

Shalom

CONNECTING THE ATLANTIC JEWISH COMMUNITY

 Atlantic
Jewish
Council
FALL 2018

Holocaust Educators Workshop
Saint John International
Culture Fest

Philip Riteman's Pickled Salmon



Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

AN ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL PRODUCTION

NOVEMBER 15-18 2018 Halifax, Nova Scotia

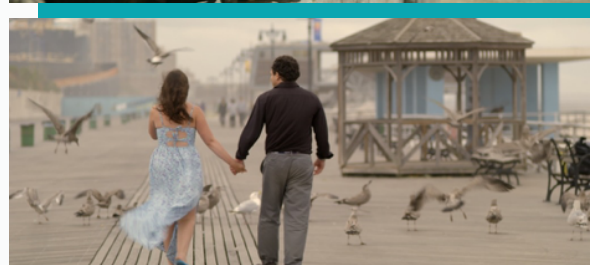
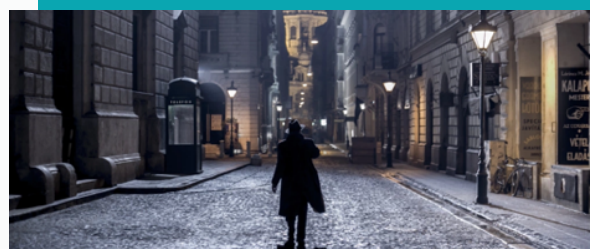
Tickets on sale September 21. Tickets available at TicketAtlantic.com

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|-----------|---|---|
| THURS 15 | SAMMY DAVIS, JR.: I'VE GOTTA BE ME <i>English</i> | TIME 7:00 pm LOCATION Cineplex Cinemas Park Lane ADDRESS 5657 Spring Garden Road |
| | TEVYE'S DAUGHTERS <i>Russian and Ukrainian with English subtitles</i> | TIME 11:00 am LOCATION Museum of Natural History ADDRESS 1747 Summer Street |
| FRIDAY 16 | AN ISRAELI LOVE STORY <i>Hebrew with English subtitles</i> | TIME 1:30 pm LOCATION Museum of Natural History ADDRESS 1747 Summer Street |
| | IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PHOTOPOLIS AHEAD OF TIME THE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY OF RUTH GRUBER <i>English and Hebrew with English subtitles</i> | TIME 3:30 pm LOCATION Museum of Natural History ADDRESS 1747 Summer Street |
| SAT 17 | BUDAPEST NOIR <i>Hungarian with English subtitles</i> | TIME 7:30 pm LOCATION Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 ADDRESS 1055 Marginal Road |

POST-FILM 5TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY!

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| SUNDAY 18 | THE SAMUEL PROJECT <i>English</i> | TIME 1:30 pm LOCATION Cineplex Cinemas Park Lane ADDRESS 5657 Spring Garden Road |
| | AZIMUTH <i>Hebrew, Arabic, English with English subtitles</i> | TIME 4:00 pm LOCATION Cineplex Cinemas Park Lane ADDRESS 5657 Spring Garden Road |
| | KEEP THE CHANGE <i>English</i> | TIME 7:00 pm (Closing Feature) LOCATION Cineplex Cinemas Park Lane ADDRESS 5657 Spring Garden Road |

AJFF.ca



**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

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Camp Kadimah alumni and friends gather for 75th anniversary

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COVER PHOTOS BY:
PHOTOBUG: www.photobug.ca



From The Desk Of **MICHAEL ARGAND** President of the Atlantic Jewish Council

Wow! What an amazing spring and summer it has been for our Jewish community! While other Jewish communities report that their programming schedules tend to lesson over the spring and summer months, our amazing team of staff and volunteers at the Atlantic Jewish Council has been hard at work pushing the needle on many of our strategic priorities including engaging the next generation, reaching out to unaffiliated demographics, bringing Israel/Judaism into the wider Halifax community, connecting our community to Israel, and ensuring the financial sustainability of our organization and our community in the long term. Here are some notable highlights that have happened since we last published Shalom Magazine.

JOLT (JEWISH TEEN ENGAGEMENT) FINISHED OFF A SECOND SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

For the second year in a row, Jewish teens in Halifax completed a year of Jewish programming and volunteering as part of JOLT (Jewish Outreach Leadership Training). This amazing new program has seen Jewish teens from all over Halifax getting together twice monthly for both social events and volunteering. We ended the year with a big trampolining event sponsored by the AJC! We can't wait to keep this momentum going in the fall!

PJ LIBRARY® SHABBAT PROGRAMMING IS EXPANDING!

Over 80 young Jewish parents and their kids came out for our final PJ Library® Shabbat Dinner in May. This event was the final installment in a series of Shabbat-related programming for young families in Halifax sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation which included a number of Shabbat-related community-wide programs as well as 9 different home-hosted Shabbat dinners. We could not be more thrilled to announce that the Harold Grinspoon Foundation has decided to provide us with the funding to continue with this program and expand it beyond the HRM borders to our communities across the region.

WE FOUND A NEW HOME FOR OUR JEWISH STUDENTS!

After many amazing years and countless programs held at the house on Walnut street, the Board of Directors of the AJC decided to sell the property and move the students to a new home. Thanks to time and efforts of community members Mark Stein and Victor Goldberg, we were able to sell the house quickly for a very good price. We are very excited to officially announce that the students will have a new home in the old caretaker's apartment of the Beth Israel Synagogue. Thank you so much to the board of the Beth for working with us to make this dream a reality.

FAMOUS ISRAELI COMEDIAN SHACHAR HASON PERFORMED IN HALIFAX!

In late April, we welcomed Israeli comedian Shachar Hason to Halifax. Over 100 Hebrew-speaking Maritimers from as far away Fredericton and Charlottetown came to hear his two-hour long stand-up routine. This was a huge step forward for us with regards to engaging our Hebrew-speaking community and we cannot wait to continue these efforts in the fall.

WE WELCOMED MORE THAN 125 PEOPLE TO OUR 2ND ANNUAL PRIDE SHABBAT DINNER!

For the second year in a row, over 125 people turned out for this special event that celebrated the intersections between the Pride and Jewish communities in Halifax. We heard from heartfelt guest speakers and a number of politicians who were in attendance. We followed up this amazing dinner with our 3rd time marching in the Halifax Pride Parade.

WE CELEBRATED KADIMAH'S 75 BIRTHDAY!

In a weekend-long series of events put on by an incredibly hard-working committee of volunteers from our community, we celebrated Kadimah's 75th anniversary in style. Everything went off without a hitch as we recognized those who have served community over the many years,

reminisced, and caught up with old friends. Congratulations to everyone involved with this special event!

WE WELCOMED LUCY, OUR NEW *SHLICHA* (ISRAELI EMISSARY) WHO WILL BE HERE UNTIL MID-OCTOBER!

In partnership with the Canadian Zionist Federation, we could not be more thrilled to welcome Lucy Kleinerman, our new short-term *shlicha*, to Atlantic Canada. Lucy will be joining us for the next two months, bringing many programs about Israel to every aspect of our community's celebrations of the high holidays. She is also hoping to visit many of the communities throughout the region. Let's welcome Lucy with some Maritime hospitality!

UPCOMING EVENTS

We also have a very busy line-up of fall programming coming up! In September, we will be recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Jewish Legion training in Windsor, Nova Scotia with a reception in Windsor. This event represents a remarkable yet little-known part of our community's history. In October, we will be hosting our 15th Annual Holocaust Education Week, including many community programs, and programs specifically aimed at teaching Nova Scotian junior high school students, high school students, and educators about the Holocaust. In November, we will be hosting our 5th Annual Atlantic Jewish Film Festival. Finally, instead of having a full biennial conference, we will be having our biennial general meeting on the Sunday morning of the film festival. I hope that many of you reading this from around the region will consider making a weekend-trip for these two events! Shana Tova! 🍷



From The Desk Of NAOMI ROSENFELD

Executive Director

7 LESSONS I LEARNED ABOUT BUILDING JEWISH COMMUNITY FROM MY TIME AT CAMP KADIMAH

The main event of summer 2018 was without a doubt CK75—our celebration of Camp Kadimah's 75th Anniversary. Those of you who were there know what I mean when I say it is hard to put into words the impact of this initiative. Each and every aspect of the event was meticulously planned and beautifully executed. The resulting experience was simply magical. I had the privilege of sitting on the CK75 planning committee for more than a year, and I can tell you that I've never seen a group of volunteers work as hard or come together as beautifully on an event. Kol HaKavod to the tireless champions of this event—Steven & Gloria Pink and Howard & Karen Conter—as well as everyone who contributed to making this celebration one to remember.

As you may know, Camp Kadimah has played a very special role in my life personally. Having attended for 10 summers—5 as a camper and 5 as a staff—I have long understood the profound impact that this special place can have on one's relationships, Jewish identity, and sense of self. However, in the wake of the CK75 celebrations, I've been reflecting about how Kadimah has impacted me professionally. How has my time at Kadimah guided me through my role as Executive Director of the AJC? What lessons did I learn there that can be applied to building and strengthening the Atlantic Canadian Jewish community outside of Camp Kadimah's idyllic setting?

7 JUDAISM CAN BE FUN!

I remember as a child being baffled by the dichotomy of "school" Judaism vs. "camp" Judaism. As a child of Jewish day school, I only associated Judaism with sitting in a boring classroom, homework, and tests. But at camp, magically, Judaism was fun, interesting, engaging, and entertaining. At onegs, the weekly Torah portions came alive with camp analogies and jokes. During Hagannah Night, the history of illegal immigration to pre-Israel British Mandate

Palestine flew off the pages of history books. Our daily Hebrew-word-the-day skits made the task of learning this new language a hilarious creative challenge.

In our work at the AJC, we attempt to bring this style of informal, experiential Jewish education to everything we do. With our PJ Library® program, we bring Judaism into the cherished nighttime ritual of families across the region. During JOLT (Jewish Outreach Leadership Training—teen engagement and volunteer) programs, we aim to teach our teens that Jewish values can and should be applied to improving the world around them. At Hillel, we show Jewish students the feeling of pride and satisfaction that comes from cooking a Shabbat dinner from scratch. And with our community programs, we aim to bring only the most interesting and engaging speakers and films that leave audiences thinking about these topics for weeks.

6 TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER'S OUR DUTY

In a setting as small and as isolated as camp, looking after one another came naturally. If someone hurt themselves, we'd help them to the infirmary. If someone was feeling homesick, we'd cheer them up. If someone forgot something at home, we'd lend it to them. Each of these acts of kindness was done not out of a sense of obligation but out of a sense of love and community.

While such interactions may not come as naturally to a larger group of people separated geographically, generationally, culturally, and otherwise, here at the AJC, we're doing everything we can to build a community where as Jews, we look after one another. If someone passes away, we publicize this in the hope that it will facilitate outreaches to the family. If someone cannot afford entry to a program, we subsidize it. If someone is going through a tough time, we facilitate bringing their families meals to make things a little easier. This is both the Kadimah and the Maritime/Atlantic Canadian way.

5 EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT TO FEEL INCLUDED

Over my 10 summers at Kadimah, I saw a lot of different staff and campers: kids with physical disabilities, kids not from the maritimes, kids with special needs, kids for whom English was not their first language, kids from different cultures, kids with different talents, and everything in between. Yet, somehow, at camp, we always managed to find a place for each and every camper and staff by embracing those who were different. And while the differences did not disappear, their significance seemed to quickly wane as the summer went by relative to the importance of the similarities.

In our Atlantic Canadian Jewish Community, we have many different types of Jews: newcomers, Atlantic Canadian-born, Hebrew-speaking, Russian-speaking, LGBTQ+, those with special needs, those with disabilities, Conservative, Orthodox, Ashkenazi, and Sephardic—to name a few. But, at the AJC, we are focusing on embracing our differences while still finding a place for everyone in the overall Jewish community—just like at camp. Recent programming such as the all Hebrew stand-up comedy routine of Shachar Hason and our Pride Shabbat dinner are just small steps along this path to building an inclusive community.

4 A CONNECTION TO ISRAEL COMES FROM THE HEART

In the new camp song, there's a line that refers to "Yisrael B'libeinu" or "Israel in our hearts". I do not think anything could better describe how camp connects its campers and staff to Israel. Campers at Kadimah may not leave each summer being able to list every Prime Minister of Israel, but what they do remember is the excitement of singing Israeli songs and dancing Israeli dances on Friday night, the strength of the relationships they formed with their Israeli friends and counselors, and the

CONTINUE ON PAGE 31 >



Atlantic
Jewish
Council

STUDENT PROGRAM

Holocaust survivor Maxwell Smart (see Thursday's program listing).

Registration required and teachers will receive a short activity to complete with students prior to arrival, to reserve your space please contact: Alexandra Cherry, Acting Public Programs Manager, acherry@pier21.ca | 902.425.7770 x263 or Edna LeVine, director of community engagement, Atlantic Jewish Council | 902.422.7491 x226; elevine@theajc.ns.ca



The Azrieli Foundation

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 24

'Merely Human': Constructions of Feeble Mindedness and the Origins of the Nazi Euthanasia Program

Halifax Central Library, Paul O'Regan Hall
5440 Spring Garden Road, Halifax | 7:00 PM

Guest speaker: Dr. Warren Rosenblum

Long before the Nazi seizure of power, German reformers established almost 100 asylums for the “feeble-minded.” This presentation explores the relationship between the progressives’ “work of salvation” and the mass murder of persons with intellectual disabilities under the Nazis.

Introduction by Dr. Dorota Glowacka, Professor of Humanities and Director of the Contemporary Studies Programme at the University of King's College

Presented in partnership with the University of King's College and Halifax Central Library.

EDUCATORS PROGRAM: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26Provincial Social Studies Conference
Saint Mary's University

Erica Fagen, Education Agent, Montreal Holocaust Museum, exhibits and resources for educators.
Registration required—Nova Scotia Department of Education

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29

**"Were The House Still Standing" (WTHSS)
film presentation and talk**

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21,
Bronfman Theatre, Bratty Hall, 1055 Marginal Road,
Halifax | 7:00 PM

Guest speaker: Dr. Robert Katz, Professor of Art,
University of Maine, Augusta; Board of Director and
Past-President of the Holocaust and Human Rights
Center of Maine, Augusta

Katz, co-creator of WTHSS, an exhibit commissioned as a permanent installation for the Holocaust and Human Rights Center as an innovative audio-visual project to remember the testimony of 16 Maine Holocaust survivors and liberators.

