



Shem Tov awards

Honouring our volunteers **P10**

Nosh with Norene

An interview with Norene Gilletz **P15**



Hamilton Jewish News

THE JEWISH VOICE OF HAMILTON

APRIL 2012 VOL 27:4/ NISAN 5772

AGREEMENT #40007180

We can do this!

AMESSAGEFROMJAYSTATE,UJACAMPAIGNCHAIR

The UJA Campaign is winding down, and yet, we're still \$100,000 short of meeting our campaign goal of \$1.2 million. We wish that we could personally canvass every single member of our community, but with a population of almost 5,000 that has been a challenge. If you still haven't made a contribution, please don't wait to be asked.



We in the greater Hamilton area are very fortunate to have one of the best Jewish communities anywhere. And if we all contribute fairly in accordance with our ability, if we all put our shoulders to the community wheel, we can make our community even stronger. Each of our hard-working volunteers and staff can tell you that, for them, this community is more than worthy of their efforts.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each one of you who has already contributed to the 2012 UJA campaign. I also want to thank our UJA cabinet, captains, canvassers and professional staff.

If you'd like to volunteer to join our canvassing team we welcome your help.

In closing, I need to tell you that although our 2012 campaign goal was \$1.2 million, meeting the real needs of our community and our obligation to Israel would require us setting an even higher goal. Our UJA cabinet is already planning our 2013 campaign and we are seeking your feedback, insight and ideas.

Please call Chris Nusca at 905-648-0605, ext 306, to make a pledge or offer your help. Alternatively, you can donate online at www.jewish-hamilton.org. Do it for yourself, for our community and for Israel.

Heart to heart

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS TRUE STORIES BEHIND ISRAELI HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION



PICTURED ABOVE: Betty's Smile, from an international photo exhibit showcasing the work of Save a Child's Heart (SACH). The exhibit, sponsored by UJA Federation, will be on display at Beth Jacob Synagogue on May 16.

Photo by Gili Yaari, courtesy of Save A Child's Heart

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

It's 2003 and the American invasion of Iraq is in full swing. Amidst the chaos and destruction a Baghdad cardiologist picks up the phone and calls an Israeli cardiologist to discuss the case of a two-day-old baby girl in need of emergency cardiac surgery.

Within a week the baby is at the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, receiving heart surgery. Incredibly, this feel-good story has become almost commonplace at Wolfson, the centre of operations for Save a Child's Heart, (SACH) an Israeli-based international humanitarian project, that, since its inception in 1995, has saved the lives of 2,800 children, almost half of whom were sent to Israel from the Palestinian territories.

SACH came into being as a result of one man's extraordinary compassion and vision. The late Dr. Ami Cohen was an American heart surgeon who immigrated to Israel in 1992. In August of 2001 Cohen died in a tragic accident while climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. But his legacy continues through an organization that is building bridges of peace and understanding between Israel and the world.

Please see BUILDING BRIDGES OF PEACE on page 5



The PJ Library is here!

UJA Federation is thrilled to announce that close to 100 parents have enrolled their child in the PJ Library program. That means that 100 children in our area will soon begin receiving a monthly package from the PJ Library containing a Jewish children's book or CD. If you reside in the greater Hamilton area, and have a child between the age of six months to six years, it's not too late to register. But don't delay. There are only 150 spaces allocated to our community, based on current funding sources. Register online at www.jewishhamilton.org. All are welcome at the **PJ Library launch party** on **Wednesday, March 28 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.** at the Westdale Public Library. For more information or if you would like to be a part of this exciting initiative, contact Julie Dembe at 905-648-0605 ext. 304.



Israel's survival at stake?

Hirsh Goodman weighs in

P4



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A DIALOGUE ABOUT COMMUNITY WITH

WENDY SCHNEIDER, EDITOR, HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS
& DR. LARRY LEVIN, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, UJA FEDERATION

It's your community. Why not participate in making it great?

Wendy Schneider: Larry, the UJA Campaign closes on March 30 and we're still \$100,000 short of meeting our goals. How do we reach a younger demographic that may not have roots in this community or a strong connection to the Jewish community?

Larry Levin: Well, we could start by asking people if they plan on staying in Hamilton. If the answer is yes, we could ask them what kind of Jewish community they would like to have that would enrich their lives now and make them feel secure as they age.

Wendy Schneider: What's a compelling argument for giving to the UJA Campaign?

Larry Levin: Our beneficiary agencies count on members of the community to support their important work. If we don't meet our campaign goals, the agencies will have to cut back. Everyone has to share in the responsibility of making sure our Jewish agencies thrive.

Wendy Schneider: Many of the people we're trying to reach didn't grow up here and may not feel a strong connection to the Hamilton Jewish community. What do you say to them?

Larry Levin: I didn't grow up here, but we raised our family here. I'd ask them if they have a vision of what Jewish life will be like for their grandchildren. I'd ask them what kind of Jewish communal life they envision in this city's future. Is it the same as it is today? Is it stronger? Or is it weaker or nonexistent? Do they value Jewish education? Will there be communal agencies that help our less fortunate?

Wendy Schneider: Well, what if they want to give directly to an agency they're personally connected to? Like their kids' day school for instance or directly to Israel? Or a donation to Jewish Social Services?

Larry Levin: All these agencies are important and deserving of our support. However, until you show me how communal life is better supported by multiple individual agency fundraising, I think the Federation model of one campaign supporting all the agencies is still the best model that we have available. Think about how much time and energy it would take for all the individual agencies to fundraise for themselves? Decades ago, the leadership of this community agreed that we would combine our efforts and work for the better of our community as a whole. I think one of the most important ways people can show their support of the community is to give to the UJA Campaign because if you are supporting the Campaign, you are helping every Jewish agency in the city, as well as Israel.

Wendy Schneider: I believe that people are ultimately looking for something that engages them and gives them a sense of purpose. It would be great if Federation could think of a way to tap into that basic human need.

Larry Levin: The fundamental question is what kind of a Jewish community they want to live in, now and in the future, and how they see themselves participating in it. Money's important and volunteerism is important. Both are essential. The bottom line is, **it's your community. What do you want to do about it? Why not participate in making it great?**

To make a donation to the UJA Campaign call Cbris Nusca at 905-648-0605, ext. 306 or donate online at www.jewishhamilton.org.

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Table of Contents

HJN APRIL 2012 IN THIS ISSUE:

5 UJA FEDERATION BUILDING BRIDGES OF PEACE
Save a Child's Heart event comes to Hamilton

8 COMMUNITY NA'AMAT AUTHOR LUNCHEON
Miriam Toews headlines annual event

12 PASSOVER A DIFFERENT KIND OF SEDER
Community members share their seder ideas

18 FEATURE HAMILTONIANS IN ISRAEL
Spotlight on Shimon and Josie Arbel

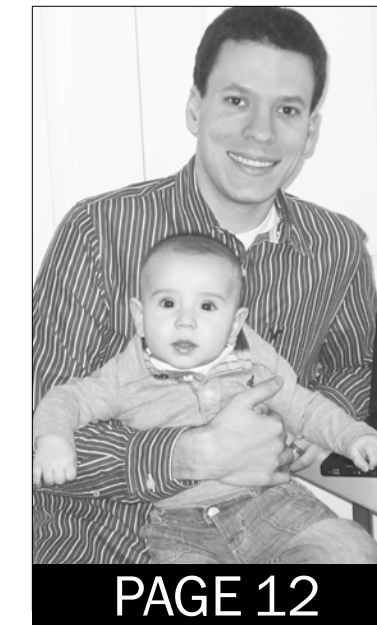


Photo by Jason Ransom David
Local MP David Sweet joined Prime Minister Stephen Harper in welcoming Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, to Canada on March 2. Sweet also appeared on a panel at the American-Israel Political Action Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. on March 5, along with former trade minister Stockwell Day and Shimon Fogel of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, to speak about Canada-Israel relations.

DEPARTMENTS

Editorial	2
UJA Federation	4,5
Upcoming Events	6
Community	7,8,9
Shem Tov Awards	10, 11
Passover	12,13
Shalom Village	14
Food	15
Special Mentschen	16,17
Feature	18,19

COMING UP

SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE

- Deadline for booking ad space April 27, 2012
- Deadline for receiving editorial copy May 4, 2012
- Deadline for receiving ad copy May 14, 2012
- Estimated date of arrival May 29, 2012

Do you have a story idea for the Hamilton Jewish News?

Contact the editor at wschneider@jewishhamilton.org.

Hamilton Jewish News

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Israel Scholarships Available

The Ralph Travis Israel Experience Scholarship Fund is awarded as an entitlement to Jewish students from the Hamilton/Burlington/Oakville area, 16 years or older, who are enrolled in recognized Israel Experience programs in 2012. The scholarship has a value of up to \$500 per student, depending on the number of applications and availability of funds. Applications are available by calling 905-648-0605, ext. 306 or by email cnusca@jewishhamilton.org. Deadline for applications for 2012 summer programs is April 30, 2012. Participating families are expected to be in good standing with United Jewish Appeal.

Genesis Alumni Program



UJA Federation's Genesis Leadership Development Program alumni came together recently to take the next step on their leadership journey. Their mandate will include working in small groups on community projects and setting out recommendations for an advanced leadership program that will take place next fall. Each of the 19 current and emerging leaders are passionate about fostering unity in our community. If you're interested in learning about leadership opportunities in the Hamilton Jewish community, please contact Elaine Levine at elvine@jewishhamilton.org. Pictured above, top row, l to r, are Dafna Bener, Tzvia Lipton, Chana Griver, Ryan Griver, Barry Lindenber, Mark Levitt, Lisa Morris, Stephanie Michelle, Yves Apel and Laura Cattari. Front row, l to r: Vadim Gershkovich, Julie Dembe, Rhonda Dahan, Nili Golan and Yael Reznick DeMarco.

Save these Dates!

UJA Walk for Israel
Sunday, June 3

2013 UJA Campaign Opening
Thursday, October 18

Dragon Boating in Israel

Lisa Morris is looking forward to May, when she will be participating in Dragon Boat Israel, a joint Canada-Israel initiative taking place on Lake Kinneret on May 17 and 18. According to Morris, this will be the first time dragon boating has reached Israel's shores.

During her time in Israel Morris hopes to visit Northern Israel's Shechafim School, which enjoys a special relationship with Hamilton's Jewish community. If you are interested in supporting Dragonboat Israel please contact the Federation office at 905-648-0605, ext 304.

Nuclear Iran can't be tolerated

Mideast expert says Israel should strike before it's too late

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

The fallout from an Israeli attack on an Iranian nuclear facility will be far less consequential than allowing a nuclear Iran to emerge. This was the main thrust of a riveting 90-minute talk delivered by Israeli journalist Hirsh Goodman to a gathering of 100 community members at Beth Jacob Synagogue in early February. The talk was sponsored by UJA Federation's public relations committee.

Over the course of his presentation, Goodman repeatedly emphasized the need for Israel to strike before the end of the year before Iran succeeds in moving all of its nuclear facilities underground.

