

SHALOM! שלום



Fall 2011 Vol. 36 No.2

Tishre 5772

SHANA TOVA



TOM FORRESTALL
The Western Wall, Watercolour on Paper, 2010.

- TOM FORRESTALL IN ISRAEL: LIMITED EDITION PRINTS AVAILABLE
- SPECIAL FEATURE: CAMP KADIMAH
- NEWS FROM AROUND OUR REGION



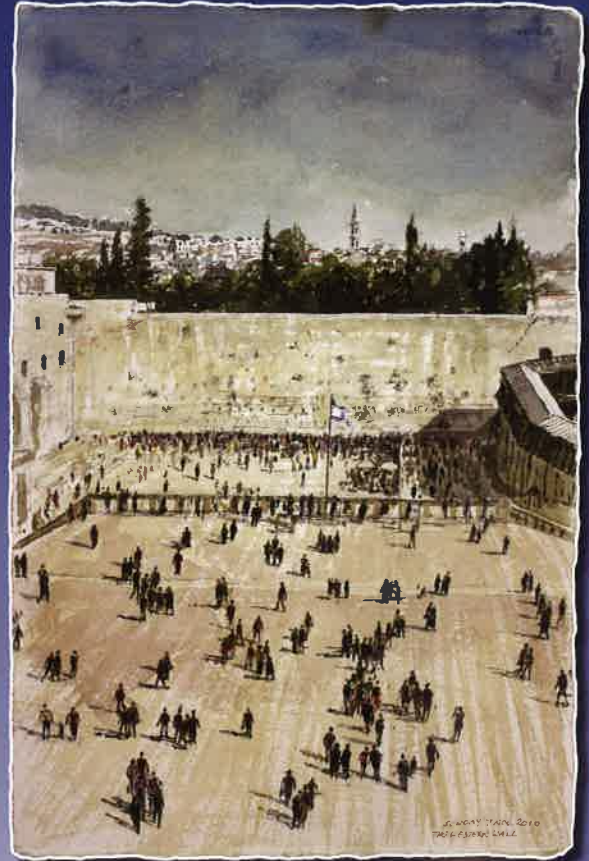
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*"The watercolours I did in Israel are, I feel, some of my finest efforts.
I was honoured and delighted for the opportunity to work and travel in this beautiful country."*

Tom Forrestall
Dartmouth, NS
March 2011

* as of printing date

To order: Please contact Jon Goldberg, executive director, Atlantic Jewish Council, jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca
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SHALOM! שלום!

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Cover artist Tom Forrestall

On October 28th, 2010 Tom Forrestall, accompanied by his son Frank, joined with 24 participants on an eight day AJC - UIA Ruach and Chevre 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. 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.

שלום!

President: Shulamith Medjuck

The Atlantic Jewish Council

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NOTE TO OUR READERS

Our Atlantic Jewish community is losing more and more members as the years go on.

In the past, Shalom has printed stories of regional community members who have passed away.

While we try to acknowledge the major contributions of many of our late friends and family members, we request that you inform Shalom of passings of which we may be unaware so we may recognize these individuals.

Shalom's editorial staff reserves the right to determine the length of memorial pieces to be printed in the magazine.

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

President's Message

by Shulamith Medjuck

As we near the Jewish High Holidays, we enter a time of the year to reflect on what we did over the past year, who we have become today and where we would like to be tomorrow. We not only pray for the well being of our families and our friends, asking God's blessing for those we hold dear, but also we focus on the well being of our entire community. In this time of personal reflection, we need to think of what defines our personal identity and ask ourselves what needs to be available to us to reinforce and strengthen our Jewish identity.

Atlantic Canada has traditionally shown strong support for Israel and that is part of who we are as Jews. In addition

to our support for Israel, however, we need to reflect on how we wish to live as Jews within our own Atlantic setting. We must ask ourselves not only who we are individually as Jews, but also what partnerships can we establish within our community to assure that our identities as Jews remain strong.

In the secular world we have a wide range of organizations and friendships that help form who we are. When we examine our identities as Jews we often have fewer positive re-enforcements for that identity. For example, what organizations, what friendships help add meaning to the celebration of Jewish holidays? There have been tremendous demographic changes since my sister, Sheva and I first came to Halifax. Given this, it is a time for all of us to look at the supports there are

in our community for being a Jew and ask ourselves what changes we require in our supporting organizations to make Judaism more meaningful to us. Given our changing demographics and the shifts that we have seen in our Jewish communities, there is no time for anyone concerned about the maintenance of Jewish identity to withdraw or hope that the evolution of the various Jewish organizations will simply occur. It is a critical time for all of us to work to shape new partnerships to ensure that we will remain a vibrant Jewish community as a whole, and that each of us as individuals will continue to grow as Jews.

I am hopeful that we will all find a way to work successfully through these changing times.

My sister, Sheva joins me in wishing all of you a year of health and happiness.



Shulamith Medjuck and Marty Chernin, Sydney admire one of Tom Forrestall's paintings.



Israeli Ambassador to Canada, Miriam Ziv, second from right, enjoyed Yom Haatzmaut with Sheva Medjuck, Shulamith Medjuck, Michael Pink and Victor Goldberg.



The National Board of Directors and Staff of Canadian Magen David Adom extend to our donors, families and friends a very healthy & happy

Shana Tova - 5772

*Let us pray for peace in our beloved Israel
- Am Y'Israel Chai*



Joseph Amzallag
National President

Arnold Rosner
National Executive Director

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From the Desk of Jon Goldberg, Executive Director

Here it is, the second week of September and the sun is shining on a busy Spring Garden Road with less than 3 weeks to Rosh Hashanah and the beginning of a new year. 5771 has flown by and I don't know where the days went. This past year has been most interesting and challenging for the Atlantic Jewish community. We are fortunate to have rabbis in Moncton, Fredericton, and our Rabbi Ellis who spends most of his time in Cape Breton. Rabbi Ellis together with Rabbi Yagod and Rabbi Goldman bring a halachic presence to the communities they serve. In Halifax, with Rabbi and Mrs. Sherbill, Rabbi and Mrs. Feldman, and Cantor Ari Isenberg, we can maintain our religious institutions, albeit with growing difficulty. As executive director of the AJC, the religious component plays a very important part in helping our organization promote Jewish continuity in Atlantic Canada.

In this New Year's edition of Shalom you will find articles and stories from different communities, which will outline some of the activities that take place around the region. One of the most important initiatives has been immigration. I am pleased to report that Fredericton, Moncton, and most recently, Saint John, New Brunswick, are involved in attempting to grow their Jewish populations. A few weeks ago I visited Prince Edward Island and met a number of newcomer families who are becoming part of the PEI Jewish community. Here in Halifax, we began our program in 2007. I am pleased to say that today there are 150 new individuals with 60 more expected before the end of the year, as a result of this initiative. That total of 210 will equal 14% of our entire Jewish population. Thirteen families have bought homes here in the Metro area with many

more planning to do so. Ninety five percent of the newcomers are working, with the others either studying or in training positions. As with the other provinces, this is strictly a community initiative and I want to congratulate all those who work to settle and integrate these newcomers, whether it be in New Brunswick, PEI, or Nova Scotia. I know in Halifax we have seen our Hebrew School registration double between the ages of 4 and 8 over the last 2 years. Camp Kadimah last year had 23 newcomer children attend and a number of them were top campers within their section. There is much more that can and must be done to grow our Jewish community here in the region. There is a considerable strain on our resources and those of us who are natives of our communities must be prepared to help absorb some of these costs in order that we can retain a solid Jewish presence in the towns and cities where our parents and grandparents built their lives.

So my friends, what will 5772 bring? I hope it brings health and happiness to all our readers, and peace to the Jewish people and to the world. However, in a more practical vein, there are clouds over Israel. Durban II, Palestine recognition at the UN, relations with Turkey, relations with Egypt, all of these and more will demand the utmost of our attention here at the AJC. Israel advocacy has become a paramount activity of our organization. With our community reps and our national organization CIJA (Center for Israel and Jewish Affairs), we must act and react on behalf of the Jewish state. Our relationship with our non-Jewish friends and neighbors becomes



more important as Israel is under more pressure from its enemies. My friends, we must stand together, and I look for your support, both to UJA campaign and your involvement where possible in your local communities, on behalf of Israel.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors, in particular our President Shulamith Medjuck and the management committee for their support and their efforts, on behalf of the AJC. To Howard Conter, regional chair of UJA of Atlantic Canada, and to Michael Pink and the other co-chairs of Camp Kadimah, a special yasher koach for your ongoing work and devotion. To all the staff here at the AJC, thank you for your efforts and support. A special thanks to Edna LeVine and Joel Jacobson for this wonderful edition of Shalom Magazine.

Shana Tova!

JEWISH TRIVIA

- In 1964, what law to eliminate one aspect of employment discrimination was passed in both Israel and the U.S?
- How many gates provide the entrances and exits to the walled Old City of Jerusalem?
- What Nazi war criminal was found in Buenos Aires living under the name Ricardo Klement?
- Which of one's relatives is a shviger?

Send your answers to:

atlanticjewishcouncil@theajc.ns.ca

The first person to answer all of the questions correctly wins a signed, by the artist, copy of the catalog Tom Forrestall: 35 Days in Israel!

Bridges for Peace Supports Israel

by Joel Jacobson

Love for Israel and support for a nation under a constant barrage of hate was the theme of a September 6 celebration at Beth Israel Synagogue in Halifax.

As more than 150 Jews and Christians gathered to support the aims of Bridges For Peace, praise was heaped upon Dr. John Howson, outgoing Canadian director, and welcome words spoken for newly-appointed national director Eric Malloy of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, who will move to the Winnipeg Canadian national office.

The Atlantic Jewish Council helped organize the event which was hosted by the international Jerusalem-based, Bible-believing Christian organization that supports Israel and builds relationships between Christians and Jews worldwide through education and practical deeds expressing God's love and mercy.

"It is our desire to see Christians and Jews working side by side for better understanding and a more secure Israel," said Rev. Rebecca Brimmer, president and



Jon Goldberg speaks with Rev. Gary Boyd, Pastor of Good Shepherd Congregation in Laurencetown, NS after a Bridges for Peace reception in Halifax.

CEO of Bridges For Peace International, a 20-year resident of Israel who was in Halifax for the event. "We know Israel is under constant attack by the Arab world and others and it is our aim to educate people about the legacy

God left for Israel in the Bible and His desire for a homeland for the Jewish people."

Founded in 1976, Bridges for Peace seeks to be a ministry of hope and reconciliation. Through programs both in Israel and worldwide, it gives Christians the opportunity to actively express their biblical responsibility before God to be faithful to Israel and the Jewish community.

Brimmer stressed Christians have been silent for too long and allowed the Jewish community to fight its battles alone.

"Christian individuals and congregations must speak up for the people who gave us the Bible."

Rev Cheryl Hauer, BFP International Development Director, stressed the importance of all Christians showing their support for Israel by adhering to passages from the Old Testament in which God pledged land to Israel for all time.

Jon Goldberg, AJC executive director welcomed the assembly and AJC president Shulamith Medjuck brought remarks. Beth Israel Synagogue rabbi Ari Sherbill also spoke, along with Christian ministers Gary Boyd and Ted Yuke.



Shulamith Medjuck, AJC president, congratulates Eric Malloy on his new appointment as National Director of Bridges for Peace Canada.

From the Desk of

Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement

It is always an honour when Holocaust survivors are in the audience during a Yom Hashoah ceremony and this year in several communities in the Atlantic Provinces we were privileged to have them among us. At a conference I attended with professionals who work with Holocaust survivors, the information I found most fascinating came from the clinical psychologists who work with Holocaust survivors and their finding that the condition we label now as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder does not necessarily occur directly or shortly after the traumatic event, it can occur 50 or 60 years later. The people most affected by this condition are those survivors who were very young during the Holocaust, because as we age, the memories which return to us, by no choice of our own, are those of our childhood, and for many Holocaust child survivors the only childhood memories they have are those of the Holocaust. It is known that our experiences do not necessarily determine who we are but they shape

us, however, there is an awareness, that how we age is determined by the life we led, and that is why, as time goes by, it is always an honour to hear first hand survivor testimony.

This fall the AJC will co-sponsor Holocaust Education Week programs in Halifax and in other communities in the Atlantic Provinces, please check our website for information regarding upcoming programs in the Atlantic region.



Edna LeVine, Norman Hamburg, Mila Voihanski, Dan Elman and Lorne Daltrop after a meeting with the settlement workers at the Multicultural and Newcomers Resource Centre in Saint John.

JIAS, Canada. The theme that was selected for the Shabbaton, "Being Jewish in the Diaspora", was reflected in the animated discussion facilitated by Ella Itzhakov, and more information on the outcome of this lively event is featured on the next couple of pages.

This summer Mila Voihanski once again visited Halifax assisting to facilitate the settlement of new families by developing new partnerships and expanding the range of local services for the newcomer

families. We also travelled to Saint John where we were warmly greeted by over twenty community volunteers, who are working diligently to increase the population of their Jewish community. Their enthusiasm was contagious as they presented a detailed settlement plan. Their commitment to genuinely welcome the newcomer families to their community was evident as was an openness of appreciation for the services JIAS can provide. An update on their immigration project can be found in the Saint John News section.

Planning for International Human Rights Day is underway and this year I continue my work with Partners for Human Rights to organize the December 9th celebration which will be held this year at Park West School in Halifax.



We held a special evening meeting with the employment counselors at ISIS during Mila Voihanski's visit to Halifax.

Halifax welcomed 13 new families during the spring and summer and many had the opportunity to meet each other and participate in information sessions and attend the Newcomers Family Shabbaton at Camp Kadimah. The Shabbaton was made possible by a grant from the JIAS Canada Sophie & Stephan Lewar Fund for new immigrant programs. Beginning in February, I worked with the newcomers planning committee, Irina Epelbeyn, Margarita Fainshtein, Isaac Moscovich, Nana Shteinberg and Slava Svidler to organize this event in consultation with Mila Voihanski, executive director,



Shabbaton committee members Slava Svidler, Margarita Fainshtein & Edna LeVine after the shabbaton wrap-up discussion.

Our First Shabbaton

by Ella Itzhakov

There are many newcomers to Halifax. I personally hear about new families, however, I am not familiar with all of them. The Shabbaton became a uniting event where people had a unique opportunity to get together, to socialize with newcomer families and make new friends. It's the first event of this kind, which ended up as a big success.



