

Hamilton Jewish News

SERVING HAMILTON WENTWORTH & AREA

DECEMBER 2000 VOL 15:2

KISLEV 5761

Happy Chanukah!



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!jna

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Many community members yet to pledge to UJA Campaign 2001

UJA FEDERATION LOOKING AFTER OUR COMMUNITY'S

BY PATRICIA TOLKIN EPEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Like the Energizer Bunny, a donation to the United Jewish Appeal goes on working, day in and day out. It is a donation which ensures that there are agencies and programs in place, ready to respond to existing and emerging needs.

The outbreak of hostilities in Israel is a very good case in point. Pulled into action was the local UJA Federation office (funded through your UJA dollar) which has been monitoring the Hamilton scene and which organized the solidarity rally; the Canada Israel Committee (funded through your UJA dollar) which has been pushing Israel's agenda with the Canadian government; the Canadian Jewish Congress (funded through your UJA dollar) which has been looking after the welfare of Canadian Jewry as a whole, and monitoring anti-Jewish activity; McMaster Jewish Students Association (funded through your UJA dollar) which has been responding on campus and which last week held a Crisis In The Middle East forum; The Jewish Agency (funded through your UJA



These children from the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, which is supported through the United Jewish Appeal, are the

Photo by Emerik Elkan

dollar) which continues to bring olim to Israel in the tens of thousands, Ethiopian, Ukrainian, Siberian, Argentinian Jews. And in the midst of this time, UJA Federation in partnership with Birthright Canada is funding free trips to Israel for community students.

All the while as we watch events unfold in Israel, your UJA dollar

keeps on going in Hamilton to ensure a large range of Jewish services, including the education of your children and grandchildren in the community's Jewish schools. We have also settled families in Hamilton - from Moldova and Brazil just recently. We continue to provide relief payments to the Jewish needy, and ... well the list is long, but our

Community shows support for Israel

BY
WENDY SCHNEIDER

Over 300 community members gathered at Beth Jacob Synagogue in mid-October as a demonstration of their support for Israel during a time of crisis and uncertainty. The rally, which was organized by UJA Federation of Hamilton and the Canada Israel Committee, was one of several similar demonstrations of support held throughout the month in communities across North America. Speakers included Lawrence Hart and Rochelle Winter of B'nai Brith Canada, Rob Ritter from the Canada Israel Committee who traveled from Ottawa for the

occasion and the community's three congregational rabbis.

Lawrence Hart, national president of B'nai Brith Canada, opened the evening with an impassioned address, declaring that "all labels were left at the door" and that "as a people we are unified in absolute solidarity with the people of the State of Israel".

Accusing Arafat of wilfully placing Palestinian children on the frontlines in order to garner world sympathy in the wake of its shifting in favour of Israel following the breakdown of talks at Camp David, he asked what more Israel needed to do, after unprecedented concessions

by Ehud Barak, and withdrawing from Lebanon. He also expressed outrage at the Canadian government's support of the UN resolution condemning Israel during the conflict's first weeks, calling Canada's vote a "a slap in the face to the Canadian Jewish community". Hart's most biting remarks, however, were directed at the Hamilton Spectator, which he accused of consistently demonstrating an anti-Israel bias.

Rob Ritter, executive director of the Canada Israel Committee, Israel's voice in Ottawa, was the next to speak. During the first weeks of the crisis, he told the audience, he had

WE'RE CUTTING CHEQUES!

The UJA Federation is delighted to announce the cutting of a cheque for \$18,000 which will be forwarded to the Joint Distribution Committee for the relief of hunger in the Jewish communities of the FSU. As a result of first hand eye witness accounts brought back by Hamilton participants on two recent missions to Kiev, Ukraine, a number of fundraising ventures were established, including Walk to Kiev Walkathons. One cheque of \$12,000 was brought to Kiev in November 1999, and now a second cheque will be sent - enough to buy over 6000 meals! Thank you. You have seen the despair first hand. The UJA Federation, which is in the job of saving Jewish lives, has responded. (We are now planning for a late spring Mission to Kiev, please call Paul and Susan Roth for information 628 0777). And next year, the UJA Federation will once again cut cheques to students participating on Israel Experience programmes. Last month, Friends of the late Ralph Travis once again held a successful Evening At The Races, which generated approximately \$12,000. These funds will be held in the Legacy Endowment Fund of the UJA Federation, interest of which will provide scholarships for

been "consumed with fear" about what the current conflict represents for the future and at the tone of Palestinian demonstrations across Canada, where teenagers and their parents shriek 'Death to the Jews'.

Ritter said that the battle that Israel faces has two fronts, a local one on the ground and a global, propoganda war in which Canadian Jews should all feel conscripted. "We have a story to tell of duplicity, cowardice and a charade of concessions offered to Palestinians by four successive Israeli governments", he stated and must not allow the Canadian government to be swayed by distorted images of reality.

Editorial

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Federation Executive Director



Patricia Tolkin Eppel

After seven and a half years Patricia Tolkin Eppel is stepping down from her position as executive director of the UJA Federation of Hamilton.

During her tenure, Patricia believes that she has elevated UJA Federation's position in the community, both in Hamilton and on the national arena, and is pleased with the establishment of many of new and exciting initiatives.

In addition to strengthening the UJA campaign, the establishment of the Legacy Endowment Fund, Israel Experience Scholarships, Young Adult Leadership projects, enhanced Holocaust Education programmes, the Midrasha High School, the Kosher Food Bank, Kiev Hunger projects have taken place under her watch.

Patricia credits the success of the past seven years to a partnership between the outstanding staff in the UJA Federation and ancillary offices, and the organization's extremely dedicated and committed cadre of volunteers. (Patricia will be making a more extensive address at the next AGM on January 11, which will be published in the next issue of the HJN.)

