

# SHALOM! שָׁלוֹם

Fall 2012 Vol. 37 No.2

TISHREI 5773

## SHANA TOVA



TOM FORRESTALL  
Jaffa Gate for Vehicles

- GREETINGS FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL
- KADIMAH 2012...WHAT A SUMMER!
- NEWS FROM AROUND OUR REGION





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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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TISHREI 5773

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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

One of the downsides of being President of the Atlantic Jewish Council is that for about a month before your article for Shalom Magazine is due, you start thinking about having to write that article. When the deadline is still a long way off, you begin to think about what you should say. Somehow you hope that inspiration will come. As the deadline looms closer and closer, a few ideas begin to seep into your subconscious. Unfortunately these brilliant ideas are gone before you have had a chance to jot them down. I started to carry around a small notebook so when that brilliant inspiration hit, I would jot down something. About a week before that looming deadline, I looked at my notebook where there are about 15 words scribbled. Twelve of these items are part of a grocery list and the remaining three words are completely illegible.

When I asked my sister Sheva for a theme for the High Holiday edition of Shalom Magazine, she asked me what I had written in last year's edition. When I told her, she said that that was a good idea. Her advice was just use that theme again, no one will remember and no one will notice. When I retorted would she allow a student to hand in the same paper for two different assignments she said no. But she added, "If a whole year had gone by I might have forgotten". I thanked her for her useless advice and though I was a bit tempted, I decided on a new theme for my article. What I would like to talk to you about are



Miry Mikaelov, Shulamith Medjuck & Nana Shteinberg at the opening exhibit  
*Shaping Canada: Exploring Our Cultural Landscapes*  
at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

the challenges that the AJC faces. Atlantic Canadian Jewry are a very diverse group of individuals. We are spread across four provinces with widely divergent needs. We are in every possible age bracket, from our children to our seniors. Some of us have been blessed with great wealth, while others struggle to make ends meet and also everything in between. Some of us have lived in the region all our life, while others are newer immigrants. We have families with young children, empty nesters, singles, and seniors. This profile of our communities is ever evolving and changing. Some of us are Jews who envelope our entire existence in living as a Jew, while others have a more tenuous attachment to being Jewish. Some of us are committed to the goals of the AJC while others are indifferent to the AJC and Mark David, CIJA Consultant, Advocacy.

Compounding these challenges on the local level, is that the AJC strives to keep a profile at the national level by serving on a number of national committees. Our goal here is to ensure that the broader Canadian Jewish community understands the unique issues we confront as this

diverse, yet small Jewish community. And finally, and by no means less important, we maintain our commitment to Israel and in particular the smaller communities in the North of Israel.

The AJC is an organization whose mandate is to serve the entire Atlantic Jewish community, to maintain and enhance our profile at the national level, and to continue our support of Israel. The Board and Management Team want to have a big enough tent for everyone and everything. Our challenging task is

how can we accomplish this? How do we develop programs that appeal to such a broad range of people and experiences? How do we build a sense of community amid this diversity? How can we help each and every Jew in the region feel a part of the AJC community? How can the Atlantic Jewish Council create the Atlantic Jewish Community?

Underlying everything we do is a set of values and beliefs, a sense of connection, a belief that Jewish continuity in Atlantic Canada matters and that these values are transmitted through our ongoing efforts to serve.

May you all be sealed in the Book of Life for the coming year. My sister Sheva and I wish everyone a sweet, happy and healthy New Year.

## SAVE THE DATE

AJC BIENNIAL CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>-25<sup>TH</sup>, 2012

HALIFAX

## From the Desk of Jon Goldberg, Executive Director

### Welcome to our Yom Tov edition of Shalom magazine!

It's been a beautiful summer here in Nova Scotia, sunny and warm almost every day. Our great weather helped make Camp Kadimah 2012 one of our best years ever. My congratulations to our Director, Jared Goldlust (newly engaged) and his staff, along with the hardworking members of our camp committee.

Summer has gone by like a gust of wind off Spring Garden Road. As always here at the AJC, we face constant changes in our staff, our sources of funding and even in our priorities. Since our last edition, we have bid farewell to Bill Chernin, Director of Campus Services, who served our Jewish students for over six years. Last month we welcomed Ms. Sarah Snider in that position and we look forward to an excellent relationship in the coming years. Sarah is a graduate of Stern College in New York and I hope that later in the year she will have the chance to visit campuses outside of Halifax. Ian Wiseman, our AJC Administrative Assistant for the past year, will be leaving shortly for Toronto, the bright lights and the big city. I wish him well and thank him for his efforts and cooperation. We hope to have the position filled within the next few weeks. This summer we were fortunate to have two excellent students who worked on the AJC directory and a number of other areas in our office. I was able to obtain a grant from the government for each and this helped our operation considerably.

I want to thank Edna LeVine, Director of Community Relations and Editor of Shalom Magazine, having completed her fifth year at the AJC, and Svetlana Ratchinski, AJC - Kadimah Controller, now completing her third year with our organization, for their excellent work and loyalty to our

organization. This has been a difficult year with a major change of premises and we could not have maintained our services without the support of these two fine members of our staff. My thanks to Maya Moscovich, finishing her first year as UJA Administrator and Program Assistant, and of course to Rabbi David Ellis, now entering his second decade with the AJC and to Mark David, CIJA Consultant, Advocacy.

Here in Halifax I bid farewell to Rabbi and Mrs. Ari Sherbill, whom we will miss in the community and welcome Rabbi Amram Maccabi and his lovely wife Avia and their family, who assumed the pulpit of the Baron de Hirsch congregation.

At the AJC, we are planning a busy schedule of events this fall. I would like to remind our readers of two in particular - on Sunday, November 11th in Toronto at the Lipa Green building, we will be holding an AJC - Kadimah reception and art sale. With the help of Perry Romberg,



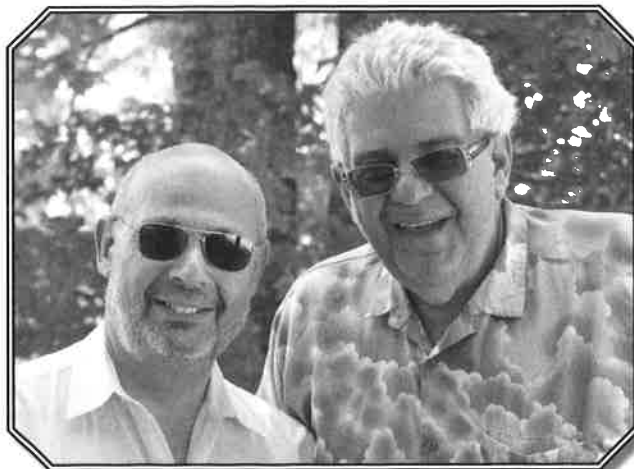
Director of Regional Community Services at JFC - UIA, and the cooperation of the Jewish Federation of Toronto, we will be displaying a number of original paintings by famous Canadian artist Tom Forrestall. Included will be a range of scenes of Camp Kadimah and a group of watercolours done in Israel by Mr. Forrestall, with our AJC mission 2010. Also attending will be members of our Camp Kadimah committee, including our Director and members of the AJC Board including Howard Conter, Regional Chair of UJA, and Karen Conter, our Chair of P2G. Mr. Forrestall will also be in attendance to discuss his works. This will be an opportunity to reconnect with our Kadimah alumni and former Atlantic Canadian Jewry now living in Toronto. Net proceeds will go to the Atlantic Jewish Foundation for such things as Camp Kadimah, Regional Chaplaincy and scholarships and bursaries.

On November 23rd to 25th, we will be holding our 18th AJC Biennial Convention in Halifax. An excellent and diverse program is being planned, with something for everyone. Stay tuned for further information in the weeks to follow. Save these dates and plan to be in Halifax to celebrate our Jewish community in Atlantic Canada.

As the year 5772 comes to an end, I want to thank our President, Shulamith Medjuck, and our Management Committee, for their hard work and support. I appreciate the time and energy that each of you gives on a voluntary basis. Some of us have been together for over 20 years at the AJC and such commitment is hard to find.

To all of our readers and their families, my best wishes for happy, healthy and prosperous 5773.

Shana Tovah,  
Jon



*Joel Lion, Consul General of Israel, enjoys the day at Camp Kadimah with Jon Goldberg.*

# From the Desk of

Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement

**W**hen people immigrate, along with their personal belongings, they bring with them their culture to share with the new community. Creating a welcoming community requires a willingness to embrace change and is essential for retaining and attracting new immigrants, especially in communities facing a decline in population. In Halifax, 19 families arrived during the spring and summer and an update on the Halifax immigration program, by Kathy Zilbert, is on page 24. This summer the AJC along with the Halifax Program Committee hosted a Family Fun Day at Camp Kadimah, with the theme, Jewish Life in Halifax: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. Halifax newcomers Neli Shpoker, Nana Shteinberg and Slava Svidler organized and facilitated this program in an effort to expand and determine the future of Jewish life in Halifax. The success of this program, with over 90 participants, included the energetic assistance of long-time Camp Kadimah staffer Nathan Pink and AJC summer students Kaitlyn Lawrence and Ethan Macaulay.

Mila Voihanski, Executive Director, JIAS Canada, was in Halifax for a few days in July to assist with the settlement of

newcomers and facilitate meetings with our local service providers. Immigrant Settlement and Integration Services (ISIS), hosted a joint meeting with their staff and our newcomers, to review and assess their level of services in an effort to respond to the needs of our newcomers. Mila also participated in a meeting with newcomers from the Halifax Program Committee to plan future community events. The enthusiastic discussion reflected the genuine commitment of newcomers to engage with the local community and highlighted their many talents. The appreciation of the services of JIAS Canada was evident in all of our meetings.

The demand for Holocaust education resources continued to increase, coupled with requests for survivor speakers. Israel Unger and Philip Riteman responded to invitations this summer to share their personal story to educate the public about the Holocaust. In addition, Riteman was an honoured recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his dedication and tireless work in Holocaust education.

Planning for Holocaust Education



Week (October 29th – November 9th) is underway in Halifax with tentative plans for programs in our communities. Updated information will be posted on the AJC website: [www.theajc.ns.ca](http://www.theajc.ns.ca). The AJC has purchased the rights to several remarkable and riveting Holocaust-related documentaries; please contact me if you are interested in hosting a film during Holocaust Education Week in your community.

Voice it! Change it! is this year's theme for December 10th, International Human Rights Day, as selected by the Nova Scotia Partners for Human Rights. I am AJC representative on this committee (the AJC is a long-time member) and we work to promote, educate and raise awareness of human rights in our community. This year's event will be hosted by Millwood High School in Lower Sackville, HRM, and will showcase local talent and acknowledge the passionate local contributions for efforts to create a more welcoming community.

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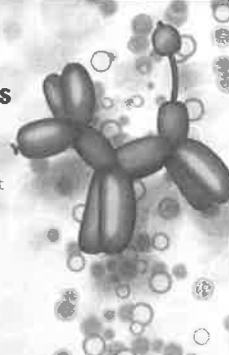
Mila Voihanski, Executive Director, JIAS Canada, Robyn Webb, Director SmartBusiness, Greater Halifax Partnership and Edna LeVine

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Julia Sultan Shah arrived in Halifax this summer and is keen to share her talent.

Dear Friends,

Just as Shalom was going to print, we heard the sad news of the passing of Ruth Goldbloom. Ruth has been an icon in our community for well over 40 years. Her boundless energy and indomitable spirit were an unbeatable combination. She was honoured by national, provincial, and municipal governments for her fundraising activities. Pier 21 in Halifax will long stand as a tribute to Dr. Ruth Goldbloom.

Ruth always found time in her busy schedule for the Jewish community. She was one of the founders of the Atlantic Jewish Council, the first female chair of the UJA campaign, chairperson of our seventh Biennial AJC Convention, and over the past three years, assisted by her niece Karen Conter, co-chaired the UJA women's campaign in Halifax. Ruth and her family are long-time members of the Shaar Shalom congregation, where she devoted much of her energy.

As long as I have been Executive Director, and I'm sure well before that, Ruth and her husband Richard have been canvassers for UJA. Every year they would take their cards and do a terrific job. Ruth's motto was, and will carry on, that no one should be denied an opportunity to contribute to the UJA campaign. Every card must be canvassed, and everyone in our community must be reached in order that they may feel part of the Jewish people. I'm sure that we will have further tributes in our next edition.

On behalf of my family, the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Jewish Council, and the United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada, I want to extend our condolences to her husband Richard and her entire family. I know that her spirit will live on in the acts and deeds of her children, her grandchildren, and her great-grandchildren.

"Ruthie, we will miss you."

**Jon Goldberg**

*Executive Director, Atlantic Jewish Council*



**Ruth Goldbloom**

## **The Atlantic Jewish Foundation - SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2013**

*All applications must be received by April 30th, 2013*

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

*Priority will be given to first time applicants.*

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

### **Scholarships & Bursaries Available**

#### **The Noa & Sarah Heinish Scholarship**

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

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

Noa Heinish was one of the founders of Shaar Shalom Congregation and served as its first president. Together with Sarah they lent their support to every arm of the congregation. Sarah Heinish was an active member of Women's League, Hadassah, Neptune Theatre, the Soroptomists and the Nova Scotia Institute for the Blind. Both Noa and Sarah gave generously of their time and resources in the support of Israel Bond drives, United Jewish Appeal, Camp Kadimah and other groups and were leaders in the Canadian Jewish Congress. For many years they operated a successful clothing business on Gottingen Street in downtown Halifax which closed in 1972.

To carry on their good works, the Heinish family established the Noa and Sarah Heinish Foundation. This charitable foundation has provided endowments supporting Jewish educational and health care institutions in Canada and Israel.

A portion of the funds has been allocated to the Atlantic Jewish Foundation to provide an annual merit scholarship for a student from the Maritime Jewish Community to study in Israel.

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

#### **The Miasnik-Rein Trust**

A limited number of scholarships of \$2,000 each are available to worthy students, one or both of whose parents profess the Jewish faith. The scholarship is open to students of the Atlantic Region for the purpose of establishing or continuing exposure to their Jewish heritage by means of study, travel, community service or other suitable means.

Miasnik - \$2000 each  
Maximum 5 scholarships per year

#### **Halifax Endowment Fund (Jayson Greenblatt Bursary)**

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

Jayson Greenblatt Bursary - \$500

For further information and applications please contact the Atlantic Jewish Foundation c/o:

Jon Goldberg, AJC Executive Director, jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca (902) 422-7491 x222

# *Greetings from the Consul General of Israel*

## *Mr. Joël Lion, On the occasion of Rosh Hashanah 5773*

**S**halom Dear Friends,  
It is an honor and privilege to address my best wishes to the leadership of the Atlantic Jewish Council and to all members of the Jewish communities of Atlantic Canada for the year 5773.

During the past year, the Consulate General of Israel in Montreal has worked very hard to strengthen political, economic and cultural ties and exchanges with Atlantic Canada by assisting Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter in organizing Canada's largest ever economic delegation to Israel, while increasing our presence in the region by way of many fruitful working visits to Halifax and Camp Kadimah, as well as an official visit to Prince Edward Island.

At home, meanwhile, the State of Israel has continued to face many significant challenges including terrorist attacks against our citizens abroad, instability along our northern and southern borders

with Syria and Egypt, and, of course, the ongoing threat of a nuclear-armed Iran.

