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Hamilton Jewish News

THE JEWISH VOICE OF HAMILTON

DECEMBER 2011 VOL 26:2/ KISLEV 5772

AGREEMENT #40007180

How will you respond?

LARRY SZPIRGLAS,
PRESIDENT, UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON



Appearing in this issue of the paper are stories that are crying out to be heard; stories that reflect the daily reality of some of the **785 Jewish Hamiltonians – 20 per cent of our community** – who live below the poverty line, many of whom are elderly and live alone.

Every year at this time, the United Jewish Appeal Campaign raises the funds needed to enable our social and cultural service agencies and our schools to meet the vital needs of our community. The UJA Campaign has a fourfold mandate: To **assist the vulnerable** by lending a helping hand to those in need of food, shelter, clothing and other sustenance, and to those who seek to be able to support themselves; to **strengthen Jewish**

See page 2, President's Report

\$1.2 million
THAT'S WHAT'S NEEDED
TO SUSTAIN OUR COMMUNITY



2011 Camp Kadimah director, Jonathan Vaisberg and Kehila teacher Paula Baruch at this year's UJA Campaign launch on Oct. 3.
Photo special to the Hamilton Jewish News

UJA Campaign chair, Jay State is confident our community can meet this year's fundraising goal of \$1.2 million. But he will also tell you that even that amount "falls short of our community's needs and our commitment to Israel by more than \$100,000." State said that in order to meet our community's actual needs and fulfill our obligation to the Jewish Agency for Israel, "we would have to increase our total number by 18 per cent from last year's campaign total of \$1.1 million." Please consider an increase when making your commitment to UJA this year.

UJA Partner Agencies

OUR HAMILTON FAMILY

- Beth Jacob Hebrew School
- Beth Tikvah Foundation
- Hamilton Hebrew Academy
- Hamilton Jewish News
- Hamilton Kashrut Services
- Jewish Community Centre
- Camp Kadimah
- Jewish Social Services
- Kehila Jewish Community Day School
- McMaster Jewish Students Association
- Midrasha Hamilton Hebrew High
- Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

- Hamilton Jewish Leadership Forum
- Hamilton Jewish Communal Professionals Group
- Holocaust and Human Rights Education
- March of the Living
- YAD Leadership Program and Activities
- Community Relations and Public Affairs

OUR NATIONAL FAMILY

- Birthright Israel
- Canada Israel Experience
- Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)
- Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life
- Jewish Immigrant Aid Society (JIAS)
- United Israel Appeal Federations Canada

OUR OVERSEAS & ISRAELI FAMILY

- Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)
- Joint Distribution Committee



Hamiltonians in Israel

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Cont'd from page 1

identity by providing funding of and support for Jewish education in our day and afternoon schools and for Jewish students at McMaster; to **advocate for Israel** through our national partners UIA Federations Canada and CIJA, the Canadian Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, and maintain our support of our homeland's social welfare infrastructure through our overseas partner the Jewish Agency for Israel; to **ensure the long-term sustainability of our community** through leadership training and community development.

Your generous contribution to the UJA Campaign will make it possible for Jewish Social Services to provide a lifeline to many of these families through its kosher food bank and crisis cash relief program. There are other stories that can be told about the dozens of Hamilton Jewish families who are unable to afford their child's Jewish education. At this moment – out of a combined day school

Your generous contribution will make it possible for Jewish Social Services to provide a lifeline to many of these families...

enrolment of more than 210 children, almost half are paying less than full tuition. Last summer 25 per cent of Camp Kadimah campers required subsidies in order to participate.

Part of Federation's strategic direction this year includes the initiation of a community planning and priorities task force, whose job it will be to present an evaluation of how we are currently conducting Jewish communal business, how dollars are being used and what needs are still not being met. As part of the process leadership from across our community will be asked for input and direction. The task force's major focus will be to ensure that the services and programs offered through our beneficiary agencies are those that are most likely to ensure this community's future. Its purpose encompasses our commitment that our donors see the return on their investment in our community. Our partner agencies make every dollar count. So this year – when you are approached personally, by phone, or in any other manner, we ask you to be exceedingly generous. We know that our \$1.2 million campaign goal is not sufficient to meet the legitimate needs that we know about. So when you are asked this year to consider your contribution, I am asking you to find all the reasons to make a responsible contribution. A caring community is one that accepts the responsibility for looking after its most vulnerable. In becoming that caring community, we're also ensuring our future sustainability. Please remember that we are not asking for a gift – but the fulfillment of our core values:

- 1) Kol Yisrael arevim zeh b'zeh – Each of us is responsible for one another.
- 2) Tzedkah – not the pursuit of charity, but of justice and responsibility.
- 3) G'milat Chassadim – commitment to pursue acts of compassion and loving kindness for our families, our neighbours, our community and our world.

These are the values that – should we live up to them – will result in the creation of a community that fulfills our aspirations for those who came before us, for those who will follow and for ourselves. We can only do that if we successfully address our responsibilities now and in the future, both here, in Israel and around the world.

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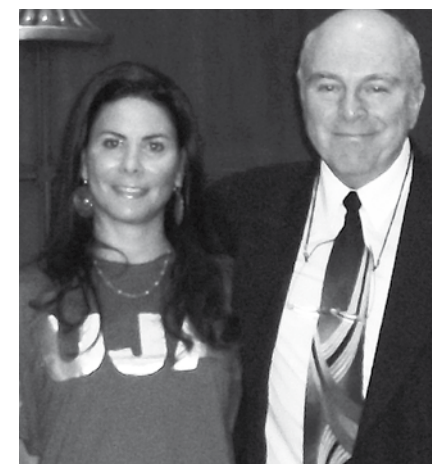
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UJA Campaign chair, Jay State recently announced that Danna Horwood will chair UJA's Major Donors Division. "Danna has a full understanding of just how essential the Campaign is to our community. This is an extremely important task that she is undertaking and we are very fortunate that she has volunteered to fulfill this important role."

Are you living the dream?

If you think you're living your dream the Hamilton Jewish News wants to hear about it.

In the February 2012 issue the HJN will feature stories of people in our community who are living their dreams. Please email the editor at w Schneider@jewishhamilton.org with your "living the dream" story.

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COMING UP

MID-WINTER ISSUE

- Deadline for booking ad space Dec. 21, 2011
- Deadline for receiving editorial copy Jan. 10, 2012
- Deadline for receiving ad copy Jan. 18, 2012
- Estimated date of arrival Feb. 6, 2012

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PUBLISHER
Hamilton Jewish News Inc.

EDITOR
Wendy Schneider
w Schneider@jewishhamilton.org

TELEPHONE
905-628-0058

FAX
905-627-7099

UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON

PRESIDENT
Larry Szpirglas

PAST PRESIDENT
Dr. Larry Levin

UJA CAMPAIGN CHAIR
Jay State

VP FINANCIAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
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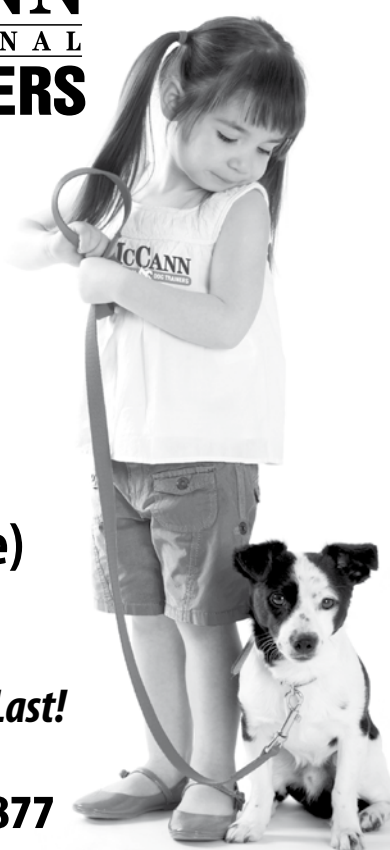
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Who's responsible?

They are seniors, children, the unemployed and the working poor. They are the one in six members of Hamilton's Jewish community who live in poverty. We can turn our backs on our community's most vulnerable population or we can choose to take responsibility for their well-being. Below are two stories that are composites of Jewish Social Services clientele. Read and decide. What will you choose?

Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

When hope is lost ... a lifeline

Vera, a shy woman of the age of 70 came to Jewish Social Services (JSS) for the first time one year ago. Vera's daughter, who lives in Toronto, had sponsored Vera and her husband's immigration from the Former Soviet Union five years ago. Being a sponsor means taking on complete financial responsibility for the family member for 10 years. Vera and her husband lived in subsidized housing in Hamilton and managed to get by on the little their daughter, also struggling financially, was able to provide. Despite their circumstances, they were grateful to be in Canada. Then tragedy struck. Vera's husband died suddenly and her daughter's husband lost his job. JSS was able to help Vera with food from our kosher food bank and rent money. With this help, Vera is able to get the help she needs to pay her rent and put food on her table.

