraging non LGBTQ+ to come out to the meeting because they were aware, just as we were, that everyone who felt passionately about this resolution was doing the same – including the very groups now complaining that we did so. Furthermore, our presence at the AGM was entirely in keeping with Halifax Pride's own stated mission to develop “partnerships with all communities (including non-urban and non-queer)”.

Another element of the Halifax Pride AGM that I want to make clear was the universal and far-reaching repercussions that the Jewish community would have faced had the resolution passed. This type of resolution at a Pride Society was unprecedented, and as such, there was a major concern that allowing such a resolution to pass – even if it was not

upheld – could have resulted in similar initiatives against Jewish communities elsewhere in North America. It is no coincidence that both Canadian and American national Jewish organizations took such a keen interest in the actions of our local Jewish community. Not to mention the spark that passing this resolution would have lit under the BDS and other anti-Israel movements on campus.

So, with that context, I want to reiterate – even now, three months later – how thankful and proud I am for everyone who joined me at that AGM. While it was certainly a difficult night, with pain and sadness still lingering on both sides, we as a community were able to set aside our differences and respectfully stand up to blatant discrimination. The AGM also opened my eyes to how much work we have to do when it comes to educating about and advocating for Israel in our local community. I am excited for the AJC to take on a leadership role in facing this formidable challenge.

In what felt like a fortuitous coincidence, in the weeks following the Pride AGM, I hopped on a flight to Israel to visit the Gali-lee Panhandle, our partnership region in the northern part of Israel, and to see our very own Howard Conter become the new chair of the Canadian national Partnership2Gether (P2G) steering committee. While I'm sure that other articles in this magazine will touch on the work of the Partnership more specifically, let me just say this: I don't think there's any Canadian Jewish communal activity where Atlantic Canada punches above its weight more than in this partnership. Through our lay leadership and our impactful projects, we are truly having a palpable impact on this region.

Immediately following my trip to Israel was the Atlantic Jewish Council's 20th Biennial Convention. In my opinion, this biennial lived up to its theme – “L'Dor va Dor: Passing the Torch” in many ways: we had a beautiful Shabbat dinner in honour of Jon Goldberg's retirement, had ample time

1. That is, if you don't count the introductory email sent out of the AJC office on my behalf with the one-word subject of “Annoucement”. My first ingrained lesson as Executive Director? Triple spell-check everything that your office sends out.

Continue on page 33

PHILIP RITEMAN, RECEIVES ORDER OF NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

Philip Riteman has received many awards and recognitions through the years for his open and honest portrayal of his survival of the Holocaust

BY JOEL JACOBSON



The Polish-born, Bedford NS resident was recently installed in the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador, the highest honour bestowed by the province where he settled after the pre-Confederation Dominion of Newfoundland took him in. This award means as much, if not more, to the kindly gentleman than almost any other

For dozens of years, Riteman has spoken for those who could not, has told his story of incarceration in Nazi concentration camps where he watched most of his family perish, has urged people to never forget what prejudice can do to people by those who were swept up by a dictator who drew his countrymen into venomous hatred for no other reason than religious belief.

He has spoken to hundreds of high school, university and community groups across North America about what happened to him and the Jewish people. He has received the Order of Nova Scotia, honorary doctorates by Memorial University, Saint Mary's University and St. Thomas University, certificates, gifts and adulation from his audiences. He has brought them to tears with his story, while emotionally, sometimes through his own tears, quashing claims of Holocaust deniers. He has shown them his number tattoo, yet told them he is more than a number.



PHOTOS (L-R): Philip and Dorothy Riteman; Larry Riteman accepts the medal from His Honour, the Honourable Frank F. Fagan, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, on behalf of his father Philip Riteman

Seven decades after he arrived in Newfoundland, Riteman received the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador for his life's achievements, including his book *Millions of Souls*, which tells his story from before the Second World War to his life in Canada's easternmost province. 5

Editor's note: On December 14, 2016 Philip Riteman was one of the nine people invested into the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador. For more than 20 years, Mr. Riteman has continued to bear witness as a Holocaust survivor and he has shared painful memories and a commitment to a more just society. Riteman was unable to attend the ceremony due to illness and his son, Larry, travelled to St. John's to accept the award on his behalf. The following was distributed by His Honour, the Honourable Frank F. Fagan, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador.

PHOTO CREDIT: GOVERNMENT HOUSE

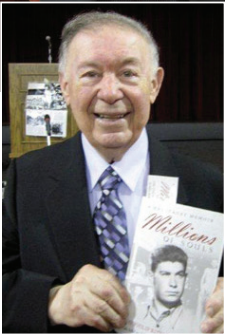


NINE PEOPLE INVESTED INTO THE ORDER OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

In a ceremony at Government House, nine people were invested into the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador – the highest honour of the province. All nine have made significant contributions and their efforts have positively impacted the lives of their fellow residents.

"We can bestow no greater honour on Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. These nine individuals have contributed greatly to society over a period of decades and their efforts deserve recognition. I congratulate them and wish them well as they continue to build upon their considerable legacies." – His Honour, Frank F. Fagan, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador

"Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are known around the world for their kindness and willingness to help others. The collective body of work for these nine people is impressive and has impacted virtually every aspect of society in the province. It was a pleasure to participate in today's ceremony and have the opportunity to personally thank them for their tireless dedication to making Newfoundland and Labrador a better place." – The Honourable Dwight Ball, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador



PHOTOS: (TOP) Larry Riteman, centre, with from L-R, His Honour, the Honourable Frank F. Fagan, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador and The Honourable Dwight Ball, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador; (LEFT) Philip Riteman displays his memoirs, *Millions of Souls*, published by Flanker Press, NL.

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Library® PROGRAM

A GIFT for JEWISH CHILDREN and their families

The Atlantic Jewish Council is thrilled to continue to offer the **PJ LIBRARY** (PJ, as in pajamas). A program that provides families raising Jewish children (ages 6 months to 5.5 years) in Atlantic Canada with a **FREE** treasury of Jewish books and music!

Every month, families enrolled in PJ LIBRARY receive a high-quality, expert-selected and kid-tested (!) Jewish book or CD (one per family) as a gift from the community.

Through the generosity of **The Atlantic Jewish Foundation** with support from the **Harold Grinspoon Foundation**, the Atlantic Jewish Council has made this program available to 50 families in Atlantic Canada.

This is a great opportunity to sponsor part or all of project through your donation to the Atlantic Jewish Foundation.

A donation of \$65 will enroll one child currently on waiting list in our region.

Please help expand this program in our region.

*Contact: Neli Shpoker, UJA Campaign Administrator
uja@theajc.ns.ca or leave a message at 902-422-7491 x224*

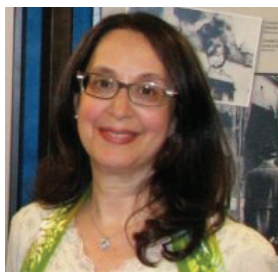


From The Desk Of EDNA LEVINE

Director of Community Engagement

Seventy years after liberation, Holocaust Education Week entered its 13th year in Halifax offering educational programs to the general public and to middle and high school students. Programs included 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. In addition, Hillel Atlantic Canada, Halifax (see Campus News) and Capital Community Church in Fredericton, NB hosted programs expanding the outreach. Events featured first-hand testimony, film, drama, dialogue and an interactive exhibit, to further the understanding of the Holocaust. We were pleased to host two performances by Roger Grunwald, son of a German-Jewish survivor and a seasoned professional performing artist who co-created the educational lecture and theatrical performance *The Mitzvah Project*. At the center of *The Mitzvah* (the play), was the tragic story of one "mischling" – the derogatory term the Nazis used to characterize those who descended from one, two or three Jewish grandparents. The educational program explored one of the little-known stories of the Holocaust, "mischlings", having to do with the history and fate of tens of thousands of German men. The multi-media lecture provided the background (from Moses Mendelssohn to the rise of Hitler) of the tens of thousands of German men who were the product of two centuries of Jewish assimilation, intermarriage, conversion and the striving of a people committed to calling the German Fatherland their home, these men would become soldiers of the Third Reich.

The 3rd Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) in Halifax opened November 16th screening international award-winning films for five days. Working with returning chair Lynn Rotin and the organizing committee, Phil Belitsky, Rosalind Belitsky, Anna Hazankin, Jon Goldberg (executive director, since retired), Linda Law and Peggy Walt, was thoroughly enjoyable. I truly appreciated and was thankful for their commitment,



collaborative spirit, creative resolution and diligence to ensure filmgoers an engaging line-up of films and partygoers an outstanding gala party – which encompassed the 20th AJC biennial celebrators. Coming soon...the 4th AJFF in November 2017!

Spur festival, hosted by the Literary Review of Canada, launched in 2013 in Winnipeg, Vancouver and Toronto, expanded to Halifax in 2016. Based on a collaborative model Spur brings together the general public with a wide variety of presentations in an effort to encourage dialogue and re-create a vision of society. This fall we partnered with Spur and the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 to offer an afternoon screening of "Hummus! the Movie" complete with hummus tastings from some of Halifax's most popular producers and we successfully inspired conversations. Spur returns to Halifax in October so please stay tuned for information on our upcoming partnership event.

Organizing Christmas lunch for the fifth year at Spencer House Seniors Centre in Halifax has become a tradition and once again community members were quick to volunteer and serve up a festive meal along with a lot of good cheer! Music, carols, good food and company resulted in a joyful afternoon for all (see Christmas Day Lunch).

The 2017 International Holocaust Remembrance Day program in Halifax, January 26th, partners us with the Halifax Central Library and the University of King's College to present 'A Tribute to Elie Wiesel and Yaffa Eliach'. Readings, music and photography highlight their significant contributions to Holocaust memory as well as the

influence of storytelling from their Hasidic upbringing.

Plans for the 2017 Asper Foundation Holocaust and Human Rights Studies Program for students in grades 8, 9 or 10 are presently underway. All students are required to participate in nine educational sessions and complete ten hours of independent community service. The curriculum for the educational component of the program was developed specifically by Holocaust and human rights educators for The Asper Foundation. After the educational component and volunteer service are completed students travel in the spring to Winnipeg, MB to visit the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, which opened in 2014. Additional information on the program is available on The Asper Foundation website: AsperFoundation.com.

Family Shabbaton 2017 at Camp Kadimah is tentatively scheduled for late August. After an extremely popular program last summer, families are eagerly awaiting a return to the shores of beautiful Lake William. Are you interested in a fun family weekend, meeting new families, connecting with friends and strengthening our community? If so, please send me an email: elevine@theajc.ns.ca.



PHOTO: At the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS) Open House with Yulia Sultan-Shakh who provided the children's entertainment as the Snow Princess.

CAMPUS NEWS

BY CRAIG FOX, DIRECTOR, HILLEL ATLANTIC CANADA

Since I began my role at Hillel Atlantic a few months ago, there have been some exciting changes. We've taken a new approach to the way that we reach students within Halifax and have also worked hard on a perception change to make sure that both Jewish and non-Jewish students see us as a place where people and ideas are welcome. We can be a place where everyone is at home while using Jewish principals and ideas to guide us. A new website was launched (www.hillelatlantic.ca), and our social media accounts got a makeover, and new strategies were implemented. With the changes we've tried, we've also seen the great rewards from them.

We were pleasantly surprised to see in excess of 80 students attend the Welcome Back BBQ in the fall, and attendance has not dropped over the semester. Our last shabbat dinner was in November, where we invited our friends from the LGBT2Q+ community, and had over 70 students filling the Hillel House. We've definitely begun to learn what the Hillel House looks like when it's packed to capacity, and couldn't be happier about it.

The holidays have also been a huge success this year. Despite the poor weather, we had a full house for our Rosh HaShanah dinner and students were grateful to have a home away from home to celebrate the new year. During Sukkot we built a beautiful sukkah on the back deck of the Hillel House with help from AEPi Halifax – we shook the lulav, and even had a torah discussion inside lead by one of the students following a shabbat dinner. During Hanukkah we tried a different type of party where we came together in order to give back. While celebrating the holiday (although we had to do it a little early this year) and filling ourselves with latkes, we also filled gift bags with latkes, quinoa salad, and a pair of winter socks. We delivered a total of 60 gift bags to the less fortunate at a homeless shelter, and to the Navigator Street Outreach Program downtown which provides help to those in need. Tikkun Olam is an



PHOTOS: (TOP LEFT) Shabbat Dinner; (ABOVE) Building a Sukkah; (LEFT) Hillel Halifax table, welcome back bbq.

important Jewish value and is crucial to encourage the spirit of giving as early and as often as possible in people's lives. We look forward to being able to continue doing charitable work in the second semester and beyond.