Reception and fellowship to follow.

In partnership with the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21,
Rowe Hall, 1055 Marginal Road, Halifax | 7:00 PM

Guest speaker: Holocaust survivor Maxwell Smart

In the town of Buczacz, Poland, nine-year-old Maxwell's life is turned upside-down when the Soviets invade in 1939. His family eventually adapts, but nothing can prepare them for the Nazi invasion two years later. Soon Maxwell is alone in the woods, hiding from the roving groups of Ukrainians and Nazis searching for Jews, while depending on the few people he can trust. In the bitter journey of Chaos to Canvas, Maxwell transforms from a boy dependent on his family to a teenager fighting to survive and, ultimately, to a man who finds himself through art in a life beyond the war.

Reception and fellowship to follow.

In partnership with the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. Sponsored by The Azrieli Foundation.



From The Desk Of **EDNA LEVINE**

Director of Community
Engagement

Studying the Holocaust inspires us to think critically about democracy, inclusion, and values, both within the context of the Holocaust and in contemporary society. The 15th annual Holocaust Education Week (HEW) presents programs to challenge, awaken, and encourage action and conversation. This year's Holocaust Education Week is dedicated to the memory of two Holocaust survivors, who recently passed away, Steven Markus z'l (1923-2018) and Philip Riteman z'l (1922-2018). They survived adversity and went on to positively rebuild their lives as immigrants to Canada. Their first-person accounts of the Holocaust, as well as their published memoirs, contributed to our understanding of the Holocaust and their stories of survival resonated with individuals from diverse backgrounds. Their contributions to Holocaust education will not be forgotten.

This fall HEW welcomes Holocaust survivor Maxwell Smart, Montréal, who will present two programs in Halifax in partnership with the Azrieli Foundation, a long-time supporter of Holocaust Education Week in Halifax. Information on digital technology and new media as a means of storytelling in creating an imaginative template to preserve Holocaust testimony is the subject of a film and talk by Robert Katz, Maine, creator of the multi-media installation at the Holocaust and Human Rights Center in Augusta, ME. Katz will present his program in Moncton and Halifax during HEW. The opening program for HEW, in partnership with the University of King's College, 'Merely Human': Constructions of Feeble Mindedness and the Origins of the Nazi Euthanasia Program, is the topic of research by Dr. Warren Rosenblum, Webster University, St. Louis, and we are delighted to have the opportunity to host him in Halifax. The HEW schedule with program details is on the opposite page, and updates are available on HolocaustEducation.ca.

This summer the Montréal Holocaust Museum (MHM) held a training seminar for educators from across Canada, eleven educators from Atlantic Canada attended. Please refer to the article in this magazine by Donna Young, Halifax Christian Academy, for a recap on this successful MHM inaugural seminar.

The MHM adapted four of their exhibits, Hana's Suitcase, the Heart from Auschwitz, 17 Letters: For the Last Time and Forever, and Exploring the Evidence: The Holocaust, Cambodian Genocide, and Canadian Intervention, for the Nova Scotia curriculum. The Atlantic Jewish Council is one of the Pan-Canadian partners on the MHM nationwide inter-action project "Beyond the Walls of the Museum" made possible with the financial support of Canadian Heritage. During HEW Erica Fagen, Education Agent, MHM, will be a guest speaker at the Nova Scotia Social Studies Teachers Association Conference in Halifax and present exhibit resources to teachers to improve the educational support for the teaching of the Holocaust and human rights, all materials are bilingual and free of charge.

Eli Moskowitz, Israeli author of *The Jews of the Titanic*, presented his research on the Jewish passengers on the Titanic, to a full house, at an event organized in partnership with the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Moskowitz recounted many life stories of the Jews onboard and the impact the disaster had on world Jewry. Lively discussions and a book signing followed the presentation. The audience included several members of the Titanic International Society, who were in Halifax to attend a conference co-hosted by the Titanic Society of Atlantic Canada, where Eli had been invited to launch his book. Malte Fiebing, conference attendee from Germany and author of a book on the German film, *Titanic* (1943), which Eli declared, was his favourite Titanic film, engaged audience members, post Eli's



Popular Israeli comedian Shahar Hason had the crowd laughing non-stop for more than 2 hours at the Dunn Theatre as he interacted with audience members sharing a plethora of hilarious stories!

presentation, with his investigation on the film's use of propaganda.

The Canadian Jewish Experience (CJE) exhibit, created in connection with Canada's 150th anniversary, continued to tour the Atlantic Provinces this summer. Project leader Tova Lynch, Ottawa, assisted in the exhibit reaching St. John's, NL, Saint John, NB, and at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 to coincide with Camp Kadimah's 75th Reunion. Please contact me to schedule a showing in your community.

The 5th Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) in Halifax opens November 15th screening international award-winning films for four days. Returning chair Lynn Rotin and the organizing committee, Philip Belitsky, Rosalind Belitsky, Jon Goldberg, Anna Hazankin, Linda Law, Alex Rudcovski, and Peggy Walt have been busy working throughout the year to ensure filmgoers an engaging line-up of films with relevant programming. The AJFF provides an opportunity to experience the Jewish world through film, presenting films that ordinarily would not be screened in Halifax. This year to celebrate our 5th anniversary the Saturday evening film, *Budapest Noir* (Hungary), will be screened at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, and include a post-film party. The complete festival schedule is available at AJFF.ca and tickets go on sale September 21 at TicketAtlantic.com. Please plan to attend and support the growth of the AJFF!

Wishing you and your family lots of joy, good health, and peace in the New Year, Shana Tova! 🌟

TEACH ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST AND HUMAN RIGHTS

BY DONNA YOUNG

Editor's note: Eleven educators from Atlantic Canada attended the Montreal Holocaust Museum's 2018 Training Seminar this summer—4 from Nova Scotia, 4 from New Brunswick and 3 from Newfoundland and Labrador.



PHOTOS: (1) Angela Orosz (Polgar)—Auschwitz survivor (2) Main conference room at the Montreal Holocaust Museum with Marie Batiste, Mi'kmaq scholar, professor and author (3) Available teaching resources (4) Genocide prevention

In June, sixty educators representing nine provinces across Canada participated in the Montreal Holocaust Museum's first Holocaust conference/training seminar for Canadian educators. The program was a full three days of workshops covering the history of the Holocaust, guidelines and resources for teaching, tours of other museums with related exhibits, Indigenous Peoples, survivor testimony, Canadians and the Holocaust, human rights and using virtual technology in the classroom. For the participants who did not speak French, there were workshop choices in English.

Historically the majority of the research that is available about the Holocaust has been from a European perspective. These workshops were presented from a Canadian perspective which gave the material a perspective that Canadians could relate to. Participants were able to learn the history of the Jewish experience in Canada, thus showing the degree of Canadian responsibility in allowing the events of the Holocaust to reach the extent that they had. The material expanded details of the laws and restrictions against Jewish people implemented by Hitler, which had been integrated into mainstream Canadian society. Antisemitism was very much a part of life in our country.

Besides considering the connection the Canadian public had to the proposed and implemented extermination of the Jewish people, different genocides were examined. The term genocide was explained as a combination of Greek and Latin: 'genos' meaning people (Greek) and 'cide' meaning to kill (Latin), therefore meaning 'to kill a people'. This was broken down into three aspects and the understanding was that at least two of them needed to be present in order for a crime against a culture or race to be called genocide. These components were: 1 physical-erasing (the present), 2 biological-erasing (the future), and 3 cultural-erasing (the past). The term Holocaust is used when all components were present. A Canadian version of genocide was the attempted assimilation of the Indigenous Peoples. One of the seminars focused on the residential school system and its attempts to assimilate

Historically the majority of the research that is available about the Holocaust has been from a European perspective. These workshops were presented from a Canadian perspective which gave the material a perspective that Canadians could relate to.

the children into the Christian culture taking 'the Indian out of the Indian'. The overall points that were discussed with the intent to increase the understanding for students was for the need of diversity, inclusivity and respect for our Indigenous neighbours. By learning about the native culture and effects of the Residential school system, action can be taken to bring healing and reconciliation to all people in the community and throughout Canada.

Seeing and hearing a survivor tell their story is one of the most important presentations of any conference. The story shared was a rare one about babies that were born in the camps that did survive. Angela Orosz Polgar recounted her mother, Vera Bein Polgar's experiences in Auschwitz and of giving birth to her one month before liberation. A main point she emphasized is that as survivors are gradually dying, there soon will not be any remaining to tell their stories, so it will be up to us as educators and others to tell them, keeping their memories alive.

Through the many resources and information that were provided by the Montreal Holocaust Museum, a greater understanding of the Holocaust and genocides can now be brought to more students and to the greater public. Giving a Canadian perspective, students and teachers will hopefully be able to realize that each of us bears a responsibility to stand up against the issues that causes a Holocaust or other genocides to occur. 5

Donna Young is a teacher at the Halifax Christian Academy and committed to teaching her students about the Holocaust. Since 2011, she has attended and participated with her students in the AJC's Holocaust Education Week programs and has been developing a Holocaust curriculum for school aged children.

CIJA'S PACKED POLICY AGENDA FOR THE NEW YEAR

STEVE MCDONALD IS DIRECTOR, POLICY AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS, AT THE CENTRE FOR ISRAEL AND JEWISH AFFAIRS (CIJA)

The High Holidays are a fitting time to take stock of the past year and clarify what we hope to achieve in the coming months.

As the advocacy agent of the Jewish Federations of Canada, much of our work at CIJA is focused on promoting our community's policy priorities. Whether in conversation with parliamentarians, journalists, or leaders in other faith and ethnic communities, we are constantly focused on advancing the issues that matter to Jewish Canadians. A key part of this work is doing more than just identifying problems—like antisemitic hate crimes. Rather, our goal is always to propose effective policy solutions—such as more resources and tougher laws to combat hate.

Since last Rosh Hashanah, we have achieved some important milestones. One that I'm particularly proud of is last fall's passage of Bill C-305. This law ensures that hateful vandalism against community centres and schools associated with an identifiable group (such as JCCs and day schools) are treated with the same level of seriousness in the Criminal Code as similar hate crimes against places of worship. I'm proud that CIJA organized a campaign to push MPs from all parties to support the bill, including by offering testimony on Parliament Hill, speaking out in the media, and mobilizing more than twenty diverse faith and ethnic organizations to join our efforts.

This is just one example of how a strategic, multi-pronged campaign can achieve meaningful results for our community—and make Canada an even better country for all. We have a packed policy agenda for the year ahead that will address a wide range of key issues. While more details may be found on our website (cija.ca), I wanted to outline three areas to give you a sense of what you can expect from our team in the year to come.

First, we are urging governments at all

levels to do more to fight antisemitism. While most Canadians reject antisemitism, the world's oldest hatred remains alive and well on the fringes of society. Statistics Canada consistently confirms that Jewish Canadians are the most frequently targeted religious minority when it comes to hate crime. Combatting antisemitism is a complex challenge requiring a smart, multi-faceted response.

We are urging governments to strengthen law enforcement efforts to combat hate. Among other measures, this should include creating hate crime units within police agencies that currently lack them, improving the tracking of hate crime trends and data collection, and strengthening legal tools to combat hate speech.

Antisemitism cannot be fought effectively without clear definitions. This is why we are urging governments at all levels—as well as police and relevant agencies—to endorse and use the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. The IHRA definition offers a clear, common sense framework for separating legitimate political discourse from antisemitic commentary, recognizing that antisemitism today is often expressed in hatred toward Israelis and Israel's existence.

Second, we are continuing to advocate on the need for a national strategy to improve palliative care in Canada. According to experts, nearly three-quarters of Canadians do not have access to palliative care. CIJA co-led a broad interfaith coalition to champion this issue last year, supporting a successful bill to create a national framework on palliative care.

That framework is expected to be released by the end of 2018. CIJA consulted widely on this issue within Canada's Jewish community, gathering insights from grassroots Canadians and experts. In the coming months, we will

be sharing a series of proposals on this important issue with elected officials and policymakers.

Among other elements, we are urging the government to set specific goals, requirements and timeframes for expanding access to palliative care, backed by increased funding for homecare and hospices.

Third, we are advocating for policies to help counter extremism, radicalization, and terrorism. While Canada is one of the safest countries on the planet, we must be vigilant in protecting Canadians from terrorism and extremist violence—and the radical ideologies that fuel them. This requires ensuring Canada's laws strike the right balance between preserving public safety and respecting individual rights and freedoms.

To cite just one example of our current efforts in this area, we are urging the government to amend Bill C-59, which includes a range of changes to Canada's approach to national security. Our specific focus is one provision of the bill that changes the offence of "advocacy and promotion" to "every person who counsels another person to commit a terrorism offence." This change in the law seems to restrict the crime to those who counsel a specific individual to commit terrorism, rather than those who call on a broad audience (such as social media followers) to commit acts of terror. **We are urging the government to amend the bill accordingly.**

These are just three issues from our current policy agenda, to give you a sense of the scope of our work. I encourage you to visit our website and connect with us to get involved in the new year. *Shana Tova!* 🌟



CAMPUS NEWS

BY LINDSAY KERR, DIRECTOR OF HILLEL AND NEXT GENERATION ENGAGEMENT

BBYO Passport Teen Tour to South Africa



Editor's note: Lindsay Kerr spent part of her summer working as a chaperone for the Jewish teen tour BBYO Passport to South Africa. BB Camp and BBYO were both associated with B'nai Brith originally but not anymore and the letters don't actually stand for anything now. You can contact Lindsay at: lindsay@theajc.ns.ca

In 2014, after a 15-year run, I ended my time at BB Camp in beautiful Lake of the Woods, Ontario. Knowing I wouldn't be returning to the only place I knew how to spend my summer seemed quite scary until I got an email talking about Jewish teen tours with BBYO Passport. Never needing a reason to travel, I enquired with all my questions. Satisfied with the answers I decided this was something I needed to do so I applied and, while in New Zealand doing an experiential semester program, was offered a trip on the west coast of the United States. That summer I spent 3 amazing weeks in California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona. I was hooked in so quickly and was so thankful I opened that email in the fall of 2014. Over the next two summers I went to England, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Israel, DC, Italy, and Slovenia. It was during my service learning trip in Washington, DC last summer that I realized the service trips were the ones I liked most as opposed to the ones that are simply touring. In discussing this year with my summer boss, the South Africa trip was finally a viable option after 3 years of working. This was the trip I'd been waiting for, an itinerary well balanced in service, outdoor and animal activities, touring, and learning, and I was so excited for summer 2018.