Vera is now a regular at Jewish Social Services, where she participates in its daily workshop and ESL classes, enjoys a nourishing brunch and the camaraderie of other immigrants from the FSU.

Recently Vera received the good news that she is eligible for financial help from the Conference for Material Claims against Germany, an organization that arranges for victims of the Holocaust to receive compensation. Being among the thousands of Soviet Jews who were displaced following Germany's invasion of Kiev during the Second World War qualified Vera for compensation. As a result she will receive monthly gift cards from Walmart, as well as help with her rent and money to buy dentures.

To Vera, Hamilton Jewish Social Services is her extended family. The agency has always been there to provide support, friendship and basic necessities. Her gratitude is overwhelming.



Breaking the cycle of despair

Susan arrived at Jewish Social Services' doorstep 12 years ago with no money and no place to live. A single mother with a four-year-old son, Susan moved to Hamilton to escape Toronto's drug scene and an abusive boyfriend. The first thing we were able to do for Susan was immediately get her on Mothers Allowance (provincial help) and help find her an apartment in the city's east end. We arranged for furniture and delivery and food from the kosher food bank. When Susan expressed a wish that her son receive a Jewish education, we arranged a meeting with one of our local Jewish day school, which opened its doors to her despite her inability to pay tuition. Susan had difficulty finding a job due to her Attention Deficit Disorder, a condition that prevented her from getting the education she needed to develop a marketable skill. JSS referred her to local employment agencies, where job counsellors recommended that Susan apply for a disability pension until she became more employable. This has been a mixed blessing. While people on disability are allowed to supplement their income without penalty, this is not the case with those receiving stipends from Ontario Works.

Over the years JSS has helped Susan organize her son's Bar Mitzvah, reunite with her family and relocate closer to the Jewish community. Her son, now a high school student, has a learning disability and JSS has provided a tutor for him. Susan still needs help from JSS to make ends meet. There have been many occasions, for instance, when her hydro is in danger of being shut off, and when this occurs, JSS contacts the agency in charge of getting emergency hydro help. We have also arranged for family counselling that Susan and her son attend regularly.

Life continues to be a struggle for this family. However, we are making significant inroads to ensure that Susan's son will be able to go on to post secondary education and become emotionally and financially independent. With JSS's help this family is breaking the cycle of poverty.

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Professor Emeritus Irwin Feuerstein of McMaster University will lead this exploration of Spain's Jewish Heritage, with in-depth visits to Granada, Seville, Gibraltar, Cordoba, Toledo, and Madrid; Visits to fascinating historical sites, where much of the High Holiday liturgy actually originated, will be complemented by lectures on Sephardic history, culture and great personalities such as Solomon ibn Gabriol, Jehudah Halevi and Maimonides.

Tour cost, based on double occupancy, including airfare from Toronto: \$3,495. Land only: \$2,995 - Single room supplement: \$685. Contact Irwin Feuerstein at feuerst@mcmaster.ca or call 905-528-9308.

Who pays?



Almost 15% of students in our day schools are receiving special education. Who is responsible for covering these additional costs? The schools? The parents? Private donors? Below, Jewish day school administrators weigh in on the issue.

No funding for special education

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

Should parents of special needs children have to cover the extra costs of educating their child? In an ideal world the answer should be a resounding "no." Unfortunately, however, our community's annual UJA Campaign does not raise enough to fund this essential service. As a result both Jewish day schools are struggling to absorb the cost of providing extra help to special needs students or, in some cases, being forced to pass along those costs to parents.

The task of ensuring that UJA dollars are distributed equitably to Federation's beneficiary agencies falls on the collective shoulders of the Hamilton Jewish Federation Allocations Committee. And while Jewish schools do receive a substantial allocation, those funds do not cover costs associated with special education.

"Everybody on the committee knows that the requests are legitimate, said executive director, Gerry Fisher. "But they just don't have the resources to do it."

Years ago, special needs education was hardly on the radar of Jewish education. According to Hamilton Hebrew Academy (HHA) Head of School, Rabbi Elliot Feldman, Jewish schools have been "late to the bandwagon" because of the expense involved.

"In a previous life students who didn't do well in the regular curriculum were deemed to be discipline issues, but in most of the cases these were not discipline issues at all but learning challenges." Thankfully, times have changed and today, both the HHA and Kehila offer programs for children with special needs.

"Special needs ranges from the student who needs a full time educational assistant to the learning disabled student that's integrated into classroom programs," said Kehila principal Leia Ger.

The costs for running such programs are high. At Kehila these include an initial assessment process, "because every student needs to be educationally evaluated before an individual program plan is designed," as well as costs relating to the development of programs, training classroom teachers and

covering salaries.

"At this point all those costs are passed on to parents," said Ger. According to Ger, the average parent of a child with a learning disability is paying an extra \$7,000 a year to have someone work with their child on an individual program plan. The costs are even higher for students who need a full-time educational assistant. "That's a huge burden on the parent, who's already paying private school tuition," said Ger.

The HHA has had great success with its in-house special needs resource centre, but finding funds to pay highly specialized staff to work with students is still a challenge, according to vice-principal and special education expert Mary Martha Starkman. "We're fortunate that we have a beautiful resource room, and materials," she said, "but we need to be able to pay for teachers to work with students and utilize those materials. That's where the big need is."

Both schools have found creative ways to tap into existing educational resources from within the general community. Students trained in special education from McMaster University's Health Science Program volunteer with HHA students once a week. Kehila receives some funding from the City of Hamilton's Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) for speech and occupational therapy for students with more serious needs. But for children with moderate to mild disabilities there is no funding, said Ger.

Despite the financial challenges, at both Kehila and the HHA, compassion is the name of the game and giving up is not an option.

"When you address children's learning needs," said Starkman, "you put them into a place of confidence and success and transform their entire learning experience."

"Learning disabilities is not something that only families with means have to deal with," said Ger, "and we need to find some way to service every family."

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July 8 - July 22

July 15 - July 29

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Who cares?

Former Burlington resident, Judi Price-Rosen, now living in Winnipeg, thought she was going to Cuba to help her fellow Jews in need. Little did she realize that she was to get far more than she gave.

Story and photo by JUDI PRICE-ROSEN, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

In January 2009 and 2010, I traveled to Havana, Cuba, as a participant in six-day tikkun olam (social action) missions that would ultimately reshape my Jewish identity. The missions were organized by United Israel Appeal Federations Canada.

Because of the American embargo, we were asked to pack an extra duffel bag full of products for basic hygiene – over the counter medications, diapers, birth control, toothbrushes, soap, makeup, as well as school supplies – for donation to the Cuban Jewish community. Together, our Winnipeg delegation contributed more than 150 pounds of goods. And to my relief, we breezed through customs without incident.

Upon our arrival we received a

group of young adults from Guantanamo (a 14-hour car ride away), and young Cuban leaders.

On a hilltop overlooking the city, the general landscape of the cemetery grounds was spectacular. But the cemetery was in disrepair after decades of neglect. Everywhere, we found overgrown weeds, cracked grave-stones, names covered over with moss.

Our Winnipeg delegation of six led the charge. Under the heat of the blazing Cuban sun, we showed the rest of the group how to wash and carefully apply paint to engraved letters on headstones.

Noticing a grave in need of extra care, I set to work cleaning the headstone. It appeared to be bare, but as my fingers rubbed

bedroom – that had no working lights and only a threadbare blanket on the bed. She showed us her kitchen, with its stained pots, yellowed dishes and kitchen sink faucets that had succumbed to rust long ago. There was no air conditioning, nor even a fan to counter the almost oppressive Cuban heat and humidity, and the plaster on the walls was cracked and peeling.

But Shirley was oblivious to all of this. She was grateful to have a home in this country without a real estate market. She was grateful to be alive and in relatively good health. Shirley's cup was full. And I suddenly felt ashamed for all the times that I had complained to my husband that the upstairs of my house just wasn't cool enough, despite the air conditioning. Ashamed for all of us who take for granted the freedoms we enjoy in a democratic North American society. Above all else, ashamed that I had made assumptions about her happiness based on my first impressions.

We then travelled across town to an area with garbage and debris strewn everywhere and vacant lots overgrown with weeds. We were told that we would be visiting with an elderly woman and her brother. Both widowed, they had been living together in the same apartment for the past 10 years.

We were greeted at the door by a distraught woman. Our translator explained that her brother had been rushed to the hospital that morning and she was unable to accompany him, because of her frail health. Her apartment was a fraction of the size of Shirley's and smelled strongly of urine. She had no furnishings, except twin beds located in the entranceway.