Contrary to the views expressed by former Mossad chief Meir Dagan during a recent interview on 60 Minutes, Goodman said that Israel need not overestimate the severity of a retaliatory strike by the Iranians. "Iran has never been weaker than it is right now," he said. "Iran's ability to react is nowhere as serious or as threatening as people think it is." He said his biggest nightmare is an alliance between a nuclear Iran and a nuclear Pakistan, which would be a "game changer" for the world.

While Goodman comes across as a political hawk when it comes to Iran, quite the opposite it true regarding the Palestinian issue.

Praising the Palestinian Authority (PA) for creating "a stable, open society," in the West Bank, Goodman said Israel should move forward with making peace with the PA and agree to Hamas demands for a 10 year truce.

"Hamas is not an existential military threat to Israel."

"It is not in Israel's long-term interest to occupy another people," said Goodman, and the current impasse over the disputed territories is "tearing the country to pieces." With an estimated 40 per cent of the Israeli army religiously observant, when it comes to forcibly removing settlers from the territories, soldiers are "not going to do it. They're going to be torn between their values as religious Jews and the orders from a government they don't really support."

"It is in Israel's interest to resolve this issue one way or another," he said, "not for them



Hirsh Goodman speaking at Beth Jacob Synagogue
Photo by Wendy Schneider

but for us."

Goodman also gave a brief overview of Israel's relationships with neighbouring countries Egypt, Syria and Turkey. Regarding Egypt, "cooperation between the Egyptian and Israeli military on the Sinai border has never been stronger." Syria is "a bad place," with Assad providing refuge for "every radical element against Israel." Syria's being consumed with its own internal problems right now "is good for the rest of us."

Israel "made huge mistakes" with Turkey, said Goodman, citing two incidents – one involving then Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and the second between Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon and Israel's Turkish ambassador – that were perceived as major slights against Turkey.

"Pride is a cardinal factor of Turkish mindset," said Goodman and Israel should have known better. Nevertheless, trade between the two countries "hasn't been touched at all."

The warm reception accorded to the speaker lent credence to the unwritten rule that when criticism of Israeli policy comes from someone with the kind of unassailable Zionist credentials as those belonging to Goodman, it's easier for diaspora Jewish audiences to swallow. The audience was left with much food for thought – always a good thing.

Building bridges of peace one heart at a time

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News Continued from page 1

Who can fathom the mystery of how a single experience can turn an ordinary individual into a game changer.

For Dr. Ami Cohen, that experience was performing pediatric cardiac surgery on Korean children during his service with the U.S. Armed Forces there in 1988. Seven years later, Cohen, now serving as chief of pediatric cardiac surgery at Holon's Wolfson Medical Center in Israel, was approached by an Ethiopian doctor about two children desperately in need of surgery. His response would change the world for those two children and countless others long after his tragic death six years later. His response was to establish an Israeli-based humanitarian organization he called Save a Child's Heart. (SACH)

Former Hamiltonian Karen (née Nathan) Diamond heads up SACH's Canadian office. The organization's mandate falls into two main categories: Providing life-saving cardiac surgery and follow-up care for children from developing countries and providing outreach training programs for medical professionals from developing countries so that children will ultimately be treated in their own communities.



Four-year-old Zuheer Abu Halil received life-saving heart surgery by SACH doctors.
Photo by Sheila Shalhevet

Funding to support SACH activities comes from many sources – Israeli, German, Dutch, British, American, Canadian, Swiss, European Union, to name a few.

Last fall, local cardiologist Lorne Finkelstein approached Diamond to determine whether Federation's public relations committee could sponsor a Hamilton event in support of SACH's humanitarian work. Diamond, who had long wished for an opportunity to bring awareness of SACH to her hometown, was delighted. Asked where he wished to direct any funds raised, Finkelstein indicated his preference that the recipient come from the Palestinian territories. He got his wish and so did four-year-old Zuheer Abu Halil who received life-saving heart surgery last October. To date, Finkelstein has raised \$17,000, an amount that is almost

enough to sponsor two children.

The culmination of these efforts will be an evening co-sponsored by Save a Child's Heart and UJA Federation's public relations committee. The event will showcase From Art to Heart, a stunning photography exhibit featuring works of seven photographers, each of whom was inspired by their personal experiences at Save a Child's Heart. Hamilton Spectator publisher, Dana Robbins will emcee the event.

For Diamond, one of the most important side benefits of SACH's work is the breaking down of barriers between Israelis and Palestinians.

"We believe that by the act of mending hearts, we are also building bridges," said Diamond. "and we strongly believe that the children and their families who are part of the SACH program become important ambassadors for peace when they return home." She went on to say how honoured she feels to bring SACH to the Hamilton community, "something I could never have managed to do without Lorne's incredible dedication and commitment."

For more information about this event, please call the Federation office at 905-648-0605, ext 306.



A photograph from the From Art to Heart exhibit, featuring a young boy from China after receiving life-saving heart surgery by SACH doctors.
Photo by Natalie Behring

Need to Know

What: Save a Child's Heart international Photography Exhibit, From Art to Heart. The exhibition captures the touching stories of children from vastly different backgrounds and regions of the world who come to Israel for life-saving heart surgery.

When: Wed. May 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Beth Jacob Synagogue, 375 Aberdeen Ave., Hamilton

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June 10, 2012

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Why is it that on this Walk for Israel we will have more than just a finish line?

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Jewish Literary Festival

LIL BLUME AND ELLEN S. JAFFE

Do you have an attic full of family mementoes: photos, letters, medals, mah-jongg tiles, and other items too precious to discard? What can you do with all these things? Some people turn these items into stories, bringing the past back to life. And we (Hamilton's own Pink-ing Shears Publications) have collected some of these stories in our latest anthology, Letters & Pictures from the Old Suitcase.

Come open your heart at the Hamilton Jewish Literary Festival, Sunday, June 3, at Temple Anshe Sholom. We will launch this book and present readings and workshops by many of our 32 authors. The day will begin at 10:15 with breakfast followed by a discussion of our theme. The authors will read their poetry and stories, and share their journeys into the past. Everyone who attends will receive a copy of the anthology.

Workshops have been a much-loved feature of our past festivals (2002 and 2009), as they provide an intimate connection with the writers. This year, in the afternoon (12:30-4 p.m.) we are featuring concurrent workshops by authors from across Canada, including:

Vanished Ashkenazi Community in Kampala, Uganda: Janice Masur (Vancouver). Masur will talk about growing up in a small Jewish community in East Africa.

Poetry for Absolute Beginners: Thomas Verry (Stratford). Verry, a psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor, aims to help us understand what makes a poem both relevant and artistic. Please bring two poems – one you like and one you dislike – by any author.

Digging Up My Roots --- Some Interesting Family Finds: Carolynne Veffler (Toronto). Veffler will share stories from her research into the Veffler family from Holland. She will present a 1961 episode of This Is Your Life about the family's survival in hiding during the Second World War.

Writing Jewish: J.J. Steinfeld (Charlottetown). Steinfeld will offer readings and discussion deconstructing the author's Jewish angst and sense of the absurd. Drawing from his 30 years of writings, he will explore Jewish identity and history, especially effects of the Holocaust on the Jewish psyche.

From the Old Country to a New World: Larry Ankwewicz (Toronto). Ankwewicz, who came to Canada in 1948 at age four, will look at the challenges encountered by an immigrant child and family in adapting to a new country – language, culture, surroundings.

Fictional Truth or Truth into Fiction: Maria Meindl (Toronto). Meindl will play with the line between fact and fiction, encouraging people to fictionalize stories from their own "suitcases" or explore family stories that may change in the telling. She invites you to bring a family photo.

Mah-Jongg Remembered -- The Mazel Tov Club: Karen Shenfeld (Toronto). Did you know that 1923 marked the height of the mah-jongg craze in North America? Shenfeld invites you to share your own stories about this wonderful game. Anyone who has a set should bring it along.

The Jewish Hamilton Project. In this film by Wendy Schneider and Billy Shaffir, Jewish Hamiltonians reminisce on their community, recalling everyday aspects of life, especially in the 1930s to the 1960s. Although Schneider and Shaffir are not authors in the anthology, their film relates to our theme and is a vital contribution to the heritage of Jewish Hamilton.

Closing remarks will follow at 4:15 p.m.
Registration is \$20 for an individual or \$35 for couples and families. Each registration includes one copy of the anthology per family, workshops, breakfast, and refreshments. The Temple is ready to receive your registration. Please make cheques payable to Temple Anshe Sholom, with Jewish Literary Festival in the memo line. Donations are welcome, and you can receive a tax receipt for donations of at least \$10 above registration cost. Please contact Ellen Jaffe at ejaffe@sympatico.ca for further information. We would like to thank The Writers Union of Canada for sponsoring some of our guest authors, Allegra Marketing Print Mail for a generous donation from their FootPRINT fund, and Temple Anshe Sholom for supporting this event.



Pictured above: Writer, J.J. Steinfeld with his parents in New York City, shortly after the Second World War.

60 years of memories

JNF CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF NEGEV DINNERS

by JULIA KOLLEK, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

It's 60 years since Hamilton became a local branch for the Jewish National Fund and the tradition of the annual Negev Dinner began in our city.

The Negev Dinner name was originally coined at Canada's first event back in 1948 when proceeds went to developing the desert in the newly-formed land of Israel. The Negev name has stuck ever since and a number of communities across Canada hold their own annual event that simultaneously honours deserving community leaders, as well as raising funds for infrastructure projects in Israel.

Hamilton's first dinner was held in 1953 and the name itself has gone through several changes here: initially called the Negev Testimonial Dinner, it became known as the Hamilton Negev Dinner in the '80s and early '90s, until it was finally simplified to the Negev Dinner as it's known today.

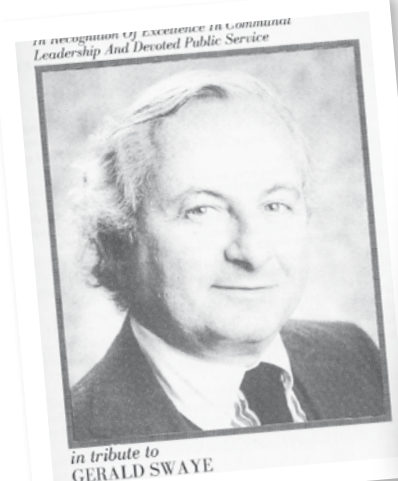
The event has also evolved. Early gatherings were modest and while the evenings raised money for Israel, the greater emphasis was on honouring members of the Jewish community.

Rabbi Bernard Baskin, Rabbi Emeritus who served for 40 years at Temple Anshe Sholom, has been part of Hamilton's Negev Dinner tradition from almost the beginning. His name appears in the 1955 program when the dinner was held at the Jewish Community Centre on Delaware Street in the east end of Hamilton.

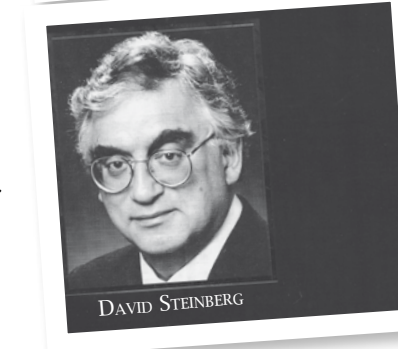
"Back then the Negev Dinners were much smaller," he recalled.