Holocaust Education Week was something that Hillel Atlantic took a lot of pride in participating in this year. Yasmine Mucher and Shael Brown took it upon themselves this year to take their old presentation and make it bigger and better than it has ever been. Filling an entire hall of a heavily trafficked building on campus, over 400 photos were displayed with accompanying text, videos, and music. Students from the theatre society got involved to act out roles to show the many groups that were affected by the Holocaust and the impact it had on the entire world. Nearly 100 people saw the project in person and over 800 watched the video walkthrough that was posted online. It was very impactful to both those who attended and those who worked on the presentation.

Advocacy work on campus has been a priority this year, making sure that students feel safe on campus, and ensuring that they will continue to do so in the future. A Shabbat dinner is hosted each month, and with help from our partners at the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, we have been able to invite a campus group each dinner

in order to build and strengthen our relationships on campus. We are looking forward to the next Shabbat dinner in January where we will be inviting members from the various student unions in the HRM. It is important that the Jewish voice is heard on campus in order to ensure the safety and security of students now and in the future.

With the second semester rapidly approaching, we are gearing up to make it even bigger and better than the first. On top of the Shabbat and holiday celebrations that Hillel has become known for, we are also looking at providing some high quality programs for the students. A few of the things to look forward to will be more charitable work with our strategic partners on campus and in the community, movie nights focused around Jewish and Israeli films, and a women's self defence class teaching Israeli Krav Maga.

It's important to remember that all of the work on campus doesn't happen on its own. The student board from Hillel has really stepped up and have accepted the challenges that I've put to them with making every program greater than what they thought was possible. We have also received a lot of support from all of Halifax's rabbis and the staff at the Atlantic Jewish Council. Without the support of the community, Hillel couldn't be the success that it is, and we look forward to continuing to grow. 🌱

CIJA AND INTERFAITH PARTNERS PUSH FOR NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE STRATEGY

BY **STEVE McDONALD**, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, AT THE CENTRE FOR ISRAEL AND JEWISH AFFAIRS (CIJA)

The recent debate over medical assistance in dying has shed light on a largely overlooked but crucial area of health policy: palliative care. Although there are sharp disagreements – including within the Jewish community – on the issue of euthanasia, there is a broad consensus that all patients should have access to high-quality palliative care as an end-of-life option.


Those who have had loved ones who have been hospice patients will know that palliative care is a comprehensive, medical approach to ensuring those who are terminally ill live out their days in minimal pain and in dignity. Palliative care includes a wide range of services from pain management to caregiver services to psychological, social, and spiritual support.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) has made a priority of advocating for a pan-Canadian palliative care strategy that increases the accessibility and quality of palliative care for all Canadians. In addition to ongoing federal funding (Ottawa recently earmarked \$3 billion for provincial homecare and palliative care), we have suggested that a national strategy should also consider flexible tax benefits for family caregivers. We have done so in partnership with various faith communities, including Catholic, Evangelical, and Muslim leaders, who share our concerns regarding deficiencies in the palliative care system.

This is an issue that is only going to grow as Canada's population ages. According to Statistics Canada, the growth rate among Canadians aged 65-plus is four times higher than the national average. Currently, one in six Canadians are over 65; by 2024, this figure will be one in five.

Information from the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) paints a depressing picture of the current state of palliative care. In 2014, the CHPCA estimated that only 15-30% of Canadians approaching the end of life have access to palliative care, in which professionals are present to manage one's physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs. The CHPCA further noted that Canadians pay approximately one-quarter of the expenses involved in palliative care, a significant financial cost for those dealing with one of the most painful aspects of life.

Experts and parliamentarians report that access and quality in palliative care varies significantly across Canada, a situation that is wholly unacceptable, given the positive impact effective palliative care has on the lives of patients and family alike. Having witnessed the extraordinary care my grandmother received in a hospice centre at the end of her life, I can attest to the personal attention, compassion, and dignity that high-quality palliative care offers. May we all have access to this option at such a difficult juncture in our lives.

Cicely Saunders, a pioneer of the modern movement for palliative care, once said: "How people die remains in the memory of those who live on." Just as it is important to live well, it is vital that we ensure that our loved ones arrive at the end of their journey in physical comfort, psychological security, and spiritual peace. A compassionate nation such as Canada can no longer allow its citizens to be denied access to quality end-of-life care. That's why CIJA will continue pushing for a national, well-funded palliative care strategy. 



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Improving life in Canada for the Jewish community and all Canadians



Educating Canadians about Israel and building support for Israelis



Strengthening Jewish security and grassroots advocacy

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CAMP KADIMAH NEWS



Although our official 75th anniversary is slated for summer, 2018, we are inching closer and closer to opening the gates for summer #75 starting on July 2, 2017

BY PHIL DAVID, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAMP KADIMAH

Many may not be aware that we weren't always based in Barss Corner. A quick read through the excellent 50th anniversary Kadimah yearbook reveals that in 1943 – our first summer – Kadimah was launched out of Port Mouton – about 45 minutes from Barss Corner – and it wasn't until 1944 that we moved to our current home on beautiful Lake William. But we were renters at first; it wouldn't be until 1946 that the site was purchased from local businessmen for a cost of \$10,000.

In that first year, we welcomed 47 campers, a number which quickly sprung to over 100 by 1946 – all from Maritime centers. While there were many firsts during those initial years, 1947 had its own special occasion – the launch of the Kadimah Iton (Yearbook), which is still a cherished keepsake handed out after Banquet each summer for 7 decades and counting.

And here we are, getting ready to open those same gates on July 2, 2017 as we prepare to welcome more than 300 Campers and 100 staff from six provinces, four States and far away countries like Singapore, Australia, the UK and of course, Israel.

MARITIMES' STAFFING

We have started the hiring process for 2017 and we are excited to welcome our rookie Maritimes' staff thus far for 2017 including Bailey Karrel (Sydney); Alex Brown (Fredericton); Liran Kazatsker and Karin Reznikov (Halifax); and Josh Makarov and Michal Langleben (Moncton). Welcome aboard to all as you get ready for what might be the most rewarding job of your career! We will be announcing our remaining new hires and returning bunk staff, head staff and specialists in the Spring issue of *Shalom* as we finalize our staff roster for 2017.

AN INTRODUCTION TO CYJ'S "JOLT" PROGRAM

Since we are a member of Canadian Young Judaea, Kadimah's campers between Grades 8 to 12 have the opportunity to participate in CYJ's JOLT program – *Jewish Outreach Leadership Training*. JOLT is a national program operating in 5 cities across Canada, giving Jewish teens the chance to work together and bring about positive change within their respective communities while earning community service hours. JOLT is led nationally by Kadimah's Assistant Director – Lindsay Cohen – and locally by our own Kadimah staff – Shael Brown and Lola Leving. If you would like more information about JOLT and how to join, please contact Lindsay at lindsay.cohen@campkadimah.com.

VISITING DAY WEEKEND UPDATE JULY 22-23, 2017

For 2017 campers and their parents as well as Alumni, a reminder about our annual Pre-Visiting Day party to be held at the *Seaport Farmer's Market* on the Halifax waterfront (1209 Marginal Road). The gathering runs from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. and it's a great chance to catch up with old friends before heading to camp the next morning. Meet your kids' Section Heads between 7:30-8:30 p.m. and don't forget to sample Camp Kadimah's famous chocolate chip cookies. We dare you just to have one!

Visiting Day will take place on Sunday, July 23rd starting at 11 am ADT and ending at 4:30 p.m.

A KADIMAH TEST DRIVE

Many prospective parents have asked whether it's possible for their children to spend time at Kadimah in advance of sending their young children to camp. The answer, of course, is 'yes'. There are really two opportunities.

Visiting Day (July 23) is the perfect chance. Camp opens its gates from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Kids can see the camp up close and personal with the comfort of their parents close by and sample many of our programs like swimming, boating and Arts & Crafts.

Our annual Pre-Gibbie Day event provides an ideal scenario. On Tuesday, July 25, we welcome parents and their children (aged 6 to 9) who are interested in attending camp in 2018 or 2019 to experience a day in the life of a Kadimah Gibbie. While the kids engage in daily activities with existing Gibbies, parents will have the opportunity to tour the camp and ask any question they want. Pre-Gibbie Day runs from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

If you are interested or have friends or family who would like to join us, please reach out to the camp office by emailing us at info@campkadimah.com.

CAMP RENTALS

A reminder that Camp Kadimah is available for Group Rentals. Before and after our core summer season, if your company, school, association or organization is interested in booking a week or weekend between mid-May to early October, please contact the camp office for more details (info@campkadimah.com).

KADIMAH REGISTRATION

Registration is continuing for Kadimah 2017 but we are very close to full in all sections. If you are interested and haven't already applied, please reach out to the camp office (info@campkadimah.com) for more information and to determine if there is space remaining in your child's age group.

And for our Alumni...you are by far our biggest advocates and ambassadors. If you have friends or family with kids of camp age,



please continue to remind them about our wonderful camp on the shores of Lake William.



THE HEART AND SOUL OF KADIMAH

We end on sad and reflective note as we remember a Kadimah giant, Evy Carnat, who passed away this past November. Evy was a camper and staff member at Kadimah in the 50's and 60's but my generation will remember her not just as the Shira/Rikud leader throughout the 70s, she represented the heart and soul of Kadimah for all of us who knew her. We still remember learning the Hora, the Mayim dance, Rockin' Robin and any tune Evy could magically squeeze out of whatever instrument was in front of her – whether it was the piano, accordion or harp.

As a fellow Cape Bretoner, I've been lucky to see and hear first-hand the huge impact

Evy (and her entire family) had on the local community and the Temple Sons of Israel congregation. Whether it was Sydney, Calgary, Charlottetown, Moncton or English-town, Evy and her husband Barrie left an indelible mark wherever they lived.

It was Evy who suggested a few Visiting Days ago that with so many campers coming from outside of the Maritimes, wouldn't it be nice to also share a taste of east coast culture through music. There is absolutely no song better than "We Rise Again", written by her brother and Kadimah alum, Leon Dubinsky. So with Evy in attendance, the whole camp sang this powerful Maritimes anthem on Visiting Day in 2015 as Evy Facetimed the performance back to Leon in Englishtown. Goosebumps!

Heidi Brown Minsky – a camper during the 70s and mom to 3 current Kadimahniks as well as a Committee member – wrote this upon hearing of Evy's passing which pretty well sums it up.

Evy embodies everything that is Kadimah. She was the soul, the spirit and life force of camp when we were kids.

Her giant footsteps would be impossible to fill. Her love of music and song, her energy, infectious enthusiasm and ability to work

hundreds of kids into a Friday night frenzy will stay with me forever. She led by example and brought so much joy to so many. I am comforted by the knowledge that her legacy lives on in all of the campers and staff who were blessed to have crossed her path.

Our thoughts are with Barrie, her sons – Uri, Toby and Daniel and spouses – and her grandchildren who are continuing her legacy as the next generation of Kadimah's campers. I'll leave you with these thoughtful words from Evy who we interviewed at this time last year for Kadimah's *Shalom* article.

"I don't see my experience at Kadimah in isolation of what went on in my time outside of camp. Every year, I spent 10 months and 2 weeks in anticipation of my 6 weeks at Kadimah. What's my advice for today's campers and staff? Eat it up. Have fun. Try new things. Some of the friends you make will become your 'forever friends.'"