One of the Cubans in our group translated that she was saying she felt all alone. Without a moment of hesitation the words came out of my mouth:

"We are your family and you are not alone. Everything will be ok." I threw my arms around her neck with the same zeal that Shirley had hugged me. Without realizing it at the time, I was paying it forward.

On the ride back to our hotel, it hit me. All the people of Israel



An elderly Jewish man sits on the steps outside the Patronado synagogue before Kabbalat Shabbat services. Photo courtesy of Judi Price-Rosen

are responsible for one another. Shirley, her daughter and this elderly woman were members of my Jewish family and I had a responsibility for their well-being, just as I would my husband, my son, my father and mother.

Canadian Jewry has done much to support the Jewish community of Cuba. Every year, the Canadian Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (formerly the Canadian Jewish Congress) sends a Passover shipment to Cuba so that every family can have matzah, gefilte fish and other kosher food for the holidays. The food in the shipments often lasts well past the holiday.

But it is through the generosity of United Jewish Appeal donors, that one can see the real regeneration of this community taking shape. The Cuban Jewish community cannot afford to hire an ordained rabbi, and so the Joint Distribution Committee, an overseas beneficiary of the UJA, flies one in from Chile a few times a year to perform mass conversions.

Few realize that the UJA funds one third of the cost of each Taglit-Israel birthright experience. Literally dozens of young Cubans have traveled to Israel, joining young Canadians on these trips over the past few years. When they return home from this life-changing 10-day experience, they aren't looked upon as the future leaders of the Cuban Jewish community. By necessity, they immediately become the leaders of the community. The survival of Cuban Jewry rests squarely on their shoulders.

Judi Price-Rosen, originally from Burlington, is the associate director of donor development at the

They do.

Two Dundas high school students whose view of the world and their role in it, were changed dramatically by way of the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies program.

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

The myth of the "me generation" just got busted. For those who thought today's youth are only interested in acquiring the latest high-tech gadget, Rochelle Zalter and Jasmin Goldstein, Grade 12 students at Highland Secondary School, are living proof that the young still have much to teach the old when it comes to living by their ideals.

It all began three years ago when the girls, then Grade 9 students, participated in the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies program, a ground-breaking national initiative that has brought thousands of Canadian students of all faiths and cultural backgrounds to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. The experience, which included an 18-hour educational component prior to the trip to Washington had a profound impact on both of them.

"I don't think I would be who I am today if it wasn't for Asper," said Zalter. "It made me aware of so many things that happened in the past and that are happening today." "Everything I do traces back to Asper because it opened my mind and made me realize that I really wanted to get more involved," said Goldstein.

On returning from their trip the students joined HAVEN, their school's social action club. Last spring, they were elected co-presidents by their peers, a role that entitles them



Rochelle Zalter and Jasmin Goldstein co-chair their school's social justice club. Photo courtesy of Jasmin Goldstein

to choose which charities will benefit from the club's fundraising efforts. Their choices reflect their personal passions: A fundraiser they called the "barefoot walkathon" for a girls boarding school in Kenya came about as a result of their separate experiences volunteering in Africa.

The decision to dedicate funds, raised at a teacher/student basketball game to juvenile arthritis, came about as a way of supporting a member of their club who has the disease.

Local participation in the Asper program is funded, in part, by UJA dollars. Can you think of any better reason than the example of these two idealistic young women that investing in our youth is a good idea?

We do too.

Each of us has the power to make a difference in the lives of the elderly and the hungry, the poor and suffering, the lost and the displaced. Please keep our community strong by living generously. Call 905-648-0605, ext. 306 and make your pledge today to the 2012 UJA Campaign.

This painting could be yours!



Thanks to the artistry and generosity to local artist Maya Eventov, pictured above, donors to this year's UJA Campaign who make their pledge before Dec. 27 are eligible to win this beautiful painting, valued at \$5,000. To make your pledge call 905-648-0605, ext 306 or donate online at www.jewishhamilton.org.

JudiPrice-Rosen

warm welcome from the Jewish community. Our first stop was the Patronato Synagogue, which is more like a community centre than a typical shul. The heart of the Jewish community, the Patronato includes a library, work-out facility, computer lab, classroom and multipurpose room. Our welcome was highlighted by beautiful choreographed dances set to a unique blend of Spanish and Israeli styles, complete with Cuban, Canadian and Israeli flags. There was an energy and spirit in the air by this group of young performers that was simply electrifying. We would later learn that these teens and young adults were taking on roles in their community that went far beyond dancing.

We wasted no time rolling up our sleeves and beginning our first tikkun olam project the next day – the refurbishment of the only Jewish cemetery in Cuba,

the dirt off the grave marker, I felt the shape of Hebrew letters. And so I scrubbed, etching away the debris, uncovering the words: Sara Raifer, born 1864, died Dec. 24, 1949. I wondered if Sara could ever have imagined that a young Jewish woman from Winnipeg would someday be honouring her memory in this way.

Another project involved the delivery of food and essential goods to the most vulnerable individuals in the Jewish community. We arrived at a tired and worn shadow of a residence that had no doubt been an architectural wonder in its day, with beautifully ornate balconies and window frames. As we walked up the five narrow flights of stairs we were greeted by Shirley, a woman of 60 who lived with her developmentally-delayed adult daughter. Beaming with pride, Shirley showed us her daughter's

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Hamiltonians in Israel

Continuing our series on Hamiltonians who have made aliyah, the following is an excerpt from a lively discussion by a group of former Hamiltonians who gathered at the home of Susan Fisch (née Yaffe) in Beit Shemesh, one evening last summer.

Story and photos by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News



Pictured above, left to right, David Fisch, Harold Rapp, Matanel Fisch, Marci Rapp, Susan (Yaffe) Fisch, Shayna (Eisenstein) Duker, Yvette (Sternberg) Shumacher, Beth (Eisenberg) Cohen, Renee Moskovitz and Murray (Moshe) Moskovitz.

In what way did growing up in Hamilton help plant the seeds for your future aliyah?

Yvette: Hamilton was a really small and close-knit community and your Judaism wasn't taken for granted ... It was more of a conscious decision.

Shayna: After I spent a year studying in Israel after high school, I had this quandary about whether to stay in Israel for college or go back to the States or Canada. I was thinking, 'Do I want to go to Toronto? Do I want to go to New York?' And all of a sudden it was either Hamilton or Israel ... because while New York or Toronto had nice big Jewish communities, there was something missing. There was something about the warmth of Hamilton's Jewish community that made me realize it's either there or here.

What did you feel was missing in your life in Canada and did you find it when you came here?

Harold: I remember having a conversation with one of my former bosses as I was being promoted. I was shomer Shabbat (observant of the laws relating to Shabbat) and I left early on Fridays and took all chagim (holidays) off. One time my boss came over to me and said, "You know the company has tolerated your ... taking time off but at some point in your career you're going to have to make a choice if you have intentions of going up the career ladder." That really struck a chord with me, and while it didn't make me feel I had to move, once I moved to Israel I realized that everywhere you were it was Jewish and it's such a wonderful and warm feeling.

Yvette: I think it's a retroactive kind of answer. Once you're here you realize that Jewish life just makes more sense here. The pomegranates ripen around Rosh Hashana. We have an etrog tree in our backyard and we get etrogs for Sukkot and in the supermarket you'll see dried fruit for Tu B'Shvat. You can live as a Jew here. And then I also feel you live a more real life. There are real concerns – a lot of them – and it can be stressful living here at times, but I think that there's a lot less external fluff.

Susan: When it comes to living a Jewish life in Israel, it doesn't really matter if you're religious or not. You can be the most secular person and you're still going to know when Chanukah is. Everybody's going to rush home for Rosh Hashana because they have to get ready. It doesn't matter if you're going to buy bread – you're going to clean your house for Pesach.

Shayna: There's also a flip side. Although it's very easy to be religious and Jewish here, when you grow up religious in Hamilton, it has to be your own thing. You're not just doing it because everyone else is doing it. You understand why you're doing it. It has more meaning. You feel like you've earned it. So that's perhaps a challenge of living in Hamilton that I definitely liked. As I get older when I meet someone from Hamilton there's a very strong connection. You understand each other. There's something that our kids are not getting automatically – that understanding, the knowing that people are not exactly like you. There's the "Why I'm doing this." Why you might look just like all of your friends but you're different and doing this for a reason. Growing up in

Hamilton you really get that privilege to be able to have a deep understanding of what you're doing and why you're doing it. And also coming to Israel, which has such a wide range of Jews living here, you have an appreciation for everybody because you grew up in Hamilton with so many different types of Jews.

What's it like for you to have children serving in the IDF?

