

Hamilton Jewish News

SERVING HAMILTON WENTWORTH & AREA

MARCH/APRIL 2002 VOL 16:4

NISAN 5762

Dates to Remember

PASSOVER
FIRST SEDER
Wednesday evening,
March 27

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Reunite Woman with
family, p11

...and much, much more



The UJA Federation's Public Affairs Committee was out in full force at the Canada Israel Committee's annual parliamentary dinner on March 6 engaging Canada's political leadership. Pictured here (from left to right) are McMaster student, Carly Shiner, UJA Federation executive director, Gerald Fisher, David Somer, Jeff Levy, Sharon Hart, Lawrence Hart, Chad Finkelstein, Lorne Finkelstein. Missing are Daniel

'Grow Hamilton!' a Priority for Federation Planning Committee

As one more expression of her commitment to reinvigorate the Hamilton Jewish Community, UJA Federation president Bonnie Loewith recently announced the appointment of Dr. Judah Denburg as chair of the Federation's community planning committee.

The committee will assume responsibility for developing stronger partnerships with Federation's beneficiary agencies through ongoing consultations, program assessments and the sharing of research data. The committee is also empowered to assess new program proposals and offer recommendations to the Federation board of directors.

Recognizing the need for this committee to reflect both community diversity and senior volunteer experience, Dr. Denburg has successfully recruited a core group to assist in these responsibilities. They include Dr. David Streiner, Dr. Nick Kates, Howard Brown and Vivienne Epstein.

According to Gerald Fisher, UJA Federation executive director, "one of the truly important outcomes of the planning process will be a new perspective on priorities for the community. The outcomes will challenge our beneficiary agencies to respond to those priorities that are not currently being addressed.

"This process will also serve as a real benefit to the allocations committee in that it will provide a priority framework to inform them as they deliberate on the distribution

of scarce community resources."

One very exciting aspect of the planning committee's mandate is its service as a clearing house of ideas for new initiatives. One of the first initiatives to be addressed is a project entitled Grow Hamilton! Grow Hamilton! was originally developed last year as an initiative designed to attract migrating Jewish families to consider the Hamilton area as their destination. The originators of the concept include Justice David Steinberg and Vicky Wilson Sher, among several others. Earlier this year they met with Maxyne Finkelstein, Executive Vice President of United Israel Appeal – Federations Canada, who informed them that similar projects have been successfully undertaken in Winnipeg and in Montreal.

There is a growing recognition in many communities that Jewish migration patterns have narrowly focused on Toronto as the choice migration destination in Canada. After Israel, Jewish population growth in York region may be the most potent in the world. Jewish families are flocking to Newmarket, Aurora and points north. A synagogue is now being built in Barrie.

The Grow Hamilton! project will forcefully make the case for migrants to consider the Hamilton area as their destination – even if their careers are in Burlington, Mississauga, or even Toronto.

Hundreds of Jewish families have moved to York region in the past few years. If only six or eight per

McMaster Responds To Jewish Students

After three years of silence in the face of countless protests McMaster University has made a dramatic and abrupt reversal of its decision to evict the Jewish Student Association (JSA) from its current premises. The turnaround came about in response to an article by student Aaron Orkin that appeared in the campus newspaper and the Canadian Jewish News, excerpts of which appear below.

Just one day after Mr. Orkin's article appeared in the campus newspaper, JSA director, Judy Schwartz, received a phone call from the university administration office explaining that the JSA will, after all, be allowed to retain its current space.

"Thanks to Aaron", said Ms Schwartz, the JSA can continue to have a kosher facility that offers our students a place to celebrate holidays, enjoy kosher lunches, socialize and experience outstanding programming. We are all very grateful to Aaron, as well as

cont'd on p14

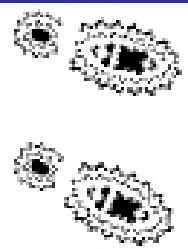
New Federation Leadership Faces Future Challenges

The newly installed UJA Federation board of directors is wasting no time in addressing the major challenges facing the Hamilton Jewish community. "A quick look around the community reveals that we are facing serious issues in many areas. The list of issues is a long one – from creating a real business plan, to revitalizing our entire approach to financial resources development and the annual UJA campaign, to developing a more disciplined policy framework for allocations, to attracting and developing future community leaders and developing a more effective approach to communicating to our donors. We really have a lot to do" said new Federation president Bonnie Loewith.

One of the first challenges Federation faces in building a new Jewish future is the challenge of developing a decision-making apparatus that is going to be effective, inclusive, transparent and accessible.

Over the past few months, Fisher has devoted significant time

cont'd p 7



UJA Federation

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CIRCULATION
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Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales

EDITORIAL POLICY

The HJN invites members of the community to contribute letters, articles or guest editorials. Written submissions and advertisements must be forwarded by the deadline indicated in each issue. This newspaper reserves the right to edit, condense or reject any contribution for brevity or legal purposes.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE HJN IS WEDNESDAY,

UJA/FEDERATION OF HAMILTON

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From the Director's Desk



Gerald Fisher

Somewhere near the beginning of organized community life in Hamilton, a group of leaders from various organizations got together and created the entity we now call UJA Federation. The process was likely the same here as it was in every other federated community.

Independent agencies created a kind of social contract empowering the Federation to conduct one annual campaign in which all agencies shared on a priority basis.

Another piece of this contract empowers the Federation to speak on behalf of the organized Jewish community. It empowers the Federation with an enormous amount of responsibility. Federation is empowered to develop a communal framework of priorities to guide the allocations of the one central community campaign. If we don't raise sufficient dollars, or if we don't develop a priority framework that is defensible, the Federation is in default of its very *raison d'être*.

If Federation provides leadership, functions effectively and communicates more regularly, the credibility of its leadership and support for its campaign will be enhanced. If it doesn't, support for the institution will begin to diminish. We either do or jobs or we don't.

HJN coverage of last month's AGM provided a lot of focus on our intention to modify the Federation's leadership structure. Several articles in this issue refer to it as well.

The motivation for changing the leadership structure is as much about enhancing credibility as it is about enhancing effectiveness. Leaders have to lead. They must be seen to be leading. They must be able to articulate a vision of where they are leading us. If our leaders can't do that, why should people support the work of the agency, or its campaign? The whole exercise of changing the leadership structure is to provide a more effective and supportive framework to assist our leaders in making better decisions and achieving better, measurable results. That will strengthen credibility and encourage broader, deeper support for the work of this agency. Since the installation of the new Federation board of directors, the level and pace of activity has picked up to a fairly high level of intensity.

We are all trying to do our jobs better. Federation is now launching its planning committee, mandated to review priorities, evaluate existing programs and vet new initiatives. This becomes especially important as we begin to develop a policy framework for future funding of our beneficiaries, a case for giving for our annual campaign and our endowment fund.

On a related matter our centrality was nudged a little bit this past month by a paid ad in the Hamilton Spectator, purporting to speak for the Hamilton Jewish community. An unusually large number of people called to express their unhappiness with the ad's misappropriation of the authority to speak for our Jewish community.

I suppose we could make a big *tzimmes* out of this with the organization that placed the ad. I did in fact speak with their executive vice president. However, I am wondering if this wouldn't be an appropriate time to go through a process that re-affirms Federation's centrality in the communal social contract. The fundamental ingredients that hold a federated community together are trust and communication. I'm willing to bet if we did a bit more communicating with our partners in the social contract, there would be more trust – something from which we could all benefit.

