

Shalom

CONNECTING THE ATLANTIC JEWISH COMMUNITY



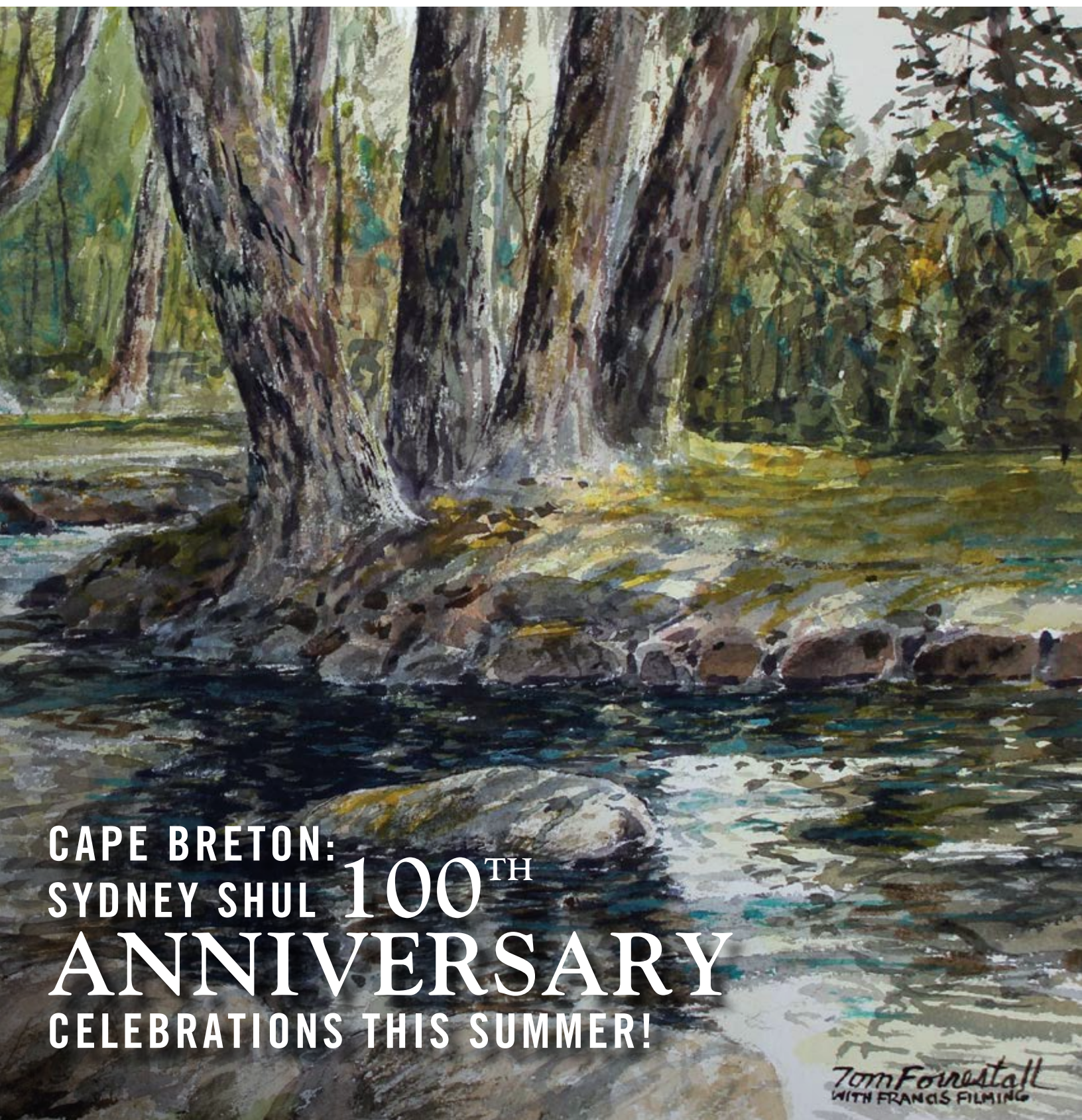
SPRING 2016

Philip Riteman Receives
Sovereign's Medal For Volunteers

Combating BDS On Campus

Windsor Jewish Legion

David Korn Recalls His Youth In
A Slovakian Lutheran Orphanage



CAPE BRETON:
SYDNEY SHUL 100TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS THIS SUMMER!

Tom Forrestall
WITH FRANCIS FILMING



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Thank you for your donation to the United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada. Because of your generosity, good things are happening for Jewish people in Atlantic Canada, Israel & Overseas.

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SHALOM MAGAZINE

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NOTE TO OUR READERS

Our Atlantic Jewish community is losing more and more members as the years go on. In the past, Shalom has printed stories of regional community members who have passed away. While we try to acknowledge the major contributions of many of our late friends and family members, we request that you inform Shalom of passings of which we may be unaware so we may recognize these individuals. Shalom's editorial staff reserves the right to determine the length of memorial pieces to be printed in the magazine.

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

Shalom

SPRING 2016

VOL. 41 | NO. 1

IYAR 5776



Lieutenant-Governor JJ Grant lights a memorial candle



ON THE COVER

River at Kibbutz Dafna,
by Tom Forrestall



The original watercolour *River at Kibbutz Dafna* is available for purchase from the AJC.

\$4,100 framed. Please contact Jon Goldberg, AJC executive director, jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca 902-422-7491 x222

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

In the fall of 2010 Tom Forrestall, accompanied by his son Frank, joined with 24 participants on an eight day AJC – UIA Ruach and Chevra Mission to Israel. Together with this group of Maritimers and former Maritimers, the Forrestalls traveled to many parts of the country; from the Negev to the south, to the Northern Galilee Panhandle. When the mission was completed, Tom, assisted by Frank, spent the next 27 days in the Holy Land wandering through Israel, during which he painted 35 watercolours, expressing his feelings and personal observations of many parts of the country.

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MICHAEL ARGAND

President of the Atlantic Jewish Council



It is a time of change. Our Executive Director, Jon Goldberg, who has served our community for more than 20 years will be retiring this Fall and we will be welcoming Naomi Rosenfeld, an alumni of Camp Kadimah, as our new Executive Director in August. Jon will be staying on and working with Naomi for a few months, trying to impart a smidgen of the wisdom he has gathered about our community and the wonderful work he has done over the years, and in particular, he will be assisting with the UJA Campaign.



Jon has been instrumental in so many projects. Camp Kadimah has always been close to his heart. How many campers has he delivered a care package to and for how many

parents has he allayed anxious feelings? The relationships he has built with both Israelis and P2G leadership from across the country have been important to Jon, and at their most recent meeting, the warmth and affection displayed towards Jon, is a testament to his dedication and caring. The Russian Israeli immigrant project, which has increased our local Jewish community by 20%, is a major achievement that will help strengthen our community for years to come. Jon was involved in the sponsorship of the First World War Centennial Exhibit at the Army Museum at Halifax Citadel which tells the story of David Ben Gurion and the Jewish Legion training in Windsor, NS. Most important are the relationships he has built throughout Atlantic Canada, and the continuing development of hevrach throughout the years.

We will be celebrating Jon at the

upcoming Biennial, November 18th-20th and I hope that you will join us!

"We are grateful for all the work Jon has done to strengthen Jewish life in communities across the Atlantic region. The impact of his efforts will resonate for years to come. We wish him great success in all future endeavours."

As leader of the Atlantic Jewish community, Jon built lasting bonds between Israel and communities across the Atlantic region by promoting Jewish continuity at home and advocating for Israel. He collaborated with local and national partners to counter antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment and to celebrate Jewish culture. Among his many notable achievements is a 20% growth in the size of the local Jewish community between 2009 and 2014 by spearheading an immigration program for Russian Israeli Jews.

"I'll miss the spirit and friendship I have developed over the years with Canadian and Israeli professionals and friends. I'll especially miss dealing with the community at large as the spokesperson in Atlantic Canada for Israel and the Jewish community."

Naomi Rosenfeld has been hired to succeed Jon Goldberg. She is completing a Masters of Business Administration and Masters of Arts in Jewish Professional Leadership at

Brandeis University with a concentration in Israel Education from The iCenter. She is one of JFNA's Federation Executive Recruitment and Education Program (FEREP) Graduate Scholars and a recipient of the Charles R. Bronfman Scholarship from the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program.

While born and raised in Toronto, it was as a staff member at Camp Kadimah that Naomi developed a love and appreciation for the Atlantic Canadian Jewish community. Subsequently, as the Hillel Director of Atlantic Canada, she engaged hundreds of students on seven university campuses across the region. Naomi spearheaded innovative Jewish student programming including holiday celebrations, social justice initiatives, Holocaust education events, and Israel education.

"I am both excited and humbled to be returning to Atlantic Canada, and I can't wait to reacquaint myself with this unique, committed, and welcoming community. A big thank you to the board of the Atlantic Jewish Council for their trust and support during this process. I look forward to engaging with them, as well as the broader community, as partners in our pursuit towards enhancing the quality of Jewish life in this region."

Naomi will start in the position in the summer of 2016. 

From The Desk Of JON GOLDBERG

Executive Director



Three Score and Ten

A few months ago, I celebrated my seventieth birthday with my family in Honolulu. I had always wanted to visit Pearl Harbour and it was a great birthday present. As I looked out on the blue waters of the Pacific Ocean, I thought of the last twenty-three plus years serving as Executive Director of the AJC. One word kept coming to my mind and that was “succession”. Over the past two years, a number of board members had questioned me as to my plans for retirement and to be truthful, I mostly ignored the reality of where and why these questions were coming.

Nevertheless, as you can see from our President’s article, I have reached an amicable parting of the ways with the AJC. As I sit here in my office on a lovely spring day, I can only think of the past, the present and what will be my future, which I will reflect on in my last article as executive director in the September issue of Shalom.

These past few months have seen our community lose a number of outstanding members. Justice Constance Glube z”l, Frank Medjuck z”l, and Abe Leventhal z”l. Frank was a friend for over fifty-five years. I attended his wedding, the simchas with his children and grandchildren. He was both a critic and a supporter during all these years and together with his wife Hedda, were among my most dearest friends. And now Franklyn is gone and there is a void in our community for no one of my generation cared more for his faith, his family, and the Jewish people. Rest in peace dear friend.



PHOTO: Michael Argand, President of the Atlantic Jewish Council with Andy Filmore, Liberal MP for Halifax and Executive Director, Jon Goldberg

As the college year ends, we bid farewell to Arielle Branitsky, Director of Jewish Student Life. Arielle served two years as Hillel director and we wish her the best in her future endeavours.

It looks like a great summer coming up at Camp Kadimah. I hope to see many of you there on Visiting Day at camp, July 24th.

Thanks to Edna for your work redesigning the Shalom magazine and to Joel Jacobson for contributing news articles, to Mark David, our CIJA Atlantic staff person and of course, to Svetlana here in our office.

Best wishes to all our readers, for a happy and healthy summer! 🍷

SUMMER FAMILY SHABBATON AT CAMP KADIMAH

August 26-28, 2016

**Enjoy a fun family weekend
at beautiful Camp Kadimah
in Lake William!**

**Celebrate Jewish Culture
with new friends!**

**For more info & to register email
Edna LeVine: elevine@theajc.ns.ca**

Philip Riteman Receives the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers

On May 12th I was privileged to attend the ceremony at Government House where Philip Riteman received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. Throughout my nine years on staff at the AJC I have worked closely with Philip Riteman. His energy and determination to educate the public about the Holocaust has never ceased to impress me. As well as the steady support of his wife Dorothy to coordinate the demands for his time. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, His Honour Brigadier-General The Honourable J.J. Grant, CMM, ONS, CD (Ret'd), issued the following press release.

– Edna LeVine, director of community engagement

His Honour presented the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers to Mr. Philip Riteman, ONS of Bedford, Nova Scotia.

Formerly the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award, the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers was created by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Queen of Canada on 10 June 2015. Today, the medal was presented for the first time in Nova Scotia since its establishment.

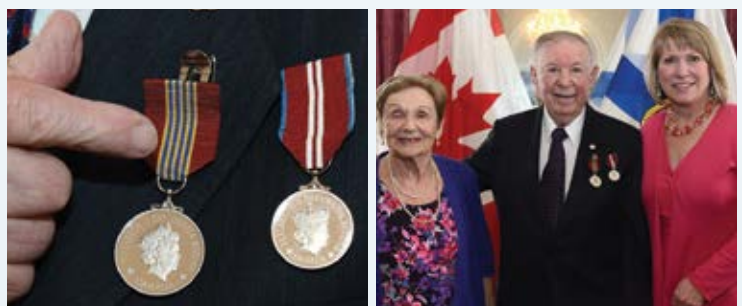
The citation for Mr. Riteman's medal reads as follows:

"Holocaust survivor Philip Riteman has been telling his story of survival to young people across Canada for more than 25 years. Through his ability to touch the hearts and minds of his audience, he teaches awareness and compassion as a means to stop hate and spread love."

During his remarks, His Honour stated, "Mr. Riteman, you have made a significant contribution to the life of our province and country through your diverse activities – especially your commitment to educating your fellow citizens about the importance of respect and loving your fellow humankind."

You are a true champion of exemplary citizenship and represent the best of what it means to be a Canadian. It is so fitting that you, Mr. Riteman are the first person to receive this medal in our province. I hope that it brings you a sense of greater accomplishment and that your family and friends too find joy in the honour that has been conferred upon you. Certainly your story is one that all Canadians can learn from and find great pride in.

Let me close by thanking you, on behalf of all Nova Scotians and all Canadians, for your honourable and dedicated service, and also extend thanks to your family who has no doubt been a tremendous support to you. Today is your day. We recognize you with this medal and I know you will wear it with tremendous pride."



PHOTOS: Philip Riteman receives his medal 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 and the Hon. Kelly Regan, Minister of Labour and Advanced Education – Bedford.

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

From The Desk Of EDNA LEVINE

Director of Community Engagement



January 2016 marked the 71st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz Birkenau. To commemorate this event the Atlantic Jewish Council partnered with the Italian Consulate, Italian Cultural Centre and the University of Kings College for the screening of *My Italian Secret*, the story of sports idol Gino Bartali and other courageous Italians who carried out ingenious schemes to rescue Jews, partisans and refugees from Nazi-occupied Italy.

This spring Yom HaShoah commemoration programs were held in seven communities in Atlantic Canada. The story of Holocaust survivor David Korn was presented in Halifax at a program co-sponsored with the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and the article about this event is featured in this magazine. The Around Our Region section highlights some of the communities speakers and commemorative programs.

Holocaust Education Week in Halifax is entering its 13th year and local community organizations are once again keen to partner with us to offer thought-provoking educational programs this fall. A generous grant from The Azrieli Foundation will expand Holocaust Education Week programs in our region, please contact me for more information and if you are interested in organizing a program in your community.

The 3rd Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) will open November 17th in Halifax screening award winning international films. Following the success of the first two festivals, the organizing committee is anticipating another year of capacity crowds. The AJFF CA website will be updated this summer and there are many opportunities to support this popular festival.

This year marks the Atlantic Jewish Council's 20th Bienenial. Events are being planned to coincide with the four day film festival including the 3rd annual AJFF gala Saturday evening party! We hope you will enjoy attending both celebrations and if you are from out-of-town, plan to spend the weekend in Halifax.

This winter I had the pleasure of attending the multicultural fair at the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) featuring many counties, reflecting the diversity of the students, including Israel. Three Israeli newcomers, Nataly Feldman, Marina Brin and Alex Kounkes in the EAP program at NSCC participated in the spring multicultural fair, hosting a table filled with an informative display on Israel and delicious traditional Israeli food including homemade falafel and Hamentashen!