Israelis, however, remain as resilient and determined as ever and have continued to build a prosperous and thriving society, one that values creativity and innovation, while pursuing the hope that we will one day live in peace with all of our neighbors.

Our rich history and Jewish heritage has always allowed us – in good times and in bad – to draw inspiration from our prophets and the pioneering Zionists who have made our nation the wonderful and dynamic place that it is today.

On the eve of our New Year, the solidarity and unity that has been characteristic of your communities from Halifax to Moncton, St. John's and beyond is as precious as ever.

On behalf of the State of Israel I thank you for your continued love and support and wish you and your families a New Year blessed with peace, health and happiness.



Shana Tova!

Sincerely yours,  
*Joël Lion*  
Consul General of Israel

## *Consul General Lion Visits Kadimah*

by Joel Jacobson

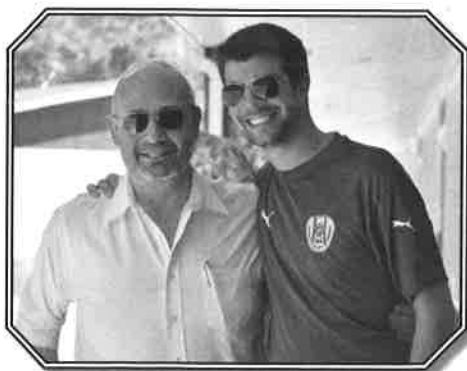
**T**he smile on the face of Joel Lion, Consul General of the State of Israel to Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces, depicted a man who had spent many glorious summers in a similar relaxed atmosphere.

While downing a lunchtime falafel pita and banana during a four-hour visit to Camp Kadimah, Lion recalled his days as a camper and staff member at Camp Akiva in France, where he spent many years of his childhood.

Now, in an official capacity, he was visiting Kadimah to see, first-hand, what he'd been hearing about since he first stepped into the consul general's role less than a year ago. At that time, in a visit to Halifax, he

was urged to return to see the camp. Now he was here.

More than 250 campers and staff members greeted him warmly as he rose to speak at



*Consul Lion with Jared Goldlust, Camp Kadimah Director*

the dining hall.

It had been a busy day and half already on this trip to Atlantic Canada. He had just come from a meeting in Halifax with mayor Peter Kelly. The day and evening before, he was in Prince Edward Island for meetings with Robert Ghiz, Premier of Prince Edward Island, mayor of Charlottetown, Clifford Lee, and the president of University of Prince Edward Island, Dr. Alaa Abd-El-Aziz.

Yet, despite a bit of fatigue, Lion was excited to be at Camp.

In a brief after-lunch address to more than 250 eager listeners, Lion opened, "While I'm glad to see you here on Israel Day,



every day is Israel Day for me."

Israel Day at Kadimah was a special day of festivities, emphasizing more Israeli programming than usual, including a swim, where campers were asked to imagine a Tel Aviv beach, and an Israeli carnival of games and goodies.

"You should be proud to be part of the Jewish nation," said Lion. "We are not there to make wars but to achieve peace with our neighbours, with all nations."

He noted that in 1948, when the State of Israel began, there was one big river (the Jordan) and two lakes one of which, he said, "was dead, the Dead Sea, and another on life support. We didn't have lots to begin with, but, in 65 years we went from nothing to become one of the 33 most



prosperous nations in the world."

He talked briefly of Israel's accomplishments in medicine and technology and stressed, "the best way to tell others about us is to talk of our achievements."

After being presented with a Camp Kadimah t-shirt by director Jared Goldlust, he later met with several campers and staff from Israel, who were attending the camp

through the auspices of the Atlantic Jewish Council and private donations. He participated in Israel Day before reluctantly drawing away.

He left Nova Scotia reflecting on an evening event on PEI where he was "elected" to the PEI Jewish community.

And, knowing he'd be back before his term ends in a

couple of years, he could reflect on the ties between Atlantic Canada and Israel.

"We have strong relations with Nova Scotia," Lion said, recalling a meeting with Premier Darrel Dexter last fall prior to a successful Nova Scotia trade mission to Israel, headed by Dexter. "Earlier this year, MK Dr. Einat Wilf, visited Halifax, too, cementing relations."



# CHW

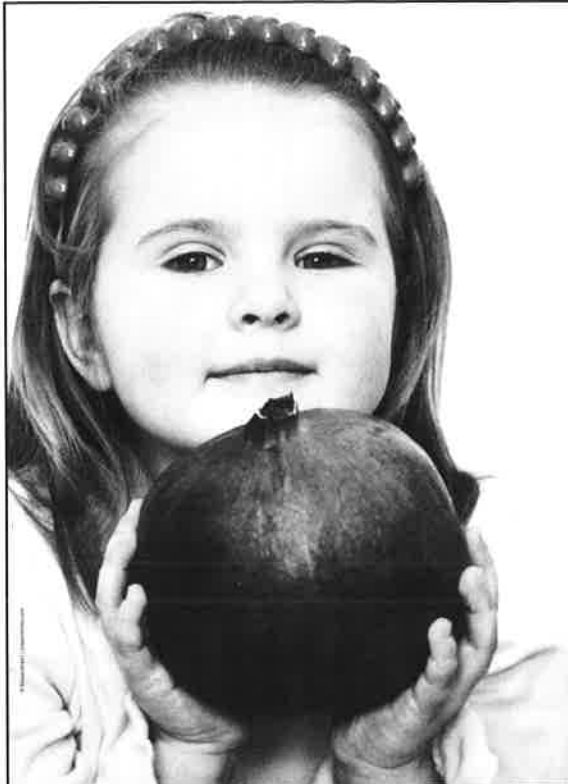
## Shana Tova!

*On the coming year may our good deeds be as plentiful as the seeds of the pomegranate.*

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) wishes all our members and friends a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!

Thank you for your continued support of CHW's programs and projects for Children, Healthcare and Women in Israel and Canada.

Marla Dan, CHW National President  
CHW Board of Directors  
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# Kadimah 2012...what a summer!

by Jared Goldlust, Director of Camp Kadimah

**O**n August 12 the busses rolled out of Camp Kadimah as campers and staff had just experienced an incredible summer together. Tears filled their eyes as they had to say goodbye for 10 months to the place and people they love so much. The 2012 season on the shores of Lake William was one filled with perfect weather, great moments and most importantly, lasting friendships.

This summer we were happy to welcome over 70 new campers to the Kadimah family. Within days, these kids felt right at home, singing songs in the Chadar and being fully engaged with the camp program. With the camp population growing, we were also delighted to have the greatest number of Maritimers in quite some time. A true testament to the great summer we experienced is that over 50% of the campers who were signed up for one of our introductory sessions (10 day or 3 week) decided to extend their stay at camp!

As is the case every summer, the camp program was filled with many new surprises and several traditional programs. In the first week, Camp was treated to a special intimate concert from American folk singer and songwriter, Dar Williams. There was a total of FOUR musicals this summer, showcasing some of the best talent Kadimah has ever seen. Hagana night and Israel Day both had some exciting new additions including a visit from the Israeli Consul General, Maccabia

was as spirited as ever with the Yellow Team being victorious. Harry Potter Day and Hockey Marathon were thoroughly enjoyed across camp. Fishing and archery continue to be the most requested activities at camp. All campers got to experience at least one overnight camping trip at one of Nova Scotia's finest parks. The 43 CITs enjoyed every minute of their summer including being in the spotlight of many camp-wide programs and of course their five day trip across the Maritimes, jammed pack with adventure.

Kadimah continues to build on the informal Jewish Zionist programming at camp. Campers have grown to cherish every Shabbat at camp, including belting out songs and dancing up a storm at Shabbat Onegs.



of the Kadimah family (old and new) reconnecting with each other and their kids. As well throughout the summer, we welcomed back to camp several Alumni (and some future Gibbies) who came to visit the place that formed much of their childhood summer memories.

I can go on and on, but to really tell you the story of how amazing the summer was you have to see it for yourself! This summer we produced some of the best pictures and videos Camp has ever seen. If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to go on our website



*Jacob Appleton, Shon Lazarev, Adar Svidler and Zane Brown high five each other during a baseball game.*



*Gaborim Section*

We were fortunate to have another great contingent of Israeli staff and CITs who created strong bonds with the North Americans and brought a strong flavour of Israeli culture to camp.

Visitors Day was a resounding success with many members

([www.campkadimah.com](http://www.campkadimah.com)) to see the pictures and check out our YouTube channel for all the great videos ([www.youtube.com/theCKchannel](http://www.youtube.com/theCKchannel)).

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, application

*continued on page 11*



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# CAMP KADIMAH



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**Intro Program**  
10 Day & 3 Week Sessions  
**Traditional Program**  
6 Week Session



continued from page 8



Jonah Appleton, Leva Leving, Denis Tichonov and Carley Star at the summer end Banquet.

season for 2013 will begin! All applications can be done online and be sure to apply early so you can take advantage of our early bird discount!

If you are new to Kadimah or know of someone who may be interested in the summer of their lives, a Kadimah staff will happily meet with you and tell you all about Camp. So whether it is our one day Pre-Gibbie Day program, a Taste of Kadimah, our 3-week Intro program or our full six week program, Kadimah has something for you. Please email me directly at [jared@campkadimah.com](mailto:jared@campkadimah.com) or call at 1866-KADIMAH (523-4624).

As well this year will mark Camp

Kadimah's 70th anniversary! Alumni, stay tuned for upcoming events and celebrations! If you are interested in playing a more active role in the planning, please contact our office.

Thank you for a wonderful year at Kadimah and we look forward to a sweet and happy 5773 and 70th year for Camp Kadimah! Shana Tova U'metuka to you and your family!



Brooke Rubinoff, Yael Gazit, Lola Leving, Michelle Yabunovsky and Rhianna Rinzler-Johnston spending time together on the Pavillion.



Kass Palter, Ben Levy, Jonah MacDonald and Zane Brown all smiles on a sunny day.

## THE ROCK

by Leigh Lampert

*Editors note: Leigh Lampert, long time camper, staff & head staff, now lives in Toronto with his wife Darcie & their 2 boys.*

**S**omewhere in rural Nova Scotia, there is a large rock. To be specific, The Rock is located at latitude 44.62566N and longitude 64.63922W. This location is better known to most of you as Camp Kadimah, on Barss Corner Road in Barss Corner, Nova Scotia, postal code B0R 1A0 (pronounced by all as bee-

oh-ar-one-ay-oh).

I have known The Rock for 28 years now, since July, 1984 - my first summer as a camper at Camp Kadimah - before I was even 7 years old.

I spent 19 summers here, as a camper, CIT, staff member and, ultimately, as Assistant Director. In fact, all through law school, as classmates fought for prestigious Bay Street jobs, I ignored all of the fuss, and instead, I looked forward to spending another summer by The Rock.

I'm on The Rock today because Darcie

and I decided to bring our two boys to visit Camp Kadimah and to introduce them to it - and to The Rock. Thanks to the hospitality of Jared Goldlust, the current Director, we're spending a couple of nights here, introducing our kids to this place that is very special to so many of us.

It's particularly special to Darcie and me since we met here so many years ago, and so it's wonderful to be back by The Rock with our boys.

Sitting on The Rock, you get an excellent view of some of the key parts of camp.



Looking across Lake William, one gets an excellent view of the "mo'adon", cabin 25 (where I was a frequent resident and made many close friends), the water-ski docks, the "swimming pool" part of the lake (now greatly expanded since I was last here), the former office (where I worked for four summers)... Looking behind me, I see cabins 11, 10, 9 and 8... To the right, I see cabin 15 (of which we are temporary residents for our visit) and the path to the infirmary. Since it's raining today, the line for the infirmary isn't too long. On hot days, when most people in camp have scheduled swim instruction, the line lengthens as many campers beg the doctor to be excused for swimming using any excuse they can think of including females who say that for the 4th straight week, it's "that time of the month". Creative males also try to argue along these same lines. But Dr. Les Rosoph - who I have known for 28 years - first as a boating specialist and now as camp doctor - knows to expect this and doesn't put up with very much.

Sitting on The Rock, many memories come flooding back. I think of the time in the mid-1980s where there was a tower built here, from logs and rope. Legend had it that camp staff would sit there at night and be able to look-out over the entire camp, to make sure no one was "cabin hopping". As I think of it now, that was nonsense. It must've been yet another place the creative couples went to pursue their hormonal interests - how romantic! (At least there was a nice view of the water.)

I think of the time a fellow camper decided to "wrestle" with a utility pole near The Rock one night... only to have it fall, causing problems with our power. The next morning, I remember hearing noise and looking out my window in Cabin 10 and seeing a small tractor bringing a new pole in to replace the old one.

I remember the mud wrestling and puddle-jumping on rainy days. I remember the shaving cream fights. I remember cabin hopping. I remember the late-night kitchen raids and then, when I was on senior staff, the late-night authorized kitchen entries where we

would prepare feasts for even later-night consumption in cabin 25.

I remember the overnight hikes, the collective chants of "boil egg boil" during Maccabia, gathering candy, gimp bracelets and other "bribes" to offer "soldiers" on Haganah Night, and going to Maders "general store" on both authorized and unauthorized occasions during my summers here.

I remember learning songs and hating dancing. I remember meeting Israelis and thinking how cool (some of them) were. I remember Visitors' Day and running to the gate to see my parents. I remember the food they brought and - in 1986 - the night-time effects of having consumed too much food on Visitors' Day.

Other memories include the lily pads in the lagoon, Gus the legendary turtle (whose equally large in size descendant we saw yesterday), the food - both good and bad, plays and musicals, outings to Keji, Rissers, and Bridgewater.

The grounds are still covered with roots from older trees and between these and the clotheslines made from rope, kids still trip and fall. There are still picnic tables all over the place, including the yellow and green McDonalds tables that were installed a couple of decades ago.

The ABC field looks the same, with the septic hole covered with wood. The septic tank by cabin 28 remains, and stinks, as always.

Perhaps what surprises me the most as I sit on The Rock is how little things have changed. Fundamentally, the layout of the camp is the same as it was when I first came here in 1984, although there have been some significant expansions and some noticeable changes. But the sounds and smells are the same. I didn't think about these - or miss them - before returning. But as I sit here, I hear sounds coming from all directions. Goshrim boys in their cabins behind me are running around like wild animals as their counselors try to bring order to chaos. Over the PA system, people are making the same announcements that I made from the office during the summers of 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997, starting with the obligatory "hakshivu,

hakshivu". Toranut and buggy duty are still always late, as are those who are supposed to be somewhere for a rehearsal or a game of some sort. I also hear a group of kids playing the ubiquitous tetherball and I hear the slapping of the ball followed by one kid yelling "ropes", and, a few minutes later, another kid calling "interference". From another area of camp, I hear a group of kids squealing as they're chased by others, and from the lake, I hear the sounds of a ski boat as it circles.

The dishes in the chadar are still pale yellow and pale blue. The juice containers look the same. The "bug juice" is still in garbage cans.

The smells are the same too. As I walked across the bridge earlier today, there was a light rain and a distinctive smell coming off the lake - one I hadn't smelled since 2002, and one that I cannot describe in words but those of you who have been here know it well.