In July I, along with two other madrichim, took 31 Canadian and American teens to South Africa for a 3-week service trip. Landing in Johannesburg on a Thursday and spending most of the day driving up to the Kruger area meant that our first actual programming day was Friday, Shabbat. With our DIY Shabbat kit of candles, sparkling

PHOTOS: (1) Group photo upon completing the Eco Village
(2) Table Mountain, Cape Town
(3) Group photo in Soweto—South Africa's largest township
(4) Staff photo in Bo Kaap, Cape Town



grape Fanta, and dinner rolls, we celebrated our first Shabbat as a group in the middle of Kruger National Park. Featuring a bush walk on Saturday morning and a braai (traditional bbq) in the evening, this Shabbat was like none we'd ever experienced before.

After 4 safaris and a visit to an endangered species centre, we were ready to dive into our first service project. Working with an NGO called Eco Children, we were working on an "eco village" filled with sustainable keyhole gardens for a school in a community. The community already had one thriving garden which is how we knew that this was a sustainable project for us to work on. The older students in the school tend the gardens, the school uses the produce grown for meals, and all students use it in their curricula. Our mornings were spent working and our afternoons were spent playing with the children who, even though they were on winter break, came to school each day. Seeing the instant connections being made with kids of all ages was truly heart warming. Although we did not start this project we were lucky enough to finish it and help prepare for its big unveiling in the community.

Our first service project went through the week so when it was done it was time for our second Shabbat, this time in Johannesburg. Prior to the trip we had been in communication with the teen programming coordinators from a local shul in the city. As invited guests we went to their newly completed "bayit", a building beside the main shul dedicated to youth programming. It has a pool table, foosball table, back yard with soccer and volleyball nets, and sanctuary complete with an aron hakodesh. An orthodox service with separate seating was a new experience for many of our teens but because of the positive atmosphere in The Bayit, they felt right at home and actively engaged. After services our group was divided into 3 to go to community members homes for Shabbat dinner. No one batted an eye at opening their home up to a sizeable group of teens. Throughout this meal I kept thinking about how it really does not matter where in the world you are, Jews are Jews. They will open their home to strangers and treat them like family. I can't speak about the other houses but the atmosphere in my home was so welcoming!

CONTINUE ON PAGE 11 >

MY TRIP TO ISRAEL

Essay by Bailey Karrel

Hi, my name is Bailey Karrel, I'm 18 and I'm from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. I was recently lucky enough to have taken a gap year off in between high school and university to travel. Thanks to (scholarship family name) and the AJC I got the chance to spend the past five months living in downtown Tel Aviv, Israel taking part in a gap year program called Aardvark Israel. These past five months have been an incredible journey and it has been an amazing experience.

I was lucky enough to be in the country during Purim, Pesach, Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day), Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day) and Yom HaAtzmaut (Israel Independence Day). It was amazing being able to celebrate and commemorate everything that has happened with the people who give everything to make Israel what it is today.

Besides holidays, I worked alongside Israelis and those who made Aliyah through an internship to be able to see what working in Israel was like. I worked 5 mornings a week with a photography business called My Israel Photos. I had a great time working with them from speaking with clients,

editing photos and the Great Britain Maccabiah Games 2017 video and I even got to go on and help lead some of their graffiti and vlogging workshop tours. I learned a lot about business, photography and met a lot of great people.

While in Israel I also took Ulpan (Hebrew classes), a History of Zionism through Sports class and an Introduction to business class. I had classes 4 afternoons a week. The classes were very interesting and educational. They teachers kept the classes interesting and those who wanted to were able to get credit for the classes through the AJU (American Jewish University). About half of the program, myself included ended taking at least one if not more of their courses for credit.

Once a week our program would take us on a trip to a different part of Israel to experience the culture, history and nature in Israel. We got to do lots of different things like hike through the Negev Desert, visit Ben Gurion's grave and old house, spend a night on a kibbutz, visit the Bahai Gardens in Haifa and we went on a tour in Old Yafo to understand the relationships between some of the

Arabs and Jews living peacefully, side by side in Israel. One of the best was when many of the gap year programs got together for one of the holidays in Jerusalem, and after a ceremony we all marched together to the Kotel and sang Hatikvah, its the moments like those that I will never forget. I am so lucky that I got to see so much of Israel, from the Gardens in Haifa to the beaches in Eilat, all the way to the old city of Jerusalem and all over the city of Tel Aviv that I was lucky enough to call home.

Overall, I couldn't be more thankful for the semester that I got to spend in Israel. I think that this trip to Israel has really inspired me to continue to learn more about my Jewish identity and background and to spread awareness about Judaism and Israel. I now have so many friends from all over the world, whom with I've made memories that I'll never forget. This experience has taught me so much, strengthened my Jewish Identity and I'd like to think that it's helped me grow as a person. So, I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped me on my journey, and I cannot wait to go back one day. —*Yours truly, Bailey Karrel*

< CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

The father even led ice breaker activities at the table so we could get to know the family and the family could get to know us. This was my 13th Shabbat on teen tours and can confidently say it is my most meaningful and memorable because of how welcomed we were by the local community.


The second half of our trip was spent in Cape Town, a beautifully magical city. In Cape Town we continued to learn about apartheid by visiting Robben Island, the District 6 Museum, and having an interactive address from Christo Brand, Nelson Mandela's personal prison warden. We got to take in the natural beauty of Table Mountain, and boulder's beach where the penguins live. It was also the home base for our second service project. This project, partnered with Baphumelele Children's Home, a local home for orphaned children that has since branched out to add a clinic, day care, and education centre as well, was very different from the first in that there was little direct interaction with the community we'd be helping. In this project we'd be demolishing shacks to clear space for new shacks to be build for child headed households. For various reasons,

children as young as 14 are taking care of their younger siblings. Often being unable to provide enough to keep living conditions safe, Baphumelele provides homes for them. This work was much more physical and not everyone's cup of tea however the meaning behind it was just as important. Many of our teens have younger siblings so we talked about what it would be like if they were the primary care provider in their family. Our third and final Shabbat was supposed to be at a shul in Cape Town but because of logistical issues, it fell on us with about 2 hours notice. Having cultivated a sense of leadership and community within the group, we had several teens ask to lead different parts of the program. We experienced three very different Shabbatot but all provided meaning and something to learn from.

Throughout both projects we discussed the idea of sustainable service and what it means. We summed it up as doing what the community explicitly states they need, not what we think they need, as well as doing the little jobs that might not otherwise get done. We were a group of 34 people putting in 3-5 hours each day at each project. That is upwards of 100 hours each day that the

people running the organizations do not have to worry about. As we were cleaning up the site one day in the first project one teen, without prompting, explained "the teachers here are so busy doing so many things. This is the type of thing that if we don't do it, it won't get done, so I'm happy to do it."

Since I started leading these trips I knew I wanted to lead "the South Africa trip". It wasn't until last summer in DC that I made the distinction that not only did I want to lead "the South Africa trip" but I now wanted to lead Stand Up South Africa. Since going to camp for the first time in 2000, experiential education has been such a big part of my life. Fifteen years later I had no idea how I could possibly do anything else in the summer besides it, but things work out the way they are meant to and I was blessed with finding teen tours. They take all the best aspects of camp but let you do them all around the world.

If you couldn't tell by reading this article, I absolutely love talking about my teen tours (and travels in general). If you have any questions or would like to know more about them, I would love to tell you! Please don't hesitate to send me an email. 



We have an exciting announcement to make... **WE'RE EXPANDING PJ LIBRARY!**

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a program that provides children in Atlantic Canada with a FREE high-quality,
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Please email Lindsay Kerr (lindsay@theajc.ns.ca) for more information.

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PJ LIBRARY® NEWS

Modest but Mighty PJ Library in Small Communities

BY **MARY HORROCKS**, PJ LIBRARY PROGRAM OFFICER

Reprinted with permission from PJ Library PROOF magazine

THE WIND BLOWS RIPPLES ACROSS THE HALIFAX

HARBOUR as I look out from Pier 21. Jewish immigrants once sailed here in droves from Eastern and Central Europe. They arrived year-round, as the water's so deep it never freezes over. While some of those arriving would travel on west to Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver or south to the States, others remained in Nova Scotia. In more recent decades, Jewish immigrants have come from former Soviet Union countries, the Middle East, and North Africa via the less scenic route through Halifax Stanfield International Airport.


This diverse Jewish population surprises many. In my role at PJ Library I have the privilege of supporting modest but mighty Jewish towns. I wish I had a nickel for every time someone incredulously exclaims, "There are Jews in Halifax?" Yes! And in Omaha, Tulsa, Greenville, Grand Rapids, and beyond. I hope this issue of PROOF is being read at kitchen tables in each of these vibrant cities right now.

In fact, Jews have been in Halifax since 1750, and today the Jewish population is estimated at 1,500. Over the past ten years alone, roughly 400 Russian born Jews have relocated from Israel to Nova Scotia with the help of a campaign by the Atlantic Jewish Council. This population might make different choices than other strands of the Atlantic Jewish community—they may choose the Russian immersion program for their kids instead of Hebrew school each Tuesday evening—but their desire to raise young Jewish families is just as real and pressing as that of Canadian-born parents. Thankfully, PJ Library is here.

It's February, and I'm in town to attend a PJ Library engagement event, a parents-only program at the Clay Café in Halifax's North End. Many of the participants have grown friendly over the course of the event series, but this is the first program without their children playing underfoot. There's a mix of Hebrew, Russian, and English heard at each table, where the parents sit hunched over ceramic Kiddush cups, plates, and trivets. Some paint flowers, geometric shapes, or Stars of David. Others decorate their Shabbat pottery with the names of their children. Each piece is a reflection of this diverse Jewish group gathered together on a windy night in Nova Scotia.

The conversation flows through jobs, politics, whiskey, and recipes. A mom describes how her young child brings PJ Library books to a secular preschool classroom, wanting to share Jewish holiday stories with classmates. Some discuss the happenings at their synagogue. Others reminisce about a shared old neighbourhood in Israel. Two moms describe scouring Pinterest for Hanukkah decorating ideas that will allay kids' Christmas tree envy—a challenge they didn't have in Israel.

Like the Halifax Harbour, PJ Library's small communities may look unassuming from a macro-view of North America. But beneath the surface, there's a different story unfolding: In a small community in the Pacific Northwest, PJ Library is a pipeline bringing new energy to faded Jewish communal stalwarts. In a tiny community in the Rust Belt, PJ Library shines brightly even after the nearest synagogue has faded away. PJ Library glows at a pajama party in a home furnishings store in Dayton, OH. A picnic lunch on a working farm in Meridian, ID. A Tu B'Shevat scavenger hunt at a mall in Knoxville, TN. A home-hosted Shabbat dinner in Athens, GA.

And PJ Library thrives among parents sitting at the Clay Café with rolled up sleeves, painting a platter for next Friday's challah. Beneath the rippling surface, beneath the unassuming spot on the map, the water runs wonderfully, startlingly deep. 



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LAWYER

SAINT JOHN INTERNATIONAL CULTURE FEST

The Israeli Community Showcase

BY ESTI BARLEVY AND TAL GOLDENBERG-KEREN

When Tal Goldenberg-Keren, Owner of Chooka Media Group, was asked to do the branding for a new multicultural festival in Saint John, N.B., Tal Jew immediately that an Israeli presence was in order.

The Saint John International Culture Fest 2018 was a 2-day event on 15-16 of June, that showcased a micro-village of countries from around the world, with colorful displays, dance, music and food.

The Israeli community in Saint John includes roughly 40 families that came to join the local Jewish community, and this was a great opportunity to give the Saint John a peak of the “real” Israel: beautiful, special locations and important achievements.

Together Tal Goldenberg-Keren and Esti Barlevy envisioned and created the Israeli tent with an innovative professional display as well as engaging activities for the crowd. Then, contributions from Shaarei Zedek Saint John Congregation, Atlantic Jewish Council and Saint John Jewish Historical Museum were joined to make the vision come to life.

IN THE WHITE-BLUE TENT, THE DISPLAY INCLUDED RETRACTABLE BANNERS PORTRAYING:

- Famous Israeli Artists, such as: Natalie Portman, Gal Gadot (“Wonder Woman”) and others.
- Israeli innovations that have influenced the world, such as: USB flash drive, Irrigation Drip Technology (agriculture), HP Indigo digital printers, Mobileye, etc.
- Israeli start-ups, such as: ICQ (first instant-messaging app), Waze, Gett, etc.
- Israeli highlights, from north to south: Sea of Galilee, Haifa, Tel-Aviv Yafo, Jerusalem, Ramon Crater/Negev Desert, and Eilat.
- Data comparison between Israel and New Brunswick in terms of area vs. population and more.

Around 1000 students from schools across the region visited on Friday, and roughly 6,600 people visited on Saturday—all came to experience and learn about different cultures.

THE VISITORS WERE ENGAGED WITH FUN ACTIVITIES, WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE VERY POPULAR:

- The Dead Sea Experiment was an educational activity where we introduced and demonstrated facts about the lowest place on Earth and how the density of salts boosts the force of buoyancy so that everything floats.
- The Wailing Wall model was created to highlight this spiritual place where people from all over the world come to pray, meditate, write their wishes on notes and place them between the stones. We assured everyone that all the wish notes will make their way to Israel to be placed in the real wall.
- The Write Your Name in Hebrew Letters activity was also very intriguing to both the young and the adult visitors, as writing your name in a totally different alphabet and in different direction was a new experience for them. They were also interested in learning how the Nikud markings are used make the sounds instead of vowels.

Volunteers from the Israeli and Jewish community of Saint John joined the core team in manning the tent, showing a friendly face, chatting and educating the visitors, and handing out white-blue sweets!