Newcomers continue to arrive in Halifax and facilitating their settlement continues to be a work-in-progress, organizing programs to meet their needs. This winter I invited Lysa Appleton to conduct a career and employment workshop, sharing her expertise as an employment strategist, to assist newcomers in their job search. Other workshops this winter included newcomers sharing their ideas and hopes for community building/programming plus a networking afternoon co-hosted with the Halifax Partnership Connector Program.

This summer a weekend family Shabbaton at Camp Kadimah will provide an opportunity to meet new friends and strengthen our



community. A special fun family weekend is being planned with terrific programs and access to the great facilities at camp including swimming, boating, sports, crafts and freshly-made kosher meals. Don't miss this exciting event, August 26-28, please contact me for registration information: elevine@theajc.ns.ca

I hope you enjoy this first issue of the newly designed and in full colour Shalom magazine! 📖

PHOTO: On January 21st, the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 hosted an event celebrating the opening of the Perfect Landings exhibit. The exhibit explored the huge part immigration has played in the development of figure skating in Canada, and provided a spotlight for many of the sport's most important people. The story of one such legend, Ellen Burka, was further explored during a screening of the documentary film, *Skate to Survive*. The film shed light on Ellen Burka's extraordinary life; from her charmed childhood in the Netherlands, to her survival of the Holocaust, to her third act as a renowned Toronto figure skating coach and single-income provider for her two daughters. The screening was attended by Skate Canada officials including former Olympic medalist Elvis Stojko, pictured here with Edna LeVine, Rebecca MacKenzie-Hopkins, Public Programs Manager Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 and Dan Conlin Curator, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21.

CIJA REPORT

Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

BY MARK DAVID, CONSULTANT – ADVOCACY, ATLANTIC CANADA

Atlantic Canada has survived another winter, one much less severe than last year's. Passover has come and gone so, now, we can omit daily prayers for "*Mashiv HaRuach UMorid HaGeshelem*" – for "the wind to blow and the rain to fall" – in Israel and in Canada as well! – and we can all look forward with hope to a pleasant spring and summer.

Many people think that the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) is focused solely on issues related to Israel. While those matters do demand much of our attention, we are also heavily involved in presenting the Jewish perspective on numerous domestic policies to government, media, academia, civil society and other faith and ethnic communities. On behalf of my colleagues at CIJA, I would like to take an opportunity to update you on recent CIJA advocacy activities, all of which have ramifications in Atlantic Canada.

GENETIC DISCRIMINATION

Many are unaware that, in Canada, insurance providers and employers can require individuals to disclose genetic test results, consequently putting insurance coverage or even career opportunities at risk. Canada remains the only G-7 country without specific measures in place to ban genetic discrimination. To advance this important cause, which directly affects our community and many other Canadians, CIJA has joined the

Canadian Coalition for Genetic Fairness and, for the past several years, has been working with all parties at both the provincial and federal levels to advance legislative safeguards to prevent genetic discrimination.

Bill S-201, An Act to Prohibit and Prevent Genetic Discrimination, passed third reading in the Senate on April 14, 2016. S-201 now appears on the House Order Paper and CIJA will be encouraging Members of Parliament to move quickly to pass the bill into law. I encourage you to consider following up with your local MP and urging their support for S-201 when it arrives in the House.

PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED DYING

Physician-Assisted Dying (PAD) is a particularly contentious issue. The vigorous debate over the legalization of PAD has revealed a diversity of viewpoints rooted in compassion, religion, ethics, and medicine. This issue is deeply personal and has the potential to affect every family in our community and others. The debate culminated in the February 2015 decision from the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC), *Carter v. Canada*, which determined that Canadians have a right to PAD. The SCC's decision gave government one year to implement legislation and / or regulation before the existing law prohibiting PAD is rescinded.

The government indicated that the House of Commons would debate medical assistance

in dying on April 20, 2016 (after publication of this issue of *Shalom*). CIJA is carefully reviewing the tabled legislation and will be engaging Members of Parliament prior to that time. In the meantime, I encourage you to read CIJA CEO Shimon Koffler Fogel's recent article on CBC's website providing a Jewish community perspective on the issue and the brief CIJA submitted in February to the Committee studying the issue.

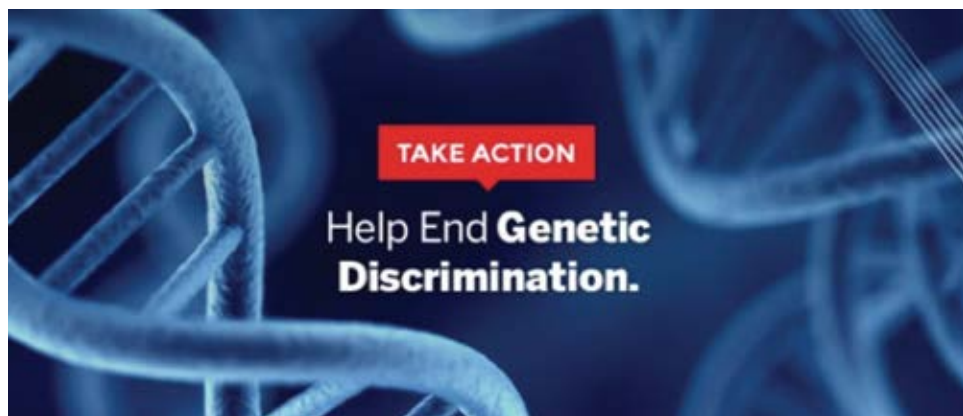
ANTI-BDS RESOLUTION

On February 18, 2016, Conservative MPs Tony Clement and Michelle Rempel tabled an opposition motion calling on the House of Commons to reject the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement and on the Government of Canada to condemn attempts to promote BDS in Canada and abroad. During the debate, all major political parties reaffirmed their opposition to BDS. The result was a clear, all-party consensus rejecting the divisive Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement. One after the other, Members of Parliament spoke in support of Canada's friendship with Israel and condemned efforts to delegitimize, isolate, and discriminate against Israel by advancing the false idea that Palestinians bear no responsibility for the Arab-Israeli conflict. CIJA's Government Relations team played an important role in reaching out to all Members of Parliament to provide accurate and balanced information on this very contentious issue.

CAMPUS

The scourge of BDS has also appeared on numerous Canadian campuses (though none in Atlantic Canada) in the form of student government resolutions targeting Israel. With assistance from CIJA's Campus team, resolutions have recently been defeated at the University of Waterloo and McGill.

Allyson Grant was recruited from a position in federal politics as CIJA's full-time Campus Program Coordinator to assist



STEVE McDONALD IS DEPUTY DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, OF THE CENTRE FOR ISRAEL AND JEWISH AFFAIRS (CIJA)

ISRAEL ADVOCACY: THE CASE FOR A POSITIVE RETHINK

When speaking to Jewish audiences about advocacy, I often refer to my own background as a Jewish convert in making the point that we sometimes have to apply a fresh perspective — and have a collective “out-of-body” experience — to understand the reality of our own circumstances. Sometimes we are too close to the situation to evaluate it with clear eyes and objectivity.

Among the many things that make me proud of my father is the fact that, early in his career, he chose to serve the public as a police officer. I have heard it said that police disproportionately interact with the most challenging and marginal elements of society, perhaps just 5% of the public, on a regular basis. Just as one in such a role knows their daily encounters are not representative of broader society, we as Jews — who understandably take notice of antisemitism and anti-Zionism — must be cautious not to attribute these toxic manifestations to the majority of Canadians.

I could write an entire series of columns on how we as a community have far more allies in the non-Jewish world than we often realize. Instead, I'll offer two factors internal to the Jewish world that suggest pro-Israel advocates should be optimistic.

1. There is far greater unity of purpose — and welcoming of diversity — in the Jewish world than we often realize.

In the past, there was significant disagreement between Jews on the best means to secure the future of the Jewish people in an often hostile world. The community was split along various lines: between Zionists and non-Zionists, assimilationists and Orthodox Jews, socialists and capitalists.

Today, post-Shoah and post-1948, the overwhelming majority of Jews are Zionists in that they believe the State of Israel should exist and thrive as a democratic Jewish homeland. Among Zionists there is extraordinary diversity: we are Labour and Likud, religious and secular, social activist and academic alike.

There is ceaseless debate over how Israeli policies can best secure the ideals of Zionism and how Diaspora Jews can engage Israel in a meaningful way. This is all healthy. We wouldn't be Jews if we didn't subject these issues to serious thought and debate.

But this occurs within a strong consensus that Israel's existence is fundamentally just, a blessing to the Jewish people and the entire world, and ultimately the centrepiece of our collective future just as it is our ancestral homeland. These aren't just clichés; they are ideals brought to life every time a young Jewish Canadian boards a plane for Birthright, challenges anti-Zionism on Facebook, downloads the latest Israeli music, or volunteers for the IDF.

2. Despite facing serious challenges, Israelis are far more successful, happy, and optimistic than we often realize.

While Israelis have suffered in every generation from war and terrorism, none of this detracts from the fact that the IDF has proven its capacity to provide Israelis with secure borders and an astonishingly high level of public safety. This is no mean feat in the Middle East, let alone for a country smaller than Vancouver Island.

At the same time, Israel has seen remarkable economic and technological success. From 1992 to 2013, Israel-China trade skyrocketed from \$50 Million to \$10 Billion annually. Israeli exports to Europe have nearly doubled since the boycott-divestment-sanctions movement was launched in 2005. Trade with emerging markets like India has likewise spiked. Outside Silicon Valley, Israel now has the highest concentration of high-tech firms on the planet.

Success at a macroeconomic level does not mean there aren't serious challenges. The cost-of-living, for example, continues to be a burden for many Israelis. But with each passing generation, Israel grows stronger economically and Israelis are afforded greater opportunities to learn, work, and engage the world.

Israelis also enjoy a remarkably high quality of life. Israelis have the same life expectancy as Canadians (81) and Israel boasts a universal healthcare system that typically beats Canada in international performance rankings. According to the OECD's 2015 “Better Life Index”, which measures various social and life factors, Israel is the fifth happiest country in the world — ahead of Canada, the United States, and most of Europe.

What would early Zionist thinkers like Theodor Herzl and his contemporaries say if they could read these statistics and walk the streets of Jerusalem or Tel Aviv today?

How often do we forget how far we have come as a people?

I had the honour this February of leading a group of Canadian masters-level students on a public policy study trip to Israel, one of many fact-finding missions we organize (CIJA annually brings some 200 Canadians to Israel). The students, all of whom are non-Jewish, were amazed at the innovation, diversity, and vitality shown by Israelis despite living in the world's most unstable neighbourhood. They instantly saw what we should never lose sight of: a country and a people from whom we can learn so much.

Indeed, Israel embodies so much of what's right in the world today — and it is on this basis that we should share all that Israel has to offer with the world around us.



students confronting anti-Israel campaigns. A nation-wide series of in-depth focus groups of Jewish students was also launched by CIJA to gather firsthand data about Jewish students' experiences with antisemitism, anti-Zionism, and academic freedom.


CIJA has conducted sessions across Canada, including one when Allyson came to Halifax and participated in the Hillel Atlantic Canada Shabbaton in February, 2016. Allyson returned to the region in April for a further session with Jewish student leadership.

PARLIAMENTARIAN MISSION TO ISRAEL

CIJA led a Mission to Israel in January 2016 with MPs including Andy Fillmore (Halifax) and Seamus O'Regan (St. John's South — Mount Pearl). On April 3, 2016, Mr. Fillmore addressed members of the Halifax Jewish community about his trip. Mr. O'Regan has indicated his desire to meet with the community in St. John's, planning for which is underway.

ISRAEL ADVOCACY

With my CIJA colleagues and AJC Executive Director Jon Goldberg, together we field numerous advocacy queries from across Atlantic Canada. With input from members of local communities, we constantly monitor local events and media for matters relevant to our community.

Whether it is to respond to anti-Israel bias in media or, better still, making myself and CIJA's resources available to those who wish to respond in their own name, if you have any concerns to raise, I am only a phone call or email away. 

CAMPUS NEWS

On the Path to Every and Enduring: Reflections on Hillel Atlantic Canada

BY ARIELLE BRANITSKY, DIRECTOR, HILLEL ATLANTIC CANADA

At the Hillel International General Assembly in Orlando, Florida this past December, the vision statement of this organization took centre stage. The purpose of Hillel is to work towards the creation of a world where every Jewish student is inspired to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning, and Israel. While all Hillel's apply their own spin to the mission and vision of Hillel International, this is ultimately the goal that we are working towards as well. Hillel Atlantic Canada has gone through major transitions over the past few years and there is still a lot of room for growth on the path to achieving this vision. Though, as I reflect on the completion of this school year, it is clear that the future is very bright.

Hillel is an organization that is meant to support Jewish life on campus. At the core of the work we do is a belief that students should be empowered to lead and build a community that is meaningful to them. In order for this to happen, students need to know about Hillel and be inspired to care about the community it can provide them. It is the role of the Hillel staff to help the students craft their vision, identify their goals, and support them in getting the work done. When I arrived in Halifax a little less than two years ago, the students were dependent upon their staff to make things happen. Many students did not know that Hillel existed on campus, nor did they take the initiative to create the community they wanted.

I am delighted to share with you how this situation has changed. Hillel Halifax, which is the sub group for Hillel's operations in Halifax, is now a student driven organization where the staff supports the students in achieving their common goals. This year the student board rose to the challenge of learning to lead their peers and advocate for their needs. They took ownership over the programs that were hosted. They have learned

to evaluate the needs of their community and respond strategically. The students have shown care for their Jewish life on campus, and the new group of student leaders is poised to build on this year's success.

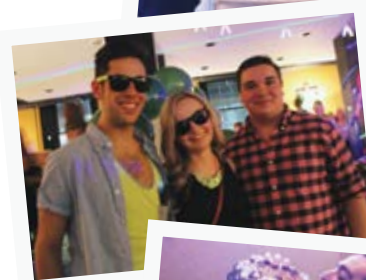
With stronger student leadership who are creating opportunities that lead to enduring commitments, Hillel Atlantic Canada can now grow as well. With a strengthened foundation, we can now turn our focus to reaching every Jewish student. More time can be spent doing outreach to students that haven't found Hillel of their own accord. We can give more attention to graduate and professional students and assist them in building a community of their own too. We can take our strategic plans outside of Halifax and improve our relationships with students across the Atlantic region.

Luckily, things on the Atlantic campuses have been relatively quiet with regards to anti-Israel behaviour and the Boycotts, Divestments, Sanctions (BDS) movement. However, there are definitely matters that need attention. There are groups threatening the peaceful academic environments with their support of BDS and their approach to raising awareness of the Palestinian cause. To be clear, there have not been any BDS motions successfully passed on any campus in this region. Working with student leadership, the Hillel staff will now be able to put more energy in to building partnerships and relationships that will be essential to defending Israel and the safety of Jewish students on campus.

On a personal note, I believe that this Hillel is on the verge of some major growth. Over the next few years it is capable of growing in terms of student involvement and the services it provides both in Halifax and throughout the region. With that in mind, the end of this semester also marks the end of my term as the Director of Jewish Student

Life. I am very proud of what I have accomplished with the students during my time here, and I am excited to see how my eventual successor will approach the next phase in Hillel Atlantic Canada's growth.

Thank you for welcoming me in to your community. I have learned an immense amount about Jewish life and community in Atlantic Canada throughout my time here and I can say, without a doubt, that this experience has made an impact on the work I will do in the future. The time I have spent exploring this coast has been a blessing and I look forward to the next time our paths cross. L'hitaot! 🇮🇱



COMBATTING BDS ON CAMPUS

Jewish students at Dalhousie University discovered how they can combat BDS and other anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli sentiments on campus at meetings February 6 and 7.

BY JOEL JACOBSON

Some leaders of the Halifax Jewish community learned the same things at a post Monday-morning minyan breakfast at Beth Israel Synagogue February 8.

Both events were coordinated by the Atlantic Jewish Council.

