

Shalom!

Winter 2003 Vol. 28, No. 1

CHOREF 5763

שלום!

ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL

Community Award Recipients 2002

*Standing left to right: Martin Chernin, Sydney; David Attis, Moncton;
Robert Wolman, Halifax; Harry Brodie, Moncton.*

*Seated left to right: Rosalie Simeone, PEI; Marianne Ferguson, Halifax; Sandra Levine, Saint John;
Hyde Jochelman for Joseph Kohn, Moncton; Claire Frankel-Salama, St. John's.*



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

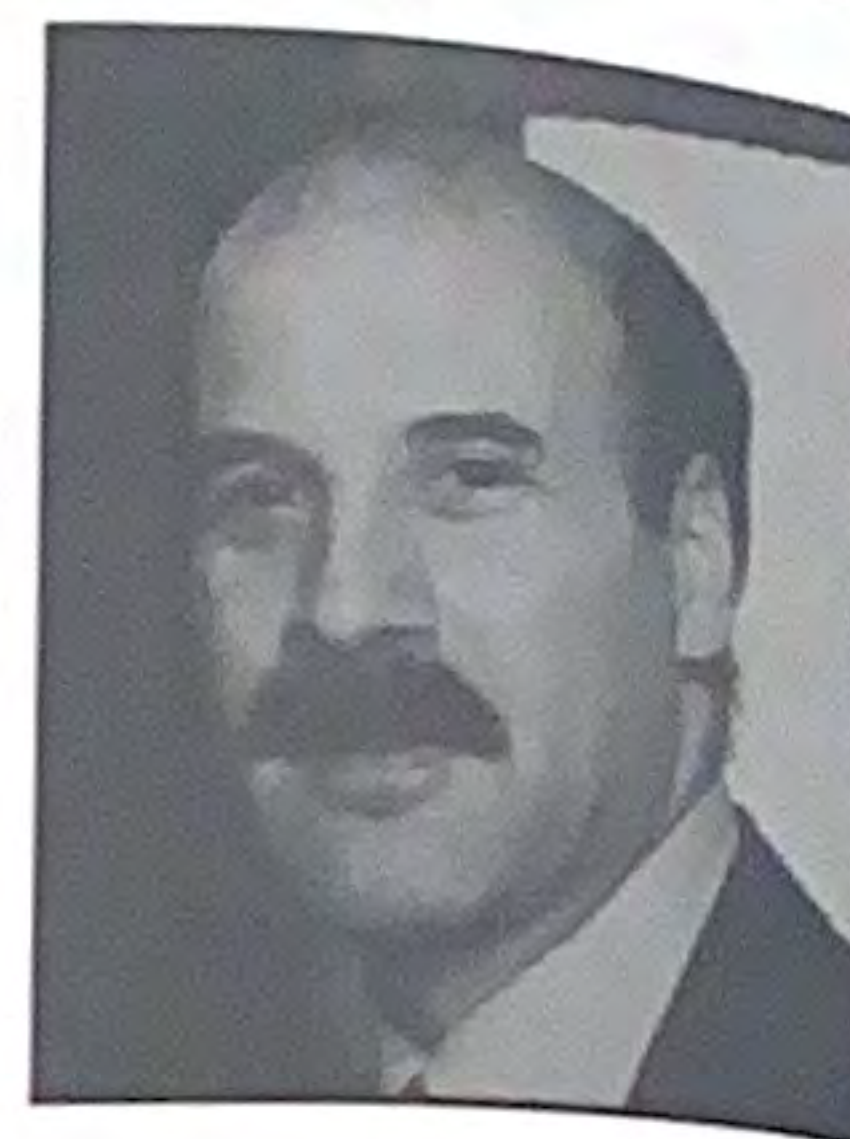
*Biennial Convention Report Moncton
News from Around the Region*

Shalom

President's Message

President: Mark Rosen

by Mark Rosen



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Address all correspondence to:
 Editor, c/o Shalom

5670 Spring Garden Road
 Suite 508

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1H6

Tel. (902) 422-7491

Fax (902) 425-3722

Email:

jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca

Email:

atlanticjewishcouncil@theajc.ns.ca

Website:

www.theajc.ns.ca

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It is a cold December morning and I am composing my first message as President of the Atlantic Jewish Council. We have just completed our celebration of Chanukah and we are now moving into the final few weeks of a busy work schedule before the "school" break, some of us to depart for warmer climes to rejuvenate our blood flow, others to remain at home and enjoy the winter wonderland. For me, the holiday season has always provided a sense of goodwill, enjoyment and renewal. It is a period of time when everyone feels relaxed and looks forward to spending quality time with family and friends.

We are indeed in need of this respite. It has been an emotional and difficult year for the Jewish people. This past year we have seen a monumental rise in anti-Israel sentiment and each day we are faced with a continuing onslaught of anti-Semitic rhetoric which has not been experienced for many years. We are on the verge of another war between the "West" and Iraq and we await its obvious affect on Israel and our lives. As Jews, we are living in troubled times. Just witness the following news items in the December 12th edition of the Jewish Telegraphic News:

1. The Saudi Police Minister reiterated the charge that Jews were behind the September 11th attacks.
2. The student union at Concordia University banned any activity by Hillel over a flyer for an Israeli army volunteer project.
3. Neo Nazis are planning to protest the visit to Germany of Israel's President.
4. Vandals broke into a synagogue in Southwestern France.
5. Hundreds of skinheads disrupted a Chanukah celebration in Budapest, shouting, "Hungary is ours!"

So, how are we doing so far? My election as AJC President came as little surprise (regrettably having no

opposition), and was almost unanimous with the exception of one vote against – thank-you Ethel! While I have served the Jewish community in a variety of roles these past 20 years, I enter into the presidency with some trepidation. Certainly, I am grateful for the leadership provided by the past Officers and Board and look forward to working with our "new" team. Many thanks to **Sheva Medjuck** for her devoted leadership these past two years and I am certain that I will seek her sage advise as I manoeuvre through my term.

We have much to be proud of in this small region of ours. We have been blessed with a committed group of volunteers who endeavour to carry out a large agenda, not only in the Atlantic Region, but on the national level as well. As noted in the President's report for the Biennial Convention recently held in Moncton, our representation on national committees goes well beyond our small numbers. I thank all those who serve on both the local and national scene and I appreciate your level of volunteerism to the cause of Israel and Jewish continuity.

During my address to delegates at the Biennial Convention I spoke briefly of an intended agenda for my term. Essentially, I borrowed from a saying of **Geiger** – "draw from the past, live in the present, work for the future." While this article is not the place to provide an extensive elaboration, a brief explanation is required. In short, we have many committed people in this region whose experience and expertise we must continue to utilize. We have many programs which should be continued. However we must be cognizant of our dwindling financial base and not commit to programs beyond our capability. We must deal with the present issues facing us – the rise of anti-Semitism, the need for better and more extensive youth and campus programming, and most importantly, we must concentrate our

efforts on community building and leadership development. We have progressed well over the past few years. Our chaplaincy program has continued as an integral part of our outreach program, our youth and campus program has been enlarged with the hiring of two new professionals; Camp Kadimah is our jewel and is second to none in the Jewish camping environment, and our Holocaust education program has become a vital part of our agenda. Our commitment to Israel and our Atlantic communities remains strong and is exemplified by the growth of our UJA campaign and the Atlantic Jewish Foundation. Without your donations to both of these worthy causes we would be unable to direct needed funds to Israel or to provide for our current programming needs. And what of the future? It will be of utmost importance for us to develop new leadership. We must encourage our young professionals who have chosen to make a life in this region to step up and become an integral part of the larger Atlantic Jewish community. Without their involvement all of our development over the past years will go for not. We need the next generation to become more active and it is up to the AJC to provide the incentive for this to happen. This will be our greatest need and toughest challenge over the next few years.

I'm certain there will be other important items for our agenda, primary among them being the pro-Halifax initiative. While there have been delays during the past year to set up a Halifax "council", the recent community Chanukah celebration at the Beth Israel Synagogue brought this need to

the forefront. Following this well planned and well-attended community event, I had the opportunity to meet with our local Synagogue Presidents, **Andrew Wolfson** and **Murray Schwartz**. There is certainly an incentive and an intention to move forward together and, with a coordinated effort, we are hopeful that cultural, social and educational programs will occur more frequently on a joint basis. The enhancement of the Halifax Jewish community is the goal. With a strong and vibrant community, both congregations can grow together from strength to strength.

No Board can work in a vacuum. We are fortunate to have a committed, hard-working and often times thankless staff at the AJC office, led by our Executive Director, **Jon Goldberg**. Our agenda is indeed large and our communities spread wide. With significantly less staff than larger federated communities, we accomplish a great deal. The AJC office does attempt to be all things to all people and our staff are to be commended for their efforts on our behalf. To **Jon, Marie, Ann, Yael, Mike** and **Angelica**, thank-you for your devotion to the community and I'm certain we will work well together as we move into 2003 and beyond.

As your President I look forward to serving on your behalf for the next two years and welcome any suggestions you may have. (well, almost any, and remember, please combine cheques with suggestions!)

On behalf of the Officers and Board of the AJC, I would like to extend our wishes to everyone for a happy, healthy and successful new year.

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From the Desk of Executive Director, Jon Goldberg

by Jon M. Goldberg

Well here we are, it's 2003! Welcome to our winter edition of Shalom!

As I look back on the past year the reality is that it has been a very difficult one for the State of Israel and the Jewish people. The Atlantic Jewish Council is becoming more and more involved with the Israel agenda and battling for the hearts and minds of the public regarding the ongoing events in the Middle East. In addition, we had an emergency campaign in the spring to which many of you answered the call. With the fall came increased emphasis on campus programming, a commitment for a "Bayit" in Halifax and then again, our regular campaign.

The AJC Biennial Convention was held in Moncton in November with a good attendance and a program which, I believe, was enjoyed by all who participated. At the convention we bid farewell to our outgoing President, **Sheva Medjuck**. While serving as President of the AJC Sheva gave her time, energy and intellect to help build a better Jewish community in our region. I will miss dealing with her on a daily basis and I know you join me in wishing her well in future endeavors. I also want to thank former Executive members, **Sylvia Allen, Ann Gregory, Renee Gersovitz, Susan Isaacs-Lubin, Darrel Pink, and Claire Frankel-Salama** for their assistance and advice over the past few years. **Mark Rosen** was elected President unanimously by the Plenary at the Convention. We are indeed fortunate to have a man with Mark's experience and passion as our leader. I know that the members of the staff and I look forward to working with Mark over the next 2 years.

I am pleased to report that through the efforts of our volunteer campaign chairs and canvassers throughout the region, **Dov Harris**, UJA Director of Financial Resource Development, and **Marie Herschorn**, our UJA Assistant Campaign Coordinator, we collected well over a million dollars for UJA from this region in 2002. It is gratifying to those of us who are involved in community work to see the level of commitment by so many of our fellow Jews in Atlantic Canada. I want to thank everyone who supported our

campaign whether it be the emergency or the regular fall campaign or both, as well as a number of generous people who made anonymous donations or endowments to Israel through our campaign.

Our readers should know that a good portion of the money we raised for overseas has gone into projects and programs, which fall into 4 categories:

- responding to tragedy
- helping children
- providing emergency services
- direct aid to new immigrants.

I know that we can count on your ongoing support for UJA in the coming year.

I receive many calls and e-mails from our readers regarding the situation in the Middle East as covered in your local or national media. It is most important that we know the attitude of your local media towards Israel and the Jewish people. **Dr. Israel Unger** is our CRC (Community Relations Committee) Chair, and he and his committee monitor anti-Semitism throughout the region. **Jim Spatz** is our CIC (Canada-Israel Committee) Chair and we have formed Israel action teams throughout the region to monitor Israel news. Using the resources of CJC National and CIC National, we can, if given proper notice, respond to these anti-Israel and anti-Jewish articles that might appear. It is most important that everyone in the community be alert about anything in your local paper or on television that is of an anti-Israel or anti-Semitic nature and that you contact Dr. Unger, Jim Spatz or me as soon as possible. The AJC community representatives are there for you in your respective communities. If you have a problem or question, please contact them and they will refer to me.

Once again, I want to thank our staff, our lay leaders and you, the members of the Atlantic community for all the support and encouragement which you have given to me this past year. I look forward to working with everyone in 2003. We share the same goals of health, peace and happiness for our families, for our country and for Kol Israel.

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Relationships

by Yael Goodman, Campus Coordinator

Editor's Note: Yael will be returning to Israel in mid-April to continue her work with Canada-Israel experience. The AJC and the JSA have been very fortunate to have her with us for eight meaningful months.

I arrived in Halifax at the beginning of August and just coming from Israel, it was a tremendous change. The city has a very laid-back, relaxed atmosphere. The students had not come streaming in yet, so I had time get adjusted to my new life and job away from home with the incredible help of the AJC.

With the help of many of the students, we started to put the ball in motion to build a vision of what the Maritime student community could be. We sensed the potential of this area of Canada becoming an vibrant for students who seem to have a great interest in attending universities around this region.

It seems that one of the reasons students come here is to escape the mainstream life of the big cities. The challenge for us was to form the right composition for the students in Atlantic Canada. We began to plan our programs and activities. One of our Friday night dinners was called "Eco-Shabbos". We had an earthly celebration of Shabbat using only organic vegetarian ingredients, and spoke about the correlation between Judaism, Shabbat, and the environment. Of course, we served organic gin and vodka to win the hearts of our students.

Many students attended different programs. In October, we organized an "Israel Awareness Week". The Israeli ambassador visited Halifax and spoke at Dalhousie University. The AJC arranged for **Joel Bainerman** to speak at Dalhousie and following his talk at the university we hosted him at the "Bayit" where he chatted with the students. We were happy to see so many students attending these speeches and showing

their support for Israel. Later on in the semester the students were involved in planning "Dignity Day" in memory of Kristalnacht. We felt that this was the beginning of a stronger relationship between the students and the community. Our vision is to see a warm and lasting friendship between the two that will last through their years in school, and hopefully longer.