Beth: When I think about sitting on the outside and looking at Israeli parents who send their kids to the army it's much more frightening and daunting. When you're here and your child grows up here and he becomes 18, 19, or 20 – whatever maslu (track) he decides to do – he's ready. He can't imagine doing anything else. This is what he's been raised to do and he helps you through his army experience. It was probably the most important part of our klita (absorption process). And it happened 15 years after we moved here ... We don't feel sorry for ourselves that our sons go to the army.

Harold: All of our sons made aliyah while they were in the army. We were living in Toronto through most of their tenure in the army. Our middle son just signed up for five years of miluim (the reserves). None of my boys have to do miluim but each one feels that that's part of his responsibility of living in Israel... When you think about army service in Canada there's no comparison whatsoever with serving in the Israeli army. You understand that the welfare and security of Jewish lives is at stake. So you look at it much differently.

What are pluses of raising children in Israel?

Susan: The independence. There are only 80,000 people living here in Beit Shemesh. It's not a metropolis. If your kid gets locked out when they're little there's always going to be a neighbour who will take them in. When we lived in Toronto we had no idea who our next door neighbour was.

Yvette: In North America high school kids after graduation are thinking about what they're going to do or about their career and it's a totally different mindset. Here, kids know there's this thing that's bigger than you that you serve and you give three years of your life and it's a big deal. And then maybe you travel. And then you start university. I have a son who's 24 and he just started his first year of university. So it's a very different kind of thing.

Renee: At 18 you're ready to lay down your life. Your life has purpose. Your life has meaning.

Is it scary to live here? Do you feel that Israel's existence is under threat?

Susan: I've been here for a few wars already. I remember my mother saying to me once that maybe I should come back to Canada. And I said why? This is where I live. If a bomb's going to fall, a bomb is going to fall and I'm going to go where everybody else is going to go and I'm going to put on my gas mask or I'm going to go in my shelter and this is where my life is. I feel that my life has a purpose.

Harold: There are security issues here, but look at the flip side – that 10 and 11 year old kids are on the bus going from city to city on their own and kids from Toronto or Hamilton can't walk from their home to school on their own or can't go out in the dark. What's better? There's no easy answer.

Susan: The issue is that if there's trouble we're where we're supposed to be. We're not looking at it from the outside. We're participating. I also think maybe we're all a little bit crazy. But we all know to be a realist in Israel is absolutely to depend on miracles. It's like trying to explain to somebody why you fell in love with someone and they just don't see it.

Do you feel like you need to travel to get a little bit of a break?

Beth: As much as I love to visit family. There is nothing like the sigh of relief when that plane lands ... I feel a certain anemia when I go back to Canada because there's a lack of depth. Everything is very civilized and works and you just chug along and it's all so easy, but there's an anemia there. There's no anemia here.

Yvette: When we first made aliyah we used to go back a lot and it was really hard. I think when you do it too soon after it's hard because it feels like you're making aliyah all over again. And we would leave my parents behind. I think the longer you're here the more you feel anchored here so it's nice to go

visit. Where I live, in Ma'ale Adumim, it's very stark so last June, which was the first time I'd been back in Canada in five years I was just drinking in the green, the grass. But the flip side is sometimes you think all they have to worry about is the environment and the recycling ... that was the biggest issue.

Renee: Anything good is worth suffering a little bit for. You know if you have a good marriage it's because you worked on it and it's had its ups and downs and raising children and being pregnant and delivering them it's not all good and happy. But everything good in your life is something you've worked for.

Shayna: I just went back to Hamilton for the first time in six years since I left the country. I saw classmates and teachers I hadn't seen for 15 years. There was this electricity in the air. A certain warmth. It brought me to tears. I can't explain it, the warmth and connection.

Beth: I really credit your (Shayna's) parents (Rabbi and the late Esther Eisenstein) with our aliyah. I think that your parents sent a lot of people on their way. Hamilton was a springboard for making aliyah. I think it was the foundation, whether it was Zionism or Judaism or Jewish identity or feeling as an important, separate group, a family. I think in that sense Hamilton was a springboard to coming to the bigger family.

Need to know ...

Rabbi Steven and Beth Cohen made aliyah in 1994. They live in Beit Shemesh, a community just outside Jerusalem located off the Tel-Aviv - Jerusalem highway. Beth is a psychologist in private practice. Steven is the head of the English department at a local high school. They have four children, ages 21, 19, 16 and 11.

Shayna (Eisenstein) and Yehoshua Duker made aliyah in October, 1997. They live in Ramot Beit Shemesh. Shayna is currently a homemaker and Yehoshua teaches in a yeshiva. They have six children, ages 13, 11, 10, 8, 5 and 2.

Susan (Yaffe) Fisch made aliyah in 1981. In Israel she met her husband, David Fisch, an oleh from Brazil. They live in Beit Shemesh. Susan is the chief technologist in MRI at Hadassah Medical Center. David works in the head office of Bank Mizrahi Tefahot, in the finance department. They have one son, age 13.

Murray and Rene Moskovitz made aliyah in August, 1991. They live in Beit Shemesh. Murray ran his own business in Israel for 17 years. Rene is the manager in a high tech firm. They have seven children, ages 31, 28, 25, 21, 19, 17 and 15, three of whom were born in Israel, and seven grandchildren.

Marci and Harold Rapp made aliyah in July, 2008. They live in Katamon, a neighbourhood in Jerusalem. They are the manufacturers of MarSea Modest swimwear. They have four children, ages 26, 24, 22 and 16, all of whom live in Israel. They have two Israeli-born grandchildren.

Yvette (Sternberg) Shumacher and Marvin Shumacher made aliyah in August, 1993. They live in Ma'ale Adumim, a bedroom community outside of Jerusalem. Yvette works as a translator and editor at the Israel Council on Foreign Relations. Marvin is the export sales manager for an aluminum extrusion company called Extal. They have five children, ages 24, 22, 20, 16 and 12, two of whom were born in Israel.

Profile

CHERYL GAL (TRAVIS) KIBBUTZ HA'OGEN



Cheryl Gal with her son Eyal

Home: Kibbutz Ha'Ogen, in the Sharon Plain

Occupation: Educator and former vice-principal of regional elementary school. Cheryl currently works part-time tutoring in remedial education and as an educational consultant.

Family: Married to Uri Gal, a global human resource manager for the Israeli company Nilit. They have four sons, Matan, 32, Eyal, 29, Adam, 25 and Yanai, 20 and two grandchildren, Agam and Eitan, both two years old.

Seeds of her aliyah: "My parents were very pro Israel (although they were not thrilled about her making aliyah)... Growing up in the Sunday school at Temple Anshe Sholom, Israel was always in the background as being a very important value." Israel was a main focus of the curriculum during the year that Cheryl taught at the Temple's religious school. "Now that I think about it, it may have planted a seed that I have to get to Israel to visit."

Aliyah story: "Financially I could never come to Israel on a summer visit because my parents couldn't afford it at the time. So I made it one of my goals to take a year off of university and visit Israel. I picked Kibbutz Ha'Ogen out of a catalogue at the Jewish Agency office in Toronto and signed up for an ulpan. I met my husband, Uri, while on the ulpan program and we fell in love. Kibbutz life suited me and I had no problem when he told me that whoever he marries will have to know that they'd be making their life

on Kibbutz Ha'Ogen. I returned home for my brother's Bar Mitzvah, decided to go back to Israel and then finished my education here. I made aliyah in 1975, at the age of 21."

On raising children in Israel: "Matan and Eyal were brought up sleeping in the kibbutz children's house, Matan until Grade 4 and Eyal until he was five. Then came a revolution to have the children sleep at home. I headed the committee that worked through the transition process on our kibbutz. Adam and Yanai were brought up sleeping at home from birth."

Greatest challenge: "To keep being optimistic – It's a very stressful way of life, especially having four sons going through the army. It demands not thinking about the stressful issues but focusing on the positive aspects, going forward and knowing that everything's going to be okay."

Greatest joy: "Living in Israel is very meaningful. You're a substantial part of the country and whatever happens to anyone is as if it happens to you. It's like one big family."

Greatest hope: "First of all that there will be peace and all the issues with our enemies would be behind us, enabling us to live without fear. The second is that there will be more social justice with solutions for people who are in need of financial assistance, with the cost of living being more reasonable."

Shuls, Schools & Organizations

TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

RABBI JORDAN COHEN

On Oct. 22, Temple Anshe Sholom introduced a new program of Shabbat observance for Saturday mornings. Shabbat Shelanu — a Shabbat for Us All — is a modular approach to Shabbat learning and worship that we hope will give all of our members, of all ages, a chance to join with the Anshe Sholom community and participate in Shabbat activities in a joyful and meaningful way.