In closing, let me take this opportunity to again thank the community for entrusting me with the

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Special Occasion

AVIAD COHEN - Harry & Barbara Laskin

Speedy Recovery

SONIA SHEKTER - Ralph & Dolly Cohen. DAVID

RALPH TRAVIS ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

In Memory Of

SHIRLEY BERGER - Corinne Travis, Bunny Morris. BROTHER OF HARRY KAY- Corinne Travis. FATHER OF STAN GERSHGOL- Gladys Dubo.

Special Occasion

CARA PITCH - engagement to Mitchell Wenger - Corinne Travis. MOLLY & SAUL EISENBERG- bar mitzvah of grandson, Aviad Cohen - Corinne Travis. DOLLY & RALPH COHEN - Bar Mitzvah of grandson, Aviad Cohen - Corinne Travis. AVIAD COHEN (son of Steven & Beth Cohen) on your Bar Mitzvah - Corinne Travis.

THE EDUCATION ENDOWMENT

Special Occasions

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Announcing UJA Federations Canada's Coast-to-Coast

Smaller Communities' Mission to Israel

April 14 - 21, 2002

Join participants from communities across
Canada as we demonstrate our solidarity with
our brothers and sisters in Israel

Cost: \$1,999 El Al from Toronto *

(based on double occupancy – extensions available)

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Touring, Most Meals

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Highlights:

- Attend Yom Hazikaron Memorial Service on Mount Herzl
- Join with Mission participants from around the world in Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebrations
- Political and Security Briefings with Top Government Officials, including Mayor of Jerusalem Ehud Olmert
- Meet with recent immigrants from Ethiopia and Argentina
- Visit organizations assisting victims of violence and terror, funded by UJA/CJA Campaigns
- Face to face meetings with Israelis personally affected by the current situation

For more information or registration form, call Gerry Fisher, executive director, UJA Federation at 905-648-0605 or Frank Simkevitz at 416 636-7655 or visit us on-line at www.jewishcanada.org

*Minimum CJA/UJA gift: \$500

Now we are free....



Freedom

P

nown as a
"Celebration of Freedom".

And, while it's true that Jews around the world are not enslaved as our ancestors were in Egypt, freedom is a relative term. Although our brothers and sisters living in countries like the Ukraine, Belarus, Ethiopia and others are free to make their choices, continued economic hardships and intolerant neighbours dramatically reduce their freedom. That's why organizations like the Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency For Israel are busy helping ... by providing food and care for the elderly ... by providing Jewish culture and programming ... and by making sure that anyone who wants to, will have the opportunity to come to Israel.

For our friends, family and others who live in Israel, freedom has taken on a totally different mean-

ing. It means freedom to go shopping, eat in restaurants and live peacefully, something that many Israelis have not experienced in quite some time.

The results of the ongoing terror have created crises for many families.

Several Israeli agencies and organizations are responding ... by dealing with trauma, psychological counselling, coping with bereavement and helping where there is family breakdown due to

stress.

we in the DIASPORA are helping too!

Because, a portion of your contribution to our UJA campaign will go to JAFI, the JDC and directly to a several agencies in Israel, to help ensure that our brothers are truly able to enjoy freedom ... freedom from persecution, freedom from hostility and freedom to practice Judaism in whatever way they wish. So, when we all sit down to the first seder this year, may we be mindful of those who we are helping and hope and pray that they may celebrate their Pesach in freedom as well.



UJA Federation

Meet Your New Federation Board

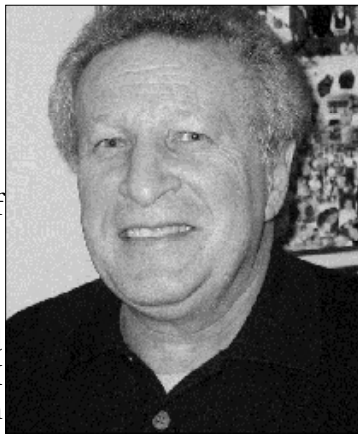
UJA Federation is proud to introduce its newest leadership team. The HJN asked incoming board members to comment on their perception of the role of Federation and what they hope to contribute over the next two years in community service.



Dr. Agi Meinhard

Dr. Agi Meinhard, is an associate professor at Ryerson University and the director of the Centre for Voluntary Sector Studies at Ryerson. Her research focuses on voluntary organizations and the people who work in them. Current research projects include: an investigation

of the responses of Canadian nonprofit organizations to the changing political, social and economic environment; the evolving partnership among government, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, and a comparative study of partnerships between nonprofit and for-profit organizations in Israel and Canada. In addition to her research and teaching, Agi also provides consultation to nonprofit organizations and training workshops in leadership development, board governance, strategic planning, organizational change and volunteer recruitment and development. Voluntary organizations are not only of academic interest to Agi; she serves on the board of several



Dr. David Somer

David Somer graduated from University of Toronto's Faculty of Dentistry in 1965 and has been in private practice ever since. He is a past president of the Hamilton Academy of Dentistry and the Ontario Dental Association and a former board member of Temple Anshe Sholom. He currently holds a variety of portfolios at Ontario Dental Association and the Ontario College of Teachers.

I am very new to Federation and as yet not have had opportunity to assess all the roles that the Federation must play in meeting the needs of our community.

It had never occurred to me (although, perhaps it should have) that the Federation is almost totally dependant on fund raising to achieve its goals. I have had a chance to meet with the new president and the executive director and am very impressed with their enthusiasm, commitment and their openness to new ideas. I believe that we must rethink our educational system to bring it more into line with our resources and to get more bang for our buck, while ensuring that no Jewish child in our community does without. I'm very impressed with the Jewish Hamilton website. It's a great outreach tool and I hope that we will soon have a data-base of email addresses that will make our outreach more effective. As for my own vision, I have been asked to chair the community relations division for Federation which encompasses communications, public affairs, federation outreach education and agency liason. My first undertaking will be to gather a group of dedicated board and



Dr. David Streiner

David Streiner was trained as a clinical psychologist at City College of New York and Syracuse University. He was at McMaster for 30 years, as a professor in the departments of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and in Psychiatry.

Three years ago, he began working at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care as assistant VP for Research; director of the Kunin-Lunenfeld Applied Research Unit; and a professor in the Department of Psychiatry at U of T. His volunteer activities have been numerous. He was chair of the Hamilton March of Dimes for a number of years; chairs a number of federal research review committees; serves as the chair of the Jurisprudence and Ethics Examination Committee

for the College of Psychologists of Ontario; and is on the editorial boards of about five scientific journals.

He believes Federation has a responsibility to get people interested in the Jewish community and to plan for a sustainable future in light of the changing demographic characteristics of the city.

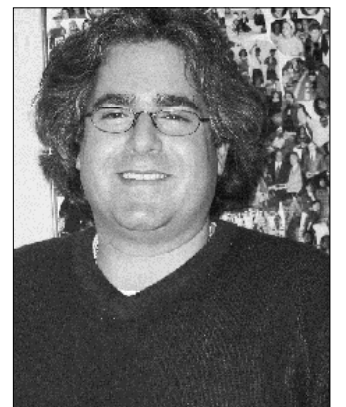
"We'll have to make some very hard decisions regarding where our funds go, in

Mark Scholes

Mark Scholes is a lawyer with the law firm of Weisz, Rocchi and Scholes. He is a member of the board of directors for Beth Jacob and has served on a number of Negev Dinner committees. He is co-founder and co-chair of the Ralph Travis Israel Experience Fund since its conception, the annual fund raising event for the Ralph Travis Israel Experience Fund.