*Teen counselors wearing specially-designed T-shirts
by Margarita Fainshtein*

On Friday afternoon I arrived with my family to Camp Kadimah. I was amazed to see this beautiful place, it was beyond my expectations. By 7:30 p.m. all twenty six families, including adults and kids were waiting for Rabbi Sherbill to start the Kabbalat Shabbat service. The Rabbi was great as always, he was praying, singing and playing on his guitar. Both kids and parents were fascinated by his singing. We felt a sense of belonging, and a strong sense of identity. I remember how proud and happy I felt to be part of this experience. We really felt united and together for the first time ever since our arrival to Canada. After having dinner, the kids were playing together, while adults were socializing. It was so much fun for me to talk to new people and to share different, positive experiences.

On Saturday we woke up to a beautiful sunny morning. The lake looked so peaceful and calm, it was really hard to believe that hurricane Irene was on its way. We started our morning with some

yoga, and then we had a healthy breakfast. After that we all participated in a Jewish Trivia game which was played in Hebrew. Isaac and Slava were asking questions and we had to answer them as we ate our breakfast! It was a perfect way to start our day.

After breakfast we had a tour of Camp Kadimah with Josh. All of the participants were amazed by the beauty of the camp and by its spectacular views.

Then we had some free family time. Some people enjoyed swimming in the warm lake, some did canoeing and some went on the pedal boats. Others were playing tennis with their old and new friends. All of us enjoyed taking pictures.

At 4 p.m. we had a discussion session on the Pavilion, while kids enjoyed arts and crafts activities at the RCC. We really

wanted to investigate a very big question, "What it means to be Jewish in the Diaspora?" People were given a situation where a father who had four sons died and in his will he left all his money the one son who was the most Jewish. The participants worked in four groups; each group was discussing and defending a different son. Then each group presented their evidence in front of three judges. Rabbi Ari, Edna and Slava Svidler were our judges. Although it was really hard to make a final decision, Rabbi Sherbill explained that it's never black and white.

The son who was chosen contributed the most to many aspects of Jewish life. As a facilitator of this discussion, I observed each group and when necessary I provided information and answered questions. It was a uniting experience; people felt that they belonged here. This was a



*Ella Itzhakov, centre,
consulting with participants.*

unique opportunity for us to be together and discuss how we can contribute and make a difference in the Jewish community we live in. We are Jewish people who live in the Diaspora and we were very fortunate to participate in a Shabbaton for newcomer families.

In the evening all of the newcomers participated in Havdalah with Rabbi Sherbill. It was so nice to see young kids dancing to the Rabbi's singing and adults all singing together.

After supper we enjoyed a bonfire, all of us felt connected and united. Kids as well as adults enjoyed eating roasted marshmallows and all of us felt happy and relaxed.

We left the camp with an amazing feeling. We were proud of being Jewish, happy to realize what it truly means to be Jewish in Diaspora. This Shabbaton was a proof of that. It was our first experience and ended up as a big success story. We truly hope to have more events like this in the future with other community members so we can feel part of our Jewish community, and help us raise our kids with Jewish values in the Diaspora.



Group discussing what it means to be Jewish.

Irene Can't Put Damper on Shabbaton

by Joel Jacobson

Irene wasn't invited but nevertheless had a slight effect on the first Shabbaton for newcomer Jewish Canadians the Atlantic region.

Twenty-six families, totalling 103 people including infants, assembled at Camp Kadimah Friday afternoon (August 26) for the weekend festivities of Shabbat celebration, religious services, discussion groups and good eats. By Sunday morning, a mere handful enjoyed breakfast, the remainder taking a quick exodus Saturday after Havdalah because of the threat of a hurricane that ravaged the Eastern United States and was rumoured to be on its way to Lake William.

Irene basically stayed away but for a few showers and higher-than-normal winds.

What did arrive at Camp Kadimah that weekend, though, was a genuine feeling of warmth, camaraderie, sincerity, a strong sense of Judaism and a desire to return for another, numerically- expanded Shabbaton next year.

"It was a unique opportunity to socialize with other newcomer families," said Ella Itzhakov of Halifax, who arrived in Halifax two years ago with her family. "There were many families we hadn't met before and we were happy to see new faces."

She said it was gratifying the newcomers could feel part of a community, that they could be together and not alone.

Nana Shteinberg of Dartmouth, almost three years in the Halifax area, was thrilled



Tatiana Svidler and Nana Shteinberg pick blackberries during camp tour.

to have Beth Israel Synagogue Rabbi Ari Sherbill attending. "He made the Shabbat spirit. You could feel the atmosphere of Shabbat when he played his guitar and sang (during pre-Shabbat service) and then he stayed and participated in the Saturday events, too."

The rabbi smiled. "I wanted to be part of this endeavour, to invigorate them to be part of the community. I already knew most of the people. In fact, they are good friends."

One discussion session investigated the question, "What it means to be Jewish in the Diaspora?" Rabbi Sherbill told those attending that it is not black and white. There are many ways of being Jewish, probably more than the 613 mitzvot.

While he didn't expect large numbers at service because "it is not part of their culture (as Russian emigrants to Israel and now Israelis coming to Halifax), Friday night's service was full and Saturday night for Havdalah, it was full."



The Gimelshteins, Fredericton, prepare to kayak during the Shabbaton.

He stressed he saw lots of "positive energy. People were just happy to be part of a community and acknowledged the power of togetherness rather than individuals trying to make it on their own."

Ella added, "This event reminded us we're Jewish. When we talked about what it meant to be a Jewish person, we discussed how we all have values, that Jews help each other around the world."

She continued, "When I first came to Halifax, I went to Friday night services quite often. Then I got a job and couldn't keep going. Now that I've seen the Rabbi play the guitar and sing, I truly want to go back. I could certainly see my children were interested and wanted to hear him sing and tell stories."

Nana, who was on the organizing committee, said the weekend went as she had hoped. "It was a good learning experience for everyone."



The last holdouts stayed at camp despite the threat of Hurricane Irene that caused many attendees to leave several hours early.



Adi Glizman and Elinor Itzhakov, Halifax, show their creative artwork.

Jared Goldlust: First Year as Camp Director

by Joel Jacobson

Spending a few hours at idyllic Camp Kadimah in Nova Scotia evoked words of praise from Israel's Ambassador to Canada, Miriam Ziv, Nova Scotia premier, Darrell Dexter, and Halifax member of Parliament, Geoff Regan.

"I'm very impressed – by the size of the camp, the fact that children are here from the Atlantic Provinces, Ontario and Israel, and by the happy atmosphere of everyone," said Her Excellency. "I'm so impressed that the Atlantic Jewish Council does so much in such a small community."

The camp guests watched the final march past of Maccabia, the annual team competition that ties in athletics, drama, song, dance and other camp activities.

Dexter remarked about the spirit of the campers and staff at Kadimah, celebrating its 67th year. "I grew up a short distance from here and had many joyous summers on lakes in this region. It's a magnificent setting.



Regan was accompanied by Benjamin Bugar, a student summer intern in his Halifax office. "While I could see the fun everyone was having, I was most impressed that Ben, a camper and staff member at Kadimah for nine years, was treated like a rock star when we arrived. Everyone knew him."

This was Ziv's third trip to the Halifax region since her term as ambassador started a year ago. She met with Premier Dexter on business issues last November and attended Yom Haatzmaut celebrations in May.

At Kadimah, she met with several campers and staff from the north of Israel. "This is a wonderful way to expose them to Jews in the diaspora. I had a wonderful discussion with them, talking about peace and democracy. Most of them didn't know what an ambassador was or what I do and they were very curious."

She said they expressed their joy at being at Kadimah. "They appreciate what the Atlantic Jewish Council has done in bringing them here. They feel very much part of the camp, certainly not separate."

She noted she has travelled across the country, meeting Jews coast to coast. "It's easy for the ambassador to be absorbed in Ottawa but there's a big country outside. The consuls general (in Montreal and Toronto) visit the regions but the ambassador is supposed to be there for all of Canada. I want to reach out to the provinces and encourage them to work with Israel. There is so much the provinces can do, in addition to what the federal government does with Israel."

Premier Dexter, Ambassador Ziv & Other Dignitaries Impressed with Kadimah

by Joel Jacobson

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Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter, Kadimah co-chair Jim Spatz and Ambassador Miriam Ziv relish their camp experience.

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From the Desk of Jared Goldlust, Director of Camp Kadimah

Camp Kadimah 2011 has just come to a close and what an incredible summer it was in Barss Corner! There are a tremendous number of memories that are worth sharing from the summer, however this article will be limited to just a few of the highlights from 2011.

Of the several successes from the summer, perhaps the most exciting is the fact that we had more Atlantic Canadians at camp this summer than we have had in a number of years. A total of sixty Atlantic Canadians joined us for our full summer program! In addition, we had 6 kids come to camp for our new "Taste of Kadimah" program where new campers aged 7-9 came to experience camp for 1-2 weeks. And finally for the fourth year in a row, we ran our Pre-Gibbie Day Program, where over twenty kids from the region got to experience camp for the day.

This summer, we were fortunate to once again have a strong contingent from Israel join us at camp. Through the generous

support of private donations and P2K, sixteen young Israelis from the North of Israel (Upper Galilee) came to Kadimah. They had an amazing impact on camp, bringing in modern Israeli culture and creating strong friendships with their North American peers.

Every section in camp had the opportunity to go on a camping trip to beautiful camping grounds in Nova Scotia. Our youngest sections (Giborim and Goshrim) both went to Rissers Beach Provincial Park. Kochot and Machar were able to enjoy great trips to Kejimikujik National Park and Blomidon Provincial Park respectively.

The CITs (Counselors in Training) had a fantastic summer developing close relationships with each other and having



Israeli dancing was part of a Shabbat service.

a significant impact across camp. This included getting hands on experience in a program specialty and in camper cabins. The highlight of their program was a trip around the Maritimes which saw the CIT's join together with the PEI Jewish Community for a lovely barbecue at the home of Joel Palter and Rachel Kassner.

Visitors Day which was held on the long weekend, was a resounding success much thanks to beautiful weather and a revived Visitors Day show. Members of the Kadimah family from far and wide reconnected with each other and of course their little loved ones for the day. We invite you to attend our Visitors Day next summer on July 22, 2012!

Campers and staff were treated to some very special visitors on the last day of Maccabiah including the Ambassador from Israel and the Premier of Nova Scotia. To hear more about the guests and their visit to camp please read the article in this issue of Shalom.

On the program front, Kadimah specialists



Campers have a dancing experiencing during Pre-Gibbie Day.

continued on page 10



March Past during Macabiah.

continued from page 9

helped develop the skills of many campers in the myriad of activities available at camp. From waterskiing to melyad (arts and crafts) and everything in between, campers were able to get a taste of everything however also were able to really focus on the specialty/activity they love the most. Summer 2011 will also be known for a summer where archery, tetherball and ping-pong all became the thing to do at camp. The popular traditional camp programs including Maccabia (colour war), hockey marathon, world cup soccer, Haganah night and so much more were enjoyed by all. There were two excellent play productions this summer; Annie by the Machar section and the Wizard of Oz by the CIT section. Our informal Jewish and Zionist programming continued to be strong this summer, with a few fun additions to the Shabbat experience at camp to go along with our spirited dancing and singing at our famous Onegs.

There is much more camp fun to tell you about but just not enough space. You will have to go read more about the summer

and see the great pictures and videos on our website (www.campkadimah.com). Alumni, please be sure to register on our new and improved site so you can access alumni specific information on your own account.

With the end of one summer means the beginning of a new year of continuing the special camp bonds, and welcoming more young kids into the Kadimah family. There are many ways your child, grandchild or even you can participate! Besides the year round programming, there are several opportunities to join us for one of our many summer programs next summer. Shortly after Rosh Hashana, for the many returnees and "Gibbies from birth", applications will be available online!

If you are new to Kadimah or know



Tom Forrestall paints a quiet Kadimah scene.

of someone who may be interested in the summer of their lives, a Kadimah staff will happily speak with you and tell you all about Camp. So whether it is our one day Pre-Gibbie Day program, a Taste of Kadimah, a longer "intro session" or our full six week program, Kadimah has something for you. Please email me directly at jared@campkadimah.com or call at 1866-KADIMAH (523-4624).

I would like to say a big thank you for a fantastic year at Kadimah and look forward to a sweet and happy 5772! Shana Tova U'metuka to you and your family!



Happy faces signify good times at Kadimah.

Wines from Israel for the High Holidays

Yarden brand Kosher Israeli wine is again available in Metro Halifax for the High Holidays. The Yarden 2009 Mount Hermon Red (\$19.42) and the Yarden 2010 Mount Hermon White (\$19.36) are now regular core products at 4 NSLC outlets in Metro:

- Port of Wines, corner Queen and Doyle streets in Halifax
- NSLC Bay's Lake, 214 Chain Lake Rd in Halifax
- NSLC Mill Cove, in the mall at 955 Bedford Hwy by Hammonds Plain Rd, Bedford
- NSLC Portland St, 650 Portland St, Dartmouth

The Red and White are both quality wines at popular prices. They add to the enjoyment of both traditional and modern High Holiday dishes. They are also permanently available from the same outlets for year round enjoyment, including family dinners, social times and gift giving.

Rosalind and Philip Belitsky, sommeliers, 902-429-0767

On May 20th, 2011 Melissa Beth Jones graduated from DREXEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE of MEDICINE in Philadelphia, PA. She won "The Winifred B. Stewart Memorial Award for Excellence in Psychiatry". Currently she is doing her Residency at "The University of Illinois" in Chicago and hopes to specialize in PSYCHIATRY. Melissa is an alumni of Camp Kadimah (as is her sister Barbara). She & her sister were Bat Mitzvad at Temple Beth El in Allentown, PA. She is the daughter of Dr. Stuart A. Jones and Susan Goldberg Jones. Her family wish her much "nachus" and happiness in years to follow.



Newcomers fit in Easily at Kadimah

by Joel Jacobson

When August 14 saw the probably end to 13-year careers as campers and staff members at Camp Kadimah, Brian Waltman and Meika Lewis, Rosh Machar and Assistant Rosh Machar respectively will have lots of fond memories of the camp they have enjoyed.

One of the great memories, coming from the 2011 season, is the way newcomers to Atlantic Canadian Jewish communities have integrated so well into camp life.

There were 23 children from newcomer families – families who emigrated from Israel (almost all via Russia) in the last three years and made new homes in Halifax, Dartmouth, Moncton and Fredericton.

Four of the 13-14 year olds were in the Machar program and one in the counsellor in training section.

As one, they expressed, in very fluent English, their enjoyment of Kadimah, the opportunity to make new friends, improve their already strong English skills, and even help several campers from northern Israel with their language skills so they, too, could better integrate in camp programming.

Being in your first or second year of summer camp can be daunting when your bunkmates have pre-established friends.