There are now two worship options available on Shabbat morning. With the installation of our beautiful new ark in the Temple Library, designed and crafted by Laura Wolfson with the involvement of many of the members of our community, weekly Shabbat morning services will be held there beginning at 9 a.m. The Library Minyan will be a substantially lay-led, traditional style service, with a full Torah service and an engaging D'var Torah. This will be an informal type of service, yet with a traditional flavour and a mature spirituality. At the same time an exciting all new Shabbat morning family service will be held in the chapel. Religious school students and teachers will meet in the chapel at the beginning of the morning to kick off their day together, and parents, family members and others are especially encouraged to come in and join their children for this wonderful celebration of Shabbat.

After services, when our religious school students make their way to their classes, we have a variety of options for adults to continue their rest and learning. Torah study will be available in the library, as well as Body and Soul sessions for relaxation and meditation. These sessions will include, at different times of the

year, such activities as yoga, tai chi and meditation. During this time we will also be introducing Auntie Sugar's Shabbes Café, featuring hot and cold drinks and home baked noshes to keep everyone going throughout the morning, and to provide a quiet space to sit and chat with a friend or read.

Our popular Torah Tunes program, our special Shabbat service for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers, kids in JK through grade 2, and their parents and grandparents, will be returning at 11:30 a.m. to give young families a little extra time to get going on Shabbat morning. This later time will also allow our Torah Tunes families to join with our Religious School families and all other participants in our expanded Community Kiddish at 12:15 p.m., which will bring all generations together for a wonderful and joyful Kiddish to end our Shabbat morning together.

The great Hebrew poet Hayyim Nahman Bialik once confided to a friend that, while he did not himself maintain some of the traditional prohibitions related to Shabbat, he was, nonetheless, devoted to instilling in the public an appreciation of Jewish values and heritage, in which the Sabbath played a pivotal role. "The Jewish people," he wrote, "will never give up the Sabbath, which is not only the keystone of Israel's existence but of human existence. Without the Sabbath, there would be no godliness and no semblance of humanity in the world."

Let Shabbat play a pivotal role in your life. It is one of the greatest gifts you can give to yourself and your family. Join us for Shabbat Shelanu — a Shabbat for us all.

BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE



Beth Jacob Hebrew School students enjoy a program at Toronto's National Film Board.

Photo by Jason Zeizer

It's not always easy, and it's never cheap, to get from Hamilton to Jerusalem. While we can't change that, the addition of Jerusalem-themed stained glass windows to the still-new Richter Chapel at Beth Jacob Synagogue can help us feel closer to ir kodshenu, our holy city.

The eight stunning panels, designed by Toronto-based Israeli artist Valery Rotenberg, depict a lovely vision of Jerusalem amidst the hills of Israel. The windows, dedicated in memory of Elmer Farkas z"l by his family, along with the Jerusalem stone that surrounds the prayer space, makes a true sanctuary: instead of a view of Hamilton, we now look out onto Jerusalem.

Inside and outside the chapel, a constant hum of activity at Beth Jacob continues. This winter, in addition to the fabulous MaccaMusical coming up at

the Dec. 21 Chanukah dinner, children can participate in Hebrew education each Wednesday, and participatory Shabbat programming on Saturday mornings.

Adult education is anchored by the Melton Adult mini-school on Wednesday nights, in cooperation with Anshe Sholom and Adas Israel. Thursday nights will have Talmud class and Sunday mornings will host guest speakers in our Soul, Body, and Mind series, as well as a special series of classes called Walking With Mitzvot.

Hold the dates March 3 - 4 for our Israeli Film Festival and photography contest. To enter send one or two low resolution photographs of an Israeli scene depicting nature to bethjacobisraelifestival@gmail.com. For more information about any of these programs call 905-522-1351.

ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

Over the past few years United Shabbat has been a growing phenomenon at the Adas Israel. Attracting hundreds of participants each month, the themed Shabbat experiences are followed by a festive complimentary luncheon prepared by volunteers.

This year, as the Adas commemorates its centennial, United Shabbat is celebrating a century of Jewish values by honouring individuals and agencies that have significantly impacted the Hamilton Jewish community. On Nov. 26, United Shabbat honoured Jewish Social Services (JSS) and Beth Tikvah as part of

a "Care" initiative. Since 1929, JSS has responded to the needs of the Jewish community by combatting poverty, servicing newcomers, and assisting in various crisis situations. JSS also hosts variety of programs, services and workshops. Beth Tikvah provides 24-hour-a-day supervised environment for adults with developmental disabilities and offers essential services to both residents and non-residents.

On Dec. 17 we will honour Shalom Village as part of our theme of Respect. For a full listings of dates, themes and organizations please visit www.adasisrael.ca

CHABAD HAMILTON

A new person walks into Shul, someone unknown to the community. Will he fit in with the crowd? Does she dress in a similar fashion the others? Can he read the Siddur in Hebrew? Does she truly feel at home among this group of new friends?

There is a place in Hamilton where every Jew is family; where everyone is made to feel welcome. This place is the Chabad House, located just across the street from McMaster University. Each Friday night the Chabad House is filled with students of all stripes and colours and every day Café Chabad provides them with a place to grab a hot bowl of kosher soup, great company and Torah

study. This haven for every Jewish student exists because of the tireless effort put in by its founders, Rabbi Zalman Itkin, OBM, and his wife Fajgi. Rabbi Itkin was the embodiment of unconditional love for every Jew no matter what label they attached to themselves. Sadly, five years ago Rabbi Itkin returned his soul to its Maker. To mark this special yahrtzeit we will be celebrating the legacy of Rabbi Itkin which lives on through his children. Please join us on Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at LIUNA Station for Sounds of Love: An Evening of Contemporary Jewish Music — a celebration and tribute of 32 years of Ahavat Yisrael. More details can be found on page 13.

Shuls, Schools & Organizations

HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY



Veterans and family members celebrate the dedication of the new Jewish Veterans Memorial at the HHA.

Photo courtesy of the HHA

This past Remembrance Day, in the presence of over 200 attendees, the Hamilton Hebrew Academy (HHA) and Hamilton Jewish Middle School (HJMS) honoured the sacrifice and dedication of our community's Jewish war veterans and fallen soldiers who fought in the Second World War by dedicating a veterans' garden and memorial wall etched with their names.

Canadian Jewish soldiers battled not only for freedom and liberty, but also for Jewish survival. The school's goal in establishing this memorial garden is to establish a site where our community and pay homage to the sacrifice of Jewish Hamiltonians and countless Jewish Canadians, whose dedication helped defeat the Nazis.

KEHILA

JODIE WAXMAN

I live in a wonderful Conservative Jewish home with my husband and three children. I converted to Judaism in 2001, and although the conversion process was both intensive and informative, Jewish life does not come naturally to me. Having our children grow up in a Jewish home and community is very important to me.

Choosing Kehila Jewish Community Day School for our children came very easily. I could tell you that the curriculum was the most important reason we chose Kehila — its language arts, math, music and arts programs, opportunities for Tikkun Olam and Tzedaka, along with the small class sizes and intimate atmosphere were all factors in our sending our children there. Furthermore, choosing a

day school over a supplementary Hebrew school allowed our family more time for extra curricular activities. The main reason why our family chose Kehila, however, was because of its incredible teachers.

Judaism is a way of life at Kehila. The highly qualified and experienced teaching staff, whose backgrounds range from South African and Israeli to native Hamiltonian, make the integration of secular and Jewish studies natural and learning easy. The teachers truly care about our children's education and are excited to accompany them on their Jewish journeys towards becoming active members of our Jewish community. Our children respect and love their teachers, and for them, Judaism, community and learning comes naturally.

HAMILTON JEWISH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students at the Hamilton Jewish Middle School have engaged in a process to elect student leaders. In a manner similar to the method used for government elections, students presented nomination papers, created posters and delivered campaign-style speeches in front of their peers to present their platforms.

The Student Council has divided into committees to take the lead in school programs. Among those planned are a student-staff competition during Chanukah and a pre-Passover tournament. They will also be part of the school's plans to advance the annual theme which for this year is 'Respect'.

The theme includes respect for self and family, property, the elderly and those in need. Students and staff are divided into groups, each responsible to align themselves

with a community agency. The agencies represented are the Hamilton Jewish Federation, Shalom Village, Jewish National Fund, Jewish Community Centre, Jewish Social Services and the Hamilton Jewish News.

In explaining the value of student government, Rabbi Eliot Feldman, Head of School amplified the concept by saying that this is part of the process used by the school to create responsible people by encouraging thoughtful and positive choices in decision-making. Students are expected to arrive at conclusions that are safe, appropriate, ethical and moral. The Jewish values that are part of the curriculum serve to inform their judgments and provide a solid basis for forming their character as productive members of society. Mazel Tov to the elected members of our student council.