"At this time, having little previous experience with the Federation, I do not as yet have a vision as to the role of the Federation in community building etc., and what part I see myself

Jay Morris



Jay Morris has been an active member of the Hamilton Lodge of Bnai Brith including serving a term as vice president. He has a B.A. in Social Science from the University of Toronto and since 1995 has been a partner of Accident Benefits Consultants, a consulting firm assisting injured victims in motor vehicle accidents.

"The Federation is a great organization that can help hundreds if not thousands in the local and international arenas. Therefore it is important to utilize the financial and human resources available to assist in any possible manor. It is my hope to be able to streamline and make the UJA funds used more effectively from both a local and international point of view.

"With the events that have happened in the last six months it is even more important as Jews to be cognizant of the world events. I am hoping as a board member to assist the board and the Jewish

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to raise a community**

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SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

The UJA Federation is pleased to announce the availability of scholarship monies through the Ralph Travis Israel Experience Fund. To learn more, or to receive an application please contact us at cnuscauja@on.aibn.com or at 905-648-0605 #306

Applications will only be considered from families who have pledged and paid their present and outstanding UJA pledges

Beneficiary Agencies

Despite Economic Downturn

We hear that Ford stopped producing Windstars, that General Motors will lay off 9,000 workers and that British Airways will lay off 13,000. Where does it end and how does it affect our Jewish community?

Every day the Jewish Social Services office is witness to the effects of the economic downturn as an increasing number of hard working people who have lost their jobs arrive at our doors. The loss of jobs is setting in place a downward spiral as small companies go out of business and people in their 40s who have worked at the same job for fifteen years now find themselves looking for work.

Furthermore, Jewish Social Services and our Federation receive daily emails from members of the beleaguered Jewish community of Argentina seeking employment in Hamilton. What, we ask ourselves, can we offer them when it is difficult, if not impossible for us to find work for our local clients?

The answer is that, no matter what the economic or political reality, Jews help other Jews. It is simply not acceptable to turn these people away, despite the economic situation in Canada. Your generous support of the annual UJA campaign will allow Jewish Social Services to assist both our local clients and Argentinian Jewry to the best of our ability.

by Carol Krames.

Midrasha Corner

by Andrea Zians, Co-Director Midrasha High School

What if you were free to do what you really wanted? Does dropping out of school enter your mind? What about taking early retirement? And how many of you envision a beautiful sunset, the endless waves of the ocean, a tropical breeze and plenty of time to take it all in? What about backpacking across Europe? What would you do if you were really free?

Every year as Pesach rolls around we celebrate the festival of freedom. We all recount the story of our servitude to Pharaoh in Egypt and relate how much better our freedom is in comparison. But the question is what do we do with our freedom?

You see there is an irony inherent in Pesach. We are free, but not really. G-d took us out of Egypt and then turned around and made us His servants. He didn't say "Okay folks, I helped you out of that jam you were in called Mitzrayim. Boy, that was tough. Here's a map and a bit of money. I sure hope you keep in touch and let me know how things turn out for you all."

G-d instead took a vested interest in us. Imagine that! A raggedy group of slaves

suddenly became a nation of free men, women and children. A nation free to worship and serve G-d.

Every year at Pesach time, we need to stop and evaluate whether or not we optimize our freedom. Are we maximizing our potential and living up to the role G-d gave us when He freed us from harsh slavery? Or have we only exchanged Pharaoh for a different kind of task master? Are we slaves to our schoolwork, careers, football season, after school programming and our housework? Or are we truly free?

We are very fortunate to have our freedom. We are also fortunate to live in a free society where we can practice our Judaism so openly. This year let's re-evaluate what we do with our freedom.

After spending my first seven months working at Midrasha, I am impressed by the families in our community who choose to maximize their freedom by being involved with Midrasha. Many of our students could do a variety of things with their spare time. They could attend band practice, hang out with friends,

or attend some after school club or sports activity. However, they feel the necessity to use their freedom to grow in their Judaism. They make the free time to attend Midrasha classes, do their homework, write papers and take exams. They use Midrasha as a tool to continue evolving as a Jew.

Growing in Judaism doesn't just happen accidentally. It's a conscious decision. Each Midrasha family works hard to make circumstances happen which enable commitments for Jewish study. It is a voluntary servitude, and one that will reap tremendous rewards for our students and our community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the student body and their families for undertaking this labor of love.

On behalf of Midrasha, I would like to wish the Hamilton community a Kosher and fulfilling Pesach. May this year's Pesach bring with it the inspiration which will enable us to remember what true freedom is all about and may G-d grant us the wisdom to use our freedom wisely.

STEP UP TO



THE PLATE !

Maot Chittim is the name of the traditional fund where we help Jewish families in need at Passover time.

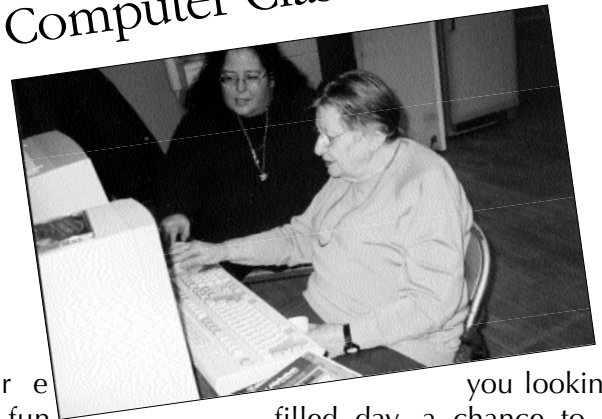
As we all know Passover is expensive! There are many in our community who have come to depend on our generosity to help them get the necessary food for Passover. Please step up to the plate to help win the fight against poverty and help everyone have a good Passover.

Please send a cheque to Maot Chittim and mail it to Jewish Social Services PO Box 7258

Jewish Social Services

The deadline for making a claim to the Holocaust Claims Conference has been extended until March 31, 2001. Claims have now been extended to include child survivors who have been in concentration camps or ghettos, even those who were born in the camps. If you are not sure if you qualify, call the Claims Conference at 1-800-697-6064 or 1-646-536-9156 to discuss your eligibility and to register. Applications are also available from the Jewish Social Services. Call Carol Krames at 905-648-0605 (325) for more information.

Computer Classes at JSS



Are you looking for a fun filled day, a chance to meet new people and get out of town to enjoy a first run show at a reasonable price? If you answered yes to any of these questions the Jewish Social Services Theatre Club is for you. Our shows this season include: Death of a Salesman on April 10; Cost \$40, *Zadie's Shoes* on Wednesday May 8; Cost \$58; Jackie Mason on Wednesday, May 1 in his new show *Prune Danish*. Cost \$63. *Detective Story (Niagara on the Lake)* Wednesday, July 31, Cost \$60; *My Fair Lady* at Stratford; September 10 and Cost \$53; *Three Penny Opera* at Stratford on September 25, Cost \$57. (All prices include your ticket and transportation.) To put your name on our mailing list or to make reservations please call Bea Matchen at 905-648-0605 (326) or Carol Krames (325).

Free to Do Whatever You Want?

Can you Help?