The handful of newcomers interviewed for this article will all admit their first days at Kadimah were challenging.

Peter Svidler, 15, Halifax, was told about Kadimah by other newcomer families who've settled in Halifax in the last two years.

"I thought I'd try it, even though I knew everyone else had their friends and knew each other so well. I was homesick at first but grew out of it. I've found, as I was told, the best part of Kadimah is community."

Waltman, a Toronto-raised graduate of University of Western Ontario, had 92 campers in his section.

"The newcomers, who speak Russian and Hebrew, are totally fluent in English, too, bringing a new perspective to our group. Most of the kids at Kadimah are from Ontario with a similar cultural background, so when you add in the newcomers, I've found they integrate well and certainly learn from each other."

He said Peter had a hilarious role in the camp production of Annie, "He played it well. With his infectious personality, he was himself."

Artur Brunets, 14, of Halifax, a two-year veteran of camp, was the go-between for many of the newbies. "He helped them integrate," said Brian. "When I look at each of these kids now, they're equal contributors to the programming and spirit of our section (which makes up about 40 per cent of the camp). I see leadership qualities in each of the newcomers that will make them excellent candidates for the CIT program, and eventually, counsellors."

Artur was in a lower age section last year. As camp entered its final few days of 2011, he noted a major difference in Machar. "This is much more serious," he said. "For example, Tisha B'Av had a strong program about how hard it was for Jews in older times."

There was plenty of time for fun, too. Artur was excited about the one-day, 16 hour (ground) hockey marathon. "It was something we didn't have time to play every day with all the other programming, but this was a really fun day."

He also welcomed the three-day, two-night canoe and camping trip that took several campers

about 100 km from Kadimah. He talked about it constantly, Brian said.

Meika Lewis of Fort Lauderdale, FL, and recent graduate of University of Pennsylvania, said Meri Liberman, 13, Dartmouth N.S., was a third-year camper who arrived a week late this year because of planned dental work that was cancelled at the last minute.

"The same day she arrived, she was part of a cohesive group," Meika said. "She became part of Machar Glee singing group that performed at several events, and was in the Annie chorus. As the only female camper in Machar, she bonded with children from northern Israel who were attending Kadimah for the first time. They were excited that someone could speak with them (in Hebrew) and also teach them English."

In very fluent English, Meri said there was no way she could stay home "and be bored after the dental work was cancelled. I told my Mum I had to go (to camp)."

Igal Tichonov, 13, Fredericton, N.B., moved up an age group in 2011 and liked being with friends from across the country again. "Plus we get to stay up later," he smiled.

A sports buff who plays everything,

continued on page 12



Newcomers to Atlantic Canada enjoyed their time at Camp Kadimah in the Machar and CIT programs.

Igal Tichonov, Fredericton; Artur Brunets, Halifax; Meri Liberman, Dartmouth; Emil Safronchik, Moncton (CIT); and Peter Svidler, Halifax.

CAMP KADIMAH

continued from page 11

including minor hockey at home, Igal said he heard of the hockey marathon on his first day last year and couldn't wait for it to start. This year was the same.

Emil Safronchik, 15, Moncton, was in the counsellor-in-training program. He was experiencing Kadimah for the first time.

"My English wasn't so good when we came to Moncton but I've learned quickly," he said. "I knew there were Russian-Israelis here and could speak to them in either language so I do that, plus I speak English to the Canadians, of course."

He hoped to remain in touch with friends when camp closed down August 14,

particularly the young people from Israel. "I'm not sure if we'll meet again."

Asked if he'll return as a counsellor, he grins. "I do. I wasn't sure for the first couple of days but now I am. Being here certainly makes me feel more Jewish. Everyone here is the same."

PARTNERSHIP2GETHER

by Karen Conter, Chair

As Rosh Hashanah quickly approaches with a new year with new beginnings, so too does UIA's CTC Partnership 2000. We begin the year with a new name, Partnership2Gether and hopefully with this, a renewed energy. Our partnership is involved in a number of initiatives in the Galilee focusing on education, special needs, leadership and living bridge.

We were pleased once again this year to host six Israeli CIT's from Israel's Galilee at Camp Kadimah as part of our Geisher Chai involvement with Partnership. These bright, enthusiastic teenagers brought with them a love of Israel and her people that was contagious throughout the camp. Lifelong friendships were made and an unforgettable summer was enjoyed by all.

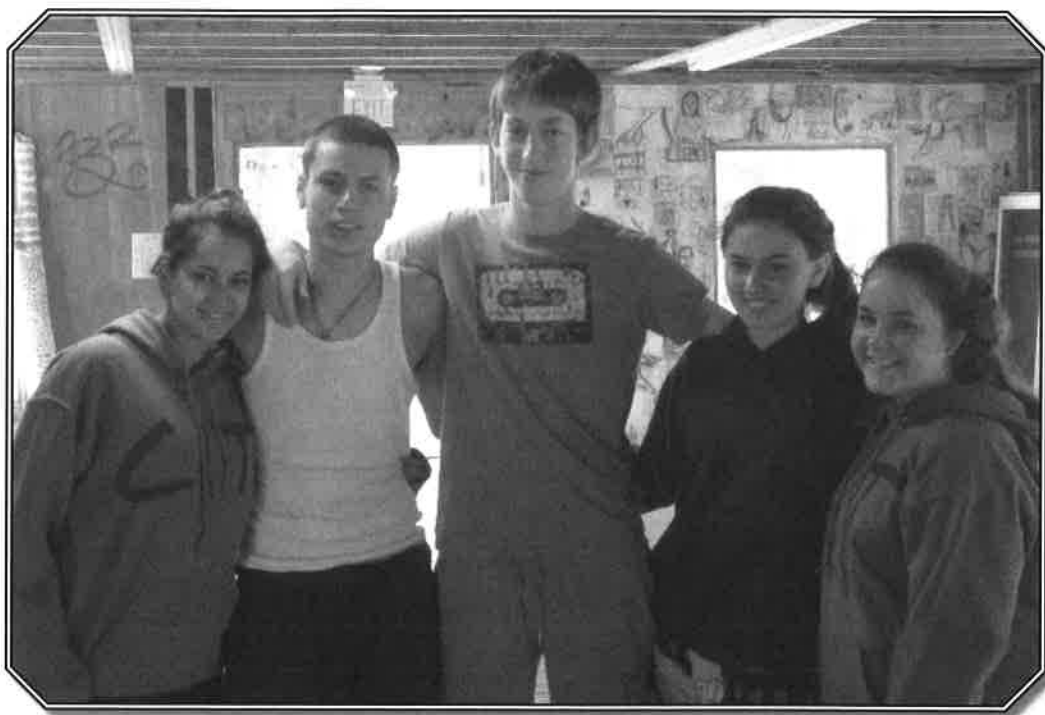
We continue to support numerous projects in the north of Israel. Our three most exciting new projects deal with youth at risk, leadership development and health. The first is our Centre for Young Adults which provides the opportunity for youth at risk to truly develop all of their potential. The centre helps in all areas: academic, psychological and leadership development. Our second project is Kav Hazinuk, or "Starting Line". This is a pure leadership program as top students from our five Partnership communities are recognized and challenged to be our future leaders in the north. These students are followed throughout their high school years and

must engage in community work as they develop their leadership skills. The plan of the program is to follow these students throughout their army service and help, eventually, to provide them with scholarships to study at Tel Hai University. Our third new project is associated with the new medical school that will begin this fall in the north of Israel. It is our hope that this medical school will attract not only excellent physicians, but also top notch researchers and develop a strong climate of knowledge, biotechnology and bioengineering in Israel's north.

Schechafim School for children with special needs, Alie Giva School, our elementary school at Kfar Giladi and Mevo Hagalil School which offers classes for autistic

children are also projects that we continue to support with your help. These are vital programs in our northern region which truly depend on our partnership.

Your support of Partnership comes by way of gift cards and your UIA donation. Our gift cards will also take on a new look this year and contributions will support all of our projects in the north. Our opening UIA event will be held on October 23rd and will focus on Partnership2Gether's projects. As you can see our Partnership continues to play a very important role in Israel's north and with your generosity we will continue helping our Israeli family for many years to come.



Israeli youth from the Galilee were CIT's at Kadimah.

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Campus Life

by Bill Chernin, Director of Campus Services, Atlantic Provinces

Summer is over (in case you weren't sure if it started yet) and it's time to return to school. We have seen what may be a changing trend in the choices Ontario kids are making about which universities they attend (most Jewish university students in Atlantic Canada are from Ontario). Schools like Queen's and Guelph in Ontario are reporting large increases in their Jewish student populations, while we in Atlantic Canada have detected what seems to be a smaller Jewish student base. What does it mean? It might be compared to Vancouver's recent drop from the world's most livable city to the world's third most livable: It's a change worth noting, though it's not written in stone, it could swing back, and things are still very good.

Our student community is vibrant and has strong leadership. The strategies we've been working on for the past two years have been aimed at increasing the percentage of student participation – strategies well suited to adapting to this change, and to ensuring for us a strong and vibrant student community this year and into the future.

We live in the age of networks, and engaging students based on their social networks is at the heart of the strategies being developed in the US, and adopted



here in Canada. The idea is to approach a student involved with us, who has Jewish friends who are not involved with us, and encourage them to organize a program for these friends, supported by us, but on their own turf. We've done this a couple times, with good success, and we've gotten these students to attend our programs. The strategies we're looking at now are slightly different though: They value decentralization.

The new model does not aim to bring all the networks into the Hillel house, necessarily. If we can get a new network to have a program on their turf, at which we meet them, enable a way to communicate with them, follow-up with them, and offer them support for their own future programs, then we will have facilitated Jewish experiences for them, and provided a place for them within our community.

At a campus like Dalhousie, where there may be a higher-than-usual diversity among the Jewish student "types," this model could be particularly useful. If I can be over simplistic to make the point, Jewish-hockey playing commerce students at Dal, and Jewish classics-studying, arts students at King's, might not want to party with each other anyway. So why try to force them?

This is not to say that we don't want large dinners, parties, and programs at the JSA house, because we do. This strategy just allows us to supplement the ways we are offering students community and Jewish experiences, and to increase participation.

On other fronts, we'll continue to reach out to Jewish professors to give talks to our students, and try to include the professors in our student community. Our new Social Justice organization ROW – Repair Our World (from Tikkun Olam) is starting its second full year of operations, and will be a ratified society at Dalhousie this year. You may remember it from the computer tutorials they offered last year. This year their executive has increased from four to eleven students, and we're expecting another great year. We started ROW for Jewish and non-Jewish students and it's been very well received.

The student Israel group is rebranding itself as Israel On Campus, and it has a new mission statement: Building community and dialogue for moderate students concerned with Israel and the Middle East. This mission statement reflects what we believe to be most of our student's values, and the values of most of the university population as well. By nurturing community and dialogue around Israel topics, we believe we can develop an enjoyable, informative, and sustainable society.

We're excited for what we expect will be a successful and rewarding year, and we wish everyone success, health, and happiness in the year to come.



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Nova Scotia Trade Mission to Israel

by Joel Jacobson

Trade possibilities between Nova Scotia and Israel took a giant step forward with a June 15 information session and workshop in Halifax preceding an October 2011 trade mission to Israel.

The trade mission will be headed by provincial Premier Darrell Dexter.

"I would term it a success," said Jon Goldberg, executive director of the Atlantic Jewish Council, who assisted Nova Scotia Business Inc in coordinating the event that attracted more than 15 business interests.

"We certainly have more work to do to generate more interest in the October mission but this early expression of interest was gratifying," Goldberg, who gave a historical perspective of Israel prior to economic discussions.

Jonathan Levy, Israel's Consul for Economic Affairs and Trade Commissioner to Canada, told the attendees about the opportunities in Israel for Nova Scotia companies and, conversely, for Israeli companies wishing to work in and with Nova Scotians.

"I see this as a two-way street," he said in an interview.

"We've developed a great relationship between Canadian federal and provincial governments and Israel. We've

had several missions from Canada to Israel and the excitement of these prospects (Nova Scotia and Israel) is evident."

He told the audience there were opportunities in many sectors, including a newly-developed oil and gas industry with an already-burgeoning one in Nova Scotia. "Health care, IT and environmental technologies are other industries that should show mutual interest."

David Daniels, director, science and technology investment attraction for Nova



Jon Goldberg stresses the importance of trade between Nova Scotia and Israel.

Scotia Business Inc., said the information session was an excellent way for the business people to learn about Israel.

"Most of them don't know of Israel's educated work force, and the number of public companies, and so many who are doing innovative things," he said. "Nova Scotia can offer Israeli companies a close connection to the Eastern Seaboard of the United States by air and sea, a strong port, and an easy connection to central Canada."

Karen Oldfield, president and CEO of the Halifax Port Authority, recently returned from Israel and is looking forward to going again in October.

"ZIM is one of the key components of our port business. We have to continue to foster its business. That can show other companies how viable and worthwhile it is to work with Nova Scotians," she said, while also explaining the vibrancy and excitement of Israel.

Victor Goldberg and Jim Spatz will be joining the Premier on the mission in October.

Portugal's Jewish Diaspora and Its Lessons for Our Time

by Henry Srebrnik

The Portuguese have left a very deep and wide cultural footprint around the world. Portugal's empire was spread throughout a vast number of territories in Africa, Asia, and South America.

And many of its Sephardic Jews, expelled from the kingdom itself, ended up, at least temporarily, in its far-flung colonies, often as "Crypto-Jews," people who had converted to Roman Catholicism but who continued to secretly observe Jewish rituals. They created a vast trading diaspora.

At the end of the 15th century, the Iberian peninsula was swept by waves of

Judaophobia, as the Spanish and Portuguese kingdoms had just finished the reconquest of their territories from the Muslims and were seized with the spirit of Catholic triumphalism.

Spain expelled its Jews in 1492, and Portugal followed five years later. These Jews ended up largely in the more tolerant Ottoman Empire, with some later moving to Protestant countries like England and Holland.

In both Iberian countries, "secret" or Crypto-Jews, if discovered, faced certain death as heretics. Indeed, in 1506, somewhere between 2,000 and 5,000 of

these "convertidos" or New Christians were murdered by a mob in what became known as the Lisbon Massacre.

Attracted by the greater security as well as the economic opportunities offered, some decided to immigrate to the distant possessions of the kingdom. Migrants thought the culture would be more tolerant since the lands were overwhelmingly populated by non-Christian indigenous peoples.

As well, they were farther from the reaches of the Portuguese Inquisition. Established in 1536 and lasting officially until 1821,

continued on page 16

PORTUGAL'S JEWISH DIASPORA

continued from page 15

that institution was empowered to execute those accused of "backsliding" and secretly practicing Judaism.