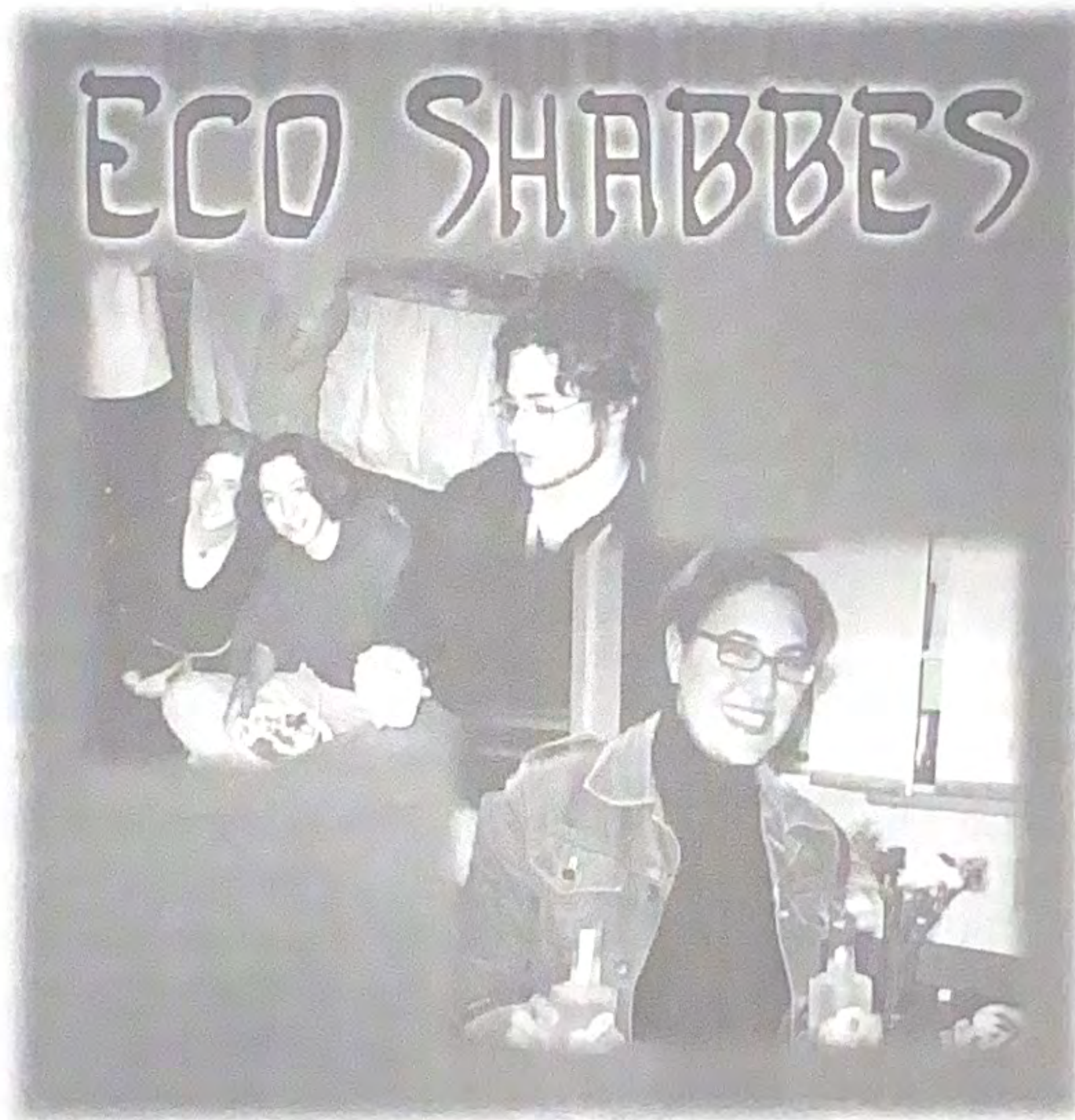
Our last Shabbat dinner before the end of the first semester was oriented towards a group of students who did not feel a

sense of connection to synagogue life. We held a student-led service, followed by a dinner. The students sang and ate and didn't "run away" immediately after dinner! They stayed at our student "Bayit" and enjoyed each other's company.

As you have probably determined, the "Bayit" is where it's all happening. When the students know they have a home where they feel comfortable, they will come. Joanna Grossman, co-president of the JSA (Jewish Student Association, our new name for a new beginning) worked hard in getting things moving, with the

outstanding help of the AJC. This gave us and continues to give us the opportunity to build and grow as a small Jewish student community.

The JSA is also active on other campuses throughout the region. During the episode of the "Heil Hitler salute" at Acadia University, that took place in a meeting with the ASU (Acadia Student Union), Hanna Feldberg, a student leader whom I met previously during a visit to Acadia, called us for support.





"Birthright Israel" – overlooking Syria.

Letters were written in support of the ASU in solidarity with our fellow Jewish students in the Valley.

During a visit to Mount Allison University in Sackville, we were able to locate a number of Jewish students who were eager to form a small community of their own due to the difficulties of providing outreach on a daily basis. **Elinor Bodman**, an Israeli who studies at Mt. Allison, and **Mindy Lampert**, a Monctonian, organized a Hanukah party for the students. Not all of the Jewish students that are enrolled attended but we are optimistic because building a community, as I envision it, takes time and many baby steps. These first baby steps have now been taken at Mt. Allison, and we hope to see results.

It was difficult to locate students at UNB. There was no interest in joining the JSA when we set up a booth on campus. However 2 students are going on a "Birthright" trip to Israel this February, and with their help upon their return from Israel, we hope to see a Jewish organization on campus.

Six other students from Halifax joined a "Birthright" trip to Israel this December. One of my goals here in Atlantic Canada is to recruit students to accept this gift to visit Israel. One of the goals of Birthright is to strengthen the relationship between students and their Jewish communities once they realize the importance of Jewish life. Israel impacts these students in the deepest way. But, the "trick" is to hang on to that glow and keep it alive. I feel very fortunate to be their tour guide in Israel. I look forward to returning with them to make sure this work will be done.

There is an extraordinary Israeli girl in Newfoundland, named Freda who is on the "Arevim" program. Freda is in touch with the 4 students who attend Memorial University.

One of the more difficult subjects dealing with campus life here is the issue of anti-Israel propaganda. Coming from Israel, all this is new to me. I was never aware of the battles on campus, all the articles that are being written, and such anti-Israel speakers that fly into town frequently. However, we have started to build our own "Israel Action" team. Our team includes 4 eager students who write articles in response to anti-Semitic, anti-Israel articles in the press. Unfortunately, it seems like we are always on the reactive side of the coin as opposed to being proactive. Being proactive is the key to success in this battle. The view the world has of us is ugly, and the Palestinians are doing a far better job than we are of promoting their cause.

We, as the JSA, are planning to become more proactive

next semester. We are proud to announce that we received a grant from UIA that will help us financially to bring in speakers to promote our side and advocate for Israel and the Jews. We are working on bringing in speakers once a month, taking off our gloves and starting a proactive approach. It seems to me that anti-Semitism is once again rearing its ugly head in a different format. Hating Israel is a trendy way of thought today, and fits in nicely with the ideology of the left wing. That's not a bad thing. Everyone is entitled to his or her own views, but when these views combine with the vision of Israel as an apartheid state, that's going beyond the borders of tolerance. This battle will be an everlasting battle, since anti-Semitism has always been around. It has been here for 2,000 years in many different shapes and forms. Today it is sculptured in the shape of anti-Israel and equates Israelis with Nazi soldiers.

This job has been incredibly interesting. I am learning so much every day, and am very thankful for this opportunity. On the one hand, living a quiet life in Eastern Canada has only been good. On the other hand, within this island of peace there are struggles and battles that are as important as the battles we have in Israel. This is the battle for the hearts and minds of the Canadian people. When I go back home, I feel a need to let Israelis know of the battle that is taking place all around Canada and the world. It will make them feel less alone in their own battle and maybe begin to understand the immortal relationship between Israel- the people and the land, and the Jewish community of the Diaspora.

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The Youth Corner

by Mike Anthony, Youth Programmer

I was going to write my first Shalom! Article as a summary of the programs and events that have been taking place for the AJC Youth, and about what is in the

works for the near future. However, I have just finished watching a UJA Federation presentation of Birthright Israel, and was struck by the constant references to people finding their Jewish identities, or strengthening their current Jewish identity. This program got me thinking about my role in the Jewish Community of the Atlantic Provinces.

In my opinion, a Jewish identity is something that is cultivated and developed over time. The youth of the Atlantic Provinces must have access to a program that provides them with a wide variety of experiences that allows them to develop their Jewish identity. I believe that the program I have created fulfills these requirements. The youth of the Atlantic Provinces have access to religious programs, philanthropy programs, cultural programs and social programs. For example, there has already been a Havdallah Program, a Charity Clothing Drive, the Young Judaea Day Camp, and an excursion to see a Halifax Mooseheads hockey game. These various types of programs shape a truly well rounded program.

Looking into the future is a very exciting thing! There is so much yet to be done, and so many different types of programs in the works for all age groups. I hope that each and every one of you will come out and experience some of the amazing programs that are coming up soon...stay tuned!! I look forward to travelling to the different communities of the Atlantic Provinces, and I hope to meet you all in the near future.

The Moncton Mini-Shabbaton took place between

November 15 and November 17, over the weekend of the AJC's 13th Biennial Convention. Jewish youth from Moncton, Fredericton, Halifax and Sydney participated in this weekend long program that combined social and Jewish programming. The weekend was a huge success and a great experience for all participants.

On the topic of Shabbaton, I've been getting a lot of calls and e-mails PLEADING me to organize a Shabbaton this year. Well, have no fear...plans are already underway to make this year's Youth Shabbaton the best EVER! I hope that you will all come out and enjoy what promises to be a great weekend!

There is one group of people that deserves to be recognized and applauded by the entire community for their involvement in the youth program. This year the chaperones have been an extraordinary group of University students and young professionals. They are: **Naomi Goloff, Andrea Cooper, Blair Wexler, Sarah Brodbar-Nemzer, Lisa Anthony, Lana Goldstein, Jared Goldlust, Angelica Feigin and Yael Goodman.** Without all of you this program would be impossible and would not have nearly enough spirit! I thank you all so much from the bottom of my heart and I look forward to working with you in the near future.

To find all information on the AJC Youth Program, please visit our new and improved website at www.theajc.ns.ca/youth.html. This site is updated frequently, as new Youth programs are announced.

I believe that this article should celebrate the ruach and energy of our Jewish Youth. I think that this spirit is best seen through the pictures that accompany this article. I hope you enjoyed the first Shalom! Magazine report from The Youth Corner.

Until we meet again....

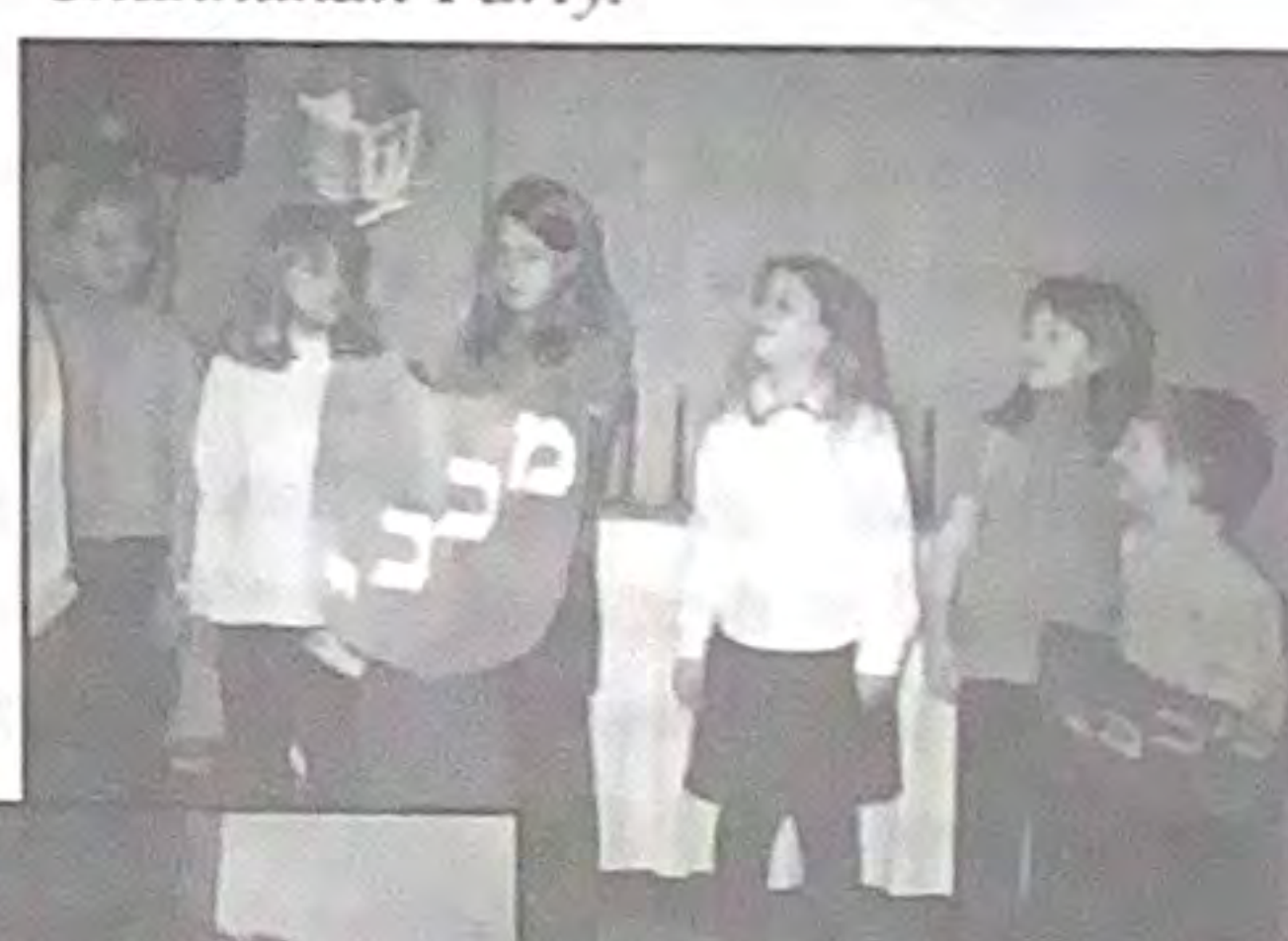
AJC Youth (and chaperone) on the Annapolis Valley apple-picking excursion.