Many people in our community depend on the Kosher Food Bank to stretch their dollars and survive the month. We need tissues, cold cereals, instant coffee, gefilte fish, canned salmon, canned tuna fish, cookies, crackers, jams, toilet paper and shampoo. Please note that only kosher products are accepted. Food can be dropped off at the JCC, the shuls, the butcher or the schools.

Jewish Social Services is in need of volunteers to come to our weekly morning program to talk, play cards and games with program participants.

Are you in need of a housekeeper, house painter, babysitter, driver, or caregiver for an elderly parent. The Jewish Social Services has a list of people who are experienced and anxious to work. All of the people registered are known to our agency. If you would like more information please call Carol Krames 905-648-0605 ex 325 or ckramesjss@on.aibn.com.

Pavel Baev is a new member of our Jewish community. He is an experienced, licensed industrial mechanic with a strong background troubleshooting hydraulic and pneumatic equipment and control systems. He has extensive experience as a technical service mechanic in Israel and has references upon request. If you know of any employment possibilities please contact him at baevpavel@hotmail.com or at 905-628-6193

Local Events

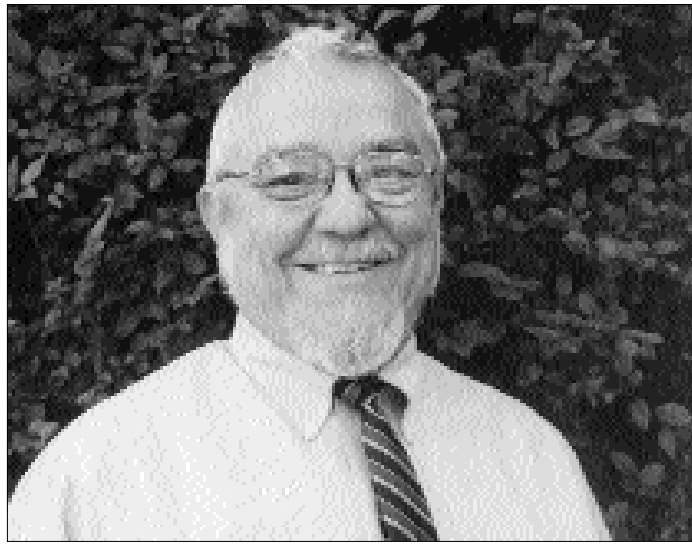
"It's A Beautiful Day" Tribute to Rabbi Eisenstein

BY
JACKI & LARRY LEVIN

Rabbi Zev Eisenstein greeted the children who attended the Hamilton Hebrew Academy every morning at the door of the school, with his lilting refrain of "It's a Beautiful Day".

That comment is a summary of his attitude towards life and it will definitely be "A Beautiful Day" on May 26, 2002, when our community will be joining together in tribute to Rabbi Eisenstein.

It is really unnecessary to list the contributions made by Rabbi Eisenstein to this community over the past 30 years. Rabbi Eisenstein has touched the lives of so many of us in so many ways. Rabbi Eisenstein's "day job" was



Rabbi Zev Eisenstein

as principal of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. He held that job for almost 30 years and has now retired, but we all know how much more than that he did. He sat with us in sickness and in sorrow. He taught us all

by his example. He was our Rabbi in the best sense of the word, which means "teacher". Our lives have been touched by his generosity, support and love.

We are very lucky that Rabbi Eisenstein will

continue to live in our community and is also continuing with his greatest love, of teaching our children.

May 26th is our opportunity to thank him and to show him that we all appreciate how much richer he has made our community. We also want to acknowledge the contribution made by his wife, Esther Eisenstein. A Sunday afternoon tribute is being planned and we know you will want to mark that special date on your calendar.

Our hope is to have as many of Rabbi Eisenstein's former students as possible attend this community celebration. His students have spread far and wide and in an effort to reach as many of

his students as possible, we would ask everyone who reads this to spread the word about this upcoming tribute to all former HHA students and their parents.

The event also will be attended by former HHA staff, by members of the Brantford Jewish Community (where Rabbi Eisenstein led services), and by members of the Adas Israel Congregation. Since we know that Rabbi Eisenstein extended his help widely in the community, we happily invite all those in the community who have been touched by this wonderful man to participate. Watch the Hamilton Jewish News for information on ticket purchase for the event.

2002 Dodge Caravan

Caravan



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Arctic Experience McNaught Gallery



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by Kelly Qimripik, Cape Dorset

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Happy Passover from

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YEARS
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CLOUDY
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FRESH
DELI
TASTE

STRUB'S



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KOSHER
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FRESH DELI PICKLED PRODUCTS
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Local Events

New Federation

cont'd from p1

and energy listening to the perceptions, concerns and expectations of various community leaders, including major donors as well as individuals with major donor potential but who currently choose to not support the annual campaign.

"The message I have heard has been consistent", said Fisher. "Members of the philanthropic community require a level of credibility, focus, accountability, planning capabilities and business acumen from the leadership of the non-profits that receive their support."

He continued by adding "I want people to know that they have been heard, they have been taken seriously and that we are beginning to move the agency in the direction of being able to meet higher levels of expectation".

UJA Federation is now in the process of re-organizing its leadership structure. The first step was bringing the leadership structure into compliance with existing by-laws.

Organizational emphasis will now be directed toward the five actual working committees of the board. Going forward, every member of the Board of Directors will actively participate in one of those five areas: Administration Services, Financial Resources Development, Human Resources Development, Budget, Planning and Allocations and Community Relations. Board members unwilling to make a real commitment to actively participate in

one of these five areas may be asked to resign.

Mr. Fisher added that in his view, "the key concepts are Leadership, Stewardship and Accountability. These are not passive concepts. Unless they are understood, internalized and manifested by real action, this Federation board will not accomplish its goals. The President and I are committed to this agency's success. We believe that the recently installed board better understands its responsibilities and has the potential to take itself and the organized Jewish community in a truly constructive direction that will have measurable results."

One of the Federation's greatest assets is the recent appointment of Dr. Agi Meinhard as chair of the Committee on Human Resources Development. A professor of organizational behaviour at Ryerson, Dr. Meinhard will have primary responsibility for helping the board reorganize itself into a more effective decision making mechanism. One of the first issues she addressed was the apparent imbalance between the board and its executive committee.

The first meeting of the new executive committee took place on February 7. The bulk of the agenda was focused on re-defining the executive committee's role.

The emerging consensus was that the board of directors, not the executive committee, must make Federation decisions. As a result, the

New Rabbi will focus on

BY WENDY SCHNEIDER



Rabbi Daniel Green

Like many native-born Hamiltonians Rabbi Daniel Green left his hometown to discover the world and himself. Enriched by 18 years of travel, education and life experience, the young rabbi has returned to take over his father's pulpit responsibilities at the Adas Israel Congregation. With a passion and sense of purpose underscored by a gentle, soft-spoken manner, it is clear that this young man is up to the challenge of making his own mark on the community.

Although his first rabbinical appointment on graduating from Yeshiva University was at a small start-up synagogue in Manhattan, he moved on fairly quickly to pursue his real passion - reaching out to the unaffiliated.

In his desire to reach out to those who, "no matter how successful they are in other aspects of their lives, often feel very intimidated the moment they walk into a synagogue", he left his cozy Upper West Side constituency to take on the challenges of turning on young Jewish singles of

lower Manhattan to Judaism.