“I had an amazing experience doing this project and bringing it to life. We met many people with open minds! We received so much wonderful feedback from the event organizers, the visitors, Mayor Don Darling and even a guest from Moncton—Mike Timani, the president of New Brunswick Multicultural Council. I really appreciate everyone who took part in doing this, and looking forward to next year!”—*Tal Goldenberg-Keren*

“The Saint John International Culture Fest created a path between culture, art, food and education and encouraged interaction with different cultures from around the world. This festival was a unique family experience and an important milestone for the Israeli and Jewish community. We appreciate this amazing opportunity to show the real ISRAEL: our achievements and beautiful places”—*Esti Barlevy*

“It was a wonderfully open, friendly and warm event that can only grow. A special feeling with hope and love stretched through the entire day Saturday and from what I hear, Friday as well. Tal and Esti: you did a very excellent job all ‘round. Thank you very much for your ideas and your energy. I am so grateful for you both.”—*Cathy Tait, Saint John Jewish Historical Museum.*

If you want to learn more, please feel free to reach out: Tal Goldenberg-Keren at info@chookagroup.com or Esti Barlevy at Esti.gilad@gmail.com



PRIDE

On July 20th, 2018, more than 125 people joined us at our Second Annual Pride Shabbat Dinner. This dinner was a true celebration of the intersections between the Pride and Jewish communities in Halifax and a way to show off this cherished Jewish ritual to the greater Halifax community. The dinner was hosted once again by Sky Smith and included heartfelt speeches from Rachele Manett, Morgan Manzer (the chair of Halifax Pride), and the Hon. Andy Fillmore, MP who brought greetings from the Prime Minister. Several other political and distinguished guests were also in attendance. We followed up this amazing dinner with our 3rd time marching in the Halifax Pride Parade.



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PHOTOS: (1) Sky Smith marching in the Halifax Pride parade
(2) Andy Fillmore MP Halifax, speaking at the AJC's Pride Shabbat Dinner
(3) The AJC's Pride Shabbat Dinner
(4) Jewish community members pose after marching in the Halifax Pride Parade

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CAMP KADIMAH NEWS



Another summer has come to a conclusion at Camp Kadimah. This summer we had our fantastic 75th anniversary celebration which saw over 400 alumni return to Barss Corner for the weekend. Our summer was also marked by hot temperatures, awesome and dedicated staff and lively, engaged, energetic campers and meaningful programming! We all had a blast!

BY SARAH ATKINS, DIRECTOR

There are so many people who come together to make a summer at Camp Kadimah great. Our dedicated Camp Committee works year-round to ensure that Camp is set-up for success. Our staff work before and during camp to make sure our campers have the time of their lives each summer, and our campers come with enthusiasm and open minds every year, ready to meet new people, re-connect with old friends, learn from our staff, and try new things. Anne Joudrey (our head cook of 35 years!) kept us well fed with her team in the kitchen, and Peter Wagner and his team ensured that the camp was safe and was looking good! A big thanks goes out to everyone involved!

We are already gearing up for summer of 2019 with registration open on our website (www.campkadimah.com) so please go ahead and register now! If you have any questions or would like to know more about our wonderful camp community, please email us at office@campkadimah or call 416-634-3089.

We are so grateful to have had another successful summer together and we look forward to planning another terrific experience for our campers and staff in 2019.

L'hitraot!



A CELEBRATION IN LAUGHTER

Camp Kadimah alumni and friends gather for 75th anniversary

BY JOEL JACOBSON PHOTOGRAPHY BY PHOTOBUG: WWW.PHOTOBUG.CA

IT'S TOUGH TO CAPTURE IN WORDS, AND IN LIMITED SPACE, THE EMOTION OF PEOPLE SEEING EACH OTHER AFTER DECADES APART.

Yet these few words might do it—"Let's pick up where we left off many years ago and continue our conversation of that time."

Hugs, lots of "You haven't changed a bit" and tons of "remember when", all generated smiles and brought tears of joy, as close to 400 alumni of Camp Kadimah gathered in Halifax, and at the camp in Barss Corner, between July 27 and 29,

Every decade was represented at the 75th anniversary of the beloved camp, including a few people who were there when the doors opened at Port Mouton in southwestern Nova Scotia in 1943. Alumni flocked to the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 to register for the celebration, most seeing each other for the first time in decades, everyone beaming with delight as they immediately recognized faces and offered warm hugs.

They spent time together in a Memorabilia Room, packed with pictures and Maccabia flags and a bunk bed, and other items from Camp Kadimah, brought to Halifax for this special occasion.

The emotion they felt, the joy of everyone in the room was never better exhibited than at Friday night's Shabbat Dinner when co-MC Sandy (Tanzman) Brown (Saint John, Toronto) opened proceedings leading the masses in Shalom Aleichem.

Arms immediately went around each other as people stood and swayed to the traditional welcoming tune. What a moment!

Shabbat candles were lit by '43 campers Rita Mintz Altszuler, Sandra Simon Hoffman, Shirlee Arron Medjuck and Debbie Mosher. Kiddush was led by Harvey David and Nathan Zilbert and the bread was blessed by Ralph Medjuck. The event was underway in a spectacular manner.

The traditional meal of roast chicken, potato knishes, vegetables, then capped with blueberry pie, was quickly gobbled, interspersed with speeches, tributes and videos. During gaps in the presentations, conversations carried on that seemed endless. The MCs—Brown and Michael Soberman, Toronto—recognized what was happening and refused to call people back to their seats, encouraging the friendliness, the hamishness, the warmth of the moment, until time forced them to give in.

A wildly enthusiastic tribute to the music of Kadimah followed, as the late Evie Dubinsky Carnat, Sydney and the Atlantic region, a long-time leader of song and dance at camp, was honored. Her family—brothers, husband and sons, in-laws and other assorted relatives—presented Camp and Israeli songs, and a few generic folk songs, in which the audience participated, concluding with her brother Leon Dubinsky's iconic Cape Breton anthem, We Rise Again. When

her grandchildren, brought to Halifax for this tribute from their summer at Kadimah, helped lead The Lollipop Song, the roof of Pier 21 was lifted with 400 voices singing loudly.

A medley of Kadimah Maccabia songs, led by a Toronto contingent (Maritime-born and raised) of 1950s alumni, Mev and Sandy Brown, Isabel Boniuk, and Barb and Jack Yablon, concluded an evening that refused to end as conversations and remembrances continued far into the night.

"After 15 minutes in the room, it was as if nothing had changed," said Howard Conter, who, with wife Karen, and Steven and Gloria Pink, co-chaired the celebration and led a committee of more than 20 putting together an event that was a true Love-In. "Years went away. Conversations started that began 20 and 40 and 50 and 70 years ago and went on with no break. It showed the incredible spirit of our Camp."

Camp committee co-chair Michael Pink, Halifax, (with Michael Soberman) gazed at the mobs Friday night and said it was exciting to see four generations of Kadimah families come together. "The chevra, the ruach, you can't duplicate this feeling in any way."

Faith Guss, Saint John, Oslo, Norway, flew across the Atlantic to be there. "I've never been anywhere where I felt I belonged as Camp Kadimah. Such a richness and warmth. You can't top it."

After the Carnat musical offering, Evie's brother Leslie offered, "It was great fun to sing with my family again (something they did often at Camp decades before). Singing Kadimah songs, Hebrew songs and Leon's numbers. It was an inspiration to know Evie kept these songs living on. When the grandchildren performed with us, it was awe-inspiring."

The joy continued Saturday through traditional Kadimah Shabbat morning services, an afternoon young family picnic and playground, and into the evening when a typical Kadimah social was held.

A highlight at dinner was the appearance of Jean Michel Blais, the Chief of Police of the Halifax Regional Municipality, two of his officers, and a sniffer dog, Steel, looking for contraband. A few in the audience cowered with fear their stash might be discovered but the officers were looking for specifics.

They headed to the stage where Steel nosed out a duffle bag. With persistence, he dug at it. It was opened and a police officer pulled out a red banner, then a blue one, a white one and lastly, one in yellow. The opening of Maccabia was announced and cheered loudly by everyone in the room, especially those whose stashes remained unfound.

A live auction of two paintings—one by Tom Forrestal of the Camp waterfront, and a live painting created during the Friday and Saturday night dinners by Namja—were sold through the enthusiastic pleadings

AND TEARS

of Adam Conter who has his father's knack for pulling dollars out of pockets, with humor and grace.

A Camp band from yesteryear—Marty Zatzman, Joanna Mirsky Wexler, Ezra Wexler and Jenna Conter—entertained, followed by an emotional 30-minute slide show titled “Kadimah Memories—Our Second Home—coordinated by former camper, staff, head staff and chairman of the camp committee, Mark Rosen, Saint John and Halifax, and Adam Adler, Halifax, a former camper. There were oohs, aahs, laughs, tear-wiping, and constant name identification throughout the images from years past.

Unknown but for a limited few organizers, a spectacular conclusion to the Saturday social emerged. Pier 21 faces Halifax Harbour. The crowd was asked to go to the windows where a barge sailed by with the letters CAMP KADIMAH 75 flaming, just like every post-closing banquet at camp when similar letters would be on fire on the sports field. What a moment! What a conclusion to two days of celebration—kudos to Howard and Karen Conter, Steven and Gloria Pink.

But it wasn't over yet! Couples danced into the late night to the music of Halifax band Big Fish, reluctantly packing it in at midnight but seemingly ready to go on and on.

And there was even more!!

Visitor's Day Sunday arrived. A couple of busses took some people to camp, others travelled by car, but all the alumni mingled with current parents and campers to enjoy a glorious day in the sun.

The usual Kadimah kids' presentation took place, long-time contributors to camp were honoured including Camp Chef of 35 years, Anne Joudrey, long-time caretakers and the owner of the general store, dedications of the Pavilion to Evie Carnat, and a new beach to Steven Zatzman took place, and happiness reigned.

Jonah Jacobson (Toronto, San Francisco) travelled far to be there, “I haven't been here since 1996. It's a whole new camp. I parked on a sports field that was woods 20 years ago. And so many new cabins have been added. It was great to see campers who are now grownups, kids who were MY campers and I remember as little ones.”

Everyone recalled the impact Kadimah had on their lives, from making new friends who have remained steadfast forever, to those little moments that will be cherished as long as they lived.

Andrea Brown Kohn (Fredericton, Toronto) noted, “We were so bad. We'd always run away to Maders Store (a few hundred kilometers from Kadimah) to get our treats.”

Iaan Brown, Fredericton, recalled being challenged to escape camp to go to the store. “Lorne Simon of Cape Breton, told me to bring back the receipt and he'd pay for it. I went, bought about \$25 worth of stuff and on the way back, saw the Camp van. I got off the road, jumped into a field and heard a big, black bull snorting and stomping his feet. I started running, leaped into a creek, waded across and got back to camp with my goodies. And I got my money back from Lorne.”

Memories like that Kadimahites will never forget.

Co-chair Karen Conter was thrilled with the outcome of two years of planning, culminating with three days of 24/7 activity. “Seeing the effort of our committee come together was exciting. We knew that when a person said they'd do something, they would—and they did. Kudos to their dedication.”

Gloria Pink summed it up in a message to the organizing committee.

“Words can't tell you enough of how proud we are of you! This Committee pulled off the most amazing event we have ever witnessed. It was a Love In of over 400 people that came to CK75 not sure what to expect. And did we show them!”



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PHOTOS: (1) Lena Diab, Minister of Immigration, Province of Nova Scotia, presents a commemorative plaque to co-chairs Gloria Pink (L) and Karen Conter (R) at CK75. (2) Sandy Tanzman Brown welcomes everyone to the Shabbat dinner as co-MC (with Michael Soberman (L), at CK75) (3) Happy celebrants at CK75 include Leslie Dubinsky, Alan Stern, Howard Davidson, Heather Davidson, and Jamie Levitz. (4) Howard Conter, Halifax, co-chair 75th celebration committee, Michael Soberman, Toronto, and Michael Pink, Halifax, co-chairs Camp Kadimah board of directors, Karen Conter, Halifax, co-chair, 75th celebration, at the 75th anniversary of Camp Kadimah in Barss Corner, NS. (5) Camp Kadimah 75 sign burns brightly on a barge in Halifax Harbour during the 75th anniversary celebration of Camp Kadimah (6) Members of the Evie Dubinsky Carnat family lead a tribute to the late song and dance instructor at Camp Kadimah during the 75th anniversary celebration of the Camp. (7) Four women from the first session of Camp Kadimah in 1943 light Shabbat candles at the 75th anniversary celebration in Halifax. From left: Sandra Simon Hoffman, Halifax, Shirlee Arron Medjuck, Halifax, Debbie Mosher, Halifax and Rita Mintz Altszuler, Halifax and New York.

SHAHAR HASON



Irina & Sergei Gaevsky at Shahar Hason. Irina joined Shahar on stage at the Dunn Theatre, and participated in the Israeli comedian's antics.



Michelle Levin talking to Shahar Hason after his incredibly funny and engaging comedy routine in Hebrew.



Community members travelled from outside of Halifax to attend the stand-up comedy show by Israeli comedian Shahar Hason.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Lindsay Kerr reading some children a story at our PJ Shabbat Dinner.



Teens from the JOLT program going trampolining.



Women of the JWRP trip making challah.

ELI MOSKOWITZ



Eli Moskowitz, author of *The Jews of the Titanic*, presented to a full house, new information on the lives and deaths of the Jewish passengers who sailed on the Titanic, at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.



Anna Fried chats with Eli Moskowitz after his presentation and sold-out book signing. Pictured with Malte Fiebing, Germany, author of *Titanic (1943): Nazi Germany's version of the disaster*.



Rabbi Yakov Kerzner and Eli Moskowitz reflect on the Jewish aspects of the Titanic that Eli's research revealed. Rabbi Kerzner had hosted Eli for a Shabbat talk at the Beth Israel Synagogue prior to the presentation at the Museum.

MOSAIC FESTIVAL



(LEFT) The AJC was please to host a booth at the first Mosaic Festival—a celebration of culture and diversity in Halifax. Information, interactive games on Israel and Jewish life- including attractions, achievements and history — were displayed, and volunteers engaged and answered questions to attendees. Pictured, Lindsay Kerr, Director of Hillel and Next Generation Engagement, community volunteer Howard Heyman and Lucy Kleinerman, Shlichah from Israel.

(RIGHT) Mayor Mike Savage stopped by the AJC booth at the Mosaic Festival and chatted about his trips to Israel with Hiyam Gedalia, AJC summer student, and Lucy Kleinerman, Shlichah from Israel.

WELCOMING OUR NEW SHLICHA (ISRAELI EMISSARY), LUCY KLEINERMAN



Recently, Lucy completed a year as a JAFI Israel Fellow at Hillel York University in Toronto. As an Israel Fellow, Lucy was working with the Jewish students on campus, creating and leading events and activities on issues that are connected to Israel and Judaism

Lucy received a B.Ed. from the Kibbutzim College of Education in Tel Aviv in 2014. Previous to that she served in the IDF in the medical corps. She has significant experience in leading and working with groups of various ages—children, teenagers and adults. She has taught in summer camps, student seminars, MASA Israel programs and at the Weizmann Institute of Science. She speaks three languages - Hebrew, English and Russian.