Participants at the Young Judaea Day Camp Program.



Moncton youth perform at the Channukah Party.



Youth winners of the Menorah contest at the Community Channukah Dinner Celebration.

Zichronam Livracha

Two Outstanding Contributors to the Glace Bay Community ~ Norman Lipshutz, Sol Shore

by Rabbi David Ellis - AJC Chaplain

I first met him about five and a half years ago. Just before I had formally assumed the job as A.J.C. Regional Chaplain, the Council sent me out to Cape Breton to visit the communities there. I was to spend one Shabbat in Glace Bay, the next in Sydney, and do whatever needed to be done in between.

So one morning I rode with **David Ein** over to his store in Glace Bay. As we went up to his desk (the site of many profound deliberations about community matters), David said, "Well, let's see, what you can do today? Maybe I'll call **Norman Lipshutz**."

So he called and told him a rabbi was visiting Glace Bay. Would you like to see him? Sure, send him over.

So I went to Norman's house (less than a minute from David Ein's store), intending to stay for an hour or so.

I stayed there till 4:00 in the afternoon. It was an unforgettable day of fabulous stories of his family's coming to Glace Bay, of the bookstore he ran, and of the magazine he edited.

Norman Lipshutz was one of the last of what were called the maskilim of Europe. He combined his Jewish heritage with an appreciation of the movements of general history.

His great accomplishment was his founding of his own literary magazine, which he published during the 50's and 60's under the titles of the Atlantic Mirror or the Cape Breton Mirror. If you look around in stores and shops, you can still find extant copies of it today. The articles read remarkably well in our own era.

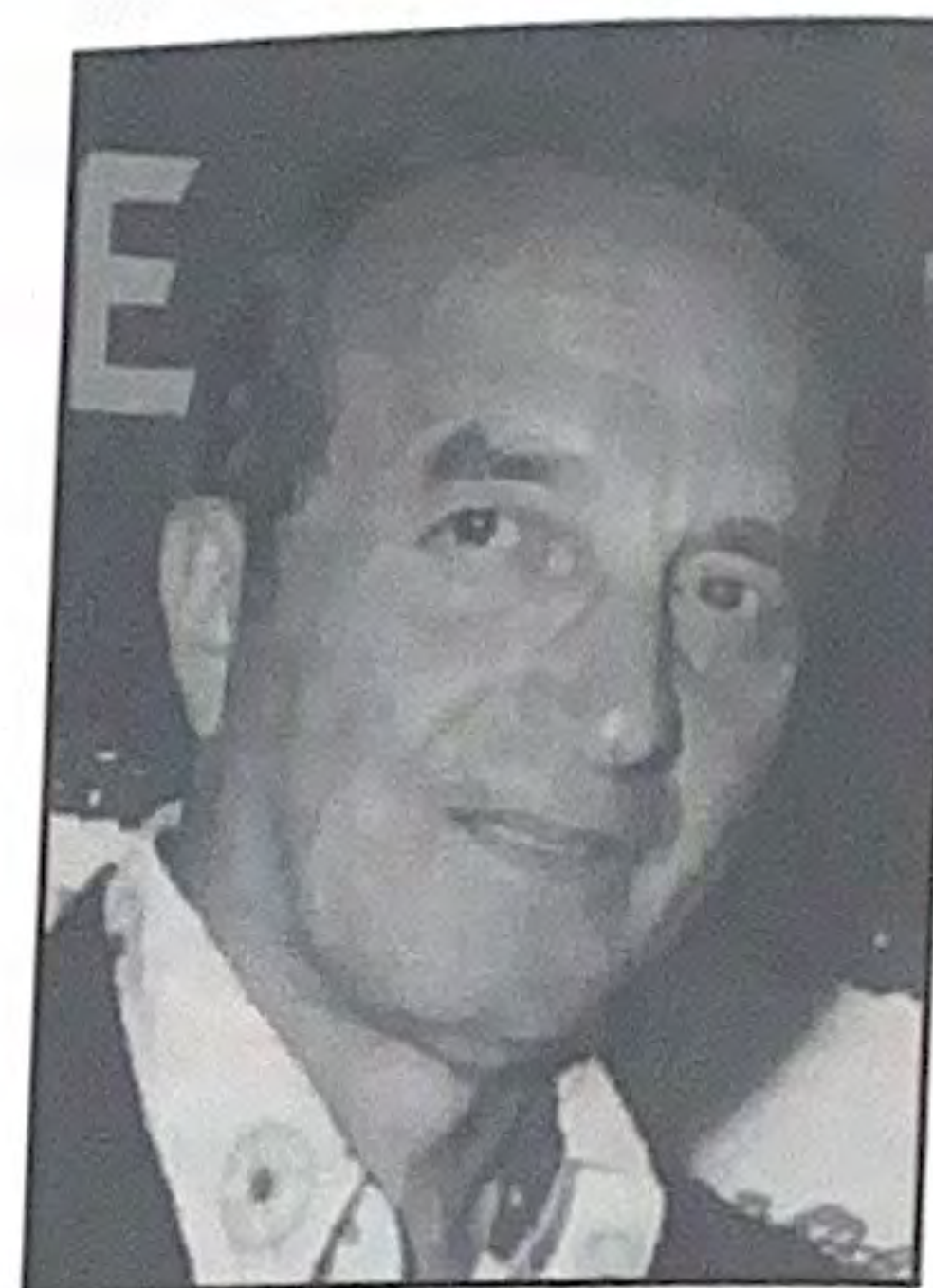
The magazine was a collection of poetry, essays, literary and political writings, all with a Canadian or Cape Breton flavour. But there was always the Norman Lipshutz bully pulpit, his editorial page.

Here he would take on with a passion whatever the issue of the day was - Viet Nam, the Six Day War, civil rights, the Cold War. You never had to figure out where Norman stood on any issue.

In the late fifties, he also authored a book, documenting the numerous Nazi war criminals who had made their way to Canada. This was at a time that the Jewish community was



Norman Lipshutz



Sol Shore

somewhat cautious about its stance vis-a-vis Canada and did not want to "rock the boat" in pushing the issue. It would take the Canadian Jewish community another thirty years before it began to attend to the murderers who had made their way to Canada after the Holocaust.

Norman and his wife **Shoshana** had to leave Glace Bay several years ago due to health problems, to be near family in Toronto. As he left Glace Bay, he sold his home to **Asher Pillar** and **Reuven Schmidt** of Brooklyn, friends of the family.

As some of you know, it is in the little apartment adjoining this house in the rear where I stay while in Glace Bay. I peruse old copies of his magazines left behind.

I had just left from the little house on Hector Street early one Sunday morning, when I returned to Halifax and got word from Asher that Norman Lipshutz had passed away. But for me, every time I visit there, I will recall memories of the marvelous conversations I had with him.

Mr. Raymond Goldman and I had looked a few months back at an old picture in the synagogue in Glace Bay of the synagogue leaders. Oh, yes, Raymond noted, this was an old picture; all of these people were long gone.

But then I looked again. No, there was one who was still around - **Mr. Sol Shore**.

Sol started very early in his contributions to the Glace Bay community. He typified the character of the solid, successful businessman who was also the solid shul goer. He and many others made the Jewish name an honoured one in Cape Breton.

He would serve as shul president for over twenty years, overseeing an isolated community which kept a high level of Yiddishkeit against the odds.

I, of course, only knew Sol in his last years, when he had become enfeebled. Nonetheless, he would still make the gallant effort to get up the steps of the Glace Bay shul, and come alive to the old familiar melodies, often chanted by his brother **Archie**.

When he could no longer come to shul, I would visit him

and **Ethel** at their house on Cottage St. I would be treated to Ethel's excellent baking and a sip or two of Sol's schnapps. During it all, despite his difficult times, he would still take a keen interest in affairs of the shul and news I brought him from around the region.

The last time I saw Sol in Glace Bay was at the now legendary Kum A'Heim which the community put together last year. As I looked at everyone who had passed through the community over the years, I got the thought – Sol, through his dedication and leadership, had contributed something to everyone in the room.

Sol and Ethel moved shortly afterwards to Halifax to be

near their son, **Lowell**. He lived a life well-lived and recognized by all.

Norman Lipshutz is survived by his wife **Shoshana** and children **Elaine, Nina** and **Gary**. Sol Shore's wife Ethel is still in Halifax, as is son **Lowell**; another son **Harvey** lives in Vancouver, a daughter **Brenda** in New York.

May all of them be comforted among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. May we all continue to appreciate the contributions Norman Lipshutz and Sol Shore made to the Glace Bay community and to the entire region.

Human Rights in Education Conference – Halifax

by *Marlene Unger*



Holocaust survivor **Philip Riteman** talks to teachers following his presentation of the Human Rights in Education Conference held in Halifax in mid October. One of the four main themes of the conference, sponsored by the Nova Scotia Department of Education was "the Holocaust". Speaking on this theme as well were **Leo Adler**, Director National Affairs, Simon Wiesenthal Centre, **Dr. Dorota Glowacka**, Professor University of King's College, **Dr. Karen Mock**, Executive Director, Canadian Race Relations Foundation and **Dr. Israel Unger**, Child Holocaust survivor. The AJC Holocaust Education Committee was instrumental in initiating this conference and participated in its planning and organization.

The Pianist

by *Jon Goldberg*

Editor's Note: My friends know that I'm an avid movie goer and have been for many years. Last week I received an invitation to a press screening from TVA films in Toronto and along with Marie Herschorn, just returned from a preview of "The Pianist". The Pianist opens in Halifax on January 31 and should be opening in other Atlantic Canada communities around that date or shortly after.

Review

The Pianist is not a film specifically about the Holocaust. None of the movie takes place in extermination camps. This film is adapted from the autobiography of **Wladyslaw Szpilman**, a Polish Jew and is about his survival during World War II. This show begins with Szpilman playing live music over Polish radio and takes us through the occupation of Warsaw by the Germans, the creation of the Warsaw Ghetto, the Jewish uprising of 1943, the Polish uprising of 1944 and finally the liberation of Poland by the Russians. We see how Szpilman struggled to stay alive. In some ways it was a miracle that he survived. I left the theatre wondering "why him?"

Roman Polanski, the famous director and himself, a Holocaust survivor transports the viewer to the world of life in the Warsaw Ghetto. We see Szpilman's family undergoing the tragedy that ends with their deportation to the death camps. I don't want to reveal too much of the story. However, I couldn't help but reflect on the portrayals of the Jews, the Nazis and the Poles as shown in the film. It makes you think about each one of these groups as the story transpires. The Pianist was the winner of the top prize at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival. This is not a light film and suitable only for grades 10 and over. However, I do recommend it for all our readers as a testimony to the power of music, the will to live and the courage to stand against evil.

Special announcement for Canadian March of the Living alumni

March
OF THE LIVING



**Canadian March of the Living alumni are now eligible
for a FREE 10-day birthright israel program**

Who is eligible? You must be Jewish, 18-26 years old, a high school graduate, and never have been on a peer-educational experience to Israel. If you have been to Israel with your family, even on numerous occasions, but never on a group tour, you are eligible. This winter, March of the Living alumni are eligible for birthright israel.

However, if you studied in Israel, or visited Israel on an organized bus tour (other than the March), you are not eligible. If you are an Israeli citizen, you are eligible only if you left Israel prior to attending high school and have not returned to Israel on an organized program.

Dates:
Canada Israel
Experience birthright
programs will be
taking place in the
spring and summer
of 2003 and are
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Dinslaken Project brought to Atlantic Canada

by Joel Jacobson

A large percentage of German citizens are too eager to forget the horrors World War II brought upon millions of their Jewish countrymen.

But six German teenagers and two of their teachers stand out among those who will never forget.

The six students of **Thomas Heuss** Gymnasium (high school) of Dinslaken, Germany, made a two-week tour of Atlantic Canadian high schools and universities in October, telling Canadians the meaning of the Holocaust to today's German Youth.

Through a program of slides, posters and emotional words on the history of the Holocaust in their town, they discussed how the Holocaust is taught in their schools and how their research has helped them understand a dark period of their country's history.

"People here (in Canada) and at home think it's a good thing we're doing," says 19-year-old **Sarah Freck**, a grade 13 student. "Even though, I'm graduating, I'm so involved in this I won't forget, can't forget. It's so important in our history."

The tour was initiated by University of King's College (Halifax) professor **Dorota Glowacka**, daughter of Holocaust victims, who met survivor **Fred Spiegel** of New Jersey at a conference last March. Mr. Spiegel was a resident of Dinslaken before the war and, as a child, survived the horror of World War II, eventually settling in the United States.

"He told me about the group which he had met and suggested they travel in Canada."

The students funded the trip on their own, receiving some administrative assistance from the Atlantic Jewish Council and being billeted in most communities they visited, like Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton.

"We've put a lot of expenses on our credit cards," smiled Glowacka and teacher **Gabriella Khanna**.

Dinslaken Project – Beth Israel



Khanna, who teaches English and geography to the well-spoken student sextet, started the project in 1997 when the state of North Rhine Westphalia offered funding to do a project on the following year's 50th anniversary of Israel and the 60th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

"My son, in high school at the time, pushed me into the project. There were three pupils at the start," she said. "We arranged a partnership with Arad in Israel and had a student exchange until 2000 when it became unsafe for us to travel there. Their students still come to us each year, visit Holocaust sites and learn about our students and our project."

Sarah Freck said the project has touched her deeply. "It's so incredible that happened, so cruel. I couldn't imagine that one man could make all this take place."

During the presentation, student **Bert Noedelman** told that there were 300 Jewish residents of the small town in 1938 but there is now one Jewish woman there, **Edith Marx**, who returned about five years ago.