"They were less of a community event, with about 100 people at most," he said. "The meals were simpler and the focus more on honouring the worthy. As time went on, and projects developed, expectations became more sophisticated."

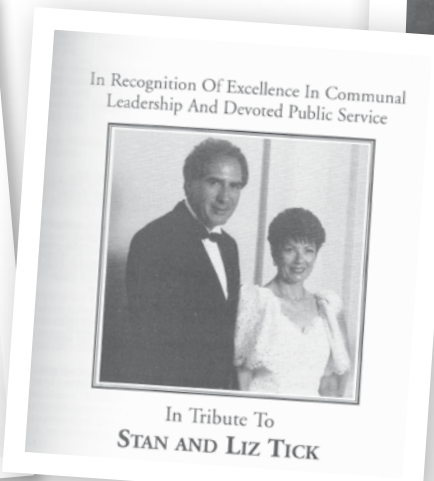
The turnouts may have been modest, but the community's commitment to support projects to develop the land of Israel was definitive. Hamilton's first Negev Dinners helped to expand Israel's forests. With JNF's support, Israel became the only country in the world with more trees at the end of the 20th century than it had at the beginning.



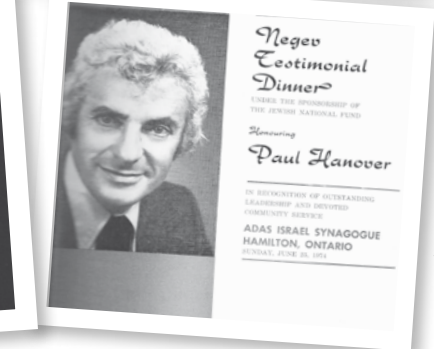
In Tribute to GERALD SWAYE



DAVID STEINBERG



In Tribute To STAN AND LIZ TICK



Negev Testimonial Dinner Honoring Paul Hanover

Tree planting and harvesting filled another need as the Olim or settlers also needed jobs – and the JNF has been creating all kinds of projects since. Baskin became an honoree himself in 1963 and funds raised at his evening were used for tree planting on land set aside for afforestation. He saw the program as essential: "JNF has been so important for Israel's ecology. Tree planting improves the country's health and economy in the long run."

Over time Hamilton's Negev Dinners have become the most prestigious event on our community calendar and are now held in the city's Convention Centre to accommodate often sold-out evenings that draw between 500 and 700 people and in some cases, over a 1000. Famous speakers became another highlight: these have included Nobel Laureate writer, activist and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, noted writer Charles Krauthammer, former US First Lady Laura Bush and former Secretary of State, General Colin Powell.

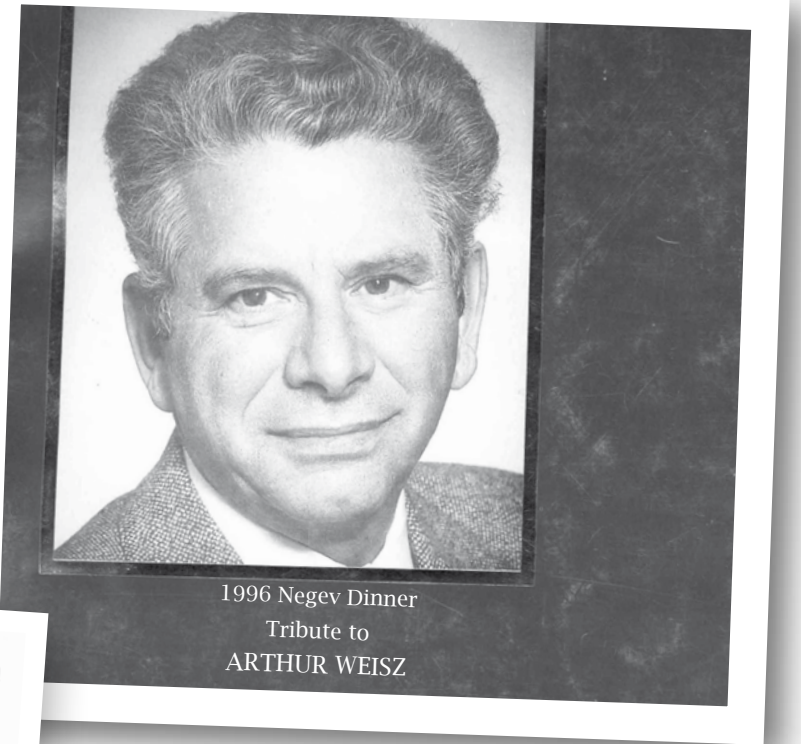
This year's honourees, community leaders Jacki and Larry Levin, join a long line of other distinguished leaders who over the years have included prominent members of the Jewish business community, lawyers, physicians, professionals, distinguished families – as well as non-Jewish honourees who support Israel.

Past galas have honoured eminent Hamiltonians such as the Honourable Lincoln Alexander and Dr Kevin Smith, CEO of St. Joseph's hospital.

Jacki and Larry Levin have generously volunteered their time to help lead some of our key institutions, including Shalom Village and the Hamilton Federation United Jewish Appeal. The couple are passionate about Israel, which they see as vitally connected to our Jewish community that they care so much about. "The freedom we feel as Jews in the diaspora can only be achieved by knowing there's an independent and free Israel," said Larry.

A recent visit to Israel reinforced Jacki's commitment. "We took family and friends on our trip – there were 13 of us – and it was wonderful to see the country so strong. Israel is very important to us."

As Israel's needs have grown, projects attached to Negev Dinners emerged as an important component, reflecting the diverse interests of those being honoured. These have ranged from creating new homes in Eilat for new immigrants to research into recycling water for desert agriculture. The Levins have chosen an agricultural education project which will serve a diverse student population and teach them the importance of agriculture and the ecology.



1996 Negev Dinner Tribute to ARTHUR WEISZ

Tom and Sasha Weisz were honourees in 2007. They chose to fund the development of the infrastructure to allow people to visit the archaeological site of the ancient Neveoraya synagogue. Located in the Biriyya Forest, the site was further developed with a scenic road leading to it, turning it into a significant tourist attraction and creating employment for the communities in the area. "JNF has been a leading organization in raising environmental awareness," said Tom. "And it felt great to become active partners in the building of Israel."

Hilton Silberg recalls how he and his wife Shirley felt overwhelmed when they were invited to be Negev Dinner honorees three years ago. They set aside their initial hesitation when they realised they were presented with a great opportunity. "Israel is a vibrant and exciting place," said Hilton. "You want to do everything you can to keep it going."

When choosing their project, the couple aligned their enthusiasm for healthy eating with an organic research project in the Arava. One of the experiments under way was creating interesting results: covering flowers and vegetables with coloured netting appeared to be increasing the plants' height and yield. The Silbergs chose to direct their Negev Dinner proceeds to create an auditorium where visitors could watch an introductory film before beginning their Research Centre tour.

Much has happened since Hamilton's first Negev Dinner: like Israel, our community has grown and become vibrant. This year's dinner on Sunday June 10th marks a milestone in the history of Jewish life here. It offers us a moment to reflect on the significant ways our community has made a difference in the lives of Israelis – and the land to which we are all so deeply connected.

Tickets are \$180 each or to make a donation to the 60th Anniversary Negev Dinner dinner, please contact our office at 905 527-5516 or email hamilton@jnf.ca.

Here's what was happening back in 1952 when the Hamilton branch of the JNF began:

- In Hamilton:**
- Records show 3,000 Jews live in the city.
 - We have to wait until 1955 for the Council of Jewish Organizations (precursor to the Hamilton Jewish Federation) to be formed.
 - The Temple is the first synagogue to move westwards from Hughson Street.
 - In 1952 Rabbi Baskin has been the Temple's rabbi for three years.
 - Adas Israel synagogue is still on Cannon Street. Beth Jacob synagogue is on Hunter and Park streets. There were also the Hess Street and Ferguson Avenue shuls.
 - Jewish-owned stores line King Street East.
 - Lloyd Douglas Jackson is the mayor of Hamilton.
 - It's been only two years since the city's two football teams, the Tigers and the Wildcats amalgamated – and in a year's time they'll win their first Grey Cup.

- Meanwhile in Israel in 1952:**
- As a state, Israel is just 4 years old.
 - There were about 300,000 Jews living in Israel (compared to about 6 million today)
 - The population of Israel had doubled as almost 700,000 immigrants arrived on its shores.
 - David Ben Gurion is elected prime minister once again.
 - A reparations agreement between Israel and West Germany is signed, amid fierce debates and public protests.
 - Teddy Kolek is director-general of the Prime Minister's office and it will be 13 years before he is elected mayor of Jerusalem.

- Did You Know?**
- JNF has planted more than 240 million trees and established 450 regional parks.
 - The signature JNF Blue Box, or pushke in Yiddish, used to collect small change in homes, has been a JNF tradition from the start.
 - Pushke gets its name from the word "puszka" which means tin can in Polish.
 - Past projects included a forest planted in memory of Hamilton's Father Sean O'Sullivan, a well-liked MP and Roman Catholic priest who took an interest in the Holy Land and JNF's work.

Miriam Toews headlines Na'amat author lunch

Na'amat is pleased to announce the 27th Annual Celebrity Author Luncheon to be held on Monday, May 14. This year Miriam Toews will be our guest speaker.

Miriam Toews is a master of storytelling who was born in the Mennonite town of Steinbach, Manitoba. She is an award-winning author, a journalist, as well as an actress.

Her first novel, Summer of My Amazing Luck, published in 1996, was nominated for the Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour and won the John Hirsch Award for Most Promising Manitoba Writer.

A Complicated Kindness, published in 2004, was nominated for the Giller Prize, won the Governor General's Prize for fiction and won the Canada Reads competition in 2006.

Toews' latest novel, Irma Voth, is an engaging story that deals with a young Mennonite's experience as a newly married woman living in Mexico. Toews has also written for the CBC, Canadian Geographic and The New York Times Magazine.

The luncheon will take place at the Adas Israel Congregation at noon. Tickets can be purchased at Bryan Prince Bookseller, 1060 King St. W., 905-528-4508 or by contacting annashkolnik@hotmail.com. General admission is \$25; students and seniors \$22. Ticket price includes the guest lecture, light lunch and door prizes.



ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

Walking through the halls of the Adas Israel is becoming more and more nostalgic by the week. Thanks to Aaron Shiffman, we now have a museum blooming in our foyer. Artifacts include an antique brass menorah that was brought over from Poland and used in the Cannon Street Shul, as well as original letters, posters and pictures. Shiffman hopes to collect more artifacts from people in the community and display items from more recent decades.

Looking at the pictures, one cannot help but note the growth and vibrancy over the past 100 years. This project will culminate with a centennial celebration on October 28, 2012 when we will come together as a community, to celebrate the beginning of a new era.

Anyone in possession of artifacts, pictures or articles who wishes to contribute to the display is asked to bring them to the Adas Israel office at 125 Cline Ave. S. or e-mail office@adasisrael.ca.