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

BRENDA RISHEA

There are often-overlooked sources that may be of help when one is searching out one's roots. There are landsmanschaften societies around the world that tell of cities and cemeteries where families can find loved ones who passed on. Yizkor books can be found at Jewish libraries. Yad Vashem has a database of Shoah victims' names online at www.yadvashem.org/the Israel Genealogical Society at www.isragen.org.il. A great book written by Arlene Beare is available called Jewish Ancestors: A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Latvia and Estonia.

If you had ancestors living in Britain in

1851, the 1851 Anglo-Jewry database is available on-line at www.jsgsb.org.

For a large inventory of Jewish record holdings from Belarus, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine visit www.rtrfoundation.org.

If you don't have a computer or don't know how to use it to do these searches, please give us a call. We are the Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton and Area, and everyone is welcome. Please contact Hazel Boon, President, at 905-524-3345 or browse our web site at www.jgsh.org.

MAGEN DAVID ADOM

HILDA ROSEN

By donating to Magen David Adom (MDA) you perform the greatest mitzvah of all — saving a life. Your donation, whether great or small is the way to show that you really care.

Magen David Adom (MDA) maintains more than 100 first aid stations throughout Israel, which are on constant alert 365 days a year. MDA supplies more than 95 per cent of all blood and blood by-products to all of Israel's hospitals. MDA's supplies are constantly being depleted and must be replenished immediately. Israel can't survive without MDA and MDA can't survive without you.

Please take a few minutes to make a donation to CMDA by mailing a cheque to Hilda C. Rosen, 27 Haddon Ave. S. Hamilton L8S 1X5 905-529-4824. Cards and certificates are also available. Thank you and may we all be blessed with good fortune and good health in the new year.

NA'AMAT HAMILTON

WENDY SCHNEIDER

Have you ever wondered where you can go in this city to have stimulating conversations about Israel, enjoy the camaraderie of extraordinary women and support Israel in a meaningful way? If so, you need look no further than Na'amat Hamilton. We are a group of women who have in common a deep love and commitment to Israel and our monthly meetings provide opportunities to engage in earnest discussion about what's going on in Israel and in Jewish life here in Canada.

Na'amat Hamilton is best known for our major annual fundraiser — the Celebrity Author Luncheon. This year, our luncheon will take place on Monday, May 14, featuring author, Miriam Toews, author of A Complicated Kindness.

Please come out for a meeting and find out what we're all about. For more information call our membership chair, Yael Greenberg Livingston at 905-524-2687.

Living it Up at the JCC



The JCC is delighted to announce the installation of its new co-presidents, Lowell Richter (pictured right) and Ed Zaltz. Immediate past-president Joel Feldman handed over the reins of leadership at the organization's AGM on Nov. 13. Included in the new slate are JCC vice-presidents Racheli Kirat and Ronit Mesterman. The JCC also announces that Laura Laengerer has been promoted to JCC Coordinator.

Ongoing & Upcoming Programs

"Order Up" Brunches
Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dec. 11; Jan. 15, 22, 29

Games Day
Play Maj, Bridge, Kanasta or Cards
Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

Morris Black Public Speaking Contest
Sunday, Dec. 4 @ 2 p.m.

This annual event brings together children from Grades 3 through 8 from private, public and afternoon schools to learn about Judaism, current events, personal history, and other topics. Contest winners receive trophies and monetary prizes are awarded to first, second and third place winners from each grade.

JCC Chanukah Party - Sunday, Dec. 18, 1 - 3 p.m.
Music Series - Saturday, Jan. 14, 8 p.m.
Youth Games Night for Grades 6 - 8 - Sunday, Jan. 29
Youth Games Night for Grades 3 - 5 - Sunday, Feb. 22

JCC Winter Camp

Dec. 27 - Jan. 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: Members \$20 per day per child; non-members \$25 per day.

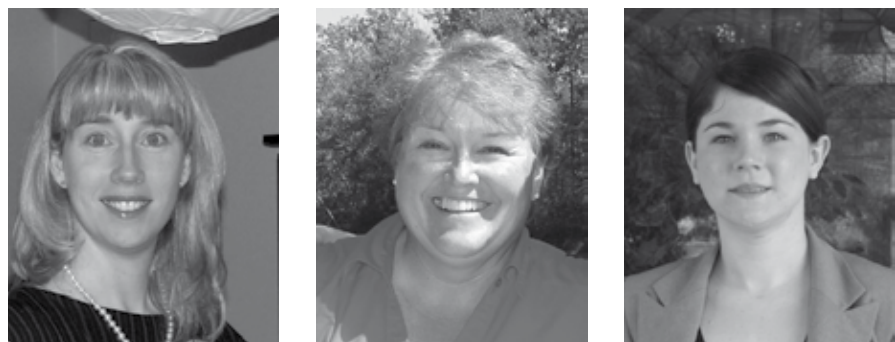
Extended care offered from 8 - 9 a.m. and 4 - 5 p.m. at \$5 per day per family.

(Pre registration is a must) Registration is required no later than Monday, Dec. 19.

Payment is due on registration

Join the JCC today and receive the membership discount.
It's worth the price! Call 905.648.0605.

New faces and old friends at Shalom Village Charitable Foundation



Left to right, Kathleen Thomas, Trish Mongeon and Kate Buchanan are the faces behind the Shalom Village Charitable Foundation

The team that rallies community support for Shalom Village's AT HOME programs has gone through some changes.

Earlier this year executive director Kathleen Thomas was joined by Trish Mongeon as they worked with the board of directors to review the strategic plan for the foundation. Their goal was to meet Shalom Village's fundraising objectives while helping our donors develop and achieve their own philanthropic goals.

As a result of this plan, Mongeon joined the team as Major and Legacy Giving Coach and Kate Buchanan was brought in to provide administrative support and manage Shalom Village's tribute card program.

"We now have a structure that will help us be more responsive to our community," says Thomas, who also notes that the support of the team will allow her to focus on planning projects and managing the

long-term goals of the foundation.

The Shalom Village Charitable Foundation team is located on the fourth floor of Shalom Village Too. They welcome your visits or phone calls at any time.

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
Executive Assistant
905-529-1613 ext. 356
email: kate@shalomvillage.ca

Education at Shalom Village



Registered nurse Adrienne Cunnane is Shalom Village's Clinical Education Coach. In this role Adrienne presents educational events for our staff.

Sessions offered recently included workshops on flu, dementia and pain management.

Cunnane also hosts sessions featuring guest speakers such as Dr. Alan Taniguchi and pharmacist Bob Vukovich, who lent their expertise to the discussion of pain assessment and management in dementia.

Shalom Village team members are known for their commitment to life-long learning, and Cunnane publishes a monthly calendar to let them know about upcoming opportunities.

Our voice at Queen's Park



First stop Shalom Village, next stop Provincial Cabinet!

Ted McMeekin, MPP for Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale, represents Shalom Village in the provincial legislature. He dropped by to chat with Shalom Village residents during the recent election campaign.

McMeekin, seen in the photo above with Shalom Village CEO Jeanette O'Leary, was recently appointed Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs by Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Thank you for supporting the Hannukah Hustle



Muriel Fenwick is one of the Shalom Village residents who rely on The Club Fitness Centre to help them improve their quality of life through active living. Your support of the Hannukah Hustle helps fund The Club for Shalom Village residents as well as members from the community over the age of 70.



Possibility cruise in the harbour



Don and Mary Field

When Mary Field told Brigitte Bonas how much her husband Don enjoyed being on the water in a boat, Brigitte decided to do something about it. Don, who has limited mobility since suffering a stroke, lives at Shalom Village where Brigitte is the executive coach responsible for activities. Brigitte knew of the boat cruises that tour Hamilton harbour from west to east, and she thought that the boat might be able

to accommodate Don's wheelchair. Brigitte went down to the pier with Mary and a few others to measure the boat ramp and meet with the crew.

On Aug. 25 Don's dream was realized when a group of 15 from Shalom Village, including residents, family members and staff, set sail on the *Hamilton Harbour Queen*.

There were 115 people on board that day. "I can honestly say we were the happy section of the boat!" said Brigitte. "Thanks to our team ... and nursing staff who really made it happen. As well as the staff on the boat ... they were great!"

"How many people in the world can say that what they accomplished at work today was to make a dream come true?" added Shalom Village COO Michelle Draper. "I don't know what says AT HOME at Shalom better than this."

Calling all volunteers

Debbie Ginsberg has a job for you!



they believe in, develop new skills and gain experience, or to meet new people, volunteers have one thing in common—they all make a difference in someone's life.

No matter what your reasons for volunteering, Ginsberg has a job for you. She will help you develop a rewarding volunteer role that is built on your strengths and abilities.