Lucy is very excited to be back in Canada for the second time as a Shlichah, this time for the Atlantic Jewish Council in partnership with the Canadian Zionist Federation and the Department for Diaspora Activities of the World Zionist Organization. She is eager to meet the community in Atlantic Canada and to celebrate the Jewish High Holidays with everyone.

Lucy will be in Atlantic Canada until Mid-October 2018.

Shana Tova!

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THE MEDJUCKS OF DALHOUSIE

BY HAROLD MEDJUCK

In conjunction with the 200th anniversary of Dalhousie, the Medjuck family proudly commemorates 100 years and four generations of association with Dalhousie University.

This association began in September of 1918 when their late uncle, Abraham Medjuck of Glace Bay, entered Dal Medical School at the age of 18. Remarkably this was only ten years after he settled in Canada, at the age of eight, without knowing any English. This will always remain an outstanding academic achievement in the annals of Dalhousie Medical School.

Seventy years later, Harold Medjuck can still visualize the Studley Campus' large acorn and chestnut trees, its dirt roads, streams, large fields, pond, and the Murray Studley horse barn.

Following graduation, Dr. Medjuck moved to New York City where he became a pioneer in Industrial Medicine. His choice of medical practice was in response to the growing medical needs stemming from the large numbers of factories in New York's Lower Eastside. He remained in this practice for fifty years.

In time, Dr. Medjuck would be followed at Dalhousie by his brothers, nephews, grandnephew, niece, grandniece, and great-grandniece.

Brothers Ralph, Harold, and the late Frank Medjuck are his nephews. As a matter of interest, the Medjuck brothers spent much of their childhood on the playing fields of Dalhousie since their home at 293 South Street was a very short distance from Studley Campus. Seventy years later, Harold Medjuck can still visualize the Studley Campus' large acorn and chestnut trees, its dirt roads, streams, large fields, pond, and the Murray Studley horse barn. After their late father, Irving Medjuck, passed away in 1985, the Medjuck brothers preferred to sell their family home of 50 years, only to Dalhousie.

With sale proceeds, the Medjuck brothers established the Medjuck Judaica Collection at the Killam Library in memory of their late parents, Irving and Blanche (Pascal) Medjuck. In addition, Ralph, the eldest Medjuck brother, has been a generous donor to Dalhousie for several decades. In recognition of Ralph's support for Dalhousie and his noteworthy accomplishments in the business community, Dalhousie awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Laws.

Several of Ralph Medjuck's children have also graduated from Dalhousie and two of his grandchildren are currently attending. This culminates four generations of Medjuck Dalhousians, beginning with Abraham Medjuck in 1918. ☺

In memory, honor, and appreciation of the Medjuck family's time and place in Dalhousie history, Harold Medjuck has established the Medjuck Centenary Collection at the Killam Memorial Library.



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ON THE LIFE OF LOUIS GREENSPAN Z"L

The Jewish Community of Halifax and Atlantic Canada was saddened to learn of the recent passing of Louis Greenspan

Louie, as he was fondly known to a bevy of long-time friends in Halifax, was the eldest child of Rabbi and Mrs. Abraham Greenspan. Born in Poland in 1934, Louie came to Canada in 1935 with his parents.

His father, Rabbi Greenspan served as Rabbi in Chatham, NB for six months before moving to Halifax. He was Rabbi of the Baron de Hirsch Congregation for the next 35 years, until 1970 when he retired to Toronto to be closer to his three children and their children.

Lou is best remembered for his outstanding

leadership with the Jewish youth in Halifax through the synagogue, Young Judea, and Camp Kadimah. At Kadimah, he led Friday evening and Saturday morning Shabbat services, kiddush, Birkat Hamazon, and Havdalah. Eventually, he became Program Director and then Camp Director. Lou was truly one of the most beloved youth leaders in Maritime Jewish history.

He was educated in the Halifax primary and junior high schools, Queen Elizabeth High School and then Dalhousie University. At university, he studied religion and

philosophy. He married, and settled in Hamilton, ON where he joined the faculty of McMaster University as professor of philosophy from 1967 to 2017. He was a founder of The Department of Religious Studies where he became an esteemed colleague and teacher. Lou was widely published and a popular lecturer.

Louie is survived by his wife Sheila, son Jeremy, daughter Anna, all of Hamilton, and his sisters Zelda Moldofsky and Marilyn Veidlinger of Toronto. ☸

ON THE LIFE OF STEVEN ISTVAN MARKUS Z"L

February 22, 1923 – June 2, 2018

MARKUS, Steven (István) was born on February 22, 1923 in Vác, Hungary. Steven was a man full of zeal, love of life and determination. He truly was a survivor and endured many hardships all with a positive attitude.

Steven along with his brother, Frank, survived the holocaust by escaping a forced labour camp and posing as Hungarian soldiers. Under this guise, they were able to rescue between 250 to 300 children from Munkacsy Street Orphanage in Budapest in January 1945. Steven and Frank guarded the orphanage until the Soviet army put them in a Prison of War Camp. Again, miraculously, they were able to escape the POW camp. After the war, Steven's entrepreneurial spirit began when he reopened his parent's grocery store. He also married his beloved Marta on October 27, 1946. They met 10 years earlier and at the time, he viewed her only as a young annoying girl but little did he know that she would become the love of his life for 72 years.

Steven and Marta joined the "Haganah Aliyah" immigration to Israel and arrived on

June 7, 1948. It was in Israel that Steven's two children, Susanne and Joseph were born. On December 14, 1959, Steven, Marta and their children moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Steven was always a hard working man, working long hours to provide for his family. It was in Halifax, that his entrepreneurial spirit was set aflame again. He learned how to repair TV sets and opened his own TV repair store on August 1, 1964. Tel-Star TV was known for its honesty with customers and it's slogan, "Bring your TV—repaired while you wait." The business grew to include to several locations in Sackville, New Minas and Yarmouth with an expanded offering of stereos, furniture and many large household appliances.

In 1996, Steven closed his business and retired. Over his life course, Steven was saved from death by individuals who risked their own lives by doing so.

His memory and legacy will be cherished by his loved ones who survive him—his wife Marta Markus, his brother, Frank Markus, his daughter Susanne Baggaley, his son, Joseph



Markus, his granddaughters, Tanya Baggaley, Andrea Leblanc and her husband Gabriel and Julia Benoit and her husband Jonah.

More details on Steven's life can be found in his self-published memoir, "*Miracle Postcards: Two Jewish Brothers in Wartime Hungary*." ☸

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

—Steven Markus, *Miracle Postcards: Two Jewish Brothers in Wartime Hungary*, 2013.

ON THE LIFE OF DR. PHILIP RITEMAN Z"L

February 14, 1922 – August 8, 2018

Philip Riteman was born in Poland where he and his family fell into the hands of the Nazis. He was the sole survivor to witness their defeat in 1945. Throughout the war he was prisoner 98706 in Auschwitz, Birkeneau, Sachsenhausen, Oranienburg, Dachau, and Landsburg. Liberated by the American Seventh Army in May 1945, he made his way to surviving relatives in Newfoundland. In Newfoundland he built up an import trading company and expanded his operations to Halifax in 1979. In 1988, recognizing the need to counter some who claimed that what the German Nazis had done was exaggerated or didn't happen at all, he started to speak in schools to bring to a younger generation the knowledge of how humans can be betrayed and turned depraved by the power of hate. But his message was not only focused on the cruelty he suffered, his message was always "that it is better to love than to hate" and "don't let anyone brainwash you". For his activities in schools, churches, and universities he was awarded Honorary doctorates from Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. Thomas University in Fredericton, and St. Mary's University in Halifax. He was also awarded the Order of Nova Scotia, the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Queen's Service Medal and the Nova Scotia Human Rights Award. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Dorothy Fay Riteman (Smilestein) with sons, Larry and Robert Riteman.

NOTE FROM EDNA LEVINE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

I calculated that since I began working with Philip Riteman in 2007 to coordinate his speaking schedule he connected with over 100,000 people in elementary schools, community colleges, junior high schools, high schools, churches and community centres. Philip Riteman was committed to fulfilling the requests for speaking engagements and his schedule was always wait-listed.

The first time I heard Holocaust survivor Philip Riteman speak, it was apparent that I was in the presence of genuine courage. His message, undiluted and honest, heightened my sense of compassion. His palpable energy was mesmerizing, and the cliché "you could hear a pin drop" accurately defined the atmosphere. Philip Riteman related his personal story of survival unapologetically, in a time when first-hand accounts have become a historical necessity. The brazen storytelling of his life experiences in the concentration camps were in stark contrast to our often unexamined experiences of daily life. Philip Riteman inspired examination and thousands of students responded with their most intimate thoughts, personal experiences, hopes and dreams, tears, long warm hugs, and a genuine desire to spread the knowledge they had received.

Through our many conversations I realized how the numerous recounts of his



past emotionally exposed him and I became acutely aware of his vulnerability and the strength and courage he possessed to continue retelling the past for the benefit of others. His extensive schedule could not have been accomplished without the support and safeguard of his wife Dorothy, her intuitive sense facilitated his story to reach and affect thousands of lives.

Philip Riteman's personal message was of love and compassion—because he had experienced the harm of hatred. His message resonated with audiences and I share their same appreciation and thankfulness for being given the responsibility to tell his story and spread his message.

His memoir, *Millions of Souls: The Philip Riteman Story*, was published in 2010 by Flanker Press, NL. 5



PHOTOS: (Top) Philip Riteman receives the Order of Nova Scotia. (Left) Philip Riteman receives his Sovereign's Medal For Volunteers from His Honour Brigadier-General The Honourable J.J. Grant, CMM, ONS, CD (Ret'd) Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. Pictured with his wife Dorothy.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL CREAGEN, VICE REGAL PHOTOGRAPHER, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HALIFAX.

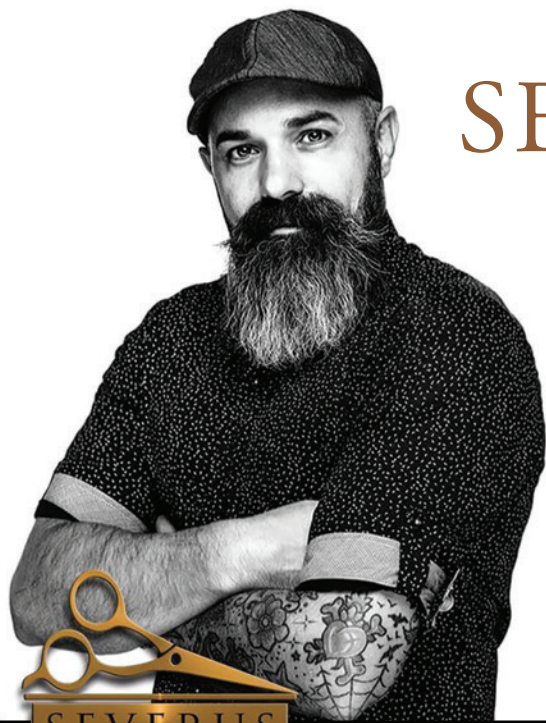
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PHILIP RITEMAN'S PICKLED SALMON

Several years ago my daughter Shira and I had a culinary experience, unlike any other, learning how to make delicious pickled salmon from Philip Riteman z'l, this is how he did it!—Edna LeVine

BRINE INGREDIENTS

- > 3^{1/2} cups white vinegar
- > 8 cups water
- > 3T salt
- > 1 cup white sugar
- > 1 handful pickling spices
- > 1 handful whole black peppercorns
- > 4 medium onions, skin removed, halved, then cut in medium thin slices

FISH

- > 2kg salmon fillets



BRINE PREPARATION

In a large stock pot over moderately high heat combine the vinegar, water and salt, bring to a rapid boil then add the sugar, spices, peppercorns and bay leaves. Reduce heat, add the onions and simmer, covered partially while preparing the fish.

SALMON PREPARATION

Remove skin and slice salmon fillets to the width into 2" strips then wash well.

Uncover and return brine to high heat and boil. Add fish and boil on high heat for 5 minutes then reduce heat and continue to cook for 10 minutes. Cool completely and transfer to containers.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HAVURA OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

BY KATHERINE SIDE

Along with many other communities in Atlantic Canada, we were saddened to learn of the death of Holocaust survivor Phillip Riteman z"l. Having arrived in Newfoundland after the war, he was the author of *Millions of Souls: The Phillip Riteman Story*. He was also a recipient of an honorary doctorate of laws from Memorial University in 2006, and the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador in 2016. Committed to public education about the Holocaust, Phillip Riteman spoke to a large audience at the 2013 Holocaust Memorial Service hosted by the Jewish Community Havura of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Atlantic Jewish Council. His contributions to Newfoundland and Labrador will be long remembered.

This past spring, the Jewish Community

Havura was pleased to have participated in the Canadian Jewish Experiences exhibition. It has been displayed from coast to coast in Canada, and the exhibition, which has been translated into Hebrew, is now displayed in Israel. The Jewish Community Havura arranged for public exhibitions in St. John's City Hall, the Queen Elizabeth II Library at Memorial University, and the Arts and Culture Centre in St. John's. Those who were unable to view the display can view some of it online at: <https://cje2017.com/>

In May, Jewish Community Havura President, Dr. Steven Wolinetz spoke on the topic of forgiveness at the Thirteenth Annual Multi-Faith Symposium on Spirituality, sponsored by the Hindu Temple (St. John's) Association. Dr. Steven Wolinetz is Professor (Emeritus)



Jewish Community Havura Picnic, July, 2018

in Political Science at Memorial University and has taught and written on European politics and the role of political parties in liberal democracies. The theme of this year's symposium was "Forgiveness as Path to Spiritual Growth." Speakers representing other religious groups and community organizations included Sikhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Bahá'í, Buddhism, Islam, and Mi'kmaq in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Under the Jewish Community Havura's banner, our members participated in St. John's Pride Week events, including a rain-soaked parade.

Our picnic has continued to be a highlight in our annual calendar. Many thanks to all of those who worked to organize this event, and a special thanks to our new hosts, whose

spacious backyard accommodated our community.

Over the summer months, we've continued to host bi-weekly, egalitarian services, and vegetarian meals for Shabbat, including children's services. Currently, we're planning for the High Holidays, including Rosh HaShannah and Tashlich, Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services, as well as celebrations for Succot and Simchat Torah. All are welcome to join us. If you are planning to visit St. John's, or know of others who are and would like to join us, please contact us at info.havura@gmail.com.