Cape Verde, off Africa's west coast, was a Portuguese colony from 1463 onwards, and Jews settled in the archipelago very early, with communities on several islands. Some of these Jews established a presence in the nearby coastal regions of present-day Senegal, Gambia, and Guinea, where, in some cases, they were protected by local African Muslim rulers.

However, in 1672 a branch of the Inquisition was established in Cape Verde resulting in the confiscation of Jewish trading centers. Those who wished to remain were forced to convert to Catholicism.

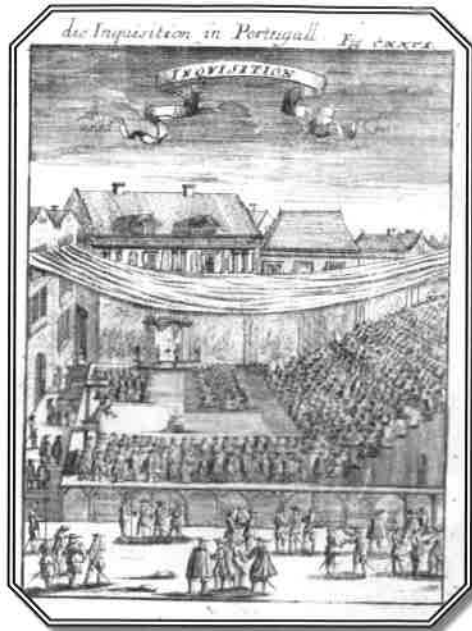
The Portuguese followed a policy of sending convicts and exiles to Cape Verde. Many were of Jewish origin, and some Cape Verdeans trace their ancestry to Jews or Crypto-Jews who fled or were expelled from Portugal over the centuries. During the nineteenth and early twentieth century additional Jews came to Cape Verde from Morocco.

Further south, the islands of São Tomé e Príncipe were the scene of a particularly tragic episode. In 1493, prior to their expulsion from Portugal, King Manuel I, seeking funds to finance his program of colonial expansion, had imposed huge poll taxes upon the Jews. He also wished to colonize these two small islands but few Portuguese wanted to go there.

When it became clear that the majority of Jews could not pay the tax demanded, the king deported some 2,000 Jewish children aged two to ten years of age to the islands. Only 600 remained alive a year later.

In 1498, the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama landed at Calicut, India and soon thereafter Portuguese Jews, mainly involved in the spice trade, arrived in the country. When Goa, further north, was captured by Portugal in 1510, the Jewish community there flourished. But even in far-off Goa, the Inquisition was established in 1560, and the Jews were forced to convert or flee.

Jews arrived in Portugal's biggest colony, Brazil, after 1500, primarily as New Christians and established sugar plantations and mills. In Recife, the largest city in



Copper engraving Die Inquisition in Portugall, by Jean David Zunner, Frankfurt, 1685

the northeast, Crypto-Jews prospered, as businessmen, importers and exporters. Although the bishop of Salvador, then colonial Brazil's capital, was given inquisitorial powers in 1579, all prisoners had to be sent to Europe for trial.

However, when much of Brazil came under temporary Dutch rule after 1630, many "convertidos" resumed practicing Judaism, as the Dutch allowed for the open exercise of their faith. As well, Jews from Amsterdam migrated to the colony. In Recife, they built the Kahal Zur Israel Synagogue in 1636, the first one erected in the western hemisphere.

Upon the return of the Portuguese, the Jews fled, with some settling in Dutch-ruled New Amsterdam (later New York), in 1654 – thus establishing the first Jewish settlement in the future United States.

But what is the relevance of this dismal history today?

Whenever and wherever Jews have lived under an intolerant ideological system that demands total compliance, this same phenomenon has occurred. Hence, in the Marxist-Leninist systems of the Soviet Union and

east European states of the 20th century, many Jews, fearful of being suspected as "disloyal" to the Communist system or – worse – "Zionists," hid, or minimized, their Jewish identity.

We need only observe the large numbers of younger people in today's Poland who are rediscovering their Jewish heritage. Like the Crypto-Jews of old, their parents tried to "pass" as non-Jews.

Canada is, of course, a free society, without official state-sanctioned strictures against identifying oneself as Jewish. But in the more ideological realms of academia, journalism, and the arts, the very word "Zionism" has become, for many intellectuals, a term of vilification, something no proper person should be associated with, lest they be accused of "dual loyalty" or of supporting an "apartheid" state. No, we don't have Inquisitions or gulags to punish "bad" Jews, but there is great pressure, in such circles, to conform to this new creed.

This is leading to some Jews, especially the younger, denying their affinity with Israel. They may not convert to another faith, or hide being Jewish, but by identifying themselves as "non-" or "anti-Zionist," they have ceased, in some ways, being part of "Klal Yisrael," the people Israel. Judaism is, after all, more than just a "religion" or "faith."

Most of the Crypto-Jews forced to convert in centuries gone by were eventually lost to the Jewish people. Will the same fate await the descendants of today's "non-Zionists?"

Henry Srebrnik is a professor of political studies at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown. He is writing a book on the early history of Canadian Zionism.

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Experiencing Sar-el

by Sylvia Mendleson, Halifax

Sar-el is a volunteer organization in Israel, developed by Brigadier General Dr. Aharon Davidi who recognized a need for a volunteer program to alleviate some of the much-needed tasks performed by the IDF.

Sar-el volunteers come from many parts of the world and range in age from young adults to seniors who are fit to work a full day. Most of the volunteers are Jewish, but there are also people from other religious backgrounds who have a strong feeling for Israel and its people.

In addition, the country utilizes about 1400 local seniors and disabled men and women who are not able to be part of the regular IDF. Together, they work alongside the non-Israeli volunteers to ease the workload.

Sar-el has been a very rewarding experience that I will not forget. I have been privileged to participate on two occasions, meeting many people who plan to return on a regular basis, and some who've volunteered for many years.

Israeli civilians who come to a military base daily and return to their homes in the evening are known as jobniks. I met jobniks on my first Sar-el experience where I assisted in sorting clothing. I stayed on one base for about a week followed by another base where there was more work to do. My main job on the second base was to

untangle parachute strings. The soldiers on this base practiced their parachute jumps, a very interesting activity we were able to observe.

In my second Sar-el year, I was packaged medical supplies for the IDF at the only base of this kind in the country. This base provides medical supplies places like Haiti and Japan suffering natural disasters.

I was not a camper but I got a first-hand experience of what camp life would have been like. For example, sleeping on cots in a confined room with other people, rising early, contending with a cold shower, at times, and eating base food.

In addition to the daily work activity, the madrichot (group leaders) arranged interesting programs with guest speakers discussing the situation in Israel and arranging a day trip once a week.

In my first year of Sar-el, the volunteers visited various museums in Tel-Aviv which included one of the homes of David Ben Gurion, the Palmach Museum that is not your typical museum, but one that definitely is worth visiting.

During my second year, the group was introduced to Zipporah Porath, the author of Letters from Jerusalem. She left the



United States for Palestine and, through her letters to her family, described what it was like before and after the time when Israel became a State.

We also went on a tour to Zichron Yaakov where the Carmel winery exists. Baron Edmond de Rothschild established this community, one of the first Jewish settlements in Israel, and named in honour of his father, Yaakov. There is an interesting museum in Zichron Yaakov providing historical facts about this family.

We continued on our day trip to a Druze village, Daliat El Carmel, for lunch and had the opportunity to buy unusual souvenirs and hand crafted items.

Our last activity included a few hours at a nature reserve, Alona Tanimim River, where we walked through a Roman Aqueduct that used to supply water to Ceasarea.

The most enjoyable part this two week volunteer period was meeting many people from other places, working alongside the IDF, and knowing that I provided a much needed service to Israel.

Sar-el did provide me with my desire to have a different kind of experience. I would encourage anyone who wants to be a volunteer to consider this opportunity.

Now that I have retired as a social worker, and have family to see in Israel, I can spend longer visits, continue to pursue my thirst for new experiences, personal growth, and knowledge. This year, a ten-day Aish HaTorah program is in my plans.



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News from JNF Atlantic

by Lea McKnight, Atlantic Region Coordinator

For 110 years KKL(Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael)/Jewish National Fund has been the caretaker of the land and people in Israel. Integral to the building and preserving of the Land of Israel, the work it has done and continues to do is legendary. Well beyond the planting of over 240,000,000 trees, JNF has developed, among many other projects, picnic areas, hiking/ biking trails, playgrounds, community centres and water reservoirs. It is hard to imagine Israel without those KKL signs dotting the countryside as one drives north to south and east to west. It cannot be overstated the impact KKL/JNF has had in shaping the land. KKL/JNF projects are everywhere

and growing to meet the changing needs of Israel. Today the two greatest challenges are preserving the quality of the environment and developing new water resources and they are hard at work in both areas but need our continued assistance.

To all of you who have been buying trees and making other donations our heartfelt thanks and we look forward to your continued support. It's also never too late to start supporting JNF. Please contact me for information on how you can contribute. If you are in Israel enjoy a JNF outing on the hiking trails and in the forests. You can join a group on your own or make it a family event. Plant a tree at one of their planting centres or work side by side with the foresters pruning trees

and helping to build new pathways. JNF has something for everyone and gives you an opportunity for a very meaningful and personal contribution.

I'd like to welcome our new Executive Director for the Eastern Region, Gail Grief who is working out of the Montreal office and hope we will see her in our region very soon. Together we are working for the continued growth of JNF Atlantic.

Keep in touch with me at lea.mcknight@jnf.ca or 902 444-4563 and stay up to date with JNF at www.jnf.ca. Please contact me as well if you want a blue box or if your current blue box is full.

Wishing you and your family a Shanah Tova.

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For more information, phone Lea at (902) 444-4JNF (4563) atlantic@jnf.ca or contact Gail Grief, Executive Director, JNF Eastern Canada at (514) 934-0313 or gail.grief@jnf.ca • www.jnf.ca

Halifax Ceremony Touches Hearts

by Joel Jacobson

In a different, yet touching, approach to Yom Hashoah, Halifax's Jewish community remembered the events of 70 years ago in a solemn ceremony highlighted by brief speeches, musical presentations, vignettes from young Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies 2010 program participants and a symbolic



Anna Fried, Halifax, lights a survivor candle.



Holocaust survivor Philip Riteman, Bedford, speak at Yom Hashoah.

candle-lighting ceremony.

The Asper Foundation youngsters touched on their impressions of a visit to the Holocaust Museum in Washington,

DC through poetry, essays, and well-spoken memoirs of those who died, and yes, who lived, through the Holocaust.

Bedford's Philip Riteman, long-time speaker as a survivor, was interviewed by a couple of participants, then spoke passionately to an audience of about 100 people at Saint Mary's University, some from the non-Jewish community and many students.

He pleaded with the Asper participants to continue to tell the story, "to your children and them to their children, to not let history repeat itself."

Candles were lit by AJC president Shulamith Medjuck, Halifax MP Megan Leslie, Halifax MLA Leonard Preyra, HRM councillor Jerry Blumenthal, Riteman, and Bill Gard, on behalf of veterans.

Music was provided by Halifax flautist Linda Jonas Schroeder, who has assisted these ceremonies for more than a dozen years, and guitarist Jason Brown.

A full-length feature film, *Saviours of the Night*, was shown. It is based on the memories of Maria Spiegel and her family of German farmers who saved Jews from deportation to the extermination camps.



Linda Jonas Schroeder plays a haunting melody on the flute.



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Mark Stein, Halifax, who participates every year, read names and assisted others during the "Unto Every Person There is a Name" ceremony in Victoria Park, Halifax



Maya Moscovich and son Bar enjoy the festivities during the Yom Haazmaut celebration in Halifax



Olga Kulakevich, Paulina Bar, Irina Epelbeym and Svetlana Ratchinski chatting at the Jewish Community Picnic at Point Pleasant Park, Halifax



Rabbi Ari Sherbill led a lively Kabbalat Shabbat service during the Newcomers Shabbaton at Camp Kadimah



Ruth Goldbloom and AJC president Shulamith Medjuck share a laugh during the Yom Haazmaut celebration, Halifax



Cheryl & Martin Wexler, (far left and right) with son-in-law Matt and daughter Kayla are all smiles after purchasing an original Tom Forrestall watercolour at the exhibit at Pier 21



Leonid Leshchinsky checks the BBQ at a welcome event for newcomer families, Halifax



Lee Cohen speaks with Anna & Igor Epstein after providing immigration information



Philip Riteman, Carol Ann Silverman and Dorothy Riteman enjoy the sunshine during the community BBQ at Point Pleasant Park, Halifax



Goldberg brothers, Victor and Jon discuss the art of Tom Forrestall at the exhibit at Pier 21



Volunteers Elena Hazankin, Igor Epstein, Anna Epstein and Maxim Hazankin during their shift at the AJC booth at the Multicultural Festival, Halifax

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The Cape Breton Report

by Adam Conter

Cape Breton in the summer is a fantastic place to be, Jewish or not. Our community had a terrific summer as ex-pat Capers returned to the island for summer vacations, long weekends with family, and for some an official move back out east.

We got a chance to celebrate this summer as a community as well. Leon Dubinsky's birthday bash became a weekend long extravaganza with a synagogue full of people on Shabbat for Kiddush and a lively musical party (as would be expected) in Englishtown late into the night on Sunday. With a rough year behind us, our community came together to pay respects

to those we have lost as we supported each other at various unveilings these past few months. Community support is always present and though the occasions are solemn, we enjoy visits by family from out of town.

On a personal note, this is my last Cape Breton Report. The responsibilities of this update are being handed to Alan Leith as I am moving to Halifax after 3 years here in Sydney. I want to convey a heartfelt and sincere thank you to the entire community for including me so quickly and allowing me to settle down so comfortably in this community. The perseverance this community is evident each week as they work to keep activities

alive in the synagogue, the support they shows for each and every member and the energy they displays at each event is an example to all small communities on how to ensure your small community can thrive. Sure there are some ups and downs and some discussions about "how things used to be", but when a community agrees on one objective, teamwork becomes inevitable and the results are fantastic. The roots of so many Canadian communities are right here in Cape Breton and I am proud to have been here for these years and to call this community my home.

I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year, Le Shanna Rabba vay Cape Breton Island.

Cape Breton Jewish Club Closes its Toronto Doors

by Joel Jacobson

Camp Kadimah will be the probably beneficiary of funds from a social club started 20 years ago and failing as its members age.