Aaron Shiffman admiring a display of artifacts in the Adas Israel foyer. Photo by Rebecca Shapiro

BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE

Beth Jacob's annual fundraiser The Big Night is returning on Monday, June 25, 2012, featuring acclaimed comedian MODI. Modi is a very funny comedian and regular at the New York and Los Angeles comedy clubs and headlines around the country. He regularly performs at comedy festivals and special venues, including Montreal's Just for Laughs comedy festival. He comes highly recommended by our past performers.

Once again there will be a draw for a dream vacation of your choice and only 250 tickets will be sold. Tickets for the draw for the trip are \$100 and include two admissions to the event. Tickets for the event are only \$36 per person.

The year 2012 marks the 125th anniversary of Beth Jacob. Plans are currently underway for the celebration of this special



Comedian MODI will headline Beth Jacob's Big Night.

occasion, and we would be grateful for any photographs, mementos, invitations, booklets, film clips, newspaper articles or other memorabilia that would help document the early history of Beth Jacob. If you have any of the above, please contact the synagogue office at 905-522-1351 or email office@bethjacobsynagogue.ca.

TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

MARLA FRANK DAVIS



Marla Frank Davis, URJ facilitator Deborah Jacobson, Ginny Levine and Cantor Rebecca Moses prepare for the Temple's Vision Forum.

A lot can change in 160 years. Temple Anshe Sholom, 160 years young this year, has seen its share of change. Certainly the demographics of our membership have changed significantly over the last decade. In response, the Temple's board of directors and executive committee have implemented a vision committee, whose mandate is to involve and revitalize the Temple community.

The committee began its work with a board retreat and followed up with a congregation-wide survey, designed to allow all members of our congregation to express their concerns, identify priorities and share their thoughts and ideas about the direction of the Temple community. Last November we held a day-long forum facilitated by representatives from Union for Reform Judaism, designed to allow all our members to dream about the future and participate in the determination of priorities. While both the survey and forum reflected overall satisfaction with the key

functions of the synagogue such as worship and education, it became clear that issues around financial stability, membership recruitment and retention and the state of our facility should be given the highest priority.

Additional meetings continue to be held to engage special interest groups within the congregation and provide them with the opportunity to be heard. From our members who live at Sholom Village to those who send their children to the Kehila Jewish Community Day School, and certainly including the bright and innovative minds of our youth, all their comments, ideas and dreams have been compiled and analyzed. From the revitalization of key committees to new fabulous fundraising events, or just blowing off some of the winter blahs with our recent casino social, we have listened to our members and are acting on their feedback. We are extremely excited to welcome more positive changes as we move ahead into our next 160 years.

JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

On Feb. 26 Hamilton Jewish Social Services had their fourth annual wine tasting event in support of the kosher food bank. Our thanks go to Gwen Gordon of Village Green, Mike and Phil Zians of Hamilton Kosher and Andrea Levy of Sweet Noshings for jointly catering the event and to Simcha wines for providing the wine. If you missed the event, not to worry. It's never too late to help the food bank. This year more families than ever before are dependant on the Hamilton Jewish Social Services for help. To donate, please call 905-627-9922 ext. 21, email carolkramesjss@hotmail.com or donate online at www.hamiltonjss.org.



Geraldine Rose speaking with a wine vintner.

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

STEVEN BROCK

One of the cornerstone roles that genealogy plays in our lives is to reconstruct and remember not only our individual families but our communities and heritage as a whole. As Ontario is home to more than half of the nation's 360,000 Jews, on Feb. 23 the Ontario Legislature passed Bill 17 into Legislature proclaiming each May as Jewish Heritage Month. Spearheaded by Liberal MPP Michael Colle and with the multi-party support of his colleagues, MPP Peter Shurman and MPP Cheri DiNovo, Colle created an opportunity for Ontarians of all backgrounds to share and celebrate the long

and vibrant history of the Jewish community in Ontario.

The government will now profile notable Ontarians of Jewish heritage. As among the key preservers of Jewish history, the various Jewish Genealogical Societies across the province, including the Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton (JGSH), have enthusiastically supported and participated in this initiative.

The JGSH meets monthly at Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Ave. N. Visit www.jgsh.org or contact Hazel Boon at 905-524-3345 or email jgshamilton@gmail.com for more information.

KEHILA JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL



Grade 2 Kehila students talk about healthy eating in Hebrew.

Kehila students have been focusing their energies on a trilingual healthy eating unit this term. They have been answering questions such as: What is a healthy food choice? Why is it important to have balanced meals? What are vitamins and nutrients? What is a protein and a carbohydrate and how do they affect your body and energy levels? Why do we keep kosher? What does kosher mean? How do food and drink choices affect our learning?

Grade 2 students took these important lessons and brought them into their Hebrew class. With guidance and creativity from their teacher Zehava Chaimovitz,

students wrote sentences in Hebrew about the foods they eat at home and learned about the different food groups. Students spent the next few weeks preparing a skit on healthy eating to be presented to their parents and their classmates. They diligently learned their lines in Hebrew and prepared a creative backdrop to enhance the play.

In addition to learning how to make healthy eating choices, students also developed their public speaking skills, increased their Hebrew fluency and improved their Hebrew reading and writing skills. Way to go Grade 2 students!

HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY

Rivka Shaffir's final day at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy (HHA) coincided with Remembrance Day, during which the school held a moving assembly in honour of Hamilton's Jewish war veterans. At the end of the ceremony, Mrs. Shaffir remained in the auditorium alone in contemplation. Rabbi Daniel Green approached her and they began to talk. She seemed content and at peace. She mentioned the gala in May that was being planned in her honour and said, "Let's rethink the concept. I think we should honour all the teachers of the past 40 years - not just me." Rabbi Green understood that this was her way of saying goodbye.

Rivka Shaffir arrived at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy in 1972 as a new bride less than a decade older than her grade eight students. The miracle of Rivka was that after 40 years she never aged in the

eyes of the children. As the years marched on the generation gap never widened.

In her last few weeks, as her health began to fail and her walking became more laborious, her students didn't see a sick woman before them. All they saw was Mrs. Shaffir. They walked with her arm in arm. They supported her and tended to her needs.

When Mrs. Shaffir passed away the walls of the HHA began to weep. School children of all ages grieved for their teacher and former principal.

On May 9 these generations, together with countless individuals whom she touched during her lifetime, will have the opportunity to recognize her great contributions as we pay tribute to her legacy and the teachers at the HHA from the past 40 years. For more information visit www.jewishfuture.ca or call 905-528-0039.

HAMILTON JEWISH MIDDLE SCHOOL

More than 700 leaders and educators at Jewish day schools across the spectrum of Judaism gathered together for the third annual North American Jewish Day School conference in Atlanta on January 15-17. Attending on behalf of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy were Rabbi Eliot Feldman, Head of School, and Mary-Martha Starkman, director of general studies.

Jointly planned by the Jewish Community Day School Network, the Institute for University-School Partnership at Yeshiva University, the Schechter Day School Network, the Progressive Association of Reform Day Schools and the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education,

the conference brought together more than 300 schools and professional organizations.

This year the conference focused on Current Landscapes—Changing Horizons. Conference sessions addressed topics such as 21st century skills, re-imagining and sustaining day schools, and innovations in Jewish education.

"The people that I met and their methods for working with students of varying abilities and skills continues to strengthen and enhance my ability to help the Hamilton Hebrew Academy and Hamilton Jewish Middle School achieve a level of excellence," said Feldman.



YOM HASHOAH

NEVER AGAIN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18
7PM
BETH JACOB
SYNAGOGUE

זכור

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

THURSDAY, APRIL 26
5:30 P.M. @THE JCC

featuring Airbounce Amusements, Israeli food, Bedouin tent, face-painting, Israeli dancing by Kehila and HHA students, games for everyone and more.
Cost: \$36 per family (up to 5) or \$10 per person.

LAG BA'OMER

Victoria Day Weekend. Stay tuned for more details!

MAX & STELLA ROTMAN HUMANITARIAN YOUTH AWARDS

Are you a Max Rotman Alumnus? If so, we are looking for you! We are looking for:
• old programmes • previous guest speakers • pictures from 2005 and prior
If you have any of the above information, please email Nomi at nomijcc@gmail.com.
Ceremony: Sunday June 3 at Beth Jacob Synagogue (more details to follow)

Phoenix Fitness Ancaster announces its association with the JCC!

For more information on personal training sessions, please contact Laura at laurajcc@gmail.com or 905-648-0605 ext 308.

Body Bar, Cardio & Interval Class with instructor Tracey Kornblum

Classes begin Thursday March 29 and end April 26.
Drop in anytime! JCC Members: \$30; Drop-in \$7; Non-Members \$42; Drop in \$10
9:00 - 9:50 a.m. or 10:00 - 10:50 a.m. (women only)

Camp Kadimah

Camp Kadimah is now hiring for this coming summer for the following positions
Male Counsellors • Media Specialist • K'tanim (pre-school) Specialist
Please email your resume to campkadimahdirector@gmail.com.

Looking to get involved?
Join the Camp Kadimah Committee!
Please email Laura at laujcc@gmail.com or call 905.648.0605

ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION **ALAIN WIESENTHAL**



As a long standing member of the Adas Israel Congregation, Dr. Alain Wiesenthal has, in recent years, taken on an active role as gabbai and a personal interest in encouraging daily minyan attendance. His commitment to the growth and vitality of our community is outstanding as he puts his "body where his mouth is" by regularly volunteering for United Shabbat and other events, editing publications and taking photos of events (to name just a few). He is an extremely valued member of our Adas Family and we look forward to many, many more years of partnership.

BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE **DAN LEVY**



Dan Levy has devoted much of his life to the operations of Beth Jacob. Upon joining the board of governors in 1970, he has held the positions of treasurer, vice president, finance chairman, and since 1998 has devoted much of his time as cemetery chair. Clearly drawn to the role, Dan is aware that the care and maintenance of a cemetery is alike to caring for family. Dan's 10 years as president of United Hebrew Memorial Chapel further complements Jewish values with respect to proper care of the deceased and compassionate attention to the needs of their families. Dan says, "There are two kinds of gratitude – the instant rush we feel for what we take and

the larger kind we feel for what we give." Though Dan asks for no recognition for his efforts, we at Beth Jacob are deeply appreciative of the time, expertise, and deep caring Dan brings to our community.

BETH TIKVAH **IAN BINNIE**



Just over two years ago, Stan Tick announced that the Beth Tikvah Foundation would have a new board member; Ian Binnie, a lawyer in Toronto but with a close family tie to Beth Tikvah, his uncle Bruce. Ian joined the board and hit the ground running. He quickly became an integral part of the organization, thanks in large part to his deep knowledge of the legal world. Over the past year and a half, Ian has guided our organization through the maze of government compliance, taking us through the challenges of a new direction in

our operation and all with a smile and calm demeanour. Unquestioningly, Ian is the perfect candidate for Beth Tikvah's nomination for the Shem Tov award. Not only does he epitomize what a good name is all about, he lives it every day of his life. When asked why he has given so much to our organization, his response is exactly what one would expect: "We are very fortunate to have agencies like Beth Tikvah. It provides a stable and nurturing environment for people with developmental disabilities and gives them the opportunity to reach their full potential as members of our community. I think it's only fair that I do what I can to help Beth Tikvah continue on with its good work."