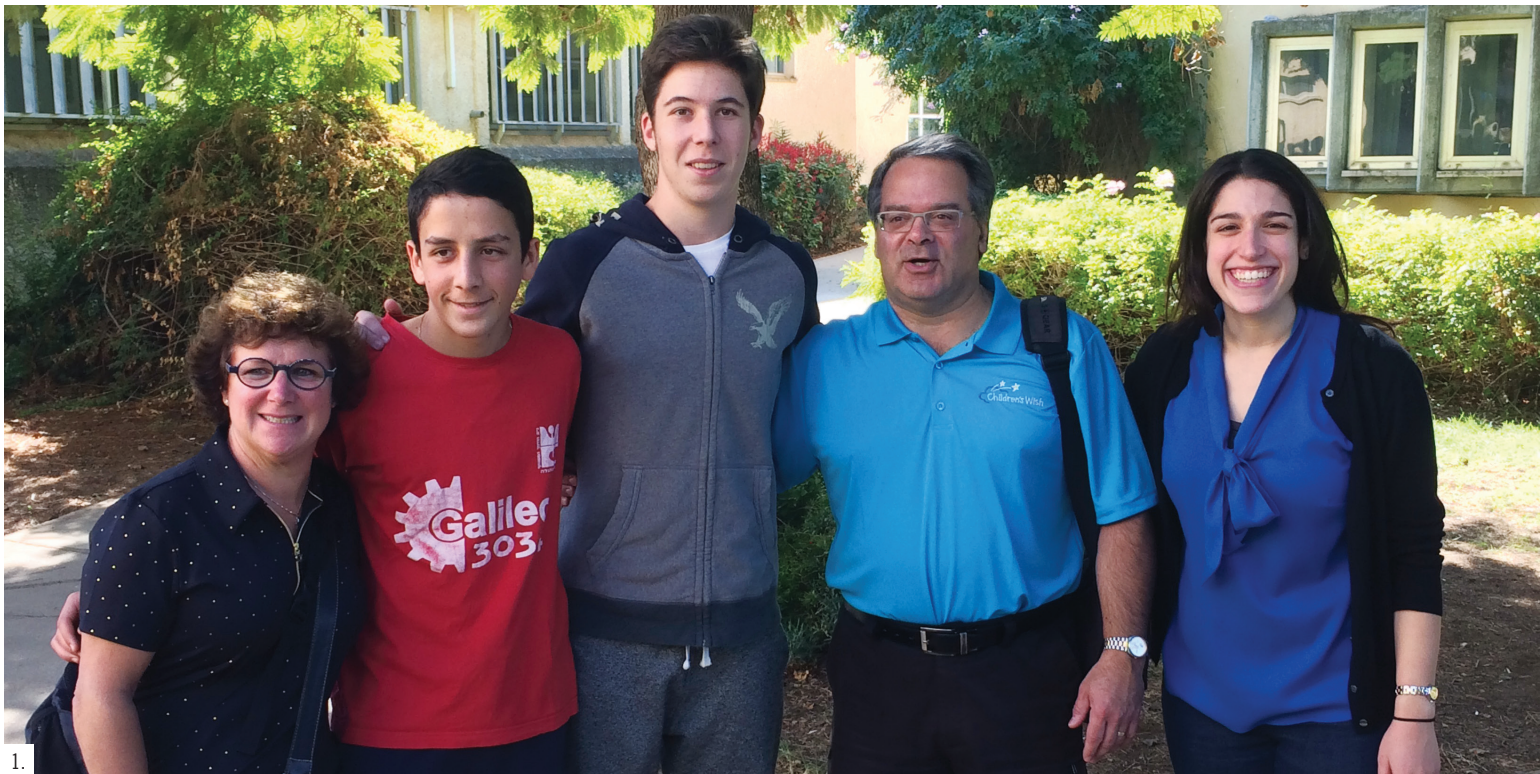
Boy, was she every right! Thank you Evy.

Enjoy the winter months. I look forward to providing a Kadimah update in the spring as we close in on Season No. 75. ☺

PARTNERSHIP 2-GETHER: UPDATE FROM ISRAEL

KAREN CONTER, ATLANTIC CHAIR PARTNERSHIP 2-GETHER

HOWARD CONTER, CANADIAN CHAIR PARTNERSHIP 2-GETHER



Partnership 2-Gether had another very successful Israeli meeting in November 2016. Once again the five Northern Israeli municipalities and six Canadian Coast to Coast communities met to deal with issues of mutual concern.

On the table were potential projects that supported youth at risk, education and healthcare. All done in an atmosphere of mutual respect and partnership.

It is important to understand that between the core budget of P2G and the additional priority projects that are supported in the five Israeli communities, over one million dollars is raised by our Coast to Coast communities to improve the lives of our Israeli partners. These funds are essential to the lives of Israelis in the north of Israel.

With this amount of funding the partnership has proposed to revisit how we determine where funds are best spent. This is very important to maintain our leadership position in the north. Projects that will be funded this year include the first true Rehabilitation

Centre in Northern Israel. We will provide the equipment to allow handicapped children, injured soldiers and Israelis working to recover from strokes, genetic disorders and orthopedic procedures to once again become independent.

Also we are funding a “Teaching Kitchen” that will allow handicapped and autistic children to learn the necessary skills to actually reach matriculation standards in food preparation and dietary courses. This will allow this special group of Israeli’s to work and to support themselves independently.

We will continue to support education with computer labs that help with indoor and outdoor education. Also we continue to influence education even in the youngest kids through funding of

new state of the art daycare facilities. We also continue to support culture with the provision of a new music room and recording studio. Also we have projects that help with dance and art education. We also continue to fund an award winning robotics program that helps teach math, physics and engineering.

Through all my years of involvement with UIA both locally and nationally it is my strong opinion that no other facet of our Israel

connection works better or does more to promote Canadian-Israeli co-operation than Partnership 2-together.

We are hopeful that more of our Maritime family will want to get involved in the vital and uplifting work of this program. For more information please feel free to reach out to us as we are growing quickly and need further support. 5



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PHOTOS:

1. Howard Conter, Karen Conter, and Naomi Rosenfeld with Itamar Satmas on the left and Ariel Talevich on the right, two boys attending Emek Hahula High School in our partnership region who were CITs at Camp Kadimah this summer.
2. Students showing Howard, Karen, and Naomi around the Korzacak School in Be'er Sheva.
3. Howard Conter and David Azulai, mayor of Metulla, performing with the children at Eetzba'oni daycare in Metulla.

ON THE LIFE OF HELENA JOCKEL Z" L

In 2009 Helena Jockel received the Nova Scotia Human Rights Award for sharing her story about the brutality of the Holocaust with people across the province. She believed that, despite the pain of sharing her story, it was her duty to warn young people about injustice and human cruelty so that they may overcome hatred and intolerance in the future.

BY YOLANA WASSERSUG

This essay is adapted from Yolana's eulogy for her grandmother, originally delivered on November 6th, 2016

On behalf of my family, I have the responsibility to write about my grandmother's life, but truthfully, I might not be well-equipped for this task. I am the youngest of her three grandchildren, and by the time that any of Helena's grandchildren were born, she had already lived two thirds of a very full life. I only knew her for the last 28 years, but she lived for nearly a century, so there will always be much about her that I will never know, that I could never have known, even if I had all the time in to world to ask all the questions I wish I had asked.

Who am I to tell you about her childhood, and the games she would have played with her brothers and sisters? Who am I to tell you about her school days, teenage years, young adulthood, and how she felt on the first day that she taught students at the Jewish elementary school in her hometown of Mukachevo? What gives me the right to express her pain, her fear, the horrors she witnessed and the trauma she experienced at the hands of the Nazis? What authority do I have to tell you about her marriage, the birth of her two children, her experience of raising her beautiful family in a small town in Czechoslovakia? All of those experiences happened before her life intersected with mine.

People often say that you should write about what you know. So here is something I know, with certainty, about my bubby:

Helena Jockel was an amazing teacher. I mean this in the obvious sense that she had a career as a schoolteacher, but, I also mean that she was a teacher in a broader sense; that she was a woman who led by example, who believed that learning was an ongoing process of self-improvement, and that education is so vital that it is literally a matter of life and death.

She taught me many things that I'm glad I learned. From her, I learned that any minor achievement is a valid excuse to buy a new outfit. I learned from her that milk chocolate contains calcium, so it's basically a health food. She taught me that you can use art and culture to improve yourself, and that artistic beauty is the opposite of death. She loved books, and later in her life she particularly loved her book club. She was passionate about music, and she recounts in her autobiography a memory of watching Auschwitz prisoners forced to play a concert for the pleasure of the Nazi guards. *"I began to cry"* she writes. *"I cried inconsolably because those musicians were playing music that had been created to make the world a better place. Yet these men, imprisoned and starving, were forced to play through suffering and humiliation. Strauss's waltzes and operettas, which brought joy to listeners for a hundred years, had nothing in common with Hitler's ideology."* She loved languages (she spoke 6 of them!), and she believed that language was a life-saving force that connected the world and bridged cultural divides. She often quoted the former Czech president and playwright, Vaclav Havel, and told me *"the more languages*

you speak, the more times you are a man."

And despite the value she placed on acts of refinement and culture: appreciation of literature, art, and language, she also taught me that you shouldn't feel ashamed to watch E! Hollywood News and catch up on all the celebrity gossip.

She taught me all these things and so many more, but the best and more important lesson she taught me was that, if you have knowledge, you have a moral imperative to share your knowledge with others. Sharing knowledge is how my bubby was righteous. Teaching is how she fulfilled to mitzvah of *tikkun olam*. It is how she helped to repair the world.

From the time she immigrated to Canada in 1988, my bubby taught her experiences during the Holocaust to Kadimah campers, church groups, university students, and journalists; often multiple times each year. Every time she told her story, she would bring that story to life, she would take the memories of these traumas out of the vaults of her memory. She could have kept her story inside, and never shared it; no one would have blamed her if she had declined to speak about these monstrosities. But, for Helena, staying silent was not an option. She was a teacher in the core of her being; sharing knowledge was not her job, it was her vocation. Her work as a holocaust educator, her ability to re-tell, to





Helena with her husband Emil, and her children, Jana and Pavel, in 1953

re-live, her darkest memories in order to educate others, was an act of great sacrifice and immense bravery.

It is important to acknowledge that the last years of Helena's long and full life – the years here in Canada – were filled with joys. The joy of being surrounded by family, of being able to speak freely and worship freely, and the joy of re-defining her relationship to Judaism. Under the Nazis and then the communists, being a Jew was a reason to be fearful, and Judaism was inextricably linked with death. My mother often tells me that during their childhood, she and my uncle Pavel had only a limited knowledge of Judaism, and for them, this religion was primarily practiced through a respectful and somber recognition of the numbers tattooed on the arms of their parents. But in Canada, toward the end of her life, my bubby was able to finally appreciate the beauty and richness of her Jewish traditions, and this was a great source of happiness for her. She expresses her relationship with faith in her autobiography where she writes: *"despite all that I have lived through, I never once wished that I was not Jewish. It is hard, without God, to find a sense of good, of how to live, of beauty, of friendship."* Many of my grandmother's most beautiful moments, and many of her most comforting friendships, were formed through her connection to this Jewish community.

And so, if it is possible for her to continue being a teacher to us all, and a woman who lead by example, I feel that the lesson we can learn is to celebrate the goodness and beauty in our lives wherever and whenever possible. To celebrate the ways our lives are enriched through our time spent in community with each other, through our appreciation of the books, the songs, and the languages that connect us. ❧



Helena with her children Pavel and Jana, Halifax

EXCEPT FROM: WE SANG IN HUSHED VOICES

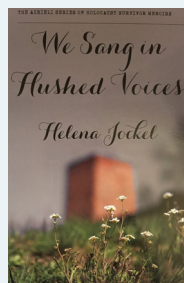
BY HELENA JOCKEL

SURVIVAL

An extremely important part of our resistance was singing. Although it seems paradoxical to talk about music and Birkenau in the same breath, singing was a key part of our existence. When our work was done and the guards weren't present, we could find safe moments to sing Hebrew songs. We had to be careful never to sing in front of the SS because they would have beaten us to death. I couldn't sing well, but it didn't matter. None of us were really singers. I would teach my friends the words to songs I had learned in school and the women with good voices would figure out the tune. Together we combined words and voices, our voices hushed so that no one would hear us. It gave us encouragement and lifted our spirits; in those moments, we didn't speak about death and killing.