Patricia will be joining

UJA/FEDERATION OF HAMILTON

PRESIDENT
Harvey Waxman

PAST PRESIDENT
Cheryl Greenbaum

UJA CHAIRS
Howard Katz, Shelley Waxman,
Naomi Eisenberg

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
UJA CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR
Patricia Tolkin Eppel

AIR MILES IF YOU HAVE THEM AND YOU'RE NOT USING THEM


WE CAN!
THE UJA
FEDERATION will
provide tax
receipts for
donated AIR
MILES. AIR MILES
will be used for
leadership
development
conferences for our
agency and are
many sister
agencies, Jewish
Social Services
McMaster Jewish



THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON

will take place
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11
AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE
Reception 7:00 pm Proceedings 7:45 pm
• presentation of committee reports
• presentation of year end audited statement
• presentation of awards

Community members wishing to view the statements prior to the AGM call the UJA Federation for pick up. Nominations for the 2001 board must be submitted in writing to Cheryl



UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON NEEDS A VISIONARY LEADER FOR OUR HAMILTON JEWISH COMMUNITY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The ideal candidate enjoys meeting and working with others, raising funds for United Jewish Appeal and developing plans and programmes to enhance our community life.

This position requires solid experience and demonstrated skill at fundraising, the ability to follow through and complete tasks, excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to forge and maintain long-term, positive relations with community members. Computer literacy and superior language skills are also required for this position.

Our small, dedicated staff of paid professionals will be supervised by the successful candidate. We also have a large group of volunteers, with whom the successful candidate will work closely. This position reports to the volunteer Board of Trustees of the Federation.

If you are well-organized, committed to Jewish communal life and education, and have a solid understanding of local and international Jewish issues, this position will be of interest to you.

The successful candidate will be expected to live in the Hamilton area, and travel from time to time. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Please send your resume by mail, including references, to: Chair, Search Committee, UJA Federation of Hamilton, P. O. Box 7258 1030 Lower Lions Club Road Ancaster, Ontario L9G 3N6. The closing date for applications for the position is December 31, 2000.

UJA FEDERATION TRIBUTE CARDS

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Thoughtful cards for any occasion sent the same day

648-0605 EXT. 306

JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES & THE KOSHER FOOD BANK

In Memory Of

ANNA CONSTAM – Rose Cohen & Phil, Carol & Lester Krames. IWRIN BERGMAN – Dolly & Ralph Cohen, Myrna & Gordon Goldberg. JACK SHAPIRO – Sam & Anna Taylor. Brother of SHANA SIEGEL – Sam & Anna Taylor. FAYE ENNIS – Rose Cohen & Phil. DELORES SIMON – Rose Cohen & Phil, Sam & Odette Brownstone, Rabbi & Mrs. Israel Silverman, Shirley & Al Yaffe, Dolly & Ralph Cohen, Chuck & Bea Matchen, Bella & Henry Muller, Michael Feldman, Lanie & Joel Goldberg and family, Gail & Robert Fuller. WILFRED PAIKIN – Phil & Daphne Leon
Father of LESLIE SELEVAN – Rose Cohen & Phil. JULIE PAPERINICK – Brenda & Sol Sandberg and family. ROSE KREMER – Judy & Daniel Berk & family.
Speedy Recovery
REVA GEROFISKY – Ida Shuman. ANNE SCHOENBERG – JSS Chai Choir. JOSEPH JACOBS – Dolly & Ralph Cohen, Carol & Lester Krames, Rabbi Aaron & Leslie Selevan. DAVID FELDMAN – Carol & Lester Krames. HAROLD SUTIN – Sam & Anna Taylor, Dolly & Ralph Cohen. BARRY SPIEGEL – Dolly & Ralph Cohen. CLAIRE MANDEL – Sam & Anna Taylor. SHELDON FRANK – Sam & Anna Taylor. SYLVIA LIVINGSTON – Dolly & Ralph Cohen.

Special Occasions

RABBI & MRS. MORTON GREEN – birth of granddaughter – Michael & Adalia Schweritzer. PHIL & ANDREA ZIANS – birth of daughter – Michael & Adalia Schweritzer, Rose Cohen & Phil. MICHAEL MENCZER – 50th birthday – Pat, Stan, Sara & Matthew Dermer. SHERMAN FAMILY – engagement of Hilary to Marc Rotenberg - Pat, Stan, Sara & Matthew Dermer. CAROL & LESTER KRAMES – birth of granddaughter – Rose Cohen & Phil. HELEN YELLIN – new home – Joyce & Irving Dain. HELEN HAMLIN – honour of Joanna's Bat Mitzvah – Sam & Ahuva Soifer. SHERYL & STAN KATZ – Rachel's engagement – Brenda & Sol Sandberg and family. MOURA &

RALPH TRAVIS ISRAEL EXPERIENCE FUND

In Memory Of

JACK MARGOLIS – Corinne Travis, Bunny Morris. WALTER GLASS – Corinne Travis, Gladys Dubo. Sister of FRANCIS RUBIN – Corinne Travis, Bunny Morris. HELEN NEWMAN – Corinne Travis. Granddaughter of MAGDA GUZNER – Corinne Travis.

Special Occasions

FRAN & LLOYD ORSON - birth of grandson, Jonah – Corinne Travis. DAVID RABB – very special birthday – Corinne Travis. BARBARA & HARRY LASKIN – 50th Wedding Anniversary – Phil & Daphne Leon, Corinne Travis. MR. & MRS. BRIAN CARON – birth of son – Corinne Travis. MR. & MRS. LARRY HEKELMAN – birth of grandchild – Corinne Travis. SHIRLEY POLSKY – birth of grandson – Corinne Travis. JOANNE BERNSTEIN – Special Birthday – Bonnie & Bob Otto. KIM & JON ABRAMS - new home – Corinne Travis. SHELLEY WAXMAN, ROCHELLE WAXMAN – being honoured by State of Israel Bonds – Bonnie & Bob Otto. DAVID & ANNE

TEEF EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

Special Occasion

DR. HOWARD BERNSTEIN - Opening of new school - Flora & Allen Rams. MURRAY HALPREN - Special Birthday - Allen & Flora Rams

ALLEN RAMS - Honour from State of Israel Bonds - Cele & David Steinberg. JOE & CHERYL GREENBAUM - Marriage of son - Allen & Flora Rams. MARVIN & JUDY CAPLAN - Mazel Tov on your re-election - Allen & Flora Rams.