The Cape Breton Jewish Club of Toronto, formed in 1990 by Phil Simon, an ex-pat Cape Bretoner from Glace Bay, filled a major void for hundreds of people who left the Auld Sod when their children immigrated to Toronto and started their own families.

They wanted to remain close to their roots, to the people with whom they grew up, played attended school, Hebrew School and Shul. The club brought together crowds as high as 300 for concerts, picnics and other events that enabled the members to see old friends, make new ones and remember the good times of "home".

Philip passed away in 2001 but his wife Ruth carried on his work. As the

membership aged, things became more difficult. At the final meeting of the CB Jewish Club August 31, 2011, Ruth, Samuel Newman (originally from Whitney Pier) and Barry Lipkus (Glace Bay) were given a Kadimah update by director Jared Goldlust and were so impressed with what's happening that they decided to give funds that had been accumulated over the years to the Atlantic Jewish Foundation, with a request that the money go to assist Camp Kadimah.

"We have just over \$2,000," said Ruth, disappointed the Club is folding, but understanding the members don't have the energy to keep it going. Unfortunately, too, without Philip's enthusiastic leadership, events dwindled and interest waned.

She said the money can help with

scholarships for camp or for whatever other use the committee deems will help.

"We think it is meaningful because so many of our members spent so many wonderful summers at Kadimah," she stated. "My four sons went there and my grandchildren have gone, too."



The Cape Breton Jewish Club of Toronto closed its doors recently. Barry Lipkus, Ruth Simon and Samuel Newman made a financial gift to Camp Kadimah. Camp Director Jared Goldlust received the funds.

Saint John News

by Susan Isaacs Lubin

Although summer is usually a quiet time, Saint John has been anything but quiet. In June, the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum hosted over 240 people at a dinner at the Delta Hotel celebrating their 25th Anniversary. This was very exciting event and a wonderful tribute to Marcia Koven and all those who have worked so hard to make the Museum a success.

That same weekend, there was an unveiling of the plaques in the Synagogue for the donors from our capital campaign entitled "Ties that Bind." This campaign was started when we bought this new building and the donations that came in enabled us to do the renovations to the building. The Synagogue hosted a lovely Kiddush in conjunction with this ceremony.

The Abraham Davis family hosted a beautiful Kiddush the first weekend in July when ten members of the family came down for Abe's

unveiling. We would like to thank them for their generosity.

Mazelto to Tovah Kashetsky on her Bat Mitzvah in May. Tovah's sister, Nadia, was the last Bat Mitzvah in our old Synagogue and Tovah was the first Bat Mitzvah in our new Synagogue.

Nadia Kashetsky attended the Shad Valley program from July 3-29th on the Dalhousie University campus in Halifax. Shad Valley is a four week summer enrichment program. Students spend a month living in residence at one of the 10 host university campuses across Canada. The program is offered to students currently completing grade 10, 11 or 12. Nadia came home inspired, with 48 new friends and a new motto "challenge accepted". With workshops and lectures that focus on the sciences, engineering, technology and entrepreneurship, the program provides an academically stimulating, mind expanding adventure for

top well-rounded students. Students also enjoy team-building exercises, recreational activities and the opportunity to explore local attractions. The month ended with a banquet and student talent show for parents and family.

Mazelto to Herzl Kashetsky on winning the prestigious 2011 Strathbutler Award for excellence in visual arts. Herzl currently has an exhibition entitled Glitter and Gloom at the Beaverbrook Gallery in Fredericton.

Mazelto to David Elman, son of Dan

Elman and the late Anne Elman on his marriage to Yoko Tsukihashi. The Wedding took place on August 20th in Saint John. They will be living in Ainan-cho, Ehime-ken, Japan for two years.

Mazelto to our Synagogue President, Bruce Washburn and his wife Heather who have adopted three children - ages 2, 5 and 10. We wish them all the best.

Saint John was delighted to welcome Edna LeVine from AJC and also MilaVoihanski, Executive Director of JIAS. They met with us to talk about the new immigrants that we are expecting soon. Their input was invaluable and we found the meeting very helpful. They also met with the YM-YWCA Settlement Services.

On August 15th the first of our new families from Israel arrived in Saint John - Roman Kehkman, world renowned clarinetist, his wife Tatiana and daughter Dana. The Kehkman family have settled in their new apartment and Dana has already auditioned and has been accepted into the Rotary Girls Choir. At the end of August, the Rabinovich family - Naum, Mali, Shon, Kim and Ben arrived. The family have moved into their apartment and the two older boys are in school. There is still some paperwork to be done for both families, but we are working on completing it.

When the Kehkman family arrived, we had quite a bit of publicity. Erminie Cohen, Norman Hamburg, and Tatiana and Dana Kehkman were interviewed for CBC radio and Television. Also we had a producer and cameraman from the Dan Rather Reports television show in the U.S. here and they filmed the family on their first few days in the city. This will be aired probably in October.

Already we can see a difference in our community. The Kehkmans and Rabinovichs are a welcome addition and it is wonderful to see younger faces in Shul. Everyone who has had contact with our new families are impressed with them and we are all excited for our future.

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Report From Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

by Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum opened for the summer season on Monday, May 30th and will remain open for the tourist season until Friday, October 30th. We welcome visitors from Monday to Friday between 10 am and 4 pm.

This year we opened two new exhibits. In "There's No Place Like Home" we have created a replica of a 1930s kitchen complete with antique wood/electric stove and a film presentation dating from 1975 of Mrs. Harry Davis making bagels for her family. In an adjoining space we have presented more than a dozen stories collected from former and current Saint John residents recalling their growing up years in the city.

The story of the more than 100 Jewish businesses which had existed in Saint John is told in "Open for Business". A series of panels presents the history and many unique artifacts, including shoe horns, fur and cloth hats, and packaging are displayed in cases around the room.

These two exhibits were made possible with funding from the Exhibit Renewal Program of the Heritage Branch, Department of

Wellness, Culture and Sport, Province of New Brunswick and from those who contributed their stories and photographs for this exhibit.

As a special highlight for this summer, we are displaying a portrait of Joseph Kashetsky painted by Fred Ross, a well-recognized Saint John artist. Joe Kashetsky grew up in the Jewish community of Saint John and was a well-known Saint John artist himself. He had been a student of Fred Ross. In addition to his own painting, he co-owned an art gallery in Fredericton.

Our permanent exhibits include "The Jewish Way of Life", a display of Jewish holidays and customs from the cradle to the grave using artifacts and community stories and "Ancient Israel", a sampling of antiquities from the land of Israel from Biblical Times. We also show visitors the Hebrew School classroom and the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue.

As we prepare to enter the fall months, we are also preparing for the busiest part of our season with the arrival of up to six cruise ships a week through September and October. We can expect as many as 200 visitors or more on some of those days. We



have a team of volunteers in place to fill in as our summer student docents return to university.

In addition to out-of-town visitors, we also welcome those from the local area to the museum, including summer camps, school children, and church groups. We recently received a letter of thanks from the members of a local church ladies' group, who wrote, "Thank you so much for the tour. It was so enjoyable."

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum is now on Facebook with almost daily updates of our activities, as well as many exhibit and historical photographs - we look forward to meeting and making new friends.

Photograph by Katherine Biggs-Craft

Museum Celebrates 25 Years

Editors Note: AJC President, Shulmith Medjuck, and AJC Executive Director Jon Goldberg, attended this celebration.

SAINTE JOHN - New York Times journalist Jacques Steinberg considers himself an honorary member of the Saint John community and, on Thursday night as he helped celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Jewish Historical Museum, he told 250 dinner guests why.

He recalled, as a child growing up in

Massachusetts, driving 12 hours straight from Massachusetts to Saint John so his family could celebrate important holidays and other occasions here with the rest of the Freedman clan. Steinberg's mother, Edythe Freedman, had left the city as a young woman to settle in the U.S. and sometimes twice a year the Steinbergs would make the trip to the Port City.

"We would come and stay for a week and it was always a big deal," Steinberg said.

"I had no family that lived near me and

suddenly, here I had cousins, a grandmother and aunts and uncles and really came to think of myself as an honorary member of the community."

Steinberg was guest speaker Thursday night as the community celebrated the museum's success. His aunt, Marcia Koven - who is Edythe Freedman's sister - founded the museum 25 years ago and is its former curator. Their parents were Rose and John Jacob (known as JJ or Jack) Freedman.

"Those visits to my grandmother, who lived

in the Fort Howe apartments on Magazine Street, were very powerful for me," Steinberg said. "She was always baking, She would make Nana cookies," he said, adding that no one knew the recipe, only that they were "delicious."

"Those days and the things they taught me about the importance of family, community and humour were a crucial part of my upbringing and the time I spent here." Steinberg's vivid recollection of those trips to Saint John was that the family always arrived at their destination close to midnight. "My auntie Marcia would have a very special soup on the stove - kreplach soup - a very special Jewish soup waiting for my father. My grandmother would have made it. "That is a tremendous memory. "You come in, you're exhausted, it's close to midnight and there was this special soup. "Marcia's home was always so festive. She would have spraypainted on the mirrors 'next year in Jerusalem' and it was sort of my first real exposure of the importance of Israel in the Jewish community. "From a young age, it



New York Times journalist Jacques Steinberg and his son Jordan, left, speak with Marcia Koven and master of ceremonies Derek Oland, right, at the 25th anniversary dinner for the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum Thursday night.

made me want to go there and eventually I did get to go there."

Steinberg, who lives north of New York City, is very proud of the city's Jewish museum, which is the only one in Atlantic Canada. "A family from (New York) went on a Maritime cruise a couple of years ago and came home, and they had to tell us about this little Jewish museum when they visited Saint John. "They were telling me about all the artifacts and I

finally had to stop them and say 'that's my family.' "That's happened to us a number of times. I'm so proud to tell them 'that's our story.'

"Steinberg, who has worked at the New York Times for nearly 23 years, is a national education correspondent. He is married to Sharon Weinstock and the couple has two children, Ali Rose, 13,, and Jordan, 11. "I always felt a part of Saint John," he said. "It remains part of me. I'm grateful for the opportunity to thank the community for being so welcoming." The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum is located in a heritage home at 91 Leinster Street. Thursday night's master of ceremonies, Derek Oland, paid tribute to Koven for her vision of a museum. "If she hadn't had the drive and the interest, the museum wouldn't have gotten started," he said. "Everybody here is very touched by the wonderful museum. It's important those memories be preserved."

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Kashetsky Wins Award

by Susan Isaacs Lubin

Saint John native son, Herzl Kashetsky, has won the prestigious Strathbutler Award for excellence in fine crafts or visual arts by an artist who has made a substantial contribution to the Province of New Brunswick. The honour also comes with a substantial monetary award.

The Award was presented in Fredericton on September 9th by His Honour, Graydon Nicholas, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick. Herzl had an exhibit at the Beaverbrook Gallery entitled *Glitter and Gloom* which ran the entire summer.

After graduating high school, Herzl received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Concordia University and then supplemented his education with trips abroad - copying works of art installed in public places and sketching, from dawn to dusk, in front of museums in Florence, Rome and Milan.

Herzl has spent more than four decades painting and his art is in collections across Canada, the country and the United States



and England. Over the past 45 years, Herzl has filled 119 sketchbooks with 7,036 images, about 600 of which are on display in *Glitter and Gloom*. In the early 1990s, he made an artistic and spiritual pilgrimage to Poland, visiting Auschwitz and Majdanek. From that, his first major exhibition, a 1997 retrospective at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery called *A Prayer for the Dead*, was spawned. Herzl received the Red Cross Humanitarian Award for this collection of drawings and paintings of Holocaust victims.

Kashetsky's oeuvre has had a profound impact on the cultural fabric of New

Brunswick. His rich and multi-layered works are a deep and honest exploration of the human condition. Recognized for their highly realistic style, Kashetsky's portraits, still-lives and landscapes are intense explorations of identity and place. Kashetsky engages in wide-ranging themes that, while rooted in personal experience, transcend the individual to speak of the universal themes of chaos and order, spirit and time.

A Canada 125 Commemorative Medal recipient, Kashetsky's paintings hang in venues as diverse as Windsor Castle, Saint John City Hall, the Canada Council Art Bank in Ottawa, the University of New Brunswick and the provincial legislature in Fredericton.

The devotion and rigor Kashetsky demonstrates within his studio practice has been matched by his steadfast contribution to various communities throughout his career. His is a commitment to the ideal of art as an integral component of daily life and for this he is highly respected ambassador for the visual arts.

Fredericton Welcomes Israeli Ambassador to Canada

by Marilyn Kaufman, AJC Community Representative

The Fredericton Jewish Community warmly welcomed the Israeli Ambassador to Canada and her husband on the first stop of her visit to the Atlantic Provinces. Attended by about twenty members of the Jewish community, ranging in ages from nine to seniors, Ambassador Miriam Ziv was introduced to individuals, one on one, in a round table type forum. She expressed an interest in getting to know the Jews of our geographical area, the growing pains of integrating new immigrants into the community, how we live, problems we encounter, anti-Semitism, and ways in which she can offer us assistance through her office. Subjects discussed

touched on the importance of Israeli support from our Federal government, Israeli-US relations, Israel's economic outlook and security within the global community. Of particular interest, was the subject raised of the growing anti-Israel sentiment on college and university campuses across Canada. Here in Fredericton we have recent personal experience of such attitudes.

It is well known that the academic boycotts of Israeli professors in some countries, along with the boycott of Israeli products are being promoted globally. Israel Apartheid Week on student campuses is of grave concern. How can we successfully confront the issues?

We must keep abreast of events which affect Israel. What happens there will affect what happens here. We must be diligent and be proactive. The importance of building bridges with our non-Jewish neighbours is necessary in maintaining a strong viable world Jewish community where Israel remains at its centre.

The evening reception was hosted by Marilyn Kaufman, Ruth Chippin and Eileen Dugay. The Ambassador and her husband graciously made themselves available to speak further with individuals following her remarks. On behalf of the Fredericton Jewish Community I would like to extend our thanks to the AJC for making this visit possible.

Moncton News

by Nancy Cohen, AJC Community Representative

Spring and summer were busy in the Moncton with several events taking place. In May we held a successful Yom Hashoah service. A couple of weeks later we were excited to welcome Miriam Ziv, the Israeli ambassador to Canada, and her husband Ariel Kenet, to Moncton. Ambassador Ziv shared insights about the prospects for peace in the Middle East, and mingled with community members during a beautiful reception prepared by Tiferes Israel Sisterhood.

Sisterhood also provided a lovely luncheon for a brit that took place in the shul in July. Aharon and Ilanit Norkin who are new immigrants to Moncton invited the whole community to celebrate the arrival of their new son.