“Focus on influential persons on campus – professors and administrators – to develop positive relationships and ensure those leaders reject BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) when it comes along,” Allyson Grant told each group.

BDS: BOYCOTT / DIVESTMENT / SANCTIONS

The recently-appointed program coordinator for University and Local Partners of Center For Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) suggested the Halifax community support the students, be strategic in their planning, be positive and make their opposition to anti-Israel sentiment be about the affect BDS will have on students.”

Grant, based in Ottawa, has a history degree from University of Calgary and is working on her Masters in Public and International Affairs at University of Ottawa. A non-Jew, she took an undergraduate course about Israel while at Calgary and “that convinced me to support Israel, a country I felt people misunderstood.”

She joined CIJA after working in communications with the Liberal party through last Fall’s election, gaining organizing experience that she has brought to her new position.

In January, Walsh assisted University of Waterloo Jewish students and supporters defeat a referendum pushing for the Waterloo Student Union to support BDS.

“BDS is not having a lot of real affect,” she said. “You win some, you lose some. When the other side wants to talk about it, we want to counter it by developing those positive relationships with influential people.”

She said the Waterloo BDS campaign, which pushed cutting ties with Waterloo’s connections with Israeli educational institutions, was

emphatically defeated with 2,329 no votes countering 1,803 yes responses.

“Our message was to invest in their own (the students’) future. Don’t cut ties with cutting-edge institutions, key educational entities,” said Grant.

“It’s important to be positive and work with the key people on campus to generate support,” she concluded.

With Israel Apartheid Week looming at Dalhousie from February 22-27, Atlantic Jewish Council’s Hillel coordinator, Arielle Branitsky said Dal’s Jewish students don’t feel threatened.

“We’re being pro-active, trying to build positive relationships with all students on campus,” Branitsky said. “We’ve run a couple of successful Challah For Halifax events, selling challah buns to raise money for Feed Nova Scotia and giving a Jewish presence to the campus. We’ll be sure to have a booth during Israel Apartheid Week.”

She added, “Allyson’s being here to speak to our students and give them guidance was very important to building our confidence in how to handle issues.”

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KADIMAH 2016 ^{Pre-Summer} UPDATE



It's May and season #74 is just around the corner!

BY PHIL DAVID, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAMP KADIMAH

On June 30, the gates of Kadimah will open to welcome a projected 285+ campers from New Waterford to Victoria, New York to LA and Kiryat Shmona to Raanana.

Enrolment is at a 10 year high. While Ontario continues to generate the highest percentage of Kadimahniks, we are proud to welcome more than 65 Maritimers to Barss Corner this summer hailing from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and PEI.

A TASTE OF ISRAEL IN BARSS CORNER

I mentioned Kiryat Shmona and Raanana. These are just two of the Israel-based towns from which a record number of Israelis will travel this summer en route to Barss Corner – including four very deserving CITs from the Gesher Chai Partnership program.

As a Zionist camp focused on Jewish experiential learning, we are constantly searching for innovative, engaging ways to infuse Israel into our daily life. Programming aside, we believe that nothing is more powerful than relational learning and we find that the most effective way for our campers to learn about Israel is through direct relationships with Israelis. This summer, we will be welcoming 8 staff and 26 campers who will be calling Kadimah home. Clearly word is spreading through referrals from such wonderful Israel-based alumni as Beth Hacham (nee Smilestone) who remains a true advocate of camp after her three kids attended.

MARITIMES STAFF

Continuing with our Maritimes theme, on staff this summer, we have close to 20 Maritimers including rookie counsellors Lola Leving, Hiyam Gedalia, Yael Gazit and David Myer. We also welcome Newcomers who have moved from Israel and just finished their IDF service – Or David (Tripping) from Saint John and Nikita Medved (Canoeing) from Halifax.

While Maya Budovitch will help lead the newly formed Camper Care team with our Assistant Director, Camper Care – Paula Lipkus (MSW) – Haligonians including Shael Brown, Peter Svidler and Robyn Budovitch will be co-leading their respective sections as Unit Heads this summer.

Since we profiled Maya and Robyn in the last issue of Shalom, we couldn't let Peter and Shael get off so easily. In a recent interview, this is what they had to share about their experiences at Kadimah.

PETER SVIDLER (GOSHRIM SECTION HEAD) 3RD YEAR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT (DALHOUSIE)

SHALOM: Peter, you have the opportunity to work in the city during your summers. Now that you're 20, why do you come back to Kadimah?

PETER: "Due to the program that I am in (mechanical engineering), I have accepted that sooner than later, I will have to make the tough call of not coming back to camp. For the time being, however, I see the leadership value of coming back to camp as a section head, and I am fully confident that the experience I will gain will play a significant role in my professional career. After all, no responsibility will ever seem as great as taking care of over 60 children."

S: As a new immigrant to Canada, you attended Kadimah soon after arriving.

What value did Kadimah have in your assimilation to your new country?

PS: "For me, Kadimah was a way to experience what it means to be a Jewish youth in the Diaspora. Moving from Israel to a smaller Canadian city where Jewish presence was so much different than in Israel was quite the religious and cultural transition. Kadimah helped me adapt to my new home and influenced my Jewish identity, which has helped me relate so much better to other young Jews across North America who attended summer camp."

Aside from that, I have learned to play softball at camp, and baseball is now my favourite sport to watch... Who would've thought!"

SHAEL BROWN (GIBORIM SECTION HEAD) 4TH YEAR BSC STUDENT, MATH (DALHOUSIE)

SHALOM: Shael, you're heading into summer #10 this June. What keeps you coming back?

SHAEL: "Kadimah is where I feel most comfortable and most cared for, especially emotionally. As a camper, the programming was structured in such a way that I felt encouraged to grow personally while learning what the concept of "community" really encompassed. As a staff member, the reasons for returning are the campers. The happiness they have given me and my co-staff is unparalleled."



S: Many of your peers have stopped going to camp to pursue what we call a “resume-building” job in the city. Do you feel pressure to do the same thing?

SB: “I think it is important to note that I am currently working in a professional academic capacity while still returning to camp. It is possible to do both, something that I decided was the best option for me given that I was willing to put in that kind of effort for my future professional career both academically and in terms of leadership. Being a section head is an opportunity to be a leader for campers and staff alike; we are the next level up in the support frame for the engine of camp (the general staff). This role teaches the ability to manage a staff team and maintain a structured supervision of a specific task, both skills that are extremely important in the later professional world.”

VISITING DAY

Our annual Visiting Day celebration will be held on Sunday, July 24th. In advance of the big day, a parents and alumni pre-party is being planned at the Seaport Farmers Market on Saturday night from 7:30 to 11:00 p.m. Section Heads will be present to meet parents from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Visiting Day will run from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ADT on Sunday and we invite Maritime families and our Alumni to visit camp, see new and old faces and take part

in many of the activities our campers get to enjoy each day.

PRE-GIBBIE DAY

Gibborim is our youngest section for campers aged 7 to 9. Our annual Pre-Gibbie Day will take place on Tuesday, July 26 between 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Kadimah. If you have kids between ages 6 to 9 who are interested in attending Kadimah in 2017 or beyond, contact us to register them for a ‘day in the life’ of a Gibbie. While the kids participate in camp’s experiential program with their big buddies from Gibbieland, parents can tour the camp with the Director and participate in a Q&A session during a special lunch on the Pavilion. Email info@campkadimah.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA: CONNECTING US ALL

Each year, we are happy to attract more and more ‘friends’ on our Facebook page in our ongoing effort to engage campers, parents and alumni who wish to keep up to date on what’s happening during the summer and at our “Kadimah-in-the-City” events through the off-season.

Kadimah has established a very robust social media presence on Facebook as well as Twitter and Instagram. We encourage you to join our Camp Kadimah Facebook page so you can stay in touch and up to date on everything that is Kadimah ([Facebook.com/ campkadimah](https://www.facebook.com/campkadimah))

CAMP RENTALS

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

SPRING CLEANING DONATIONS

Camp is always looking for good used furniture like couches, desks, chairs as well as fitness equipment, instruments, flatscreen TV’s, projectors and screens, kids’ board games, sheets and blankets. If you are doing your Spring Cleaning and want to discard an item you think can be valuable at camp, please contact us at info@campkadimah.com

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

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

Catching up with our Alumni **NEXT PAGE >**



KADIMAH ALUMNI IN PROMOTION MODE

BY JOEL JACOBSON

The future of Camp Kadimah in Nova Scotia lies with its alumni, say the co-chairs of a sub-committee formed by the board of the 74-year-old summer haven for Jewish children.

Started in 1943, Kadimah originally hosted youngsters from Atlantic Canada but, in the last two decades, has broadly expanded so that today, close to 80 per cent of the attendees are from Ontario, many of them children and grandchildren of earlier campers and staff.

"We think it's time to be much more interactive with alumni across the country and the continent," says alumni committee co-chair Rachel Budovitch of Halifax, a camper from 1973 to 1979 and counselor in 1981. Her two daughters have spent many summers at Kadimah and both are on head staff this year.

"We want to promote events in centers across the country," she said. "We're developing a regular newsletter called The Bridge, which is named after the bridge that links the camp across Lake William (near Barss Corner, NS). It will highlight alumni happenings, milestones and events, feature 'where are they now?' pieces, and obviously promote Kadimah as THE place to send children for a super six-week experience."

Toronto's Michael Freedman, also co-chair, grew up in Saint John, NB, and spent from 1966 to 1980 at Kadimah, the last three as head staff and 1980 as assistant director.


"We formed this Alumni and Friends committee to tie together the strong attachment we all have to Camp," he says. "We want to organize smaller get-togethers in communities across the country more frequently than just anniversary dates."

In 1994, a 50th anniversary weekend was held, in Halifax and at the camp in Barss Corner, that attracted several hundred Kadimah alumni. A 75th anniversary celebration is planned for 2018. Yet each visitor's day weekend draws scores of alumni to social events in Halifax as they prepare to visit their children.

Budovitch notes there has always been an alumni expression of love for Kadimah.

"A men's alumni and friends camp has been held on a late August weekend for the past 25 years. Since 2014, a younger group of male alumni have relived their "glory" days during a June weekend at Kadimah. Next month (June 2016), a group of younger female alumni will gather there for their own weekend of memories. There are such strong feelings for Kadimah."

Freedman says a Kadimah Kickoff Softball Tournament will be held June 19 at Camp Robin Hood, north of Toronto for 20-40-year-old alumni and friends, plus all Kadimah families who can enjoy an outing while supporting the teams.

His son Daniel, a Kadimah attendee from 2002 to date (he's assistant director this summer), is heading the event. 

For more information, visit www.campkadimah.com or e-mail kadimahkickoff@gmail.com or follow Kadimah on Facebook or Instagram.

...CONT. *Catching up with our Alumni*

A big weekend is shaping up to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Sydney Shul – Temple Sons of Israel – during the weekend of July 29-31. Two members of the organizing committee, now living in the Sydney area, went to Kadimah a few decades ago and made their way back to Cape Breton to live as retirees – Evy Carnat (nee Dubinsky) and Dr. Stanley Jacobson. We thought it would be a good time to catch up with Evy and Stanley in our Alumni section with a few questions about their time at Kadimah.

EVY CARNAT (ENGLISHTOWN, NOVA SCOTIA)

SHALOM: Evy, you started at camp in 1955 and attended as a camper, staff member and as a professional music (Shira) instructor in the mid 70's with your husband Barry who worked in administration. What memories do you have?

EVY: "I can't just give one. Certainly the friendships stand out. The variety of programming, especially in Arts and Sports. Saturdays being the day of rest and feeling what it was like, religion wise, to be the majority. I remember all the Cape Bretoners would take the train to Halifax under the supervision of Mrs Kenner, our Rebbetzin. I never understood what a huge challenge that must have been for her until I became an adult and a teacher."

S: Can you comment on what impact Kadimah had on your life?

EC: "I don't see my experience at Kadimah in isolation of what went on in my time outside of camp. Every year, I spent 10 months and 2 weeks in anticipation of my 6 weeks at Kadimah. I come from a musical family and my on-going growth in music and my involvement in building a repertoire of Hebrew songs and folk songs at my three camps, heavy involvement in Young Judea in the good old days, teaching piano when I was in Junior High, leading a chorale and folk music club in high school – they all fed each other. I also learned at camp that I was an athlete and became aware of the word 'competitive'."

S: What advice would you give your grandchildren who are now starting to attend Kadimah?

EC: "Eat it up. Have fun. Try new things. Some of the friends you make will become your 'forever' friends."

STANLEY JACOBSON (MIRA, NOVA SCOTIA)


SHALOM: Stanley, you started at camp in 1952 and attended for 10 more seasons through to 1967. Can you describe the impact of Kadimah on your life?

STANLEY: "The impact on my life was enormous. Particularly the connection with Israel. The memories of camp and the friendships formed there have in many ways defined me. Enormous loyalty to those friends. The people you are most comfortable with are those people. The role models you were exposed to very much determined for me the direction my adult life went."

S: Do you have any favorite memories?

SJ: "The favourite memories don't flood back any more. It's more of a warm and fuzzy feeling about the place. I would certainly say that being a Maccabia captain stands out. I was on waterfront my last year and worked very much hands on with the non-swimmers and when one would get his or her Deep, that was a big event."

S: You have young grandchildren who we hope will attend Kadimah when they're older. What advice will you give to them?

SJ: "Enjoy every moment and try everything the camp has to offer. You do not have to be a great athlete to enjoy it; you do not have to be talented in the Arts. The camp has something for everyone." 

See more
on page 37

CAPE BRETON'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Sydney, N.S. Shul to celebrate 100 years

BY JOEL JACOBSON PHOTO PROVIDED BY ALAN NATHANSON

Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue on Whitney Avenue in Sydney Nova Scotia will be a happening place during the last weekend of July.

Hundreds of people are expected to fill the sanctuary and reception hall when the conservative shul celebrates its 100th anniversary. Past congregants from Israel, California and other American centers, Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and communities across Canada have already confirmed their attendance at a celebration that will bring memories, joy and tears (of happiness, of course).

In its heyday of the post-World War II 1950s, Temple Sons of Israel had a membership of almost 500, drawing from a Jewish population of close to 900 from across Cape Breton Island.

As has become common in smaller Canadian communities, members moved to larger centers, the youth exited for university and careers, and membership dwindled. Today, the Sydney shul draws between 12 and 17 to weekly Shabbat services from a membership of about 60 Jewish members on the Island.

Temple Sons of Israel is the only synagogue left from four (including now-shuttered Glace Bay, New Waterford and Whitney Pier shuls) that were active in the 1950s.

"There's excitement in the e-mails and calls we're getting about the anniversary reunion," says co-chair of the event, Alan Nathanson. "People are looking forward to coming home to celebrate our history. We feel there are not many more opportunities to hold an event of this magnitude."

The committee has planned a Friday night Shabbat service and gala dinner on July 29, a Shabbat service and deli buffet Kiddush the next morning and a brunch on Sunday July 31.

"It'll be an opportunity to have food which is the real reason Jews get together," joked Alan, whose brother Stephen is also co-chair.

Alan added many of the attendees also were students at Sydney Academy (high school) which is having a reunion on the same weekend.

"Our reunion and that one will give people a very good reason to come home," he said.

Stephen is the historian of the community. His records show Temple Sons of Israel was formed in 1915, a year after the women of the community of about a dozen families organized the Israel Auxiliary, a forerunner to the later shul Sisterhood.

"The men, not to be left behind, purchased a local Baptist church in 1916. The new shul, with a Rabbi Brownstein as its first spiritual leader, was dedicated in 1919," he said.

The congregation was originally orthodox but Nathanson says there was discontent.

"Many wanted to be more liberal but it took years for the women to come down from the balcony, for the siddur to be changed and for Rabbi Kenner to accept change, too," Stephen Nathanson relates.