Lisa Tekolf, grade 12, said the Holocaust is taught from kindergarten, through books and drawings. "Children start to think about it at a young age."

Students visit museums, memorials (there is a large one in Dinslaken) and synagogues in their region, said **Annika Schubert**, grade 11. "The best part is talking with our grandparents and with survivors, like Fred Spiegel, so we learn first hand what happened."

Members of the Halifax Jewish community heard the students' presentation at an overflow Beth Israel Synagogue function. They saw pictures of Dinslaken, with a synagogue and Jewish schools and an orphanage in the 1930s and today, with a memorial where a cemetery once stood there is no synagogue or evidence of Jewish life.

"People will always deny there was a Holocaust," says Sarah, "but we have to try to decrease the discrimination."

"When we ask older Germans about it, many lie and many say they couldn't speak up because they were afraid," says **Alexandra Sowka**, 19. "But we feel we have to ensure it doesn't happen again."

Sarah adds, "We, as youth, don't have to feel guilty. We are often ashamed because it was our grandparents and our country and we are Germans but we feel good about what we're doing to keep the story alive and to make sure people

understand that it can't be forgotten."

They discovered most Canadian students know little about the Holocaust.

"There aren't a lot of questions," said Sarah. "They just don't know what to ask."



My Trip To Washington

by Benji Mendleson, Halifax, NS

It is rare when a good opportunity comes along that you just know that you have to act on it. Such was the case when **Aviva Rubin** of the AJC approached my parents and me about an opportunity to travel to Washington, DC to visit the Holocaust Museum along with other kids from across Canada - including the Atlantic Provinces.

At first I wasn't all that sure I wanted to go on the trip - but then I began to think about the possibility of making new Jewish friends from other parts of Canada, as well as learning about a significant but traumatic part of recent Jewish history - the Holocaust. As well, the City of Washington is always interesting, so I finally made up my mind and I went.

It was a trip that I will never forget as it was both fun and sad. When I arrived at Halifax airport I was really nervous because I had never gone this far away from home in about 7 years, and that trip was with my parents. When **Sam, Anastasia** and **Aviva** came I settled down quite a bit and eventually the fear went away. Then it was time to leave our parents we said our goodbyes and finally got rid of them!

We arrived in Toronto and we saw all these Jewish kids from all across Canada. When we landed in Washington we got talking with some of them and throughout the trip we made more friends. The hotel was like a maze. It was so big.

The most emotional part of the trip was our visit to the Holocaust Museum. Just walking through was hard - hard to look at what the Jewish people went through, and seeing the different rooms and different ways the Nazis killed the Jews. Then when we walked through the section of Daniels Story (that was the book we read to go on this trip), it was also emotional because you saw how some of the people lived. Even though it was a fictional story I am sure there are some families that have a similar story. We also got to meet Congressman **Tom Lantos'** wife as she told us of the



photo by Benji Mendelson

experience they had during the Holocaust.

We also got to visit some very interesting museums, including the Smithsonian exhibits. The exhibit I remember most was the Air and Space exhibit. It was interesting seeing all these old WW2 fighters and

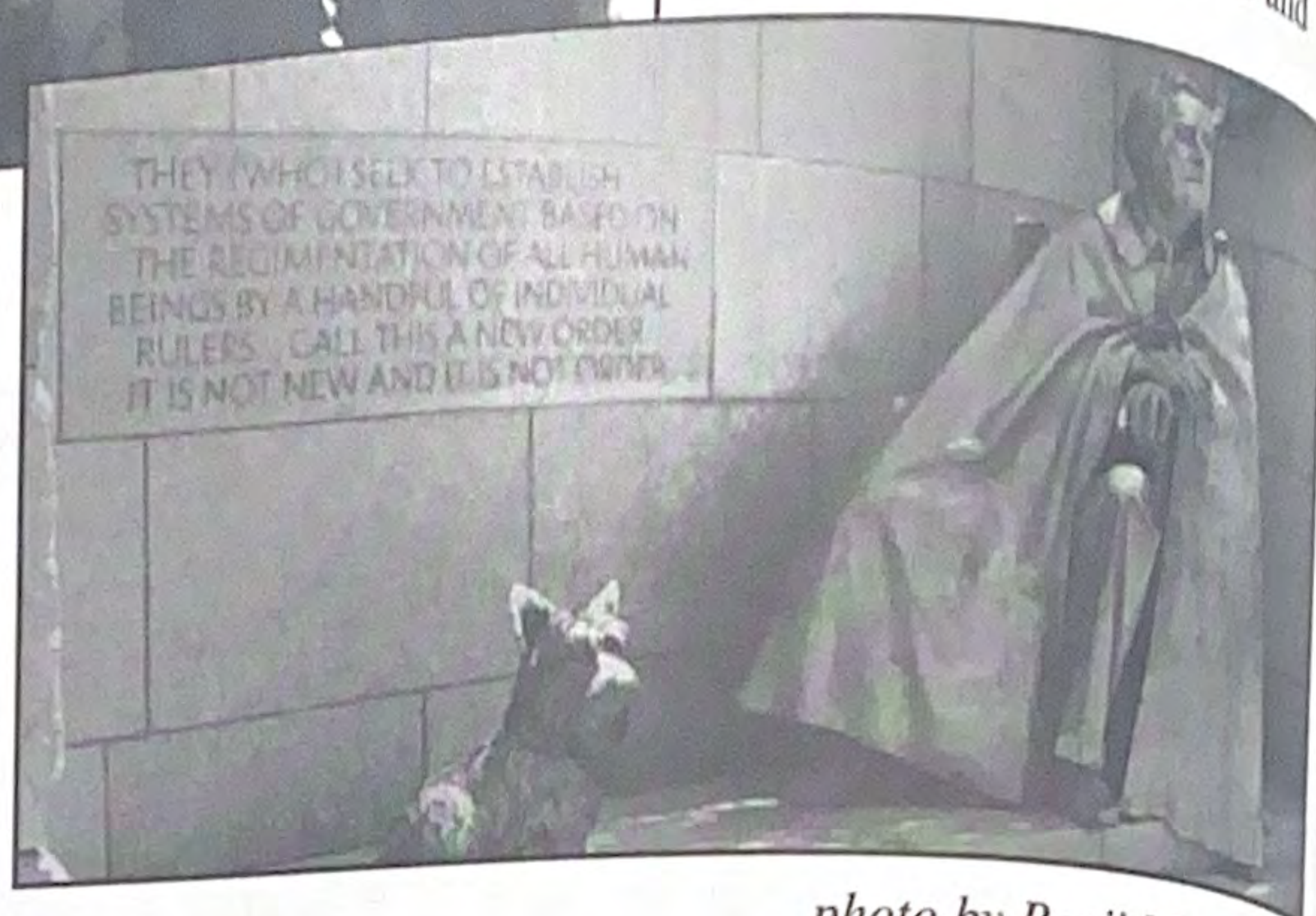


photo by Benji Mendelson

new ones also. We also got to see a bit of Canada in the Canadian Embassy where 3 representatives of the Canadian Embassy discussed Canada-U.S.A. relations as they addressed our group. Their presentation was followed by a question and answer session. After that we were out of there. The Canadian embassy was the most important building where we did not go through security.

We also got to see very famous monuments as well as the White House. Some of the monuments we got to see were the Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Capital Hill, Viet Nam Memorial and the Korean Memorial.

Then it was time to come home as we packed all our things and headed out to the airport. Then it was time to go on the airplane and leave for home thinking about all we had seen, and the friends we had made.

On March 1st, 2003, the Nova Scotia Jewish community welcomes back two of their hometown talents. Tracey Scher and Morris Glazman, cantorial students at the Hebrew Union College in New York City, will be returning along with world-renowned pianist Joyce Rosenzweig, to present a concert of Jewish Music. Included in the program will be gems of Yiddish theatre, Yiddish folk song, Ladino music, Chazzanut, modern Liturgical music and Israeli song. Their young voices and fresh talents offer a new dimension to a traditional genre of music.

Come see them at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday March 1st. For more information call the Atlantic Jewish Council at (902) 422-7491.

Camp Kadimah Update 2003



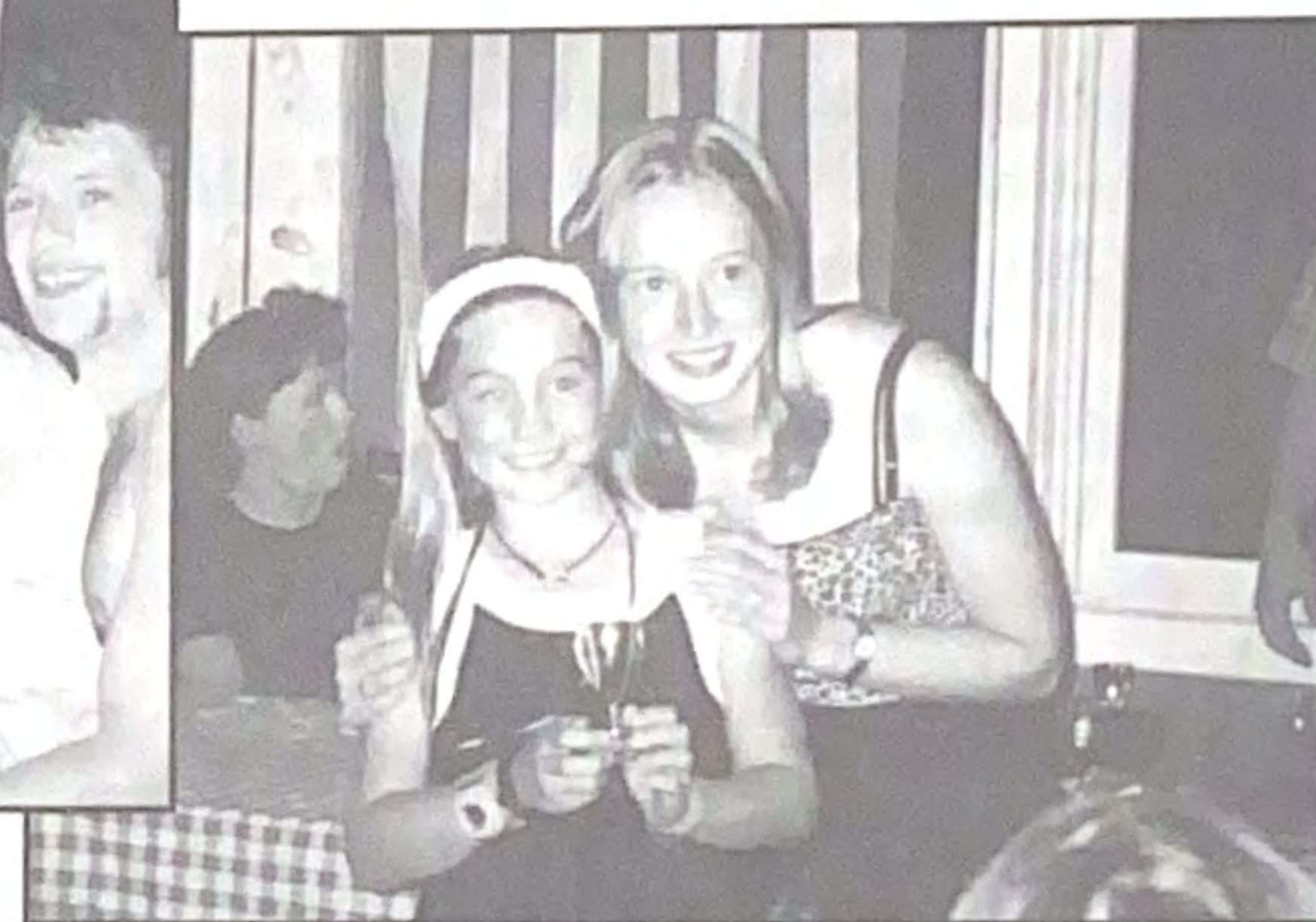
Planning for camp is well on its way for the summer of 2003. **Marty Zatzman** is returning as Camp Director for a third summer. A successful camp rally was held in Toronto on December 15, 2002 where new parents and campers met many staff and campers from last year. 2003 is our 60th reunion,

and celebrations are being planned for the evening of July 26th as well as on Visitor's day, July 27th.

2003 Camp Dates

Pre-Camp Senior Staff, Thursday June 26th
General staff Pre-Camp, June 27th-Monday June 30th
CIT's Arrive, Monday June 30th
Campers Arrive, Tuesday July 1st (Holiday)
Visitor's Day, Sunday July 27th
Campers Leave, Tuesday August 12th
Staff Leaves, August 13th

If you need more information regarding the 2003 camp season please contact **Angelica Feigin** at the Atlantic Jewish Council office in Halifax (902) 422-7491 x25 or refer to our website (www.campkadimah.com).