These were not the only music events in the camp. There were also concerts organized by the SS – although these were hardly happy occasions for the Jewish prisoners. I recall one concert that was spontaneously arranged under orders from the camp administration. We were called out to the *Appellplatz* and commanded to sit on the ground. What we saw in front of us was a group of men in their filthy, striped prison uniforms, emaciated from hunger, each one holding a violin, a cello or a wind instrument. They were told to take their places on a platform and began to play – and, oh, how beautifully they played. Starving and ill, the musicians played waltzes by Johann Strauss II while the SS guards danced to the music.

I began to cry. I cried inconsolably because those musicians were playing music that had been created to make the world a more harmonious and beautiful place. Yet, these men, imprisoned and starving, were forced to play through suffering and humiliation. Strauss's waltzes and operettas, which brought joy to listeners for a hundred years, had nothing in common with Hitler and his ideology.



Helena Jockel's memoir, We Sang in Hushed Voices, was published by the Azrieli Foundation's Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program and is part of their 6th series of books. The Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program was established by the Azrieli Foundation in 2005 to collect, preserve and share the memoirs and diaries written by survivors of the twentieth-century Nazi genocide of the Jews of Europe who later made their way to Canada. The program is guided by the conviction that such stories play an important role in education about tolerance and diversity. The memoirs are distributed free of charge to libraries, educational institutions across Canada, and are for sale online and at bookstores.



For additional information and to view a short film profile of Helena Jockel please visit: www.azrielifoundation.org/memoirs

Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

PHOTOS BY SERGEI RATCHINSKI

The committee for the 2016 AJFF shares the success of this past year's film festival with you, the members of the Halifax Jewish community. You believed in us. You proved this through your sponsorship of the festival and by advertising in the program. But most importantly, you filled the seats. During four days of select films you laughed and applauded; maybe you even shed a tear or two. Hannah Cohen's Holy Communion was probably the favourite film, short as it is, and I know of at least one person who has contacted the distributor to purchase her own copy.

The Gala Party this year did double duty as it provided the Saturday evening entertainment for the Atlantic Jewish Council's 2016 Biennial. Partiers from communities outside our local one were able to mingle and schmooze, and enjoy the delicacies prepared by our wonderful caterers.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of events such as the AJFF and once again the community came through for us, happily wearing their identifying t-shirts supplied by the most generous Dr. Phil Belitsky, head (and only member!) of the volunteer committee. They welcomed guests at the doors to the theatres, plated food for the Gala, decorated the venue and cleaned up as the evening unfolded.

The festival weekend was both a gathering of the community and a celebration of our shared Jewish culture. But it was also a way to introduce this culture of ours to the larger public through films with Jewish content but universal appeal. This third successful year proves that there is a place in Halifax for the AJFF.

See you at the AJFF 2017! 🍷

2016 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lynn Rotin, Chair for the 2016 Committee of the AJFF

Philip Belitsky

Rosalind Belitsky

Anna Hazankin

Jon Goldberg (executive director, since retired)

Linda Law

Edna LeVine

Peggy Walt





Nibbling on appetizers, sipping on cocktails, post-screening conversations and joyously celebrating the 3rd **AJFF** and 20th **AJC Biennial**

AJFF GALA SNAPSHOTS!

PHOTOS BY SERGEI RATCHINSKI



AJC BIENNIAL CONFERENCE SEES SMOOTH TRANSITION

Jon Goldberg retires, Naomi Rosenfeld takes reins

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOEL JACOBSON

A gala dinner, highlighted by a toasting and roasting of retiring executive director Jon Goldberg, opened what was to become a vibrant and informative 20th biennial AJC Conference in Halifax.

What followed was a smooth transition from veteran leadership to a new youthful outlook.

With more than 200 delegates and community members from across the region in attendance, Jon Goldberg called it a day after 23 years of dedicated service as executive director.

The Shabbat dinner brought words of greeting and praise from former Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor Myra Freeman, Nova Scotia Minister of the Public Service Commission and Minister of Internal Services Labi Kousoulis, provincial leader of the opposition Jamie Baillie, officials from Jewish Federations of Canada and CIJA, Hillel Atlantic Canada, Eric Molloy, national director, Bridges For Peace, Michael Soberman, co-chair Camp Kadimah, and Mark David, a long-time friend and former consultant with CIJA on Israel Advocacy for the AJC.

The various speakers highlighted Jon's career as executive director and lauded his loyalty to the region, his love of Israel, devotion to Zionism and his passion for defending all aspects of Judaism.

Naomi Rosenfeld has stepped into Jon's very large (literally and figuratively) shoes.

The Toronto-born woman spent several years at Camp Kadimah and then worked as Hillel director in the Atlantic region. She is excited about the opportunity to lead the AJC.

"One of my main focuses will be engaging young leaders. I know how to find them. They're in my age bracket and I think I know

what they need from a Jewish community. They're not necessarily keen on traditional, synagogue-based activities but want to be part of a Jewish-focused community."

AJC president Michael Argand, and many past presidents, will admit AJC's programming has been Halifax-based, because of budgets and manpower. But Rosenfeld is determined to meet with leaders in Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John NB, in St. John's, NL and in Prince Edward Island to engage the younger demographic in Jewish activities.

"There is an electronic webinar planned for the near future, Moishe House Without Walls, to enable Jewish young people to connect with micro communities within their own cities and towns, to find unaffiliated Jews across the region and hold mini-events such as Shabbat dinners, to start the engagement," she said.

Argand is starting his third two-year term as president but has encouraged Rosenfeld to find a young leader ready to step to the fore and take his seat.

"We want to adjust to younger leadership," said Argand in a post-convention interview. "Jon has been a mentor to Naomi in the transition period, supportive to her in everything she wants to do. We're seeing some young people returning home to the region to build families and careers. If the economic opportunities are here, they'll come back. We have a strong Hillel program which is encouraging more participation than in previous years and that engages our students. Hopefully retaining some here."

Several Sunday morning discussion sessions preceded the AJC annual meeting. All focused on community building, such as the role of the synagogue in the community, the nature of our children's relationship with

THE NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF AJC WAS ELECTED AS FOLLOWS:

PRESIDENT:	Michael Argand, Halifax
1 st VP:	Marilyn Kaufman, Fredericton
2 nd VP:	Howard Conter, Halifax
Treasurer:	Jeff Webber, Halifax
Secretary:	Adam Conter, Halifax
Past President:	Shulamith Medjuck, Halifax

Israel, what happens after Hebrew School as far as keeping youth connected, caring and programming for seniors, the challenges of sustaining Jewish communities in Atlantic Canada and the relationships between AJC and the regional communities.

With Halifax by far the largest of the Atlantic communities, attention was paid to a \$6 million bequest from late Halifax resident Abe Leventhal to assist in building a Jewish Community Center that might, or might not, contain sanctuaries for the existing Orthodox and Conservative synagogues. The terms of the estate dictate the building must be mostly completed within six years of Leventhal's passing in March 2016.

Mark Rosen, chair of the Atlantic Jewish Foundation which oversees the bequest to the AJC, said for four years prior to Leventhal's passing and bequest, a group from the two shuls had tried to develop a combined building, with no success.

THE ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL'S 20TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

"L' Dor va Dor" *Passing the Torch*

"We want to try to fulfill Abe's desire to bring the community together, with separate religious observances, but in a community building. If we fail, so be it, but we have to try."

Leventhal dictated that money from his estate, which would include the money designated for the building should it not come to be, will go to academic scholarships for students at Atlantic post-secondary institutions and for scholarships to Camp Kadimah.

Community leader and a past AJC president, Howard Conter, stressed that people "must think forward (in the JCC process). The parameters have changed in the last 40 years, from the old thought processes (of two synagogues and negativism between memberships). We have to make a strong active thriving Jewish community here."

Others emphasized the need for a younger element to take over and move forward. "Only with you, has this a chance for success," AJC past president Victor Goldberg told the meeting.

Community service awards were presented to Phil and Barbara Alberstat, Halifax, Mindy and the late Borace Jacobson, Halifax, and Barrie and the late Evie Carnat, Englishtown, Cape Breton, and formerly of Moncton and Prince Edward Island, for their long service to their respective communities. 5

PHOTOS

1. Jon Goldberg, retiring executive director of AJC, speaks moments before the closing of the 20th Biennial Convention in Halifax in November.
2. Barbara and Phil Alberstat, Halifax, received the AJC Community Service Award from president Michael Argand at the 20th Biennial Convention in November.
3. Mindy Jacobson, Halifax, receives an AJC Community Service Award from president Michael Argand at the 20th Biennial Convention in Halifax in November. Mindy and late husband Borace were honoured for their dedication to the Beth Israel Synagogue and the broader community.
4. Myrna Yazer accepts the AJC Community Service Award on behalf of Barrie and Evie Carnat, Englishtown CB, at the AJC Biennial Convention in Halifax in November. AJC President Michael Argand made the presentation to the Carnats for their long service and dedication to the communities of Prince Edward Island, Moncton and Sydney, both in the Jewish and sectarian communities. Illness prevented the couple from attending.
5. Jon Goldberg makes his final remarks as executive director of AJC near the closing of the 20th Biennial Convention in Halifax.



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TIMES CHANGING IN REGIONAL AND HALIFAX JEWISH LEADERSHIP

“The times they are a changing”, Bob Dylan penned many years ago while maybe foreseeing what would be happening in Halifax NS in 2016

BY JOEL JACOBSON

Rabbis have left for other pulpits.

Rabbis are arriving to assume the leadership of the two major shuls.

In addition, the Atlantic Jewish Council and Hillel Atlantic Canada have new people at the helm.

“It’s exciting for everyone in the Halifax community and the region,” said Mark Rosen, co-chair of the Executive Committee of Shaar Shalom Synagogue (Conservative), and a past president of AJC. “At the Shaar, the new rabbi (32-year-old Rabbi Raysh Weiss) is bringing a youthful vibrancy to our congregation.”

Joseph Roza, president of the orthodox Beth Israel Synagogue, was equally excited about the arrival of Rabbi Yakov Kerzner.

“After three rabbis who were quite young, and were with us for about four years each, Rabbi Kerzner, in his late 50s, brings a maturity and experience that will fit in well with our congregation,” Roza said of the 125-year old congregation and its aging membership. “Yet, he has a youthful exuberance that should be able to relate well to younger members and the many university students in the Halifax area.”

At the AJC, Naomi Rosenfeld takes over as executive director as Jon Goldberg retires after 23 years at the helm. Craig Fox is the new director of Hillel Atlantic Canada.

Rabbi Weiss, a Chicago native and graduate of Northwestern University and University of Minnesota (PhD in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies), received her ordination from Jewish Theological Seminary in New York last May. She grew up in an orthodox home but discovered Conservative Judaism in her teens and eventually chose to pursue the rabbinate.

“As a nine-year-old, I saw a deaf woman lead services at an egalitarian shul and was so impressed with her, I realized I wanted to do this work,” she recalled.

This will be her first and she’s excited to be there, with her husband, Rabbi Jonah Rank, who will be involved in education and community engagement.

Rabbi Weiss chuckles and says, “I met him in the first week at JTS when I was having difficulty with my tefillin, which I had never worn, and he helped me.” The couple has a one-year old daughter.

They chose Halifax because “we were moved by the kindness of the people. And it’s a younger community which seems to have lots of potential.”

She’s excited to work with Rabbi Kerzner in the combined Hebrew schools of the two synagogues and “with the leadership of AJC and Hillel to make a stronger Jewish community.”

Rabbi Kerzner echoed those thoughts. “I know we’ll find new and creative ways to work together in the community,” he said.

Rabbi Kerzner comes to Halifax after 17 years as rabbi at Mizrahi Bayit in Toronto plus time as an outreach educator at Toronto’s Clanton Park Synagogue and a similar position at Aish Hatorah/Ohr Somayach in Thornhill.

He and his wife Lisa have four grown children, three living in Brooklyn, NY and one just entering the Israeli Armed Forces as a lone soldier. The rabbi grew up in a rabbinical family in Wilkes-Barre, PA. studied at yeshivas for 11 years before branching into business as founder and president of Nightingale Health Care and Primary Response in Toronto. He received his ordination from



PHOTO (L-R): Rabbi Raysh Weiss (Shaar Shalom Synagogue), Rabbi Jonah Rank and Rabbi Yakov Kerzner (Beth Israel Synagogue)

Beth Medrash Govoha in Lakewood, NJ in 1990.