Teaming up with a former Hollywood actor, the two young men founded an educational outreach institution called the Jewish Enrichment Center (JEC), located a block from the Empire State Building. Although the JEC faced formidable competition - the seductive call of Manhattan night life - it met with phenomenal success. With its cornucopia of programs, including Jewish yoga, Jewish art therapy workshops, one-on-one tutorials, lectures and provocative discussion forums.

Two years later the organization expanded to include the Silicon Alley Jewish Center (SAJC) an online platform for twenty

to thirtysomethings to share and connect in a Jewish context. In the wake of September 11, both the JEC and the SAJC experienced a surge of interest as young New Yorkers began to re-examine their lives and question their priorities.

While Hamilton's Jewish community bears little resemblance to the Jewish singles scene of Manhattan Rabbi Green hopes to create a similar kind of institution on the site of the former Yeshiva campus on Bowman Street. He envisions a place whose non-judgmental and inclusive approach will appeal to community members from across the denominational spectrum as well as to the unaffiliated.

The rabbi's marketing savvy will, no doubt, serve him well in his new position. "I think it's essential to market the message that God gave us the greatest product ever - the Torah", he said. "Religion is the highest of all products. It's life itself. But it's so self evident in terms of spirituality that it's often overlooked."

His most important value, however, is his commitment to serving his congregants.

BARBAT MITZVAH TOURS WINTER '01-'02
Dec. 20-Jan 3
Dec. 23-Jan. 6
SPRING '02
March 7-19
PASSOVER '02
March 26-April 9
SUMMER '02
June 30 - July 14
July 7-21; July 14-28
Aug 4-18; Aug 11-25
Aug 18 - Sept 1

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Member - MDRT

JCC Pages

"It is far better to light a candle than curse the darkness"

Yom



HaShoah

Tuesday, April 9 at 7:30 pm at Temple Anshe
Sholom

215 Cline Avenue North, Hamilton (Parking available at George R. Allan School)

Candles in memory of the Six Million and Jewish veterans
Recitation of names of our departed loved ones

7:00 pm - Seating; 7:15 pm Musical Prelude ; 7:30 pm - Program
Begins

Attention Holocaust Survivors and 2nd Generation

As part of the Yom HaShoah Memorial Service we are requesting photos of families (2nd
Generation, Survivors and victims) to be displayed during the name reading service. These
photos should be made into slides, only two per family, and handed in to Michele at the

The JCC introduces 3 Great Summer Camps

CAMP KADIMAH

for children entering Nursery (toilet trained) to

Grade 2

While going to camp is about having fun and making
new friends, Camp Kadimah strives to transmit the ethical
and community values, culture and tradition in an informal,
educational environment for children starting at age 3

Operating on a theme-week format, Kadimah offers a
daily mix of physical and recreational activities, creative arts
and crafts, and specialized Judaic and Israeli programming.

CAMP GADNA

for children entering Grades 3 - Grade 6

The Gadna experience provides our older campers with a
knowledge of the Canadian environment, and a taste for the
Israeli Kibbutz experience. We offer a challenging daily mix
of physical and recreational activities, with adventures to
local conservation areas, and various other destinations.

Register early at the Jewish Community Centre

LEADERSHIP TRAINING KADIMAH IN TRAINING (KIT)

for students entering Grades 7 & 8
will have the opportunity to work with campers and
counsellors at Camp Kadimah

GADNA IN TRAINING (GIT)

for students entering Grades 9 & 10
will have the opportunity to work with campers and
counsellors at Camp Gadna

Now more than ever...
demonstrate your solidarity with
Israel as we celebrate

Yom Ha'atzmaut at the JCC

Wednesday, April 17
at 6:30 pm

Enjoy Israeli style food and a street dance

\$45/immediate family, \$15/person, \$5/child under 10, \$10/student

Table reservations on a first-come, first-served basis.

To reserve, call 648-0605 by no later than Wednesday, April 10,

Unfortunately no tickets available at the door
Tickets will be assigned when payment is received.
Cheque, Cash, Visa or Mastercard welcome

The JCC of Hamilton & Area
is taking applications for

**Assistant Director and
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A summer day camp for children 3-14 years
old.

If you are a mature, fun-loving university, college or
high school student (entering Grade 11 and up) call
the JCC at 905-648-0605 or email Hamiltonjcc1@

Thanks to Our Bingo Volunteers

Virginia Mendes da Costa &
Robert Murdoch, Ed & Mila Zaltz

Mazel Tov to

Jeff Levy

winner of the JCC Lottery

early bird prize of \$500.

Mazel Tov and good luck to all
who have purchased tickets in the
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APRIL 17 AT THE YOM HA'ATZMAUT
CELEBRATION AT THE JCC

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SISTER OF RALPH COHEN - Edie Rochkin. ROSE LASKIN - Harry & Barbara Laskin.
LAX FAMILY - Rochelle Waxman. FATHER OF MARRANCA FAMILY - Rochelle
Waxman. FATHER OF HARVEY ORGAN - Mark Waxman. FATHER OF LARRY
ROSENBERG - Mark Waxman. MORRIS SMURLICK - Larry & Helen Woolf.

Speedy Recovery

Carnival or Entertainer for

Purim Magic at the JCC on Sunday, February 24 was a resounding success highlighting magician Owen Anderson. Over 100 children and parents took part in this wonderful community event enjoying the show, eating hot dogs, hamentashen and winning prizes for their costumes.

Thanks to The Barn Markets Inc. for their donation of Hershey Kisses for the Guess the Hershey Kisses competition. To Strub Brothers Limited who supplied the JCC with delicious pickles and relishes to go with the hot dogs served. To Royal Mattress MFG. Co. for their donation and to our



volunteers Susan Bayla-Waxman, Sam Yanover, Molly Aron, Irving and Shirley Levine, Tamar and Ilana Klinghoffer who helped make this day the success that it was.

An evaluation form was distributed to all participants in the hope that the JCC would get feedback into next year's Purim program. It was hoped that a response would give us guidance into the kind of programs that the community preferred. In order for the JCC to run the usual Carnival we need a committed group of volunteers to head up the Purim Committee, which will in turn recruit volunteers to run games, solicit prizes for the ever popular raffle table and supervision for the prize table. This program has in the past reached out to all community organisations to help facilitate the day with their volunteers allowing them to advertise their role in the community. This kind of program has a wonderful ripple effect of including children who have outgrown playing the games now able to run the games, a role model for younger children. Ideally, this day could bring together young children, teenagers, parents and grandparents who

You can make this year's Seder night truly different from all the others!



Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 - 8:45 pm at the Jewish Community Centre
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Morris Black Public Speaking Contest Sunday, March 24, 2002

Grades 4 - 9

Hosted by Rick Black and Family
The Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton & Area
Hamilton Hadassah-WIZO

To enter simply:

- 1) REGISTER by March 18th
- 2) PREPARE a presentation from one of the topics listed. (maximum suggested time limit of three minutes).
- 3) COME to the J.C.C. (1030 Lower Lions Club Road, Ancaster) on March 24th at 6 p.m. ready to present your work.

Prizes will be awarded in each of three separate categories.

Grades 4-5; Grades 6-7; Grades 8-9

In each category there will be a first prize of \$75, second prize of \$50, and third prize of \$25. Marks will be given for both content and presentation, including such items as originality understanding of the topic, eye contact etc.