"THE TEMA CONTER MEMORAL AWARD" DINNER/DANCE

Please add to your calendars:

Saturday, May 31, 2003
at The Lord Nelson Hotel
7:30 p.m.

in support of the Tema Conter Memorial Paramedic Scholarship
(more information to follow)

Jewish War Veterans of Halifax, Nova Scotia

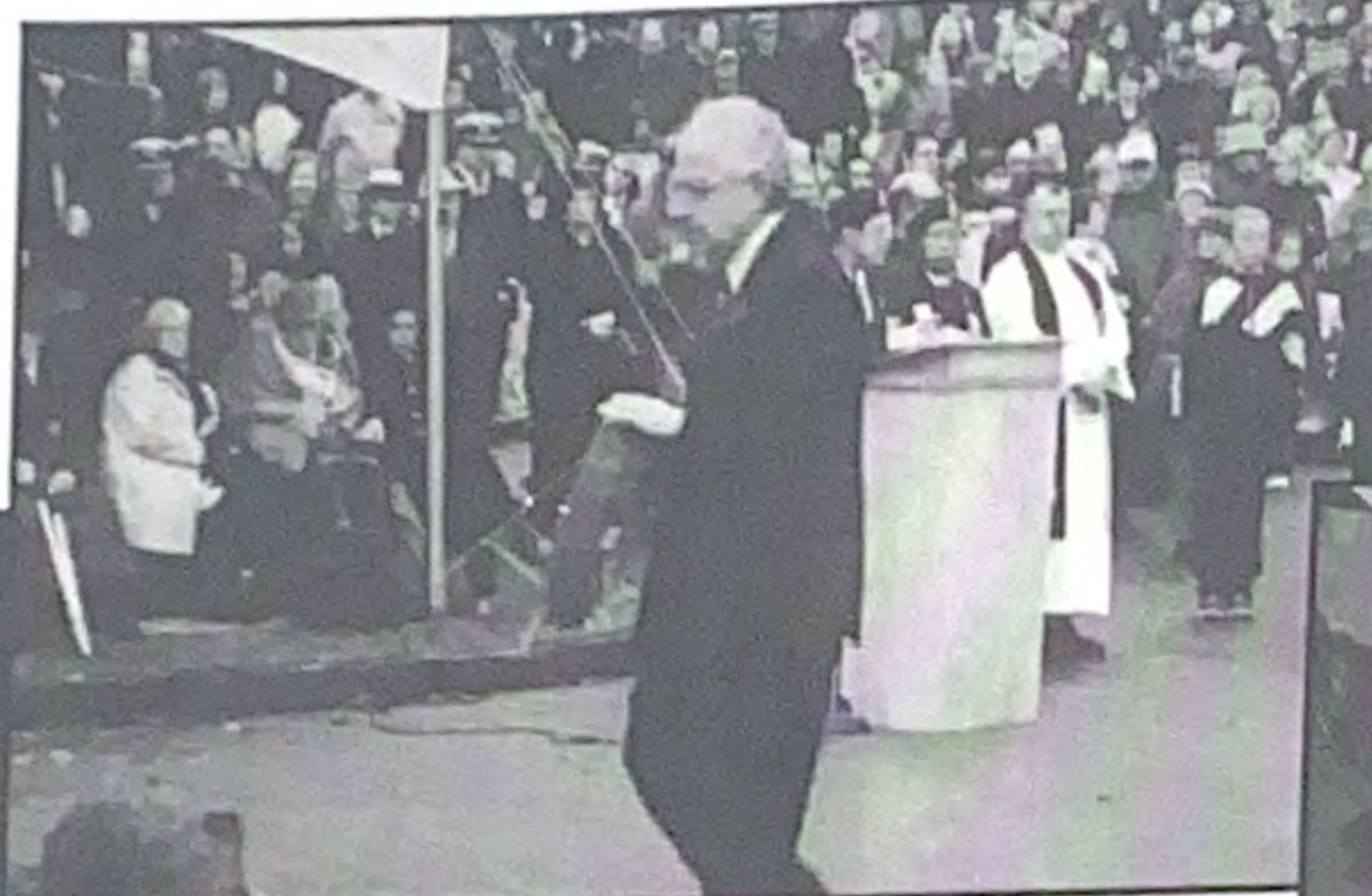
by Dr. Barrie Ross, Halifax Regional Commander

Veterans Memorial Day (Armistice Day) was observed by the Shaar Shalom and Beth Israel synagogues on Shabbos, November 9th, 2002. Veterans who were present in either shul were honoured with aliyahs. The significance of the day was mentioned from both pulpits. In particular, Jewish veterans can take pride that on a percentage basis; Jewish servicemen were proportionately the largest of any group in relation to their population size, to serve in World War II.

Monday, November 11th lived up to its reputation of being overcast with intermittent showers. The attending crowd was the largest seen in many years possibly reflecting the changed world following September 11th, 2001, the recent

Canadian losses in Afghanistan and the current threat of war. As the trumpet sounded and the gun was fired at 11 a.m. the rain ceased temporarily and the sun managed to break through weakly.

Rabbi Ellis led the addresses given by the clergy with eloquence. Wreaths were then laid at the Cenotaph in the presence of Her Honour Lieutenant-Governor Myra Freeman and her husband, His Honour Larry Freeman. Jim Spatz, on behalf of the AJC, Mr. Mike Merovitch with a support party of Messrs, Julius Solomon, Harry Block and Dr. Barrie Ross laid a wreath on behalf of the Jewish War Veterans of the Halifax Regional Municipality branch.



Mazal Tov to Mike Merovitch on receiving "The Medal of Liberation of Holland" from the Defence Attaché, Kingdom of the Netherlands



November 11, 2002
Marcus (Mike) Merovitch, Mark Merovitch –
"Zaida and Grandson"



AJC MEETINGS – Biennial Convention 2002 – Moncton, N.B.

by Joel Jacobson

Out with the old, in with the new – but the out-going and incoming presidents of the Atlantic Jewish Council brought the same message to the 13th biennial conference in Moncton – preservation of small communities is vital.

In a region dominated by one very large community (Halifax), populated by a couple of mid-size ones (Moncton, Fredericton and St. John's) and with small areas like Saint John, Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island, the concern for survival is real.

Incoming president **Mark Rosen**, a Halifax lawyer and insolvency specialist, stressed to delegates from across the region, "We must deal with the continuity of our communities. We see communities dying all over but we have to look to our youth to sustain us. We have to hear what they have to say and get them to work. I truly fear there may not be enough to do the work in the future that we are doing now. We must make them part of us."

In her final address after two years as president, Halifax university dean **Sheva Medjuck** said Jewish survival in Atlantic Canada is "our constant struggle. But through programming in all areas, we are trying. We are working diligently to ensure our communities survive and prosper."

She summed up her two years by saying AJC relationships with national Jewish organizations were strengthened. "There are two AJC members as national officers and six Atlantic Canadians on the national executive. "That gives us a clear voice in the organization. And, last summer for the first time, we hosted a national officers meeting in Atlantic Canada. Usually they're held in Toronto or Montreal but we were recognized and they learned about us."

She praised staff and volunteers. "Given our size and limited resources, the programs and services we offered were quite extensive."

Sheva said youth programming was strong, with the establishment of a *Bayit* in Halifax for university students and the strong possibility of purchasing a permanent home. "We

established a young professionals group for graduate students and young people starting careers who usually fall between the cracks in Jewish programming."

She did not forget the seniors, a group she termed "a priority."

"Our chaplaincy (Rabbi David Ellis) is a strong position. Camp Kadimah has become a national and international camp which is training future national leadership and has become a standard for other camps across Canada."

She said her greatest concern as she leaves office is staffing. "We are spread thin, turnover has been high and we need to look at long term staffing as a priority."

Mark's incoming remarks stressed continuity.

"I'm encouraged by having a number of people I worked with in the past still on the board to make the transition easier. But we all have to learn from our mistakes, look at our programs and stop funding those that are not successful."

He said the new executive will have to deal with anti-Semitism and Holocaust education, with continuity in the communities and with a major effort to make youth more responsive and responsible.

Rosen, a former long-time co-chairman of Camp Kadimah, said "we have to be certain every Jewish child in Atlantic Canada has an opportunity to go to Camp Kadimah. They are our future."

The new AJC executive consists of President Rosen, **Jim Spatz**, 1st vice president; **Howard Conter**, 2nd vice-president; **Michael Pink**, treasurer; **Kathy Zilbert**, secretary and **Mark David**, legal counsel. All are from Halifax.

Members at large are: **Michael April**, **Michael Argand**, **Rachel Budovitch**, **David Korn**, **Andrew Wolfson**, **Michael Zatzman**, **Boris Tsinman**, all of Halifax; **Barrie Carnat**, **Nicole Druckman**, Moncton; **Ivan Levine**, Fredericton and Halifax; and **Rosalie Simeone**, Prince Edward Island.

Community representatives will be elected or appointed within their own communities.

LIAT – CRC SEEK CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

LIAT, Local Israel Action Team and CRC, Community Relations and Communications Committee are determined that attacks on Jews or Israel must not go unchallenged.

We are looking for volunteers who are prepared to respond and to monitor the local media and advise us of any attacks, written or verbal, on Jews or Israel.

If you feel that you do not have all the facts or resources to respond, we will draft letters for you.

Please assist us in this endeavour by becoming a corresponding member of LIAT/CRC by contacting the AJC office by phone – 902-422-7491 or e-mail jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca.

Jim Spatz, Chair LIAT
Israel Unger, Chair CRC.

SCENES FROM

Around the Region...



Angelica Feigin, Camp Kadimah Administrator.



Consul General Ahlomo Avital and Mrs. Avital shown here with AJC Past President, Sheva Medjuck, at a farewell luncheon, hosted by Her Honour Lt. Gov. Myra Freeman and His Honour Lawrence Freeman.



Campaign Kick-off, Halifax, September, 2002, presenting "Ahuva".



Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Wexler shown here under the chuppah at Camp Kadimah, September 2, 2002.



Israel Ambassador to Canada, Haim Divon being presented with a gift from President Sheva Medjuck, Halifax, November, 2002.



Moncton Chanukah Party, December, 2002.



The organizers – Halifax Chanukah Party. L to R: Lynda Suissa, Mike Anthony, Victor Fineberg, Jo-Anne Nozick.



Dinslaken program, Halifax, November, 2002.

SCENES FROM

The 2002 Biennial Convention...



"The Middle East in Context"

by Henry Srebrnik

The Middle East remains front page news and prime time TV for Canadians: for years headlines have shouted at us about civil and inter-state wars, assassinations, religious zealotry and ideological fanaticism, terrorist activities, and insurrections. These have, of course, grown more intense since September 11, 2001.

From the Western Sahara struggle in North Africa to the Iran-Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts at the eastern periphery, the region has witnessed ethnic, religious and territorial disagreements almost without parallel elsewhere on the globe. Major conflicts have included the Iran-Iraq war of 1980-88, and the crisis in the Persian Gulf precipitated by the Iraqi conquest of Kuwait in 1990 and the Gulf War of 1991.

At the very core, though, geographically and in terms of its international ramifications, has been the Arab-Israeli conflict. Arabs and Israelis have fought five major wars, in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973 and 1982. There has also been protracted communal strife between Israelis and Arab Palestinians.

After the 1967 Middle East war, the Palestinian-populated West Bank (including the Old City of Jerusalem) and Gaza, which had come under Jordanian and Egyptian rule, respectively, in 1948, was militarily absorbed by Israel, as was Syria's Golan Heights. In 1987, the Palestinians launched their *intifada* in these areas, and it has resumed with even greater ferocity since 2000.

Today, Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, which has been administering most of these territories for the past decade,

is confronted by the militant *Hamas* and *Islamic Jihad*, who ideologically oppose the very concept of Jewish statehood. The final status and disposition of these territories, including Jerusalem, a city holy to three major faiths, remains unresolved and the fate of an independent Palestinian state is still uncertain.

Though attention has in recent months been focussed on Iraq, the Arab world's most populous and perhaps most important country is Egypt. Since the revolution which overthrew the monarchy in 1952, Egypt has confronted problems of poverty associated with overpopulation and lack of resources as it has attempted to modernize both through socialism and liberal capitalism, under Presidents **Gamal Abdel Nasser**, **Anwar Sadat** and now, **Hosni Mubarak**.

For a long time the only Arab nation to have signed a peace treaty with Israel, Egypt was ostracized for a decade by other Arab states. It has resumed its traditional role as leader of the Arab state system, but it faces a resurgent Muslim fundamentalist movement, especially among the young.

Syria, the historical centre of Arab nationalism, and its Fertile Crescent neighbour, Iraq, are longstanding rivals, though both profess the principles of pan-Arab socialism as espoused by the Ba'ath party. Both have been subjected to military-dominated governments under Presidents **Hafez al-Asad** and his son, **Bashir** in Syria, and **Saddam Hussein** in Iraq.

These rulers have engaged in wholesale repression but also instituted programs of social modernization. Both countries have also been militarily involved in neighbouring states: while

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Syria has successfully emerged as the paramount power in Lebanon, Iraq was defeated in its attempt to annex Kuwait in 1991 and is now under threat of invasion by the United States.

The Hashemite kingdom of Jordan has seen its territory and very national identity become embroiled in the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. **King Hussein** and his successor **Abdullah** have tried to balance the demands of their Palestinian subjects and the Bedouin population which provides the Hashemites with their bedrock support. Though it has signed a peace treaty with Israel, Jordan has also in recent years seen an increase in support for more radical Islamic political groups.

Lebanon has since time immemorial been a crossroads of the Middle East. Today, this small state has also become the locus of many of the forces contending for mastery of the region. Iran, Israel, Syria, and the PLO have all within the past quarter century interfered in Lebanon's always delicate political equation and turned the country into a battleground.

Domestic ethnic and religious groups—Christian Maronites and Greek Orthodox, Muslim Shi'ites and Sunnis, and Druze—created de facto sovereign enclaves, and Lebanon as a state effectively ceased to function. Attempts have been made in the past decade to revive Lebanon economically and politically and make it again a viable, if fragile, entity.

The Arabian peninsula contains the world's largest known oil reserves. Its collection of countries includes the semi-feudal Persian Gulf emirates and the absolutist monarchy of Saudi Arabia, site of Mecca and Medina, Islam's holiest sites.

The Saudis, though wealthy, have a very weak state structure and face military and ideological challenges from neighbouring Iran and Iraq, as well as domestic militant Islamic opponents such as **Osama bin Laden**. Elsewhere on the

peninsula, Oman was the site of a lengthy guerrilla war in the 1970s, while Yemen continues to be plagued by civil strife and has been a base for Islamic extremists.

The Maghreb countries of North Africa play an increasingly influential role in the politics of the Middle East. Morocco, a traditional kingdom, and Tunisia, a moderate and relatively secular state, have enjoyed a fair degree of national unity and institutional stability; indeed, Morocco has felt secure enough to pursue an irredentist foreign policy, annexing the neighbouring territory of Spanish (now Western) Sahara in 1976.

Algeria and Libya's mercurial ruler, Colonel **Muammar Qaddafi**, has now exercised power in a relatively unchallenged fashion for more than 30 years, Algeria's socialist rulers became increasingly unpopular and have in the past decade faced an insurrection which has cost tens of thousands of lives.