As Shalom Village's new coordinator of volunteers, Debbie Ginsberg knows that people volunteer for many reasons. Whether their goal is to support a cause

For more information call Debbie at 905-529-1613 ext. 236 or email debbie@shalomvillage.ca

Shalom Village hosts Neurogym workshop



More than 30 participants from a number of rehabilitation and long term care facilities attended a Neurogym workshop on Oct. 26.

at Shalom Village.

Neurogym Technologies Inc. manufactures a comprehensive line of patented neuro-rehabilitation equipment designed to improve motor control, balance, strength and mobility.

The Club at Shalom Village has successfully used Neurogym machines as part of the rehabilitation programs for our residents with limited mobility.

Thank you

Grateful thanks to the families of **Rosario Bisulca, Harold Rochweg and Martha Caplan** for requesting donations to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers. Memorial donations support the *Possibility Fund* at Shalom Village, making many special programs and services possible for our residents.

Residents First award

Residents First is a quality improvement initiative of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, with training delivered by experts in quality improvement through the Ontario Health Quality Council (OHQC).

Shalom Village was recently presented an award and \$2,500 for successful implementation of Residents First projects in our home. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Donate now for year-end tax break

The Foundation team would like to remind you that year-end is fast approaching. Donations received by Dec. 31 are eligible for a tax deduction in 2011. Donations received after that date will have to wait another year for any tax benefits.



Shalom Village
shalomvillage.ca
70 Macklin Street North
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 3S1
P: 905-529-1613 F: 905-529-7542
E: info@shalomvillage.ca

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Community Events

Photography Exhibition

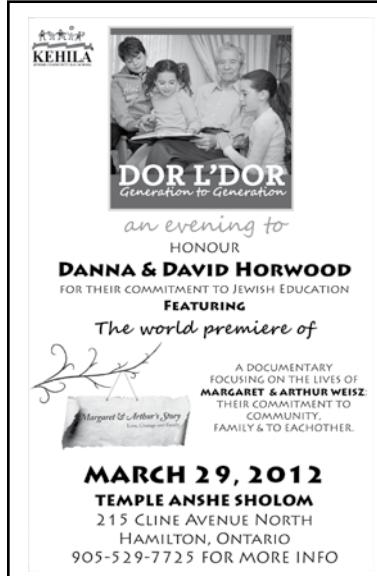
Fine Art Photography Exhibition featuring Life in Israel. Sol Algranti and Paul Roth, both master photographers at the Hamilton Camera Club, invite you view this collection of award winning photographs that capture the spirit and allure of Israel and Middle Eastern culture. Friday, Dec. 9, 7 - 10 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 11, 1 - 4 p.m. at Studio 12, 126 James St. N., Hamilton.

Sounds of Love

Chabad Hamilton invites you to celebrate the legacy of Rabbi Zalman Itkin, z"l on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at LIUNA Station for Sounds of Love: An Evening of Contemporary Jewish Music — a celebration and tribute of 32 years of Ahavat Yisrael, featuring a musical performance by one of the hottest new Jewish bands — 8th Day. To purchase tickets visit www.soundsloved.ca.

Israeli music comes to Canadian television

Often overshadowed by the Middle Eastern conflict, the Israeli music scene has been making a mark on the world stage in the last few years. Muzika is an on-going half hour episodic biography series that explores some of the most unique, interesting, and powerful voices and music being produced in Israel today. Musicians like Noa, David Broza, Hadag Nahash, Asaf Avidan, Idan Reichel, Karolina, Subliminal, Avraham Tal, Yasmin Levy, Izhar Ashdot, Rona Kenan, and many others. Produced and directed by Canadian filmmaker Igal Hecht and co-produced by Israeli filmmaker Lior Cohen, Muzika is a weekly half hour delight that will get you inspired and moving. Muzika airs on Sundays at 9 p.m. and at 10:30 p.m. on CTS Television.



JCC's Hamilton Jewish Film Festival

3 FILMS @3 SHULS — ONE COMMUNITY

The Yankles — Dec. 3 @8 p.m. @the Adas Israel
The story of an upstart, orthodox yeshiva baseball team that earns a ticket to compete in the college world series, coached by Charlie Jones, an ex-major league centrefielder on parole for multiple DUI convictions. While The Yankles strive for success on the field, Charlie works to rebuild his reputation and relationships, and in the process finds redemption.

Le Concert — Dec. 6 @8 p.m. @the Beth Jacob
Thirty years ago, Andrei Simonovich Filipov, the renowned conductor of the Bolshoi orchestra, was fired for hiring Jewish musicians. Now a mere cleaning man at the Bolshoi, he learns by accident that the Châtelet Theater in Paris invites the Bolshoi orchestra to play there. He decides to gather together his former musicians and to perform in Paris in the place of the current Bolshoi orchestra. As a solo violin player to accompany his old Jewish or Gypsy musicians he wants Anne-Marie Jacquet, a young virtuoso. If they all overcome the hardships ahead this very special concert will be a triumph.

Watermarks — Dec. 8 @8 p.m. at Temple Anshe Shalom

The story of the champion women swimmers of the legendary Jewish sports club, Hakoah Vienna, shut down by the Nazis after the Anschluss. The swimmers fled the country before the war broke out thanks to an escape operation organized by Hakoah's coaches. Sixty-five years later, director Yaron Zilberman meets the members of the women's swim team in their homes around the world, and arranges for them to have a reunion and one last swim in their old swimming pool in Vienna. Their journey evokes memories of youth and strengthens lifelong bonds. Told by the swimmers, now in their eighties, Watermarks is about a group of young girls, seven outstanding athletes, with a passion to be the best, and their incredible journey against all odds.

Cost: \$15 per film or \$35 for a festival pass
Call Laura Laengerer at the JCC to order your tickets at 905-648-0605 ext 308.

B'nai Brith Sports Dinner



Toronto Maple Leaf star forward Colby Armstrong with NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar at the 2011 dinner.

Jeff Paikin is psyched for the annual B'nai Brith Sports Dinner, which will take place on **Monday, Jan. 30, 2012**. Paikin knows a good formula when he sees it and said that long-time attendees will be thrilled to know that Jim Ralph is returning as "our wildly popular emcee." This year's special guests include four-time Stanley

Cup champion with the New York Islanders, Billy Smith and popular Canadian Mixed Martial Arts star, Mark Hominick. The annual dinner honours Hamilton's male and female high school athletes of the year and is always well attended.

"We expect 1,100 people. It's a very proud night for our community because it's the largest annual fund raising dinner in Hamilton," said Paikin.

The Sports dinner that began 61 years ago in the basement of the Adas Israel has brought a litany of "incredible sports heroes that have come through town," including Jackie Robinson, who broke the colour barrier in major league baseball and Jesse Owens, famous for being

snubbed by Adolph Hitler in the 1936 Olympics.

Funds raised from this year's dinner will go towards the JCC, B'nai Brith Canada, the John Howard Society and the Eva Rothwell Centre.

"The Eva Rothwell Centre is helping eradicate poverty in the second worst neighbourhood in the country," said Paikin, adding "This is an opportunity for our community to be front and centre in helping turn around an entire neighbourhood."

Tickets for the B'nai Brith Sports Dinner are \$135 and can be purchased by calling Laura Boone at 905-777-0000. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a reception, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Dragonboating in Israel



We are the Meshuggena Warriors - Jewish Hamilton's very own dragonboat team - and we want the community to know what we are up to! Each Monday night at Bayfront Park, our Lively Dragons coaches Ramsay and Jackie train us and put us through our paces on Lake Ontario. It's an excellent workout and we generally come home tired, sore, and happy. We still have room for more paddlers, for when we go to the **Dragonboat Israel Festival** on Lake Kinneret next May. You don't have to be Jewish to be on the team, and no prior dragonboating experience is required. (There will be team training in Israel the day before the Festival starts).

Tours packages are arranged through Marlin Travel and range from 3-star to 5-star, from 3 days to 10 days, allowing for flexibility and plenty of options for participants.

We are also looking for sponsors and pledges to support our team's fundraising efforts, so please say YES when we call you! We'll be raising funds for Youth Futures, an Israeli organization serving youth at risk, and the Shechafim School, which serves handicapped children in Israel. Please contact Julie Dembe jdembe@primus.ca or Laura Wolfson lth@cogeco.ca.



Shabbat 1000 will be held on Friday, December 2, 2011. The objective is to host a Friday night dinner in Hamilton for 1,000 people. If you ask how we can possibly host a dinner for so many people, the answer is simple: We're doing it at your house!

Invite your friends, and enable the beauty and energy of Shabbat to permeate all corners of our neighbourhoods. Reach out to your community and create the Shabbat spirit! To register visit www.shabbat1000.ca.