Acknowledgements

SUSAN & PAUL ROTH, HILTON & SHIRLEY SILBERG, HEATHER RITTER, DEBBIE STRUB - Thank you for all your hard work - Allen & Flora Rams. NANCY SOMER, BRIAN & JOE - Thank you - Allen Rams. GEORGE CZUTRIN, LEN

THE BRONFMAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIPS IN ISRAEL

26 outstanding Jewish teenagers from the United States and Canada, entering their twelfth grade of school in the fall of 2001, will be chosen for a serious program of study, dialogue and travel in Israel this summer.

We are seeking the most promising young people in the North American Jewish community, coming from a wide variety of Jewish backgrounds. The objective of this program is to foster a sense of community among a diverse group of potential Jewish leaders.

All expenses will be covered for this five-week program, beginning July 2nd - roundtrip transportation, room and board, and travel in Israel. Selection will be based not on need but on merit alone. For a descriptive brochure and application,

UJA Federation

THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL - CHANGING PEOPLE'S LIVES AT JSS & Jewish Social Services adapts to changing needs of

BY
WENDY SCHNEIDER

This is the first of a series of profiles on community agencies funded through the United Jewish Appeal Campaign. The HJN spoke with Carol Krames, director of Jewish Social Services (JSS), to find out about the agency's mandate and the impact it has on its client base.

Jewish Social Services is essentially a crisis agency, Krames explained. It is often called upon to respond to crises such as paying emergency gas or hydro bills, dealing with both physical and mental abuse, and credit counseling. Its Kosher Food Bank services 30 families on a regular basis, and up to 50 during holiday periods.

While Jewish Social Service receives funding



A seniors' program sponsored by Jewish Social Services

from the government and the United Way for its seniors' programs and counseling services, the majority of its funding comes from the annual UJA campaign. And although the

Kosher Food Bank, receives regular support from the synagogues and schools, there is still a constant need for both food and funds.

Krames first came to work at JSS 25 years ago, when the agency was preoccupied with settling hundreds of families flooding into Hamilton from the Former Soviet Union. During that period the JSS helped settle

350 families, 137 families of which remained in the area.

The flood from the FSU has now slowed to a trickle, due to stricter Canadian immigration laws and over the past ten years JSS has shifted its focus to servicing the Jewish poor.

Krames says there's a misconception within the community that there are no Jewish poor, due to their relative invisibility, but the community's poor, she says, has many faces. There are those who have lost their jobs either through cutbacks or through companies going under. For the fortunate who are able to find other work, chances are that the salary will be very low. Trying to keep up your image in the Jewish community under these circumstances is very difficult. Schools and synagogues try to do what they can with discretion, but free tuition and membership don't solve the problem of children who don't have the clothes, Krames said. This is

compounded by the fact that when poverty strikes it brings about other problems, including poor health, giving families a whole host of other problems to deal with.

The JSS also services clients with physical and mental disabilities, who must get by on a pension of \$980.00 a month, most of which is eaten up by rent. Then there are the single or two parent families, who are forced to make a decision every month as to whether to pay the rent or feed the children. There are the elderly who struggle to get by on their monthly pension cheques and finally, on the bottom of the scale, there are the elderly from the FSU who have no access to government funding.

JSS also assists a growing number of transients, who have wrestled with drug addiction or been in trouble with the law and have come to Hamilton to make a new start. Some stay long enough to scrape together some funding before moving on

Student finds a home at Jewish Students

BOTH ARTICLES WRITTEN BY
BRANDON DE SILVA

I have spent 16 years at Solel, my synagogue in Mississauga. The experiences and strong leadership training I gained throughout my years at Solel gave me a very firm sense of who I was as a young Jew, secure in my family and supported by my community. Being president of my synagogue's youth group, and having spent a special summer in Israel left me with fabulous memories and taught me that I'm a strong individual,

secure in my Jewish identity and, like the Jewish people before me, able to overcome obstacles and meet challenges.

One of my first stops when coming to McMaster university was to the Jewish Students Association, where I became the first year representative. I have set big goals for myself, and knowing where my people have been and how far things have come gives me the strength, determination and security I need to accomplish these goals.

When I left the security of my Jewish surroundings to come to McMaster, I was worried that I would lose my sense of community, but upon arrival I saw that McMaster had their own Jewish community. It put me at ease to know that my school supports my beliefs and encourages me by allowing the JSA to have their own room - a place where we can organize McMaster-wide events that allow the JSA to inform students of important topics such as the Holocaust, and

JSA provides Holocaust Education for McMaster

The Holocaust was the systematic annihilation of six million Jews by the Nazi regime during World War II. Although Jews were the primary victims, hundreds of thousands of Gypsies and at least 250,000 mentally or physically disabled persons were also victims of Nazi genocide. More than three million Soviet prisoners of war were killed because of their nationality. Poles and Slavs were targeted for slave labour, and, as a result, almost two million perished. Homosexuals

and others deemed anti-social were also persecuted and murdered. In addition, thousands of political and religious non-conformists such as communists, socialists, trade unionists and Jehovah's Witnesses were persecuted and many of these individuals died as a result of mistreatment.

The Jewish Students Association of McMaster University organized numerous events during Holocaust Week from October 30 to November 3 to increase awareness throughout our multi-cultural and diverse

campus. On Monday night the JSA hosted a discussion with Dr. Louis Greenspan, McMaster professor of Religious Studies, on why we must remember the Holocaust. This was followed by the story of a survivor, Anna Lalli, who told of the heart-wrenching and horrible experiences she went through during World War II. On Tuesday the JSA hosted a vigil outside Gilmour Hall. In remembrance, volunteers from the JSA read out some of the names of people of all ages that were killed in the Holocaust. There was also a lot of information given out for all who were interested. Thursday, a movie entitled "You Are Free" was shown depicting the experiences of American liberators and their interactions with survivors. Dr. Bill Shaffir, professor of sociology, followed this up with a



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the YAD PAGE



By popular demand... GENESIS Leadership Program

Due to widespread community interest, Genesis, UJA Federation's Leadership Development Program is now open to all community members, regardless of age. An orientation meeting held in October generated a great deal of interest and enthusiasm.