There is another, far less pleasant but equally memorable smell that came back to me while here: the distinct smell of your hands after you've had your turn using the j-cloth to clean your part of the table after eating, before passing it on to your neighbor so that his/her hands can smell just as bad, too.

The smells and the sounds audible from The Rock bring me back to a time, many years ago, when life was so simple. Now that I'm older, with a family and the associated responsibilities, financial commitments and work responsibilities, I recognize how simple life was as a kid and I'm envious of the free-spirited kids running around here today. Most don't realize it, but they are living what will be some of the best memories of their lives. More importantly, they're meeting some of the friends that will be their closest friends throughout their lives.

As in most other camps, it is a tradition here to write your name all over the place - on beds, benches, tables, walls, ceilings and floors. People also commonly write the years during which they attended camp.

As I read the names, this causes more

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*continued from page 11*

memories to rush back. I read my own name, written in marker, paint or spray paint, 10, 15 and 20+ years ago, and I think of myself when I was 7, 12, 17, 22... And I read the names of my siblings, my cousins, and close friends who I met here. I also read the names of counselors that I looked up to and learned lots from, and the names of counselors I couldn't stand. I see names of people who were a generation before me, including uncles, aunts and friends of my parents. And I see names of people who I knew as a kid but haven't thought of in a decade or two. Perhaps what's even more surprising to me as I read these names is to read the years in which they were written. I look at cabin lists in cabin 15 from 1991, 1992,

1993, 1998... Years when I was a camper or staff member here, and people who were kids with me then are now "adults" like me now, many with kids of their own.

I would be untruthful if I suggested that there is not a slight bit of sadness, mixed with nostalgia, as I think back to the times and people I once knew. But, quickly, I think of what's in store for our boys and their generation, and I become excited again.

The old saying "time flies" couldn't be truer as I realize that it has been ten years since I roamed these grounds with any legitimate purpose or authority, and 28 years since I first sat on The Rock while still (secretly) wetting my bed some nights.

But as Darcie and I watch our two boys - one of whom celebrated his second birthday here yesterday, complete with the Camp Kadimah cake and "happy birthday" dining hall tradition - run around and play and go in boats and play in playgrounds, I recognize how great this place is and how lucky everyone is to be here. And I look forward to having them be able to spend their summers here as we did.

My law school friends can say they worked on Bay Street, but I can say that I got paid to water-ski, to smell these smells, to hear these sounds, and to sit on The Rock. And I wouldn't trade it for the world.

## Camp Kadimah: My Amazing 4<sup>th</sup> Summer!

by Jonathan Lazarev

**I**t was an amazing experience going into Camp Kadimah for my 4th summer in a row, having to go through all the amazing activities that we had such as softball, basketball and beach volleyball. Camp Kadimah has five great sections that make up the camp, the youngest are "Gibborim", and then there is "Goshrim", after that is "Kochot" and then "Machar" and "C.I.T" (which stands for Counselor in Training).

Being in the oldest year, as a camper, made me feel a little more mature and responsible. An example that emphasizes this is one activity that our section had - it's what we call "Machar Day". Machar Day is when our section (Machar) gets to take over the camp and be staff for one day. We have to take care of things such as running activities for all the other sections, keeping camp in order, and running meals properly. It's what the Kadimah Family does to you, it always influences you in a positive way somehow.

In addition to all of those amazing features of camp, our family is strong. At Camp Kadimah everyone is friends with everyone. A Macharnik can be friends with

a Gibbie, Goshie or even a C.I.T. Age difference doesn't matter in Camp Kadimah, because Camp Kadimah is a family.

My little brother (Shon Lazarev) was a Gibbie for this summer (he was in the youngest section), you would expect most kids to miss their parents during camp time because you don't see them for six weeks, but my brother didn't even think about them for one second during camp because he loved it so much here.

I would also like to say that I will always miss Camp Kadimah and I never regretted for a second, coming back to camp for a 4th time.

I Love You Camp Kadimah and Machar. Thank you for an amazing summer!



*Jonathan Lazarev, centre, with Joshua Charkow and Daniel Friedberg.*

# Report from the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

by Mark David - Consultant, Advocacy (AJC)

**T**oday's social media world is filled with shortcuts and acronyms. Pretty much everyone is familiar with LOL, TTYL, BFF, ASAP, and so on. An acronym that often summarizes my work with the Centre is "SSDD" - and for the sake of clarity, I will be very specific that I mean "same stuff, different day."

I do not mean to suggest that advocacy work is boring or routine. I am fortunate to work with dedicated and interesting people at the Centre and at the AJC, and to interact with committed and passionate members of the Atlantic Jewish community. I have been especially privileged to meet the many visitors to our region, the most recent of whom was Omar Sharif, Jr., who visited Halifax in August. What I mean by "SSDD" is that advocacy challenges facing us as Jews and supporters of Israel confront us almost every single day, and that there is a certain consistency to them.

There is no more timely example of an advocacy challenge than the process that led to the August decision by delegates to the United Church of Canada's General Council to overwhelmingly adopt a boycott of products from Israeli settlements. In doing so, the Church relied on the findings of a seriously defective working group paper and joined the "delegitimize Israel" bandwagon against the wishes of its congregants and its own stated values. The ironic result was singling out for boycott the only liberal democracy in the Middle East. At the same time, the delegates totally disregarded the very serious challenges facing Christians throughout the Middle East and the rapidly disintegrating situation in Syria, to cite but two examples. What started as an obsession by a small core of activists within the Church with the Jewish State has now entirely undermined the relationship between Canadian Jewry and the United Church.

The Centre devoted considerable time, energy and resources to this challenge, since while there is substantial diversity of opinion in the Canadian Jewish community on the future of settlements, there is no diversity when it comes to boycotts of Israelis in any form. Despite the outrageous decision of the General Council, the importance of our campaign against the boycott - and our efforts elsewhere to counter the singling out of Israel - is indeed significant.

So here is my "SSDD" confession. If you have read my previous writings in Shalom Magazine, or heard me speak at community events, you are aware that I constantly stress the need for more people to get involved and contribute their energy, talents and perspectives. As



Left to right: Bobbi Zahra, Mark David, Peggy Walt & her daughter Hannah at their booth for Gay Pride Day in Halifax.

you consider your resolutions for the new Jewish year, consider advocacy - getting educated, connecting with your local Jewish community, and building relations with your neighbours in a manner that makes Israel relevant to Atlantic Canadians in a positive manner - as a most worthy community activity.

With best wishes for a happy and healthy 5773.

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# Doron Horowitz Speaks in Halifax

by Joel Jacobson

**D**oron Horowitz speaks with authority when he tells an invited group of Halifax community leaders to be aware of Muslim threats and to help law enforcement help the community.

The Director of National Security Infrastructure for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) is responsible for the coordinated security initiative for the Jewish communities of Canada.

In that role, he was in Halifax in late June to meet with AJC representatives and RCMP officials about issues that concern the Atlantic region and to review procedures and re-create awareness from a few years ago when he met with the two Halifax synagogues and Camp Kadimah regarding security issues.

Doron first summarized the political situation in the Middle East, from Syria to Egypt to Iran. "The biggest threat in the Middle East is uncertainty, which invites extreme organizations to plant seeds of more uncertainty," he said. "Syria is in a state of war. Iran is motivated to build nuclear weapons, really a global issue, not an Israel problem. If we see a military strike, it will start an arms race like nothing before. Terrorism will spread and will cost taxpayers a great deal of money. It's a wait-and-see situation."

Israel's economy is very strong, he said, and the country appears to be emerging as less military and more progressive in its contribution to the world, which distinguishes it from its neighbours.

With a smile, Doron said, "Israel has social unrest which is a great example of a healthy democracy."

He said there are between 12 and 13 million Jews in the world and one billion



Left to right: Neil Wentzell, Jon Goldberg, Jeff Hirsch, Doron Horowitz, Kathy Zilbert and Daniel Pink

Muslims. "The majority (of Muslims) are passive in converting the world. They want a normal life and to contribute to society, not push their will. But a strong minority believes it's justified to use various degrees of violence to achieve the objectives to ensure a Muslim way of life on western society."

In North America, relationships with Muslims as Canadians need to be built and maintained – with tolerance, freedom of expression and freedom of religion. "Overreaction to concerns means racial profiling, panic, anxiety," Doron said. "We have to be aware but operate in normal circumstances."

Members of the H Division of the RCMP attended the meeting. Corporal Neil Wentzell said he has monthly diversity meetings with 11 different communities. "We have relationships. I can call and

tell them what's going on and vice-versa – they'll call me. It's taken three years to earn mutual respect but the long-term investment is worth it."

While supporting the RCMP initiatives, Doron cautioned. "There's a large Muslim population in Halifax. Don't be surprised if a huge mosque is built on tons of acres, part of the missionary to spread Islam over the world. If there are 10,000 Muslims here and 1,000 are leaning to more extreme views and 100 have really

extreme views, even 50 of the 10,000, there is a big problem."

He stressed. "The RCMP would enable you to heighten your security of they perceived a threat. It's important to pay attention to any security alert that comes out."

He said the situation can change rapidly but it's important for the Jewish community to understand what's happening and allay it with communication between Muslims and Jews locally.



Doron and Kathy discuss security issues in Halifax



# Campus News

by Sarah Snider, Director of Campus Services

**H**i everyone! My name is Sarah Snider and I am the new Director of Jewish Student Life and Inter-Campus Relations for Hillel of Atlantic Canada. Although I grew up in Detroit, Michigan, went to university in Israel and New York, and most recently worked in Birmingham, Alabama, I am proud to boast a strong Canadian ancestry on my father's side. I am therefore excited to live and work within the community of Halifax, NS and explore

my Canadian roots. My goal for Hillel in the upcoming year is to strengthen programming across the board, be it for the Jewish holidays, social events, Jewish learning, Israel, and all else



pertaining to campus life.

University students are at a point in their lives when they have so much to offer, and my role is to act as a resource and to provide a platform for their ideas. Despite their relative size, Jewish communities across Atlantic Canada have much to offer, and I hope to tap into that source within the student community. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible; if you have any questions or thoughts, feel free to email me at [ssnider@theajc.ns.ca](mailto:ssnider@theajc.ns.ca).

Shana Tova!

## The Nahum Goldmann Fellowship in Warsaw, Summer 2012

by Yuri Leving

**A**s a representative of Atlantic Canada I took part in the Nahum Goldmann Fellowship which was held in Warsaw on July 3-11. The Polish seminar was designed for the young professionals in their ages of 20-40. During this week I had a privilege of meeting with the Fellows who came from Jewish communities in 17 countries around the globe (Israel, Denmark, Turkey, Australia, Uruguay, South Africa, Germany, Venezuela, Hungary, USA, and many more). As a fellow of the program I have participated in numerous discussions and incredible series of lectures: "Reformulating Our Normative Connections," dealing with reconfiguring those connections with the wider society, the Jewish people and the State of Israel (presented by Professors J.J. Schachter and Shalom Rosenberg); "The Emerging Profile of the Global Jewish Community" by Prof. Ilan Troen, and a lecture by Prof. Ismar Schorsch, devoted to the role of the fast days in Jewish



Canadian representatives attending the program in Poland. Yuri is the 2nd from the right.

history. In addition, there were workshops dealing with Jewish texts, identity, and community. Among the talks given over the course of this intense week-long seminar was "The Restoration of Historical Memory" by Moshe Rosman, an internationally distinguished Professor of Polish Jewish History at Bar-Ilan University and an advisor to the Museum of the History of Polish Jews now being

erected in Warsaw.

Many Jews of the Halifax area and Maritime Provinces represent the offspring of those who once belonged to the vibrant Jewry of the Eastern Europe. We know too well that the legacy wiped out in the Holocaust has largely been forgotten, even by the descendants of Polish Jewry who emigrated before World War II to

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*Yuri Leving addressing the conference*

the United States and Israel. Indeed, as Dr. Jerry Hochbaum, the Executive Vice President of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, has rightfully observed, "the children and grandchildren of those immigrants in the United States and Canada know more about the American Indians than their Jewish antecedents in Poland." Prof. Rosman's lecture dealt both with the history and meta-history of Polish Jewry from its inception up until the Shoah. The whole day was reserved for visiting the sites related to the Holocaust,

however, was not only the Shoah, but pre and post-Shoah Poland. On Shabbat afternoon we heard from two young leaders of Polish Jewry, Piotr Kowalik, a Nahum Goldmann Fellowship alumnus who is now responsible for Jewish education at the museum, and Rabbi Mati Pawlak, the director of the Jewish school in Warsaw. Both reported in great detail

including paying a tribute to the victims of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The central focus of the Polish sector of the program,

the enormous efforts to revive Jewish life in Poland, their successes to date and the challenges they face in the future. Like my peers, I was moved by the story how these two men discovered they were Jewish: Piotr for a time was a practicing Christian until he became aware of discrepancies



*Representatives gather for a group picture*

between the Old and New Testaments. Without any formal instruction, he began to practice the Jewish faith and has today become a key personality and leader in the revival of Jewish life in Poland. Return to Jewish roots may be complicated but it is imminent.

Many participants of the 2012 Nahum Goldmann Fellowship admitted at the end of the program that not only it was an honor to participate, but that they return home inspired by other Fellows and their longing to connect to others in their pursuit of a Jewish identity that feels meaningful and authentic. Programs like this one create a space and venue that allows for Jewish experience to unfold in many great ways.

In the period when the entire Halifax Jewish community and its major religious congregations seek ways to cooperate, we should not forget about the life-changing investment in education of our children and the entire community. Changes are small and incremental but we are not the only ones who face challenges in our global Jewish family. Vital programs like Nahum Goldmann help us go from strength to strength.

*Yuri Leving is Professor and Chair at the Department of Russian Studies, Dalhousie University.*

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# Dragon Boat Paddler Helps Bring Sport to Israel

by Joel Jacobson

*Editor's note: If you are interested in Dragon Boat 2013 in Israel please contact Karen Conter, conterkaren@hotmail.com*

**I**t took a little prodding but breast-cancer survivor and Dragon Boat competitor Nancy Bennett made a decision that led to what she calls "an incredible experience."

Nancy has been a member of the breast cancer survivor paddling team, Avalon Dragons in St. John's, NL, since they were founded six years ago to give survivors a way get fit, stay fit, and make friends. She was diagnosed 20 years ago when living in the United States, four years before she and her late husband, Arnold, emigrated to Newfoundland.

Last October, as the couple was planning a trip for Nancy to participate in the first Israel Dragon Boat Festival, Arnold died suddenly. Despondent, Nancy thought she'd pass on her first visit to Israel.

"I eventually looked into it a bit more, went to a training camp for the Canadian team and Frances Halpern of Toronto, one of the organizers of Dragon Boat Israel, placed me on the (Montreal-based) Canadian team, Two Abreast (Cote a Cote)."

One of only two Jewish women on the team, Nancy was joined by two Avalon members, Marie Hyslop and Shirley Thorne, plus two women from Texas (one living in Italy) and the rest of the 15-person squad from Montreal.

They spent 10 days on guided tours before competing in two races May 18.

Nancy picks up the story.

"Our first race was at 7:30 a.m. Lake Kinneret on the Sea of Galilee was calm and extreme heat was not yet evident. We

were refreshed and strong, but pushed really hard to win the race (against a mixed field of men and women teams).