Finally, two Muslim but non-Arab peoples on the periphery of the Middle East have pursued very different political and ideological roads. Iran under **Ayatollah Khomeini** was transformed from Shah **Mohammed Reza Pahlavi's** modernizing monarchy to a Shi'ite theocracy, and the Islamic republic has had an impact far beyond its borders. The Turks, whose Ottoman Empire once ruled over most of the Middle East, have been committed since the time of **Kemal Ataturk** to a secular republic.

A complex and volatile region, and so significant a part of the international system, the modern Middle East remains a crucible of war and peace.

Henry Srebrnik teaches Middle Eastern politics at the University of Prince Edward Island.

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AJC speaks about ANTI-SEMITISM at Biennial Convention

by Joel Jacobson

Atlantic Jewish Canadians must be vigilant about public opinion regarding Israel, Judaism and anti-Semitism.

That theme was sounded constantly at a Sunday morning session during the 13th Biennial Convention of the Atlantic Jewish Council in Moncton.

Canadian Jewish Congress' Community Relations Committee director, **Manuel Prutschi** said world and Canadian communities are no longer declaring "Never Again" but "we find ourselves painfully asking 'Will it ever end?'"

But AJC incoming first Vice-President **Jim Spatz** of Halifax emphasized education and knowledge is what is needed to influence public opinion in Canada. "Knowing basic history, accessing resources, bringing that to bear is important. If you hear anti-Israel comment and anti-Semitism in the media, make the AJC aware. Through us, we have people at Canadian Jewish Congress who can draft responses."

Israel Unger of Fredericton, a member of AJC's

Holocaust Education Committee and a Holocaust survivor, said AJC would write letters of protest to the media about its handling of Jewish and Israel issues but "we need people to sign them. It's not good if they're all signed by **Jon Goldberg** (as AJC Executive Director). Be prepared to let YOUR name stand on a letter."

He said the AJC has people to talk about the Holocaust, willing to travel, ready to meet students or church groups and add to the thousands of people they already reach in the region with their discussions.

Volunteer effort in the non-Jewish community can have a major influence on how Jews are perceived, said **Joan Sichel** of Moncton. "We have an opportunity to work in hospitals, soup kitchens and to show a Jewish heart."

She said people honoured with the AJC's community awards (involved in both Jewish and secular activities) are showing this kind of concern for everybody and are giving Jews throughout the region a good image.

Shalom Report from Moncton

by Nancy Cohen

The Moncton Community was pleased to host the AJC Biennial Conference from November 15 to 17. We were grateful for the opportunity to attend some stimulating workshops, and enjoyed the chance to renew old friendships, and to make new friends. We were also very proud of our three members, **Jack Brodie**, **Joseph Kohn** and **David Attis** who were presented with AJC Community Service Awards. They have enriched our lives by selflessly serving the community in different ways for many years and are well deserving of the accolades they received at the banquet. We also congratulate **Ken Mayer** upon receiving "The Foundation Award" by the Atlantic Jewish Foundation, and, **David Attis** who was awarded the "UIA Federations Leadership Chai Award" at the UIA sponsored Brunch during the weekend festivities.

The conference was barely over, when the shul kitchen was abuzz with activity once again, in preparation for the Chanukah brunch. Many of our members worked hard to prepare a delicious meal. A large turnout ensured very few leftover latkes. Entertainment for this event was provided by the cheder children, the Tiferes Israel singers, and **Yaacov Sassi**, whose wonderful concert, was sponsored by the AJC.

On December 3 a public ceremony was held at Moncton City Hall to light a large Chanukiah which was purchased by the city. **Rabbi Stieffel** had approached Mayor **Brian Murphy** about placing a menorah in the City Hall plaza, and was quite thrilled when the mayor agreed to cover all costs for its purchase and installation. The ceremony was attended by

Mayor **Murphy** along with other city counselors and city employees. A large number of our own members attended, as well as, many friends from the non-Jewish community. We all enjoyed the latkes and sufganyot, as well as the Chanukah music played on the keyboard by **Rabbi Stieffel's** brother **Eli**, who was visiting from Montreal.

This year there are 27 children attending cheder classes given by **Rabbi and Aida Stieffel**. Adult education is also continuing with the rabbi offering two classes a week. **Rabbi Stieffel** has re-instituted the tradition of Seudot shelishi following Shabbat mincha, and several members are enjoying the food, song and fellowship. He has also started a "Daven and breakfast" for Roshei Chodeshim.

Two of our members, **Will Rodd** and **Joe Savage** suffered serious illnesses this past fall. We are happy to see that they are both recovering well and wish them continued good health.

A speedy recovery is wished to **Morris Jake** who is in the hospital at this time.

Mazel tov to **Anne** and **Harry Gorber** on the marriage of their son **Lorne** to **Heather Markoff**, daughter of **Bob** and **Edith Markoff** of Montreal.

Mazel tov to **Leigh Lampert** who graduated from Dalhousie University with an MBA and a Law Degree. Leigh accepted a position with National Defence Minister **John McCallum** as his assistant for Atlantic Canada. Leigh is from Moncton, New Brunswick and is the son of Judge **Irwin** and **Audrey Lampert**.

Fredericton Lillian Freeman Chapter of Hadassah-Wizo and Sisterhood Information Bulletin

by Ruth Chippin, President Fredericton Hadassah-Wizo and Sisterhood

With the coming of the Fall Season, we are well underway with our fundraising and social activity planning for the 2002-2003 Hadassah-Wizo and Sisterhood year. By now all of our Fredericton Hadassah-Wizo and Sisterhood members will have received my Information Bulletin. The entire executive of the Fredericton Chapter of Hadassah-Wizo and Sisterhood look forward to everyone's active participation in all of our upcoming events.

Sisterhood Update

Our annual Sisterhood fundraiser has taken place. Thanks to the support we received for the Shonah Tovah card fundraiser, we were able to make a donation to the Fredericton Food Bank and the Fredericton Legion. We also have sufficient funds left over for our upcoming winter social activities. A big thank you to all our "call girls" for their phone calls to solicit donations and thank you to all of you who made donations.

Plans for a Murder Mystery High Tea to be held during the winter season are currently underway. So for all you people with hidden talents, we are "dying" to hear from you. Right now we have opportunities for would be Play Writers, Actors, Actresses, Stage & Costume Designers and Kitchen Helpers. Stay tuned for Time, Date and Location of this fun event. Please feel free to contact me with your special talent.

Just a brief plug for our Shabbat Kiddishes. **Shelly Stephens** and **Ellen Lupu** would love to hear from you if you would like to prepare a small, simple Kiddish for our hungry Shabbat Shul goers.....You don't have to be fancy or creative,

our regular Shul goers are not fussy, they just like a good kibbitz and nosh after the services.

Hadassah-Wizo Update

Our fundraising committees are in the planning stages for our three big events for the upcoming year. Creche will be our first event. Our fundraising committee will be contacting you. All proceeds will be going to the *Nina Cohen Atlantic Provinces Day Care Centre* in Katamonim, Israel. The *Creche* event will conclude with **Doreen Kissick** as our Guest Speaker on Wednesday, November 6. Doreen will give a talk on her volunteer work with refugees in the Fredericton area.

The other two fundraising events are in the early planning stages now. The Youth Aliyah Fund Raiser is tentatively scheduled to co-incide with *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israel Independence Day) on Wednesday, May 7, 2003. Our Medical Services Fund Raiser will be our final fundraising event for the 2002-2003 season and is tentatively being planned for early September, 2003.

In November the National Hadassah-Wizo convention was held in Montreal. There were three delegates representing the Fredericton Chapter attending; **Marilyn Kaufman**, **Ellen Lupu** and myself. This proved to be an interesting and informative convention. Marilyn and I will be continuing on to Israel with the Canadian Hadassah-Wizo Solidarity tour. We will be sharing our experiences with the Fredericton chapter upon our return.....so stay tuned.

THE MIASNIK-REIN TRUST

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.

For more information please contact Jon Goldberg, 422-7491 Ext. 22

or

by e-mail jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca or Marie Herschorn 422-7491, Ext 24

or

by e-mail mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca

News from Fredericton

by Marlene Unger

Our community lost a long standing member, **Harold Velensky**. Harold headed up the Hevra Kadisha for many years. This is considered the biggest mitzva that a person can perform. Our community mourns his passing. Harold is survived by his daughter **Beth Velensky** and his son **Jeffrey Velensky** and their mother **Audrey Steinhauer**.

A first for Fredericton - two weddings at the shul, one week apart in August. First a mazel tov to **Larry Finkelman** and **Eileen DuGuay** on their simcha; then a mazel tov to **Jordan Davidson** and **Hannah Leavitt** on their joyous occasion.

Mazel Tov to **Frank and Daisy Budovitch**. On August 11, 2002, Frank and Daisy marked their 60th wedding anniversary. The celebration took place two months earlier when they attended the wedding of their eldest grandchild, **Jason**, to **Jessica Caplan** of Montreal. Frank and Daisy were surrounded by their sons and daughters-in-law; **Mitchell** of Montreal, **Arnold** and **Judy** of Fredericton, **Steven** and **Kim** of Halifax, and **Howard** and **Rachel**, also of Halifax; and by their grandchildren **Amy**, now living in New York, **Eric** and **Paul** of Fredericton and Toronto, **Shauna** in Chicago and **Natasha**, **Maya** and **Robyn** of Halifax. At the wedding special tribute was also made to the memory of **Carolyn Budovitch**, mother of the groom and beloved wife of **Mitchell**. The Fredericton community extends its very best wishes to Frank and Daisy as they continue to enjoy this memorable year in their lives together.

Mazel Tov to **Lorne Brown** and **Jocelyn Mills**. They were married October 27th, 2002 in Vancouver BC. at the Four Seasons Hotel. Lorne is the son of **Roz** and **Bob Brown**, Fredericton NB. Jocelyn is the daughter of Dr. **Alan Mills** of

Winnipeg and Dr. **Laura Mills** of Victoria BC. Lorne and Jocelyn are living in Vancouver BC.

Mazel Tov to **Morton Alan Cohen** upon being presented with a plaque from the Canadian Blood Service in Toronto for having donated over 250 pints of blood. Morton began donating blood in his teens. In October on his 60th birthday he was honoured at a party hosted by **Lillian Budovitch**, **Rose Eusler** and **Barbara Kasloss**.

Mazel Tov to **Mitchell Abrams**, son of **Cheryl** and **Joe Abrams**, on his Graduation from Dalhousie Medical School.

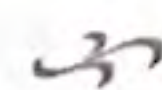
The thirteenth *Dr. Bernie Vigod Memorial Lecture* in Human Rights was held in Fredericton on November 18th. It was the great need to acknowledge and to address issues such as cultural bigotry, racial discrimination and anti-Semitism that inspired Bernie. This same need now inspires the endowed lecture series in his honour. Bernie was killed in a tragic car accident on his way to the 5th AJC Biennial convention in Moncton. Dr. **Michael R. Marrus** gave the Memorial lecture titled *The Vatican and the Holocaust: Where is the debate?* Dr. Marrus is the author of *The Holocaust in History*.

The Israeli Ambassador to Canada, **Hiam Divon** was in Fredericton in October to meet with the community. Ambassador Divon's comments were informative and reassuring.

The Community celebrated the fourth night of Chanukah with music and refreshments at Sgoolai Israel Synagogue. **Yaacov Sassi** lived up to his billing of a one Man Band playing the best in Israeli music with a repertoire that included both Hebrew and Yiddish Music. Rabbi **Samuels** joined Sassi for several songs. The evening was enjoyed by all.



*The President and Board of Directors of the Atlantic Jewish Council wish to extend a hearty Mazal Tov to **Gar Meltzer** who was recently awarded "The Commemorative Medal for the Queen's Golden Jubilee".*



*A very special Mazel Tov to **Morton Allen Cohen**, of Toronto upon receiving two Diplomas from the Canadian Red Cross and Canadian Blood Services, one for donating 100 pints of blood and the other for 200 pints. Morton is the son of **Lillian (Budovitch)** formerly of Fredericton and the late **Israel Hyman Cohen** of Saint John, NB. He and his brother **Warren** (Fredericton) are the grandsons of the late **Bessie (Levine) Myron Cohen** of Saint John, NB. Morton is selfless when it comes to helping others when it truly counts. Once he received a call from the Canadian Blood Service that they needed him to give blood for a young girl in New York and of course, Morton was happy to help save this child's life. Morton also volunteers for B'nai Brith, JNF, UJA and the Jerry Lewis Telethon. He also received a diploma and trophy for his work with the CNIB in Toronto. Morton, happy belated 60th birthday. You make us proud.*

OY!! SO MANY RULES – OR MAYBE NOT!

by Rabbi Yochanan Samuels, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, Fredericton, NB

The Ramban, one of the great early commentators on the Bible, makes the following observation. In order to build the tabernacle in the desert, it required experienced professionals in many fields. They needed architects, gold and silver smiths, carpenters, textile workers, and artists. When the nation of Israel left Egypt, they were slaves who had absolutely no experience in these areas. They were barred from learning any of these skills, and couldn't possibly know how to begin the complicated work of building the Tabernacle. Yet, in spite of this, we read in the Torah (*Shemot* 35:21) "And every man whose heart lifted him came" [forward to do the work that was required.] How was it possible for anyone to undertake to do this work if they had no idea how to do it? The Ramban explains that the Torah is emphasizing to us that they were not professionals who volunteered, but rather, they were people with initiative and vision, who understood the loftiness of purpose of the task at hand, and came forward to do what had to be done.

This was not only the attitude of a unique few, but the entire nation demonstrated this characteristic. When the nation was standing at the foot of Mt. Sinai and Moses presented them with the challenging mission to become a holy nation and a kingdom of priests, they did not flinch, but accepted it readily. They knew that they would have to exemplify in every aspect of their lives the morality and ideals of the Creator of heaven and earth. They were prepared to take the initiative and do whatever was necessary, even if it seemed beyond their capabilities.