The building was renovated in 1961 under long-time congregant Jack Yazer's presidency. There had been a few rabbis but, by then, the shul was under the leadership of Rabbi Israel Kenner who served from 1927 to 1972.

There has not been a permanent rabbi since 1986 but Rabbi David Ellis, who does chaplaincy work throughout the region for the Atlantic Jewish Council, officiates at major holidays, celebratory events, visits the sick and conducts funerals.

The 298-seat sanctuary is expected to be full July 29 and 30, and the social hall, with auxiliary rooms for more, will seat about 300 for meals.

"It won't be the last hurrah – we're going to be here for a while yet

In its heyday of the post-World War II 1950s, Temple Sons of Israel had a membership of almost 500, drawing from a Jewish population of close to 900 from across Cape Breton Island

– but will be a chance for people who haven't been home for up to 50 years or more to see each other and celebrate the memories with those of us who are keeping the community going," said Stephen. ③

To register or for information: facebook.com/sydneynshul100 or e-mail sydneynshul100@gmail.com



PROVIDED BY ALAN NATHANSON

WINDSOR JEWISH LEGION

Fort Edward sits high on a hill overlooking the confluence of the Avon and St. Croix rivers in Windsor NS.

BY JOEL JACOBSON

In 1917, it was the training base for The Jewish Legion, a group of soldiers from several countries who would liberate Palestine from Ottoman forces in the early 1920s and eventually aid in developing the State of Israel. Among those trained in Windsor was David Ben Gurion, who would eventually become president of the State of Israel.

In 2017, the 100th anniversary of the Jewish Legion will be commemorated.

On April 14, 2016, the Town of Windsor, in an effort to strengthen the friendships between it, the Jewish community of Nova Scotia and Canada, hosted a small delegation to meet with local Jewish and lay people to discuss plans for the anniversary.

Accompanying AJC executive director Jon Goldberg were Col. Adam Susman, Defense Attache to Canada of the Embassy of Israel, and Sara Beanlands of Boreas Heritage Consulting, a young woman who has done extensive research on the Jewish Legion.

Several members of town council plus town administrators and volunteers on various historical committees attended a mid-morning reception to meet the visitors. Pictures of the Legion were on display as was the original letter sent by Ben Gurion to Windsor Mayor Robert Dimock in 1966 reflecting how much impact his time in Windsor and in the Legion had on him.

The group visited the blockhouse at Fort Edward, the oldest blockhouse in Canada and one of the oldest wooden buildings in Nova Scotia. Goldberg, Susman and Beanlands stood on the ground on which the Legion members prayed during a Yom Kippur service September 17, 1918 (5679).

Built in 1750 by British soldiers to strengthen British authority and communications in Western Nova Scotia, it eventually became a training base for Canadian and British Expeditionary Forces to fight during World War I.

Among the troops training in Windsor was the Jewish Legion, men who would go to Palestine, long before the establishment of Israel in 1948.

"The Jewish Legion. The 38th through 42nd Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers became known as the Jewish Legion. Camp Edward in Windsor, Nova Scotia provided the training ground for over 1,100 Jewish troops."

Nova Scotia's close connection with Jewish volunteers who fought in the First World War almost didn't happen, due to the intransigence of the British Army. At the time, Jewish activists were eager to join the Allied war effort and help liberate Palestine, which they wished to restore as a homeland for Jewish people.

When the war started, Palestine was controlled by the Ottoman

(Turkish) Empire which was aligned with Germany and her allies. In December, 1914, with hostilities just a few months old, the Jewish activists urged Britain to create a Jewish unit to be part of the British effort to liberate Palestine. Britain refused because it did not allow foreign nationals to serve in its army. London did agree, however, to establish the Zion Mule Corps, a unit of Jewish volunteers tasked with transporting supplies by mules during the 1915 Dardanelles Campaign in northwest Turkey. Unfortunately, the campaign was a disaster and one of the casualties was the Zion Mule Corps, which was all but disbanded.

Two years later, with the war bogged down in bloody trench warfare in Europe, the British finally relented to Jewish pressure and agreed to create five Jewish-based infantry battalions as part of the Royal Fusiliers. Collectively, these battalions were known as the Jewish Legion and had the distinction of being the first Jewish military fighting formation in over 2,000 years. Members wore the badges of the Royal Fusiliers but with a Star of David patch on their sleeves.

One of these units was the 39th Battalion. It was recruited from American and Canadian volunteers and assembled in Nova Scotia, the closest embarkation point to Europe. Training took place at Camp Edward in Windsor under a Jewish commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Eliezer Margolin. By all accounts, the soldiers lived in tents pitched below the Fort Edward blockhouse, a structure which still stands today. During its 10 months of operation, more than 1,100 American and Canadian Jewish volunteers went through Camp Edward.

When training was complete, the 39th Battalion was shipped to England and then Palestine, where it joined the 38th Battalion and saw action in the Jordan Valley and at the Battle of Megiddo, a decisive victory on the Ottoman front.

In all, 50,000 members of the Jewish faith served in the First World War. They were awarded 5 Victoria Crosses, and 50 Distinguished Conduct Medals. Many founders of the State of Israel served in the Jewish Legion including the first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, who trained at Camp Edward in Windsor and served with the 39th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers; the second President, Yitzhak Ben-Zvi; and the third Prime Minister, Levi Eshkol.

The Jewish Legion was disbanded following the Armistice in November, 1918.

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In later life, Ben-Gurion, who is known as the “the father of his country,” sent a letter to the Mayor of Windsor and said, “I will never forget Windsor where I received my first military training as a soldier and when I became a Corporal”.

The Jewish Legion was disbanded following the Armistice in November, 1918. 5



Col. Adam Susman, defence attaché to Canada from the Embassy of Israel, stands at the blockhouse at Fort Edward in Windsor where the Jewish Legion trained in 1917.



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DAVID KORN RECALLS HIS YOUTH IN A SLOVAKIAN LUTHERAN ORPHANAGE

Saved by courageous clerics

BY JOEL JACOBSON



It was a solemn ceremony, befitting Yom Hashoah and the sadness the day recalls, year after year.

Yet comments during the quiet time after survivor David Korn spoke so passionately about his journey through his traumatic youth reflected what people felt.

"You can read as many books about the events of the Holocaust as you want, but to hear such descriptive narration from someone who has experienced the horrors of it brings it truly home and makes you feel the senselessness of what tragically happened," said one man quietly.

More than 200 people crowded the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in downtown Halifax to see a memorial candle lighting ceremony, hear the Jewish Memorial Prayer, listen to poetry read by four Asper Foundation Holocaust Studies Program students, and contemplate during pensive violin music.

The audience heard opening remarks by Atlantic Jewish Council president Michael Argand, the son of survivors, who told some of his parents story and recalled a Polish cousin he never met, seven-year-old Sasha Spatz, who was a victim of the Holocaust in 1943.



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

PHOTOS: Above: Lighting the memorial candle.

Left: David Korn with the Nova Scotia Lieutenant-Governor JJ Grant and his wife.

Argand reminded people that an estimated 600,000 Polish Jews were slaughtered in the German-run extermination camps. He said only 3,000 Jews remained in Poland after the war, from three million who thrived there in pre-war happier and productive times.

When David Korn took the microphone, the audience was hushed, eager to hear how, as a very young boy, a year younger than his brother Jacob, their parents placed them in a Lutheran orphanage, to be protected and cared for by priests and nuns.

"Of the 70 children in the (Evangelical Lutheran) Orphanage in Slovakia, 26 were Jewish kids," said David. "Pastor Kuna was an angel, as was Sister Maria."

He recalled that five days after he and Jacob were placed in protection, his parents were in Auschwitz, never again to be seen by their sons.

"They were on the very last train sent out of Slovakia because after that train, the Slovaks stopped deporting people," said David, with a heavy heart. "I only learned this six years ago after the Germans opened their books for the world to see."

He said that when the war ended on May 8, 1945, he and Jacob thought their parents had been hiding in the woods nearby and would come to get them.

"By the end of June, no one came for us," he reflected.

Eventually, an aunt and uncle took them to Israel where David was educated, served in the army, and came to Montreal for graduate studies in engineering. A Halifax resident since the early 1990s,



David is an expert in historic building restoration, headed a restoration of Halifax Citadel and later supervised emergency repair work on the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

Memorial candles were lit by Nova Scotia Lieutenant-Governor JJ Grant, provincial Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage Tony Ince, Michael Argand, US Consul General Stephen S. Giegerich, visiting Israeli student Yehoshua Zlotogorski, David Korn and all survivors in attendance, including Jana Weider (representing her mother Helena Jockel), Jacob Korn, Lazlo and Anna Fried, Natan Nevo, Marta Markus (who also lit one on behalf of her husband Steve), Morris Strug and Philip Riteman.

Students Samantha Chigier, Ben Rittenberg, Leah Collins and Alison Pedvis received certificates of recognition as Asper graduates from local program educator Dawn Frail after they read poetry written by Halifax poet Topaz Ruby.

The AJC-coordinated event also highlighted violin music played by Viktoria Brunets and Yulia Medvedchuk. 🎻



David Korn with U.S Consul General Steven S. Giegerich

Of the 70 children in the
(Evangelical Lutheran)
Orphanage in Slovakia,
26 were Jewish kids

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WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

BY CRAIG FOX

The World Jewish Council (WJC) met this March in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Due to events around the world, a Special Plenary Meeting was held a year before the planned meeting for 2017 in New York City. 240 delegates from 67 countries attended this meeting to discuss and debate resolutions which decide the direction that the WJC takes. Among these resolutions were one which discussed The BDS (boycott, divestment, sanctions) movement against Israel.

The WJC acts as an advocacy group of the Jewish people around the world. The president of the WJC (Ronald Lauder) spends his time traveling the world and meeting with politicians and leaders to discuss Jewish concerns. Over the last few years, he has met with Stephen Harper, Barack Obama, Pope Francis, and many other world leaders from 6 continents. Some of the issues the WJC has been involved with were the attempt to have the Israeli national soccer team removed from FIFA, anti-Semitic comments made by the CEO of Orange, and a Spanish music festival trying to remove the Jewish musician Matisyahu from their music festival because he refused to condemn actions that Israel has taken to defend her people. The WJC was successful on all of these fronts among many other issues it took up throughout the last few years since its last meeting.

Canada's representative organization to the WJC is the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), and as a member of the CIJA Young Leaders Circle (YLC), I was given the opportunity to be one of our 18 voting delegates at the meeting. The number of delegates per country is decided based on the size of their Jewish community, and although Canada is not the largest, it has traditionally been one of the most involved during the meetings. Canada did not disappoint this year. And as the only representative from Atlantic Canada, I made sure that the world took notice of us.

Among the Canadian delegates were CIJA professional staff, members of the board, professional staff, and a strong representation from the Young Leaders Circle. CIJA is investing in their next generation of leaders, and creating the opportunities for them to learn from their senior leadership while being given the chance to get their hands dirty in a sense. Our young leaders took this opportunity not just to get involved in the world stage, but to use some of their free time to meet and plan what the YLC was going to do when they got home and back to work in our communities from coast to coast.

The meeting was held over three days during the week and was packed with talks, debates, votes, and a touching ceremony on the final day in memory of the deadly terrorist attacks on the Israeli Embassy in Argentina in 1992, and the bombing of the Jewish community centre (AMIA) in 1994. Special guests to the meeting included the president of Argentina, the Argentina minister of foreign affairs, the Israeli ambassador to Argentina, the president of Paraguay, and the Israeli minister of education and diaspora affairs.

The North American delegation (18 Canadians, 30 Americans, 2 Mexicans, and 1 Jamaican) met for a lunch on the first day to discuss

the history of the North American delegation, and achievements over the last several years, as well as a discussion on the resolutions that were to be tabled the following day. The Canadians stuck around after our neighbours left, for a pep talk and to be reminded that much of the assembly looked to the Canadians during the tabling of the resolutions. The lunch was also a fantastic opportunity to meet some of the fellow North American delegations as well as a very interesting man named Douglas; who was the Jamaican delegate with a family history on the country that dated back to the Spanish Inquisition.

The day ended with a gala dinner where Mauricio Macri, the recently elected President of Argentina spoke with us. The President spoke with great passion about his love for the Jewish community, and that over two decades later the terrorists who organized and executed the attacks against the Jewish community have not yet been brought to Justice. There was a prosecutor that had been investigating the attacks was about to release information which was potentially going to accuse members of the Argentinian government of being involved with the Iranian government and responsible for the attacks. Before he had the opportunity to publicly declare his findings, he was found dead in his home with a gunshot wound to the head. His death has been declared a homicide, but his killers have yet to be found. The president told us that his government was going to finally bring the people who committed these crimes to justice.

On the second day of the meeting, it was down to business. The latest editions of the resolutions had been handed out, and the delegates were ready to argue over amendments and cast their votes. A resolution passed condemning BDS as hate speech, as well as congratulating countries who had passed legislation or motions condemning the BDS motion on campuses. The Other large resolution passed that day was concerning acts of terror, and the actions that the WJC would like the world's governments to take on them. Atlantic Canada had their member heard that day, as I stood in the assembly and argued an amendment that encouraged governments of the world to declare attacks against religious facilities, and schools as "hate crimes", and to demand stronger mandatory punishments for such actions. The amendment was passed unanimously by our assembly and the amended resolution quickly followed being passed unanimously. Canada can be proud, as can Atlantic Canada specifically, as their member now has their name permanently attached to an important resolution that the WJC will now act upon. A resolution was also passed regarding demanding the return of Israeli soldiers (dead or alive) to the state of Israel, which passed without any discussion, and absolute support from the assembly.

Just before lunch we heard from Horacio Cartes, the President of Paraguay as he was presented the Shalom Award. During the last operation that Israel had fighting Gaza, the Latin American countries came together to pass a bill condemning the actions of Israel to defend herself. In order for the bill to pass, it had to pass unanimously.

Every country voted in favour, with the exception of one vote. Paraguay stood alone in support of Israel, and their vote against caused the bill to be defeated, leaders of Latin American countries released statements which made it sound as if every country was in support of condemning Israel, the President of Paraguay was quick to make public that he was a supporter of Israel, and would not condemn her for defending herself. He has been a true friend of both Israel, and the Jewish people. The President was moved to tears as he accepted the award from Ronald Lauder, and gave a moving speech in support of Israel, and the Jewish people. When you watch the news, it is easy to lose sight that we really have friends in every corner of the world and we appreciate their support.

Naftali Bennett, Israel's Minister of Education and Diaspora Affairs was also in attendance and spoke passionately about the strength of Israel. He talked about how Israel used to see the diaspora as both a place to find young new immigrants to strengthen the country, and as a wallet to ask for money from. He said that today Israel's economy is strong, and spoke of the impressive growth of Israel's start up and technology industry and that the diaspora is more than just a wallet to them now. We are a partner. He said that the new partnership is still being figured out; as the choices Israel makes clearly effects Jews around the world, but as the only true democracy in the Middle East, Israel must listen to their voting citizens when making decisions.

We also heard passionate speeches and pledges of support from the Argentinian Minister of foreign affairs, and the Israeli ambassador to Argentina. The voting assembly concluded, and ended with dinner

and a performance from traditional Argentinian tango dancers.

Our final day was one full of tears, and remembering those who we have lost to violent acts of terror. A motorcade of busses shuttled all the delegates to AMIA, which was the site of a car bomb in 1994. The community centre can barely be seen from the outside now, as blast walls now separate the building from the street. Inside we heard from Jorge Cohen who is a survivor of the embassy bombing, Daniel Pomerantz who is a survivor of the AMIA bombing, and from Marcelo Birmajer whose brother was recently murdered in Jerusalem by knife wielding terrorists. They told their stories, spoke of the healing process, and how we must look towards our future. Everyone was moved as Birmajer told us that his brother's murders were killed on scene by brave members of the Israel Defence Forces, but that the perpetrators of the bombing have yet to be brought to justice. We continued on to the site of the Israeli Embassy bombing in 1992, where we were given the honour of taking part in the anniversary ceremony marking the 24th anniversary of the bombing. While there, we met locals of Argentina, children from a Hebrew day school, and visitors from around the world. Under Argentina's new leadership, we can hope that an act like this will never happen again.