"It was nearly 40 degrees when we started our second race, paddling against eight other experienced breast cancer teams. We doused ourselves with water from the Sea to cool off a little before the race started. We got a very good start, maintained a strong and steady pace and finished first



*The three Newfoundland team members, including Jewish Community Havura President Nancy Bennett (right), display their First-Place medals with Lake Kinneret in the background.*

in the race, taking first place overall in the breast cancer division."

During the closing ceremonies, they were treated like celebrities when they received their medals.

"We were the top Survivor team in the first ever Dragon Boat Israel Festival! You can imagine our joy!" Nancy says with passion.

Her impression of Israel was similar to most first-time visitors – "incredibly beautiful country. I'm not sure what I was expecting but it was breathtaking, as though every square inch of land yields a story," says the 67-year-old public relations consultant, mostly for non-profit groups. She is also the president of the Havura Congregation in St. John's.

"In Israel, she says, things seem very managed, that there is planning behind

everything. There's an aesthetic and beauty that's missing in North America where urban sprawl bothers her, as though no one is planning or thinking things through the ugliness that has developed."

She praises Vancouver doctor, Don MacKenzie, who first recognized that paddling would help women overcome breast cancer surgery and become fit again. Prior to his initiative, women were told to lift nothing heavy and to avoid exertion.

"After he researched it, he found positive results and now Dragon Boating is the fastest growing water sport in the world," Nancy says.

In a sport appealing to all demographics and not only for breast cancer survivors, there were 39 teams in Israel, nine of which were survivor teams. At a world festival in Peterborough, ON, two years ago, more than 2,000 breast cancer survivors participated.

Avalon Dragons, with women aged late 30s to 80 ("She's a heck of a paddler," says Nancy) were there.

"I'm so glad I went (to Israel)," Nancy says. "It showed me how important Israel is for non-Jews, too. The women on our team were so enthusiastic about the country, now having a better understanding of anti-Semitism and the history of the Holocaust. They realize the need for a Jewish country. The depth of the feeling of non-Jews was quite beautiful to experience."

At her table during a Shabbat dinner, Nancy said the blessings over the wine and bread and explained the symbolism.

"Immediately, those at the next table asked me to do the same for them. Our guide, an Israeli woman, even told me later she learned something from me."

*Reprinted with the permission of the Canadian Jewish News*

# The Life & Times of David Silverberg

## Artist gives vast book collection to Acadia University

by Joel Jacobson

*"Great art makes you feel young and strong and glad." – Persian saying*

**D**avid Silverberg is a man who has created art in various forms, travelled to 86 different countries, lived for a length of time in several, and had close to 200 solo exhibitions of his work, is still very young at age 76, strong enough to continue to produce art in his Wolfville studio, and glad he has had the opportunity to share his love of fine art with students and the public.

Recently, David donated his collection of almost 1,000 art books to the Vaughan Memorial Library at Acadia University where he was artist-in-residence for five years after serving as an art professor at Mount Allison University for 32 years.

Now retired for the past five years, David made his presentation in late May 2012. He said "it wasn't easy to give away so large a collection of wonderful,



talented, beautiful and vital friends. These many volumes have indeed been good, intelligent, inspirational companions."

The books come from around the globe, collected after many years of creating with no books at all.

"Only after living and creating, for example, in France, Japan, Peru, China, Italy and Portugal for a year or more each did I start to collect books and music to buttress and fill up my experiences with knowledge from books," he told a gathering at the presentation.

Acadia University vice-president academic Tom Herman called David's gift, "an opportunity to get to know and rejoice in the companionship that these books offer – they have been David's companions for many years and now they are ours as well. It is a jewel of a collection."

Acadia head librarian Sara

Lochhead called the collection "a reflection of David's artistic and intellectual life. There are books about birds, medicine, fishing, and, of course, art, everything that interested him. It is a collection of the mind of an artist."

She said the collection is in the Rare Books Room where students, faculty and the public can peruse it.

"It's an opportunity for students to move from the digital and virtual world and see books, to see in a different way, in a new way, something an artist always wants from people."

Where did it all begin? David grew up in a Montreal Jewish home, son of parents who were termed "communists" because of their bent for socialist thinking. As a boy, David had an interest in art, even at age 7, attending a school for youngsters established by later-to-become-Group of Seven artist Arthur Lismer.

"I had God-given talent," he says with modesty. "In Grade 1, I was promoted to Grade 2 for art."

In Grade 11 at Baron Byng High, David ranked first in the art final exam in the province of Quebec. "I always found it easier than most people to make images," he recalls.

He was conflicted as he left high school. Does he go into art full time? Does he go to university?

"I didn't want to go to McGill but my folks thought I was throwing away my life being an artist. So I went to McGill, studied science, and for three years felt I was not being what I wanted to be. I felt guilty but in retrospect, taking various courses enabled me to create pictures that showed the extent of my knowledge."

That knowledge has been depicted in etchings, engravings, batik, ceramics, Japanese woodcut and photography. Many

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of his works show David's interest in his Jewish heritage and research.

"About one-third of my collection is Jewish heritage work," says the man who has done shows at Shaar Shalom and Beth Israel synagogues in Halifax and created several covers for AJC's Shalom Magazine.

His extensive study in non-art subjects ensured his students at Mount A became "artists with a brain".

In the summer after his third year at McGill, David took a job with a gold exploration company and "became a mensch. I was doing what people wanted me to do and also had time to draw. But I also read the next year's requirements for a McGill literature course. I was reading War and Peace when, emulating the hero of the book who contradicted himself, I decided I'd be an artist."

Today, he can look back and say, "You're lucky if you fit into what you love. I never remember going hungry because of my art."

He did just OK in his fourth year at McGill but had made his decision. He was accepted at a Paris studio the next summer, with the support of his family and reflects, "I'm surprised as anyone of what I've accomplished."

Yet initially he was uncertain as to how his work would be accepted. It was, and he travelled, worked, met his wife Yvette (they've been married 55 years and have two adult children), and by age 27, became a professor at Mount Allison.

"They needed a replacement for Alex Colville. I was recommended through contacts in Montreal who knew my work, and took the job for a year. It became two and then blossomed to 32. I loved teaching. Anything with young people in front of you is exciting. I was able to do my own (art) work, but was never good at delegating of paperwork which took away from my calling."

In his first year at Mount A, he became a member of the religious life committee, "me a Jewish atheist, but I took two years to study Jewish illuminated manuscripts of the 9th to 11th centuries."

Time eroded his enthusiasm for Mount A but not for teaching, and certainly not

for art. In 1994, he took a retirement package as a full professor and the following year, was made professor emeritus.

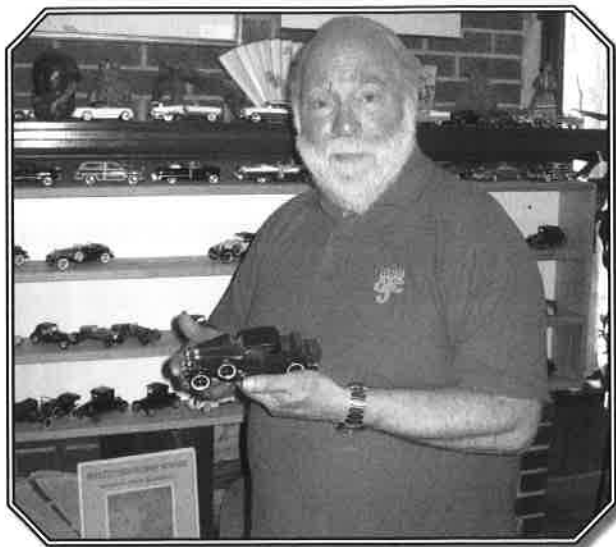
Within a year, he was offered artist-in-residence at Acadia for five years with no salary, no teaching responsibilities, but with Acadia thinking his reputation would aid in fund-raising. He was given a studio and settled in to paint, and was treated well.

In 2000, David finished his term but remained in the town, bought a studio. He sees classes visiting his studio, attends cultural offerings at the university and goes to every Acadia football and hockey home game.

He has an extensive model car collection ("We didn't have a car when I was growing up") and 14 tanks of tropical fish. He made model airplanes ("my hands aren't good enough to do that anymore") and continues to paint and do engraving work.

Even though Acadia doesn't offer a fine arts program, David hopes his books will enrich the student experience. Many of the books are major studies of the great artists and could benefit students in various disciplines, as well as members of the general community.

"These books give us the opportunity to stop and look and think, to savour ideas, new and old, to be challenged and to look at things in new ways," said vice-president Herman. "The breadth and depth of



the collection will create a picture of the artist, his inspirations, his humour, his intellectual explorations. We hope people will receive even half as much joy from this collection as David has.

"It is both a reverential and irreverent passage into the past and, for those who will take the time, an opportunity to look at our present with new eyes and consider the future in new ways."



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# My Personal Jewish Story

by Nana Shteinberg

*Editor's note: In summer 2012 both Sharon Shteinberg and her mother Nana celebrated their Bat Mitzvah at the Beth Israel Synagogue in Halifax.*

**This year my daughter Sharon turned 12 and had her Bat Mitzvah. For me it was a big celebration because when I was her age I didn't even know I was Jewish.**



*Synagogue in Minsk*

I was born in Minsk, Belarus – a part of the former USSR. At that time people were hiding their nationality, so I only discovered it after the Soviet regime collapsed. By then I was 13 years old and my mother decided to send me to a Jewish summer camp. I had been to summer camp many times, but it is

the Jewish camp I will never forget. It changed my life. First of all, I realized that I was a Jew. I'd heard that there were Jews, but I never thought I was related to them (despite the fact, that once a year we used to have Matzah at home!). Truly, I was most impressed. Second, I learned a lot about Judaism and the Jewish traditions. In fact, I had so many

new things to learn, but all of our activities were fun, so it wasn't hard at all! Finally, I found a lot of new friends who were Jewish too, and we are still in touch, thanks to the Internet. After camp ended all the campers were invited to come every Friday night to

the synagogue in Minsk and participate in their youth programs, and we all did it. That's how my personal Jewish story started.

This all happened many years ago, and since then almost all of my Jewish friends left the city. Some made Aliya, some



*Nana & her daughter Sharon*

immigrated to the States and Europe. Thus when I went to Minsk to visit my family this summer I was afraid that there would be no more activities in our synagogue. Imagine my surprise when I went on Friday evening and saw it was open! Everything was different. The place had changed, it was repaired and re-arranged. But everything was the same. People, older and young, came to pray and socialize, children had their activities and after the services there was a Shabbat dinner for everyone. It was so good to be there that night.

Now, almost 20 years after the time I should have had my Bat Mitzvah, I realize more than ever the importance of this ceremony and I feel great pride in the freedom to identify myself as Jewish.

## Work Experience Program Benefits Miry Tavger-Mikhaelov

by Jennifer Chisholm

*Editor's note: Through six-month work placements at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Welcome Home to Canada (WHTC) participants are able to gain significant Canadian work experience, designed to enhance their future employment opportunities and ease the integration process into*

*their new community.*

**M**iry Tavger-Mikhaelov is the Museum's spunky and determined Public Programs Assistant, one of five Welcome Home to Canada participants currently working at the Museum. Miry, who

originally hails from Kazan, Russia, immigrated to Canada from Israel last year with her husband and two young sons. While Kazan may be Miry's "beloved place," she identifies as both Russian and Israeli since, as she explains, moving there as a 22-year-old and living there for 15 years strongly

### shaped her self-identity.

Miry's educational background in linguistics and social sciences prepared her for further studies after she immigrated to Israel from Russia, upon graduation from Kazan Institute of Social Science and

anything in between. She also loves driving and cars, electronics and movies, travel and being near the ocean on sunny days!

At the Museum, Miry has helped Philippa Gunn, Adult Public Programs Coordinator and Matthew Ritchie, Youth Public

just as the many immigrants who "came through Pier 21" before her have.

*This article is 'reprinted with permission from the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21*



Humanities. She pursued Tourism at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, followed later by a travel expert certificate at Haifa University. After working in hospitality for Holiday Inn in Eilat (the world famous resort in southern Israel) and Tel Aviv, she changed direction in her career and worked as Vice-Director of a travel agency for more than six years.

Miry and her husband decided to leave Israel to raise their children and moved to Canada in 2011. When they arrived in Halifax, Miry explains that they both felt as though they were "coming back" somewhere, rather than seeing Halifax for the very first time. The nature and the climate remind them so much of Russia, which she says has helped a lot in their adjustment to life here. As Miry explains, "In Israel, it felt like home but I always missed Russia. Here, I can smell it and I can feel it."

A woman of many talents, Miry speaks Russian, Hebrew and English. Outside of work, Miry's number one interest is music—it can be classical, classic rock, or

Programs Coordinator, in the planning and implementation of many public programming events. She hopes to build on this experience in event planning, and use her skills in management and tourism as she furthers her career.

When asked about her time at the Museum, Miry shared that: "When I started working here, I kept hearing staff talk about the people who 'came through Pier 21.' I feel like I also came through Pier 21 because it has given me so much experience and self-confidence. To be able to wake up in the morning and look forward to coming to work, that is very lucky. Some people don't get to experience that in their entire life but that is how I feel here.

We know that Miry will continue to leave her mark on the Museum and on our community,



*The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs is the **advocacy arm** of the Jewish Federations of Canada. Together with AJC, we work with governments, media, and local communities to enhance the quality of Jewish life and enhance support for Israel in Atlantic Canada.*

@CIJAinfo   /CIJAinfo

[ajc@cija.ca](mailto:ajc@cija.ca)

## AROUND OUR REGION: HALIFAX



*Inna Morgulis and Irena Kazatsker are obviously enjoying the summer barbecue for newcomers.*



*A youngster shows off his "Angry Birds" design, painted on his face during the community picnic. (photo by Isaac Moscovich)*



*Happy faces show the enjoyment at the welcoming barbecue. From left, Mrs. Fainshtein with daughter-in-law Margarita, Elena Hazankin and Tetyana Liderman-Ramez.*



*Ethan Macaulay, summer student at the AJC office, helped barbecue at the Point Pleasant Park community picnic. (photo by Isaac Moscovich)*

### The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Le jubilé de diamant de la Reine



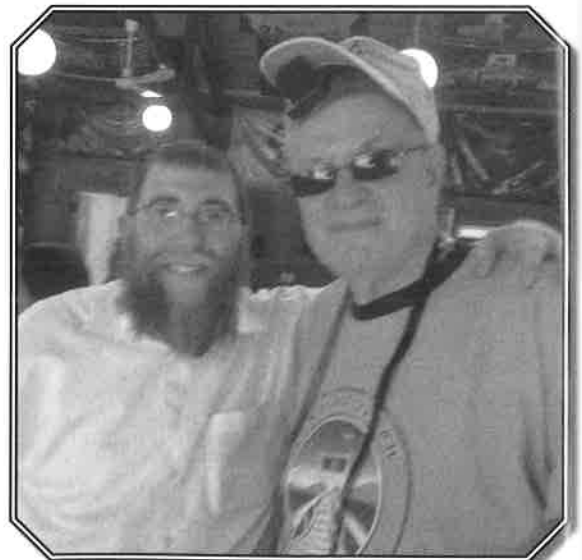
*Philip Riteman, Bedford, receives the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal from Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter at a ceremony at University of King's College. Riteman, a Holocaust survivor, was recognized for his dedication to educating students and the general public about the Holocaust.*



*Neli Shpoker, Nana Shteinberg and Slava Svidler facilitated the adult activity at Family Fun Day at Camp Kadimah. (photo by Tania Svidler)*



*Two beach volleyball teams from Israel participated in the World Under-21 Championships in Halifax at the end of August. Left to right: Coach Shaked Haimy, Netanel Ohana, Alon Sanderovich, Yael Lotan and Viktoria Nesterov.*



*Rabbi Mendel Feldman with retiring camp co-chair Victor Goldberg, deep in prayer at Camp Kadimah*



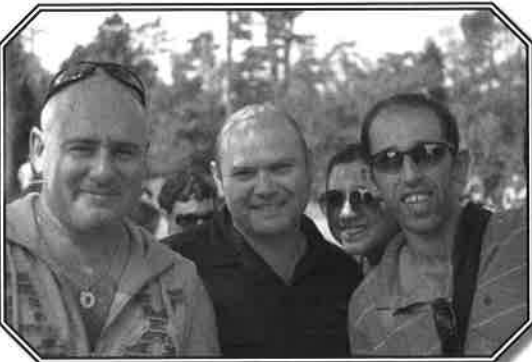


Mark Shvartzman flips burgers and hot dogs at a welcoming barbecue for newcomers to the Halifax community. The event was held at the Jewish student house.