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NEWFOUNDLAND NEWS

News from the far east

BY RABBI CHANAN AND TUBA CHERNITSKY



1



2



3



4

PHOTOS: (1) Audience members at the talk given by Mrs. Marthe Cohn (2) Rabbi and Rebbetzin Chernitsky with Mrs. Marthe Cohn (3) Audience members at the talk given by Mrs. Marthe Cohn (4) Q and A after the talk

It's hard to believe but our second summer on the rock is coming to an end.

Once again we've seen a flurry of international visitors coming through town, most of them looking for a warm, heimish Shabbat meal. Looks like word is getting out, as we have hosted a lot more tourists than last year. Always a pleasure.

Our Shavuot ice cream party was thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants, who came in record numbers. We started with the Torah reading while the children were working on a fun craft, and the children joined us for the 10 commandments. It was so beautiful to see how just like the first time we received the commandments on Mount Sinai and all Jews were present, men, women and children, we all came together to relive this divine moment.

One of the messages we took from Shavuot is the importance of Jewish education and in particular for our children, the next generation.

After the Torah reading we all enjoyed a scrumptious ice cream buffet with different kinds of cheesecake, as customary on Shavuot.

No pictures were taken as it was Yom Tov. You had to be there!

On Wednesday August the 8th we had the honour of hosting Mrs. Marthe Cohn, together with her husband Major. Mrs. Cohn is a Holocaust survivor who worked as a French spy in Germany.

The event took place at the Holiday Inn on Portugal Cove. More chairs had to be brought in during the event because there weren't enough in the room to accommodate the 400 + people that came to hear Mrs. Cohn's story of courage and faith.

50 signed copies of Mrs. Cohn's book "Behind Enemy Lines" were available for sale, and they sold out very quickly. But don't worry, we are planning on making a

special order to satisfy the growing demand.

As the year is quickly coming to an end we are getting ready for the annual Rosh Hashana community dinner with our famous homemade gefilte fish and delicious brisket.

Kids in the Kitchen is scheduled to begin on Sunday October 7th.

Wishing everyone a good and sweet year full of blessings! 🍀

We are open 24/7. If you are coming to visit please let us know and we will be happy to meet you. For more information you can reach us at 709-341-8770 or through e-mail at chabadofnewfoundland@gmail.com. For discounted rates on hotel reservations, check out our website at www.chabadNfld.org.

FREDERICTON NEWS

BY AYTEN KRANAT

Shelley Stephens and Shelly Parent welcomed their cousin Revie and Paul Walman from Kitchener, Ontario travelling with their daughter Lisa and Dr. David Klein and their children from Toronto. They attended the 75th Anniversary of Camp Kadimah, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Wish Mazel Tov to Isaac, Albina Lazarev and family on the upcoming wedding of their son, Yosi and future daughter-in-law Marni.

Wishing Jasmine Kranat Mazel Tov, graduating from the University of Leicester upon completion of her Bachelor of Law. 🍀

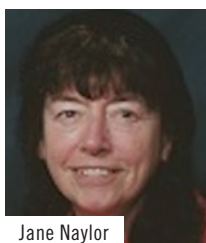
PEI NEWS

BY ERNEST SCHLEICHKORN

Summer 2018. Heat, heat & more heat. Hopefully everyone has air conditioning. Relief finally came in the form of rolling thunderstorms, hailstorms. If you didn't have time for a shower that day all you had to do was go outside.



Baby Shoshana



Jane Naylor

New Beginnings (births): On a high note, PEIJC community just got larger with the arrival of a bundle of joy, namely Shoshana Powers born Sunday May 6th 2018 to proud parents to Stephen and Erica Powers. Mazel Tov to the parents!

Awards: P.E.I. composer F. Jane Naylor has won the first Lirit New Composition Award.

This significant new award, supported by the Judy Dan Fund for Arts and Education, will be given annually by the Lirit Women's Chamber Choir to a Canadian composer for an unpublished work for women's voices www.theguardian.pe.ca/community/f-jane-naylor-wins-national-award-224303

Presentations: There was a special presentation by Slovenian Ambassador Marjan Cencen at the Zion Presbyterian Church in Charlottetown. Subject being an Exhibition presenting the service of Jewish soldiers in the Austro-Hungarian army, during the First World War battle on Slovenian soil. The presentation was attended by several members of our PEIJC community.

Background: The First World War involved 36 countries and the bloody battles at Isonzo between 1915 and 1917 were marked by the multinational and multi-faith character of the combatants. Among the soldiers of the Austro-Hungarian and Italian armies there were many who were Jewish. The Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary regarded them as the most loyal of his troops and, due to the circumstances at that time, the Jews regarded



The presentation by Slovenian Ambassador to Canada Marjan Cencen at the Zion Church was very interesting and was attended by some members of our community. Ambassador Cencen gave a talk about Slovenia (population 2 million) and about the exhibit about the Jews (40,000) who fought in WWI. We also had a look at the Zion church and its wood pews (looked like an old Jewish synagogue) and huge stained glass windows.

the Emperor as the "Fortress of Tolerance."

Until the beginning of the First World War only two Jews had reached the rank of General in the Austro-Hungarian army, but during the war another three soldiers were promoted to that rank. Among them was Major General Maximilian von Maendlbueghardt at the Isonzo front.

According to historical estimates, around 300,000 Jewish soldiers fought in the Imperial army of Austro-Hungary in the years 1914-1918. More Jewish soldiers, about half a million, were conscripted into the Imperial Russian Army.

Due to heavy losses among officers in the first year of the war, there was a significant increase in the number of Jewish officers, because they had been enlisted in the reserves. The reserves had an above-average Jewish presence, primarily as a reflection of their higher levels of education, as intellectuals could serve in the Austro-Hungarian army as reserve officers.

According to military statistics it is estimated that around 40,000 Jewish soldiers fell during the First World War, of which about a thousand were officers. This exhibition is an attempt to present the service of Jewish soldiers in the Austro-Hungarian army, during the First World War battle on Slovenian soil.

Presentation of Abba Eban's "Civilization and the Jews": LEO Mednick has hosted 2 Brunch events entitled the Presentation of Abba Eban's "Civilization and the Jews"

Series synopsis: Heritage: Civilization and the Jews is the monumental nine part series spanning three millennia of Jewish history and culture. The series is hosted by former Israeli ambassador to the United States, Abba Eban, who describes it as "a celebration of our common humanistic and moral heritage, explored through the mysteries of preservation, renewal and the resonance of the Jewish people." From the stony heights of Sinai to the shores of the Dead Sea, from a Greek amphitheatre in Delphi to the Forum of ancient Rome, out of the ashes of concentration camps to the rebuilt cities and

villages of Israel, Heritage brings to life the long and complex history of the Jews and their centuries-old interaction with the rest of western civilization.

As you all know, if food is supplied, people will come. So Leo graciously supplied the coffee, tea, bagels, lox and cream cheese. Event was well attended.

This Heritage DVD is a re-issue of a 9-hour award winning mini-series that first aired in the 1980s, and was (Nov-Dec. 2001) re-aired again on PBS. Each segment is 1 hour long with the following segment titles.

1. A People is Born 2. The Power of the Word 3. The Shaping of Traditions 4. The Crucible of Europe 5. The Search for Deliverance 6. Roads from the Ghetto 7. The Golden Land 8. Out of the Ashes 9. Into the Future

PEIJC Annual Picnic: In the summer on PEI, we usually convene to host an annual picnic, which allows everyone to meet the summer residents. Unfortunately last year the event was cancelled due to Force Majeure (torrential downpours). This year the same thing happened on Picnic day. We re-scheduled a week later, and again storms threatened, however the weather turned around on Sunday PM allowing us to go ahead. 40 brave souls got together and huddled in blankets, as it was slightly chilly with that wind on PEI.

Planning: The executive is strategically planning for the High Holiday Services coming up in one month and our annual meeting, to which we will be welcoming a new executive.

SHIVA: On a sad note, Nessya's mother passed away in Israel. Unable to travel, the PEIJC community banded together to sit Shiva with her. In traditional fashion, meals were brought to make things easier for her during this period of mourning.

Wishing everyone a Chag Sameach for the High Holidays from the gentle island! ☺

MONCTON NEWS

BY NANCY COHEN

On the first day of Shavuot Rabbi and Rebbetzin Yagod hosted an Ice Cream party for all of the students of Cheder Tiferes Israel. Several children headed downstairs to the social hall after services to feast on as much ice cream as they could eat.

A lovely Kiddush took place on June 16 to honour all of the children in our community who had recently had a bar or bat mitzvah. Sisterhood President Betty Druckman presented each child with a beautiful siddur. She spoke about how wonderful it is to have so many simchas taking place at the shul, and that seeing so many young people coming to services has given her confidence in the continuity of the community.

The following Shabbat we celebrated the bar mitzvah of Vincent (Shmuel) Maicas. Everyone in attendance was proud of how capably and confidently he chanted his Torah and Haftorah portions. Mazel tov to his parents Dr. Emmanuel and Myriam Maicas and family.

We look forward to two more upcoming simchas, the bat mitzvah of Sophia Makarov on September 1, and the bar mitzvah of Eli Davidson on September 15. With so many b'nai mitzvah in the community teacher Rebbetzin Yagod has certainly been kept very busy, but her dedication and hard work is evident in what these students have learned, and the sense of accomplishment they have achieved.

Once again were saddened by the deaths of two esteemed members of our community. On August 11, Dr. David Rubin passed away peacefully at the Moncton Hospital following a lengthy illness. David was known for his love of animals and dedicated himself to protecting all living things. He was open minded, generous and knew the highest level of charity is giving freely and anonymously. Our heartfelt condolences to his partner Myrna Lamouroux, brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Art and Lynda Beal, and his nieces and nephews.

Just two days later on August 13 we were shocked to learn that Dr. Sheldon Rubin had passed away suddenly. Sheldon was a dedicated physician who loved his patients, often putting their well-being before his own. He was New Brunswick's first oncologist, set up the province's first hematology clinic and its first HIV clinic treatment program. During his retirement celebration in April 2016, it was announced that the newly completed oncology clinic in Moncton would be named the Dr. Sheldon H. Rubin Oncology Clinic. Following news of his death tributes have poured in from former patients, colleagues and friends. Our sincere condolences to his wife Sharon, children Gabrielle and Mitchell, grandchildren Ethan and Madison, sisters Betty Druckman, Rosalyn Attis and their families.

Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy and peaceful year. Shana Tova! 🍷

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fun they had drawing or acting out various figures from Israeli history as part of their team's maccabiah efforts.

Outside of a camp setting, we still believe in creating emotional connections to Israel. That's why we're thrilled to announce that we will have an Israeli Shlichah, Lucy Kleinerman, here with us for two months (until mid-October). We know that the relationships Lucy will form over these two months will have a huge impact on our community. We also encourage and support Atlantic Canadians to connect to Israel by visiting there through programs such as our JWWRP trip, Birthright, community missions, and scholarships for youth. Finally, we know there's no better way to facilitate emotional connections than through arts and culture, which is why we aim to regularly bring Israeli arts and culture to Atlantic Canada.

3 IT IS POSSIBLE TO BOTH RESPECT THE PAST AND LOOK TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Tradition is very important at Kadimah. After all, it's the reason we make our 7-year-olds

spend a full day of maccabiah learning how to march properly every summer. But, even so, at camp, we never let tradition get in the way of new ideas. Each summer is a blend of old and new.

In the same vein, here at the AJC we strive to respect the foundation upon which our Jewish community has been built while at the same time not letting that hinder us from changing for the better. We aim to never have "that's the way things have always been done" be an excuse for anything. And we can already see some of these changes from the last couple of years begin to bear fruit.

2 AS LONG AS WE ALL PULL TOGETHER...

The community built at Camp Kadimah each summer can only function when everyone is contributing. This logic flows through every part of camp, whether it refers to staff members each contributing their talents to the overall functions of camp, every camper doing their specific role in cabin clean-up, or each maccabiah team member completing a leg of maccabathon for their team.

Similarly, in our Jewish community of Atlantic Canada, our community can only prosper when everyone contributes both in time and in financial support. Now of course, these contributions will differ. Contributions of time could be as a volunteer, chair of a committee or organization, Israel advocate, educator, or Shabbat dinner host. Similarly, financial contributions will of course vary by means. But our community depends on everyone contributing what they can.

And finally...

1 IT'S ALL ABOUT THE FOOD!

Most of my camp memories revolve around food: meals in the chadar, roasting marshmallows over bonfires, late-night kitchen raids, and, of course, those famous chocolate chip cookies.

So, if you've been to an AJC event recently, you know there's always plenty of food to go around.

Shana Tova! Wishing everyone a happy and sweet 5779! 🍷

REPORT FROM SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

BY KATHERINE BIGGS-CRAFT, MUSEUM CURATOR

EXHIBIT—VIRTUAL MUSEUM OF CANADA

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum is pleased to announce the launch of a new on-line exhibit entitled *Past to Present: Generations of Jewish Life in Saint John / D'hier à aujourd'hui : Des générations de Juifs à Saint John*. The exhibition tells the story of Jewish community of Saint John from 1783 to the present day, including immigration from Europe and Israel, the social and business history of the community and efforts to preserve its history and rebuild for the future.

The exhibit can be found on the Virtual Museum of Canada website using the following link: www.virtualmuseum.ca/community-stories_histoires-de-chez-nous/150-years-jewish-history-stjohn_150-ans-vie-juive-stjohn

This online exhibit was developed with the support of the Virtual Exhibits Investment Program, Virtual Museum of Canada. The Virtual Exhibits Investment Program helps Canadian museums and heritage organizations develop dynamic medium—to large-scale online products exploring Canadian history, heritage and culture. The Virtual Museum of Canada, managed by the Canadian Museum of History with the financial support of the Government of Canada, is the largest digital source of stories and experiences shared by Canada's museums and heritage organizations.

Questions or comments about the on-line exhibit can be sent to Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum at 506-633-1833 or sjjhm@nbnet.nb.ca.

EVENT—OPEN HOUSE

Members of the Jewish community in Saint John were invited to attend an open house at the Museum on Sunday, August 12. Those in attendance enjoyed tours of the exhibits, listened to family histories in Saint John, and a story time for the children. This was a way to celebrate the renaissance of the Saint John Jewish Community and invited the Israeli families who have moved to Saint John over the past few years to learn more about the Museum. We look forward to seeing them at future events and helping out

in the Museum as volunteer tour guides and research/archival assistants.