CHABAD HOUSE **MICHAEL BERNHOLTZ**



Michael Bernholtz is a second year MBA student at McMaster. Whether serving, cleaning or setting up or simply being a friendly face to greet whomever walks in, Michael has been an integral part of why Chabad House Shabbat dinners run smoothly. Michael says, "Chabad house is so welcoming and warm to students, The Rosenfeld's really work hard to be gracious to every student who comes in, and I like to help out when I can in order to thank them for being so open. I feel like I am doing my part to help make a difference."

HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY/HJMS **KATHY JACKSON**



Kathy Jackson has a long history of service to the Hamilton Hebrew Academy and the Hamilton Jewish Middle School, most recently as a leader of our breakfast program. Recognizing the need for students to be properly prepared for a day of study, Kathy, on her own initiative and largely with her own funds, arrives early each morning. Quietly, and without fanfare, she prepares and serves a nourishing breakfast of cereal, fruit and milk. She also arranges for games and other age-appropriate activities to engage our students in the time before classes begin. Kathy says, "You vote in elections once a year but

when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." "I believe," she said, "that if we want a future in which the students of today become the volunteers of tomorrow that it is imperative that we lead by example."

"...the crown of a good name excels them all."

Volunteers

Day after day Jewish life in our community is enriched by dedicated volunteers who devote their time and energy to making their respective organizations thrive. On Tuesday, May 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Federation Annual General Meeting, the community will pay tribute to the people pictured on these pages, each of whom has been nominated by their organization for a Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award.

We hope you will join us.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE **JO-ANN POMERANTZ**



The name Jo-Ann means God's gracious gift. This is so appropriate for our Shem Tov recipient. Jo-Ann has been a gracious gift to the JCC. For the past two years Jo-Ann has dedicated her time every Tuesday to teach the ladies of our community and members of the Centre how to play Maj. Jo-Ann is patient and she has helped to bring new faces to the JCC. We are very lucky to have someone as special as Jo-Ann here every week.

Jo-Ann says, "I volunteer with the JCC because I get a feeling of satisfaction. I enjoy helping people."

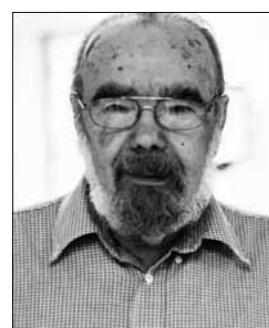
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND **PHIL ROSENSHEIN**



Phil Rosenshein has been a volunteer for the Jewish National Fund for many, many years. Anyone who knows Phil can attest to his persuasive powers when it comes to placing an ad or taking out a sponsorship for the Negev Dinner. A native Hamiltonian, Phil knows almost everyone and is always ready to call the people he knows to get their support for JNF. Over the years, Phil has been a valued volunteer for most of the community's organizations. Phil has a very strong bond and commitment to Israel. For him, the JNF is emblematic of that bond. A past Negev Dinner honouree himself (along with Ben Sauder, z'l), at 89, Phil still feels passion about helping Israel any way he can.

Phil says, "I'm proud of my accomplishments in helping the Jewish community and Israel. I'm especially proud of the fact that my and Ben's name are attached to a special project in Hatzor Hagilalit in Israel. That is the legacy that I want to leave to my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES **MICHAEL SHER**



Hamilton Jewish Social Services is proud to honour Michael Sher as our Shem Tov nominee. Michael is Hamilton Jewish Social Services' workshop manager. Michael is always willing to help our clients in any way he can. He is also very creative and can fix whatever needs repair at JSS. He is also a champion whistler. Michael immigrated to Canada from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) with his wife and two children. In the FSU he worked as an upholsterer and factory manager. Michael's children are now married and he is a proud grandfather.

KEHILA JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL **RINA RODAK**



Kehila JCDS would like to honor Rina Rodak as our Volunteer of the Year and recipient of the 2012 Shem Tov Award. Rina joined the Kehila family in 2007 and has contributed her creativity of thought and artistic expression selflessly throughout these six years. Her contribution to our board of directors and as the coordinator of major events has been extraordinary. Rina gives her all to every activity she joins. Kehila has benefited greatly from her support, enthusiasm and commitment to academic excellence for her family. Thank you Rina for all that you do for our school.

Rina says, "Volunteering at Kehila is all about making memories for my kids and their classmates. The time and effort that Kehila's parents put into the school is part of what makes Kehila exceptional – it inserts a personal touch from each and every family. I love when my kids recognize the Rodak/Ogus touch in their school day. It makes them very proud."

NA'AMAT HAMILTON **JAN HASTIE**



Jan Hastie joined Na'amat in 1993. Over the years she has been actively involved as a member and as a leader. Jan has served on numerous committees and has assumed leadership roles in programming and fundraising. Jan has been our chapter's president and treasurer – always fulfilling each position with intelligence and integrity. Over the past decade, Jan has served on the National Board of Na'amat. She has participated in leadership seminars in Canada and has travelled to Israel on a leadership seminar to see Na'amat's projects first hand. Jan's generosity toward our group and toward the recipients

of Na'amat's efforts is second to none. We are fortunate and proud to have Jan in Na'amat.

Jan says, "It's been a privilege to work with Na'amat Canada at both the local level with Club Nitsan, and at the national level with the National Board. Na'amat is a wonderful group of talented and creative women dedicated to providing essential services for women and children in Israel. Volunteering with this organization has been a truly rewarding experience for me in so many ways."

SHALOM VILLAGE **SHEILA MANLEY**



Sheila Manley has volunteered at Shalom Village for more than four years. In her multi-faceted role, she has helped numerous staff with clerical work, including recording and analysing volunteer hours and tasks, volunteered at special events and fundraisers such as the Hannukah Hustle and Trinkets and Treasures and she has been an usher for plays put on by the Shalom Village residents. Sheila also assists the frontline staff in our Long Term Care Home by interacting with the residents directly. Sheila feeds our most vulnerable residents who are unable to

eat a meal unassisted as well as takes other residents to the Shalom Village Café, Bubbie Bessie's, to socialize and engage in conversation. Sheila takes the time to sit with the residents and give them her undivided attention. She exudes warmth while stroking residents' hands, smiling and offering kind words and conversation. Sheila is 85 years young and still giving back to her community! It is Sheila's warm and caring nature and willingness to assist with all areas of the organization that make her a vital member of the Shalom Village volunteer team.

Sheila says, "As a member of the Hamilton Jewish community, I want to do my bit in the community. The satisfaction I receive in helping and doing a mitzvab is returned 10 times over! I enjoy the personal and social contact between the people in a closed community. I find this most gratifying when I feed the residents. I understand the benefit of my duty and really feel that I am making a difference. I enjoy building a rapport with the residents. I also enjoy feeling useful! I think the residents feel good seeing people from outside of Shalom Village coming in and showing interest in their wellbeing."

SHA'AREI BETH EL SYNAGOGUE, OAKVILLE **CHERYL NEWBURGH**



Cheryl Newburgh has been a committed volunteer for many years at Shaarei-Beth El congregation of Halton. In recent years, she has found her niche as our interfaith outreach coordinator. In conjunction with the Interfaith Council of Halton and the Halton Multicultural Council, Cheryl has worked tirelessly to teach Judaism to students and adults in our region. Cheryl has helped coordinate region wide events with high schools, to teach them about the various faith groups. Cheryl serves a vital role in community building and interfaith relations. Cheryl volunteers in this capacity with grace and charm, always ready for new probing questions and insightful answer.

Cheryl says, "What does my volunteer commitment mean to me? In a relatively small but very significant way, volunteering brings me closer to my community. I get to understand not only what is going on and the various threads that make up the community, but I get to realize that the very small piece that I play in volunteering, is a microcosm of the greater society at large. There are many different facets to how society functions and without individuals dedicating themselves to various causes, nothing would get accomplished. The actual volunteer work that I do, makes me feel that I am doing something to make this world a better place, a kinder place, a safer place."

TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM **DOREEN KORMAN**



Doreen Korman and her family joined Temple Anshe Sholom (TAS) in the mid 1970s and she has set an example of service and commitment ever since. She has served as the Temple's youth advisor, has run the Temple's Deborah Sisterhood Judaica Shop and has been an active member of the Sisterhood, worked alongside her husband Harry at the TAS bingo for many years, served as a member of TAS's board of directors for eight years and has been the indefatigable chairperson and soul of the Temple's caring committee. When she is not busy visiting and helping people, she has also served on the Temple's cemetery committee, ritual committee, inaugurated the Temple's community break the fast dinner on Yom Kippur and has served as a mentor and Yontif Family for many of the members of the Temple's conversion program. At the time of her son Joey's Bar Mitzvah, Doreen facilitated the donation of the Korman family torah scroll to the Temple. Temple Anshe Sholom is truly indebted to Doreen for all of her many efforts and her inexhaustible spirit of caring.

Doreen says, "Temple Anshe Sholom has always accepted me for the person I am and that is so important. The truth is that I am a very selfish person; volunteering simply makes me feel good. It feels good to know that I can make a difference in the lives of others and in the life of the community."

a different kind of seder

Passover, the most home-centred of all the Jewish holidays, is all about the seder. Below, three families share how they've made this central ritual more engaging.

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

THE NATHAN FAMILY SEDER



Rob Levy with his son Ethan Max Levy, named after Rob's grandfather, the late Dr. Max Nathan, whose seder was the setting for a new tradition of Rob and Jason Levy's animated seder. Photo courtesy of Rob Levy

In 2004 Rob and Jason Levy approached their grandfather, the late Max Nathan, with an offer to help make their family seder more compelling and interactive.

"He was trying to find ways to make the seder more entertaining," said Rob, 27. "We said let's help you do it." Although the two brothers hadn't the slightest idea at the time what they had in mind, they set about putting their computer skills to the task of creating a multi-media project that would not only transform their family's seder but would fuel a sustained creative surge of activity.

For each of the last seven years, the brothers have taken a multi-faceted approach to their task that includes choosing a theme, writing a script – including penning lyrics to familiar tunes, developing computer animation and designing lego models depicting characters and scenes from the Passover story. Then, using a variety of video techniques, they put it all together into ten separate animated videos, each video corresponding to a different part of the seder. These videos are projected onto a screen and shown at various points during the seder.

"We didn't want to get rid of the traditions," said Levy, so the videos are interspersed with the actual reading of the Haggadah, the text of which is also

projected on to the screen.

The seder concludes with a game, also animated, based on game shows such as Jeopardy or the Price is Right. "We split people into teams," said Levy. "It's a great way to close out the seder. For the adults it gets pretty intense."

The brothers have created a website (<http://wix.com/haggadamations/2011>) that includes all of the videos from the 2011 version of their creation. One only has to watch a few to realize that hundreds of hours have gone into what has clearly been a labour of love.

"A lot of this was done when we were in school," said Levy, acknowledging that with both brothers now working full time and with the addition of a baby boy to his own family, it's unlikely that they'll be able to continue dedicating the amount of hours necessary to pull off a fresh production every year. But they're hopeful that among the 25 family members at their seder, someone will pick up the torch.