To register, complete the attached form and take it to the Hebrew School office at your synagogue, or send to Rick Black, 588 Tomahawk Cresc., Ancaster, L9G 3T5. Further information is available from Rick Black at 648-5080.

ENTRY FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS AND PHONE _____

GRADE _____

HEBREW SCHOOL _____

WE ASK YOU TO PLEASE SUBMIT A WRITTEN COPY OF YOUR SPEECH ON March 24th, SO THAT WE CAN COMPILE A BOOKLET.

TOPICS FOR THE 2002 CONTEST

- 1) There's more to Judaism than good food.
- 2) My favourite place in Israel is..... When I go to Israel, I'd like to see.....
- 3) Pick a biblical story and tell why the moral is still important today.
- 4) My favourite Jewish holiday.
- 5) The most important Jewish mitzvah or commandment or value is....
- 6) I am proud to be Jewish because... What I am most excited about in my Jewish life...
- 7) A famous man/woman in Jewish history.
- 8) If I were prime minister of Israel...
- 9) What could the Christian world and /or Pope Pius have done to prevent or limit the devastation of the Holocaust.
- 10) Is cloning permitted in Judaism? Why or why not?
- 11) How have we as Jews and/or Israel as a nation, changed since Sept 11? How has the world changed in it's view of Israel?
- 12) Judaism is a family affair.
- 13) A history of a Jewish organization and how it helps Israel or the Jews- e.g. UJA, JCC, JNF, B'nai Brith, Hadassah, Na'amat, Young Judea, Habonim.
- 14) any Jewish topic (in the spirit of the contest).

Call 648-0605, ext 300 for information
on any of these programs

Local Events

A CELEBRATION OF JEWISH WRITERS & WRITING

May 24-26, 2002 at Temple Anshe Sholom

This celebration is open to everyone who is interested in reading and literature. This event celebrates the contributions of contemporary Jewish writers in Canada and explores how their search for meaning and identity helps us understand our own.

Schedule of Events

Friday, May 24

7:30 p.m. Service with literary readings

9:00 p.m. Oneg Shabbat with readings, questions, and discussion on themes of creativity, identity and the Jewish heart

Saturday, May 25

11:45 a.m. Lunch, all invited (included in registration)

12:30 p.m. Panel Discussion: Identity and the Jewish Writer including authors from PEI, Montreal, Hamilton, and Toronto.

1:45 - 3:00 p.m. Concurrent Workshops I pre-registration required

3:15 - 4:30 p.m. Concurrent Workshops II pre-registration required

8:00 - 11:00 p.m. Literary Cabaret: readings, storytelling, and music

Sunday, May 26

9:30 a.m. Continental breakfast

10:00 - 11:30 Concurrent Workshops III

11:30 - 12:00 Closing Talk by Rabbi Baskin: The Poet in Society

Concurrent Workshops I

1. Participatory Workshop: Jane Enkin and Justin Lewis: Writing Midrash - A Personal Response to the Bible.

2. Presentation: Ron Charach, Down into the Dark: Poetry and Psychiatry. A multi-media examination of creativity and psychopathology.

3. Reading/Discussion: Sharon H. Nelson: War Fury: A Meditation on Psalm 137.

4. Children's Program, Readings and Activities, Lesley Simpson & Tzvia Lipton, ages 4-8

5. Discussion/Presentation, Ken Sherman on The Necessity of Poetry, a discussion of Anthony Hecht's powerful holocaust poem "The Book of Yolek."

Concurrent Workshops II

1. Presentation/Discussion: Twyla Hendry: On Being a Leonard Cohen Fan

2. Poetry Reading/Discussion: Karen Shenfeld, reading from her award-winning book

The Law of Return. (Winner Jewish Book Award for Poetry, 2001).

3. Reading/Discussion Group: JJ Steinfeld: The Effect of the Holocaust on Creativity; with Rhoda Hassman, reading from her Holocaust writings.

4. Storytelling Workshop: Dan Yashinsky, founder of The Toronto Festival of Storytelling and co-founder of The Storytellers School of Toronto: Emergency Storytelling

5. Hands-On Workshop: Sharon Singer, Writing from the Soul

Concurrent Workshops III

1. Poetry Workshop: Malca Litovitz, Freefall: A Spiritual and Creative Journey.

2. Lit Chat: Linda Frank and Marilyn Pilling, Ambivalence or Redemption: The Dead Parent Poems.

3. Reading: Ron Ruskin, author and psychoanalyst. Reading from his published works.

4. Workshop/Discussion: Lil Blume, Writing Family Stories.

5. Workshop: Claire Ridker, Creativity in Aging: A Hands-On Workshop.

6. Workshop: Making Cabbage Rolls, Making Culture: Rescuing the "Jewish Mother." Sharon Nelson, with Ellen Jaffe and others. "We do not cook to eat alone...rituals of communications, communion, community."

For further details about workshops and author websites, visit www.jewishhamilton.org. To find out about how you can help, please contact **Ellen Jaffe**, ejaffe@sympatico.ca, 905-308-7683, **Lil Blume**, lil.blume@hwcn.org, 905-546-5721, **Lori Dessau** lori.dessau@sympatico.ca, 905-524-2022.

A Celebration of Jewish Writers and

BY
WENDY SCHNEIDER

On the weekend of May 24 - 26, Hamilton will become the "World Centre for Jewish Literature". At least that's what the organizers of the city's first Jewish Literary Festival claim. Thanks to Lil Blume, Ellen Jaffe and Lori Dessau, 18 Canadian Jewish writers of film, plays, stories, novels, children's literature, and poetry are descending upon Hamilton for "a weekend of inspiration, exploration, incantation, and communication that celebrates the contributions of contemporary Jewish writers in Canada and explores how their search for meaning and identity helps us understand our own."

A festival such as this is an enormous achievement and begs the question, how did all of this get started? The seeds were planted a little over a year ago when Hamilton native, Lil Blume and former New Yorker, Ellen Jaffe, were attending an Oneg Shabbat service at the Temple. Blume, a writer and Jaffe, a poet, have been part of the same local writer's community for the last several years. That evening, following a story telling session Blume had given during the service, they got talking about how much of an interest there



Jewish literary committee members (from left to right), Lil Blume, Ellen Jaffe and Lori Dessau

seemed to be in literature and writing. Wouldn't it be something, they thought, if Hamilton would host a Jewish literary festival? When the two women teamed up with professional fundraiser, Lori Dessau, a committee was born.

After receiving a favorable response from the rabbi, they began to contact their writer friends, who made further suggestions, and before long, they had a roster of 18 published poets or writers, many of them local. Included among them are Lil Blume, Ellen Jaffe, Judah Denburg, Clare Ridker, Lesley Simpson, Rabbi Bernard Baskin and former Hamiltonians Malca Litovitz, Jane Enkin (presenting with her husband, Justin Lewis) and Len Blum, (brother to Lil, son of Mary Blum

whose Hollywood screenwriting credits include Private Parts, Stripes, Feds, Beethoven's 2nd and Heavy Metal.) Authors from further afield include JJ. Steinfeld, Twyla Hendry, Karen Shenfeld, Sharon Nelson, Sharon Singer, Marilyn Pilling, Ron Ruskin, Nora Gold, Ken Sherman, Ron Charach, Linda Frank and Dan Yashinsky. All are published poets or writers. Many, interestingly enough, are therapists.