EVENT—NAZI OCCUPIED AMSTERDAM: FAMILY FACT AND HISTORICAL FICTION

An author reading by Mary Dingee Fillmore and family history presented by Ruth Wolpin was held on Monday, August 13. The Shaarei Zedek Synagogue was filled to capacity by over 100 people from the Saint John area.

Vermont author Mary Dingee Fillmore's roots are in New Brunswick, but her passion is the Holocaust and resistance in the Netherlands. Her 13 years of research resulted in the award-winning historical novel, *An Address in Amsterdam*, about a young Jewish woman who joins the underground. Mary has already visited four countries and 13 states to speak about "Resistance Then and Now: Learning from the Dutch." A Kirkus Indie Book of the Month, *An Address in Amsterdam* won the Sarton Women's Book Award for Historical Fiction.

Ruth Wolpin was born in Holland. Her parents moved to Canada with their children after surviving the Holocaust. Ruth grew up in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Following university graduation, she worked in the field of Early Childhood Education in southern New Brunswick until her retirement. Ruth and her husband, Carl prepared educational kits on Judaism for the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum. She has attended and presented at various conferences on Holocaust studies.

Amsterdam had been a safe haven for Jewish people for centuries. After the Nazi army marched into Amsterdam in 1940, almost three-fourths of the Dutch Jewish community was murdered, the highest percentage in Western Europe. Mary Fillmore's study of the Holocaust came from living for a time in Amsterdam in what had been the Jewish quarter and in a house where Jews had been hidden during the war. After thirteen years of research, she wrote an historical novel, *An Address in Amsterdam* in which she created her heroine, eighteen year old Rachel Klein, who carried messages for the resistance and ensured that Jews could be hidden from the Nazis. Ruth Wolpin then shared the story of her paternal family—the Doof family—and her mother's family—the Moffie family. She traced the family through several generations of life in Holland before and during the war and afterwards as those who survived moved to Canada, The US and Israel. AS part of the presentation she shared audio recorded before the war of the big band music played by The Ramblers, a group which included two members of the Doof family.



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PHOTOS: (1) Open House (2) Norman Hamburg (3) Roni Friling (4) Mary Dingee Fillmore (5) Audience in Shaarei Zedek Synagogue for Mary Fillmore and Ruth Wolpin (6) Ruth Wolpin (7) The Canadian Jewish Experience Exhibit at the SJ Jewish Museum

GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS

With the success of grant applications to the Greater Saint John Community Foundation and the Saint John Community Arts Board, the Museum will be undertaking a number of new and interesting projects over the next few months.

Over the next few months, we are going to conduct video interviews with at least thirty local Jewish residents and former residents. This would augment the interviews which were conducted in the 1980s by museum founder, Marcia Koven, as well as our archival and research collection and build on the knowledge we have of the history of Saint John. These stories will form the basis of future museum exhibits and education programs.

We will also digitize 250 to 300 colour slides which document the art work of well-known Saint John artist Herzl Kashetsky. These slides have been shared with students in the Holocaust Study Group and other programs. These include images from Europe and slides depicting his process of creating the 20 paintings in the series *A Prayer for the Dead*, as well as works documenting the architectural and Jewish history in Saint John. We are very excited to work with Herzl on this project. The Museum places great value on telling the story of one of its most accomplished artists and preserving the images of his works for future generations.

The books in the Dr. Moses I. Polowin Memorial Library are being sorted and reclassified. It is hoped that this process will make the books more accessible to the community for reading and programming including readings, book clubs, and activities for the children.

FALL SEASON

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum opened for the season on May 1st and will be open from Monday to Friday until November 2nd. During that time we will welcome visitors from more than sixty cruise ships and many former Saint John residents, local residents and many others interested in learning about the history of the Saint John Jewish community.

This year we have *The Canadian Jewish Experience* exhibit on loan from the Atlantic Jewish Council. The visitors who have seen it so far have been impressed by the range of Jewish history in Canada and we have even had visitors with personal connections to some of the people portrayed in the panels. 5

SAINT JOHN NEWS

BY SUSAN ISAACS LUBIN

Saint John celebrated in July with new members, Edward and Isabella Van Dam as their son, Natan, chanted the Haftorah at his Bar Mitzvah. Mazeltov to the Van Dam family. The Van Dams moved here with their three sons, in June from Victoria, and we are pleased to welcome them to the community.

* * *

Mazeltov to Olga and Costa Levine on the birth of a baby girl, Lea. Also a hearty Mazeltov to our newest Canadian citizens: Alina and Hanan Asor, and Katya and Dimitri Dubnikov and their families.

* * *

A very moving ceremony was held for Israel Memorial Day, remembering Israelis who gave their lives for Israel. This was followed by a celebration of the Israel's 70th Independence Day. A potluck was held for Shavuot, with a "Master Chef" contest held for prizes. We also held a Lag Ba'Omer picnic potluck at Rockwood Park. It is so encouraging to Saint John "old timers" to see the many activities being held once again. A new life has come to the community, and we welcome it whole heartedly.

* * *

In June, the Jewish community participated in the first Saint John Multicultural Association International Cultural Fest with a booth. Eighteen countries were represented. Our booth was organized by Esti BarLevy and Tal Goldenberg-Keren. The community came out to volunteer, and visitors were delighted to have their name written in Hebrew, to be able to compare the size of Israel to New Brunswick, to see pictures of famous Israeli people, and to write notes to be put in the Wailing Wall in Israel. AJC has borrowed the banners that were done for the booth for multicultural events in Halifax and Prince Edward Island.

* * *

Hebrew School ended for the year in June with a closing ceremony. We have plans for an expanded school starting in September. Esti BarLevy, as our Social Activities Chair on the Board of Shaarei Zedek, has organized some activities for adults in the form of a series of discussions. We started with travelling in the Maritimes with your family; our next talk

is entitled "Weed and Reap", a discussion on gardening in this climate. A potluck community dinner is planned just after Rosh Hashanah.

* * *

Our fourth Annual Picnic will take place on August 26th at Meenan's Cove. There is always a very good turnout for a day of fun, swimming, and good barbecue! Our community comes together to help set up, cook, help with children's events and cleanup. We all look forward to the picnic and a good time is had by all attendees.

* * *

Saint John is again looking forward to Matt Goldberg for the High Holidays. Matt's parents are once again coming for Rosh Hashanah, and his father will blow the shofar.

Last year Matt was like a breath of fresh air, and we are looking forward to the same this year. 5



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PHOTOS: (1) The Israeli Booth at the International Cultural Fest 2018 (2) International Cultural Fest Wailing Wall wishes. All wishes have been sent to Israel to be put in the real Wailing Wall (3) Saint John Mayor Don Darling with his name in Hebrew

CAPE BRETON NEWS

BY SHARON JACOBSON

"There is Always That One Summer that Changes You."

I am speaking about the "magic?" feeling conveyed to me by someone returning home for their Camp Reunion. Camp Kadimah celebrated its 75th Year this July and, having never attended, it was with curiosity I could not help but notice the almost pure euphoria of former campers—it was as if they had re-discovered the Pot of Gold at the end of their childhood rainbows.

The Camp was founded in 1943; 2 years before the War's end, amidst news of the Holocaust of 6 Million and 5 years prior to the establishment of Israel, our Jewish Homeland—3 very dynamic factors. The founding members of Kadimah felt there was a need for a place in which Jewish children could come together! Thus the only Jewish Camp in the Atlantic provinces was born. In this case, the reality became the dream for kids who were growing up in sparsely populated Jewish areas; even those in large towns or cities felt the insecurity of being part of a minority class.

Jamie Levitz told Lynda Medjuck, who is producing a film about Camp Kadimah, that coming from Cornerbrook, Nfld., it afforded him the freedom to be Jewish with other Jewish kids... this camp was an amazing world for him! He met Stanley Jacobson (Halifax) in 1952 and they have been friends for 66 years!

Stanley J.'s take on the Camp experience was impacted by the Zionist thrust of special leadership at a time when the existential survival of the State of Israel was precarious.

Zack Jacobson, upon pondering what was special about Kadimah, plumbed deeply for the reason of his sentiment." It was his cabin mates- the same guys with whom he shared summer memories, year after year..."

Jonah Jacobson (who I have known for quite a while) explained that summer camp is probably special to many kids everywhere who have loved their particular camp but "this was MY Camp"; it was unique to him.

All generations remember the time spent creating friendships, learning new things, playing & creating; singing, dancing & laughing. "Kids don't remember their best day of television?" Hmmm, even present day

campers must subscribe to the adage:

"Everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes- including you." (A. Lamott).

Whether you attended Kadimah for many years or even just a few, it's legacy was and is its People, it's Heart, and it's sense of belonging to some ethos that started a very, very long time ago.

The highlight of the Camp Kadimah weekend was a tribute to Evy Dubinsky Carnat. Her Lollipop Tree is our Tree of Life! Her entire family from young to older trooped onstage and after a few "remarkables" by Uri about his mom, a SingSong led by the bro, Leon stirred memories of the irrepressible Head of Song & Dance at Camp Kadimah. Finally, the film footage of Evy singing elevated The Ruach in a very emotional way.

Cape Breton was Hot this summer weather-wise and, as a tourist destination. People seem to be seeking the non-commercialized natural beauty of the island. Our "sunbirds" returned and Shul attendance doubled! There were Baha'i visitors and a group of high school kids from a local church school who were about to visit Israel. We stopped the service intermittently and several members of the Shul explained to them what must have appeared as ancient tribal rites. Dialogue ensued with a kiddish lunch!

Martin Chernin was recognized yet again, and not for his lovely red sweater! He was acknowledged at a tribute dinner for his philanthropic endeavour on behalf of Cape Breton!

Ethan Strong achieved Bar Mitzvah status and celebrated with his parents, Shayna & Darren and brother, Manny, as well as countless visiting relatives and our local community. He recounted his relationships with his grandfather, Louis Allen, and older members of the congregation when he was a little boy running amok in the synagogue during services- a scene one could easily imagine unfolding in many Shuls down through time.

From 13 years of age, we leap forward 88 years to Lil Nathanson who celebrated her 101st birthday and then to baby sister, Bella Shore with her 96th birthday!

There was the unveiling of Harold Schwartz, whose humour, enthusiasm, and almost child-like wonder characterized some of the many delightful qualities of this Cape Breton Son. And yes, our "ancient tribal rites" continue to be practiced in these Modern Times... they may seem strange and archaic, but Inez's chopped herring after Adon Olam is quite comforting and undoubtedly "Just Right..."



PHOTOS: (1-3) Tribute to Evy Dubinsky at the Camp Kadimah Reunion weekend (4 & 5) Birthday celebrations: Lil Nathanson celebrated her 101st birthday and Bella Shore her 96th birthday!

SANDY KOUFAX AND ANN WALDBAUM: MAKERS OF JEWS

BY RABBI DAVID ELLIS, AJC REGIONAL CHAPLAIN

As we come to the High Holidays I would recall two persons who made a tremendous impact on Jewish life. One is quite well known. The other is known only to me, but I will share her with you.

Everyone remembers the World Series of 1965, between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Minnesota Twins. I was living in the Minneapolis area at the time and recall it very well. Our high school was excited; they let us skip classes to watch the games on a television.

And of course, anyone Jewish knows the story of Sandy Koufax, not pitching on the first day of the Series, which fell on Yom Kippur. He instead stayed in a hotel in St. Paul and walked to a nearby synagogue for the day.

You have to remember Koufax's achievements. He was arguably the best left-handed pitcher of all time. Pittsburgh Pirates Hall-of-Famer Willie Stargell said that trying to hit Koufax's fast ball was like eating soup with a fork.

Everything resting on the game, the whole season. How many bets were there? Thousands, maybe millions of dollars.

And yet--the star player was going to stop it all, to celebrate a Jewish holiday.

The Dodgers lost that first game where Koufax would have pitched. There were much uproar and a certain amount of anti-Semitism circulating in the press.

In the end Koufax came back in the final game, and the Dodgers won the Series.

Sandy Koufax was not an especially observant Jew, and over the years he never

spoke further about the affair. Other than to note--that for him, there was simply no question about what he was doing and that it was the right thing.

That observing a Jewish holiday would disrupt the World Series. That Koufax stood on a principle, at a time when it had become convenient for Jews to assimilate. This was certainly a remarkable story.

To someone less known to you. I could have used numerous other women around the region for this story, but I pick the one who told it to me.

Ann Waldbaum was a neighbour of mine in Denver. She was a stalwart member of the west side Jewish community.

Originally from Russia she married Hy Waldbaum and settled into a wonderful home overlooking Sloan's Lake. She was proud of being the mother of three sons, the Jewish trifecta--a doctor, a lawyer and a businessman.

She was a warm person, very well read and educated.

Once she told me the most remarkable story. It was about one of her sons.

This son always brought a friend along with him and popped by the Waldbaum home after regular school before they went to Hebrew school. Ann always had a plate of homemade cookies to eat, along with a glass of milk.

This boy was not the most motivated student. In fact he told Mrs. Waldbaum in later years that he hated Hebrew school.

It was a tough sell. Many of the teachers were old world figures, quite learned but speaking in broken English and not up to

date with kids growing up in the states.

So, he told Ann, I never liked Hebrew school. I didn't learn anything, and I would have been glad to have given it all up.

But one thing I got from Hebrew school--your milk and cookies. I looked forward to them each day, and I've never forgotten them. They're what kept me Jewish!

I think the story was somewhat exaggerated. This man actually became a prominent member in the Denver Jewish community. But that's how he told it.


The details of the story are significant.

It was Ann's homemade cookies that made the impression. Store bought ones would not have worked at all. (She was known throughout the neighbourhood as a master of cuisine.)

It was important that she made the cookies. If Hy had made them, it wouldn't have been the same.

And, of course, it was not just the cookies. Here was a friend's mom who became like your mom, who would share your interests, who would see what you were doing and give help and advice.

You in the Maritimes know the same story. Fill in another name and change the details.

It is said of the decision of Sandy Koufax not to pitch on Yom Kippur in 1965, that he inspired more persons to be Jewish, to take their religion seriously, than the speeches and teachings of hundreds of rabbis. Did Ann Waldbaum's cookies, and all connected therewith and the efforts of Jewish women elsewhere, also create more Jews than whatever the rabbis were doing? 

TEACH US TO COUNT OUR DAYS

BY REBBETZIN FRIMET YAGOD, CONGREGATION TIFERES ISRAEL, MONCTON, NB

Moshe Rabeinu—Moses our Teacher, the author of Psalm 90, in verse 11 calls upon G-d to "Teach us to count our Days." Why is Moshe imploring G-d? Shouldn't we, on our own, understand this? More importantly, how is this relevant for our times?