The objective of the Genesis Leadership Program is to foster the next generation of community leaders through an intensive 18 month course. Genesis will take a three-pronged approach towards meeting its objective. The first will be through the study of the theory and practice of non profit organizations in 4 sessions led by Dr. Agnes Meinhard, associate professor and director of the Centre for Voluntary Sector Studies at Ryerson Polytechnic University.

In the second stream of sessions led by Lorry Schneider, an executive and personal life coach, participants will hone their communication skills and discover how their personal visions can be expressed through community service. The third stream will focus on broadening the scope of participants' Jewish knowledge. Sessions will be offered approximately every four to six weeks.

Genesis' first formal session was held on Thursday, December 7. Call Lila Strub at 628-4390 for more information.

THE ROAD TO LEADERSHIP I

The Road to Leadership I is a series of five sessions led by Dr. Agnes Meinhard, associate professor and director of the Centre for Voluntary Sector Studies at Ryerson Polytechnic University. In the course of 5 sessions, participants will explore how volunteers in the nonprofit and voluntary sector can deal more effectively with the issues facing their organizations.

Below is a list of the five sessions:

- Session I: NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS & THEIR ENVIRONMENT
- Session II: ORGANIZATIONAL BOARDS: THEIR STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION.
- Session III: DEVELOPING ORGANIZATIONAL VISION IN THE MIDST OF ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE: HOW TO BALANCE FORCES FOR CHANGE WITH FORCES FOR STABILITY

- Session IV: HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE LEADER: MANAGING, RECRUITING & RETAINING VOLUNTEERS, PREVENTING BURNOUT.

- Session V: MARKETING YOUR ORGANIZATION

THE ROAD TO LEADERSHIP II: DEVELOPING AND COMMUNICATING A PERSONAL VISION

The Road to Leadership II is a series of three sessions led by Lorry Schneider, a certified executive and personal life coach. Lorry has extensive experience as a facilitator of management development workshops. In addition to coaching he currently leads a series of workshops developed by the Coaches Training Institute of San Rafael, California.

The three sessions of The Road to Leadership II are entitled:

- Discovering What Fulfills You
- Creating Balance in Your Life
- Finding Your Personal Vision

THE ROAD TO LEADERSHIP III: BECOMING JEWISH LEADERS

Becoming a Jewish leader means increasing our knowledge of Jewish issues. The following sessions are among others that will be offered:

- Middle East Update by Professor Louis Greenspan, McMaster University
- Issues in Canadian Jewry by Professor Harold Troper of OISE, Toronto.
- Jewish Pluralism: A Plea for Tolerance: A panel discussion
- What constitutes leading a committed Jewish Life: An open discussion

CERTIFICATION:

Genesis participants will receive a certificate based on their attending 3/4 of the sessions.

COST:

The cost of Genesis is \$150.00 with UJA Federation subsidizing the remaining costs.



Hold the Date!!!

Friday, March 30
Sunday, April 1, 2001
for

Connect@ Ottawa

UJA Federations Canada 4th Canadian National
Young Leadership Conference
at the Chateau Laurier
Ottawa, Ontario

Join a growing Hamilton delegation for three days of enrichment, music, learning, sharing, inspiration, fun and excitement with hundreds of young Jews from across Canada

\$350.00 including food, and **single occupancy, program materials**

An invitation to.... Connect@ Ottawa

"Connect @ Ottawa", the 4th Canadian National Young Leadership conference, promises to be an exciting, educational and fulfilling weekend. (see ad, below) March 30th to April 1st, 2001 will be three days busy with dynamic speakers, interactive workshops and a lot of interesting new people to meet. Young adults from across the country will be meeting to share an exceptional experience in personal growth, enrichment and learning. Being involved in several planning discussions has raised my level of enthusiasm from somewhat interested to very excited. Several of the other people involved have been to similar conferences all over the world.

The value of Jewish community in our city is extremely important. This weekend will encourage people to become more involved and provide new ideas (tried & true) to help promote community participation.

Some of the currently scheduled events include keynote speakers Shulamit Reinharz and Moshe Shur, Shabbat dinner, a party Saturday night, many different smaller discussion groups and much more.

I encourage anyone who is interested or has any questions to please contact me at 546-0953 or E-mail me at jgaffe@hotmail.com.

UJA Federation

Winter 2000

Legacy



Serving the Jewish Community of Hamilton



WENDY SCHNEIDER

Hello Again

It may be somewhat confusing to see a face associated with the Legacy Endowment Fund that has, until recently, been associated with this newspaper and young leadership development on behalf of UJA Federation. But it is often the case in small communities that people take on multiple roles, and so in addition

to holding the position of editor of the Hamilton Jewish News and UJA Federation's professional in charge of young leadership development, I have recently taken up the position of director of Planned Giving for UJA Federation, following in the footsteps of my predecessor, Frank Simkevitz.

The Issues

Our Jewish community, like many other smaller Jewish communities throughout North America faces the important challenges of continuing to provide Jewish communal services to an aging Jewish population and create a strong community that will attract new Jews and retain the ones we have.

Traditionally, we have relied on the annual campaign of UJA Federation to address some of these needs, but because of a campaign that has remained stagnant over the last several years, there is a severe shortage of funds to fill these needs. We need to go further than our current revenue stream to supplement the campaign and add programming and activities to keep this community vibrant.

A Viable Alternative

One method that has proven to be very successful in providing funding for the long term is planned giving... through endowments, foundations and bequests. Many communities in North America have implemented planned giving programs and have progressed to the point that up to 20% of their annual campaign revenue come from endowment programs.

Creating Your Own Personal Foundation

Essentially there are two ways gifts can be structured for use: restricted or designated gifts and unrestricted or general use funds. The difference between the two is quite simple; restricted funds must be used for very specific purposes while unrestricted funds can be used for general use, including annual Federation allocations.

In communities like ours, it is obvious that undesignated funds are preferred. The reasons are simple; designated funds restrict the ability to put funds where they are needed most, and undesignated funds offer the opportunity to plan, to provide innovative programs and to respond to crises as they occur.

The Legacy Endowment Fund can help you create your own personal foundation, a simple, cost-effective way for you to perpetuate your support for causes you care about - Jewish Social Services, the Jewish Community Centre, Jewish Education, Special Needs Education, Holocaust Education, Young Leadership Development as well as needs in Israel or beleaguered Jewish communities overseas. Every member of the community can design his or her own personal foundation with a minimum annual donation of \$500. (see EVERY GIFT COUNTS...)