Our Sages learn a great lesson from this. We, as their

descendants, are the guardians of that great legacy and we, too, must demonstrate initiative and vision. No matter how difficult the task, no matter how challenging the opposition, we must begin. The key is to recognize that HaShem is not interested in how much we achieve, or what results we attain, but He is interested in our attitude.

Very often, we look at the Torah and Jewish lifestyle as far too difficult to fulfill. There are so many restrictions and so much is expected of us, how can we do it all, and if we can't do it all, why begin in the first place? Indeed, this is the attitude which produced one of the fundamental justifications for the advent of Christianity. They claimed that it is humanly impossible to fulfill the Torah, and therefore the Almighty doesn't want us to do it.

Quite to the contrary, the true Jewish attitude is that HaShem has set the goal and we have to travel along the path that He set. It doesn't matter how far we go, or how much we accomplish, it is our attitude that counts. If we demonstrate initiative and commitment, then no matter how difficult the task may seem, we will be given the strength and ability to do it.

Very often, when Jewish people begin to investigate traditional Torah values, there is an initial feeling of being overwhelmed by the enormity of what is expected. My response has always been, "just do one thing at a time – you don't have to do it all at once." As long as our attitude is one of traveling along the path that G-d has set, then each small step will bring with it accomplishment far beyond our limitations.

Remembrance Day Service – Moncton

by Mendel Greenblatt

The regular Remembrance Day Service was held in the Moncton Coliseum on Monday, November 11, 2002. The Star of David wreath was laid by Mr. Mendel Greenblatt on behalf of the Moncton Jewish War Veterans Association.

On Saturday, November 9th the veterans present were given aliyahs at the Shul.

On Remembrance Day, the new Rabbi of the Moncton Congregation, Rabbi Stiefel, recited a prayer of remembrance in Hebrew.

Dateline Saint John

Congratulations to Nathan David and Candace Levine on the occasion of their wedding.

Mazal tov to Judy Jacobson on marriage of her daughter.

Mazel tov to Darren and Julie Levine on birth of son, Ethan Isaac.

Mazel tov to Mel Simak and Betty Rozovsky on the occasion of their wedding.

Mazel tov to David Wolpin on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Condolences to the family of Frances Babineau.

Condolences to the family of Phil Hamburg.

Condolences to the family of Lou Newman.

Norman Daniel Weiner Remembered

by Evelyn Davis



Norman Daniel Weiner passed away in Haifa, Israel on June 30th, 2002. Raised in Halifax, he was the son of **Morris and Sarah (Goldfarb) Weiner**. A P. Eng. (N.S. Tech), he came to Sydney in 1948 to join Dosco's metallurgical research department.

When all steel making functions relating to combustion, utilities and instrumentation were combined into a new department in 1960, Norman was named Superintendent – a position which he held until he moved to Israel.

Norman is remembered in Sydney for having developed a technique by which slag (a byproduct of steel making) could be cast in the form of wall slabs. A cooperative of 12 steelworkers built model homes, which are in perfect condition to this day. Over 500 homes, using the technique, were built all over Cape Breton Island.

It was on a Hadassah-Wizo tour to Israel that Norman visited the steel mill in Akko and realized that he had a lot to offer the young Jewish State. Captivated by the Zionist spirit, in 1971 he moved his immediate family to Israel leaving behind friends and extended family.

In Israel Norman became dedicated to tradition and observance. He lived a life aspiring to the highest level of Jewish morals and values.

Norman was a devoted father, grandfather and husband whose humour, intelligence and genuine concern for all those around him were very much appreciated. He will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, **Shirley (Moraff)**, Haifa, sons **David**, Jerusalem, **Rabbi Chiam (Lawrence)**, London, England, and daughter, **Nancy**, Haifa, sister **Helen**, Vancouver, and 10 grandchildren.

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Resurgent Anti-Semitism and Jewish Community Strategies to Combat It

by *Manuel Prutschi*



Dr. Israel Unger, CIC Chair recommends that our readers refer to our website for this wonderful article. If anyone wishes to contact us for a hard copy please contact Marie at 902-422-7491 or e-mail mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca and we will send it by mail.

AJC Website address: www.theajc.ns.ca

Partnership 2000 Meeting – Israel

by Kathy Zilbert

Arthur and I were privileged to attend the meeting of the Partnership 2000 Committee in Israel this past October. This Committee has lay representatives from all of the coast to coast communities (everywhere except Montreal and Toronto) and lay representatives from the Galilee Panhandle, as well as

professional staff from both countries. We have been asked to sit as representatives from the AJC and **Jon Goldberg** sits as our professional representative.

This was a very worthwhile and informative meeting. As new members, we spent a lot of time learning the structure and functions of this group. The P2K Committee, as it is known, is a committee of UIA Federations Canada, which has several projects in Canada partnered with mainly the youth of the Galilee. The Atlantic Region's main connection with this Partnership is through Camp Kadimah. For a number of years now youth from the North of Israel have been coming to Kadimah as CIT's and the Kadimah-Israel group spend part of their summer in the Galilee programming with Israeli youth, some of whom had been at Kadimah the previous summer. We had the pleasure of meeting some of these young people at their school and had an opportunity to hear first hand how valuable this camp experience has been.



Also, Atlantic Canada has taken on a project as part of its UIA Plus Giving Campaign, to refurbish a number of bomb shelters in the schools of the region. What a thrill it was to visit these refurbished shelters, meet the teachers and children, and see how valuable this project is. The shelters are used on a regular basis now that they are fit to spend

time in. Classes and extra curricular activities are conducted there so that the children (mainly elementary school) will not be so frightened when they have to use them for their intended purposes. These schools are so close to the Lebanese border that on one visit Arthur and I experienced anti-aircraft fire that was quite unnerving. Meeting the people

that this initiative affects certainly makes you realize the importance of the partnership to all involved.

The Galilee panhandle is a beautiful region of Israel that I had not been to before. The people are warm and friendly and so appreciative of the support we give their region. The Mayor of Metulla even gave us a private tour of the town. It was terrific to be in Israel for a week and a wonderful opportunity for us to become familiar with the work of the P2K Committee. Hopefully we can make it an even more integral part of the Atlantic Region's dealings with Israel. We will keep you posted as we move forward.

News from Cape Breton

The year 2002 was marked by the loss of two senior members of the community, namely **Lil Rosenblum** and **Sol Shore**. On a more positive note **Shirley Chernin** was honoured by receiving the Order of Nova Scotia in recognition of her many contributions of service to the Cape Breton community as a whole. Three other honourees were named for community service...**Jack Yazer**, **Harvey Webber**, and **Irving Schwartz** and were awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal on the occasion of the anniversary of her fifty years on the throne.

Annually Remembrance Day is observed by a service on the closest shabbat to November 11th with all living "old

soldiers" participating, and speakers who served in the Armed Forces.

The annual Chanukah dinner was held on December 1st in the Temple Sons of Israel in Sydney and a good time was had by all.

The UJA appeal is in full swing with high expectations that Cape Breton will continue to contribute as it has in the past.

(On a personal note for Council...**Sylvia** and **Louis Allen** have just announced the engagement of their daughter **Shayna** to **Darren Strong** of Toronto, with the wedding to take place in Sydney next July.)

News from the Rock

by Claire Frankel-Salama

We have reached that time of the year when the nights are long and the hours of sunshine are few. On the other hand, it is easier to locate the Jewish homes in our small communities. They're the houses that aren't outlined in twinkling red, green or white lights. It's also that time of the year when our neighbours are trying to get everything done before the 24th, and when parties abound. Should we feel deprived? Well, when you look at the accompanying pictures from our community Chanukah party you will realize that we have no reason to envy anyone. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to the AJC for once again sending us that most frehlich of entertainers, **Yaakov Sassi**. He had everyone in the room singing and dancing and performing all kinds of hitherto unknown feats. Beth-El was certainly rocking that night. A huge Yasher Koach also goes to **Ruth Noel**, **Barbara Grandy** and our Areiva, **Freda Surki**, for organizing the party and making 200 of the best latkes we ever tasted. We also thank **Michael Paul** and Barbara Grandy for auctioning off all kinds of Chanukah items they brought back from the Motherland (Bathurst Street), and donating the proceeds to the Shul. They also auctioned off a beautiful print generously donated by our resident artist, **Bonnie Leyton**.

Chanukah may have been a high point of this season, but it was certainly not the only one. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur were well attended and davening was shared, principally among **Ernie Mauskopf**, **Messod Salama** and **Michael Paul**, although many others were involved. Our annual Yom Kippur community breaking of the fast, which was organized by **June Mercer** and Bonnie Leyton, was so sumptuous that we needed another fast the next day. This year's Sukkah was beautifully decorated by Freda and her Hebrew school students and was visited by many members of the community.

Other activities have included several Oneg Shabbat programmes organized by various members of the Shul, a visit to the Pentacostal Church in Conception Bay South

during their weekly programme supporting Israel, and a visit from Reverend **Westin** and the youth group of St. Thomas' Anglican Church. We were also fortunate enough to receive a visit from the Consul of the Netherlands who is based in Montreal. Mr. **Albert Moses** came to award several medals to World War II veterans, and took the time to join us at services and to speak to the congregation on anti-Semitism in Europe. Following services a supper reception was held in his honour at the Salama's.

Later on in November, several members of the community travelled to Moncton to take part in the Biannual Conference. At that time **Claire Frankel-Salama** (that's me!) was honoured by the AJC for service to the Newfoundland Community. The following week she was honoured by the congregation at a beautiful Oneg Shabbat organized by **Rachel Paine** and Ruth Noel, which was held at the home of Rachel and Robert Paine. Claire (that's me!) is still floating.

On December 17th, the ladies of the Beth-El exercise group met to thank their dedicated and extremely effective Aerobics leader, **Tanya Shulkin**, who has been volunteering weekly for more than a year to keep us in shape. Thanks to **Shari Ritter** for hosting the event.

Last but not least, I must mention the arrival of yet another wonderful young woman from Project Areivim in Israel. A computer whiz, **Freda Surki** hit the ground running, and has managed to organize many activities and publish a weekly electronic newsletter called the Jewrney. She even managed to hook up her computer to bring us live greetings from **Tali Milshtein**, our former Areiva, who is back in Israel. Freda is positive, cheerful and well-organized and we feel extremely lucky to have her here with us.

Until the next issue of the Shalom we wish all of you a belated Happy Chanukah (as opposed to all those new-fangled politically correct generic greetings that are making the rounds these days). Don't forget to start making your summer plans to visit Newfoundland, and please come and visit our community when you do.



Dr. Israel Unger Appointed Educational Advisor for Atlantic Canada for Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.



Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies is proud and honoured to announce the appointment of Dr. **Israel Unger** to the position of Educational Advisor for Atlantic Canada.

Born in Poland in 1938, Israel Unger arrived in Montreal in 1951. Upon completion of post-doctoral work at the University of Texas, Dr. Unger took up a professorship with the University of New Brunswick in 1965, and was appointed the Dean of Science in 1991.

Throughout his career, Dr. Unger has not only been an ambassador for education, research and knowledge, but as a Holocaust Survivor he has been a genuine symbol of strength and dignity in the Canadian Jewish community.

In addition to holding the position of President of the Fredericton Chapter of B'nai Brith, Dr. Unger is also the Chair of the Atlantic Jewish Council Community Relations Committee and the Co-Chair of the Holocaust Commemoration Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

The appointment of Dr. Unger to Educational Advisor for

Atlantic Canada is not without precedent, as he continues to demonstrate his commitment to education in Canada in numerous ways. Serving on a number of national organizations dealing with education, Dr. Unger was the President of the Canadian Conference of Deans of Science, and a member of the Prime Minister's Committee on Teaching Excellence as well as the President of the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

Dr. Unger's titles and qualifications clearly speak for themselves. He is currently Dean Emeritus at the University of New Brunswick, and through his research and activism, he continues to be a vital member of his community. It is thus with great pleasure that we welcome him to Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies is a human rights organization with members throughout Canada. In conjunction with the world-wide Simon Wiesenthal Center, and its 400,000 members, it participates in NGO-status meetings at the United Nations, UNESCO and other U.N.-affiliated Bodies.

For further information, contact Leo Adler, Director of National Affairs at 416-271-1850.

Dateline Halifax

Mazal Tov to **Dr. Richard Goldbloom**, O.C. on receiving the Discovery Centre Award for Science and Technology Hall of Fame.

Mazal Tov to **Joseph Zatzman**, C.M. on receiving the QE II Commemorative Medal in honour of the 50th anniversary of her accession to the throne.

Mazal Tov to **Natan Nevo** who has recently published his autobiography.

Mazal Tov to **Denise** and **Natan Nevo** on the wedding of their son, **Dr. Igal Nevo** to **Dr. Tamar Auerbach-Nevo**, which took place in "Yarok al hamaim" near Rechovot, Israel on January 1, 2003.

Mazal Tov to **Rhonna** and **Thomas Gaum** on the recent marriage of their daughter **Lisa** to **Jason Levitt**, son of **Margie** and **John Levitt**.

Mazal Tov to **Marcia** and **Jerry Kohler** on the birth of

their twins **Samuel Peter** and **Rachel Eliza** on March 12, 2002. Proud grandmothers are **Miriam Kohler** and **Frances Kennedy**.

Mazal Tov to **Henry Stern**, son of **Mary Kanner**, on his graduation from Dalhousie University where he earned the degree Bachelor of Computer Science with Honours. Henry has begun his work on his Ph.D. in Computer Science at Dalhousie.

Mazal Tov to **Andrea Strug**, daughter of **Joe** and **Susan**, on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

Mazal Tov to **Nathan Pink**, son of **Darrel** and **Elizabeth Mullaly-Pink** on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mazal Tov to **Roy Argand**, son of **Michael Argand** and **Jo-Anne Nozick**, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mazal Tov to **Dana Tax**, daughter of **Cara** and **Ted Tax**, on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

Cape Breton Chapter of Hadassah-Wizo

by Evelyn Davis

At the potluck supper in June, reports of the year's activities were presented to the membership of the Queen Esther Chapter of Sydney and the Glace Bay Chapter. **Fanny Cohen**, Glace Bay President, sent in a report, and once again had a successful year. **Evelyn Davis**, Sydney President, reported on the year's activities.