“Being in Halifax will be similar to being in Wilkes-Barre, a smaller community,” he said. “Lisa (who grew up in Malden, MA, also a small community) and I are going back to what we know, so it’s no shock after being in Toronto.”

Being with older congregants gives Rabbi Kerzner an ability to relate as he foresees being able to share common life experiences.

“I can enter discussions which possibly a younger rabbi couldn’t. But I know I can work well with younger congregants, university students, and the children I’ll be teaching at the Talmud Torah.”

With his years of business experience, he acknowledges a shul is a business, too. “My organizational skills should help both of us, plus I hope to relate to those congregants in business or the professions as one who understands their issues. It will help me build relationships.”

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH AT SPENCER HOUSE HOLDS GREAT MEANING

THE CHRONICLE HERALD, Published December 21, 2016

BY DENISE SURETTE

Spencer House, a senior's community centre in the South End of Halifax, is like a second home for many of its members, and their friends are like a second family. For some, these companions are the only family they have close by.

Five years ago, the Atlantic Jewish Council (AJC) offered to host a Christmas lunch for members who wouldn't be going anywhere for the holiday. This coming Christmas Day will be their fifth time hosting.

Bertha Roberts, executive director of Spencer House, says the event means a lot to members who wouldn't have anywhere else to go. "It means a great deal to our seniors, because they come here on a regular basis. Spencer House is sort of like their family. It gives them a place to come and gather and spend Christmas Day with those they consider family," says Roberts. She says the same members usually attend the lunch each year. By the time the leaves are turning she already has inquiries as to whether the AJC members will be coming back again for another year. The last few years Home Instead Home Care out of Halifax has provided gifts as well, so

that everyone attending gets a present that day.

Myrna Yazer, a member of the AJC, has been volunteering for the Christmas lunch event since it began five years ago. She says it's a fun day for the volunteers and is so popular sometimes they have more volunteers than seniors having lunch. "We have a great time. It's really nice. I'm usually manning the kitchen, some other people are out front. It's well attended. We have more volunteers than recipients — people are looking for things to do," says Yazer.

The volunteers arrive at Spencer House with the meal mostly prepared. They heat up lunch, put it out, sing carols and socialize, then clean up. The lunch is a traditional meal with turkey and all the trimmings. Yazer says it's a just the type of fun event she likes volunteering for and she knows how much it means to the members of Spencer House. "It's important to remember people like that at the holidays, who don't have somewhere to go. The holidays can be the hardest sometimes, especially when you are alone," she says.

Roberts says it's not just an important event for members. It also means staff can spend the day with their families at home, while the seniors can spend time in a familiar place. "There are other locations and places that people can go, which are wonderful and they all do a terrific job too, but it's really nice because here they consider it family. It means a little bit more to them because they go to a place they call their second home," says Roberts.

The volunteers from the AJC even drive home some of the seniors who need a ride and drop off meals to members who can't attend the lunch. Roberts says the members "sing their praises," and often comment on how warm and friendly they are. ☺

Reprinted with permission from The Chronicle Herald



Community volunteers provided lots of good cheer serving Christmas lunch & entertaining, pictured (clockwise): Myrna Yazer baked a festive cake and homemade cranberry sauce; Schuyler Smith, Fannie Nathanson, Rachel Sovka, Sherri Kasten, Leo Weinger, Gregory Shepshelevich, Olga Kulakevich-entertained on the accordion; Lynn Rotin, Sagy Gaevsky, Irina Gaevsky, Harold Yazer, Paul Lipkus, Vicki Lipkus, Lauren Fineberg, missing: Joyce Barak



The Atlantic Jewish Foundation

~ SCHOLARSHIPS ~

All applications must be received by April 30, 2017

Scholarships will be awarded on merit and on the availability of funds.

Submitting a scholarship application does not confirm automatic receipt of a scholarship.

Scholarships & Bursaries Available

The Noa & Sarah Heinish Scholarship

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

Passover of 1943 found Noa and Sarah Assisting in the preparation of a Seder for hundreds of young Jewish servicemen stationed in Halifax before shipping out to Europe. At the end of WWII, Noa was one of a group of interpreters who met the ships which brought Holocaust survivors from Europe to the shores of Halifax. Speaking in Yiddish, he helped them transfer to the trains which took them to family members waiting their arrival in upper Canada.

Noa Heinish was one of the founders of Shaar Shalom Congregation and served as its first president.

Together with Sarah they lent their support to every arm of the congregation.

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

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

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

The Miasnik-Rein Trust

A limited number of scholarships of \$2,000 each are available to worthy students, one or both of whose parents profess the Jewish faith.

The scholarship is open to students of the Atlantic Region for the purpose of establishing or continuing exposure to their Jewish heritage by means of study, travel, community service or other suitable means.

Miasnik - \$2000 each
Maximum 5 scholarships per year

Halifax Endowment Fund (Jayson Greenblatt Bursary)

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

Jayson Greenblatt Bursary
\$500 each

For additional information and an application please contact the Atlantic Jewish Council:
Naomi Rosenfeld, executive director, nrosenfeld@theajc.ns.ca or 902-422-7491 x222

SPATZ CHAIR IN JEWISH STUDIES COMING SOON

By September 2017, the Simon and Riva Spatz Visiting Chair in Jewish Studies should be a reality at Dalhousie University.

BY JOEL JACOBSON

Started about five years ago with a major donation by Jim Spatz, son of Simon and Riva, the \$3 million chair will bring distinguished scholars from around the globe to Dalhousie University to contribute to teaching, research and community outreach on Jewish and cultural themes.

The fundraising campaign is about two-third there, said Dalhousie president Richard Florizone.

"The Spatz chair touches the core of what Dalhousie is all about," he told an audience at a reception for donors, faculty members, and friends of Jim Spatz and of the university.

"We have a long history of inclusion and widespread educational pursuits. This stresses positively what we're all about."

Frank Harvey, Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, recognized Jim Spatz's leadership, vision and commitment to honoring the courage, resilience and enduring legacy of his parents, Simon and Riva.

"The (senior) Spatz's lived through the horrific hardships experienced by so many during the Second World War, Riva surviving the war in the woods in Poland, and Simon escaping a labor camp 'a day before' camp officials murdered its occupants.

Their inspiring legacy speaks to the vision and mission of the Visiting Chair."

Jim Spatz recently commissioned a book about his father, written by Halifax journalist and Professor Michael Cobden, tracing Simon Spatz's life from the tragedies of World War II Eastern Europe to Halifax where, with the support and love of Riva, he started as a small grocer and became a well-respected and wealthy apartment owner and real estate developer.

Jim graduated from Dalhousie's School of

Medicine, practiced in Halifax and Montreal for several years and then returned home to help his father run the family real estate business.

Frank Harvey said the Visiting Chair will deal with tolerance, compassion, empathy, multiculturalism, Jewish heritage and memory, Jewish communities and societies, Jewish diaspora, the role of Jewish literature and cultural expression, the effects of geopolitics on Jewish communities, the rise of antisemitism in Europe, emerging threats to Israel, and a list of possible topics that is really endless, he said.

He added the Chair will help students become enlightened world citizens, understand the complexities of global processes, raise critical questions, communicate views on complex social issues and help students gain a better understanding of themselves.

"Our goal is for The Simon and Riva Spatz Visiting Chair endowment to provide annual grants of \$50,000 per academic year (or

\$25,000 for a single term) and up to \$5,000 per term for research expenses and travel to professional conferences," Harvey said.

"This amount would make The Spatz Visiting Chair more competitive than the Fulbright Visiting Chair program...and many other distinguished Chair programs."

Jim Spatz, chair of Dalhousie's Board of Governor from 2000 to 2014, said the idea came from Dalhousie's leadership. "When I heard of it, it was a natural fit for me to honor my parents. It will enrich Dalhousie and the Jewish and wider community. It's been a long road (to assemble the funding) but we're getting close. It'll be in place by next fall."


He noted there are already courses in Jewish studies "but the presence of a visiting chair will create significant opportunities for Jewish and non-Jewish students to understand the Jewish world." 



PHOTO: Happy a campaign is almost complete for the Simon and Riva Spatz Chair in Jewish Studies at Dalhousie University in Halifax are: Frank Harvey, Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, benefactor Jim Spatz, and Dalhousie president Richard Florizone.

FRANK'S ANNUAL LATKE FRY

PROVIDES FOR CHANUKAH PARTIES

BY JOEL JACOBSON

A haze wafts from the kitchen of the Beth Israel Synagogue in Halifax.

The aroma of freshly cooking latkes is in the air, too, as a crew prepares hundreds of the delicious potato pancakes for upcoming Hanukkah parties.

Frank's Annual Latke Fry, named in memory of Frank Medjuck to honour his passion for latkes, has attracted friends of Frank who passed away last March.

"I think of Frank almost every day, specifically when I have a question to ask for he always had an answer," says Jack Novack as he flips latkes in the oil-boiling frypan.

Jack's wife, Debbie, has her hands immersed in potato mash, filling bowls to pass to Jack, Terry Israel and Irwin Mendleson, all busy frying the pancakes.

More than 350 will be made on this Sunday morning, a week after another crew prepared more than 600. A Beth Israel-Shaar Shalom Hebrew School party will use the larger amount during its Chanukah party December 18. At a Beth gathering December 24, scores of people will scarf down close to 400 latkes.

As Sherry Pink supervises, Vicki Lipkus and Jerry Kohler mix more potatoes and onions into soon-to-be delicious latkes. Phil Alberstat keeps count while Mark Appleton dries the oil off the newly-prepared pancakes.

Myrna Rubin, Genevieve Lipkus, and Lisa Kerzner were in an earlier crew, all under the guidance and coordination of Myrna Yazer and Victor Fineberg.

A community effort is required to make close to 80 dozen latkes.

Thank goodness for volunteers to keep the fat frying. ⑤

PHOTOS

1. Terry Israel (foreground) and Jack Novack fry latkes at the Beth Israel Synagogue.
2. Debbie Novack is hands-on, or is it hands-in, potatoes, preparing latke mix at Frank's Annual Latke Fry at the Beth Israel Synagogue.
3. Vicki Lipkus mixes potato, onion and spices for latkes at the Beth Israel Latke bake in mid-December. Sherry Pink offers sage advice.
4. Terry Israel fills a tray with freshly-made latkes.



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CAPE BRETON NEWS

Sunrise...Sunset

BY SHARON JACOBSON

The cycle of life was never felt so intimately as it was in the space of one grey month in Sydney, NS. We lost three members of a diminishing community. Gerry Dubinsky, Evy Dubinsky Carnat, and Norris Nathanson.

I believe that anecdotes from family and friends sharpen and define the blurry outlines of a person whom just a name represents and stories give us the spirited feeling behind their picture. There is a game I play – Just mention any person's name to someone and watch the immediate facial response before anything more is said. You will know right away how that person made the other one feel. You will know more about this person that words cannot express.



^ GERRY DUBINSKY Z"L

I just got off the phone with Anita Sadofsy, the widow of Gerry's father's cousin.

How's that for Cape Breton Jewish geography? She lived in the same condo building as Gerry and they became very good friends. Taking inventory of his personal affects, she commented to me that you don't really know a person until you take stock of the contents of their apartment; perhaps much like a woman's purse? She revelled in his versatility. Despite medical issues as a young adult, his curiosity to explore and learn seemed insatiable....law, medicine, photography, sport, (tennis, badminton and golf) music, (guitar) theatre (we both had bit parts in the Rotary production of Mame). Anita remarked about the books and instruction manuals; the organization and practice with which he would approach anything new!

But what I found most revealing was the fact that he had compiled notes in scribblers as if preparing to write a book.

It was about what he had learned from life, and advice he would offer to young people experiencing the tempestuousness of existence. In the end, what he wanted to say was that he felt one's outlook, one's attitude was what fortified you for a good life.

We will remember his intelligence and humour and be glad he arrived at this realization about living one's life.



^ EVY DUBINSKY CARNAT Z"L

"how do you hold a wave upon the sand?"

Her irrepressible, unfathomable energy knocked your sox off!