We live in era of great wealth and

prosperity. Particularly here in Canada, we enjoy a very comfortable life with all sorts of amenities and rights. The multi-cultural mind set that has been instilled in Canadians for the last two to three generations, has made people more respectful of other cultures and, in particular, has made our lives as Jews more

comfortable to pursue our Jewish lifestyle, culture, religion and Heritage.

At the same time, such a comfortable situation can, G-d forbid, make us loose sight of what is important in life. Moshe teaches us in the Parshat Ha'azinu, Deuteronomy

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THE KING IN THE FIELD

BY RABBI MENDEL FELDMAN, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF THE MARITIMES

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year, when the fate of all creation is inscribed for the coming year. It is closely followed by Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, during which we pray that all our sins of the previous year be forgiven. These days have come to be known as the High Holidays.

Preceding the High Holidays is the month of Elul, the final month of the Hebrew calendar. During Elul, we take the time to reflect on all our deeds and misdeeds of the past year. We ask G-d to judge us favorably and grant us a good and sweet year.

The relationship between the Jewish people and G-d is often compared to that of a human king and his constituency. On an ordinary day, the king is in his palace, surrounded by high ranking ministers and guards. In order to gain an audience with the king, one must go through many levels of bureaucracy and protocol before even being allowed to step foot in the king's palace, let alone meet with him personally.

Occasionally, however, the king goes for a tour to the outskirts of his country, roaming the fields and villages, meeting with the common folk residing in the far-out regions of his land. It is then that anyone wishing to meet with the king can simply approach him and make a request. Gone are all the formalities and red tape. All one needs to get the king's attention, is the courage to approach the king and make oneself known.

After such a wonderful encounter with the king, the simple people from the countryside follow the king back to the capital, to reap the benefits of their meeting, and to appreciate the glory of the great king.

Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, the founder of the Chabad philosophy, compared the month of Elul to that time, when the king is in the "field." Certainly, during the rest of the year everyone has the ability to connect with G-d through prayer, study, and Mitzvot. Yet it is during this month that G-d is particularly accessible, and available to listen to prayers and requests.

We, however, must make the first move. G-d is there, but we must seize the opportunity and make ourselves known. We must demonstrate to G-d that we care, and we request that the coming year be a year of blessing and happiness. We assure G-d that the coming year, on our part, will be a better year. It will be a year of greater observance and a year of more diligence in our Jewish behavior. We then anticipate that G-d reciprocate, and grant that all our wishes come true.

At that point, we all follow G-d back to the "palace," for the High Holidays when we solemnly recognize G-d's sovereignty, and truly appreciate G-d's greatness.

On behalf of Bassie and myself I would like to wish the entire community a happy, healthy and blissful New Year. ❧



AGAIN A HORSE?

BY RABBI CHANAN CHERNITSKY, DIRECTOR, CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF NEWFOUNDLAND

As the month of Elul begins, the last month of the Hebrew calendar, we take time to reflect upon the year that's finishing and prepare for the one that's quickly approaching.

As any good businessman, we make a precise accounting of everything we've done in the past year. Whatever worked and had a positive outcome, we make sure to reinforce. Whatever didn't go so well, we make sure to correct.

It's all good in writing but we all know that considerable change takes hard work.

Every new year we set new goals and want to be different. "This year", we tell ourselves "will be different". We plan on starting that elusive diet, make time to work out at the gym, make sure we spend more time with our children, and so on. Perhaps we even actually manage to fulfill our goals at the beginning. As the year goes on, however, the excitement

wears out and we go back to our old routine.

This happens to us in the spiritual realm as well. We go to shul on Rosh Hashana or Yom Kippur. Maybe even a regular Shabbat during the year, and we feel inspired. We tell ourselves that we will start doing this mitzvah or that mitzvah. Maybe even add emphasis to a mitzvah we are already doing. But we don't harness the inspiration and act upon it, and as the year goes by, it dissipates and fades away.

The great hasidic master, Rabbi Meir of Premishlan used to say that to wake up as a lion, one has to go to bed like a lion. If one goes to bed like a horse.... He will inevitably wake up as a horse.

So what can we do? How do we change and stop being a "horse"?

On Pesach we commemorate the exodus of the Jews from Egypt thousands of years ago. Why is this still relevant today? Because we can also "leave Egypt".

The word Mitzrayim, Hebrew for Egypt, shares the same root as Metzaryim, limitations.

It's incumbent upon us to leave "Egypt" every day. Not the physical bondage of Egypt, but our spiritual Egypt. We need to break free from all those obstacles that hinder our growth and true happiness. If we would only remember to continuously leave our "Egypt" everyday, realizing that it's not a one time decision but rather a constant act of striving towards our goals, we would be in much better shape.

Go ahead, try it out. This year can be the year. Which extra mitzvah will you do this year?

Wishing everyone a good and sweet new year. ❧



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

BY RABBI RAYSH WEISS, PH.D. RABBI,
CONGREGATION SHAAR SHALOM



“Men like you can never change.”

In the iconic musical *Les Misérables*, inspector Javert of the Paris police had spent a lifetime pursuing Jean Valjean who had gone to prison for stealing a loaf of bread. Valjean had transformed himself, becoming a factory owner and the mayor of the town. But to Javert, none of that mattered. In a powerful duet, he sings “men like you can never change.”

Personal transformation is, of course, the central theme of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. We Jews spend the holiday season worrying about things that are relatively minor—will the service be too long? Will I be moved? Will I see the people I like?

All of these questions ignore the one question that is at the heart of these holy days: Can people change?

The theme of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur is transformation. If we have been living our lives without measuring up to our moral, religious, and spiritual potential, we can change our ways through teshuva (repentance)—literally, returning to a more appropriate path and an informed lifestyle. We can always do teshuva, but The Ten Days of Teshuva—from Rosh HaShanah to Yom Kippur, were designated for that purpose. From a Jewish perspective, Javert was wrong: people can change. The tragedy was that Javert never understood that Valjean had become a new man.

In the Middle Ages, theologians grappled with the question whether free will could be reconciled with God’s omniscience. If God knows everything then God knows our future behavior. Then we are not free to change. We will leave dealing with this quandary for a more appropriate time.

Moderns are less concerned with God’s knowledge, mostly because God had been moved off center-stage. We see the world in more mechanistic terms and there is a modern notion with which I cannot agree: that we are a simply product of our genes or purely the product of our environment. Or, to quote from another Broadway musical, “I am what I am.” We are who we are; we are powerless before the forces that created us or we buy into the premise that “a leopard cannot change his spots,” or “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks.”

But we are neither leopards nor dogs. The Torah says it, especially in the Book of Deuteronomy—“see I have placed before you good and evil - choose the Good.” And again, “see I have placed before you life and death—choose life.” We are given “b’chira hofsheet”—free will. The mahzor (prayer book) of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur insists—“v’hotem yad kol adam bo”—we all write what it is we will in The Book of Life. If humans are unchangeable then what are the holidays all about? The Lubavitcher Rebbe insisted—“from what a Jew is today, one cannot know what he or she will be next week.”

This is the most important question the holiday poses—“how am I going to be a different person next year?” Despite what Inspector Javert says—we know better.

May we all merit to improve ourselves as we enter this new year of potential. I wish you each a good, sweet new year—*shana tovah u’metukah*. ☺

THE TRUTH ABOUT TRUTH

BY RABBI YAKOV KERZNER, BETH ISRAEL
SYNAGOGUE, HALIFAX



Truth and Lies. The human mind has the uncanny ability to twist the truth, obscure facts, construct new realities and create new narratives indistinguishable from what we would normally call lies. We are in the age of audio and video recording, an era where more of our lives are documented than ever imaginable; yet, the truth seems to have an elasticity and uncanny ability to be constantly recreated. Just watch the news and you can observe serious people distort the truth and rationalize away simple observable facts. At first glance, one would think that almost everyone inhabits a world wide web of lies that no one can escape. Delve a little deeper and one will see that these falsehoods are often perceived as truths and are defended as the new reality.

Judaism introduced monotheism; in effect, one truth. It moved the world away from belief in the many to a universe of rules that apply equally to all that inhabit the Earth. The age of science has advanced our knowledge of these rules and guiding principles. One would think that would have cemented our relationship with absolute truths and created a clear demarcation between facts and falsehoods, truth and lies. Yet, on a daily basis, we are bombarded with alternative facts, superstitious beliefs, conspiracy theories and utter nonsense parading as belief systems worthy of our attention. Otherwise intelligent people believe and spout narratives usually found in works of fiction. Wild ideas find their way into newspapers and even into academic articles.

Rosh Hashanah is just around the corner, a day when we face judgement by the knower of all truths. The Talmud teaches us that “The Seal of God is Truth”. Judaism has taught the world that there is one God, one truth and hard facts. This doesn’t only refer to the truths of the universe or the truths of history. It pertains to our inner world, as well. We live in a time that subjective truth and our personal narrative seem to override objectivity; in an age when our ability to rationalize has exponentially increased. Simply put, no matter the advances in philosophy and science, we human beings have a hard time accepting difficult truths. We are not willing or able to admit our weaknesses and failings. But, if we want to change our ways, improve relationships and grow as human beings, we must come to terms with the truth of our inner thoughts, understand the many layers of our emotions and deal with the facts of our past actions. We can no longer hide behind a façade self-righteousness and our false belief in our superiority. We have to be brutally honest with ourselves without losing the confidence to move forward. We must remember that humility is not an admission of worthlessness, it is the ability to realize our frailties, understanding that it is human nature to fail. The Divine Element in all of us gives us the ability to be honest with ourselves, constantly grow as human beings and find the strength to move forward, change our ways and to positively influence the lives of all the people that we touch in our daily lives. ☺

GRATITUDE AS A BASIS FOR T'SHUVAH (REPENTANCE)

BY RABBI YOSEF GOLDMAN, SGOOLAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, FREDERICTON



T'shuvah is the main focus of the Jewish People from the 1st of Elul until Hoshanah Rabbah (the last day of Sukkoth). Of course, you can (and should) repent all year round, but these Fifty days are especially ready for this amazing Mitzvah. The parable that our Rabbis give to explain this idea, is that at this time—"HAMELECH BASADEH" (the King is in the field—meaning, accessible to the people, especially those who live far away from the castle).

Rabbi Yisroel Saperstein gave a beautiful class (www.torahanytime.com/#/lectures?v=21436) to explain how, if we have gratitude for everything that we have, we can reach a better understanding (and fulfillment) in this Positive Commandment to repent.

"And Hashem will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants; to love Hashem your G-d with all of your heart and with all of your soul, that you may live" (Deuteronomy 30:6)

The MALBIM (Rabbi Meir Leibush ben Yechiel Michel 1809-1879) explains what this verse means—HASARAT HA'MONE'AH, there may be external impulses that are interfering with our relationship with Hashem. And, G-d promises us that in the future, He will remove these disturbances.

The SFORNO (Rabbi Ovadia ben Ya'akov Sforno 1475-1550) asks—how does one facilitate this 'operation'? His answer is that

Hashem will open our eyes to realize (and stay away) from these external challenges, and then, through HAKARAT HATOV (gratitude), will lead us to love of G-d, and return to a pure heart!

Our generation is blessed with so many spiritual leaders (including therapists) and we understand so much more about our thoughts, feelings and spirituality, than any generation before! The best healing is when the therapist (or Rabbi etc.) empowers us to find that we have it within ourselves, instead of operating and sometimes interfering in the natural healthy process of healing.

The very first sin of Adam & Eve, was not so much the eating of the fruit, and disobeying G-d; but the ungrateful behaviour that followed. Hashem asked Adam (even though He knew the answer): "did you eat from the fruit of the tree that I commanded you not to"? Adam answered: "the woman that you have given me, had given me the fruit" (Genesis 3:12). This statement is the epitome of ungratefulness! If you look more closely at the meaning of the following verses, the consequence of this statement was that mankind will be forced to recognize, always, that they can never achieve anything by themselves. When you sow the land, nothing will grow without Hashem bringing rain, and this is just one simple example. Before the sin, things grew out of the land without any effort.

Our job in the coming weeks, is to start being grateful, and thanking Hashem for everything that we have. Then, we will have the blessing of returning to the original state of mind and body, and in my opinion, this is the true meaning of T'shuvah.

I will end with a parable that explains it best for me (not sure who I heard this from, but it makes so much sense to me). When a parent throws a baby/toddler in the air—the baby does not scream, does not cry, and is not afraid. In fact, the baby laughs and giggles! This is because, I believe, the baby has complete natural faith that the parent will not let them fall, and will catch them and they will be safe. Of course, it only takes one fall to completely lose that trust! The same is with adults, we think that we can't trust G-d any longer, because we believe (mistakenly, I think) that Hashem is the one who dropped us. T'shuvah is our way of laughing & giggling again, because our faith has returned to its original state!

May we all be blessed with the gift of repentance, of clearing away all those false external (or internal) fake impulses that kept us away from Hashem.

Wishing you all a very sweet and Happy New Year, Amen! Wishing you a very happy and good summer, L'Shanah Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim! 🌟

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32:15 that when we enjoy a very prosperous socio-economic situation that is when we are in danger of individual and collective amnesia of the role Judaism plays in our personal and collective lives. We also tend to take others for granted. It is for this reason Moshe composed Psalm 90, to constantly remind us of Hashem's continuous guidance and kindness in our lives.

When we constantly see the goodness of G-d's bounty in our lives, we appreciate who and what we have far more. The unfortunate part of our disposable generation is that many people view things, other people and Judaism in general as disposable. Let us cherish all that we have we have in our lives.

These past two weeks here in Moncton, G-d gave us pause to reflect on this concept. We lost two very valuable members of our community bookended by two unveilings of two very special individuals, all of whom understood what family and community are all about.

Let us take Moshe's prayer and incorporate it in our daily lives. Let us implore G-d to "Teach us to count our days" and make our days count with kindness to all those who G-d has put into our lives and to appreciate the Heritage He has given us since the Exodus.

On behalf of my family and myself, we wish you a Happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Shana Tova, Rebbetzin Frimet S. Yagod 🌟

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BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING

AJC GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, November 18, 2018 | 10:00 am

Atlantic Jewish Council 21st Biennial General Meeting

The AJC invites the entire Atlantic Canadian Jewish community


to join us for our

21st Biennial General Meeting

on Sunday November 18th, 2018 at 10:00 am

Admiral Room of the Lord Nelson Hotel.

Brunch will be served. Details to be announced.



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