Fishing on Lake William was one of the many activities enjoyed by youth and adults during Family Fun Day at Camp Kadimah. (photo by Slava Svidler)

Omar Sharif Jr., grandson of the Hollywood acting icon, spoke to a small number of Jewish community members in Halifax and visited Camp Kadimah in August. He is gay and half Jewish, something that has caused him problems in Egypt where he had been well known and respected prior to coming out. (photo by Nadia Bobak)



The community picnic attracted large numbers including Slava Khodorkovsky, Mark and Margarita Fainshtein, and Genadi Shpoker. (photo by Isaac Moscovich)



Halifax lawyer Lee Cohen speaks to newcomers at the welcoming barbecue about revisions to immigration laws.



Sunny skies greeted attendees at Family Fun Day at Camp Kadimah. Having a great time were from left, Michael Livshits, Maria and Michael Geifman and their daughter. (photo by Slava Svidler)



Mila Voihanski, Executive Director, JIAS Canada, second from left, works with members of the Community Program Committee. From left, Neli Shpoker, Yulia Sultan-Shah and Sergey Erlich.

## *A Success Story: Halifax Immigration Program*

by Kathy Zilbert, Halifax Immigration Committee Founding Member

**N**ewcomers to Halifax have had a major impact on community life since the first families arrived in 2008. The following is to inform the community at large of the contributions and the successes of the Halifax community immigration program, along with background information and pertinent facts that stress the importance of this new growth stream for Halifax Jewry.

In 2006, members of the Halifax Jewish community were extremely concerned with the vitality of their community. The significant rise in the percentage of Jewish seniors, with no stream to attract younger Jewish people, was of particular concern.

As predicted by UIA Canada's Demographic Task Force in September 2009, the percentage of Jewish seniors in Halifax is projected to grow from 6.8% of the population in 2001 to 20.45% in 2021 while in Canada, the percentage is projected to grow from 7.7% to 14.2% in the same period.

An Immigration Committee for the metro Halifax region was established to search for

Jewish immigrants from other countries who would be interested in settling in Halifax. A joint pilot program was created with the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration and the Greater Halifax Partnership to jointly support candidates who fulfilled the Nova Scotia Nominee Program criteria and satisfied the employment requirements of the Greater Halifax Partnership.

Three years ago, the first immigrants arrived from Israel, the first of 61 families to settle in Halifax. After one year, four families moved to Toronto for employment and one family for cultural/religious affiliation. The 56 families remaining are integrating into our region at a faster rate than the national average, according to JIAS (Jewish Immigration Aid Services) and ISIS (Immigrant Settlement Integration Services).

Some statistics include:

\*22 families have purchased homes in the Halifax Regional Municipality

\*1 member (at least) of each family is employed

\*30 newcomer children attended Camp Kadimah in 2012

\*21 registered for the joint Hebrew School program in the fall of 2011

\*3 holiday programs were organized for the community by the Newcomers Program Committee

\*2 newcomers volunteered once a week in the AJC office during 2011-2012

\*Community involvement includes volunteering for: Holocaust Education Week, International Human Rights Day, International Holocaust Day, Multicultural Festival, Family Fun Day at Camp Kadimah, Community BBQ, Passover Chocolate Fundraiser and welcoming recent arrivals.

Future activities include community programming, kosher kitchen training and fundraising activities such as theatrical/musical production. Sales of chocolates and holiday baskets are planned to support Camp Kadimah.

Please make an effort to attend community events with the newcomers to learn from them and help them adjust to life in Halifax as they revitalize our community.

## *The Sidney Warren Gift to Israel*

by Perry Romberg, Director, Financial Resource Development Jewish Federations of Canada- UIA

**T**wo years on: An update on the impact the Sidney Warren gift has made on Israel's northernmost region.

They are the children Sidney Warren z"l never had. They number in the hundreds, each the beneficiary of inspired choices made by his executor, Jack Prince, of programs and projects that have infused hope and opportunity where none existed before.

The Sidney Warren Estate has provided

\$1 million for a Science Education Centre for Youth at Tel Hai College, \$400,000 for the three-year Full School Program at Danziger School in Kiryat Shemona and \$50,000 for a three-year program for youth at risk, also in Kiryat Shemona. Together they constitute the largest gift ever made from Atlantic Canada to Israel.

Now after two years since the Science Centre was opened and with the programs fully implemented, Jack Prince can already look back with immense satisfaction on having fully realised the spirit and intent of

the Sidney Warren Estate.

It was, of course, entirely appropriate for Jack to choose the Upper Galilee in Northern Israel, a region with which Halifax and the Atlantic Region have been twinned for many years through UIA's Coast-to-Coast Partnership 2000 initiative. Sidney, after all, was himself a proud Haligonian and to have his name associated with this significant community undertaking in Israel through his estate closes a circle that brings together all he cherished.

But there were, as well, other persuasive factors which drew Jack to this part of Israel, namely the regions fragile security situation, coupled with its economic hardship.

Save for Sderot and the settlements facing Gaza, no other region has suffered as much from rocket fire as frequently and devastatingly. Yet, similar to their brethren in the south, their presence along Israel's frontline sends a message of Israel's indomitable resolve that the enemy, with all its intent to terrorize the population to flee, will not dictate where her citizens may or may not live.

Meeting such people and then learning how many of them are battling to provide their children with basic necessities and moreover, that educational facilities taken for granted in other parts of Israel were absent in the Upper Galilee, Jack became quickly convinced he need look no further. Knowing Sidney as he did, he could not think of a better place to bind Sidney's love for the Jewish people than to the future of this region and especially the welfare of its children.

Two years on, Jack's faith and trust in the residents of the north have been fully justified.

The Full School Program at Danziger School is a multi-level holistic strategy for students between the ages of 12-17 created to fill in grave gaps that have undermined their ability to cope with educational, social and psychological challenges. Led by a brilliant team of proven educators and specialists -provided by the Rashi Foundation - the outcomes after two years have been considerable. The despair many of these children experienced has been replaced by hope and promise. So successful has it been that the pharmaceutical giant, Teva, has made a multi-year commitment to the school once the three year program ends.

The ripple effect generated by the success of the program has introduced a buoyant note of optimism into Kiryat Shemona - something not felt for a very long time.

The jewel in the crown among all the institutions in the Upper Galilee is Tel Hai College, truly the engine of the north, a place that crackles with creativity and

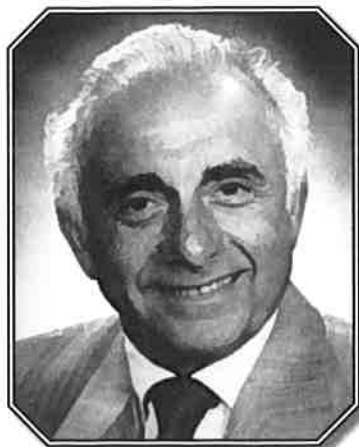


*Sidney Warren*

innovation. And, it is here where the Sidney Warren Science Centre for Youth has been established. Serving the entire region, students from all schools in the area are exposed as they never have before to the wonders of science. Of special interest is the prominent presence of students in the Full School Program at Danziger at the Science Centre.

Already the Science Centre is considered nationwide as the model for all science centres for youth. With absolute certainty one can predict a future where many a scientist will look back at the time he or she spent at this laboratory as the critical formative experience in their choice of a profession. For a country that relies on its brain-power as its only major resource, the value of establishing such a facility cannot be overestimated.

Jack Prince also sought to liberate



*Jack Prince*

what could so easily be lost, the human potential locked in youth at risk. Israel simply cannot afford to leave anyone behind. Everyone has to count. With this in mind funds were allocated to the Centre for Youth at Risk run by Elem, a non-government organization.

With the passionate commitment of staff and volunteers, the centre attracts dozens of youth to training sessions and workshops simply by virtue of their welcoming non-judgemental environment. Here with great skill these youth are steered toward an appreciation of their self-worth and possibilities they could not have considered before.

Each of the initiatives that the Sidney Warren Estate has funded has its own unique rationale. Together they constitute an investment whose dividends will be enjoyed for generations to come. Simply put, lives have been changed.

Jack would be the first to recognize the input of the United Israel Appeal and the Rashi Foundation for their guidance and implementation of the programs. In Israel the staffs of these organizations and the beneficiary institutions, Tel Hai College, Danziger High School and Elem, have clearly been imbued by a sense of mission to execute the programs beyond that of doing a professional job. For them it is quite obviously an act of patriotism, Zionism in its purest form that goes to the heart of their commitment to serve the residents of the north and their children.

Two years in a life time is a relatively short period. Two years in the life of a young person can absolutely determine his or her future and for Sidney Warren's 'children' not a moment too soon.

As the programs outlined above solidify even further and their impact felt even stronger, one can only admire Sidney Warren's vision to entrust his Estate to Jack Prince for its fulfilment.

It is a Jewish story that will be added to Israel's narrative of what can be achieved when Jews, however far apart they may live, come together with the common purpose to advance the cause of the Jewish people. And, above all, it is a story with a happy ending.

## *Series in Jewish Arts and Culture Honours Simon and Riva Spatz*

by Marcie-Ann Gilsig

**T**he Simon and Riva Spatz Chair in Jewish Studies at Dalhousie University will not only advance knowledge in the study of Judaism, it will also contribute to the sense of community Jewish students experience on campus, and in Halifax. Based on the belief that knowledge and understanding breed tolerance and acceptance, the establishment of The Chair of Jewish Studies is particularly important at this time, and has the potential to make a major impact at the University and beyond.

My personal pledge, 'The Marcie-Ann Gilsig Series in Jewish Arts and Culture', an annual lecture series, will explore the many aspects of our rich cultural heritage including music, art, drama, literature, etc. Each lecture will feature a creative, performance based

offering to complement and enhance the academic material being presented. In linking my interests with those of the students, the wider university, and the community at large, it is my hope that the series will be a valuable part of Dalhousie's programming in Jewish Studies, reaching well beyond the campus gates.

The inaugural event will take place on Thursday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 pm, at the Potter Auditorium, Kenneth C. Rowe Building, Dalhousie University. The evening will feature speaker Marsha Bryan Edelman, Professor Emerita Music and Education at Gratz College, and Adjunct Professor of Music at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Her key-note address is entitled:

*"Chance or Chants:  
What is Jewish Music?"*

A cantor chants a liturgical melody, a

mother sings a lullabye, and the Klezmer band plays a folk tune. How can all of these represent Jewish music? What is Jewish music anyway and where does it come from?

The evening will include performances by Rabbi Ari Isenberg of the Shaar Shalom Synagogue, as well as Halifax-based groups Gypsophilia and Rhapsody Quintet. It is certain to be a fun-filled, cultural and educational event.

For more information on The Spatz Chair of Jewish Studies or to make a donation please contact:

Ben McIsaac  
Office of External Relations  
Dalhousie University  
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## Cape Breton News

by Evy Carnat

**C**ape Breton, which once boasted having four synagogues - two in Sydney, and one in Glace Bay and New Waterford, now hosts services and community gatherings at Temple Sons of Israel in Sydney. And out of a relatively small Jewish population, we have bred a large number of community leaders and people who we can say have led exceptional lives. Three are presented to you in this article.

Every Shabbat, we count on the arrival of Jack Yazer, 99, to help make the minyon, and he doesn't disappoint us. As he comes down from the bima after his aliyah each week, he gathers his hugs and hand shakes as he makes his way back to his seat. Jack, a recipient of the Order of Canada, has been a community leader extraordinaire, both in the Jewish and extended sectors.

Last Pesach, the community celebrated his birthday at a kiddush put on by his children. For a more in- depth look at one of his accomplishments (at 85), here is a site to visit.

[http://www.liberalsenateforum.ca/In-The-Senate/Statement/5413\\_Mr-Jack-Yazer-CM](http://www.liberalsenateforum.ca/In-The-Senate/Statement/5413_Mr-Jack-Yazer-CM)

Fanny Cohen, was born and raised in Glace Bay and recently celebrated her 104th birthday. She was a school

teacher for 41 years and thus taught and influenced thousands of children. Many describe her as "sharp as a tack", and when Rabbi Ellis visited her recently one morning, she had already finished two cryptograms, two crossword puzzles, and was reading a murder mystery from the library. "Voracious reader" is the term that is used for Fanny, and she credits humour and good genes for longevity of life. For more on Fanny, try this site.

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/NS-CAPE-BRETON/2008-11/1227071070>

Louie Allen from New Waterford, celebrated his 85th birthday in grand style - a four day event coordinated by daughter, Shayna (Allen) Strong, which brought visitors to the Island from across the country. On Sunday afternoon, the New Waterford community celebrated with him, the milestone of the Allen family being in that community for 100 years.

Many were the stories told of his and his parents generosity as grocery store owners in a mining community, to people who had trouble feeding their families. Former Cape Bretoners at this wonderful weekend event included his children, Jonathan, Stephen and Roz Allen and their families from Toronto, Cambridge, and Mississauga



*Louie with his two sons and two son-in-laws, from Left to right - Darren Strong, Stephen Allen, Louie Allen, Jonathan Allen & Chris Cerar*

, Ontario; Stanley and Paula Epstein - Toronto; Harold and Myrna Yazer- Halifax; Lisa (Simon) and Barrie Green- Toronto; Rhea (Simon) and Paul Gold- Toronto; Laurel and Phillip David - Toronto; Josh Leiff and fiancé, Jana - Toronto; Eli Marshall and daughters Susan and Cheryl - Ottawa; Lon Dubinsky- Montreal; Heidi (Schwartz)! Daniel, and Rose Rubinoff- Toronto; Uri and Toby Carnat and families - Toronto; and Daniel Carnat- Vancouver. (Please forgive me for any names not included)

We welcome all visitors to Temple Sons of Israel on Whitney Ave. in Sydney for our Shabbat services and weekly kiddush, where we will make you feel "at home".