For the second year Tiferes Israel held a two week day camp for children. The camp, led by Huvie and Chanie Yagod was a great success, earning praise from the parents of the children attending who commented on how much the children learned about their heritage.

Even the arrival of Hurricane Irene couldn't stop the Tiferes Israel annual picnic! Although it was pouring rain by the time the picnic got started, a good crowd arrived at Betty Druckman's to enjoy hamburgers, hotdogs and camaraderie.

It seems that every time I write a report for Shalom we have lost another community member. Sadly Ken Mayer passed away on May 21st. Before his illness Ken was an active member of the Tiferes Israel board. Our sincere condolences to his wife Joan, daughters

Sharon and Joann, and their families.

Mazel tov to Audrey and Irwin Lampert on the engagement of their daughter Mindy to Derek Applebaum of Toronto; High School graduates, Nathan Rinzler, son of Morley and Debbie Rinzler. Chelsea Coppel, daughter of Joel and Colleen Coppel; Mindy Lampert on her graduation from the Schulich School on Business with an MBA; Marissa Attis, daughter of Sandy and Roz Attis, on her graduation from Saba University School of Medicine.

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Report from The Rock

by Claire Frankel-Salama

As it is now August, I am writing from the other side of the Atlantic coast – La Coruña, Spain, where I have been spending the month with Memorial students on their Spanish programme. Again this year we took them for a tour of the “casco viejo” or medieval city, complete with its “calle de la sinagoga”, or the street once full of Jews and Jewish life. We also went to the town of Pontedeume, famous for its Roman bridge, still in use, and not as famous as being one of the ports from which the Spanish Jews fled after the edict of 1492.

On a happier note, during the first week I was here, I walked into a small shopping centre in town and saw the ubiquitous Israeli Dead Sea products for sale. A young fellow came over and tried to get me to try something or other. I asked him in Hebrew if he was Israeli, at which point his face lit up and the conversation began. He was of Turkish extraction, which meant that his ancestors had fled this very land some 500 years ago. He called over another employee, a girl of Moroccan and Yemenite background, whose mother's family also claim Spanish heritage. While we gleefully and loudly spoke Hebrew, a strange language in this part of the country, it occurred to me that this in itself was a kind of victory. So many of the descendants of the Jews who were expelled from Sefarad now speak Hebrew, either as Israelis or through the educational efforts of their vibrant communities. In other words, the Jewish “roadrunner” is still around – Am Yisrael Chai!

This spring's activities at Beth El have followed their usual pattern. In March we welcomed 40 grade 7 students from Frank Roberts Junior High who won me over with their politeness and great questions. They went off with a box of last year's matza, thus giving them a “taste of Judaism”, while relieving us of one

more bit of Chametz to take care of before cleaning the kitchen for the community Seder. We also stopped our Oneg Shabbats two weeks before Pesach for this reason. In the meantime, the Hebrew School students and their capable teacher, Michael Cooper, were busy preparing to do the Ma Nishtanah in Hebrew. They were also learning the meaning of this very important holiday.

The community Seder took place on the first night of Pesach thanks to Dr. Barbara Grandy, who was aided by Bonnie Leyton, Dr. Messod Salama and Dr. Michael Paul. The Seder was a great success, and the participation of the Hebrew School children was extremely satisfying for all.

Shortly after Pesach we were visited by Nathan Holzman of Montreal. He is one of the last Jewish salesman still roaming the province, reminding us of the history of this community and so many others in the Atlantic provinces.

Our Holocaust Memorial this year was held at Beth El synagogue and honoured two late members, Lewis and Grunya Ferman, who were partisans and members of the Bielski gang, made internationally famous by the book and the movie, Defiance. A special thanks to Alan and Michael Ferman, son and grandson, for their help, and to Dr. Elliott Leyton and David Feder, for their research and presentations.

Shavuot was a quiet affair, as many of the members left to escape the terribly cold spring which lasted right into July this year. Messod and I were

privileged to spend Shavuot in Prague and to daven at the Altneuschul. This was very moving for me personally, as my father was from the Czech Republic and he had always wanted to show me Prague. Instead I was able to say Kaddish for him in the land some of my ancestors lived in for hundreds of years.

In July of this year, a large international conference on traditional music was held at Memorial, the ICTM, and it included a session and workshop on Jewish music. Lectures were given by professors from Israel, the U.S. and Canada on Klezmer, western Sephardic music and Judeo-Spanish romanceros. Dr. Messod Salama of Memorial University gave a paper on the survival of Judeo-Spanish music in Canada.

The following week the annual picnic took place in Tors Cove at the home of Dr. David and Christine Wright. We thank them again for their wonderful hospitality.

Congratulations to our former Areva, Freda Surki, on her recent marriage in Israel. Congratulations as well to Ophir Stemmer, son of former members, Dr.

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Anat Rachamimov and Dr. Joel Stemmer, on his marriage to Rachel Jacobs in Sharon, Massachusetts. Attendees from the "old" community included Dr. Gabi and Michele Ronen, now of Dundas, Ontario. Congratulations as well to Betty Barban who will be celebrating her 98th birthday on September 4th.

Our condolences to the Cohen family on the passing of Norma Cohen of Grand Falls/Windsor who was 97 years old. Deep gratitude to the Chevra Kadisha consisting of Dr. Barbara Grandy, June Mercer and

Bonnie Leyton for an act of complete chesed that can never be repaid. Thank you as well to Dr. Michael Paul and Ernie Mauskopf for conducting the funeral which took place on August 7th.

Other than that, we have had many visitors from Canada, the U.S. and Israel this summer, including former members, the Wilanskys and the entire Wilansky clan. To that end, Oneg Shabbats have been organized by Dr. Michael Paul almost every Friday evening of the holiday season.

As I look forward to returning home to start the coming academic and religious year, I wish you all a Shana Tova U-metukah on behalf of all the members of the Hebrew Congregation of Newfoundland and Labrador. Should you be planning a trip to St. John's, please get in touch. As my experience at the Cuatro Caminos mall in La Coruña reminded me, it is very important for Jews to connect and reconnect wherever they are in the world in order to assert our religious and cultural health and continued existence as a living people.

Jewish Community Havura

by Ruth Noel and Nancey Bennett

It's been a record-breaking summer - if you like it chilly and wet, you've been in the right place. The last couple of weeks have been lovely, however, so maybe we're in for a beautiful fall.

The Havura has been meeting regularly for Friday night services every other week this summer. We were delighted to add another family to our membership and in June we welcomed visitors from Ottawa. In August, visitors from Philadelphia and Edmonton joined us for services.

We are looking forward to resuming Hebrew School for elementary students in September and our Bar Mitzvah student has been studying through the summer. Hebrew studies continued through June and will begin again in September.

Yom Hashoah this year was particularly poignant as the local synagogue chose to not participate in the annual AJC-backed

community Memorial Service that has been conducted for the last five years by both groups. Even though by the time we found this out much of the planning time had elapsed, Havura members mobilized at an early Sunday meeting and Jonathan Richler stepped forward as the chief organizer. Our theme was Remembrance and Responsibility: remembering not just the crimes committed against Europe's Jews, but also the rich Ashkenazic culture of Jewish Europe. Everyone in attendance was moved by the extraordinary presentations of poetry, songs, and stories. The Service was held at a theatre-style lecture hall on the Memorial University campus. See the Yom Hashoah article in this edition of Shalom! Magazine for more details.

We braved the cold and drizzle and held our first ever Havura hike - in Bowring Park on Lag B'Omer, May 21. Lisa Bendzsa organized the event. The Havura provided cookies, cheesecake and hot chocolate to keep our energy and spirits up. The kids had fun on the playground equipment but we were all ready to pile into our cars and turn the heaters on after a couple of hours of tramping around in the cold! We'll try it again in the future and hope for better weather next time.

After several attempts to have our community picnic before people scattered for the summer, we managed to find a Sunday at the end of June where the rain and cold held off. Nancy and Arnold



Children play in a playhouse constructed by Dr. Sharon Koubi.

Bennett opened their home and beautiful garden for the picnic and Arnold barbequed tasty salmon and vegetarian burgers and hotdogs. Elizabeth-Anne Malischewski, Elizabeth Siegel and Ruth Noel did a great job organizing the event. Elizabeth brought loot bags for the children which were a huge hit. The air was filled with beautiful soap bubbles the kids blew with the kit's neat wands. As usual, people brought delicious appetizers, salads and desserts and everyone enjoyed the day.

Mazeltovs... to Andrea Monroe, husband Peter McGuire and brother Cole on the birth of baby Rex.

... and to Shari and Rob Ritter on the birth of grandson Kyle - their third grandson and first child for their son Jonathan and his wife Jill.

As usual, the welcome mat is down, so please let us know if you are in town and you can join us for Shabbat services.



Dave Jerome, visiting former member Ann Gregory, Noam Koubi, Joy Hecht, and Chava Finkler enjoy the community picnic.

Prince Edward Island Jewish Community

by Anna Serapins, AJC Representative

Prince Edwards Island is having a warm, sunny and rainy summer; the weather is undecided.

Her Excellency Miriam Ziv, the Ambassador of State of Israel to Canada and her husband Ariel Kenet visited PEI. The Atlantic Jewish Council and PEI JC Executive hosted an informal dinner in the home of Leslee Sack. A set of glass wares made in the PEI JC by Marcela Rosemberg was presented to her Excellency and her husband as a gift. The dinner ended on a sweet note with homemade lavender ice cream, chocolate cake and coffee.

On May 1st Dr. Victor Chernov had an evening of *It doesn't Take a Rocket Scientist....well actually it does*. Leslee Sack was present to host the event for the Prince Edward Island Jewish Community. The evening was educative and although there was not a large audience, those present had a good time.

On May 5th Rabbi Ellis came to PEI to take part in an *Interfaith Conference* at Trinity United Church in partnership with Mr. Fazal M. Malik the Communications Coordinator from Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at on PEI. The three major faiths were represented and also present was a speaker on Hinduism. Rabbi Ellis stayed with Heather and Pablo in Lake Verde. They kindly offered to host an open house culminating with *Havdalah*.

On June 26 the *DiverseCityFestival* was in full swing in celebration of Canadian Multiculturalism Day. This event was hosted by the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada. This street festival was held on Victoria Row, Charlottetown Prince Edward Island. The Jewish community had a booth and handed out delicious challah, bow tie cookies, poppy seed cookies, and cinnamon rolls contributed by Sandra Ireland, Leslee Sack, Anna Serapins, and Sandra Horne. While at the festival the PEI JC met three Jewish couples who were visiting the Island on

vacation, one of which was Israeli. Five new members signed up to join the PEI JC, who hadn't known about our Jewish Community on the Island. It did not take long before the Jewish Community's booth ran out of food.

Rachel Kassner and Joel Palter hosted a potluck and *Summer Barbeque* for the CITs from Camp Kadimah. There were a large group of CITs and Members of the Community in attendance. There was much to do after a delicious buffet supper of kosher hot dogs, chicken, an array of salads, dips and desserts. After dinner the CITs played sports and gathered together to socialize with people from the Jewish Community. The rain held off and it was a great day.

Rosalie Gerut visited with the PEI JC



Rabbi David Ellis, AJC Regional Chaplin, address an interfaith conference in Charlottetown.

to share her songs, dance, music and laughter. She has appeared internationally on television, radio, and in concert as soloist, guest vocalist with the Klezmer Conservatory Band, lead vocalist with the Shirim Klezmer Orchestra, and with her own group, Rosalie and Friends. She composed the music for and starred in the Joseph Papp Public Theater production, "Songs of Paradise" and composed the music for "Prairie Lights" which was

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nominated for the prestigious Jeff (Tony) Award in Chicago. Rosalie has appeared in leading roles in numerous musical theater productions with the Joseph Papp Public Theater, Lincoln Center, the Shubert Theater in NYC, the American Repertory Theater, to name a few.

Gerut was the 2007 recipient of the WMJX Boston Exceptional Woman Award for Courage. An educational psychologist and the daughter of Holocaust survivors, Rosalie is a co-founder of One by One, an international, non-profit organization founded by descendants of survivors of the Holocaust and the Nazi Regime. This organization is dedicated to providing opportunities for intense, honest dialogue for people polarized by war and genocide. Gerut's father and grandfather were Yiddishists and folk musicians, and she has carried on the tradition by presenting traditional and original songs. A native Yiddish speaker, she serves as director of cantorial and adult programming at Kerem Shalom in Concord, Massachusetts.

On July 29th Leo and Beverly Mednick welcomed Rosalie Gerut, for a musical *Shabbat dinner*. The evening was filled with prayer, singing, discussion and of



Rosalie Gerut

course food. A variety of music and songs were performed in person by Rosalie and her guitar in many languages. Thank-you to John Zarwin, our Jewish Community President for bringing Rosalie and organizing the press release, CBC radio interview and concerts.

On August 4th *Music of the Jewish Experience*, an informal engaging concert of song and music was performed at

Confederation Centre Studio #2. The hall was full with about 100 people in attendance. Admission was by donation to benefit One by One Inc. Support was generously provided by the P.E.I. Department of Tourism and Culture. Rosalie Gerut is an experienced, song writer, actor and cantor. Brad Fremlin is from P.E.I. Brad Fremlin performs in Celtic, Classic and Lounge music. He was the special guest who accompanied Rosalie on piano and a hand tambour. Brad surprised everyone by playing *Amazing Grace* on a hand saw with a wood handle using a bow for a string instrument. The duo performed songs in English, Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino. The evening was filled with rhythm, emotions, humour and personal touches and stories from both musicians. People come from as far away as South America. Visiting his parents, Jonathan from Argentina and Esther from Venezuela both enjoyed the evening. The concert is presented with support from the Community Cultural Partnership Program of PEI Department of Tourism and Culture and the PEI Jewish Community. Admission was by donation to benefit One by One, Inc. a 501C3 non-profit based in Boston, MA and Berlin, Germany.

Yom Hashoah in Moncton

by Nancy Cohen, AJC Representative

In May we held a successful Yom Hashoah service at the Shul and there was a very good turnout from both the Jewish and non Jewish communities.

This year, rather than reading all the names of family members lost in the Holocaust, the service began with a

moving Power Point featuring the names of those lost, as well as pictures. One of the highlights of the service was a presentation by the grade eight students of Riverview Middle School who spoke about "The Power of a Penny" - their project to raise six million pennies. Several of the students spoke about how they had been affected by reading and learning about the Holocaust.

This was followed by guest speaker Leo Adler's address "The Shame of the Shoah".



Joshua Makarov and Barrie Carnat light a memorial candle.



Guest speaker Leo Adler, centre, was welcomed by Victoria Volkanova and Nancy Cohen.