When Stanley and I returned to live in Cape Breton, I must confess that going to Shul was not truly incorporated into our schedule. Besides, the Glacé Bay Shul was the synagogue of my youth and everyone knows the only true Shul is the one in which you grew up?

Well, Evy did not give it a thought that we would not become regular members of the Sydney synagogue! So we "became" what she expected! So, did a lot of others.

She cajoled you, persuaded you, told you, and you did. At first you would do it for her, then for your community and after a while, you would notice you had also done it inadvertently for "you"...

Her family filled their hearts and the hearts of all Cape Bretoners present at her funeral with the songs " We'll Rise Again" and "Around the Fire". Her sons, their spouses, her husband, Barrie and, actually, all who came in contact with her have memories of strength, resilience and natural joy. What better reminiscences to share with Evy's grandchildren. Her legacy lives on.



^ NORRIS NATHANSON Z"L

Enie Dubinsky Liefie tells me that she and her brother, Gerry had worked for Norris at his Radio Station. He was a very nice man; a man of the community both in the broader business sense and the local Jewish scene. A self-effacing individual, interested in music and literature and ideas....one who chose the space of a small city to explore and live his life. "Being an explorer is more than just geography. It's an attitude...." A quote that could probably speak to Mr Nathanson.

Indeed, CJCB was my first introduction to "social media". I would listen to Talk Back with Norris Nathanson as he exchanged topical ideas with the locals. His mellifluous voice had a reassuring quality that invited people from all walks of life to participate in on-air discussions.

I found it heart-warming to discover that CJCB stands for Canada, Jennie (his mother) and Cape Breton.

Canada, Jennie, Cape Breton – I can only assume they nurtured the spirit and soul of this man – a small part perhaps but definitely an important part.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

In the fall, I attended an in-service program at the Sydney Shul where local teachers talked about Holocaust Education in their schools. I asked the chair of this event why they chose the Jewish Holocaust as opposed to other holocausts: Somalia, Armenia, Bosnia...

The reply was that the Jewish Holocaust was the definitive template from which all

Continue on page 29

NEWS FROM THE PEI JEWISH COMMUNITY

BY ERNEST SCHLEICHKORN

In PEI for the High Holidays we were very fortuitous this year. We had Rabbi Raphael and Cynthia Ostrovsky from the Chicago area attend and enhance our Rosh Hashanah service. They were visiting Charlottetown, PEI courtesy of a cruise ship. The Rabbi played some excerpts from a Cantor who had a mellifluous voice. Yours truly namely Ernie

Schleichkorn played the shofar service with a 40 inch Yemenite shofar. The rest of the high holidays services were held without the auspices of a Rabbi, however well attended.

A new PEIJC executive has been formed and has ambitious/ auspicious plans for the PEI Jewish community. We have started committees to see about a permanent community

centre so that enhanced programming can be provided. In addition another committee is optimistic about enhancing immigration to PEI. In light of that, we have the following immigration experience regarding the Ifrach family to highlight, their story appeared in the local newspaper The Guardian, see article below. 5

ISRAELI COUPLE BRINGING BUSINESS ACUMEN TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

ISRAELI COUPLE RAISING LARGE FAMILY AND RUNNING BUSINESSES IN P.E.I.

BY JIM DAY JDAY@THEGUARDIAN.PE.CA

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 26, 2016

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.: GILAD AND LIAT IFRACH WERE SUCCESSFUL IN JUGGLING A LARGE FAMILY AND RUNNING BUSINESSES IN ISRAEL.

The pair see no reason why they cannot enjoy similar – or even better – good fortune in Prince Edward Island.

The Ifrachs moved to P.E.I. in October 2015 with their six children, now ages three to 16, confident their entrepreneurial spirit would shine here.

In Israel, the couple ran a printing business for more than 10 years and operated a pet store for 15 years.

They came through the Provincial Nominee Program that sees the province nominate immigrants with the skills, education and work experience to contribute to the economy here.

The Israeli family did not take long to settle in well.

The children have been quick to adapt to a new language and a new country.

The three older children are in the army cadets. The trio all marched in the Remembrance Day parade in Charlottetown.

The oldest child, Aidir, 16, is playing drums in a band called Delirium along with two native Islanders.

As for carving out a living, Gilad and Liat opened their first business here just a few weeks ago.

Called Nature's Pearls, the store is located in the University Plaza in Charlottetown and is the only one of its kind in P.E.I., says Liat.

The store sells Dead Sea natural health products imported from Israel as well as hemp natural health products purchased in Canada.

"There is a lot of curiosity," says Liat.

"We think this is a good business for the Island...this is a unique store for the skin and health products.

The Ifrachs say they are both excited and very relaxed at turning their entrepreneurship loose in Prince Edward Island.

The couple plans to soon expand Nature's Pearls to include a spa and massage therapy.

Gilad is keen to open his own business in 2017. He is busy sizing up different options. 5

Reprinted with permission from The Guardian



"I think it's big potential here to grow with another business"
– Gilad Ifrach



Children in Israeli military uniform

MONCTON NEWS

BY NANCY COHEN

Several Chanukah celebrations took place in Moncton. Prior to the holiday there was a special Chanukah gan to help our youngest members learn about the holiday. Ten children between the ages of 2 and 6 enjoyed stories, songs, dancing and a craft.

A delicious pre Chanukah brunch was served at the shul, thanks to our many volunteers who shopped, fried latkes and sufganiyot, made kugels and salads, baked cookies and decorated the social hall. We were pleased to welcome a new family, the Schpielers to their first event at Tiferes Israel.

Our annual public lightings of the large menorahs at Moncton City Hall and at the Moncton Hospital were well attended. Moncton's Mayor, Dawn Arnold was there for

her first time representing the city.

The Moncton community suffered a loss on September 1 when Sara Gergely passed away at the age of 92. Sara was a Holocaust survivor who came to Canada with her family during the Hungarian revolution. Our heartfelt condolences to her sons Peter and Robert and their families.

MAZEL TOV TO:

Liran Langleben, son of Alina and Leonid Langleben, on his bar mitzvah.

Avigail Izichkis, daughter of Shayna and Alexander Izichkis, on her bat mitzvah.

Nancy and Ivan Cohen on the birth of their grandson. Proud parents are Aviva Cohen and Alexander Metcalfe. ☺



PHOTOS: Chanukah celebrations in Moncton!

Around Our Region: Cape Breton Cont.

other human catastrophes like this can be understood!

Lack of tolerance, fear, perception of "the other" could be explored and studied with regards to race, gender religion. It leads to discussions on Cyber-Bullying and questions regarding the LGBTQ communities.

What are the psychological reasons for this malignant part of the human condition? From whence does it come? This is the type of analytical thinking academic institutions should be fostering in young minds.

When a group of students arrived to sing for the participants – Oifen Prepichick in Yiddish and Ha Shalom in Hebrew, hope swelled within me for that moment.

AND THERE IS ALWAYS SOME GOOD NEWS...

Jonathan Allen tells me that Bob Allen will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah in Toronto Dec. 30th. Many Cape Bretoners will be in attendance. Bob will participate in our service at the Sydney Shul in the future as well. Heaven knows we can use all the help we can get...I find myself running into Shul, donning an apron for preparation in the kiddish lunch area and then hurriedly donning a Tallis on being called to the Bimah for the service.

I tell people that one day the Tallis will be wrapped around my waist in the dining area and the apron will be on my shoulders on the Bimah?!

Such is life in the "fast lane"
Happy Chanukah from the gang in Sydney. ☺

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902-422-7491 x221
or info@theajc.ns.ca

FREDERICTON NEWS

Chanukah Party at the Synagogue

BY **AYTEN KRANAT**

PHOTOS BY **AYTEN KRANAT**

The Sgoolai Israel Synagogue celebrated Chanukah on Dec. 25th. The Chanukah celebration was well attended by people from all around. A large group of kids and adults were engaged in listening to the Chanukah story followed by Chanukah songs, then delicious donuts and latkes prepared by Ayten Kranat, Ziv Vancu Halevi, Albina Lazarev. This was followed by Israeli folk dancing, led by Inbal.

Thank you to all the other volunteers that made the evening such a success, setting up/clean-up, decorations, food and entertainment.

What a festive simcha! 🌟



PHOTOS: Chanukah celebrations in Fredericton!

SAINT JOHN NEWS

In November, we had our Annual General Meeting of Shaarei Zedek, and we elected a new Board of Directors and officers. Our new President is Bruce Washburn, and we have some new, younger members on the Board and on committees. We want to thank Norman Hamburg for his service in the past two years when we were going through a transition in our community. Norman was certainly the right person to be at the helm at that time, and we thank him for all he did.

Our Friday night Services continue to draw a good group of people, and we are looking to have Saturday Services once a month. For Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we had Rabbi Irit Printz from Toronto, come to conduct our services. Her Sermons were very

interesting and thought provoking.

We held a Friday night get together after Services on August 5th, and everyone brought a special dish to share. Our Acker Room was filled with laughter and fun. We also held a pizza party after Services on a Friday night – with pizza, salad and sweets. This was also very well attended.

Mazel tov to Haim and Hila on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Youval. The Bar Mitzvah was held in Saint John on November 12th, and after the Service, we were all treated to a wonderful lunch of Israeli foods made by Hila and some of the other women of the community.

We had over 90 participating at the Chanukah party. Lots of homemade donuts,

BY **SUSAN ISAACS LUBIN**

by our two wonderful bakers – Uzi Michaelov and Avi Ranet, a homemade Menorah contest with quite a few entries, songs, crafts and spin dreidels!

Many of our Saint John community have gone south for the winter. We wish them a warm winter, and looking forward to their safe return in the spring. 🌟

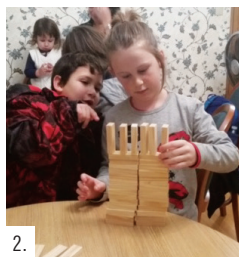
PHOTOS ON PAGE 31:

1. Handmade Chanukiah for the contest!
2. Seriously making a Chanukiah.
3. Uzi Michaelov and Avi Ranet – our Donut making team extraordinaire!
4. Donuts looking good!
5. Waiting for the Chanukah presentation.

SAINT JOHN PHOTOS



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PHOTOS:

1. Lloyd Goldsmith, chair of Film Festival Committee and Richard Osepchook, committee member
2. Audience at the film festival.

SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

BY KATHERINE BIGGS-CRAFT

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum was quite busy through the fall months as we welcomed hundreds of cruise ship passengers. They were thrilled with the Museum exhibits, especially our exhibit on Jewish war veterans from Saint John. This exhibit told the stories of almost 70 war veterans from the First and Second World Wars and we continue to add to the exhibit as new information turns up. Most served in support roles – as wireless operators, mechanics, road builders, orderlies, nurses, and clerks – but others were involved in active fighting or very close to the battlefields as doctors and stretcher bearers. The exhibit will remain up through 2017.

A successful Third Annual Saint John Jewish Film Festival was held between October 29 and November 3. Six films were shown over the six nights, including a gala opening held on the first night for event sponsors. All in attendance enjoyed viewing “Dough”, the story of an elderly baker and the role his young apprentice played in reviving the business. The other films shown were “In Search of Israeli Cuisine” (a documentary on the variety of food and culture in Israel), “Once in A Lifetime” (the story of a teacher and her troubled students learning about the Holocaust), “Raise the Roof” (a documentary on the rebuilding of the wooden synagogue in Gwordziec, Poland), “To Life” (a dramatic film about an aging cabaret singer and a young man reaffirming their lives), and “Rock in the Red Zone” (set in Sderot, Israel where music and courage help to overcome rocket attacks from Gaza). Each year, our audience has grown and we have many who look forward to this annual event.

The Museum will hold the annual Chanukah Menorah Lighting ceremony on Thursday, December 29, the sixth night of Chanukah. We have invited members of the greater Saint John community who have supported the Museum and the Jewish community and members of some of our families to light the menorah. An informal program with light refreshments will follow.

Over the winter months, the Museum will appear to be a very quiet place but there will be much behind-the-scenes activity on several projects, all of which have been partially funded from successful grant applications.