For donors who are looking to endow specific initiatives, the Legacy Endowment Fund can help them orchestrate their vision for any worthwhile project and insure that their dollars are distributed according to their priorities. These opportunities are available for a minimum donation of \$18,000.

The Legacy Endowment Fund is determined to become this community's one-stop central resource for managing your charitable giving. Never before have

Unique Holocaust studies program offered for first

The Legacy Endowment Fund is delighted to announce that thanks to the generosity of a number of very special community members, funding has been secured that will ensure the annual participation of up to 15 Hamilton area Grade 9, 10 and 11 students in The Asper Foundation Holocaust Studies Program. The program, which originated in Winnipeg in 1998, includes a series of four training sessions on various aspects of the Holocaust and a trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Training Sessions

The training sessions form a compulsory part of the program. They will be led by a project team of experienced educators and will focus on a number of topics and issues, including: the Holocaust through history, literature and survivor testimony; European Jewry; the rise of Zionism and birth of the State of Israel and world issues.

The Trip

The program will culminate in a visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. On the three to four day trip, the students will be accompanied by the project

team leaders as well as other trained adult supervisors. It is hoped that the Hamilton students will travel with students from London and Windsor, Ontario, this affording an opportunity to make new friends.

Cost

The cost per student of this subsidized program is \$200.00

The Asper Foundation has agreed to provide matching funds for any money raised by the Jewish communities of Hamilton, London and Windsor that will see this program endowed for the next number of years.

The UJA Federation Legacy Endowment Fund is grateful to Frank Junger who has single handedly raised the start-up funds for this exceptional program.

Funds are still needed in order to fully endow this program. The Legacy Endowment Fund will be grateful for donations in any amount. Community members interested in endowing this program should contact Wendy Schneider at 628-0058.

EVERY GIFT COUNTS...

The Legacy Endowment Fund is indebted to a number of generous community members who have shown their commitment to our community's future by opening family philanthropic funds.

Bill Morris demonstrated that commitment when he opened the Morris Family Philanthropic Fund with an initial donation of \$5,000 in 1999. He has since committed to growing his family's fund by making annual contributions.

Bill and Eva Morris, whose four children have all remained in Hamilton as young adults, are making a lasting contribution to the community. Asked to explain his interest in the Legacy Endowment Fund, Bill said, "I think it is very important that individuals provide for the future of the young people of Hamilton. This affords us the appropriate opportunity."

The Morris Family joins a growing number of families who wish to be involved by giving to the community foundation in their lifetimes.

The Family Foundation is a popular method for families to attain long-term charitable goals. Family foundations are wonderful for helping train the next generation of givers and for encouraging inter-generational communications about philanthropic goals that may differ.

So how do you invest in our community's

future?

Simple. First you establish an Individual, Family or Memorial Fund:

- donate a minimum of \$500 and get a tax receipt
- sign an endowment agreement with the Legacy Endowment Fund

Second, make some contributions and get more tax receipts.

Once a fund is established contributions can be made for any amount at any time. Cards, for a specific occasion, can be sent in recognition of the contribution made. These monies will be added to the designated fund.

Third, decide how to spend the interest from your investment.

Once your fund reaches \$18,000 your fund will be able to designate the income generated to one the UJA Federation of Hamilton's beneficiary agencies.

If you have any questions regarding the opening of a fund or in other gift plans, please contact Wendy Schneider, director of Planned Giving, Legacy Endowment Fund at 628-0058 or by email, to wendy.schneider@sympatico.ca

Special Report

UNITED JEWISH COMMUNITIES GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN

Middle East Crisis Front and Centre at GA

The General Assembly or GA is the annual gathering of delegates representing the United Jewish Communities (UJC), the umbrella organization for 189 federations and 400 independent communities across North America. The UJC, formed by a merger of the Council of Jewish Federations, the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal, is the central fundraising and social service system of North American Jewry.

After years in which the GA had been dominated by debates about religious pluralism and hammering out the details of the newly formed UJC, issues of Jewish solidarity and Israel ruled the day.

Providing security for 4,500 delegates, 2,000 local residents, an Israeli government contingent that included Prime Minister Ehud Barak, opposition leader Ariel Sharon and a number of Cabinet ministers, provided

the city of Chicago with an enormous challenge. Access to and within the downtown Hyatt Regency Hotel was tightly restricted by hundreds of Chicago police, many accompanied by explosive-sniffing dogs, and Israeli security personnel.

The primary message, repeated by nearly every representative of the Israeli government, was how grateful Israel is for the ongoing support and love of North American Jewry.

Rabbi Michael Melchior, Minister of Israeli Society and the World Jewish Community, said "You are the most heartening, most encouraging, most supportive sources of optimism we have."

Minister of Tourism, Amnon Lipkin Shahak, reporting on the economic implications of an 80% drop in tourists, summed up his comments with a simple "Bo L'Yisrael", Come to Israel.

Minister of Immigration and Absorption, Yuli Tamir, in commenting on how good it felt to see such a large demonstration of the support and love that Diaspora Jewry feel for Israel, asked those present to come to Israel, "not because our hotels are empty, but because our hearts are empty."

Prime Minister Ehud Barak received a standing ovation from a crowd of 6500, including a

particularly boisterous welcome from a contingent of Montreal students. Despite everything that is going on in Israel, he said, he felt it was exceedingly important to be in Chicago. Israel and Diaspora Jewry have a shared destiny. At times like these, he said, Israel derives great strength in knowing that she is not alone.

Further thoughts on the nature of the Israel-Diaspora relationship were expressed at an earlier address by Rabbi Melchior, who singled out the Birthright program as being the forerunner of a whole new kind of relationship between Israel and the Diaspora. Birthright, the brainchild of philanthropists Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, is the free ten-day trip to Israel for university students, funded by a group of American philanthropists, the

Different but still compatible approaches to

BY
WENDY SCHNEIDER

When it became apparent that the growing crisis in the Middle East was not going to be resolved quickly, GA organizers asked scheduled speakers to, wherever possible, rework their sessions to address the situation. The decision was a wise one, as delegates appeared to hunger for an answer to the burning question of where we go from here.