I am very thankful that I was given the opportunity to represent Canada on the world stage. I met Jews from every corner of the globe, and we came together to agree on a unified direction for global Jewish advocacy. 🇨🇦

Craig Fox is a Halifax native, and a member of CIJA's Young Leaders Circle. Craig can be reached at craigfox@ns.sympatico.ca

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Andy Fillmore, Liberal MP for Halifax, shared his experience from a recent trip to Israel at an AJC Breakfast Club gathering, Beth Israel Synagogue.



2015 Asper Human Rights and Holocaust Studies program students, Leah Collins, Allison Pedvis, Samantha Chigier and Ben Rittenberg (pictured with program educator Dawn Frail) presented poetry from Topaz Ruby (Janet Kravetz) award winning book, at the Yom HaShoah service in Halifax.



Jean-Michel Blais, HRM Chief of Police, participated in the reading of names of the victims of the Holocaust, during the Unto Every Person There Is A Name program in front of the Halifax Central Library.



Molly Rechnitzer, Marta Markus, Denise Nevo and Olga Milosovich, at the Yom HaShoah program, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.



The Kravetz family gather after the Yom HaShoah service in Halifax. Pictured from left to right, Elinor with her mother Ella, Claudia, (mother of Ella and Janet), Janet (poet) and Frank (father of Ella & Janet and husband of Claudia).



Lysa Appleton, career and employment coach, conducts a workshop for newcomers.



David Korn, second from right, keynote speaker at the Yom Hashoah Service in Halifax, pictured with attendees His Honour Brigadier-General The Honourable J.J. Grant, CMM, ONS, CD (Ret'd) Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and Her Honour Mrs. Grant, centre, The Hon. Myra A. Freeman, O.N.S., left, and U.S Consul General Steven S. Giegerich, right.



Musical interludes were performed by violinists Yulia Medvedchuk and Viktoria Brunets during the Yom HaShoah program in Halifax.



The Hon. Tony Ince, Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage and the Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs lit a memorial candle during the Yom Hashoah program, centre, with the Honorary Consul of Poland, Jan Skora and Theresa Skora.



Mark Rosen, Lynda Suissa and Shirley Medjuck at the Yom HaShoah program, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Halifax.



International Holocaust Remembrance Day, David Korn speaks with Mr. Rodolfo Meloni Consular Correspondent Atlantic Region, Consul of Italy at the screening of *My Italian Hero*, presented with the University of Kings College, Italian Consulate and Italian Cultural Centre.



Edna LeVine, 2nd from left, pictured with Israeli newcomers, from left to right, Nataly Feldman, Marina Brin and Alex Kounkes, students in the EAP program at NSCC, who participated in the spring multicultural fair with an informative display on Israel and delicious homemade traditional Israeli food.

WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY

BY JO KOSTIN



My name is Jo Kostin. Oren, my husband, and I emigrated from Israel to Halifax, NS with our two boys a little over a year ago. There are many challenges to being an immigrant. It is a big, scary and stressful transition. Mainly, I feel that my life, especially the professional aspect, is in an overall “restart” mode. I have to reinvent myself and in some ways, rediscover my own abilities. I also feel a little like a kid in a candy shop. Everything is new and exciting. For me, coming here was a wish that I was wishing for as long as I can remember, and it finely came true thanks to the Atlantic Jewish Council. Fortunately, my absolutely wonderful in every way husband shared my enthusiasm about uprooting our life to Canada. Before we came here, we toured different provinces. We fell in love with the beauty of Nova Scotia. I am curious about our community here and have decided to write articles depicting the exciting and interesting stories of some of its members.

LESLEE KLINEBERG is the founder and owner of Signature Supplements Inc. It is a compounder of natural health products, and offers professional-only custom compounding, assisting health practitioners in designing their own custom formulas for individual patients or creating stock products for their clinics. Leslee has been living in Nova Scotia for 20 years and has extended a helping hand to many newcomers from Israel by hiring them to work at her company and gain the much sought after Canadian work experience.

This is her inspiring story as she told it to me. Thank you Leslee for sharing your story.

My story is quite unique, in the sense of how things came to pass and how fateful events led to where and who I am today. I grew up in Montreal. After graduating from high school I went on my first big trip at the age of 19 to Israel. I did Ulpan at kibbutz Mesilot where I met an Australian volunteer. I found her culture and accent fascinating and said to myself that I would eventually go to Australia after my studies. At CEGEP, I took a course called “Chemistry in the Modern World” that ignited a passion and interest in alternative medicine. A few years after I finished my degree in organic chemistry at Concordia University I decided to go to Australia to travel for a year. While I was there I had a horseback riding accident.

I fractured my skull and was hospitalized for two weeks. One week with complete memory loss. This was in 1991 and there were no internet or mobile devices and I had very little communication with my family while I was travelling constantly. At my mother’s request, I went to the Gold Coast to stay at a friend’s house. While I was recuperating I came across a naturopath’s office and became curious. While in the waiting room I grabbed a brochure for the college that he had studied at. I never actually saw treatment from him because I grew tired of waiting and left. I was able to continue my travels in Australia for a few months after that but I kept that brochure pristinely protected in my backpack. When I got back to Montreal I thought of the next step in my life and started looking at schools in Canada. The curriculum at the college of Naturopathic medicine in Toronto didn’t hold the exact area of interest for me. Furthermore, it was in downtown Toronto, it was four years long and too expensive. One day, I picked up the brochure, called the Academy of Natural Therapies in the Gold Coast of Australia and asked if they would accept a foreign student. It was a three year long program that cost only \$4,000 per year, which meant no student loans, and the training corresponded to what I was looking for. They said yes so I packed up my bags and headed down under. These were some of the

best years of my life. I won two awards, Blackmores Award for Outstanding Achievement in Herbal Medicine and the Bioconcepts Award for Distin-

guished Academic Performance in Nutrition. I thoroughly enjoyed my studies and I knew that this was the right path for me. I came back to Canada with the intention of gaining a six month practical experience and then immigrating to Australia permanently.

I didn’t want to practice in Montreal and was looking for a quiet place to set up shop for a little while. I borrowed my grandmother’s car to look around Atlantic Canada for a place to settle. I was lucky to find a job in Halifax as a manager of a health food store called Mary Janes, and I was able to set up my practice above the store. I realized at that point that I was the very first Naturopath in Halifax. After six months I was devastated to learn that my qualifications weren’t sufficient to immigrate to Australia and so I stayed in Halifax. A few years later I met Marc St-Onge through work. He was a Biology student



THE GILSIG SERIES IN JEWISH ARTS AND CULTURE

Celebrates its 5th Anniversary this Fall

Henri Oppenheim, referred to as a “Defrocked” French mathematician, came to Montreal in the 1990s to do a post-doc, but decided to make a radical switch and studied music at McGill University instead. And lucky for us!! His music has been described as “spectacular, celebratory, joyous and packed with emotion”. For over 15 years he has dedicated himself to Jewish music. His newest project *Tur Malka*, chosen for The Gilsig Series this coming Fall, is a song cycle based on 20th Century Yiddish poetry, by poets who, leaving Europe, chose Montreal as their home. Oppenheim found in these poems a universal spirit that immediately made him want to sing them and tell a story: “a story of voyage, (re)birth, growth, death, acceptance, transformation and celebration of all that is the immigrant story”. The poetry, inspired and inspiring, marked as it is by exile, is full of hope, humanism, sensuality, and resilience. The music, which reflects this, will appeal to those with an ear for popular musical forms, from Klezmer to Tango, from Folk to Rock, and even the French Chanson. The artistic team has created new art work, digitized and animated these works to become an active and integral part of the *Tur Malka* musical journey. [S](#)

THIS NEW, VISUALLY SUMPTUOUS, MULTI MEDIA PRESENTATION OF TUR MALKA IS BEING PREMIERED AT DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2016.

THE CREATIVE TEAM:

Henri Oppenheim: music director, musician, composer, co-arranger

Michael Emenau: project coordinator, musician, co-arranger

Blanche Baillargeon: bass, vocals

Julien Patrice: violin, vocals

Geneviève Gendron: Artistic Illustrator

Mélanie Ladouceur: VJ /digital animation

Pierre Labbé: Mise en Scene

and a holistic minded health enthusiast. We shared a passion for natural medicine and became great friends. We were both unhappy with the supplements that were available at the time. This is what prompted us to start our company. We complimented each other in terms of what we both brought to the table. He was the entrepreneurial spirit with a background in business and I had the seed money and the French to handle franco-phone clients and documents. We were able to lift Signature Supplements off the ground and soon after, we started another company, Ascenta, selling liquid fish oil, which ultimately grew to become a multi-million dollar corporation. I was the VP of both companies up until the end of 2006 when we separated. I sold my shares of Ascenta and became the sole owner of Signature Supplements.

I considered this a rebirth of the company. With me focusing all my attention on only one company now, I experienced a natural growth of 30% every year. I rebranded the company's logo and identity and was able to hire the people that I consider a good fit. Luckily I'm in a position to hire many Jewish people and to help those who are new to the country. I have always had confidence in people of my own faith. They are good people and extremely hard working. I'm proud to be Jewish for I consider us a bright, caring and non-aggressive people. No matter where you are there is always a connection, a similarity, a fundamental understanding. Coming to work every day and being surrounded by Jewish people gives me great joy.

Building and managing a business isn't easy but, I'm a go getter. I knew I had to make it on my own and to create my own success. I have faced many obstacles in the 18 years that I have been in business. My resilience and determination has helped me overcome the challenges along the way. I have dedicated my life to growing a successful business that plays a significant role in the big Canadian world of Naturopaths. It is amazing to know that I'm giving practitioners a tool that they wouldn't have without the company that I built. I empower them to get the supplements that they want and that their patients need. The outreach and impact is so much greater than it could ever be seeing patients one on one. I'm delighted that my company's products are in Canadian homes, helping people with cancer, diabetes, cataracts, fertility and many other health issues. [S](#)

CONNIE GLUBE Z"L

A trailblazing woman

BY JOEL JACOBSON, ATLANTIC CORRESPONDENT



Halifax, the province of Nova Scotia and Canada have lost a trailblazing woman who set precedents in the civic and justice communities.

Constance Glube, the first woman provincial Chief Justice in Canada and the first Jewish woman to hold that post, died in Halifax February 15 at 84. Glube was a woman who gave much of herself to her legal profession and the many community organizations who benefitted from her extensive wisdom and expertise.

Glube, Ottawa-born, was the first woman city manager in Canada when named to the post in Halifax in 1974. Three years later, the graduate of McGill University (B.A. 1952) and Dalhousie Law School (LLB 1955) was named the first female judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia by then-prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau. In 1982, she was named Chief Justice of the Province, the first woman in Canada to hold a provincial chief justice position.

In 1988, she became Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Court of Appeal. Ten years later, she was named Administrator of the Government of the Province of Nova Scotia, retiring from the post and as Chief Justice in December 2004.

"We'll miss her dearly," said Nova Scotia Chief Justice Michael MacDonald to the Halifax Chronicle Herald. MacDonald appeared before Glube as a young Sydney lawyer. He called her "a great Canadian."

"There is no question Connie will have a place in history," former Nova Scotia Premier John Buchanan said. He was a law school classmate of Glube, and premier when Glube was named Chief Justice of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

He said Glube's career saw her preside over many important legal cases in Nova Scotia history, including the Westray Mine inquiry.

Buchanan said he saw Glube only two weeks ago during a Canadian Bar Association event. The organization recognizes Glube by awarding the Constance R. Glube CBA Spirit Award to those who demonstrate "outstanding effort and contribution to women in law." Glube attended as the special guest.

Buchanan praised Glube as a great lawyer, excellent city solicitor and superb judge who knew many people and treated everyone with grace and respect.

"Constance Glube's contributions to the law and to our province are profound," said Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil. "She maintained a lifelong commitment to gender, ethnic and religious equality and opportunity."

An obituary on the Courts of Nova Scotia website said Glube, as a Jewish woman in Canada in the mid-1900s, showed "steadfast dedication to overcoming the gender, ethnic and religious barriers of her era."

Glube and her late husband Richard were lifelong members of Shaar Shalom Synagogue of which Richard's father Joe was a founding member. Connie, as everyone knew her, served the synagogue in many capacities, was a member of Hadassah WIZO, the local Massada Club for Jewish seniors, was a board member of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, Atlantic Region, and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

"Constance Glube's contributions to the law and to our province are profound... She maintained a lifelong commitment to gender, ethnic and religious equality and opportunity."

A Queen's Counsel and member of the Order of Canada (2005) and Order of Nova Scotia (2006), Glube served Queen Elizabeth II Hospital Foundation as a member, vice-chair and latterly, chair from 2007-2009. She was honorary chair of the Nova Scotia Barristers Society and an honorary member of both the Canadian Bar Association and International Association of Women Judges. She received honorary degrees from Dalhousie University, Mount St. Vincent University and Saint Mary's University.


She is survived by her sister Sheila Pollock, Ottawa; sons John, Toronto, Harry (Wanda Pottle), Halifax, and Joe (Elizabeth), Oakville ON, and daughter Erica Kolatch (Barry), Silver Springs, MD, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Always a woman of integrity, dignity and generosity, Connie was never one to ruffle feathers, except in situations when she knew she was right, of course. Her constant smile made people feel welcome in her presence. You were the focus of her attention, and were met with eye contact in any conversation. As a judge, she was known for complete impartiality and she led her private life the same way, remaining unaffiliated with external organizations to retain that judicial independence.

As a judge, she was focused on finding what was right and just. Her sense of fairness carried into her private life where she treated everyone as an equal.

Once retired in 2004, Connie developed a passion for bridge, calling it "my second career". She became a Ruby Life Master and, days before her passing was eagerly anticipating a Bridge Cruise in late February.

Her children reflected on her generosity. "She gave back to so many causes because she felt she was so blessed in her life," said son Harry.

Her eclectic interests included gardening, swimming, Symphony Nova Scotia, Neptune Theatre and other arts endeavours. 

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FRANK MEDJUCK Z" L

A strong contributor and devoted volunteer

BY JOEL JACOBSON, ATLANTIC CORRESPONDENT



The Halifax and Atlantic Jewish communities lost a dear friend, strong contributor and devoted volunteer when Frank Medjuck passed away March 14 after a two-year battle with cancer.

The 71-year-old graduate of Dalhousie University Law School and holder of a Masters degree in Urban Planning from University College of London, was a two-time president of Beth Israel Synagogue and 40-year member of its board in a deep and personal relationship.

He established the congregation's Endowment Fund in the 1980s, meeting with many members of the community to help them direct their tzedaka toward the long-term financial stability of Beth Israel. In 1989-90, he devoted hundreds of hours to editing a 100th anniversary commemorative book that drew histories from 120 families of the Halifax community. He served on virtually every committee of the synagogue, ensuring the Orthodox traditions were retained and followed and participating in daily minyanim, weekly Shabbat services and each holiday celebration. In 1993, he also edited a 50th anniversary book of Camp Kadimah where he spent a dozen summers of revelry, mischief, learning and developing life-long friendships.

After his university years, and travel time, Frank, the youngest of three sons of Irving and Blanche Medjuck, worked with his oldest brother Ralph, also a lawyer, in a thriving real estate development business. Frank was primarily Corporate Counsel for The Centennial Group, working with city council on planning and gaining approval for various projects. He helped engineer some of the biggest real estate deals in Atlantic Canada, and even in Ontario and Alberta. Frank's efforts helped build Yonge-Richmond Place and Cambridge Suites in Toronto.