In the meantime the Nathan family seder is still a highlight for both family and a select group of friends who bring their own family members to see it. But in their own eyes, the brothers see themselves as the lucky ones, because their grandfather lived to see the first of what has become a new family tradition.

THE BYRNE-WOLFSON FAMILY SEDER



Laura Wolfson, Tish Byrne and their daughter Hannah, with the artistic creations that enhance their family seder. Photo by Wendy Schneider

As a Jewish educator, Laura Wolfson has long understood that the Passover seder is meant to be a vehicle through which Jews engage with the defining moment of Jewish peoplehood in a very meaningful way. So, when the former principal of Temple Anshe Sholom's religious school stopped feeling engaged, she knew it was time to shake things up.

"Over the years I wanted to do something other than just read the Haggadah," she said, "not because I wanted to make it more interesting for our daughter, Hannah, but because I wanted to make it more interesting for us."

Two years ago, she came up with the idea of seder guests participating in a communal art project. Next to the seder table she set up a silk-painting frame that held a piece of silk depicting an image of the Hebrew midwives who refused Pharaoh's command to kill the Hebrew baby boys. Seder guests were invited to get up at any time during the seder, choose silk dyes, mix their own colours, and paint

the silk.

"It was very organic and even the less artistic members of my family participated," said Wolfson.

For her second seder, instead of reading from the Haggadah, Wolfson has guests choose their seats based on which dinner plate – hand-painted with Passover themes by Wolfson over the last several years – most speaks to them. Under each plate they find a numbered question.

"The questions are varied, all related to the themes of the seder, but all pointing to contemporary interpretations and struggles with those themes." Each participant takes turns answering the question and then inviting others to comment.

Wolfson said she will never forget the year one of her guests, a non-Jewish woman and a refugee from the Bosnian war received the question asking to reflect on what things are important to pass on to the next generation. "She spoke about what it meant to be a refugee," said Wolfson, "It was amazing."

THE BLUM FAMILY SEDER

Lil Blume writes, "We start our seder at 7p.m. as people are arriving from different cities. After the first cup of wine, discussing the significance of the green vegetable, and breaking the middle matzah, we get to Ha Lachma. We point to a plate of matzah and read in both Aramaic and English, 'This is the bread of affliction.' We then devise a question based on this intriguing paragraph.

For many years, we focused on the line, 'Now we are slaves; next year may we be free.' At first we would go around our seder table of 8-16 people and each person would discuss the way in which he or she is still a slave, or whether they are more free this year than last. In recent years we would criss-cross the table, letting the discussion emerge organically with each person speaking when so moved.

One year, we switched from the theme of slavery to the theme of 'Now we are here; next year may we be in the land of Israel.' Each person would consider what it means to be here now. We asked each other, 'Where or what is your promised land?' and 'What does the promised land mean to you?' Another year, we asked, 'What is the chametz in your life? How can you get rid of it?' The next year, we asked 'Have you got rid of last year's chametz?' Year after year our conversation deepens as our hearts open wider and wider.

By the time we are finished with Ha Lachma and ready to proceed with the Four Questions, it might be 10 p.m. and there's still an hour to go before we get to Shulchan Orech."

Passover Recipes

by Norene Gillett

MOM'S MATZO BALLS

4 eggs
½ cup oil
1 cup matzo meal
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. Passover baking powder

- Process all ingredients in a food processor fitted with the Steel Blade just until smooth, about 10 seconds. Place in the refrigerator for 1 hour or in the freezer for 20 minutes, until thickened.
- Shape into small balls. Drop into boiling salted water in a large pot and cook, partially covered, for about 40 minutes.

Yield: 14 to 16. May be frozen in soup.

Source: *The NEW Food Processor Bible: 30th Anniversary Edition*

MY MOM'S PASSOVER KIGELACH

2 ½ cups matzo farfel
2 cups boiling water
3 eggs, beaten
1 ½ tsp salt
2 Tbsp oil or chicken fat

- Pour boiling water over farfel. Let stand for 10 minutes. Pour off excess water.
- Combine farfel, eggs, salt and oil and mix well. Place a little oil in the bottom of muffin tins, and heat in oven. Divide mixture evenly into 12 compartments.
- Bake at 350 F for 30 minutes, until nicely browned. These are delicious in chicken soup, or as a side dish with meat. The texture is like that of noodle kugel.

Yield: 6 to 12 servings.

Source: *Second Helpings Please!*

MY MOTHER'S PASSOVER CAKE

You need an electric mixer to make this cake but use your processor to grate the chocolate. You will also need two large mixing bowls for this recipe. So good, that you won't believe it's a Passover cake!

3 ounces chilled bittersweet chocolate bar
½ cup almonds (optional)
9 eggs, separated
1 ½ cups sugar
½ cup cold water
½ cup potato starch
½ cup cake meal
½ tsp salt

- Preheat oven to 350 F.
- Steel Blade: Break chocolate into 1-inch chunks. Process until fine, about 30 seconds. Add almonds (if using). Process until almonds are finely chopped, 12 to 15 seconds longer.

- In a large mixing bowl, beat egg yolks with an electric mixer until light, 3 to 4 minutes. Add sugar and water and beat on high speed for 8 to 10 minutes. Combine potato starch and cake meal. Sprinkle over yolk mixture a little at a time (a sifter or strainer will help) and fold in carefully. Then fold in grated chocolate and nuts. Wash beaters thoroughly and dry well.

- In another large mixing bowl, beat egg whites with salt until stiff but not dry. Carefully fold into batter. Pour gently into an ungreased 10-inch tube pan. Batter should come to within 1 1/2 inches of top of pan. If necessary, make a 2-inch collar with foil around top of pan.

- Bake for 1 hour, then reduce heat to 300 F for 15 minutes. Invert immediately and cool completely.

Yield: 15 servings. Freezes well.

Source: *The NEW Food Processor Bible: 30th Anniversary Edition*

CONFETTI VEGETABLE KUGEL

So colourful, so delicious! Excellent for both vegetarians and non-vegetarians.

3 medium zucchini, unpeeled (1 lb.)
3 carrots, peeled
2 sweet potatoes or 3 large potatoes, peeled (about 1 lb.)
2 medium onions
2 cloves garlic
½ cup parsley leaves
3 to 4 tbsp. chopped fresh basil (or 1 tsp. dried)
4 eggs plus 4 egg whites (or 6 eggs)
½ cup potato starch or matzo meal
1 ¼ tsp. salt (to taste)
½ tsp. pepper (to taste)
2 tsp. olive oil

- Preheat oven to 375°F. Grate zucchini, carrots and sweet potatoes. (Can be done in the food processor.) Finely mince onions, garlic, parsley and basil. Combine all ingredients in a large mixing bowl and mix well. Spray a 3 quart rectangular or oval casserole with non-stick spray. Add vegetable mixture and spread evenly. Bake at 375°F for 1 hour and 10 minutes, or until golden brown and firm.

- Yield: 12 servings. Freezes and/or reheats well.
- 101 calories per serving, 2.7 g fat (0.7 g saturated), 71 mg cholesterol, 4 g protein, 15 g carbohydrate, 315 mg sodium, 280 mg potassium, 1 mg iron, 2 g fibre, 35 mg calcium.

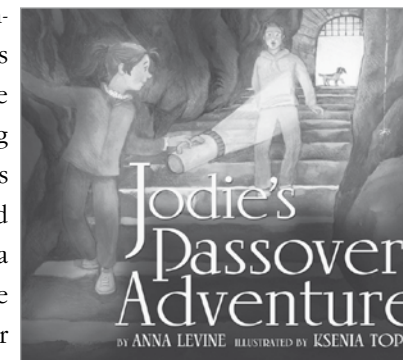
Variations:

- Mixture can be baked in sprayed muffin tins at 375°F for 25 to 30 minutes, until golden brown.
- Recipe may be halved. Bake in a 1 ½ quart greased casserole for 45 to 55 minutes.

Source: *Healthy Helpings/MealLeaniYumm!*

How do Israeli kids celebrate Passover?

Children's author Anna Levine's latest book offers a look at how Israeli children celebrate their Passover holiday. Jodie's Passover Adventure introduces young readers to the thrill of an outing to one of Jerusalem's most intriguing archaeological sites – Hezekiah's Tunnel. Beautifully illustrated by Moscow-born artist, Ksenia Topaz, the story follows the adventures of young amateur archeologist Jodie and her cousin



Zach as they embark on a spooky Passover adventure to explore the famous secret water passage in Jerusalem's Old City. Sloshing through the long, dark, creepy, wet tunnel, they solve the riddle of how the

tunnel was dug in ancient times. Levine, who was born in Halifax and raised in Montreal, resides in Mevasseret Tsiyon, just outside of Jerusalem. Her previous books, including Jodie's Hanukkah Dig (Kar-Ben), Running on Eggs (Cricket) and Freefall (Greenwillow), are all set in Israel.

"Through my writing I am able to bring a part of the land and the culture to others who are unfamiliar with our lives... and that gives me a great sense of satisfaction," said Levine.

Jodie's Passover Adventure is published by Kar-Ben books and is widely available.

Wishing you and yours a Happy Passover!

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Passover message from Shalom Village



As I write this letter of greeting to the Hamilton Jewish community our teams at Shalom Village, just like many of you, are preparing for the important traditions and rituals of Passover. We are cleaning our kitchens and dining rooms, preparing for our seders, and planning our Passover menus and stocking our cupboards with foods kosher for Passover. We are also readying our minds and spirits for this important holiday and period of reflection. The themes of Passover and their enduring relevance these many thousands of years later is indeed a miracle in these times of ever increasing distractions, complexity and information overload. When reading about these, I began to reflect on how these themes and meanings are not only celebrated and reflected upon during Passover; they are brought alive throughout the year in our actions towards possibilities and our A.T.H.O.M.E. values and standards.

I have learned that the word Passover derives from the Hebrew words meaning "and God will leap over." A great commentator has said "The festival is called Passover because of [God's] leaping.... Therefore perform all its aspects in a manner of bounding and leaping." When one thinks of a senior living community, I am quite certain that the notion of "leaping and bounding" is not one that comes to mind. However, for those of us who work and spend time at Shalom Village, we know better! A quick tour of Shalom would indeed impart a feeling of "leaping and bounding". Watching individuals well into their 90s working out with vigour at our Fitness Club, participants in Goldie's Place preparing meals and snacks for friends, lively conversation and debate in Bubbi Bessie's, and frail residents thriving with the care of our excellent staff and the love of their families. The actualization of the theme of leaping and bounding, both physically and spiritually, is alive and well at Shalom Village throughout the year.

Of course, the themes of freedom and remembrance must not be forgotten. The seder meal and its reminder of the journey towards freedom combines remembrance and freedom with powerful and lasting impact. At Shalom Village we celebrate the holiday of Passover with seder dinners where we remember and recount the journey of the ancient Israelites to freedom. Beyond these seders and rituals of Passover, freedom and remembrance are alive

and well at Shalom Village. In fact, our mission is to create freedom for our residents to engage in their life pursuits and interests. We create this freedom by providing care and meeting their daily needs; residents can then use their energy and abilities to freely pursue what is possible and important to them. Our services allow families the freedom to focus on love rather than physical care and worry. We provide opportunities to share past memories and create new ones, allowing residents continuity of their Jewish faith and traditions no matter their needs and abilities.