A session given by Rabbi Irving (Yitz) Greenberg on the ethics of Jewish power attracted a large turnout.

Rabbi Greenberg, the founder of CLAL, a leading American organization in intra-Jewish dialogue and Jewish unity, said that his position on the current crisis is based on one of Judaism's central beliefs: that every human being has infinite value, uniqueness and God-like capacities. Living in accordance with this principal means having an attitude of both love and commitment. Both are necessary, Greenberg said, because when love (which, by its nature, comes and goes) is absent, one must have the commitment to remain true to the original vision.

Putting these dual values into action during the current crisis means trying to understand and hear the Palestinian argument that their dignity is compromised and not fully realized as long as Israel exists and doing everything in our power not to demonize them. It also means exercising prudent, responsible, and moral behavior during this period of frustration, defeat and setback as it waits for a true partner to come along. Greenberg likened this to the commitment it took to recite "Next Year in Jerusalem" throughout 1800 years of exile.

Acknowledging the sense of profound

disappointment and depression that Jews have felt in the wake of the events of the last two months, Greenberg pointed to the indisputable fact that Israel remains the most powerful nation in the Middle East. And power, he said, carries a moral consequence. Just like God who, in Kabbalistic tradition, must exert self-limits in order to make room for humans, Israel has to ask itself what self-limits and controls are necessary to assure its dignity as well as that of Palestinians. That Israel is already behaving with enormous responsibility and restraint is apparent. The challenge will be to continue on that path, and not be corrupted in the process.

Rabbi Greenberg's presentation was followed by a heated exchange with a number of people in the audience who objected to his depicting Palestinians as trustworthy partners in a negotiated settlement. Greenberg responded by saying that to take the opposite position would leave Israel with only two options: Either throwing out every single Palestinian from the Israeli landscape or living a Sparta-like existence for eternity.

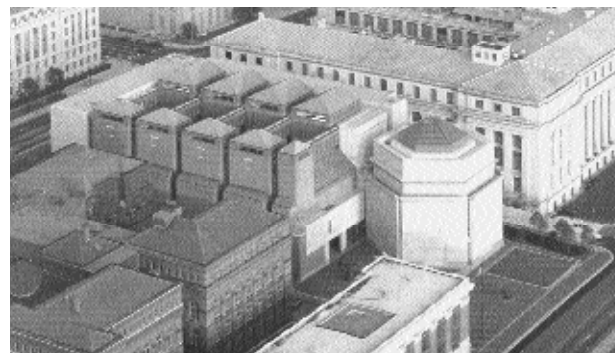
Natan Sharansky, former Minister of Industry and Trade and Minister of the Interior, was also present at the conference, appearing in a panel discussion that addressed the question of where to go from here. The former refusenik recalled the days when Soviet Jewry found the courage to face persecution and discrimination through the example of Israel's strength and achievements. He contrasted this with the current period where, suddenly the Jordan Valley and Jerusalem are on the negotiating table. This kind of Israel, he said, cannot unite Jews of Israel nor Diaspora Jews.

According to Sharansky the problem with Oslo

derived from the fact that it was based on the assumption that if Israel would only give the Palestinians enough land, rights and opportunities then Arafat would be Israel's partner in building peace and security in the Middle East. While those who held this view acknowledged the risks, they argued that peace was a process where both Israel and the Palestinians would be required to make concessions. They also talked themselves into the need for quick action. Time is running out, they said. People are tired. Barak is in power. We have a friend in the White House.

Those who held these views, said Sharansky, were deluding themselves. From Oslo's very beginnings, he continued, there has been no reciprocity. Arafat consistently found reasons why he couldn't deliver. The Americans urged Israel not to press the Palestinian leader and eventually Israel stopped looking for reciprocity, pressing instead for a final agreement. As Barak continued to cross one red line after another it became very clear that the future of the entire peace process rested in Arafat's hands. For Barak's coalition

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Top of the Table MDRT



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B.A., M.Sc. (Econ.)
Member - MDRT

JCC Pages

Winter Programs

Let's Do Hebrew!

By the request of the enthusiastic participants of the Jewish Enrichment Centre/Kollel of Hamilton and the JCC's November Hebrew reading course, we are excited to be offering two new classes

BEGINNING CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW

Vocabulary development, introduction to grammar and improving reading skills.
Tuesdays, January 9 - Feb 13, 7:15 - 8:00pm

PRAYER SERVICE

Structure of the Siddur (prayer book), reading and understanding the prayers and singing the accompanying tunes

Instructor: Rabbi Meir Joshua

Fee; \$5 JCC Members \$10 non members
Additional charge for text books to be determined
Pre-registration required

Youth Volleyball/Basketball

Jan 14 - Feb 25, 2001 (7 weeks) Ages 8-16
1 hour volleyball - 1 hour basketball with instruction

\$45 JCC members \$60 non members

Become a Certified Babysitter

Age 11 & Up

Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm Jan 11 - Mar 1
\$35 JCC Members \$50 Non Members

Table Tennis

Age 12 - 16 years
Tues, Jan 6 - March 6 (9 weeks) 6:45 - 8:30 pm

Ballet Style Toning

Build bone mass & toned muscles with grace & style
Thursdays, Jan 11 - March 8 9:15 - 10:45 am
\$144.45 JCC members \$160.50 non members

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\$85 per session (8 weeks)
Wednesdays, 10:15 - 11:30 am
beginning Jan 10, 2001
JCC Sports members only

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Fridays Jan 12 - March 9
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Beginner 10:30 - 11:30 am
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Tennis

Junior Tennis Lessons, Youth Round Robins, Adult Tennis Doubles Workshops

Please note registration is now taking place for Winter Programs. Participants are not considered registered until all program fees have been paid in full (visa, Mastercard, Cheque, Post-dated cheques, cash), prior to the first class.

The program will only take place if and when there is the required minimum number of fully paid participants.