"It's sad. And he was so young," said Ralph, 83. "We worked together on probably half of the company's 56 projects. We got along well, never had an argument."

Cousin-in-law Victor Goldberg said Frank and Ralph were a team.

"Ralph was the visible one, but Frank was the detail person. Frank was pivotal for all the contracts and zoning issues and negotiating with the city."

Ralph called Frank "quiet and intelligent" but many of his friends thought he was far from quiet. He had a wry sense of humour, willing to joke about any situation if it would resolve an issue.

Mark Appleton of Halifax said, "I'll miss his jokes. With a very straight face, Frank would tell you something that was totally believable, stringing you along with fact after fact until, after several minutes, the zinger would come out of his mouth. And then the smile and the laugh, that warm laugh."

He loved Israel, inspired from growing up surrounded by Zionist Jewish values at Camp Kadimah and in the Halifax Jewish community. Around the time of the Six Day War in 1967, he became

enchanted with a passion to live in Israel, to work the land and help build the country. In 1970, he made aliya, lived in an absorption center and studied Hebrew.

He was hired by the City of Jerusalem to work in its Urban Planning Unit as a Development Control Officer. He would often talk of those exciting times to be working in city planning for the Iriya, the Municipality of Jerusalem, with huge economic growth, a population explosion and great prosperity.

Over the years, he visited Israel regularly, staying connected to his beloved homeland, nurturing numerous close friendships there and spending valued time working the land.

He spent decades finding the burial spot of his grandfather, Yehoshua Medjuck, who made aliya in 1935 from Halifax, and died there during the War of Independence in 1948. He was buried on the Mount of Olives under the cover of darkness. The precise location of the grave was unknown for decades until, after years of research and interviews, Frank found the location, and eventually set a stone on the correct place.

Frank was a good friend, respectful, charitable and funny. Great with words, he loved to write and talk and learn new things. An eclectic man, he loved riding bikes, baking (he was the lead at Hamantachen bakes at the shul), flying kites and telling jokes. He was a lifelong athlete and played masters basketball until two years ago when illness prevented continuing. At 60, he completed a 350 km bike marathon from Jerusalem to Eilat when he was first to become a grandfather. Eight years later, when he was anticipating turning 70, he did it again.

To Frank Medjuck, a good name and good reputation were paramount. Frank was always the person who helped someone privately, or gave generously of his money and his personal time to help raise someone's spirits or to help pay for a community event.

While speaking of her father at his chosen resting place at Eretz HaChayim Cemetery near Bet Shemesh in the Jerusalem Hills, Bena Medjuck said, "In his final months, Dad was worried about his unfinished tasks, things he had started or dreamed of starting, household projects, and future family celebrations that he would miss. We assured him that he prepared us well and that he is leaving things in good hands. We promised to take care of each other and keep his memory strong in our hearts and in our lives."

Frank is survived by wife Hedda (Mark), daughter Bena (Gustavo) Medjuck-Bruckner, New York City, and son Jacob (Shauna Nep), Los Angeles, four grandchildren, and two older brothers, Ralph (Shirlee), Halifax, and Harold (Helene), Toronto, plus many nieces, nephews and cousins. 5

NEWFOUNDLAND NEWS

Jewish Community Havura of Newfoundland and Labrador

BY NANCY BENNETT AND RUTH NOEL

Winter was kind to us this year with very little snow and only a few snowstorms in our part of the province. Hurricane force winds and a few days of freezing rain were our biggest problems weather-wise, though April brought a surprise 50 cm snowfall! This winter we continued with our services, including special child oriented services and outreach programmes to schools and other groups.

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE HIGHLIGHTS:

JEWISH-CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM DIALOGUE

The topic of the 11th annual Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue was: The Role of Religion in World Crises. The Havura invited Rabbi Ellis to be the speaker for this event. The Muslim speaker was Dr. Mahmoud Haddara, former Imam and President of the Muslim Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, who now resides in London, Ontario. The Christian speaker was Father Joe Mroz, SJ, Roman Catholic Chaplain at Memorial University. The Dialogue was well attended and although the speakers did not address the topic as directly as the organizers had hoped, the Q&A session was lively, timely, and informative.

RELIGIOUS SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE FOR NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Jonthan Richler is the Havura representative on this Committee that represents every religion in the Province. A number of candidates signed the Committee's anti-poverty pledge before the election. The Committee's meeting with the government prior to the release of the now very controversial budget was delayed by the surprise April snowstorm. They met with the Premier and his Finance Minister on May 4th, after what is being called an "austerity budget" was released. Jonathan is a popular talk show host on VOCM radio and told them to pay attention to what he and his callers are saying about the budget and how negatively it will affect those at the lowest income levels. He calls the budget's "temporary deficit reduction levy", nothing more than a head tax.

PURIM

Purim festivities started early with a hamataschen-making party hosted by Brenda and Marc Rishea.

Cream cheese, dairy free and vegan dough combined with date, prune, chocolate,

apricot, poppy seed, and other fillings to provide lots of choices. Adults and children alike had a wonderful couple of hours making these delights. Forty people, many in costume, attended the Purim party even though a bad flu forced a number of members to stay home.

Elizabeth Loder organized a Purim play for everyone to join in on. The children stamped out Haman's name and everyone sounded their noisemakers. The klezmer band played again and, as always, was a great hit. It's amazing how mesmerized the children were while watching the band. In addition to doing our regular Israeli/klezmer dances, Ruth Noel taught a new Israeli dance to the group. It is her plan to teach a few more dances sometime before Hanukah.

Once again we had wonderful falafel made by our master chef Carina Trasmundi which was served in pita bread with all the toppings. Salads, desserts and other dishes rounded out the delicious meal. All the children received a bag of treats and some adults exchanged mishloach manot.



Dialogue 2016 Speakers



Purim Party



Hamantaschen baking

PASSOVER

Nancy Bennett and Sid Wilansky worked with Belbin's Grocery to bring in a community Passover order shared between the Havura and the Synagogue. We have to order whole cartons so it makes ordering a bit tricky and we can't bring in a variety of things as, outside of matzos and matzo meal, there is not enough ordered to make up a case. We'll look into alternatives for next year.

Several of our members traveled to be with family for Passover. Several had Seders here and invited others to join them. Everyone was accommodated, including new arrivals.

NEWS AND NOTES

Mazel tov to Sofia Borok and Shavit Lupo on the birth of their daughter Ariel. Ariel's two brothers, Daniel and Michael, are excited have become big brothers. Kari Brown hosted a baby shower to welcome Ariel into our community.

Mazel tov to Nicholas Bendzsa on winning the Junior Rose Bowl in the vocal category at the Kiwanis Music Festival.

Mazel tov to Zanele Myles and Gil Shalev on their marriage. They are honeymooning in Israel.

This summer we will be celebrating our 10th Anniversary and a special year end party is being planned to mark this event.

Our Holocaust Memorial Service featured film scholar Noreen Golfman who introduced the famous Holocaust documentary, *Night and Fog*. Despite the confluence with Mother's Day, over 100 people came, including Lt. Gov. Frank Fagan and his wife. Noreen is Provost and Vice President (Academic) at Memorial University. The service was organized by Karen Lippold, Nancy Bennett, and Steve Wolinetz and moderated by Jonathan Richler. Paul Bendzsa arranged "Dos elnte kind" ("The Lonely Child"), a song written for all Jewish children who were forced into hiding by the war. Paul, on clarinet, was accompanied by Maria Cherwick on violin. 🎵

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



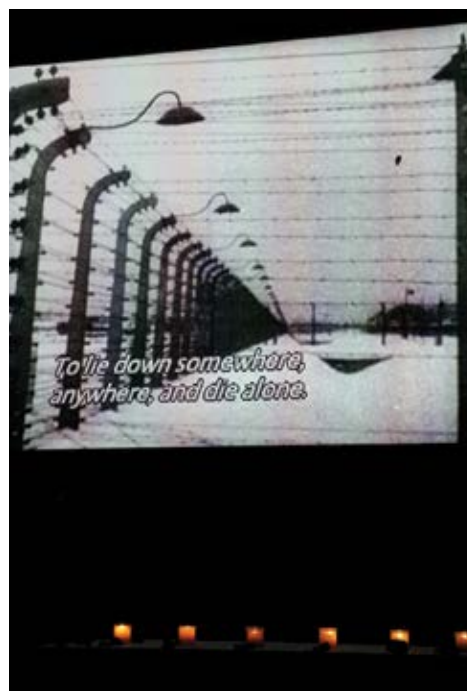
Maria Cherwick and Paul Bendzsa perform "The Lonely Child," from a poem written by Shmerka Kaczerginski in 1946, for all Jewish children forced into hiding by the war.



Speaker Noreen Golfman and moderator and Havura president Jonathan Richler after the May 8 Holocaust Memorial Service.



Jacob Siegel lights the third memorial candle to remember victims of the Holocaust, as Ruth Noel reads the names of relations of community members who perished.



The film *Night and Fog* stuns the audience as the memorial candles burn.

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PEI NEWS

Yom HaShoah in PEI

BY ROSALIE SIMEONE

Yom HaShoah activities in PEI were held in Studio Theatre One at the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown on Thursday, May 5, 2016. The programme began at 6:30 p.m. with approximately 50 people in attendance to listen to speaker Guido Smit and to participate in the remembrance activities.

Rosalie Simeone, president of the PEI Jewish Community/Yom HaShoah organizer welcomed everyone to the 17th annual observance of Yom HaShoah in PEI, which began with the singing of O Canada.

Included in the program was a reading of an original poem, "Dear My Child" by author Catherineanne Martin. Ms. Martin is an alumnus of the first PEI public school Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies program in 2008.

Our speaker, Guido Smit spoke eloquently about the work of people who, including his father Jan Smit, secretly worked with the Resistance Movement in Holland to save the lives of many Jewish Youth. It was this important work that resulted in saving the lives of at least 250 Jewish children.

Smit emphasized and explained the commitment of this extremely dangerous work by those who worked within the Resistance movement to save the lives of as many people as they could. He spoke briefly about the extreme level of trust and secrecy demanded of and by the Resisters that was necessary in this work. All workers knew that any leak in security could and would result in death at the hands of the Nazis and their sympathizers.

Smit's father has been recognized by Yad Vashem as one of the Righteous Among Nations for his work in saving lives.

Observing Yom HaShoah in PEI includes a period of active remembrance that provides audience members the opportunity to read aloud the name of a person, relative or stranger, who perished in the Holocaust, then placing the printed name on the provided

memorial table along with a marker stone. These actions by the attendees are part of a deeply moving and solemn part of the evening's program during which most attendees participate. Additionally, many audience members choose to wear a replica yellow star, which adds to their personal experience.

We are also pleased that Guido Smit had the opportunity to speak at the Emanuel Christian School. He was warmly welcomed there, and responded to many thoughtful and insightful questions by the 60 youth aged 9 to 15.

Thank you to the following organizations that make the annual Yom Hashoah Memorial Programme a reality: The Atlantic Jewish Council, Confederation Centre of the Arts, Kwik-Kopy Printing, the PEI Jewish Community, the Azrieli Foundation, and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany. ☺



Guido Smit, Speaker, and friend Nirda, light Yom haShoah Candles at the 17th annual Yom haShoah ceremony.

DEAR MY CHILD

Dear my child

Do you know how to dream?

If you have passion and desire, anything is possible
Reach for those dreams and don't have any limit yourself.

Did you know you can be anything?

Anything you want to be
You just have to believe you can and reach for the stars.

Do you believe?

Like in a brighter and better tomorrow?

A tomorrow that holds knowledge for future generations
Where they learn that love and acceptance is beautiful
And that everyone around them; are just like you and me.

Dear my Child

Did you know that you can make a difference?
The kind of difference that can one day change the world

First...

You must dream REALLY big
BELIEVE in a better and brighter tomorrow
And that one day, you CAN make a difference in the world
For your future, you hold in your hands.

*Catherineanne Martin
April, 2016*

MONCTON NEWS

BY NANCY COHEN

A beautiful community shabbat dinner that was held at the shul in March drew a large crowd. The delicious dinner featuring many traditional Shabbat favourites was prepared by Carole Rinzler and Ann Jochelman assisted by a team of volunteers. All funds from the dinner will be used to help our community's new families send their children to Camp Kadimah.

Purim was lively and noisy this year with many costumed children running around. Some were, of course, dressed in costumes inspired by the Purim story, but there were also costumes based on children's movies such as *Frozen* and *Despicable Me*. There was a cute little boy dressed as a Minion from the latter, which led to the inevitable joke that at least we had a minion this year.


There was also a Purim brunch and we had a great turnout for that event. There were a few tense moments and last minute runs to the store for those preparing the food, since people kept calling at the last minute to see if they could come. Happily, no one was turned away and everyone had enough to eat. After the brunch the children did a Purim spiel directed by Rebbitzin Yagod which told the story of the Megillah.

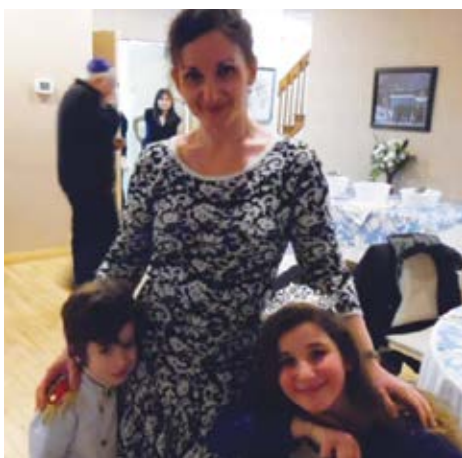
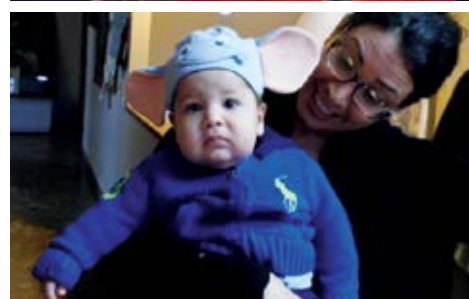
The brunch honoured Joan Mayer who passed away suddenly on January 5. Joan was a devoted member of Tiferes Israel, well known for her kindness, compassion and hard work. If food was needed for a Kid-dush or special event Joan could be found in the kitchen usually with her sidekick Goldie Johnston cooking and baking up a storm. This past Chanukkah she took a lead role in organizing and preparing the annual community Chanukkah dinner. She was also the Sisterhood treasurer.

On January 27 there was further sadness when Rhoda Gaum passed away. Rhoda had been ill for some time, but before her illness she had been an active member of Sisterhood and could always be counted on to help prepare for such events as dinners and bazaars.

On February 13 Lois Maklin, wife of Rubin Maklin and sister-in-law of Rhoda Gaum, passed away. A talented artist, Lois had at one time been very active in Sisterhood serving as president. She was a lifetime member of Hadassah and represented the Moncton Chapter at a Hadassah conference in Israel.

These three beautiful ladies are greatly missed. Our sincere condolences to their families.

The circle of life continues. Mazel-tov to Joan and John Sichel on the birth of their grandson Atlin Jonah. The happy parents are Ben Sichel and Katherine (Kat) Kitching. 



FREDERICTON NEWS

Spring is in the air!

BY AYTEN KRANAT, FREDERICTON REPRESENTATIVE

The Passover Seder was a huge success once again. I have many people to be thankful for. I cannot mention them all. However, there were a few that deserve special mention. Their names will be scattered throughout my report. This year's Seder was very successful. We used the buffet style for our Seder once again. Super idea! Ziv Iancou-Halevi is our master chef and wow she does a fantastic job. Eli Goldman came in and put the finishing touches on our meal. He is another great chef. Without these two people, there would be not have been a Seder meal like the one we had. Rabbi Goldman led the seder and he got everyone to participate. He did a super job with all of us – young and old. Knights of Columbus volunteer year after year to come serve at the seder. They leave the kitchen spotless. A great group of men! They do this out of the goodness of their hearts. They are our unsung heroes. Forty people came, participated and enjoyed the Seder. Our Seders continue to be a huge success with the members of the greater Fredericton community. We usually have a few guests from outside the community too and this year was no exception. We had visitors from Saint John. This was a pleasant evening for all who came and most of us went home a few pounds heavier. Now we all await the warmer temperatures and our next holiday of Shavuot.