These themes are powerful to reflect upon, not only individually but also as an organization striving to serve the seniors of the Hamilton Jewish community and others who want to call Shalom Village 'home'. The themes and values of Passover are meant to be celebrated throughout the year, and this holiday provides a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our commitment to such beliefs and values. I extend a warm welcome to any who want to experience one of our seders with our residents, and see the themes of freedom, remembrance and leaping and bounding in action.

My best wishes for a joyous Passover.

Jeanette

Jeanette O'Leary

Purim Parade at Shalom Village



Gloria Greenspan-Glayt was joined by her son Larry Greenspan at Shalom Village's Purim Parade



SAGE nominations for Brigitte and NLOT team

Community Centre Executive Coach Brigitte Bonas and the Nurse Led Outreach Team (NLOT) housed at Shalom Village have both been nominated for 2012 Service Awards for Geriatric Excellence.

The Service Awards for Geriatric Excellence (SAGE) recognize the outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations who demonstrate excellence in positively influencing the quality of life of seniors and to highlight geriatrics as a critical area of health care. This unique program celebrates the professional excellence of individuals and organizations that provide health care and community services for seniors and their families.

Bonas was nominated in the *Individual* category while the NLOT was nominated in the *Team* category. "You are a bright light in my life," says Shalom Village resident Muriel Fenwick of Bonas.

The Nurse-Led Outreach Team (NLOT) provides care to the residents of 88 Long Term Care Homes within the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN.

SAGE winners will be announced at a ceremony in Waterloo on May 25.

Passover Cards Tea time is coming!

Mark July 5th on your calendar



Tea is on the horizon! On Thurs. July 5, Shalom Village's Ladies Auxiliary will host their 31st Annual Tea. A highlight of the summer social season for more than three decades, it is a wonderful afternoon where guests enjoy party sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and decadent desserts.

Every year funds raised are targeted for a particular project. This year the proceeds are earmarked to help replace the outdated nurse call bell system in our Long Term Care building with state-of-the-art technology.

"Replacing the nurse call bell system is a huge job, but absolutely necessary," according to Shalom Village CEO Jeanette O'Leary. "Our residents will benefit immensely from new technology that allows for better communication and integration with all our other communication systems."

Volunteers will be calling soon to offer tickets to you and your friends. Call Kathleen at 905-529-1613 ext. 264 for more information, or to learn about sponsorship opportunities.



Why not send Shalom Village Tribute Cards for Passover? Just send us your list and we'll take care of the rest. The cost is only \$10 per card.

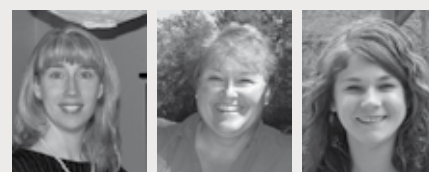
To learn more call 905-529-1613 and ask for Kathleen or Kate.

Thank you

Grateful thanks to the families of **Sophia Berenbaum, Sonny Caplan, Charlotte Valinsky, Lena Rothberg, Theodore Tick and Rose Levin** for requesting donations to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers.

Memorial donations support the *Possibilities Fund* at Shalom Village, making many special programs and services possible for our residents.

Your Foundation Team



Kathleen Thomas, Trish Mongeon and Kate Buchanan are the faces behind the Shalom Village Charitable Foundation. Contact them to learn more about how you can help make possibilities possible at Shalom Village.

Contact info:
Kathleen Thomas
Executive Director
905-529-1613 ext. 264
email: kathleen@shalomvillage.ca
Trish Mongeon
Major and Legacy Giving Coach
905-529-1613 ext. 231
email: trish@shalomvillage.ca
Kate Buchanan
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Making possibilities possible

An interview with Norene Gilletz

Young-at-heart food maven embraces technology

She's on Facebook. She tweets. Her website is a cornucopia of recipes, articles and interesting links. Tech-savvy, entrepreneurial and exceedingly cheerful, Norene Gilletz is unlikely to ever be seen as irrelevant. Gilletz, who likes to think of herself as the "Jewish Julia Child" is coming to Temple Anshe Sholom on April 29. Last month she took time away from her hectic schedule to speak with the Hamilton Jewish News.



How has your cooking been influenced by the latest trends in health-conscious eating?

Basically what I try to do with my recipes is use lots of vegetables. I've learned how to make them easy and delicious. And you fill up much more when you eat vegetables.

When you're hungry in the middle of the day, what do you nosh on?

Soup. Any kind of vegetable based soup. I might do a vegetable barley soup or mushroom barley. I might do broccoli, sweet potato soup. I might do a pea soup. Squash soup is wonderful. You will do much better because it will sustain you for a longer period of time than if you have a few vegetables and a glass of water. The idea is to eat a little bit more slowly so that you can register that you're full. Basically I try to be more careful during the week. Friday night I eat whatever I want to eat.

Are you eating more and more vegetarian?

Yes. I eat probably 70 per cent vegetarian I would say. It basically helps me to control my weight. I know vegetables are much healthier for me. There are always onions in my house. Everything goes with onions. I always have broccoli. I do roasted cauliflower. I love asparagus. Brussels sprouts, which I never ate as a kid. I do a lot of roasted vegetables. Tons of red peppers. I like carrots. I like lots of fresh dill or basil. And a decent salt, like a sea salt. I've been using this Himalayan salt. It's like a pink salt, and it's really good when you put it on at the very end. Or ground pepper.

What are you working on now?

My processor book is coming out as an ebook. I'm working on understanding the technology for doing cooking videos. It's a whole new technology. I mean give me potatoes and onions, carrots and celery. Give me a chicken or a brisket, I'm fine, give me flour, sugar, eggs I'm fine. But when you start talking technology, it's another whole adventure. It really is an adventure, very exciting.

It doesn't sound as if you're afraid of anything, which is fantastic.

No, I'm not afraid of much. You have to adapt or perish. People say, 'Well I can get recipes off the Internet, I don't need a cookbook.' And people do that. Let's say if you have a chicken and you have peppers and you have garlic and you have mushrooms, and you want a recipe for dinner, you plug those ingredients into a search engine and boom, Google give you several choices. There are lots of cooking apps and people are buying them like crazy. But you know, there are still going to be cookbooks. You need reliable recipes. My recipes work. I test them. Read my hips.

Nosh with Norene will be held at Temple Anshe Sholom on Sunday, April 29 at 1 p.m. For tickets call 905-528-0121.



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They've got talent!

These exceptional young people are making their mark in their various fields

She's Hamilton's latest Teen Idol

Congratulations to rising star, Emily Tepperman, 13, who is celebrating two recent successes: She won first place in the 2012 Hamilton Teen Idol contest and received a gold medal at the Forest City Music Festival in London, Ont. She also appeared in the musical Hairspray with EBP productions.



Rising star Emily Tepperman

Tepperman, a former student of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, is currently a Grade 8 student at the Ancaster Meadow School, where, according to proud mom, Iris Anderson, she excels in all areas, particularly science, history, music and art. Tepperman will compete again on Sunday, April 1 at the Greater Hamilton Music Festival at the Hamilton Convention Centre.

This kid's a champ



Spencer Smyth on the slopes

Hamilton Hebrew Academy student Spencer Smyth, 12, was among a small number of Canadian youth chosen to take part in the New York State Junior 4 ski championships, recently held in Lake Placid. Spencer got into racing three years ago when his family joined the the Holimont Ski Club in Ellicottville, New York, according to proud mom, Cindy Smyth, who informed the HJN that Spencer is championing another cause. In honour of his upcoming Bar Mitzvah he is fundraising for the ongoing beautification of Beth Jacob Synagogue.

Brothers in sport

The Shenker brothers, Josh, 12, Adam, 9, and Isaac, 5, are about to start another season of triathlon racing with the Hamilton Hammerheads, a not-for-profit triathlon club for kids ages 8 to 18.

Josh has been on the team for 4 years, and Adam is in his third year. While Isaac is too young to participate formally, he takes part in the fun races.

The dedication of these young athletes is something to behold, according to proud dad, Dr. Robert Shenker, who just happens to be president of the club.

"Almost all of the athletes arrive ready to train hard at every practice," he said. "The distances the kids swim, bike and run varies from a few metres to a few kilometres, and the level of competition at the higher levels can be quite inspiring to witness. An outsider would be astounded at their dedication."



Above, from l to r, Isaac, Adam and Josh Shenker

Lives Remembered

RIVKA SHAFFIR

Community leader, teacher, principal, wife, mother, grandmother.
 Born, March 4, 1948 in Montreal; Died of breast cancer on Nov. 23, 2011 in Hamilton.

Rivka Shaffir (née Broder) was not destined to reach her 64th birthday in March 2012. Her untimely death on November 23, 2011 was a blow not only to her family and friends, her colleagues and students, but also, as affirmed by the many hundreds of mourners at her funeral, to the communities that she served with dignity, integrity and passion. That fateful day in November, the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, Na'amat Canada and the Hamilton Jewish community at large, lost the rarest of leaders: one who was not driven by ambition, nor yet by a desire for status, and certainly not by a need for power. Rivka undertook her many leadership roles in response to those who reached out to her for guidance and direction. Called on to serve, she realized that "no" was not an option. But nor did she say "yes" lightly. She carefully considered the depth of her own resources, and only when she was convinced that she had the strength and sufficient time to take on these major responsibilities, did she say "yes". And she continued to fulfil these responsibilities, until just two weeks before her death, even as her health ebbed; whence that strength is a mystery.

Rivka Shaffir embodied all the qualities that characterize a good leader. First and foremost was her unassailable integrity, arising from a rare depth-of-character that was the base for the rest of her leadership qualities. She led with sound thinking and a solid sense of what was right for the situation at hand. We trusted her implicitly, and that trust was never misplaced. She was an excellent communicator, a team player and when times were turbulent, a firm and steady navigator. She had a clear vision of where to take the organizations that she led – just ask the members of Na'amat, and the teachers, parents and students of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. That vision was steeped in the traditions of her people, grounded in social justice and tikkun olam, and guided by a liberal sprinkling of unerring common sense. Under her steady and unpretentious leadership, she imparted in each of us a sense of accomplishment, a feeling of 'we did it together'.



Rivka Shaffir

But Rivka was not only a community leader: she was a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a sister, an aunt, a friend, a mentor, a confidant. Her family was her anchor, and she theirs. She drew great comfort and happiness from them. Her face would light up with love and pride when she talked about her husband, children and grandchildren. And to the many of us who were privileged to have had her as a friend, she was truly special. We instinctively turned to her for advice; her warmth, wisdom and insight, often imparted with her distinctive wry humour, gave us succor.