- 1 Organizing archival material into the proper folders and boxes for long-term preservation. The Council of New Brunswick Archives funded the needed supplies.
- 2 With support from the Greater Saint John Community Foundation we will be moving the Museum out into the community with “pop-up” museums at schools, churches and community centres.
- 3 Picking up the work on a revamped on-line exhibit to tell the story of seven generations of Jewish life in Saint John courtesy of a grant from the Virtual Museum of Canada.
- 4 Creating a new exhibit for 2017 to tell the story of David Ben-Gurion’s visit to Saint John as well as the development of Hadasah, Young Judaea, and Habonim and the role these organizations played in the development of the Saint John Jewish community. We received funding from the Heritage Branch, Province of New Brunswick to create this interesting exhibit.

Plans are also underway for the Holocaust Study Group, the commemoration of Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), and the fourth annual Saint John Jewish Film Festival. I’m also working on an idea to celebrate the 150th birthday of Canada and share more of the city’s Jewish history. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for those stories.

At the end of this year, the Museum will have about 230 active supporting members – but it would be great to see our number of supporters grow. Many of our members lived in or grew up in Saint John as part of the Jewish community, others are interested in what we do and have added the Museum to the organizations they support. For a modest membership of \$30.00 for an individual or \$40.00 for a family, we encourage you to consider supporting the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum. All donations are tax-deductible – more information can be found on our website.

As we move toward another year of operation, we continue to preserve and share the Jewish history of Saint John. ⑤

NEWFOUNDLAND NEWS

Jewish Community Havura of Newfoundland and Labrador

BY NANCY BENNETT AND RUTH NOEL

September brought beautiful weather which lasted into late November. It was nice that the High Holidays started late in September this year, as it gave us a chance to get into the rhythm of fall before the Holidays began.

Rosh Hashana saw new families and single members join and their participation in the Holidays and in our Havura was welcomed. We also inaugurated our new Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur prayer books. These are the new books developed by the Union for Reform Judaism and all our members, regardless of their religious background, found the two books beautiful and inspirational.

Elizabeth Loder led the services and really liked the new books. She had a hard time choosing the optional readings as there were so many good ones. We held our usual Rosh Hashana services, community dinner and lunch as well as Yom Kippur services and community break fast. We had minyans at all services and our members read from the Torah, gave d'var Torahs and participated throughout the services. During the Yom Kippur break, Brenda Rishia led a discussion on *Forgiveness in the Digital Age: How to forgive and meaningfully convey apologies in modern times*. In an amazing tour de force, Elizabeth led the services with her brand new baby Darby Solomon nearby or cuddled in a front baby wrap!

Sukkot was held again this year at the Gould/Citrome residence. Jeremy Citrome, Carl Schofield and Marc Rishia did the major work of building the sukka in the backyard. A large group helped decorate and then we held the service and everyone got a chance to bless the lulav and etrog. A week later, we held our community Sukkot brunch. It was a bit cold, so most of the eating was done inside. We ended the holidays with Simchat Torah at Kari Brown's home and even dodged the raindrops to dance with the Torah out in the street before concluding the service. It



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was the last service for Talia Padawer, so very bittersweet.

Jonathan Richler, the Havura's representative on the Religious Social Action Coalition of Newfoundland and Labrador, reports that the group met with the Minister of Finance to discuss Budget 2016 and its impact on people living below the poverty line. They also met with the Premier and the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development about the budget. The Coalition met and consulted with the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills concerning an increase in minimum wage for the province. And RSAC was invited to participate in two roundtable discussions with the Federal Minister of Immigration on how to retain immigrants in Atlantic Canada. You can learn more about the organization by visiting www.rsacnl.com

PHOTOS:

1. Robert Sweeny receiving Governor General's History Award from Governor General David Johnston at Rideau Hall.
2. Daniel Lupo enjoying the candles' glow.
3. Ruth Noel leads the Havura's Hanukah dancers while the klezmer band plays.
4. Havura members next to the Sukka after a delicious brunch.

What a Hanukah party!!! The klezmer band rocked with *Hava Nagilah*, *Nigun Atik*, and other traditional tunes. Ruth Noel choreographed a dance to Hanukah Oh Hanukah and led a group that at one point numbered 30 adults and children in horas that wound through the room and around the tables where another 50 or so shyer folks sat and watched. The latkes were delicious, accompanied by homemade applesauce and sour cream, along with salads, hot dishes and desserts. It was an evening we will long remember! This year, several stores carried Hanukah decorations and sweaters and Nancy Bennett spoke on CBC Radio when they requested a Hanukah interview.

Our members have again been busy speaking in schools and to religious groups, with lots of thank-yous for their efforts from the kids and their teachers.

NEWS AND NOTES:

We wish Jon Goldberg a healthy and happy retirement from the Atlantic Jewish Council. Jon was very helpful to the Havura and fair minded. Thank you, Jon, for your years of dedication to the Atlantic Jewish Council.

We welcome Naomi Rosenfeld to the position of Executive Director of the AJC and look forward to working with you, Naomi!

Robert Sweeny's book, *Why Did We Choose to Industrialize? Montreal, 1819-1849*, has won another prize. On November 28, Sweeny was in Ottawa to receive the Governor General's History Award. Later that day, the recipients went to the House of Commons. They stood as the Speaker of the House read out their names and MPs from both sides of the House gave them a standing ovation—the high point of an emotion-filled day. The Governor General's History Award for Scholarly Research was established in 2010 and awarded to the work judged by the Canadian Historical Association to have made the “greatest contribution to our understanding of the Canadian past” in the previous year. The CHA recognized the innovative theory and method Sweeny used in answering the question, “why did we choose to industrialize?”

Sadly, we said goodbye to Talia Padawer, Valerio Tonelli Enrico and their baby

daughter Alma who have moved to the United States. They were very active in the Havura and we are sad to see them go.

Mazel tov to Philip Riteman who received the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador on Dec. 14, given during a moving ceremony at Government House which Ruth and John Noel were honoured to attend. Mazel tov also to Dorothy and sons Larry and Robert. Lieutenant Governor the Honourable Frank F. Fagan made the presentation to all recipients and Premier Dwight Ball addressed the guests. Ball said his father had met Philip many years ago in Deer Lake, NL. Unfortunately, Philip was unable to travel, so Larry represented him at the ceremony and spoke to the media, before returning to Halifax. Philip received the award for his commitment to talk about the Holocaust and to stress “never again”. As he said many times, “don't hate anybody”. He has had a strong influence on students and adults alike.

In 2006, Philip received an Honourary Doctorate from Memorial University and has received other awards throughout the years. In 2014, he was the guest speaker at the Jewish Community Havura's Holocaust Memorial Service. Approximately 1500 people crowded into the Newfoundland Hotel to hear him speak. He attended a Friday night Havura Shabbat service, spoke to several other groups and media, and was publically recognized in the provincial legislature and at City Hall.

INVITATION:

If you are coming this way please join us for Friday night and holiday services and events. The Havura always welcomes visitors and new members. Our events and services are listed on our website: havura.org. Contact us at info@havura.org or 709-834-7866. ⑤

Continued from page 5: From the desk of Naomi Rosenfeld, Executive Director

to openly discuss important issues facing our community (everything from immigration, senior's programming, to ‘what happens after Hebrew School?’), and then elected the new AJC management committee. As I mentioned at the event, I look forward to using all of the perspectives and opinions gathered to inform the AJC's strategic direction moving forward.

Before I close, I would like to express my gratitude to many people in this community. First, I would like to thank our outgoing Board of Directors for diligently supporting and caring for this Jewish community for two full terms. Next, thank you to the incoming Board of Directors for committing to helping this community prosper for the next two years. In particular, I am very grateful to Michael Argand for his continued guidance, support, and incredible work ethic as President of this organization. To the committee of the 3rd Annual Atlantic Jewish Film Festival and Jo-Anne Nozick & Marilyn Kaufman, our 20th Biennial Convention co-chairs: thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your hard work over the last several months. Your persistence and attention to detail allowed both events to be incredibly successful. Furthermore, a hearty yashar koach to my entire staff team here at the AJC: Svetlana Ratchinski, our Controller; Edna LeVine, our Director of Community Engagement; Rabbi David Ellis, our Regional Chaplain, Craig Fox, our Director of Jewish Student Life, Dean Atias, our outgoing Dalhousie Co-Op student; and of course, Jon Goldberg, who has been juggling the combined role of Campaign Director/Mentor/Executive Director Emeritus beautifully over the last few months. And finally, thank you so much to every single person who canvassed for and/or contributed to our 2016 United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada Campaign. I know that it is not always easy to give, but your contributions will help strengthen Jewish life locally, nationally, in Israel, and across the globe; your generosity is remarkable. It is my promise to ensure that we use your contributed funds as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Not sure how my next five months can top my first five. Stay warm! ⑤

YOM KIPPUR—LOST AND FOUND

“Who Shall Live and Who Shall Die”

BY RABBI DAVID ELLIS, AJC REGIONAL CHAPLAIN

A once-in-a-lifetime Yom Kippur. Sort of like Sandy Koufax not pitching on Yom Kippur—I was living in Minnesota when that happened.

In Sydney this past fall, we did not have Yom Kippur.

A torrential storm and rain had knocked out power in most of the town, including Whitney Avenue, where the synagogue is located.

So Marty Chernin called me at the Royale Hotel, where there is always power, and told me Kol Nidre was off. So everyone made their own way. I heard that in Englishtown there was nearly a minyan.

The next morning power was back, and we got through the services as usual.

A cruise boat had come into the harbour in the morning with several Jews. They came into town and joined us. The rabbi who was accompanying them told a story of the opposite of our experience. He had a congregation in Florida in the 90s. They got in Kol Nidre that evening. But a massive hurricane

came overnight, and so their day of Yom Kippur was lost.

Then a couple of weeks ago I was speaking to a Roman Catholic audience about the High Holidays. They were especially interested in the Kol Nidre prayer. So we discussed it for half an hour. We had a video hookup, so I gave them a version from YouTube. There you can find, of course, dozens of renditions, popular and traditional. Perry Como and Neal Diamond have their versions. I played for the people that of Johnny Mathis. So they found Yom Kippur.

Then I lost Yom Kippur again. It was imperative that I attend a public seminar in Halifax on the issue of assisted dying. It was given by three prominent scholars in our community. The presentations were excellent. However, from a Jewish point of view, something more needed to be added. Within a question to the panel, I shared our perspective on the issue. At that time I was in “the valley of the shadow of death,” with a funeral in Cape Breton the week before, and another

impending which came in six days. Who shall live and who shall die.

So how did I lose Yom Kippur here?

The chaplain from Spring Hill penitentiary had called me several weeks prior. He teaches a class with the inmates. There was an overwhelming interest and request from his people, that they wanted at least one lecture—on Yom Kippur and its significance! Because of an odd realignment of his job, he has to commute from Dartmouth to Spring Hill, and only does it on Wednesdays. So the Wednesday night of the lecture had to be rescheduled. Then in a couple weeks I was in Cape Breton for another funeral on a Wednesday.

So my trip will be in 2017. What are they looking for? What will they find? Will our ancient prayers speak to their lives? Over the years I have found that Muslims, blacks, forlorn persons, alcoholics, the rich, the poor—all find teaching speaking to them within the Jewish tradition.

So stay tuned. ❸



PHOTO CREDIT: JOE CLAENER

TRANSITIONS

BY RABBI YAKOV KERZNER,
BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, HALIFAX

Life is a constant stream of transitions. Remaining in a constant, unchanging state would be an unnatural existence. Between birth and death, we experience many changes, many are just minor modifications of our previous status but often we experience major transformations. Many transformations are the result of the natural progression of our lives, some are due to the random nature of existence while others are a by-product of our own free choice, intended or otherwise.

My own personal journey through life has brought me through many of these transitions. Only recently have my wife and I, through our own choice, uprooted ourselves from the only community that we have known in our married life and started a new

adventure in the Maritimes. We hope to be grandparents for the first time, by the time this article will be in print, and we walked our only daughter to the chuppah just yesterday. As we experience these changes, we experience many different emotions and deal with the many changes in varying ways. Joy and happiness, apprehension and fear, excitement and enthusiasm are just some of the many feelings and reactions that we allow ourselves to feel.