Yom Hashoah in Fredericton

Posing as Christians, Alex Eisen, his mother and younger sister survived the Holocaust both in a Budapest ghetto, and as escapees of it, until liberation in January 1945. Today, he tells his story nationwide on Yom Hashoah and other remembrance events.

"It takes courage to remember the Holocaust, to face such remorseless evil," said Unger. "Simon Wiesenthal said 'Do not believe the worst has



Sharon Dennis and Shelley Stephens at the Fredericton Yom Hashoah ceremony.



Guest speaker Alex Eisen, Rabbi Yosef Goldman and Israel Unger talk after Yom Hashoah ceremonies.

In April, Eisen, 82, now a Toronto resident, spoke of life during and after the Holocaust as guest speaker at the annual Fredericton community Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance Service at Sgoolai Israel Synagogue.

His story of courage and perseverance enthralled a large gathering at the ceremony. He has recently written a memoir "A Time of Fear."

Canadian Legion Branch No. 4 President Ardith Armstrong and veterans of the Royal Canadian Legion were guest at the service.

Sgoolai Israel President Louis Budovitch, Marilyn Kaufman, Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Anton Tarnavsky and Israel Unger read songs and sang traditional songs and memorial prayers.

occurred; only know that hope lives when people remember'."

Lieutenant Governor Graydon Nicholas, Fredericton MP Keith Ashfield, Mayor Brad Woodside, Royal

Memorial candles were lit by survivors Max Eisen and Unger, who invited students from Ecole Ste-Anne and Fredericton High School to help light the candle, explaining that his relatives were the same age as the students when they were murdered by the Nazis.

Rabbi Goldman's candle lighting memorialized all victims. Armstrong honoured members of the armed forces who lost their lives in World War II. David Murrell remembered Righteous Gentile Irene Sendler who saved over 1,000 Jewish children by smuggling them out of the Warsaw Ghetto. Edye and David Besner's candle represented the Fredericton Jewish community. A seventh candle, in hope of a bright future for all young people, was kindled by Amanda Brown, a student at Ecole Ste-Anne.

Yom Hashoah in Saint John

by Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator, Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

A public Yom Hashoah ceremony was held on Monday, May 2 in the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue with Alex Eisen, a Holocaust survivor

now living in Toronto, as our guest speaker. Mr. Eisen shared the dramatic events of his family's survival in Europe and Israel. He was among

the many Jews in Vienna to witness the arrival of the Nazis in 1938. The family escaped to Hungary, but his father was turned away at the border



Alex Eisen

and managed to escape to Palestine. Mr. Eisen, his mother and two sisters lived in Hungary until 1944 when they once again had to escape and were saved because they were able to pose as Christians. After the war, the family made its way to Palestine and were reunited with Mr. Eisen's father. Mr. Eisen was a member of the Israeli Army until 1951 when he immigrated to Canada with his wife whom he had met in the camps.

The ceremony also included presentations to high school students who had participated in the Holocaust Study Group. Their art and writing were exhibited in the Museum.

Photography: By Gary Davis

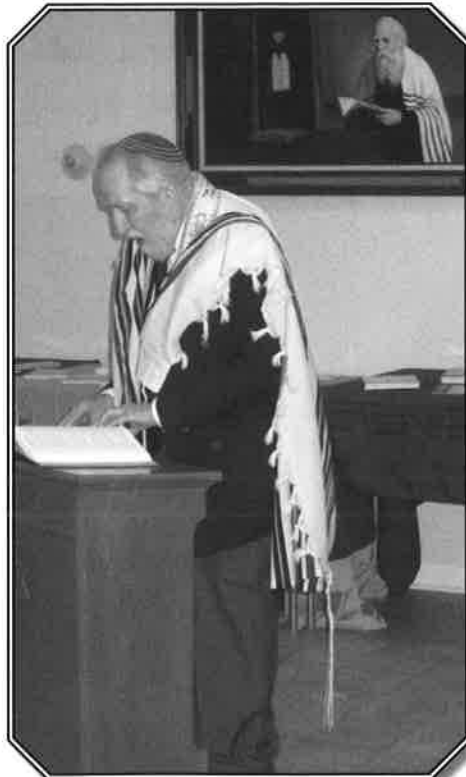
Beth El Holocaust Memorial Service

by Claire Frankel-Salama

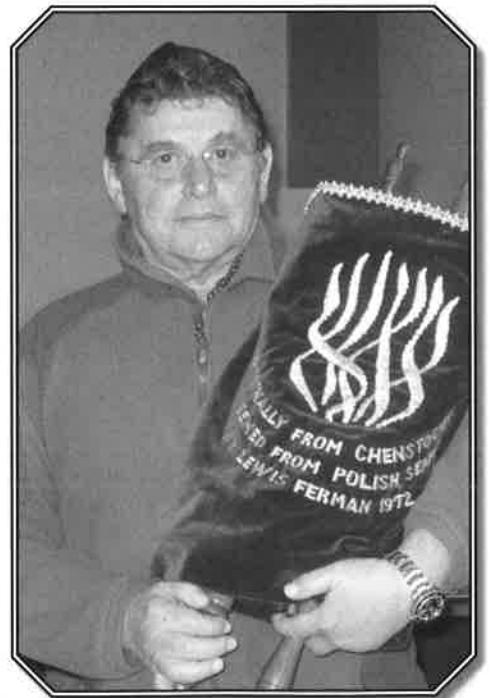
This year, the Holocaust Memorial Service committee, headed by Dr. Barbara Grandy, decided to focus more on education and less on music, etc. Our theme was partisan activity, and, in particular, we decided to look at the Newfoundland connection to the famous Bielski gang featured in film, *Defiance*, that played several years ago. Two members of Beth El, who have since passed on, Lewis and Grunya Ferman, belonged to this group. Lewis specialized in munitions and Grunya was a nurse. Through the help of the Ferman's son, Alan, and grandson, Michael, and through the research efforts of Dr. Elliott Leyton and David Feder, we were able to find out that the Bielskis had indeed visited Newfoundland to attend a Bar Mitzvah in the '50s. Because of the timely and fascinating topic and the Public Relations committee, headed by Bonnie Leyton, we were able to obtain a radio interview with Ted Blades on CBC and a full page article by Tara Bradbury with pictures in the daily newspaper, *The Telegram*. Although the service, lecture by Dr. Leyton, and screening of the film

took place on Yom Ha-Shoah which was election day, the turnout was very good

and everyone was pleased with the calibre and success of this year's Holocaust Memorial.



Ernie Mauskopf sings "El Maaleh Rachamim" at the Holocaust Memorial



Dr. Elliott Leyton holds the Torah that was redeemed in the '70s from a Polish sailor by Lewis Ferman, former member of the Bielski gang.

Yom Hashoah in St. John's

by Nancy Bennett

The Yom Hashoah Memorial Service, organized by the Jewish Community Havura, was highly successful, drawing a large crowd to the Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation at Memorial University.

The theme was Remembrance and Responsibility: remembering not just the crimes committed against Europe's Jews, but also the rich Ashkenazic culture of Jewish Europe.

Paul Bendzsa played a clarinet piece he composed for this service. Jonathan Richler spoke about his experiences with the March of the Living. Gil Shalev related his family experience and gave a strong rendition of the Shema. Six members of the Havura – Elena Rosen, Marvin Siegel, Inbal Bahar, Avrum Richler, Chloe Edbrooke and Timothy Margolis – each lit a candle in memory of a million Jews slaughtered.

A seventh candle was lit by Kyle Rees, an



activist on behalf of the gay and lesbian community, in memory of the millions of other victims of the Nazis.

Nancy Bennett read a version of El Malei Rachamim that specifically mourned the Jews who died in the Shoah. Shimon Wilansky recited the Mourners' Kaddish. Elizabeth Siegel chanted Ani Ma'amin, the eight-centuries-old statement of faith.

As the service closed, Nicki and Paul Bendzsa and Shimon Wilansky stood at the back of the auditorium and sounded



Paul Bendzsa composed a special melody for clarinet for Yom Hashoah.

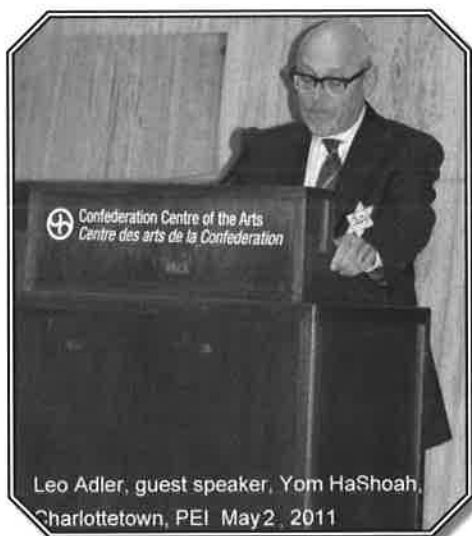
shofarim.

The service ended with Ruth Noel, Inbal Bahar, Shari Ritter, Gil Shalev, Jonathan Richler, Andrea Monro and Elizabeth Siegel, with Elena Hammel at the piano, leading everybody in Hatikva.

Yom Hashoah in PEI

by Rosalie Simeone

On May 2 and 3, 2011 the PEI Jewish Community hosted Leo Adler as the Yom Hashoah



Leo Adler, guest speaker, Yom HaShoah, Charlottetown, PEI May 2, 2011



Yom HaShoah: May 2, 2011, Charlottetown, PEI Memorial Candle Lighting participants (L-R): Leo Adler, Guest Speaker, Kim Dormaar, Rupert Steward, Pastor Stephen Brav, Joost Roggeveen and Bernie Wilson light six candles in memory of the six million who perished in the Holocaust

guest speaker. His topic was Yom Hashoah: Today, which connected the crises in the Second World War with crises happening in 2011 around the world. Leo Adler is a son of Holocaust survivors,

a lawyer and lecturer. In addition to the Yom Hashoah Memorial, Mr. Adler also addressed students from 4 different Schools.



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Jews and Dogs Not Allowed

by Chris Shannon, Cape Breton Post

SYDNEY — The image of a park sign that said, "Jews and dogs not allowed," was one of the many curbs to civil rights in Germany in the lead up to the Second World War that left a permanent mark on Herb Goldstein, and reinforced his hatred for the Nazi regime.

He was nine years old when Adolf Hitler ascended to power in Germany. Born in 1924 in Poland, Goldstein moved to Essen, Germany, with his family to escape anti-Semitism in eastern Europe.

With no established Jewish community, most of his friends and classmates were Christian. Hitler's use of propaganda in schools and in the community-at-large forced Jewish people to stay in their homes, and only in large groups would they venture outside.

To do otherwise would risk a beating or worse, Goldstein said.

"The first thing that happened was that my other Jewish friends couldn't come to play with me anymore," Goldstein, 87, said.

"I was thoroughly confused. Why is this happening? But we continued to do whatever kids do... but we no longer went out on the street on our own."

Goldstein was the guest speaker Sunday at Yom Hashoah, the Jewish day of Holocaust remembrance, held at the Temple Sons of Israel in Sydney.

Describing his childhood as being "pretty



Herb Goldstein

happy," his family was poor. His father ran a small store in Essen — a business that would be vandalized in 1938 during a crackdown on civil rights among the Jewish people known as Kristallnacht or the "Night of the Broken Glass."

The synagogue attended by the Goldsteins was torched, and their apartment above the store was ransacked. Goldstein and his older brother were sent to England on what he thought was a student visa.

Goldstein said they were actually sent by way of a special transit visa, which the United Kingdom granted in accepting 10,000 Jewish children under 17 years of age into the country to avoid Nazi persecution. The conditions of the visa didn't allow parents to accompany their children, he added.

His father used connections to obtain a visitor's visa to England, while his mother escaped into Holland. The family would reunite before Goldstein's brother left

Edinburgh on a steamship bound for North America.

"If my dad hadn't found some way to get us out of Germany, chances are we might have been part of (the) statistics," he said.

After graduating from London University as an engineer in 1944, Goldstein joined the Royal Navy. He served in the navy until 1946.

A year later he immigrated to Canada, settling in Montreal. He moved to Toronto 13 years ago.

During his hour-long talk, Goldstein blamed the Nazi war propaganda machine that created an education system built on "demonizing Jews," and in doing so brainwashed the masses.

"We had to sit at attention while we listened on the radio to Adolf Hitler speak, and you'd be punished if you moved an eyelid."

Six million Jewish people were killed by the Nazi regime and their collaborators during the Holocaust, including 1.5 million children.

Earlier in the memorial service, the synagogue presented its Educator of the Year award posthumously to Jack Columbus, a former television and radio journalist in Sydney who died in December. He was also cited for his work with the Atlantic Jewish Council.

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Religions and Chutzpah

by Rabbi David Ellis, Regional Chaplain, Atlantic Jewish Council

The following is from transcribed remarks from a panel discussion at the Spiritual Diversity Conference held recently at St. Mary's University; thanks to Mr. Robin Arthur for compiling them.

I am not here to talk about religion-- I will talk about chutzpah...

Is Canada the best place for religion? I am not sure. Are all religions equal? I don't think so. What about human rights and multiculturalism? We will have to see.

There is a story of a Holocaust survivor

who came to North America. He got the sympathies of many people. "Gosh, you've had it hard. All sorts of horrible things have happened to you."

"No," he replied, "you had it hard, not me... yes, we had death camps, gas chambers, pogroms... But the songs and words of

our sages and prophets accompanied and inspired us and brought out the best in us. You who sat here in comfort had no such challenge, and most of you drifted away from your religion through apathy and inertia."

... New York is a great Irish city. It is also a great Italian and Spanish city, as well as a centre for many ethnic groups. What makes it so?

New York has over 2,000,000 Jews living in the city itself, with another million in the surrounding areas. They have been there for over a century in large numbers, contributing in magnificent ways to its business, education, philanthropy and culture.

When Jews get involved in a society, it is good for all others as well. Hence you will find that a shopkeeper in Chinatown, a Bulgarian immigrant, a Haitian cab driver and an Asian housekeeper all know what matzah is, when you make a sukkah, where you can get gefillte fish. Everyone knows about each other's culture. Xenophobia finds no foothold in the public

or political arena.

... To be viable, a religion must have a number of tools.

A written tradition gives a religion a permanent foundation to which it always refers. But while keeping close to our scripture, it was never the final word. Jews always had an oral tradition, creative and ongoing, which posed questions to the text and brought out ingenious new insights.

Judaism maintains a legal order, made of both codified and common law.

It also created a philosophical stream of thought. Most Jewish philosophical works were not written in Hebrew, showing how Jews encountered the ideas and cultures of other peoples.