Rivka described the challenge of her last three years with characteristic stoicism and lack of exaggeration as "an unusual journey, one that was not quite what (she) had planned". Yet what was remarkable about these years to those of us who knew her was that she was still "there" for us, the way she had always been. Even through her own worries, pain and fears, she still took an interest in the large and small events of our lives; she was still there to help our kids, to give advice to parents, to solve problems and plan for the future of the organizations that she led. Above all, she continued to be that warm, understanding and loving person that she had always been. Her life, imbued with love, integrity, wisdom and courage, was, and will remain, an inspiration to us all.

Agi Meinbard was Rivka Shaffir's close friend.

TODAH RABAH!

Over the last number of weeks, the Jewish National Fund has been blessed with great volunteers ... helping to make our activities so successful.

- Our Blue Box campaign was re-invigorated this past fall.
- We held a fantastic Tu Bi'Shevat Family program at the Royal Botanical Gardens
- February was Tu Bi'Shevat Telethon month and the results were great!!

So, in alphabetical order, we'd like to recognize all those who helped out ... we hope you enjoyed your JNF experience and that you'll be back again next year.

Tony & Rose Carpino, Noah Ciglen, Lorraine Cohen, Alon Coret, Eliel Deutsh, Cheryl Frayne, Haim Goldstein, Paul Hanover, Marion James, Rebecca Katz, Michael Kemeny, Joan Krygsman, Annette Lauer, Anne Pritchard, Elaine Rennie, Jesse Richmond, Anna Shafer, Hilton and Shirley Silberg, Neil & Linda Silvert, Alex Tessier, Ben Wiegner, Laura Wolfson



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COMPLIMENTARY GIFT WRAPPING

Hamiltonians in Israel

Shimon Arbel, formerly known as Stephen Albert, made aliyah in 1973 and Hebraicized his name on marrying Toronto native, Josie Zalden in 1979. The Arbels' careers – he is a fundraiser for Jerusalem-based Hadasah Academic College and she is director of absorption services for the Association of Americans and Canadians living in Israel – make their observations about adapting to Israeli society particularly astute.

Story and photo by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News



Shimon and Josie Arbel at home in Jerusalem.

How did you come to make aliyah?

Shimon: I grew up in a very strong Zionist family. When I was a kid our grandmother lived with us, and she used to tell us stories about how she'd see the Zionist leaders at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. I think that Chaim Weizman actually came to Hamilton in the 1940s ... So I grew up with a strong love for Israel. After visiting Israel with Camp Ramah when I was 16, I came home and said I'm moving to Israel ... After I finished Grade 13 in Hamilton I went for one year to the University of Toronto ... and then in June of 1973 I moved to Israel and enrolled in the Hebrew University's regular program. And I've lived in Jerusalem for 40 years.

What kind of role did Hamilton play in your decision to make aliyah?

Shimon: Growing up in a small community made you feel, at least in my case, your minority status. So I think there's something about growing up in a small town where your Jewish identity is strongly felt. Second of all I think that for the three synagogues in the city, Reform, Conservative and Orthodox, Israel was a strong theme and that it was an integral part of people's Jewish identity. And the third is that in Canada there was always a strong message that if you are a strong Jew, a strong Italian, a strong Greek, that you're a strong Canadian and that is something that's unique to Canada which reinforces Jewish identity, and makes it particularly easy to be a Jew in Canada. So I think that Canada,

amongst diaspora Jewish communities, has probably taken the place of what used to be South Africa, in that it's now the most Zionist Jewish community outside of Israel.

What's it like having your children serve in the Israeli army?

Josie: There's tremendous pride. Our eldest daughter served in Intelligence. Our younger daughter served in the northern command during the Lebanon war. Our son is serving for six years as a captain in the tank corps. He was in two wars – in Lebanon and in Gaza – It definitely made us feel more a part of Israeli life. It's part of our life and it's accepted as one of the prices you pay.

How does it make you feel to see how Israel is portrayed in the global media?

Josie: it makes me feel old because of the narrative that I thought was so acceptable and so normative – that Israel is the brave David facing enemies and growing and building and creating against difficult odds. To see that challenged makes me realize that while we've been living our life here things have really been changing in the world.

Do you ever question your Zionist ideals?

Shimon: I'm not any less Zionist than I was the day I came here. As a matter of fact I think Israel's in a lot better shape today than the day that I arrived. It's safer. It's stronger. The demonization of Israel,

which becomes the demonization of Jews, is concerning. I don't believe that everything that's said is antisemitic. On the other hand there are legitimate criticisms of Israeli policies. Not everything we do is right. When you deal in sovereignty you make mistakes. Generally speaking, I'm disappointed with our political leadership. I wish our political leadership was as good as our corporate leadership. But we face the same problem as many Western countries, where the best people don't go into politics. But in terms of our core values – yes our cause is just. Yes Zionism is a success and if there's anything that actually concerns and disturbs me, it's assimilation overseas. because part of that assimilation is a distancing from Israel amongst some Jews. When all is said and done, world Jewry for us is a strategic strength, and so if world Jewry doubts Israel's just cause then it weakens the state of Israel. And it ultimately therefore weakens the Jewish people. So I am more concerned actually about the Jews than the non-Jews. I'm more concerned about Jews believing the worst accusations of our detractors. Although I think some of what's been said is very legitimate criticism. I myself am no fan of this government. I didn't vote for them. I don't support them. It's not my policy. But on the other hand much of what is said is tainted with Jew hatred because some people still haven't gotten used to the idea of Jews with power.

Can you speak about the challenges of living in Israel.

Josie: I work as the director of absorption services for the Association of Americans and Canadians living in Israel. So I see a lot of different ways that people approach living in Israel ... I think an immigrant notices things with certain eyes and consciously or unconsciously compares life in Israel to what it was like in their country of origin. We didn't idealize Canada to our kids. They love their family there. We don't have any immediate or close family here. So we miss that and I think, as a young couple with healthy parents we minimized the element of raising our children far away from our own families. But at this stage, as our parents are aging, we think about it all the time. It's complicated to be so far away but when we made aliyah it wasn't an issue at all.

Shimon: I would say the greatest challenge is that this is a very stressful country to live in and the many people who don't know it well don't understand the kind of stress Israelis live under. So first of all you take people from 150 countries, put them into a country that's smaller than the distance between Toronto and Montreal surrounded by Arab states, five wars, terrorism, reserve duty, on top of life's usual stresses, family, job, whatever it may be. So what does that mean? It means we talk loudly, we're rather obnoxious, we eat constantly. We're rude to each other, we drive poorly. This is who we are because we're under tremendous stress.

It affects the way we think, our public discourse, the way we do business and the way we're perceived in the world. In terms of everyday life, it's the level of stress that people live under because of this subliminal, sub-conscious concern about tomorrow. Often people don't think about that when thinking about Israelis, who, as far as I'm concerned, are all heroes. From the guy at the kiosk, to the taxi driver, to the bus driver, to the professor, to the high tech entrepreneur, as far as I'm concerned in terms of Jewish history, we are heroes, and we are not equal partners either. For as long as we're here and going to an army and sending our children and ourselves off we're not equal. But we're one family. We're neurotic. We're nervous. We have a lot of anxiety. We all suffer from post traumatic stress and that's also why we don't sleep well, we have a large proportion of people who don't sleep at night. And that's what we're all about, and in spite of it all, we're in pretty good shape.

Josie: It has a lot to do with how you approach things. I have seen people make aliyah all starry eyed and all idealism and when they hit that first rude bank clerk, they're really broken because in Canada the bank clerk is going to say, 'thank you and have a nice day' – not because they particularly care if you have a nice day or not, but the public discourse has a certain civility. So confronting a society where those aren't important values, where the nitty gritty of the exchange is more important than the niceties. Canadians like the niceties. And they do make life very pleasant when you have to walk into the bank, the pharmacy, the licensing office or whatever. So a lot of it is whether you're willing to accept or acknowledge that I didn't transplant myself to the same kind of society but I know why

I'm here. And those things aren't the key to make me feel fulfilled. Now on a day that everyone's obnoxious and it's rude and it's loud, and it's annoying and you almost get in a car accident, and you're cut off and then you have this silly argument with someone, ok, but my sense is life in Canada is not as polite and friendly and sweet as it used to be either.

What about the joys?

Josie: When you choose to throw in your lot with the Jewish people in the land, the sense of being part of something creative, of being part of building something for the first time in 2,000 years is a real achievement. It's not neutral to me that we build a plant to purify salt water. It's not neutral to me that there are Israeli accomplishments. It's very, very important and real and relevant and I think that is part of the joy of living here.

Shimon: I think the same. The joy is to see the accomplishment. I've seen a lot in 40 years and it's remarkable considering the obstacles in our way, which of course is war. So as far as I'm concerned Israel is a tremendous success and I am fully confident that the best years of Israel are yet to come, and I think that we're going, generally speaking, in a good direction. Would I like to see the peace process move? Very much so. Would I like to see us come to a settlement with the Palestinians? Yes. Would I like to see different neighbours? That's beyond my control, but generally speaking in terms of the development of Israel as a democratic western society, I think we're going in a good direction and I'm completely confident that the country's best days are yet ahead.

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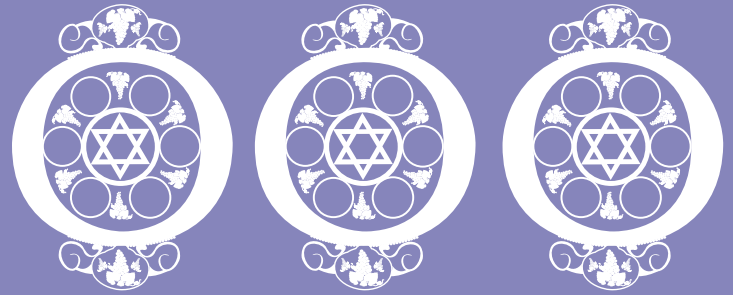
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5⁹⁹ lb
13.21/kg

**boneless skinless
chicken breast**
fresh Kosher



6⁹⁹ lb
15.41/kg

pickled beef brisket
Kosher



3⁹⁹
1.89 L

**Nature's Own
100% grape juice**

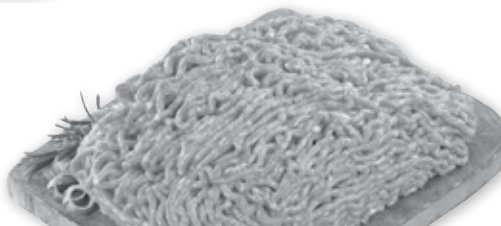


1⁹⁹
1 L

Ceres mango juice



5⁹⁹ **Strub's salmon**
steelhead, sockeye or gravlox
200 g



4⁹⁹ lb **lean ground beef**
fresh Glatt Kosher
11.00/kg



5⁹⁹ **Ungar's gefilte fish**
frozen
623 g



1⁹⁹ **Yom Tov horseradish**
with beets
375 mL



3⁹⁹ **Hagada egg Matzos**
300 g



3⁹⁹ **Streit's macaroons**
284 g



3⁴⁹ **Kedem sparkling juice**
selected varieties
750 mL



2⁹⁹ **Pizazz fruit slices**
227 g



2⁹⁹ **Osem instant
chicken soup mix**
400 g



7⁹⁹ **Bartons Almond Kisses**
284 g



3⁴⁹ **Strub's dill pickles**
selected varieties
2 L

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