The Lazarev Family at Shon Lazarev's Bar Mitzvah



REPORT FROM SHELLEY STEPHENS, SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT

Our annual Purim Carnival was held on March 23, 2016, sponsored by Sisterhood. Everybody enjoyed themselves with Perley The Magician providing the entertainment. He never ceases to amaze me, laughter could be heard throughout the Synagogue. Light refreshment was served with our special Hamantashen, baked with the children present and they got to take their goodies home. Songs were sung to create the joyous atmosphere while the children paraded in their costumes. I wish to thank all of our volunteers who contributed and the participants who graciously made this event possible.

Mazel Tov to Shon Lazarev on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah and to his parents Albina & Isaac and brothers, Yossie and Jonathon.

A speedy recovery to Lil Budovitch and Morton Cohen, Toronto, Ontario. 🌟



Purim Carnival

SAINT JOHN NEWS

One of the signs that spring has arrived in Saint John is the return of all our Snowbirds. We welcome everyone back from the sunny south.

BY SUSAN ISAACS LUBIN

One of the signs that spring has arrived in Saint John is the return of all our Snowbirds. We welcome everyone back from the sunny south.

Yom HaShoah was observed in Saint John with the Jewish Museum's annual open house for the general public. As always, there was a wonderful turnout for this meaningful event. Our speaker this year, Faigie Libman, was one of the best we have had. Memorial candles were lit in memory of those lost in the Holocaust. The Beatrice Cummings Mayer awards were given to students in the Holocaust study program in the city high schools.

We are once again planning our summer picnic at Meenan's Cove. Last year we had a wonderful turnout and great fun. We hope to repeat the experience this year.

Mazeltov to our Chess players. Two of our Saint John students made it to the Provincial tournament in Edmundston. Eldar Barnea represented Saint John very well by winning one of his games. Amit David placed second in the Province in his age group.

Mazeltov to Elad and Karen Shalom on the birth of their third child – Jacob. Daniel and Gaia are the proud older siblings. Mazeltov to Katya and Dimitry Dubnikov on the birth of Jonathon, a brother to Maya. Katya and Dimitry have also just bought a new home.

We wish Or David all the best. She will be attending Camp Kadimah as part of the staff. Mazeltov to Issie Davis who celebrated his 95th Birthday. Two of Issie's children came to visit him, and had a small party for him at his new residence in Shannex.

We want to wish Adam Washburn all the best as he continues in his music career. Adam is part of the Searchlight for the top 25 new artists in Canada.

Condolences to Jack Melech on the death of his father in Israel. Condolences also to Boaz on the death of his father.

Tu B'Shevat was celebrated with the construction of bird feeders and pictures. Purim brought a fun party, with wonderful costumes, great dancing, and delicious food.

Our thanks to Orly Melech and Hila Aharon for organizing these activities.

Jacqueline Meltzer, widow of the late Gar Meltzer, and a long time resident of Saint John, has moved to Montreal. She will be closer to some of her children. We wish Jackie all the best.

Mazel tov to Lee Cohen for receiving the John Peters Humphreys Humanitarian award. The award was presented in Hampton, N.B. (Where Mr. Humphreys was from) recently. Lee is a prominent lawyer in Halifax, who was born and grew up in Saint John, son of The Honourable Erminie Cohen, and the late Edgar Cohen.

Mazel tov to Kate Elman Wilcott, daughter of Dan Elman and the late Ann Elman, on being selected as the YWCA 2016 Woman of the Year Award for Arts, Culture, and Design. \$



Artist Herzl Kashetsky gives some tips to budding artists, while Cathy Tait looks on



Phil Bloom, Gabbai Rison, lights a candle



Dr. Joe Arditti lights a candle



Tu B'Shevat in the Acker Room



Eldar Barnea lights a candle representing our future



Audience at the Yom Hashach program



Katherine Biggs-Craft speaks to high school students in the Holocaust studies program

NEW EXHIBITS AND UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

BY KATHERINE BIGGS-CRAFT, CURATOR

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum is preparing for its upcoming summer season with a new exhibit – *Our Jewish Veterans: Remembering Those Who Served*. This exhibit is the culmination of two year's of research on more than sixty men and women from the Saint John Jewish community who served in the Canadian Army, Navy and Air Force and the Canadian Red Cross during the First and Second World Wars. The stories of each veteran have been compiled with material gleaned from family members, the Louis I. Michelson Archives of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, various internet resources and information from Library and Archives Canada with details of almost thirty men and women's military service. Visitors to the exhibit will be able to explore two binders of stories and photographs which tell these stories. Along the way, we have discovered than many of those who served were able to use their skills as clerks and quartermasters and as medical personnel, while others served on battlefields in Northern Europe, Italy and on the North Atlantic.

These stories are complemented with a display of war medals, badges from army and air force uniforms, diaries, scrapbooks, and uniforms, all loaned or donated by veterans and their families.

Other displays include : Immigration to Saint John, No Place Like Home, Pampdenec – The "Golden Days": 1920 to 1970, From the Cradle to the Grave, and Starting a New Life : Holocaust Survivors in New Brunswick. We also invite visitors to look at the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue and if they wish, to rest for a bit in this quiet place.

Guided tours will be provided by students who will be hired for the summer (some of them coming from the Jewish community) and by community members who share their own personal stories with those who visit. We are already fielding inquiries for prospective visitors, some of them already planning for the busy fall cruise ship season.

The Museum will open from May 9th to October 28th – encompassing the period from the first to the last cruise ships of the season. Any and all are welcome to visit. We would really like to see many of the readers of *Shalom!* visit the Museum over the next few months.

* * *

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum marked Yom Hashoah in early April with a keynote address by Mrs. Faigie Libman, who shared her very interesting story with a large crowd in the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue and with hundreds of high school students in four Saint John area high schools.

SEVERAL EVENTS ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGES.

The first of these will be the Fourth Annual Spring Variety Concert which will be held on Thursday, May 19th at Grace Presbyterian Church. This will be an evening of musical performances by musicians and vocalists from the Saint John areas. Many of our musical guests are seasoned performers, but we also welcome new young voices, many of them award winners from the annual Music Festivals. The programme includes solo performances by Van Burdon (cello), David Dow (clarinet), Claire Driscoll (piano), George English (boy soprano), Christopher Lane (baritone), Calvin McDonald (baritone), Luan Salmon (soprano), and group performances by the Harbour View High School Chorale, the Saint John Rotary Young Men's Ensemble and the Melos Trio. The Master of Ceremonies will be Robert Selby.

The entire proceeds will be used to further the activities of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum in the summer of 2016. Tickets for the evening are \$10.00 and can be purchased from Board members, the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum (633-1833 / sjjhm@nbnet.nb.ca) and the Imperial Theatre Box Office (674-4100/1-800-323-7469).

Planning is set to begin for our Third



Air force uniforms donated by veterans and their families for the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum's new exhibit – *Our Jewish Veterans: Remembering Those Who Served*.

Annual Saint John Jewish Film Festival which will take place from October 29th to November 3rd. We will be showing six Jewish films over the six evenings, the first an event for sponsors of the festival at the Mary Oland Theatre in the New Brunswick Museum, the remaining films to be shown in the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue. This has been a successful event and we look forward to encouraging more sponsors to support this event and for larger audiences to view the unique offerings. 5

“IF YOU HAVE HATE IN YOUR HEART, THERE IS NO ROOM FOR LOVE.”



Mrs. Faigie Libman

On April 11, we welcomed Holocaust survivor, Faigie Schmidt Libman as our keynote speaker for Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance). One of the few survivors of the ghetto outside Kaunas, Lithuania, Faigie shared her story of growing up as the child of a surgical nurse and the owner of an international bookstore. Her most prized childhood possession was the Shirley Temple doll she received on her 5th birthday from her aunt in New Rochelle, New York. It made her the envy of her friends and everyone wanted to play with her. The early days of the war did not touch them, although Polish Jews passed through their home on their way to safety. Everything changed in 1941 when the Nazis invaded Lithuania. Now the family had to wear the yellow Star of David and were soon relocated to a ghetto in a poor area on the outskirts of Kaunas. Faigie entered the ghetto with her parents, paternal grandparents and an aunt. Her doll came with her. Her mother's family, who lived in another town, were never heard from again.

Life in the ghetto was hard and they had to work. Faigie's mother was able to continue as a nurse and went with the men to work as she could provide limited medical care if injuries occurred. On October 28, 1941, the Jews were told to march to Democracy Square where they would receive more food. It was here, they met Nazi officer Helmut Rauca who stood on a mound in the square with a dog, a whip and a pair of white gloves. He gestured with the whip and gloves at the people who passed by him dividing families and friends. Faigie with her parents and grandmother were sent to the "good side", her grandfather and aunt were sent to the "bad side". The 10,500 people on the "bad side" were marched up the hill to the Ninth Fort where they were killed by machine gun and buried in prepared trenches. The event was known as "The Great Action". Faigie Libman never forgot this day – and as a result has never owned a pair of white gloves. In 1982, Helmut Rauca was arrested in Toronto, extradited to West Germany and died in jail while awaiting trial. His home in Toronto was only a few blocks from the Libman home.

In 1942, Faigie's mother received permission to take her daughter to work – when they returned at the end of the day they were greeted

by loud wailing – this was the day all of the children and elderly were taken away to Auschwitz. Only now did Faigie realize that things were very bad and in grief, she destroyed her precious doll. However, she still had her parents and life when on. In 1944, the ghetto was liquidated and they were taken by cattle car to Poland. The men were sent to Dachau and the women to Stutthof. This was the last time Faigie saw her father and she never had a chance to say goodbye. As they entered Stutthof, Faigie was warned by her mother "whatever I do, do not say a word". After they showered, Faigie was dressed as an adult and the officials were told she was "12 years old, going on thirteen" (she was really only ten years old). She was registered as a worker and she and her mother were at the front of the line for every work detail. She says "I was a terrific trench digger with a pick and shovel" and received double rations to reward her work. At one point, Faigie was in the infirmary with scarlet fever where she was saved by a German nurse who moved her from bed to bed so that the Nazi doctors who not find and kill her. The Schmidts dug trenches in three different labour camps before they were taken on a death march in January 1945. At the end of the march they were permitted to enter and sleep in a warm barracks and this is where they were when they were liberated by the Russians on January 21, 1945.

After the war ended many Jews travelled to Lodz, Poland to seek news of their families. This was where Faigie learned that her father had died in Dachau on January 9, 1945. This was the saddest day of her life. Her father had been her "very best friend".

Faigie and her mother waited for three years in a Displaced Persons camp in Austria before emigrating to Montreal in March of 1945. They had to be sponsored by family and it took three years for her uncle to get the support needed. Once in Montreal, Mrs. Schmidt had to return to school to retrain in nursing and graduated from the McGill Nursing School in 1952 and worked for another 26 years in the pediatric ward of the Jewish General Hospital. Faigie entered school in grade 7 under the name of Frances (there was a desire by her mother to have her integrate) and by the end of the school year she was able to read an English

poem and receive a standing ovation from her classmates. She went on to become an accountant and was then encouraged after volunteering with young children to train as a teacher. As a result she was a junior kindergarten teacher for more than 25 years – "four and five year olds are absolutely delicious." She married Benny Libman (who survived the Holocaust in Siberia) in 1954 and they had three sons and a daughter, and now there grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The family moved to Toronto in 1972 from Montreal after the October (FLQ) Crisis of 1970

Faigie Libman describes herself as an optimist and always believed that things would be okay and that someone would help. It would seem that this optimism carried her through the darkest period in history. She began to share her story after the arrest of Helmut Rauca with the encouragement of family and friends. She also shares her passion – to recognize the Righteous Among the Nations including the Japanese ambassador to Lithuania, Sugihara who issued visas, Sir Nicholas Winton who brought eight trainloads of Czechoslovakian children to England and Irena Sendler who rescued children and hid her records in jars buried in the garden.

A few years ago, someone who heard her, made a replica of the Shirley Temple doll which was lost so many years ago. At the end of each presentation, the doll comes out from her wrappings and is shown to the audience. Once again, the doll has become her most precious possession. This doll represents that there are many good people in the world who are willing to help.

Mrs. Libman shared her story with more than 150 people in the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue and visited four area high schools where she spoke to more than 1500 grade 10, 11 and 12 students. At one school, a teacher offered a tissue box to one student who was moved by the presentation – she shared the box with other students around her and the box was soon emptied. Mrs. Libman's story clearly moved the students who heard her.

We cannot thank you enough for your courage to tell us your story. ☺

CAPE BRETON NEWS

Our Big News of course is the Sydney Shul Anniversary 100!

BY SHARON JACOBSON

I have been receiving updates from the Sydney team that many Invitations have been mailed, information requests are coming in as well as registrations, and former residents are making plans with their families...

Ads have been placed in the Canadian Jewish News and the Jewish Independent, a paper in Vancouver; there is a Facebook page, people are putting the event on their own social media pages! Even CBC has reported the upcoming event! But, with all that, Jewish Communication, namely Word-of-Mouth has proved to provide the swiftest relay of Shmooz!

We must thank Jon Goldberg for an electronic mailing to his Atlantic Jewish Council list and assisting with the ads in the above mentioned Jewish papers.

Phil David was also a help with disseminating the info to Camp Kadimites!

Joel Jacobson is writing an article for the CJN. There is Nothing like networking...

And Alan and Stephen Nathanson are working diligently to navigate the event.

As I think about my move back to the Island, I note there is another category of Jewish affiliation besides being members of the established religious sects- you know, Orthodox, Conservative, Reformed, Reconstruction....

There is Cape Breton Jewish....it has a spirit and a rule book all its own!

Adapt and survive, a motto that has served well throughout our history. It just surprises me that people still care.

As we passed through the Red Sea again on Passover, I had a vision of Our Evy Leading us joyously with the ringing sounds of her tambourine! Moses would be exclaiming to Miriam, his sister, "she could have had my job!" as he cast his eyes upwards...

Another tale that reminded me of the connection of all Jewish congregations happened when visiting Paris. Stanley was looking for a synagogue in which to say Kaddish for his mother. We found one. We followed the service easily until the Rabbi directed a responsive reading on the facing page in their native language which was French. It was such a delightful revelation to note, that although Stanley and I did have a smattering of French learning in Canada, the language that bound us together with this congregation was the language of the siddur!

On that note, I am to remind anyone who wishes to sponsor a Kiddish to commemorate or celebrate someone or something, they are welcome to do so.

See you the end of July , perhaps... You must be related to someone in Sydney?! ☺

TEMPLE SONS OF ISRAEL'S *100th Anniversary* July 29 to 31, 2016

Fri. July 29 6 p.m. Meet & Greet
6:30 p.m. Shabbos Service
7 p.m. Shabbos Dinner
Sat. July 30 10 a.m. Shabbos Service
Kiddish Following
Sun. July 31 11 a.m. Brunch

To Register or for more information

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RABBIS CORNER

ELASTIC TIME

BY RABBI MENDEL FELDMAN
CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF THE MARITIMES

The current period of 'Sefirah' (counting the Omer) connects the festivals of Passover and Shavuot. We begin counting the days of the Omer on the second night of Pesach, the day of liberation from slavery and continue for forty-nine days, when we celebrate the festival of Receiving the Torah, marking the climax of the liberation.