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Stars align at Holocaust Education Week

ELAINE LEVINE

The Hamilton Jewish Federation Holocaust Education Committee delivered three outstanding, innovative and unique programs this year that were both educational and commemorative. The programs were extremely well received and furthered our goal of educating the greater Hamilton community about the Holocaust in the hope that the lessons of the past will prevent antisemitism, prejudice and racism today.

Our opening program on Nov. 3 celebrated McMaster University's acquisition of the USC (University of Southern California) Shoah Testimonies, at an event that featured a keynote address by Branko Lustig, Academy Award-winning producer of Schindler's List and one of the founders of the USC Shoah Foundation. Lustig captivated the audience with stories about his miraculous survival from the Holocaust and his post-war adventures. Other speakers included McMaster President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Patrick Deane, post-doctoral fellow Noah Shenker, the consul general of Croatia, Hamilton Mayor Bob Bratina and Larry Szpirglas, president of Hamilton Jewish Federation.

Committee co-chair, Madeleine Levy was thrilled by the acquisition. "The impact of nearly 52,000 videotaped testimonies being accessible through McMaster and the Virtual Museum of the Holocaust, supported by our gift, will be a remarkably rich research and teaching tool for students, faculty and the wider community," she said.

Our second event was a Kristallnacht commemoration on Nov. 9 that featured the film Irena Sendler - In the Name of Their Mothers and an address by award-winning director Mary Skinner. The event attracted more than 300 guests, many from diverse backgrounds, and brought a new partnership with several Polish organizations. Students from the Hamilton Hebrew Academy recited a moving poem, evocative artwork on Kristallnacht from students at Kehila was on display, and the Polish consulate brought greetings. The previous day, Skinner had an opportunity to speak with more than 300 students at two area Catholic schools as part of our outreach to schools.

"It is especially important to tell the stories of courage and altruism expressed by gentiles towards Jewish victims of the Holocaust, in most cases risking their lives and their families to save a complete stranger," said committee co-chair Nadia Rosa.

Our closing program was our Teachers Symposium, an annual event for Grades 5 through 12 teachers from both the public and Catholic boards of education. This year's event, held on Nov. 10 at Sir Allan MacNab Secondary School, featured world-renowned Holocaust educator Kay Andrews, the national outreach coordinator of the University of London's Holocaust Education Development Program.

Grace Centritto, an educator from Bishop Tonno was impressed. "It has been said that history is written by the victors. However, Kay Andrews' session at the Teachers' Symposium turned this adage on its



PICTURED ABOVE, l to r, Ari Zev, director of administration of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education, Madeleine Levy, Branko Lustig, McMaster President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Patrick Deane and Noah Shenker, postdoctoral fellow, McMaster University Virtual Museum of the Holocaust and Resistance. Photo by Wendy Schneider



Mary Skinner (right) with Irena Sendler in Warsaw in 2004 during the filming of Irena Sendler - In the Name of Their Mothers. Photo courtesy of Mary Skinner

head. Utilizing literature, visual history testimony and artifacts, Kay showed teachers how personal story can make the magnitude of the tragedy of the Holocaust something to which our students can better relate and therefore more deeply understand. Her methods are the key to effective Holocaust education," she said.

The Holocaust Education Committee thanks our funders, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Hamilton Spectator and the Aaron and Joyce Rifkind family. We also wish to acknowledge the hard work of our co-chairs Madeleine Levy and Nadia Rosa, and committee members Anne Barrs, Anita Bernstein, Lois Freeman, Leia Ger-Rogers, Lanie Goldberg, Suzanne Goldflus, Kathryn Junger, Bev Lasky, Monte Levy, Dennis Nash, Geraldine Katz-Rose, Ira Rosen, Judy Schwartz, Baya Vertes and Sharon Woolfson.

The Hamilton chapter wishes all our Donors, Families and Friends a Warm and Festive Chag Ha'Chanukah

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



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FEDERATION IN THE COMMUNITY

The Hamilton Jewish Federation was well-represented at these important community events

Remembrance Day



Federation board members Ron Richter (above left), Lorne Finkelstein (above right) and Federation president Larry Szpirglas (pictured right) participated in community Remembrance Day commemorations on Nov. 11.

Hamilton Police Services Chief's Gala



Hamilton Chief of Police Glenn De Caire hosted a fundraiser for Crime Stoppers and Project Concern last September. Among the attendees were several members of the Jewish community. Pictured above, l to r are Ron Richter, Lorne Finkelstein, Jay Rosenblatt, Cindy Mark, Chief De Caire, Larry Levin, Janet Asa, UJA Federation president, Larry Szpirglas, Gerry Fisher and Yves Apel.

Photo special to the Hamilton Jewish News

SPECIAL MENT'SCHEN

Larry Paikin inducted into Gallery of Distinction

Congratulations to Larry Paikin, who joins his wife Marnie as an inductee into the Hamilton Gallery of Distinction. Honoured for dedicating "his time, energy and leadership to improving the community

and supporting the arts", Paikin, who has presided over Ennis-Paikin Steel Limited for almost 40 years, has served on the boards of dozens of local organizations, including the Hamilton All-Star Jazz Band,

couples who have both received the honour since the gallery was founded in 1984 to recognize Hamiltonians who have made contributions towards bettering the community.

community centre on the former site of the Robert Land Public School that won him special recognition.

During an email exchange with the HJN, Paikin, with characteristic enthusiasm and humility, only wanted to talk about the Centre.

"Your readers should know that the Rochweg family was one of the principal funders that made the purchase of the school possible," he wrote.

The Paikins are among only a few couples who have both received the honour since the gallery was founded in 1984 to recognize Hamiltonians who have made contributions towards bettering the community.



Photo by Roy Timm

Caissie Levy weds




The HJN congratulates Dr. Mark and Lisa Levy on the recent marriage of their daughter, Caissie to David Reiser, son of Dr. Robert and Mrs. Linda Reiser of Tallahassee, Florida. The wedding took place at The Soho Beach House in Miami Beach on October 30, 2011. Levy, who enjoyed excellent reviews when she played Sheila in the Broadway revival of Hair, is currently starring as Molly in Ghost, The Musical at London's Piccadilly Theatre, in a role she created.

Amiram Gafni wins World Bank recognition



Photo courtesy of Amiram Gafni

Congratulations to McMaster University researcher Amiram Gafni for having been ranked as one of Canada's best health economists by the World Bank. Gafni and his colleagues Stephen Birch and the late Bernie O'Brien were the only Canadians listed among the world's top 100 health economists.



Na'amat Canada

Amir and his family won't be celebrating the miracle of Chanukah this year. His father lost his job, leaving the family of five to rely on his mother's hourly wage.

The generosity of donors helps provide quality care and proper nourishment for Amir and the more than 18,000 other underprivileged children at Na'amat's 260 daycare centres throughout Israel.

Please help brighten a child's Chanukah and life through a donation to Na'amat Canada.

Wishing you a Happy Chanukah.

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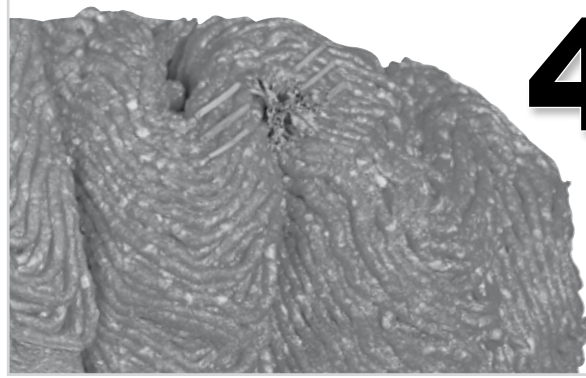


Happy Chanukah

celebrate and save



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6.59/kg
fresh Kosher
whole chicken



4⁹⁹lb
11.00/kg
save \$150lb
Lean ground beef
fresh Kosher



5⁹⁹
200 g
save \$3
Strub's salmon
gravlox, steelhead
or sockeye



3⁹⁹
290/
300 g
save \$150
Zoglo's meatless
cutlets, wieners,
patties, kebabs or
mini loaves
selected varieties, frozen



save \$2
4⁹⁹
925 g
Baldwin St. Kosher soups
or chillies
selected varieties



save .50
1⁹⁹
567 g
Montreal Kosher
challah bread
selected varieties, unbaked, frozen



save \$2
2⁹⁹
272 g
Manischewitz
Tam Tams crackers
selected varieties



save \$340
2⁹⁹
750 mL
Kedem sparkling juice
selected varieties



save .20
1³⁹
200 g
Manamim
chocolate flavoured
wafer cubes



save \$150
2⁹⁹
301 g
Golden pancakes
selected varieties, frozen



save .50
1⁴⁹
398 mL
Mehoudar
hearts of palm



save \$130
1⁹⁹
120 g
Paskesz ultra
thin rice cakes



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