Many of us desire the security of constancy over the excitement of change. That security is often a false feeling that dissolves with the passing of time and the inevitability of the coming transitions. I am sure that a baby feels secure wrapped in her blanket and held tight to her mother, but we all realize that eventually we have to face the real world with all the uncertainty that it holds for us.

Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav, in what has become a popular song, tells us very beautifully and ever so simply; “The whole world is a narrow bridge and our obligation is to

navigate that bridge without fear”. It would be simpler to avoid that harrowing experience. Doing so, would deprive us of all the beauty that awaits us on the other side of that narrow passage. The trick in crossing that bridge is

to be aware of where you come from while always focussing on our next step. Never to look down to where we may fall but to look forward to the goal ahead and the ultimate joy in crossing that narrow bridge. Fear is not only a sign of weakness but a recipe for disaster. We have no choice but to cross with humility coupled with a confidence in our own ability to survive and thrive. We must never forget to retain our trust in G-d that he will supply the answers to the never-ending challenges that accost us in life and that G-d will grant us the ability to grow and renew our spirit every day of our rich lives. ❸



AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE HAPPENED TO US THIS CHANUKAH

RRABBI YITZCHOK I YAGOD, CONGREGATION TIFERES ISRAEL, MONCTON, NB

BY CHANA YAGOD (RABBI'S DAUGHTER)

Last week Wednesday we were on our way from Pennsylvania to Moncton, and the plan was to light the Menorah in Monsey with our brothers and their families who live there. But due to the impending snowstorm, we chose to leave earlier and so we were not in Monsey as originally planned. So here we were thinking we wouldn't get the chance to light with our family and friends, being so far away from our home; and so we figured it would be just ourselves at our menorah lighting that night.

It was getting late in the evening when we got to the state of Maine and it looked like we'd run out of time to light before we made it to our destination, so we called up a Marriott in Scarborough-Portland, because there we would have a full kitchen and could kosher it to prepare a full Chanukah supper. We made a reservation and asked for a place to light our Menorah. The desk clerk was very nice and accommodating, and when we started explaining what a menorah is, she said "oh, don't worry, In fact we know what a Menorah is. You'll have a place to light it, not to worry."

So when we got there she showed us a place in the breakfast room on a marble counter, and in fact marble is a very safe surface to light candles on. So we set up our menorah there, and we saw that there was another person there, watching TV, who looked like a war veteran – and it turned out, in fact, that he was. My dad said, "I hope we are not disturbing you." The war

veteran answered "Not at all, actually I respect what you are doing. I am Jewish too, I'm a "Juban," which means a Cuban Jew. My grandparents lived in Poland before the Holocaust, and they escaped to Cuba." He had wheeled himself over to tell us this, and now he made his way back to the TV. At first it seemed like he might be more interested in watching the TV, but after a brief moment of reflection, my father then realized he was probably just being polite; so he walked over to him and invited him to join us for the menorah lighting. This veteran responded very joyfully: "Sure, I would love to! That would be wonderful." Then he promptly wheeled himself over to where our menorah was set up and joined us.

We said the Blessings, lit the menorah, and sang the lively songs which followed. The man became very emotional and even started crying a bit. On the one hand he was obviously enjoying it, and yet there was clearly stirring him inside. As soon as we had concluded singing, he told us how incredibly grateful he was that we had included him in our menorah lighting.

What he then told us was even more amazing. He told us that every year he had observed the Menorah lighting and always found the tradition moving and meaningful. However this year he found himself stuck in Maine due to a severe injury and for the first time in his life he had no menorah to light on

Chanukah, and it seemed to him that the whole Chanukah would pass without him ever getting a chance to light.

"And then somehow you all came along," he said to us, "and then you included me in your lighting, and it was an incredible joy for me, I just can't thank you enough. I just can't tell you how meaningful this was." He then shared with us his fascinating life story, and that made our Chanukah richer as well.

It was clearly the Hidden Hand of God at work here, and it was certainly a meaningful Chanukah for all. This was a direct commentary to the indomitable Jewish spirit. ❧

Rabbi Yitzchok I Yagod

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KISLEV 5777R

BY RABBI RAYSH WEISS, CONGREGATION SHAAR SHALOM, HALIFAX

A famous controversy is recorded in the Talmud between students of the School of Shammai and students of the School of Hillel. Discussing the question of the appropriate procedure for lighting the Hanukkah candelabra, Shammai insisted, “Pochet v’holekh” – that the number of candles is successively decreased. Therefore, we light 8 candles on the first night, 7 candles on the second night, etc. Hillel, on the other hand, asserted, “Mosif v’holekh” – that the number of candles is increased, beginning with one candle on the first night, two on the second night, etc.

We need to understand that this was not an arbitrary dispute. Rather, it discloses different points of view; different attitudes and stances toward life. Students of Beit (the school of) Shammai were hard-headed realists, perhaps with a touch of cynicism. Students of Beit Hillel were idealists and visionaries. Truth be told, we are all – each of us in one way or another, and at different times – students of one school or another.

The realist can always point to some undeniable aspect of experience that encompasses both the physical and human worlds. In the physical world, for example, even the tallest

candle eventually burns out; physical objects crumble and the hardest, most durable substances eventually disintegrate. The physicists’ Second Law of Thermodynamics asserts that all energy gradually runs down.

The same applies in the human sphere. We all begin enterprises with enthusiasm and hope. But familiarity and daily repetition dulls our enthusiasm. Cynics, in discussing marriage, for example, often describe it as a “settling down.” The same weariness, they insist, takes hold of us in our chosen careers, in our volunteer work, and in the enthusiasm we once brought to Jewish life. The principle that applies in the physical world – a creeping dullness and waning energy – also applies to these areas of human existence. Therefore, they insist, in the spirit of Beit Shammai, we diminish the number of candles to reflect what takes place in real life.

Students of Beit Hillel disagree. They maintain that from the perspective of Jewish faith, we need to add candles. View life in this world, they would insist, from the perspective of what we are capable of becoming. G-d alone is; Man is yet to be. Jewish faith is messianic, anchored in the hope for a brighter future. For the prophets, the ‘golden

age’ lay not in the past, but in the future. “In the days to come,” the prophets declare; or “it shall come to pass,” or “behold a great day is coming.” Beit Hillel would insist that human beings are the only creatures with the power to transcend themselves or to transform their societies.

And in the human sphere, real friendships do not have to peter out; real marriages do not have to become ‘humdrum;’ they can grow stronger, and the gifts with which we are blessed – nature, music, laughter, family, people, and faith – can grow. The “way of life,” Beit Hillel would tell us, leads upward.

And as for the rabbinic debate, long ago our tradition decided to favor the school of Hillel. The increasing candles we light on Hanukkah should be a sign that whatever it is we hold precious, whatever it is we hold sacred, we should add new understanding, fresh insight, and for Jews, more good deeds, lest, G-d forbid, they may be diminished and we with them.

This holiday, light more Hanukkah candles, by all means, and remember to add, in every way, more light each day.

I wish you and yours an illuminating, joy-filled Hanukkah. 3



CHABAD MENORAH LIGHTING IN THE GRAND PARADE, HALIFAX

PHOTOS BY MARK DAVID

THE SECRET OF THE JEWISH CALENDAR

BY RABBI YOSEF GOLDMAN, SGOOLAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, FREDERICTON

Recently, on Shabbat morning, I gave a short explanation for the blessing of the New Month of Teveth.

Generally speaking, every month that has a Jewish holiday in it will be of 30 days [so, the months of Tishrei (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur & Succoth), Kislev (Hanukkah), Shevat (Tu Bishvat), Nissan (Passover), Sivan (Shavuot) and Av (The 9th of Av – which WILL become the greatest Jewish Holiday ever)]; while a month that doesn't (Marcheshvan, Tevet, Adar (Purim happened outside the land of Israel), Iyar, Tamuz & Elul), will be of 29 days. If we do the mathematical calculation, 6 times 30 plus 6 times 29 – equals 354. We were commanded in the Book of Exodus (12:2 and 34:18) to celebrate Passover in the “season of spring”. So, since the Lunar calendar is ‘short’ eleven days from the Solar calendar, we add a whole month of 30 days every two or three years.

So, since Hanukkah is a Jewish Holiday, the month of Kislev usually has 30 days. This year (very rare occasion), the month of Kislev has only 29 days. The reason is, if it had an extra day, (the first day of) Passover will be on Monday.

Now, let us look at what the Rabbis were able to discern about Passover. There is a secret language in Hebrew called AT-BASH

(a mono-alphabetic substitution cipher originally used to encode the Hebrew alphabet. It can be modified for use with any known alphabet). The first letter – Aleph, is replaced by a Tav; the second letter – Beit, is replaced with the letter Shin. So, based on this language cipher, the first day of Passover (Aleph) will be the day of Tishah B'Av (Tav); the second day of Passover (bet) will be the day of Shavu'ot (Pentecost – the letter Shin); the third day (Gimmel) will be Rosh Hashanah (Reish); the fourth day (Dalet) will be Kriat Hatorah (Simchas Torah – the letter Koof); the fifth day (Hei) will be Tzom (The Fast of Yom Kippur – the letter Tzadi); the sixth day (Vav) was Purim (Pei); and since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 – the seventh day (Zayin) will be Yom Ha'Atzma'ut (Ayin).

The Rabbis tell us in the Talmud (Tractate Rosh Hashanah 20a) that there are certain days of the week, that we will never have the Holy day of Rosh Hashanah (LO ADU ROSH – meaning that the Jewish New Year will never be on Sunday, Wednesday & Friday); and LO BADU PESSACH – meaning that Passover will never begin on Monday,

Wednesday or Friday. If the first day of Passover were to be on Monday (meaning Sunday night), as a result, Yom Kippur next (Jewish) year, will be on Friday. Since the Rabbis did not want this to happen (since we will go into Shabbat hungry and exhausted, and also have no time to prepare for the Sabbath), they announced that this year will be CHASER – missing a day – so that Passover will be on Tuesday.

The Greek Empire, at the time of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, wanted us to abandon this beautiful and special calendar. They could not understand that the Jewish people always made special arrangements to celebrate the Jewish Holidays on specific days, and that they could plan the Jewish Holidays far in advance. The calendar we have today was set up by Hillel the Second, almost 1,800 years ago!

In conclusion, our announcement that Rosh Chodesh Tevet is only one day this year, is our way of keeping this amazing Mitzvah (commandment). ③



A SINGLE JEW

BY RABBI MENDEL FELDMAN, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF THE MARITIMES

The opening words of the Ten Commandments (Parshat Yitro which we will be reading shortly) are, “Anochi Hashem Elokecha Asher Hotzeticha Meretz Mitzrayim” – “I am the Lord your G-d who has taken you out of Egypt.”

In English the word “you” is used both when addressing a single person or a multitude of people, however, in Hebrew the expressions are different when addressing an individual vs. many individuals. Yet, when addressing the entire nation of Israel at Sinai all of the Ten Commandments are communicated in the singular form.

כִּי־אֲנִי ה' יְיָכָנֹא as opposed to כִּי־אֲנִי ה' יְיָכָנֹא

Commentators ask the obvious question, why did G-d address the individual rather than the entire nation? The moment of revelation at Sinai is the single most important event in the history of our people and our faith, it would seem more appropriate that at this historic moment – the only time G-d communicates to all of the people directly – that G-d address the nation rather than one person.

The Chasidic masters offer the following explanation. We often live in an environment where our journey towards G-d is lonely. We begin observing the Shabbat, start keeping kosher or walk with a kippah and some eyebrows may go up, wondering if we are going

through a midlife crisis.

These experiences make us ask a simple question, if G-d really gave us the Torah; if it really is the Divine blueprint and manual for our life, why is it not more fashionable?

So at the first and only Divine revelation, as the entire people of Israel stood at Mt. Sinai, G-d communicated His commandments to the individual “Anochi Hashem Elokecha” I am your (singular) G-d. This is to underscore ‘that despite what others may or may not embrace, I want you to know that you have a direct relationship with me’.

G-d seeks the individual. ③





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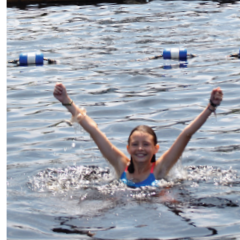
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