## News from the Fredericton Jewish Community

by Shelley Stephens, Sisterhood President, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue

**O**nce again the Sgoolai Israeli Synagogue held it's Pesach seder on the first night of Passover. It was a huge success. We had 50 people come and everyone participated. Everyone had the opportunity to read from the Haggadah in the language of their choice.

Ziv was our main chef and Yana was our

sous- chef. We even had homemade gefilte fish...made from scratch by our very own Bassy.

Rabbi Goldman led the reading of the Haggadah. The community participated in the singing of the traditional songs. The Knights of Columbus served the meal. They volunteer their services every year to our seder. It's wonderful!

I chaired the event, but I could not do it without the support of our community. There were so many volunteers that I cannot name them all. Thanks to everyone.

We had a delayed Lag Ba'omer bonfire and pot-luck dinner at the house of the Tichonov family, and it was well attended.

*continued on page 28*



## AROUND OUR REGION: FREDERICTON

*continued from page 27*

Of course the food and drinks were also very good.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped with the special functions at the Synagogue this year. Greatly appreciate your help.

Wishing Mazel Tov to Daniel Tichonov on graduating from Leo Hayes High School.

Wishing Mazel Tov to all in the community who have celebrated a birthday or anniversary, graduation from university

and high school this year.

Jacqueline Soicher graduated from Carleton University in Ottawa with a Bachelor of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering. She will pursue a masters degree in Biomedical Engineering at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

Mel and Marisa Soicher celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary on July 2nd.

Shelley and Byron Stephens celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary on August 2nd.

And, last but not least, we had the closing


of the Cheider school year at the Killarney Lake Lodge.

Wishing the community a Happy Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, may 5773 be a good year with health, happiness and prosperity.

Louis Budovitch, President, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue extends his wishes to the community for a good Yom Tov and Chag Sameach!



*Cheider closing*



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## Arnold (Arnie) Simon

The University of Ben Gurion University in the Negev Israel mourns the death of Col. Arnold Simon(81) on July 17th, 2012. He was one of the founders of the University, a Doctor of Philosophy with honors, a trusted friend. He served as its first director who deepened and broadened ties with friends and supporters of the University around the world, creating a foundation for continued development and was recognized as an outstanding worker in the field of higher education by the president of the State of Israel, Chaim Herzog in 2004.

Col. Arnold Simon was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick, the son of the late Eva and Irwin Simon of Halifax, and the brother of Sandra Hoffman of Halifax. He left Canada at 18 shortly after the establishment of the State of Israel to fulfill his dream of living a life of productivity and generosity. He was one of the students taken to live with General Moishe Dayan and Ruth Dayan and remained a very close friend of Ruth. Arnold served some 23 years in the Israeli Defence Force Intelligence Unit. The IDF mourns the loss of a dear friend and high ranking officer. Arnold defined his military career as a most fascinating and fulfilling period of his life.

Simon married Caroline Sherman from Cardiff, Wales. Together they founded the Arnold and Caroline Simon Charitable Trust for the promotion of health and higher education which continues to contribute to numerous significant projects in the community of Beer-Sheva.

Among them are the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Soroka University Medical Center, student scholarships and sports facilities. A highlight was the dedication of the Trading Room in the School of Management in memory of his parents Eva and Irwin Simon. Recently Arnold and Caroline dedicated The Caroline House for the students of the faculty of Health Sciences. Arnold's erudite, distinguished sophistication, elegance, and good humor will be sadly missed.

# News from Saint John

by Susan Isaacs Lubin

**S**ummer in Saint John has been busy – both with the, Cruise ship visitors to the Jewish Historical Museum, and also with several visiting Israeli families who are interested in immigrating to Saint John. All were given our warm Saint John welcome and shown our well-known hospitality.

Mazeltov to The Honorable Erminie J. Cohen and to Daniel Elman for receiving the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals. Erminie's medal was given for her contribution to the Adoption Foundation and her other numerous volunteer activities by the MLAs in our area. Dan was awarded for his 50 years of volunteering to teach Chess at Prince Charles School by our MP, Rodney Weston. Both honours were very well deserved.

Mazeltov to Nancy Morrison Conley on being inducted into the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame for her contribution to the sport of softball. Nancy is the daughter of Joanne Morrison.

Teri and Ellis Levine have a new grandson –

Noah Julius, born to Micah and Orly Levine in Ottawa. Mazeltov to the whole family.

We are looking forward to welcoming back Cantor Jeff Spitzer for the High Holy Days. This year, Cantor Spitzer will bring his wife, Rabbi Spitzer with him. We will be hosting Break the Fast following Yom Kippur.

We had a number of returning Saint Johners visiting this year. Isabel (Tanzman) and Isaac Boniuk and Sandy (Tanzman) and Melvin Brown stopped in for Shabbat with us on their way to Camp Kadimah visiting day. Also returning for the Saint John High School Reunion were Janice (Zatzman) Orlansky, with her husband Michael and her mother, Ruth Zatzman; Stan Cohen, Shrole Goldberg, and Ellen (Freedman) Hochberger. It was certainly wonderful to see everyone and to catch up on all their news.

Also home for a month this summer was David Elman and his wife Yuko from Japan with their three month old baby. Dan, Kate, Michael and family really enjoyed their visit.

Mazeltov to the Wilcott and Elman family on the Bar Mitzvah of Kate and Michael's son

Elijah, which took place in the Spring.

We also had a second Bar Mitzvah – Jordie Chaffer, son of Marcelo Chaffer and Claudia Lamschtein. Claudia's father and Marcelo's parents were here from Uruguay. Claudia and Marcelo and their two sons are a recent welcome addition to our community. Mazeltov to the families.

It was wonderful to see Goldie Davis and her two daughters – Susan DeWitt and Roz Kanigsberg – who returned to Saint John for a short visit.

Mazeltov to Marsha Koven on the recent marriage of her grandson Jeremy Poriah (son of Diane Koven of Ottawa) to Aviva, daughter of David and Margaret Attis. The wedding took place in August in Shediac. We wish the new couple much happiness and Mazeltov to the families.

Mazeltov to Roman and Svetlana Sheiman on the birth of their son, Leor. A brother to Veronik and Sapir. A Brit was held at the Hospital and hosted by the Sheiman family.

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# *Saint John Jewish Historical Museum*

by Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator

**T**he featured exhibit for 2012 at the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum is "Pencils, Paints and Pianos: Jewish Arts in Saint John". This exhibit profiles those who made the arts their professional career or were well-respected for their accomplishments locally, nationally and internationally. Original works and biographical panels have allowed us to share the talents of many artists (Herzl Kashetsky, Joseph Kashetsky, Toby Graser, Josh Beutel and Sidi Schaffer), photographers (Clint Wiesel, Jerome Kashetsky and Martin Grosweiner), writers (Lawrence Earl,

interested amateurs, have contributed to the arts either in Saint John or in their adopted homes. Although these individuals relied on other careers to make their way in the world, their interest in artistic endeavour was not diminished and they followed varied paths to share their creative spirit with others. For example, Mitchell Bernstein and Dr. Moses Polowin directed very successful musical and dramatic productions in the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue and Bessie Selby was a founding member of the Sea Belles Ladies Barbershop Chorus.

This exhibit was made possible with funding from the Province of New Brunswick and the Community Arts Board of the City of Saint John and will be available for viewing until early December.

The Museum will be open from Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm (except on the Jewish Holy Days) until the end of October, after which we will continue to welcome group



tours by appointment. As many as 40 cruise ships will be stopping in Saint John during September and October and a dedicated group of volunteers will be on hand to share the Jewish history of Saint John. In addition we look forward to greeting many travelling on their own to enjoy the autumn weather.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to purchase unique items from our gift shop and purchase raffle tickets on a watercolour by Herzl Kashetsky – the draw will take place on November 9th.

You may also look for our page on Facebook for regular updates on Museum activities.



Anne Selby and Stan Cohen), musicians (Louise Hoffman Milota and Robert Selby) and actors (Monica Gilbert). Anne Elman and Kate Elman-Wilcott have created opportunities for children in the Saint John area to participate in drama and music in a fun and professional way.

Many members of the Jewish community supported artistic, musical and dramatic activities through community organizations - Saint John Arts Council, Saint John Art Club, Saint John Symphony, Hadassah-WIZO and others – as patrons or participants. Ella Grosweiner, Sylvia Silver and Dr. Moses Polowin were among those who supported visual arts in the city and in the 1960s and 1970s Joanne Morrison operated a commercial art gallery representing many prominent Maritime artists.

There have been many others who, as



JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS

*Through the generosity of the Atlantic Jewish Foundation and with support from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation the Atlantic Jewish Council has made it possible for 43 families to join the PJ Library Program. The PJ (Pajama) Library provides families raising Jewish kids between 6 months and 5 1/2 years with a FREE treasury of Jewish books and music! Every month, families enrolled in PJ Library receive a high quality, expert selected and kid tested Jewish book or CD as a gift from the community.*

**THANK YOU!**



# Moncton News

by Nancy Cohen and Francis Weil

**I**n May, Tiferes Israel hosted a delightful evening of storytelling by Jewish storyteller Aubrey Davis. Mr. Davis was touring New Brunswick as part of the TD Canadian Children's Book Week author tour. He is the author of several books for children including *Bagels for Benny*, *Kishka for Koppel* and *A Hen for Izzy Pippik*, as well as a fabulous storyteller, and many of the stories he tells have their roots in the Talmud. About 50 people of all ages attended and everyone was mesmerized by his stories. Many thanks to the AJC for helping to sponsor Aubrey's visit to the shul.

Tiferes Israel Day Camp took place for two weeks in late June and early July and was once again a great success. Ahuva Yagod, the camp director, created a great program that taught the kids about the seven days of creation in a very hands-on way with crafts, baking, games and other activities. All the children had a wonderful time. We appreciate the AJC's help in funding the camp this summer.

The synagogue is quite active. Extensive work has been done over the past two years on the Mikvah to bring it to religious standards, thanks to the efforts of Rabbi and Rebbetzin Yagod who have found exterior funding for the repairs. The Mikvah is now fully operational. Jews



*Summer BBQ at Betty Rubin's home in Shediac*

who want to use it should contact Rabbi or Rebbetzin Yagod (tiferesisrael.com)

Services are held regularly four times a week. A new group of Israelis are helping to complete the minyanim. We want to thank Joseph Kohn who has been reading the Torah for many years. Ivan Cohen, Morris Samuel and, lately, Lior Boxer have also prepared the leining. David Bendavid, Theodore Lewis and Francis Weil are contributing to the davening. Joan Mayer, Goldie Johnson, Ruth Fuller and Carole Savage have been spending a lot of time preparing the Kiddushes.

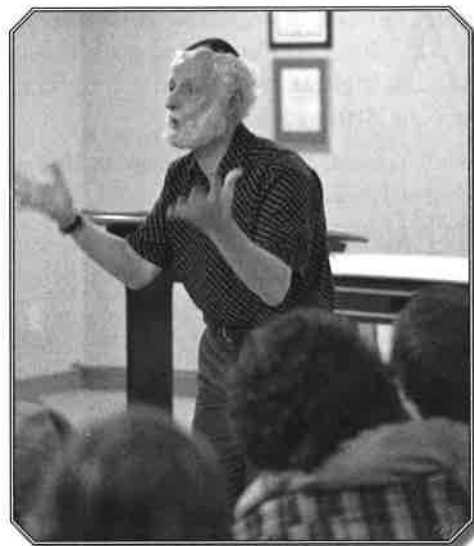
The community had its annual BBQ on Sunday August 19. It was held, as usual, at Betty Druckman's house in Shediac Bridge. In addition to kosher hot dogs and hamburgers, we had a musician and a silent auction "bring and buy". Everyone had fun.

New immigrants are soon going to join the community. We are expecting two families with five children shortly and might, later, receive another three families.

Mazel tov to:

-Amos Gorber, for reaching, his 99th birthday in July.

-Audrey Lampert, on being named to the Order of New Brunswick. Audrey is being honoured for her outstanding career as an educator and her deep commitment to promoting human rights.



*Storyteller Aubrey Davis*

-Reuben Cohen on receiving the Diamond Jubilee Medal (see pg. 32). [http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/multimedia/mmrenderer.2012.06.2012-06-19\\_4.jpg.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/multimedia/mmrenderer.2012.06.2012-06-19_4.jpg.html)

-Aviva Attis, daughter of David and Margaret, on her recent marriage to Jeremy Poriah, son of Diane Koven and Avi Poriah. Proud grandmothers are Minnie Attis and Marcia Koven.

-Ben Sichel, son of Joannie and John, on his recent marriage to Katherine (Kat) Kitching from Halifax.

-Arianne Cohen, daughter of David Cohen and Carolyn Baer, on her graduation from high school.

Condolences to: Marilyn Boghen and family on the loss of Marilyn's mother.



*Enjoying the BBQ*



*Enjoying the BBQ*

## *Moncton's Lampert Receives High Honour*

by Joel Jacobson

**A**udrey Lampert of Moncton has been honoured with the highest award of the Province of New Brunswick.

Soon to be invested in the Order of New Brunswick, Lampert is being recognized for her career as an educator and for more than four decades as a tireless community volunteer and advocate for the rights of others.

"(Lampert) has made outstanding contributions to the social, cultural or economic well-being of our province," said New Brunswick premier David Alward.

As a young Jewish mother elected to the Moncton District School Board, Lampert challenged the district's employment of a teacher who wrote anti-Semitic books. Despite being marginalized and harassed herself, she persevered and the teacher was eventually removed from the classroom.

Lampert has worked tirelessly to make education a safe, welcoming and effective environment for all children in her care. She fought to support minority



language rights and for the retention of the Early French Immersion program in the Greater Moncton region and in the province. Lampert has spoken publicly on education and human rights issues, and has actively volunteered for numerous community and human rights organizations. In 2007, she was appointed

to the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission and was honoured for her work on behalf of human rights by the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center of Toronto.

Lampert's son, Leigh, a Toronto lawyer, said in an e-mail, "Hers has been a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication and service to the community - one that continues to this very day. She has enriched the lives of thousands of people, including former students, professional colleagues, friends, family members, and others in the volunteer sector and in her community and province at large."

He added, "She has worked diligently and tirelessly to confine prejudice, racism, discrimination and hate to the dustbins of history. When my siblings and I were growing-up, my mother taught us that the "funny jokes" about those of other religions, or from other countries, those who were larger or smaller than us, were neither "funny" nor "jokes". She instilled in us the need to be tolerant, respectful and welcoming of all people, all the time."



Social Development Minister Sue Stultz presented Diamond Jubilee medals to Larry Nelson and Reuben Cohen, both of Moncton, on June 19. The medal honours the significant contributions and achievements of Canadians. It was created to mark the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's reign as Queen of Canada.

*From left: Nelson; Stultz; Cohen; and Moncton Mayor George LeBlanc.*



# Report from the Rock

by Claire Frankel-Salama

**A**s it is now August, I am writing this report for the ninth time from the other side of the Atlantic, in La Coruña, Spain, where my husband runs the Spanish Abroad programme for Memorial University. Although there was a valiant attempt to establish a Reform Jewish congregation here several years ago, there remains only a Jewish association in the province of Galicia that meets occasionally for lectures and cultural events and to celebrate some of the holidays. Nevertheless, there is a "Judería" or Jewish quarter in almost every city here in Galicia, as many Jews moved here and to Portugal before leaving for North Africa, the Americas, England or the Netherlands.