There are no refunds after the program has begun

Planning is underway for the Yom HaShoah program on April 19, 2001 at the Beth Jacob Synagogue. Anyone interested in participating in this program please contact Celia Berlin

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

MACHANEH HOREF (Winter Camp)



December 27, 28, 29 2000,
January 2,3,4,5, 2001
Ages 3- 10 years Time 9:00 am-3:00 pm
(turned 3 by Dec 15, 2000 and toilet trained)

Camp Director: Joanna Szpirglas
Members \$15 a day/\$70 for 5 days/\$95 for 7 days
Non Members \$25 a day/\$120 for 5 days/\$165 for 7 days

* Counsellors needed for Machaneh Horef Please call Michele Schneider at 648-0605 for more information.

Its a Chanukah Party!

Chanukkah crafts, games, play time on new gym equipment and party

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Sunday, December 17

3:00 -5:00 pm at the JCC

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Join Rina Rodak and gang

Pre-registration required

email: Hamilton jcc@hotmail.com

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December & January

FOR JCC YOUTH TENNIS PLAYERS

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Sunday all day

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Email: hamiltonjcc@hotmail.com

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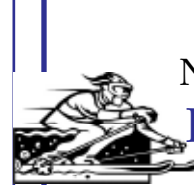
Mazel Tov

JOY FOSTER (on the birth of a granddaughter): Sandy & Steven Silver, Larry & Fern Szpirglas, Abe & Gina Szpirglas. ELENA & JERRY GOLDBLATT (on the engagement of your daughter, Danielle): JCC Board of Directors & Staff. LES & BEVERLY LASKY (on the engagement of your daughter, Naomi): JCC Board of Directors & Staff. DAVID MCLEAN & AMY KATZ (mazel tov and best wishes for health & happiness): JCC Board of Directors & Staff. JUDGE & MRS DEREK MENDES DA COSTA (50th wedding anniversary): Harvey & Shelley Waxman. BILL MORRIS (first 40 years): Abe & Gina Szpirglas. STEVEN & SANDY SILVER (on the engagement of Jordan to Marni): JCC Board of Directors & Staff. MICHAEL TAYLOR (on your engagement to Pam Kirsch): The JCC Board of Directors, Larry & Fern Szpirglas. SAM TAYLOR (on being inducted into Hamilton's Gallery of Distinction): JCC Board of Directors, Larry & Fern Szpirglas. ROCHELLE & SHELLEY WAXMAN (on being honoured by State of Israel Bonds): Abe & Gina Szpirglas, Mark Waxman & children, Sheldon & Marlene Gains & family, Harry & Barbara Laskin.

Thank You

ALLAN FINKELSTEIN- EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT (thank you for your gift of time & knowledge): JCC Board of Directors & Staff. PETER NEUDORFF (thank you for your consideration and time): JCC administration on behalf of the executive, Joy Foster. HARVEY WAXMAN: JCC Board of Directors & Staff.

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Skiathon 2001**



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- Complementary Sunday morning breakfast at the hill
- Slalom race
- Lunch at the Chalet
- Mini-Mogul Competition
- Apres-ski wine & cheese & award ceremony

Sponsor sheets can be picked up the JCC and are due
Friday, February 16

For more information call Larry Szpirglas at 628-7798 or Joy Foster at the JCC at 648-0605, ext 307

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE
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HAMILTON JEWISH COMMUNAL PROJECTS

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, December 12, 2000
at 7:30pm

Nominations should be forwarded to
JCC,
POB 7258, Ancaster, On

President: Virginia Mendes da Costa
Vice President: Aubrey Friedman, Howard Eisenberg
Treasurer: Joel Feldman
Board Members: Susan Gilbert, Mark Gould, Amy Katz Martin, Helene Katz, Nancy Katz, Alisa Krieger, Barbara Laskin, Harry Laskin, Randy Levinson, Shelley Marks, Cheryl Quitt, CeCe Schreiber, Susan Waxman, Ed Zaltz
Members at Large: Gerald Asa, Richard Leibtag

Read about our Great Fall Season...

Jewish Book Month

On November 20, Julius Ciss, executive director of Jews for Judaism gave an informative and thought provoking lecture on "The Battle for the Jewish Soul". He explained how vulnerable people can get hooked into organizations like Jews for Jesus and why our community is a target for these groups. He spoke of the ways Jews for Judaism counteracts against these organizations. The JCC hopes to invite Julius back to Hamilton to continue informing us of the organization's work.

Read Hebrew Canada November 2000

During the month of November 2000, tens of thousands of Jewish adults gathered in thousands of locations across North America to learn to read Hebrew. These five free hour-and-a-half lessons were available for beginners and intermediates thanks to Rabbi Meir Joshua from the Hamilton Yeshiva and the sponsorship of the National Jewish Outreach Program.

The Hebrew reading course was a smashing success. Eighteen people, representing the entire spectrum of the Hamilton Jewish community mastered basic reading skills in five short weeks and were amused by all the tricks used to remember the letter sounds as well as having fun singing the Hebrew songs. The interaction between the instructor and a really great group of people created an atmosphere that was upbeat and friendly.

The JCC was proud to host this wonderful and

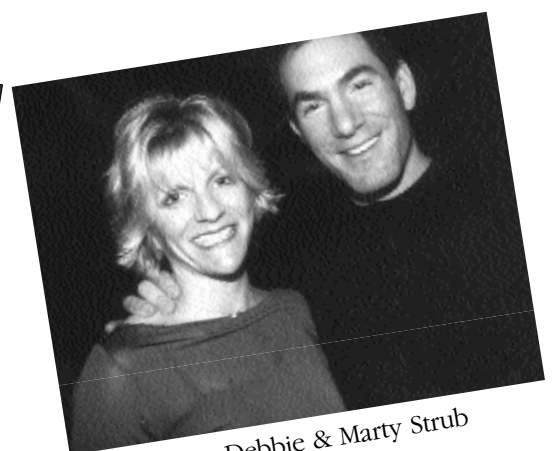
Hot & Spicy... Salsa Nite at the



Helene Katz (third from right) and her committee: From left to right: Denise Levinson, Cheryl Quitt, Carolyn Molot, Marlene Altman and Clareta Schoenberg.