Secularism is an established part of Jewish culture. Many Jews may not believe in the religion and actually critique it. They have thereby sharpened the religious discussion and made great contributions to general culture.

Finally, Judaism has had a long tradition, from the prophet Jeremiah onwards, of

seeking the common good in whatever society they live. Where countries have sought to eradicate its Jewish community, they have eventually brought the demise of their own nation. Where Jews are welcomed, their talents and entrepreneurship benefit the public well-being.

Not all Jewish communities have been a witness to its heritage. But our tradition as a whole is a mastery of them, and they are a yardstick for all religions by which to measure their achievements.

Hope to be seeing everyone around the maritimes soon!! Shanah tovah!

Rabbi David Ellis is available for introducing persons looking for Jewish mates in the region.

All inquiries and discussions are strictly confidential.

Rabbi David Ellis

902-422-7491, ext. 228

rabiellis@theajc.ns.ca

How do we relate to strangers?

by Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, Fredericton

Throughout the summer, the Fredericton Jewish community had the experience of hosting people from all over the world who stopped by in our beautiful city. I often wondered how do we relate to these people? Do we take Shammai's advice in *The Ethics of our Fathers* (Chapter 1, Mishna 15): "and receive everyone with a cheerful face", (it strikes me strange that Shammai, who pushed away wannabe converts would have made this statement) meaning that we accept everyone with a favourable judgement?

Or, do we follow Rabbi Yehoshua Ben Levi who said: "R. Jehoshua proclaimed that always should strangers be considered as burglars, and still one should honour them as he would R. Gamaliel." after a stranger came to his house asking for dinner and

a place to sleep. After the stranger went to bed in the second floor, Rabbi Yehosua removed the ladder, and during the night this person was going to steal from the Rabbi, instead he fell and broke some bones. In Hebrew the expression is "CABDEHU VE'CHASHDEHU" respect him, but be suspicious?

For sure, there is a time and place for each behaviour, but what I am suggesting is that most of the time we should follow Shammai's advice and welcome everyone. One reason we should make that decision



is that most people are honest, but even more importantly, Hashem promises us that if we find favour in others, even if we are sinners, G-d will overlook our sins and mistakes, and judge us favourably.

To make it clear, I am not referring only to Jews that we should welcome, a few weeks ago a woman came to our Synagogue, and immediately informed us that she is not Jewish, she was honest and so are most of the people we meet.

This coming New Year, we ask Hashem to grant us the gift of life, to give us good health, to give us good Parnasa (sustenance), but how dare we, if we don't make an effort to give others what we can?!

Hashem is giving us a new chance, on Rosh Hashana G-d expects us to give to

continued on page 38

continued from page 37

others in order to justify our request to be given these wonderful gifts. According to Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzato of the 18th Century, Hashem created the world to do good, and G-d created man on the sixth day of creation which we now celebrate

as Rosh Hashana, in order to participate in G-d's work of doing good. Hashem does not need our help, but rather, gives us a chance to be not only created in G-d's image, but to be like G-d in the way we interact and relate to other people. The only way, is to do good unto others,

especially strangers.

In the name of the Jewish community of Fredericton, I wish to extend a blessing to each and every one of you, to have a Very Happy and Healthy New Year, and may Hashem grant you all that you wish for.

N.S., Israel Natural Partners

By Ari Isenberg, spiritual leader, Shaar Shalom Congregation, Halifax

Editor's Note: This letter was printed in The Chronicle Herald, Halifax, in August.

On Nov. 29, 1947, the UN voted to grant the Arabs a 23rd state and the Jews a very first state; both states, side by side, on land that had, for generations, been under Ottoman and then British rule. The Jewish residents accepted the plan; the Arab residents refused.

A brutal war ensued, led by the armies of established Arab countries. As a result of this war, 500,000 Jewish residents and 550,000 Arab residents found themselves displaced, homeless — they became refugees.

The newly established Jewish State of Israel instantly absorbed the Jewish refugees, providing them with full citizenship rights. Moreover, all Arabs who remained within the borders of Israel (156,000 of them) were granted Israeli citizenship and residency rights. All Christians who lived within the borders of Israel were granted citizenship and residency rights (123,000 Christians live in Israel). All Druze were provided with citizenship and residency rights. The same holds true for Baha'i and every other religious and ethnic group within Israel's borders at the time of its establishment.

Israel's multi-faceted immigration policy, even after a war that threatened its very existence, reflected the country's ethics: tolerance, acceptance, multiculturalism and democratic ideals.

Nova Scotians are also intimately aware of the importance of acceptance, tolerance, multiculturalism and immigration. After all, Halifax's Pier 21 served as Canada's first port of entry for more than 1.5 million immigrants, including my own

grandparents, who were refugees after the Second World War (though it required waiting several years until Canada revisited and amended its policy of the late-1930s / 1940s not to grant entry visas to Jews).

Nova Scotia and Israel, on this premise, are natural partners, natural friends. In May, I visited a teachers' college in the Arab town of Sakhnin in Israel's Galilee. These Muslim Arab students are descendants of the 156,000 Arabs who were absorbed by Israel in 1949. Their religion is Islam, their ethnicity Arab, and their nationality Israeli. I am sure the three authors of the June 2 opinion piece "Nova Scotia should not be choosing sides" also feel proud and accepted as Canadian citizens, despite their respective religious and ethnic backgrounds.

This stands in sharp contrast to recent calls from PLO Chairman Mahmoud Abbas to rid any future State of Palestine of all Jews, and Hamas' refusal to recognize Israel, its potential future neighbour. Where is their sense of tolerance, acceptance, multiculturalism, and democratic ideals?

I'd like to suggest that the fault lies with the Arab League and the international community. Remember those other Arab refugees from the 1948 war? Unfortunately, they were never fully assisted by their



Arab brethren and remained, for decades, confined to refugee camps in Lebanon, Gaza and Jordan-annexed West Bank. The Arab world's refusal to seriously come to their assistance might even have been intentional, as a means to create a humanitarian crisis that the Arab world could, one day, use as part of its propaganda machine against Israel.

This last fact flies in the face of the ideals that both Israelis and Nova Scotians hold dear. When Nova Scotians serve their country in combat units for Canada, they do everything in their power to prevent civilian casualties on the enemy's side. So do Israelis. When Nova Scotians are concerned about the state of the environment and the economy, they become innovative in science and technology, research and development, and agricultural reforms to help create a sustainable future. So do Israelis. When Nova Scotians strive for higher learning, they invest in their renowned academic institutions across the province. So do Israelis in Israel.

It is precisely because our shared values are so aligned that Nova Scotian politicians and business people will be visiting Israel on an organized tour in the fall of 2011. May they travel in peace, learn plenty, and continue to do noble work for the benefit of Nova Scotia.

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The Power of Ten

by Rabbi Y.I. Yagod, Congregation Tiferes Israel, Moncton

There is a famous question: we know there are 10 commandments in Judaism, but we also know there are 613 commandments. So which number is correct? Are the 10 commandments different, almost like super commandments, and the 613 are just regular ones?

I saw an answer that relates to the High Holy Days. As we know, there are 10 special days, starting with the first day of Rosh Hashanah and culminating in the climax of Yom Kippur. These days are called the 10 days of Awe. The status and purpose of these days is akin to the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments contain within them the roots and the underlying basis for the entire

group of 613 mitzvot. A famous commentator on the portion of Talmud in Tractate Shabbat, Chapter 11, where the tablets are described, remarked that the entire Torah is contained in these 2 tablets.

Essentially these Ten Commandments are spiritual roots for all the mitzvot. So why does G-d give Ten Commandments?

The answer is two-fold. One, they are an easy and concise way to grasp the essential Jewish law. And two, they created a good beginning and enabled us start out the Jewish journey with a positive experience, bringing us closer



to G-d.

The ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur contain within them the spiritual roots for the entire year. For those ten days, we focus on the essence of being a Jew – the deep truths and concepts that really contain all of Judaism. The seriousness and loyalty that we display in these ten days are meant to be a good beginning for the entire year, a good start that supercharges our entire year. Just as ten is such a special number in Judaism, so, too, the power of ten that these days represent afford us an opportunity to make this New Year the best one we ever had.

Come to the synagogue and find a fresh start this year. I will be there to welcome you.

Just you and I Alone

by Rabbi Mendel Feldman, Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes

Rosh Hashanah, the Ten Days of Repentance and Yom Kippur are described in Song of Songs by King Solomon as follows: "The Al-mighty stands at the door of every Jewish heart and knocks, Open up for Me!"

A king gave the hand of his only daughter in marriage. He asked but one thing of his son-in-law. "Wherever you may be, prepare for me a dwelling, a place where I can stay when I come to visit." The King is G-d, the Torah is His only daughter, all G-d asks of His son-in-law - the Jewish people - is to prepare for Him a habitation an environment of Torah study and prayer where the Shechina, G-d's presence may feel comfortable. As King Solomon writes: The voice of My Beloved knocks, "Open up for Me"!

The Al-mighty taps at the heart of the Jew and pleads with him to open up the door even a tiny crack, even "like the point of a needle" to make even the smallest attempt at Torah-study and prayer, and G-d promises, "...and I will open (the door wide) for you as the opening of a hall."

King Solomon continues, My Beloved has hidden, has gone away. The "Beloved" is

G-d; His intention in "hiding" is not to remain hidden and concealed behind the facade of nature, but rather that we should seek him. Man's search for G-d is very precious in the eyes of G-d; it is this quest which is the very purpose of His concealment.

This parable describes the pattern of the month of Elul, Rosh Hashana, the Ten Days of Repentance and Yom Kippur up until the closing prayer of Neilah, during this period G-d is hidden tapping at the door of our hearts. Finally during the Neilah prayer the close and climax of Yom Kippur we are described as having opened the door "Our soul has found Him who she loves". At this point the facade falls; the concealment is no more. The Divine King and His people Israel are reunited.



In the time of the Beit Hamikdash, seventy oxen were offered on the altar during the seven day festival of Sukkot, representing the seventy nations of the world. On the eighth day of Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah just one ox and one ram were offered. The Midrash explains that this may be compared to a king who made a seven day feast and invited all the inhabitants of his country, when the seven days of feasting were over the king said to his beloved friend "now that we have fulfilled our duty for all the inhabitants of the country let us spend time together, just you and I alone.

Accordingly the intense unity between G-d and Israel that occurs during Neilah carries over and finds full expression in the joy of Sukkot and especially on Simchat Torah when G-d says to His people "Let us spend time together...Just you and I alone.

With best wishes that you be Inscribed and Sealed in the Book of Life and for a prosperous New Year.

Moving from "I" to "You" and from "Me" to "We"

by Rabbi Ari Sherbill, Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax

"I just don't understand what happened", the father said to Dr. Dan Siegel. "Everything seems back to normal, but for some reason, my daughter won't speak anymore. I don't know what to do."

This father and his family had moved recently from Boston to L.A, his kids had changed schools and his wife was involved in a car-accident head on by a drunk driver. After a few months had gone by and the family sank into a routine, the daughter suddenly stopped speaking.

Dr. Siegel was a Harvard and UCLA educated Psychiatrist, which are two of the top Medical Schools in the world. Despite his incredible training, he said that nothing prepared him for what was about to transpire.

After a number of meetings with the family, Dr. Siegel did not know what to do. He couldn't figure out how to help the family, especially the daughter. He was unable to trace the root of the problem until the mother said the following.

Dr. Siegel was trying to figure out the change and shift in the family that led to the daughter's silence, so he asked the mother specifically what had changed since the accident.

"Well, I guess if you had to put it into words, I suppose I'd say that I've lost my soul." The mother said.

Dr. Siegel and the husband were stunned and just sat there. After a while, he asked what losing her soul felt like.

"I don't know if I can say anymore than that," she said flatly. "It feels fine, I guess. No different. I mean, just the way things are. Just empty. Things are fine."

Eventually Dr. Siegel discovered what had happened. He found that there are different sections of our brain that each have different functions. He calls them the "me" map, the "you" map and the "we" map parts of the brain.

The part of the brain that tells us what we're

experiencing is the "me" map. When we're sensitive to what someone else is feeling, that is generated by the "you" map. And when we feel a unique bond and connection with someone else, that is the "we" map.

Dr. Siegel discovered and explained to the family that what had happened to the mother since the accident was that the "you" and "we" part of her brain were damaged. Neurobiologically the mother was unable to sense, relate and really care for her children as that part of her brain was too damaged. As the daughter felt this estrangement, she shut down and wouldn't talk. As soon as this was explained to the daughter, that her mother was not herself, that she had "lost her soul" and the capability to be sensitive and relate to others - the daughter began to speak again.

Once the daughter noticed her mother's damage, pain and loss, she changed herself. The reason why she wasn't talking before was because she was only thinking about and noticing her own pain. Once she activated her "you" and "we" part of her brain, she began to talk.

Siegel's book "Mindsight" is about transforming ourselves by relating to others. The more we shift from "I" to "you" and from "me" to "we" we develop and create well being. The ability to be joyous, energetic and to enjoy life is the ability to be part of a collective whole, to think about the other and to always be sensitive to what others are experiencing. When we're transformed from protectors to creators and from takers to givers.

While this is a book from 2011, the Torah has been encouraging us to live this way



for thousands of years. In fact, most Jewish people already know it, and I'll prove it to you.

Part of the incredible energy of the High Holidays is the renewal of Yom Kippur. An entire day dedicated to understanding that we make harmful choices in our lives and a massive focus of changing negative behavior to positive living.

With this inner God focus to change, there is an element where the Synagogue is useless. Where even if a person fasts a whole day in prayer - it can mean nothing. What am I referring to? That we not only need to talk to God, we need to ask forgiveness from our friends and family. Without forgiveness from our friends and family, it all means nothing.

With the re-connecting with friends and family, when we ask our friends and family, "if I've done anything wrong this entire year to cause pain to you, please forgive me for it" - when we do that, we've undergone a personal transformation. We've gone from "I" to "you" and from "me" to "we". The more you do that, I do that and all of us do that - the more the world will be a place to enjoy.

The more we transform ourselves from complainers to creators and from takers to givers, the more we create a world of pleasure, productivity and empowered purpose. If and when we do that - then we can really call these days the High Holidays.

Wishing you and yours a sweet and empowering transformation. If you would like to work with me one on one, and learn the steps of how to take these ideas and more to transform your own life, send me an email at [HYPERLINK "mailto:ariysherbill@gmail.com"](mailto:ariysherbill@gmail.com) ariysherbill@gmail.com. I'd be honored and thrilled to take this into action with you. Shana Tovah U'Metukah!

Mindsight, Dr. Dan Siegel (Bantam Books) 2011

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