The event opens on a Friday night and Oneg Shabbat services with readings from several authors. Saturday will feature a lunch and panel discussion on the topic of "Identity and the Jewish Writer." Concurrent workshops will range from hands-on writing activities to presentations, readings, and discussions. Topics include "The Effect of the Holocaust on Creativity." Saturday will conclude with a literary cabaret. The festival concludes Sunday morning with breakfast, more workshops, and a closing talk by Rabbi Baskin on "The Poet in Society."

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BY
PHYLLIS SHRAGGE



Genya Satovsky

The year was 1949. Genya Satovsky was a twenty-nine-year-old woman who had been torn from her family and thrust into prison. She would not see them again for six years. Her crime? She was a Zionist.

As a prisoner in a forced labor camp in Russia, Genya worked each endless, exhausting day cutting down trees. Bitter cold stole her energy as she relentlessly toiled hour after hour. Her feet froze, and as time progressed, her spirit waned. Her world was one of isolation and agony, enclosed by a fence of barbed wire.

Genya Satovsky, now a Hamilton resident, described her experiences during an interview. Speaking Yiddish which was translated by an interpreter, she said: "I joined a Zionist organization in Moldavia when I was just thirteen years old, but at that time Moldavia was part of Romania and it was an acceptable, even popular thing to do."

Genya and her sister went to Zionist meetings and dreamed of eventually moving to the Jewish homeland which at that

time was called Palestine. When Stalin took over Romania, Genya's sister and her husband departed for Palestine and Genya continued to attend Zionist meetings, even though by doing so she was defying the law.

By the time she was arrested in 1949, she was married and had a son who was barely over a year old. "Under Stalin, the Communists were arresting thousands of people. Ten people in my organization were apprehended. Suddenly I had just a few minutes to say good-bye to my husband, my son and my mother. I did not see them even once during my prison sentence. My family was permitted to write to me, and I could write back every six months, but I was

not allowed to describe the conditions of the camp."

In the forced labor camp, men and women were separated, as were families and friends. "It was heartbreaking," she said. Not all the prisoners were Jewish, but the camp commander had a special interest in those who were. "All Jews belong here, even Communist Jews," she remembered him saying. After Genya served six years of her ten-year sentence, she was released as suddenly as she was arrested. "Stalin died and

Khrushchev took over.

One day they told us we were free. They gave us ten minutes to gather our belongings, then we left." Genya's husband had divorced her while she was imprisoned. When Genya was released, she had no choice but to sleep on the floor in a house where she lived with eleven people. She was now thirty-five years old and she had a seven-year-old son who didn't remember her. During the following years she renewed her relationship with her son, Michael (then Misha) Goldenberg, and in 1972, Genya remarried. She

still dreamed of living in Israel.

In 1980, her son, his wife and their daughter moved to the Hamilton area. Another daughter was subsequently born here. In 1989, Genya came to visit them. Shortly after she returned to Russia, her ailing husband died. Six months later she moved here alone.

Her first husband had moved to Israel with his wife. When the wife died, Michael arranged for his father to come to Hamilton. "I hadn't talked to my first husband for forty-three years," Genya said.

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Shalom Village

Fitness Club at Shalom Village keeps residents young and fit

BY
WENDY SCHNEIDER

Shalom Village, considered one of the province's top long-term care facilities, has recently added yet another feather to its cap: a state-of-the-art fitness center, complete with 10 weight training machines, a full time club director and a host of student volunteers from McMaster University's Kinesiology and Gerontology departments.

The fitness center was made possible as a result of the residence's receiving a \$175,000 grant from Ontario's Trillium Foundation. The grant has put Shalom Village at the forefront of innovative programming for seniors, allowing it to purchase specially designed strength training equipment for seniors.

The equipment, which



Fitness Club director Mandy Vice with Rose Swaye

runs on compressed air, rather than iron weight plates, allows residents to increase resistance by increments of one pound at a time. Each machine also has a computerized monitor that records repetitions, for residents who may have short term memory loss.

The club is staffed by kinesiologist Mandy Vice who oversees a number

of student volunteers from the departments of kinesiology and gerontology at McMaster. The students act as personal trainers, working with individual residents and helping them carry out their programs.

Benefits to residents are both physical and social. Frail elderly, Vice explained, have a small

cont'd on p15



Pat Morden

A LANDMARK EVENT AT SHALOM VILLAGE

This month we celebrate a landmark event at Shalom Village. On March 31st we will officially open The Ruth Sherman Centre. The Ruth Sherman Centre will reflect the vision, enthusiasm for life and living, and spirit of community

involvement demonstrated by the woman in whose memory it is named. The support of the Sherman family will help ensure that Shalom Village provides care and services based on the most up to date information, and that we are able to share with others the effective care strategies we develop at Shalom Village. Under the leadership of the Director of the Centre, Lori Schindel Martin, we are already undertaking a number of exciting and challenging projects. Our experience in dementia care is being augmented by collaboration in several educational and research projects. If you would like to receive the Ruth Sherman Centre Newsletter which will keep you up to date on all the initiatives of the centre please contact Lori@shalomvillage.on.ca to be put on our mailing list.

Health care has been targeted as a decision point in the Ontario Tory leadership race. Contentious issues include emergency rooms, positions on the role of the private sector and transfers of Ontario patients to hospitals south of the border. Questions not being asked are those related to the future of health care for seniors and long term care - a future which hopefully many of us will live to enjoy and therefore should be very concerned about. Our parents are receiving that care today.

A recent study commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, on which I sat as a member of the steering committee, demonstrated that in Ontario we spend considerably less and therefore deliver less care and services to seniors residing in long term care, than three other provinces used in the study, three states in the USA and two European comparators. Our government



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In Memory Of

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Mazel Tov

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Feature Story

Na'amat Hamilton looks back on its Author Luncheon

BY AGI MEINHARD AND SHIFRAH

As Na'amat Hamilton's Nitsan chapter prepares for its Celebrity Author Luncheon's "chai" anniversary, two members reflect on its origins. Shifrah Alleson, a past president, now resides in Jerusalem. Agi Meinhard resides in Burlington.

Like many a great discovery, this one started with something as unrelated as whooping cough and handwriting analysis. Our fledgling group was uninterested in having a booth of alte zachen at the Na'amat Toronto Bazaar, so we had to think of another way to do our fundraising. We had no idea what we could do, but a fortuitous confluence of events gave birth to Na'amat Hamilton's Celebrity Author Luncheon.

First there was the Handwriting Analyst. For one of our programs we invited a handwriting analyst who just happened to say, "By the way, if you are looking for a fundraiser this is what we do at the Burlington Public Library - we invite an author to give a talk and charge for admission." Our programming chairperson,



Na'amat's Nitsan chapter with 1999 celebrity author, Barbara Gowdy

Shifrah Alleson, jumped at this "eminently doable" idea. And so the seed was planted. But as we all know, seeds must be nourished and the seedlings nurtured before the fruit are gathered. The most important first step was to find an author.

Here is where the Whooping Cough comes in. Shifrah was at that time nursing her baby daughter Keren through whooping cough. As she tells it, "Keren shouldn't have had whooping cough because she had already received her first pertussis shot. Her doctor did not answer my questions

satisfactorily, but fortunately Dr Robert S. Mendelsohn had just published his second book, called How to Raise a Healthy Child In Spite of Your Doctor. The book was a godsend: not only did it answer pertussis questions, but it also suggested some ways to choose a better doctor".