Betty Shore, Co-Chair of the 34th Annual Bazaar, spoke about the enthusiastic public response to the event and how much it is part of "springtime activities" to people in the Cape Breton area. **Faye David**, Bazaar Treasurer, received a round of applause when she reported the amazing results of the 34th Annual Bazaar.

Diane Schwartz installed the new slate of officers for the Queen Esther Chapter. The officers are:

Co-Presidents.....Joan Elman
.....Diana Schwartz
Vice-President.....Evy Druker
Secretary.....Edith Lecker
Treasurer.....Maryanne Cohen
Financial Secretary.....Shirley Dubinsky



From left to right: Joan Elman, Dianna Schwartz, Evy Druker, Edith Lecker, Shirley Dubinsky, Diane Schwartz

The Pinchassis visit Cape Breton

by Evelyn Davis

A delightful gathering took place at Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue when **Gil Pinchassi** and his wife, **Channa** spoke to a group of Christians and Jews about the current situation in Israel. The Pinchassis represent the Department of Tourism for the State of Israel and are currently serving in Toronto.

The group of 40 Christians, who were present are planning a tour of Israel and were very impressed with the way that group tours are being handled.

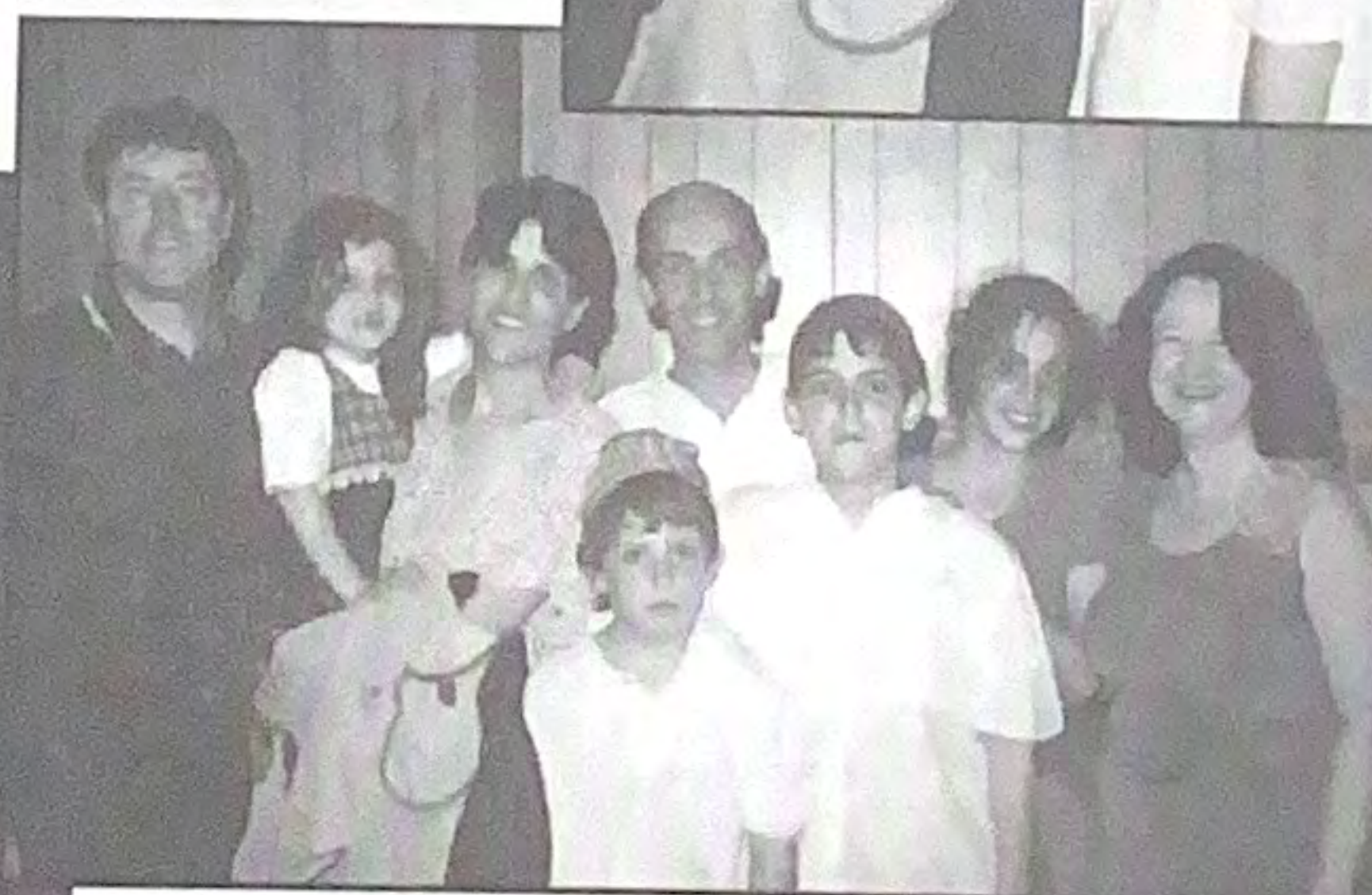
Since it was Saturday night an Havdallah Service was held. The group leader, Ray MacDonald, spoke about how they could help the Jewish people in a practical way by opposing anti-Semitism and by visiting Israel. He has recently returned from a visit.



The Pinchassi family with Avvie Druker, chairman of the evening.



Gil, Chana and Ruth smelling the spices after the Avdolah service.



*Ray MacDonald, Ruth, Chana, Gil, Asof, Ory,
Tamar and Ros Goldman.*

Atlantic Jewish Foundation – What is Planned Giving?

Planned giving is a process that helps donors arrange for gifts for the future. It is the designing of charitable gifts so that the donor realizes his or her philanthropic objectives while maximizing tax and other financial benefits.

Gift planning involves establishing "your" financial position, goals and philanthropic objectives while working with your professional advisors lawyers, accountants, financial advisors planners or trust officers and your selected charity/charities.

Gift planning can take place within a confined context. That is to say the planning exercise may take place even if your only goal is to make a gift.

Alternatively, gift planning may take place within the process of planning your estate planning.

This process can happen with or without the direct involvement of the charity.

Charitable gifts have these characteristics:

- PRESENT GIFT – legally provided for during the donor's lifetime.
- DEFERRED GIFT – Charity has interest in gift and usually receives gift at end of donor's lifetime.
- May be revocable or irrevocable.
- Tax implications.

The traditional role of governments in Canada has been to fund and direct our community activities through not-for-profits whether they operate through spheres of education, health, culture or social services. As government funding has been reduced the not-for-profit has turned by necessity, to private funding from philanthropic individuals and corporations.

New fundraising strategies have been developed including planned giving programs.

The Federal Income Tax Act has provided new incentives to enhance the tax benefits available to you through charitable planned giving vehicles.

The 1996, 1997, and 2000 federal budgets contained significant changes for charitable giving. For example, by increasing the net income limits against which a charitable tax credit can be applied for both testamentary gifts (100%) and gifts during your lifetime (75%), the government has reduced significantly the after-tax "cost" of charitable giving.

Financial and estate planning professionals are increasingly looking to charitable giving as an area where you, their "client", might find some tax relief.

It's our primary objective to change philanthropic behaviour over the long term by making our community

realize that leaving a gift to a charity or non profit organization in one's estate isn't just for the wealthy; anyone can make this special gesture and reap the tax benefits.

Every gift, large or small, makes an impact.

The charities that enhance our lives need your support more than every.

Everyone can make a difference in their community and the lives that follow. If you are in the process of planning your estate or considering a gift to charity contact your professional advisor for more information on the benefits of planned giving.

Compiled by Patricia Warren. Sources: Gift Planning for Entrepreneurs & Family Businesses – James W. Kraft, CA, Introduction To Planned Giving – Sara Neely & Bruce Davies

For further information, contact Mr. Dov Harris, UIA Federation Canada, Regional Director, FRD at 416-636-7655 or Marie Herschorn, Administrator at 902-422-7491 or email mhershorn@theajc.ns.ca.

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CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO AJC DIRECTORY 2003

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2002-03 5761-62



Atlantic Jewish Council

5670 Spring Garden Road, Suite 508,
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Telephone: (902) 422-7491 • Fax: (902) 425-3722
E-mail Address: atlanticjewishcouncil@theajc.ns.ca
Web Address: www.theajc.ns.ca

Newfoundland

Beth El Synagogue – change:
phone # – 709-726-0480
fax # – 709-777-6995

Halifax

Add:
RAPPAPORT, Sue
3116 Ralston Avenue
Halifax, NS B3L 4A4

STEIN, Mark
2246 Newton Ave.
Halifax, NS B3L 3C2
497-3333
info@markstein.ca

Changes:

E-mail – Denise Nevo – denise.nevo@msvu.ca
E-mail – Edith Schneiderman –
edith@hfx.eastlink.ca
E-Mail – Nancy Cieplinski –
nancy.cieplinski@ns.sympatico.ca

PEI

Add:

BASCHKIN, Millicent and Bernard (summer residents)
Greenwich Road
St. Peters Bay, PEI C0A 2A0
902-961-2500

COHEN, Dr. Annabel
72 Trafalgar St.
Charlottetown, PE C1A 3Z6
902-368-1523
acohen@upei.ca

COHEN, Doris and David (summer residents)
General Delivery
Kensington, PE C0B 1M0
902-836-4283

COHEN, Erol and Violet; Albert Cohen
31 Westcombe Cres.
Charlottetown, PE C1C 1B6
902-892-6313

DAVID, Bea and Mel (summer residents)
Cornwall General Delivery, PE C0A 1H0
902-675-3294
beegedee@aol.com

FELDSTEIN, Evelyn and Dr. Sol
South Melville
Bonshaw, R.R. 1, PE C0A 1C0
902-658-2658
dunstaff@pei.sympatico.ca

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DUNSTAFFNAGE HEIGHTS B&B
Dunstaffnage, PE C1A 7J7
902-628-1715

GERMAINE, Jamie
add e-mail: seaclay@pei.sympatico.ca

GOLDMAN, Adele
Greenberg, Adele (summer residents)
Mermaid, Charlottetown R.R. 5, PE C1A 7J8
902-569-4182

GULOTTA, Charles and Maria
Trail's End Subdivision
Hampton, PE C0A 1J0
902-658-2910
gulottas@pei.aibn.com

KASSNER, David; MARKIDES, Katie
9 Victoria View Lane
Stratford, PE C1B 2K4
902-569-4640
dlkassner@wcb.pe.ca

KROPSKY, Michael and DEITCHER, Gloria
(summer residents)
R.R. 2, Kensington, PE C0B 1M0
902-886-2175

LEIGH, Jean
Apt. 111, 6 Champion Court
Charlottetown, PE C1A 8W2
902-894-5519.

LEWIN, Renate
Apt. 6, 183 Belvedere Ave.
Charlottetown, PE C1A 2Y9
902-368-2513
rlewin2000@yahoo.com

MacGREGOR, Winston
P.O. Box 1666
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N4
902-569-2224, e-mail
wyns30@hotmail.com

MANOVILLE, Mrs. Susanne
manovill@upei.ca

NEEMRON, Nessya
Apt. 1, 51 Euston St.
Charlottetown, PE C1A 1W1
902-566-1043, e-mail
kessemtreasures@gosympatico.ca

OPPS, Sheldon and ZELIN, Dr. Jenni
3 Admiral St.
Charlottetown, PE C1A 2C2
902-569-3265
j.zelin@utoronto.ca
sopps@upei.ca

PALTER, Joel and KASSNER, Dr. Rachel
31 Glencove Dr.
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7T4
902-892-9992
jrpalter@islandtelecom.com

PICKLES, Clive and Joyce
P.O. Box 24009
Stratford, PE C1B 2V5
902-569-2823
pikel@isn.net

PORTNOY, Anna and COOCK, Cis
126 Westville Road
Cornwall RR 2, PE C0A 1H0
Phone: 902-675-3917

POTASHNICK, Ilene and Jon (summer residents)
P.O. Box 206,
O'Leary, PE C0B 1V0
902-859-3516
jonnipotat@aol.com

SANDLER, Stan and Trudy
R.R. 4
Murray River, PE C0A 1W0
902-962-3090
sandler@auracom.com

SHORE, Gary
gshore@pei.eastlink.ca

SILVER, Vivienne and Richard, (summer residents)
Durell Point, Little Pond
Souris, PE C0A 2B0
902-583-2052

STEWART, Ayelet
31 Glencove Dr.
Stratford, PE C1A 7T4
902-569-4477
ayelet9@yahoo.com

WALSH, Sara and Ron
saralipp@islandtelecom.com
walsh@islandtelecom.com

ZELMAN, Dr. Mitchell and Jan Lunn
mitch@islandtelecom.com

OPEN LETTER TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ATLANTIC CANADA

Dear Friends,

We don't get to choose the time and place of our challenges in life. While the bad news of 2002 has almost been more than we can bear, the good news has been what we have seen in ourselves – our passionate commitment to our Jewish homeland; our unity of purpose; our collective and individual outpouring of care and responsibility for one another. The other good news this past year was that as the multitude of needs arose, we did not presume to quantify which was more compelling than the next. **WE ACTED.** While our attention focused on meeting unmet emergency needs in Israel, it was clear that indigent elderly in the former Soviet Union still needed food and medicine to survive each day; that Argentina's Jews, suddenly homeless, could hardly afford to wait for help. 2002 was a year of extraordinary crisis that challenged each of us. We are pleased to report that through the generosity of our Atlantic Jewish community, United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada raised over 1.3 million dollars in 2002. This included our emergency campaign, our regular campaign, anonymous gifts and special endowments. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteer canvassers and community campaign chairs, and most of all, to you, our fellow Jews of Atlantic Canada for your generous expression of concern and solidarity and look forward to your continuing support. Israel needs us! Our fellow Jews need us!

Sincerely,

Mark Rosen

UJA Regional Chair 2002

Howard Conter

UJA Regional Chair 2003



United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada

המגבית היהודית המאוחדת באטלנטיק קנדה

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