*Elmechdi Boudra, a Moroccan student who organized the first Forum on The Holocaust at his university in Ifrane, Morocco with Messod, on his right.*

Many others became "conversos" and eventually assimilated into the general population if they escaped the Inquisition. While the Jews left here over five hundred years ago, it is both shocking and sad to walk through these old Jewish communities and to wonder, "what if....?"

Just before we left for Spain, my husband, Professor Messod Salama, was invited to give two talks at the conference on 2000 years of Jewish life in Morocco, held in Toronto from June 4th - 12th. On the first Shabbat, Messod spoke about Rabbi Isaac Bengualid, who began a network of Jewish high schools in Morocco in 1882.



*Professor Messod Salama with André Azoulay, official Jewish Advisor of His Majesty, King Mohammed VI of Morocco.*

These schools eventually became the well-known and well-respected "Alliance Israelite Universelle". Two days later, Messod spoke at the newly renovated Lipa Green building in North York on the life and travels of Sir Moses Montefiore, the famous philanthropist, who visited Morocco in the 19th century and who tried to help the Jewish community there as much as possible.

On the panel at that event was a Moroccan student, Elmechdi Boudra, who is involved with the Aladin project which endeavours to teach Holocaust education in Arabic, Turkish and Farsi, throughout the Mediterranean and the Middle East (see picture left). Of course, there were several countries, such as Morocco and Turkey, who took in Jewish refugees, and this project also aims to develop ties based on these experiences. For more information on this project, please consult the following website:

<http://www.projetaladin.org/en/the-aladdin-project.html>

Elmechdi, a graduate student who specialized in the history of the Jews in Morocco, is also responsible for organizing a forum on the Holocaust and for having begun the "Maimouna Club" at his university in Ifrane. Similar clubs have opened up in other universities in Morocco, which is an extremely positive step in the only Arab country which recognizes Moroccan Jews living abroad as Moroccan

citizens. For more information on this heroic initiative, please check out the following:

<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/news/359-moroccan-university-holds-conference-on-the-holocaust.html>

Also taking part in this conference was the Jewish advisor to King Mohammed VI, André Azoulay (see picture left) and Madame Nouzha Chekrouni, the Moroccan Ambassador who came in from Ottawa for the occasion.

Sponsors of this conference included UJA Federation, Canadian Sephardic Federation, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies and private donors.

Back in St. John's, we have had many visitors to our small community, including



*Professor Messod Salama speaks at the Conference 2000 Years of Jewish Life in Toronto.*

the Kovals. Ivan Koval is an engineer who is overseeing the building of a boutique hotel in Fogo and who spends two weeks out of every month in our province. And we complain about keeping Kosher in St. John's!

We also welcomed back our friends and former members, Robin McGrath, Douglas, Ruth and Judy Wilansky, and Shalom and Ditzia Auerbach as well as Ditzia's son, Nadav. The Auerbachs were very active members of the community when we arrived. Shalom and his family reside in

*continued on page 34*

*continued from page 33*

Toronto while Ditz made Aliyah many years ago. We were also glad to meet the members of Trina Rosenzweig's family who joined us for Shabbat services.

Yet another visitor was Rachel Zaretsky, who accompanied her son, Mark, our newest member, to St. John's as he begins his residency at Memorial. It turned out that Rachel and I went to the same high school (of 2500 students), although we never met until she came to Beth El, some 2000 kilometres away. Again, it's a small world.

We look forward to the September visit of Moriah Gabsi, one of our former teachers. Also coming up is the unveiling of the stone of former member, Norma Cohen, and the 99th birthday of our oldest member, Betty Barban! As it is late August, we are in the midst of planning our annual pre-Rosh Hashanah service on Cape Spear, our memorial visit to the cemetery on Blackmarsh Road, and the Kosher community dinner on the first night of Rosh Hashanah. We also have a community breaking of the fast after Yom Kippur. If you are planning on being in town, please get in touch.

Finally, Dr. Michael Paul is in the final stages of organizing a trip to the camps and other sites of interest in Poland, followed by a trip to Israel. Yasher Koach!

I am completing this article just before our first trip to visit another Jewish community who calls itself, the "Jews on the Rock". I am, of course, referring to the Jews of Gibraltar. We are planning to spend next Shabbat on "El Peñon" and will certainly bring the warmest greetings from the other Jewish "rock-dwellers" on the other side of the Atlantic.

## Jewish Community Havura

by Ruth Noel and Nancy Bennett

**L**ate spring saw the arrival of icebergs which were two years coming down the coast from Greenland. With the whales swimming around these huge chunks of ice, both tourists and locals were treated to magnificent sights on the sea. July and August brought hot summer days, little rain and many visitors to our province. But, we're not complaining!

In May, Havura president Nancy Bennett had a wonderful 10-day holiday in Israel where she competed in the first ever Israel Dragon Boat Festival in Tiberias on Lake Kinneret. Nancy and two other members of her St. John's dragon boat team joined the Montreal team Two Abreast (Côte à Côte).

They won first place of all breast cancer teams that competed in the festival. The story was reported by the Canadian Jewish News and the St. John's Telegram gave the story page one placement and filled page two with photos of the event.

According to Nancy, "it was nearly 40 C when we were called for our second race. We were paddling against other experienced breast cancer teams and we knew it would be challenging. We doused ourselves with water from the sea in an attempt to cool off a little before the race started. After our win, we were treated like celebrities during the closing ceremonies when we were presented with our medals. Only the first place teams in the various

divisions received medals, so we were pretty pleased."

The tour had team members climbing through narrow underground tunnels and caves, rappelling down a mountain, sifting through an archaeological dig for chunks of 2,000-year-old pottery, frolicking in the Dead Sea, visiting

the Holocaust Museum and exploring many other phenomenal sites. In Jerusalem, they visited the Western Wall and inserted small pieces of paper in the crevices. "It's the most beautiful country. You just can't imagine a place where every square inch seems like it has a story to tell. It truly is the Holy land," Nancy told The Telegram.

Also in May, the Hindu Temple in St. John's hosted the seventh annual Multi-Faith Symposium. Speakers addressed this year's theme, "The Role of Rituals and Symbols in Spiritual Growth." Our representative, Chava Finkler, delivered a presentation on synagogue architecture. She discussed the reflection of religious ritual obligations in the Jewish built environment. Chava's presentation was well received and audience members asked many questions. Topics discussed in the large group were followed informally when smaller groups gathered over lunch.

At the symposium, representatives of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, First Nations, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, and Zoroastrian communities also described aspects of their own faith in relation to the theme. Some members of these communities expressed concern that youth were not often in attendance at regular services, lamenting the lack of opportunity to pass on religious teachings. These concerns no doubt mirror those in many Jewish communities across



Nancy Bennett (6th from the left in the top row) at Israel's first Dragon Boat Festival

the country.

A moment of silence was held for three members of various faith communities who had passed away in the last year. Arnold Bennett, a Havura member who died last October, was one of the three people acknowledged. Arnold had been a speaker at past symposiums and had formed friendships with many of the attendees. The Havura is pleased to be invited to participate in the annual symposium. Interfaith dialogue is a form of outreach and grassroots education. It also allows for a deeper understanding and appreciation of others.

In June, Nancy hosted the end of the year picnic. The weather was perfect and the food delicious. There was a moment of sadness when we said goodbye to Jonathan Kitzen, Elena Hammel and their two beautiful children, Siena and Becket. Though they had only been in St. John's a few years, they had become active members in the Havura, hosting Shabbat Services and other events. Jonathan used his skills to make a beautiful Ark for the Torah. Elena was on the Board and organized our Shabbat services. They are now in Vancouver where Jonathan is closer to his work in the film industry, but they have promised that they will be back next summer to visit. We look forward to it.

Summer holidays started with our celebration of the Bar Mitzvah of Nicholas Bendzsa. For about a year and a half, Arnold Bennett, Elizabeth Loder, Shimon Wilansky, Gil Shalev and Rob Ritter provided Nick with the Jewish fundamentals including Torah reading and the study of Judaism, its history and ethical concepts. Nick was a star pupil and did a wonderful job of Torah reading, explaining the Haftorah portion, and delivering a humorous and heartfelt speech with thanks to his parents and his teachers. Tzedaka was an important part of the preparation and Nick volunteered once a week with the afterschool programme offered by the Association of New Canadians for elementary school children.

On the Friday before the Bar Mitzvah, Nancy hosted Friday evening services, followed by a lovely meal, to honour Nick, his family, and friends and family from away. Relatives came from California, Florida and Ottawa to help celebrate this

Simcha. The next day we gathered at a beautiful clubhouse on a lake for this special Shabbat service. Both parents, Lisa and Paul, added their own personal touch to the service with special and meaningful readings and reflections. Nick's brother, Matthew, who was a Bar Mitzvah two years ago, participated by reading a Torah portion.

The new Ark, made by Jonathan Kitzen, and stunning Torah cover, made by Joy Hecht, were used for the service. The beauty of these two handmade objects made the service even more special. A vegetarian luncheon followed the service with delicious food prepared by our hosts and by Havura members. Bar Mitzvah decorations dotted the tables and added a festive theme to the luncheon. Singing, dancing and kibbitzing finished the afternoon. Mazel tov to Nick and his family for the thought, effort and work put into this milestone and to the Jewish Community Havura for helping make it such a beautiful celebration.

Shabbat Services continued throughout the summer and in spite of summer vacations with many members away, we had minyans for almost all services. Summer also brought visitors to the Havura, including relatives of our members. It is always a pleasure to include them in our service and the meals which follow.

During these months we not only said Kaddish for our loved ones, but also for those slain in Toronto, Denver and Bulgaria. On the eve of the Olympics, we said Kaddish in memory of the Israeli athletes murdered in Munich forty years ago and recited the special prayer beautifully written by the Chief Rabbi of London, Jonathan Sachs.

Mazel tov to Angelique Myles and Carl Schofield on the birth of their daughter Esme.

Mazel tov to Steve Wolinetz and Karen



*Havura Summer BBQ*

Lippold on their new granddaughter, Anna, and proud parents Michael Wolinetz and Lucie Lhotak.

Mazel tov to John and Ruth Noel on their new grandson, Ian, and proud parents Elliott Noel and Kayu Chin.

Mazel tov to David Jerome on being accepted to Memorial University's Medical School (in addition to several others—but lucky for us, he is staying in St. John's!).

Mazel tov to Charlotte-Anne Malischewski on receiving her Master of Science in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies from the University of Oxford, graduating with distinction, and receiving the award for the best dissertation in her programme. She will start law school at McGill in September with a scholarship from the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador.

As summer ends, the Havura is preparing for the High Holidays and a busy fall schedule of activities. If you are visiting our province, please contact us at 709-834-7866, or email us at [info@havura.org](mailto:info@havura.org). We would love to meet you.

May 5773 be a year of good health and may you be inscribed in the Book of Life.



*Nicholas Bendzsa was Bar Mitzvahed June 30.*

## *Bridges for Peace: In Action in Israel*

by Katherine Side and Ruth Noel

**I**n February 2012, members of the international organization, Bridges for Peace, travelled to Israel to express it's support for the state and its people.

Founded in 1976, Bridges for Peace is a Jerusalem-based, Christian organization that works to build relationships between Christians and Jews.

Led by Eric Malloy, National Director, over forty members of Bridges for Peace participated in an extensive tour, travelling from the Golan Heights to the Dead Sea and from Yad Vashem, to the shores of the Kinnert. Two participants, Max Dawe and Morris Newman, both members of the Faith Pentecostal Church in Foxtrap, Newfoundland and Labrador,

have travelled to Israel previously. After their trip, they spoke enthusiastically about their travels and the people they met.

"I love the land, there's no other place like it," said Max Dawe. While in Israel, members of the group maintained their existing ties between Israel and Newfoundland and Labrador and they built new ties. They visited with Moria Gabsi, from Afula Israel, who spent a year in Newfoundland under the shaliach programme in 2005-2006 and who stays in touch with many friends in St. John's.

Church members in Foxtrap raised \$1,000, which Max Dawe presented to the Jerusalem Assistance Centre, one of two food banks that Bridges for Peace operates

in Israel. (Another is located in Karmiel). Since their trip, church members have sent a further \$300 donation. Participants wrapped up their trip with a visit to the Knesset, where they presented signatures of support and met with the Knesset Member and Minister of Tourism, MK Stas Misezhmitov.

Participants saw the country's complexities and the diversity of its peoples first hand and their experiences will no doubt shape the ways they continue to support Israel.

*Katherine Side and Ruth Noel are members of the Jewish Community Havura of Newfoundland and Labrador.*



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# Memories of Biluim Israel

by Shael Brown

*Editor's Note: Shael Brown was the 2012, recipient of the Noa and Sarah Heinisch Foundation Scholarship.*

**I**t has gone by in a flash. Just like that, my first summer in Israel has concluded, leaving me back to my own devices (mostly school work and the occasional bit of exercise). I have a written recollection of all the moments that shaped my summer for the better as I keep a journal. However, even these trips down memory lane could not fully explain why this summer was so special, to someone who wasn't there to experience it.

Each place that my bus (adventure bus one) pulled into over the course of the summer has a special place in my heart. The first week of our journey we stayed in the north, at Kibbutz Moran. I remember staying up to between 1:30 and 3:00 am each night, just talking with the guys and girls who would end up being some of

my best friends. There were all the times that we laughed uncontrollably, as well as the times we acted recklessly and almost got ourselves injured (climbing onto the roof of our room). Those nights will forever stay with me as a reminder of the first of many bonding moments between me and my future friends.

The following week we moved to the holy city of Jerusalem. A week filled with meaning and discovery. This was the highlight of the trip for many of us. What I remember from the Leonardo Inn is the comfort level that all of the boys developed with each other. Acquaintances became friends, and friends became brothers in the holy city. That was when I truly started to feel a deeper connection to my friends and it was a feeling that is truly indescribable.

Next came the "dreaded" adventure week. I say "dreaded" because of the amount of complaining, uncertainty, and anxiety that was a prelude to a truly amazing experience. From cooking dinner every night, to attempting to only jump from rock to rock with my good friend on the hikes (trying not to step on the ground), to bonding over camp fires and night chats with just about everyone on the bus, I had an experience of a lifetime. It was after that week that I truly felt part of the bus for the first time all summer.

After five days of hiking together, we all parted ways for family weekend. I stayed with my friend-for-life who I met at Camp Kadimah last summer. I learned so much about Israeli culture from those two and a half days, it truly added substantially to my "Israel" experience. That, coupled with the most fun I have ever had in one day combined to make that weekend possibly the highlight of my trip.

We reunited with the other two buses for the final week of our journey, and our



ruach soared sky high. The temperature in the south followed suit. The scorching heat, fun activities, and all the incredible times I had on the back porch of our Kibbutz room and in room sixteen at the hostel were the basis of some of the most fun I had in Israel.

Our final afternoon through morning was spent back in Jerusalem. Through the emotional goodbyes and a hilarious final mifkad, one memory stands out. At 4:30 in the morning (very early, I know) when every single person on my bus was asleep, I sat outside by myself for about forty minutes to enjoy a final peaceful hour in Israel. I didn't think about anything except for the scenery that I would soon be leaving. I then went back to my room, slept for six minutes, showered, and headed for the airport.