A few weeks later, Shifrah saw an article about Mendelsohn in the Canadian Jewish News mentioning that his daughter lived in Toronto. Without hesitation, Shifrah called the daughter and asked for her father's number. Armed with the

number, Shifrah recalls, "I took my courage in both hands and phoned. I told him that I was calling to invite him to Toronto to spend time with his daughter and his grandchildren, and on the way if he wouldn't mind speaking to our group in Hamilton. He laughed in an avuncular way, sounding exactly like the person I imagined from reading his books and said YES!"

The seed having sprouted, our group forged ahead in full force, planning the logistics: venue, food, publicity, donations for food and

door prizes, tickets, picking up Mendelsohn and delivering him to his daughter. Lorraine Levene and Norma Barkin from Toronto helped us in many important ways. They advised us to have the venue in a downtown location so people could easily come by on their lunch break. They also suggested that we refrain from calling the event The First Annual Author Luncheon, in case we never held another one.

Our first luncheon was at the McNab Street YWCA to a packed house. We picked the apples, baked the rolls and cookies, filled the sandwiches, and packed the box lunches. We ran around the city pasting posters wherever we found a spot, and got a plug on the radio. We went from door to door selling tickets. All our food products were donated, but we needed some cash for the program book. Operation Beer Cans and Bottles was inaugurated. We scoured city streets, parks and construction sites for empty beer cans and bottles, redeeming them for 5 cents a can and 10 cents a bottle. We raised enough money to pay for the program book and

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Organizations

McMaster Responds to JSA

cont'd from p1

to McMaster University, for allowing us to maintain this privilege."

The following are excerpts from Mr. Orkin's article:

"Designed to house all student services under one roof, the McMaster student centre is scheduled to open within a matter of weeks, as a part of McMaster's development plan to accommodate increased student populations. McMaster students with special religious needs are quickly discovering that the plans and policies surrounding the new centre may soon make it more difficult for them to live and practice their religion on campus.

The university has classified religious associations like the Jewish Students Association (JSA) merely as clubs, without recognizing the specific needs of the students they represent.

"I provide students with information, comfort, socialization," explains Judy Schwartz, director of the JSA. Schwartz is proud to be able to provide these services, as well as providing Kosher food, a place talk to a rabbi, or meet other young Jews. The JSA has been on campus for twenty-five years, and makes it possible for many young Jews to attend McMaster.

Schwartz and the JSA only discovered they'd have to move through word of mouth. The JSA has been informally told

that their office will have to be vacated, but can find no more information. The JSA has not been told why they have to move, or for what purpose their current space will be used. The JSA basement office space, while it is perfect for the JSA, would not make suitable residence or classroom space.

This confusion is not unique to the JSA - numerous campus student groups, religious or not, have discovered they will have to move into the new student centre but can get no further information. Nobody has ever received a phone call or a letter to explain the situation. Schwartz has sent letters to senior administrators to inquire into the JSA's future. She apparently received no response, but has learned that McMaster's official policy is that they will not accept letters regarding the new student centre and associated problems until the actual move has taken place.

It would appear that administration is both neglecting students with special religious needs and creating a more serious long-term problem. Administration must meet with student groups to openly discuss the problem before the move occurs and find suitable spaces to meet the needs of religious associations.

Islamic students have faced an uphill battle just to find a room where they

Temple Players, headed up by Producer/Director Vicky Wylson-Sher and Director/Choreographer, Elaine Levine, are hard at work rehearsing the musical show, Annie. Their venue this year will be the one thousand seat auditorium, Mohawk College Theatre. Given the level of excitement in the community, they are expecting to sell out both nights.

The role of Annie will be played by Ruthie Pitka-Jones, an eleven year old who has an amazing, professional sounding voice. Barry Bender will lend his rich voice to the part of Daddy Warbucks and Julie Brendan-Dembe's beautiful soprano voice will be heard in the part of Grace, his secretary. Miss Hannigan, the shrewish orphanage director, will be



Annie Cast Members pictured above are (from l to r) Allan Feldman, Barry Bender, Julie Brendan-Dembe, Rabbi Irwin Zeplovitz, Laura Wolfson, Lila Strub and, in front, Ruthie Pitka-

played with relish by Lila Strub.

The play also stars Jason Silvert as Rooster, the no-good brother of Miss Hannigan, and Pauline Morris as Lily, his equally delinquent girlfriend.

The lead orphans will be played by Brooke Cowitz, Bess Martin, Hava Starkman, Hanna Strub, Samara Strub, and Ashlee Woolfson as Molly.

Rabbi Irwin Zeplovitz will play the radio announcer, Bert Healy, and he will participate in a scene as part of Roosevelt's cabinet with Rabbi Mark Biller. Both rabbis display quite a bit of theatrical ability and they sing well too. Roosevelt will be played by Allan Feldman.

There are three choruses - an orphan chorus, a servant chorus and a senior chorus (a misnomer because there are many young children participating) that participates in two

production numbers.

Vicky and Elaine have previously brought us Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat in 1996, and Grease in 1998. Both shows were professionally executed and were exceptionally well received. Vicky and Elaine both log hundreds of hours putting together a musical. Aside from directing the actors and designing the sets, there are props and costumes to be co-ordinated, stage directions to be ironed out, lighting, sound, and a multitude of other technical details to be planned and rehearsed in advance of opening night.

Also helping out with the production are Beth Urbanek, who is the Stage Manager for Theatre Aquarius, Peter Urbanek, who is a Production Manager at University of Toronto, Martin Weddum, who regularly works the sound system at Mohawk

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In addition to the individualized weight training programs,

cont'd from

residents can also participate in group exercise classes, including seated classes for nursing home residents. There are also classes for Alzheimer's patients that involve mimicing an instructor at the front of the room and throwing around a beach ball.

"It's very stimulating and they love it," said

Olympic Fever at the HHA

During the recent Winter Olympic games, the halls of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy were filled with international excitement. Our students in Grades one through six were divided into ten teams representing twenty countries in the true spirit of the games; almost 100 students came together in friendly competition.

Each country produced a flag that the children carried around the block in the opening ceremonies. Spirits were high as the students cheered out the country names; passing pedestrians smiled and the cars on Main Street honked.

From then on the groups met almost daily to prepare for events. The children made maps of their countries, wrote poems and researched the winter sports at the games,



HHA students celebrate their victories at the Olympic Games

practised cheers and of course, got ready for the athletic competitions.

The first week exploded with hockey. Everyone rejoiced at their own accomplishments and those of others. None of the children seemed to think that it was about winning. It was all about playing.

On the Wednesday, the

school had a day of Olympic events. Through the creative genius of the staff, the winter sports came alive indoors.

The Olympic games gave our children days that they will always remember. The sportsmanship and cooperation across the grades made us all proud of our children. We are all looking forward to the next games in 2006.

Moving away from sports and into, or rather out of the classroom, the HHA recently hosted the Royal Ontario Museum's travelling planetarium.

The stars came out during the day at the HHA when the ROM rolled into town with the StarLab.

After crawling through a

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on

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For further information contact the Jewish National Fund at (905) 527-5516 or (905) 529-4227

Sharon Hart
National Vice-President JNF Canada
National Chairman of the JNF Centennial Committee
Past-President of Hamilton JNF
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Past-President of Hamilton Hebrew Academy PTA
Past Vice-President of Jewish Community Centre

Lawrence Hart
National President of Maccabi Canada
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