The purpose of counting or measuring is to ascertain the exact number or measure of a quantity which is variable. A population census for example, is taken from time to time, since the population can either increase or decrease. Similarly, statistics are kempt of

various fluctuating phenomena. Were these phenomena stationary and unchangeable or uncontrollable, there would be no purpose in reviewing these statistics periodically.

Time is an element over which man has no control or influence. Time moves inevitably, we can neither slow its march, nor accelerate it, we cannot make an hour last more or less than sixty minutes. What can be the purpose or lesson of 'Sefirah' (counting the days of the Omer)?

Although time is unchangeable and beyond our control, this is only partially true. Time actually possesses vast potential for every individual to achieve great accomplishments. Time is like a 'vessel' which is extremely elastic, with an infinite absorptive capacity. Time has the power of expanding or contracting, depending upon how much or how little is put into this 'vessel'. We can fill

our time with unlimited content, or squander it completely. The true measure of time is not its quantity but what is achieved during that period.

It is true that we cannot alter the passage of time either stretching or contracting it yet counting the days of the Omer teaches that each unit of time – even a short period of time – offers us unlimited possibilities. Although human life is limited to a certain number of years, how we use our time and what may accomplished during these years are unlimited. 5

Based on the writings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe OBM



MY DAD AND 100,000 KM FOR KOSHER: A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE KOSHER WORLD

BY CHANIE YAGOD, THE RABBI'S YOUNGEST DAUGHTER

My dad is not just a congregational Rabbi. He is also a Kosher expert, has a Kashruth hotline, and drives many miles each year for his work in Kashruth.

As a fellow traveler, I am privileged and delighted to get to go along on his business trips because to we view this as an exciting adventure. We travel approximately 2 weeks a month on average, and get to see a number of interesting things along the way. On any given trip, my dad visits various food companies for products ranging from cold cereal to warm brewed beer, and inspects to make sure all the ingredients are kosher and that the factories are indeed using all the ingredients they say they are, and not cheating by sneaking in unkosher ingredients when no one is looking. After all, whether people are looking or not, an unkosher ingredient means an unkosher product.

Every so often, my brother and I get permission from the staff of a factory to go in and have a look around. We see all sorts of

interesting things about the process of production, including how the ingredients are carried over conveyor belts high in the air, the mixing of ingredients, and the way the food will sometimes shoot out of a machine spigot only to be whisked off to the packaging section of the plant. Sometimes we won't be permitted to view the production part of the factory because of a particular company's privacy policy or governmental regulations, and in that case, if the company says we can, we tend to tour the lobby, read signs and posters, and learn about the history of the company or the fascinating contributions of their employees.

Different Kashruth trips mean different locations of visiting and varying lengths of travel duration. Often, we stay at hotels for the overnight part of the trip, some Marriott, Holiday Inn or Comfort Suite or specialized chains such as the Alt Hotel-which has a splendid location alongside the Halifax Int'l Airport. Into the hotel we tote our luggage, a

modest supply of kosher food, Tefillin and books of Torah, schoolwork, business computers, and some foil pans and our own ladles for cooking. In the hotel we also explore the place, sometimes go swimming, learn Torah, read books, pray, my dad and I do work for our day jobs, I write homework for my college classes, my brother studies his High School work, and we do hobbies.

Yet, my dad lets nothing get in the way of his congregational duties and manages to calmly ride the tide of everyday priority-juggling. Wherever we go, we fill up the day with worthwhile activities and aim not to let it pass unfulfilled no matter where we happen to be that day.

All in a day's work. 5



DOCTOR TIDE AND MR. SPOT

BY RABBI AMRAM MACCABI, BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, HALIFAX

A famous eye doctor, Dr. Tide, came to visit a small village in a far-away land, where dwelled a patient named Mr. Spot. When it was Mr. Spot's turn to see the doctor, he suddenly complained: "Doctor, my wife is ugly. But let me explain: I am partially blind from birth. However inconvenient, it nevertheless did not stop me from accomplishing my goals. So when time came to marry, my parents fixed me up with the most beautiful girl in the village. We enjoyed our first year of marriage immensely, and despite my little sight disability I was still able to enjoy her beauty very much.

My problem started a year later, when my in-laws gave me as an anniversary present new glasses.

Ever since I have these new-state-of-the-art glasses, I understand that I was fooled. Although a good person and of course it's not her fault, but she is not pretty at all! she is just a weird looking woman".

Doctor Tide examined Mr. Spot and then asked him to hand him over the glasses and call in his wife who was waiting outside. When the couple re-entered, the doctor gave back Mr. Spot his glasses.

Mr. Spot put on his glasses and cried out excitedly: "Wow woman! You are gorgeous! Doc. what did you do to her?"

Doctor Tide replied calmly: "She is as beautiful as she always was. I just peeled off the wrapping paper from your glasses..."

A few months ago Gill, a persona from an Israeli television channel, called me to ask if I can spare him an hour for an interview. He explained that his staff is preparing a series about the Russians-Jews who made Aliya during the early 90's. They would like one of the chapters to focus on the lives of those who decided to leave Israel and move on to North America.

At one point during the interview I asked him: "Tel me Gill, out of all the North American cities, why did you choose Halifax?"

Gil's reply caught me by surprise. A pleasant one at that.

He reported that Halifax is one of the unique places, where such an ethnic group successfully managed to integrate with the local Jewish community"

The simple truth of what he said struck me.

Although being here for almost four years, my mindset is usually geared on thinking of what is yet to be accomplished; of the many more goals that have yet to be reached. I needed Gill, like Doctor Tide, to turn the spot light on the full picture rather than on the spots that are to be cleared. And from Gill, an outsider to this community, I came to realize that the full picture is indeed a much nicer one to view. Almost by every criteria that demonstrates whether any community is vibrant and/or welcoming – the Haliganian community comes shining through! We passed our collaboration test with flying colors! Whether an event that required volunteers to give in a hand (newcomers to veterans and vice versa), to any other assistant, till joining in as full members in the Shull, The newcomers are part and parcel of our community.

Of course this is only one example of the greatness of the Haligonian Jewish community. 'Greatness' or 'Failure' depends on the lenses you wear.

FORTUNATELY ENOUGH SEEING THE POSITIVE IN OUR COMMUNITY IS AN EASY TASK.

We are a Jewish community that can be proud of its origin and culture despite our small size. Just raise your eyes and see the non-proportionate effect our community has over the province: from sitting in important governmental positions, through filling in the ranks of the courts of justice. There are hospitals and universities that carry the Jewish names of their founders and many of our members work as educators and doctors, through numerous philanthropic organizations and activities – all that impact, and more, is far beyond our share in the Nova Scotian population.

I dare guess, that in almost every justice or compassion oriented activity taking place in the city, there will be members of our community involved. If a society is measured by the attribution of its minority, being a Haligonian-Jew should make you walk the streets with pride!

Despite some disagreements, we succeed in creating communal events while welcoming every Jew from either denomination, large scale or small scale, on a regular basis.

Our support to Israel is as strong as ever.



In the passing year Nova Scotia donated over three hundred thousand dollars to Israel through JNF. Most of our young visit Eretz while some even consider making Aliya. Many acts of Chessed, including support to the elderly, sick visitations and Tzedakah to the needy, are performed on a daily basis within the community.

Our children, who grew up here are becoming worldwide prominent personas. Many positively influence their circles and without any hesitation proudly refer to their Jewish-Haligonian heritage and roots.

Be proud of your community! it's easy!

If it's not, maybe consider changing your glasses... ☺

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IS WALKING IN G-D'S FOOTSTEPS POSSIBLE?! YES

BY RABBI YOSEF GOLDMAN, SG00LAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, FREDERICTON

In the Book of Leviticus, which we read during this time of year, there are more than a third of our commandments, and a majority of these can still be kept nowadays, even without having the Temple in Jerusalem. The main reason is, that the Mitzvot mentioned in this book, are ones we keep by treating our fellow human being in the proper way, according to the Torah. Parshat Kedoshim (read this year on Shabbat May 14th) has three very important commandments that should be kept only in the Holy Land, but our Rabbis extended some of these to include keeping (on a lower level of importance) also outside of Israel.

“VECHI TAVO’U EL HA’ARETZ UNTA’ATEM KOL ETZ MA’ACHAL” – “and when you come into the land, you shall plant fruit trees” (Leviticus 19:23). The Midrash says on this verse, that even though there is no commandment to plant fruit trees (meaning that it should not be counted as one of the 613), there is a commandment to do what G-d does (Deuteronomy 13:5). Since one of the first things that Hashem did was to plant trees, as it says: “And the Lord G-d planted a garden eastward, in Eden; and

there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord G-d to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food” (Genesis 2:8-9); it is very appropriate for us to do as Hashem did! The Talmud asks, how is it possible to be so close to G-d who is described as “Glory filling the entire universe”, “fire and thunder are His throne” and other awesome descriptions?

The answer is, that since G-d created us in ‘His’ likeness, it means that similar capabilities, character traits and responsibilities are instilled in us.

Why did G-d plant trees? And why should we have to do this? I think the answer is based on a story about one of our greatest sages. Choni Ha’megel (Choni the roofer, or the circle maker) was traveling once and saw an older man planting a Carob (Boxer) tree. He asked the man: “what are you doing”? The man answered: “I am planting a Carob tree”. Choni asked: “I can see that, but how long will it take for it to bear good juicy fruit”? The man answered: “close to 70 years”! Choni laughed. He said: “you look to be around 50 years old, do you really expect to live that long”? The man answered: “I came to this

world and found beautiful trees that my father, and his father before him planted; I am planting this tree so that my children and grandchildren may enjoy them”. The story continues on to another story where Choni fell asleep for the next seventy years, but that’s not my point. The message of this story is that just like this man was planting trees to benefit the next generations, so too, that is why Hashem planted trees, and created the whole universe, for the purpose of bestowing goodness and kindness unto the following generations.

This explains another thing about the creation process in general. G-d created everything in the world first, and only then “placed the man in the Garden (of Eden) to work it and guard it” (Genesis 2:15). Hashem decided that first everything will be made beautiful, and only then to create mankind to enjoy the harmonious and wonderful world. 🌳



YOU SHALL NOT HATE AN EGYPTIAN (OR A GERMAN)

BY RABBI DAVID ELLIS, AJC REGIONAL CHAPLAIN

“... you shall not hate an Egyptian, for you were a stranger in his land.

Deuteronomy 23:7

Your forefathers once found a home in his land and therefore shall you show yourselves grateful to the Egyptians, no matter into what unkindness they later transformed this hospitality, what later atrocities, what slavery, what hardships and disdain they later inflicted on them! The good shall you remember, the evil forget... Learn to forget the centuries of oppression and misery, of the inhuman scorn and the inhuman degradation which folly and lack of understanding brought upon you in your wandering... and remember gratefully the good that you found everywhere.

– Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, Frankfurt, late 19th century

(From remarks made at the Holocaust memorial at Bass River, Nova Scotia, 4 May 2016)

We Jews just put away our dishes from Passover. We come today to our memorial for the Holocaust.

Is there any transition, any connection between the two events? Perhaps.

We read in our Haggadahs about the slavery in Egypt, our prayers and the deliverance from the tyranny and sorrow there. One might think that, well, let’s get on, let’s forget it all.

But then a generation later, a commandment is given to the people--do not hate an Egyptian. You were a stranger in his land. After a short time period, his ancestry can even enter into your community.

But surely this is something of long ago. It cannot be talking about not hating the

Germans for the unprecedented scale of atrocities they caused!?!

No the lesson is the same.

Some of us remember when Jews would not travel to Germany, not even land at the airport, would not buy Volkswagens or other German cars.

Such was in my mind once in Cape Breton, when Marty Chernin was taking me around.

But, Marty, I said, this is a German car . . .

Rabbi, I was in Israel in the early and mid-50s. They were driving Volkswagens and all sorts of German cars. There was German engineering, German know-how everywhere.





TO THE EDITOR

The Jewish Community in Halifax Is Alive!

If it was good enough for Israel, it's good enough for me.

As usual, Marty Chernin had it right, with his lucid acumen and insight.

Yes, there were horrors and evils done of astounding proportions. That is what the Nuremberg Trials were, to bring those responsible to justice. There was an accounting the whole German people went through, as the philosopher Karl Jaspers noted in his *The Question of German Guilt*.

But should the Jews have an eternal hatred for the German people on account of the Holocaust and numerous events of previous centuries?

No, that would not be the Jewish way.

So even in the aftermath of the Holocaust, Volkswagens were driven in Tel Aviv. Jews would return to Germany and reclaim passports. The governments of Israel and Germany would have intensive and friendly relations, with disagreements as peoples always will have. Israelis ate in cafes in Berlin.

So that the late Ariel Sharon, certainly a stalwart in supporting the Jewish cause, would state unequivocally that Germany was the leading effort in Europe in uprooting and exposing anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism.

Germany is becoming a great world leader. They are ahead in green technology. Angela Merkel has been an outstanding European presence. She has taken Germany to the high ground on the refugee issue, while Canada, after some good initial talk, is now fumbling to take in sparse numbers.

The German Jewish community is being rebuilt. Rabbinical schools are reopened. A Jewish museum in Berlin rivals in quality any in the world.

The Balkans, eastern Europe, the Baltic states, parts of the Arab / Moslem world, have regions which have festered ethnic and nationalist hatreds for centuries.

There is no nation or group in the world for which a Jew should have an inveterate and eternal hatred, even among those who have harmed us. The record must be set straight, perpetrators of wrongs punished.

But from then on – we can live with even with those who have wronged us, in peace and productivity for a new world.

This is our lesson today from the Jewish tradition, as we move into new decades after the Holocaust. ☺

The Halifax area Young Professionals and Young Families have been getting involved in the local Jewish community over the last several months.

November saw an educational program, followed by a round table discussion that was attended by a representative sample from this section of the community. The discussion centred around small Jewish communities, and the Jewish values held by this particular demographic. Some of the values discussed were the importance of prayer and kosher food, celebrating holidays while raising Jewish children, and big picture issues of both local and international charitable work.

The community followed up in December by having a Hanukkah party at the Nova Scotia Archives art gallery; where the AJC was hosting a fascinating art display that detailed the Jewish communities of Scotland. Attendance was staggering, with almost 70 people in attendance, and really reinforced the desire for a strong and fulfilling community within the 20's to 40's age group.

Most recently, this group organized an afternoon hike at Victoria Park in Truro this March. It was wonderful to see so many people in attendance, as well as getting people out for some light exercise in the winter months. Nova Scotia has some beautiful parks and hiking trails that a lot of people are either unaware of or take for granted. Hot chocolate and snacks obviously followed the hike to warm everyone up inside.

There was something valuable to learn from all of this. These events were sponsored and supported by the AJC, but they were not organized by their professional staff. They were volunteer led. A community member saw a need that was not being filled and stepped forward out of passion to see our community survive. Community programming was conceptualized, planned, and put into action by a few volunteers.

It is easy for people to be cynical. Pointing a finger and trying to assign blame is easy; but it is not what we need, and not the way to change. Change requires leadership, and leaders lead from the front by example. Our

community is what we want to make of it. We may be small, but that is our advantage; we can organize ourselves and create change when we see a need.

The Jewish community in Halifax is not dead. It is changing and growing. The next generation is craving involvement and ready to be taken under the wing of our more established members, and become future community leaders. Leaders are not born running – they need to be recognized, taught, and given the opportunities to see our community continue into the next generation and beyond.

I want to make special mention to thank Arielle Branitsky for volunteering her time outside her role as the Atlantic Hillel Director in order to help organize and execute these programs. Our community is nothing without our volunteers and they deserve to be recognized often. Jon Goldberg has also given his unwavering support to these events so far as Executive Director of the AJC, and it has not gone unnoticed. Thank you. ☺

Craig Fox is a Halifax native, and a member of CIJA's Young Leaders Circle. Craig can be reached at craigfox@ns.sympatico.ca

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