All in all, my summer in Israel was an incredible experience. I learned so much about myself, and in the process I have grown as a person and as a Jew. I have a love and appreciation for Israel like never before; gone are the days where I sang Hatikva without a thought. More important than all this, I have made bonds with my fellow campers that may never be broken. Thank you to all the amazing staff and people involved with Billy Iz '12; it has truly been the summer of a lifetime.



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# My Year in Israel

by Lea MacDonald

*Editor's Note: Lea MacDonald, Halifax, participated in the 2011-2012 Young Judea year-long course in Israel. She is also a graduate of the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program. She was a 2011 recipient of the Miasnik-Rein Scholarship.*

**W**hen I first arrived in Israel I was living on a kibbutz in the south of Israel. I spent my first Shabbat dinner with a host family and all of Saturday relaxing before starting work in the kitchen on Sunday. On Saturday evening I was sitting outside our rooms with the other volunteers drinking beer and exchanging stories. Yosef, a volunteer studying to be a rabbi, joined us and asked if we would like to do havdalah with him. Being volunteers on a kibbutz, we didn't have access to luxury items like candles and wine to do havdalah. Using what we had in our rooms, we did havdalah with a grape

juice box for wine, a tea bag for spices and a lighter in place of a braided candle. Although it was a poor man's service, everyone joined hands and sang as the stars came out.

This experience embodied my whole experience in Israel of making new traditions with new friends. After living on kibbutz for three months, we did a three week hike in the South of Israel from Mitzpe Ramon to Eilat and the Red Sea. Then we moved to a campus in Jerusalem and began taking classes in Hebrew language and other subjects such as comparative religions, Jewish mysticism and Torah yoga. After two months in Jerusalem we moved into apartments in Bat Yam, a suburb of Tel Aviv, right on the beach. There we continued taking classes and I began volunteering at a school for disabled children.

While living in Bat Yam we celebrated many important holidays in a truly Israeli way. On Yom Hashoah we stood on an overpass and watched as the siren went



off at 11 am and everyone stopped their cars and stood at attention in honor of holocaust victims. On Yom Hazikaron, veterans memorial day, we went to the largest military cemetery in Israel and mourned with families of fallen soldiers.

Living in Israel exposed me to a Jewish-based life I had never experienced living in Halifax. The workweek was based around Shabbat and the government is based around Jewish values. It opened my eyes to a new culture that everyone should have a chance to experience.

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## Are Our Synagogues Kosher?

by Rabbi David Ellis, Regional Chaplain, Atlantic Jewish Council

**I**f anything would seem to be a matter of agreement it would be on the importance of the synagogues keeping Jewish dietary laws. Both Halifax synagogues have explicit policies that non-kosher food is not to be brought into the synagogue.

It seems like a slam dunk. People are aware of it nowadays. Many are vegans. Things are readily available. And yet—perhaps it isn't the right policy. Perhaps not at all.

Item: I worked for many years for an Orthodox synagogue in Denver which was considerably more observant than those here. And yet, one day some people brought non-kosher food into the synagogue. With the rabbi's knowledge and permission. The synagogue was growing older, but the popular new rabbi was attracting families. Many of these were fringe families, not solidly into Judaism, certainly not Orthodoxy. How to welcome them. Nothing gets Jews together like food. So how about

having a meal for them. But there was an expense and trouble in cooking a meal at the shul. So it was decided, let's have a potluck dinner. All the new families, bring your own dairy dishes to the shul. Share, eat, get to know one another. Dairy, but from the people's own homes. And because of the people's level at the time, not strictly kosher. The naysayers and vipers were all in chorus. What a shanda! Bringing non-kosher food into a very strictly kosher synagogue! But, of course, precautions were taken. Every table was covered. Paper and plastic were used. Everything thrown away into one bag. The kitchen was never opened. So—although non-kosher food was brought into the synagogue, no kashrut of the premises was compromised. A few people got to know one another in an easy-going manner which a potluck dinner will do. They became more a part of the synagogue and eventually started making and contributing to strictly kosher meals on the synagogue premises. Some even started to make their homes kosher. But, without that "potluck" introduction to

break the ice, they may never have felt comfortable and would have soon left.

Our communities have made many efforts to bring newcomers into the community. It should be noted though, that in Halifax metro, there are at least 400-500 non-affiliated Jews. Throw the net to Lunenburg County, the Annapolis Valley and Truro and you'll double the number. I meet them all the time. These people are already in the community. Many have been here for years. Many are bright, successfully employed persons with many resources and talents. But we're not getting them.

Perhaps this year we need to be "breaking" some kosher food laws, in order to have a kosher welcoming and outreach effort. What do you think?

Too many other things to mention—loss of old friends, gaining of new ones, a Jewish wedding in Antigonish. Stay tuned.

Let's hope the New Year brings more new friends into our communities.

Lashanah Tovah Tikatevu!

## Can we offer Hashem some Apple dipped in Honey?

by Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, Fredericton

**T**his year I turned 40 years old. For our great Sage, Rabbi Akiva, this was a significant turning point in his life, at that age, according to our tradition he began learning the Hebrew Alphabet.

For me, this was a time of reflection on my personal path in life. I wanted to know more about my personal relationship with Hashem and my relationship with the world which G-d created.

The Torah portions we read during the summer tell us about how Moses taught

the younger generation the "facts of life", and what Hashem expects of them. Of course, our Rabbis teach us that in every generation we should learn these lessons as if they were given today. Rashi on Parshat Ki Tavo says: "Every day, the Words of the Torah shall be like



new in your eyes", and a few other times this is the message we get.

If I were to invite G-d into my home, what sort of conversation would we have? What does G-d expect when we invite Him into our homes? These are questions I ask myself. And, then I realize that this may be only the first step, maybe G-d wants to go with me shopping, or to Synagogue, or even to a bar to share a good drink with some friends. Am I willing to do that?!

I am not going to share with you the answers I give myself, since this is very

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personal. But, I raise these questions so each and every one of us may ask these questions and find their own personal answers.

Moses tells the People of Israel in Deuteronomy 10, 16: "you shall cut away (circumcise) the barrier (or foreskin) of your heart..." This was a generation that did not sin with the Golden Calf or the Sin of the Spies. Why is Moses speaking so harshly to them? I think the answer is that he is giving them the key to a good, loving relationship with Hashem. In a relationship each side has to give something of themselves

without expecting something in return. The people of Israel are expected to circumcise the foreskin of their heart in order for them to have a "knowing heart". Here is a little secret from the Kabbalah. G-d, too, had to "cut" something in order to have a special and meaningful relationship with the People of Israel. In a way, G-d cut himself from all the other nations. But even greater than this sacrifice, we must understand before Rosh Hashana, the day Adam and Eve were created, that Hashem had to make himself 'smaller' in order to allow the Universe to come into existence. This is called "TZIMTZOOM" in Kabbalah

language.

I think that because G-d made this awesome sacrifice, He expects us, in return, to fill the 'void' with a meaningful relationship. G-d does not expect us to pray all day long, I challenge you to show me one "normal" Rabbi who says so. What is very clear to me is that G-d wants us to give of ourselves, to our family, to our community, to our country, and, ultimately, to the world.

Wishing you all a good, sweet and healthy year, and a special season of re-kindling our love for Hashem and the world He created for us.

## Shofar

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

**T**he simple clarion call of the Shofar reminding us to re-awaken and connect spiritually is one of the most important events of the High Holiday season. Why a Shofar? A Shofar represents simplicity, in fact, the Talmud tells us that a Shofar cannot be adorned with gold or the like. The road to spirituality is a simple and unpretentious one.

The story is told of the very famous Rabbi Levi Yitzchok of Berditchev who

was heading to the synagogue just before the High Holidays together with every single Jew of his 18th century village. Quite suddenly he disappeared down a side street and did not come to the synagogue until much later, missing some of the prayers! After services he explained that there was a



woman who had just given birth and in the rush to get to services absolutely no one attended to the needs of mother and baby. In a powerful acknowledgment the Rabbi showed by example that a simple mitzvah of basic kindness was the best way to welcome in this season of holiness and spirituality. It is our fervent prayer that G-d grant everyone a year of financial abundance, health, tranquility, success, and joy in every endeavor.

## Dear All...

by Rabbi Amram Maccabi, Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax NS

**I**t is generally believed that a community draws its character and style from the geographical background in which it is positioned. Coming from a hot-temperature middle-east environment, namely Israel, I expected the Halifax Jewish community to be, somewhat more mild; less bubbly and less warm (for better or for worse) as fitting its climate. I was in for a surprise.

It seems the Jewish DNA carries certain elementary traits wherever it goes. And

we know it goes and goes and gets to just about EVERYWHERE! What is the basic composition that makes up a Jewish community per se?

Upon reflection one cannot escape the obvious. It is CHESSED. Chessed Chessed and Chessed. Indeed our ancestors in the Mishna (Pirkei Avot...) tell us there are



three "midot"/measurements that are found in abundance in the basic character of "the sons of Abraham". The third is "gomlei chasadim" i.e the followers of Abraham (by genealogy or by theology) are those who act charitably towards their fellow men (or women, of course). So from the heat of the desert where our forefather Abraham built a four-sided tent all sides open for the weary traveler, from his burning God fearing and Man-loving heart, burst the Chessed DNA that flows through Jewish veins till today-hopefully



till the end of days. I would like to humbly point out but two examples of such Jewish manifestations that occurred here in our very own community in Halifax. The first goes back exactly a century ago (April 15th 1912), the second, proving the first to be no fluke, 11 years ago 9/11/01.

Or April 15th 1912 when the ostentatious Titanic tragically sunk in the Atlantic Ocean havoc reined. However, from the Gehenom that forever left its mark on American history, there emerged a few sparks of pure benevolence, a few less known anecdotes that perhaps have not received their rightful recognition until recently. This is where the warm and

Chessed-oriented people who make up their thriving community to be as it is until today- played up their role to the very best of human kindness.

Go to the Jewish cemetery, and you will be able to see a number of black gravestones. These unique memorial monuments belong to Jews killed in the Titanic, afterwards respectfully buried among the community's departed. As for the survivors, they were generously hosted by the people of the congregation.

Talking about Chessed in the Titanic, I must also mention Mr. Binyamin Gugenheim and Mr. Izidor Straus, both extremely wealthy Jews who had the

opportunity to save themselves since the limited rescue boats available were offered to them, and they refused saving their own lives before all the women and sick were saved.

9/11 – just recently I heard that some airplanes which were left without place to land, arrived in Halifax. Not asking too many questions, not waiting to be asked (against the 'Haligonian pace of life'..) houses of the congregants were filled with confused passengers.

I thank Hashem for belonging to His people. I also thank my new community in Halifax for the privilege of joining and serving in their midst.

## *The End of a Journey*

by Rabbi Ari Isenberg, Shaar Shalom Congregation, Halifax

**M**y five-year rabbinical school journey has reached its final year. In a few short months, I will graduate from the institution established by Solomon Schechter a century ago; an institution that was home to Louis Finkelstein, Saul Lieberman, Abraham Joshua Heschel, and so many of the great Jewish minds of the 20th century. I will graduate with my rabbinic ordination, a Masters in Sacred Jewish Music, and I will assume my seat on the Rabbinical Assembly of America.

In July 2013, the end of one journey will yield opportunity for another as I resume the sacred task as full-time rabbi in Halifax.

In unambiguous terms, had my parents not brought me to synagogue as a child, I would never have discovered my passion for the pulpit. This is my story:

My very first memory at shul, an exceptionally vivid one, is of Rosh Hashanah, when I was five years old. I recall my pleasure as I sat, with machzor in hand, mesmerized by the cantor and the choir. The most poignant memory of that day, however, revolves around the rabbi and cantor prostrating themselves

during the Musaf Aleinu. They lay on the floor of the bimah, stretched out, bowing before God. I was enthralled by that image. It sparked curiosity and triggered certain emotions within me that, at the time, were indescribable. In retrospect, I realize that, on the one hand, I felt overcome with emotion, sensing that I had just borne witness to an extremely holy ritual. On the other hand, a less comfortable emotion, envy towards the rabbi and cantor, began to well up within me. In the simplest of terms, I wanted to do what they were doing. I wanted to be the one who was up on that bimah praying and teaching with kavanah.

My parents could never have predicted that simply bringing me to synagogue would influence my vocational path in life, but they were attuned to the importance of exposing their children to Jewish tradition. They taught me the value of engaging with and participating in my heritage, the Jewish community. True, I went to my family's synagogue, but I was also a



frequent visitor of other synagogues and Jewish community functions.

We recite the Shema twice a day. Did you know that the text of the Shema is from the Biblical book of Deuteronomy? In it, we find the imperative to teach our children; to act as role models and provide them with the tools necessary to learn and grow.

Just a few chapters later, in chapter 14, we read a peculiar line: "You are the Children of God; therefore, do not gash yourselves"...

The gashes are read as divisions among the people.

Yes, God may dwell in heaven, be we are God's pillar on earth, and we are warned not to weaken God's foundations by being divisive.

There are many reasons to divide the Jewish people into even smaller and more specialized slices. After all, there are important and principled differences among different movements and sects of Judaism. Yet, we must not lose sight of the bigger picture. The Torah was given to ALL of Israel as a means to bring us ALL together, in partnership with God.

We need to work toward finding ways

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to unite - thus strengthening God, not to mention ourselves.

This year, on these High Holidays, take your children out of school and provide them with the gift of communal celebration in synagogue. Teach them the importance of synagogue attendance, of

prayer and reflection, and of community involvement. The gifts that such an experience could yield are limitless. Visit the Shaar Shalom, the Beth Israel, and Chabad-Lubavitch. Promote all Jewish community events.

You have an opportunity, a sacred gift, to bestow upon your children. Teach them

about their ancestry and their heritage. Expose them to prayer and Jewish mindfulness. Demonstrate community-minded participation, and nurture their love of our tradition. We are one community. Therein lies our strength and God's honour.

## The King in the Field

by Rabbi Mendel Feldman, Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes

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

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

The relationship between the Jewish people and G-d is often compared to that of a human king and his constituency. On an ordinary day, the king is in his palace, surrounded by high-ranking ministers and guards. In order to gain an audience with the king, one must go through many levels

of bureaucracy and protocol before even being allowed to step foot in the king's palace, let alone meet with him personally.

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

After such a wonderful encounter with the king, the simple people from the countryside follow the king back to the capital, to reap the benefits of their



meeting, and to appreciate the glory of the great king.

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

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

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

On behalf of Bassie and myself I would like to wish you a happy, healthy and blissful New Year.



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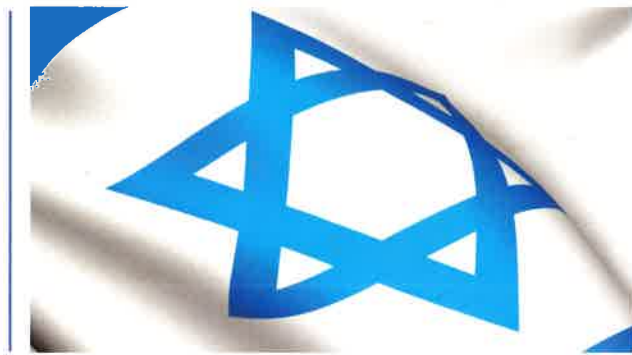
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