Brad & Sherri Michell

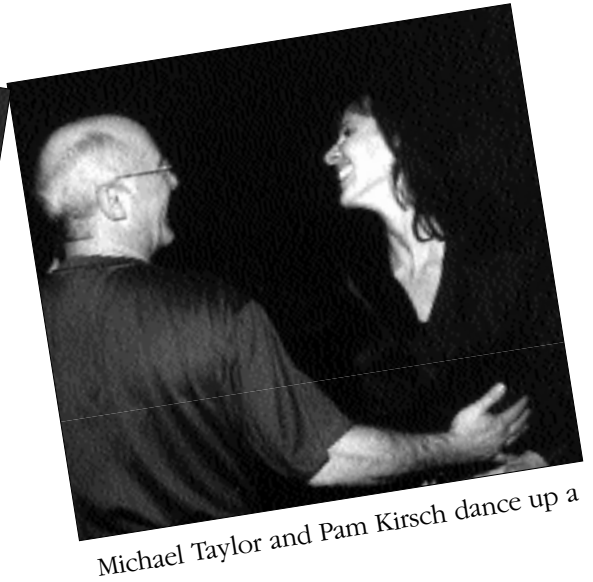


Debbie & Marty Strub

Over 100 people filled the JCC bubble, decorated with fabulously coloured paper flowers, pinatas (generously donated by So-Low Sales and lots of balloons. Salsa Nite, sponsored by the JCC and supported by YAD, brought out a number of newcomers to the community. Many thanks to chair, Helene Katz and her dedicated committee: Carolyn Molot, Cheryl Quitt, Denise Levinson, Clareta Schoenberg, Marlene Altman and Shelley Paikin, for making this happen. To Shelley Rochweg, Cindy, Sari, Samantha & Adam Richter (our bakers), Marlene Gains & Debbie Strub for all their help with set up. Thanks to Molly Kumer, Susan Walman, Helen Creghton and Debbie Thurley for their advice. The JCC appreciates everyone's support.



Deborah Zietlow & Rob



Michael Taylor and Pam Kirsch dance up a

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THANKS TO OUR BINGO VOLUNTEERS
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Amy & David McLean,
Virginia Mendes da Costa, Robert Murdoch
Ed & Mila Zaltz

Two Bingo Volunteers needed for December 9 and/or December 23 and/or January 6. Please call Michele at the JCC at 648-0605 if you are able to help out. The hours required are from 5:45 to approximately 7:30 pm

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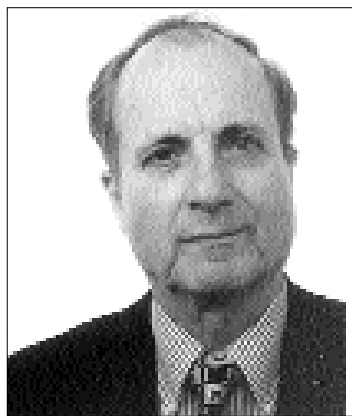
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Middle East Crisis

I am a Dove with Clipped Wings

BY EPHRAIM (EFFIE) ZUSSMAN
JNF JERUSALEM EMISSARY TO
SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO



by Effie Zussman

Those of you who know me, whether from Israel or from Southwestern Ontario where I serve as the Jewish National Fund's Jerusalem Emissary, are familiar with my dovish opinions on Israel and how I believe we should settle the 100-year dispute between the Jews in Israel and our Palestinian neighbours. Anyone who cared to listen knows I'm not shy when expressing my belief that the Oslo Accords would lead to a "New Middle East," thus bringing an end to a century of strife, conflict and wars. I felt Israel should be magnanimous and appeasing, going that extra mile so that peace could be achieved for both our people, destined to live on the same tract of land. I was a genuine "Peace-Now" individual, a truly optimistic dove.

In hindsight, my life experiences should have made me more wary. As a Palestinian boy (yes, I too am a Palestinian as stated on my birth certificate) living on the outskirts of Jerusalem in 1947, I vividly remember what my Arab friends and neighbours told me, after we listened to the radio together and learned of the U.N.'s decision to partition Palestine. They were leaving their homes after having been instructed to do so by their leaders. Once the Arab armies conquer Israel, they added, we, the Jews, would be chased into the sea and they would return to take over our more livable homes. I chose to ignore their comments. Later I heard Palestinian broadcasts and read publications that promoted vehement hatred towards Israel. Again, I chose to

dismiss this as being rhetoric tailored by Arab leaders for consumption by their own people. Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East, with its wide spectrum of opinions, often critical of our government. Again, I chose to avoid the fact that not one Palestinian had called for compromise.

After Israel recognized the PLO (in 1993) and allowed Arafat to return to the West Bank territory, I read with trepidation, the fostering of hatred against Israel, even within official Palestinian school textbooks. The State of Israel does not exist on the maps within these textbooks. Even more disturbing, these textbooks call for the elimination of Jews from the Holy Land, to be replaced by returning Palestinian refugees. Yet again, I chose to close my eyes hoping that once the nationalistic aspirations of the Palestinian People were achieved, they would abandon their violence and rhetoric and revert to building their nation, something that I and some 50% of Israelis felt they deserved.

Still, I never forgot my history books: - The common misconception is that Jews were forced into the Diaspora by the Romans after the destruction of the second Temple, in Jerusalem in the year 70 C.E., and then 1800 years later, all of a sudden

returned to Palestine demanding their country back, taking it away from the Palestinians. In reality, the Jewish people have maintained ties to our historical homeland for more than 3,300 years.

Jerusalem is mentioned 700 times in the Bible, whereas Palestine or Jerusalem is not mentioned even once in the Koran. Until 1967, the Palestinian Arabs did not view themselves as being a separate entity. Palestinians are Arabs indistinguishable from Jordanians (another recent invention of the British Empire), Syrians, Lebanese, etc. Since time immemorial, the Jewish population in Jerusalem has almost continuously been larger than that of any other people, including the Arabs. Jerusalem has been Israel's capital since the time of King David and has been regarded for 3,000 years to be the capital of the Jewish People, who yearn for it, and for Israel, in prayers while facing east towards Jerusalem, three times each and everyday. Jerusalem has never been the capital of any Arab or Muslim entity. It's remarkable that even when the Jordanians occupied Jerusalem (between 1948 and 1967), they never sought to make it their capital, nor did the Arab Palestinians, at that time, request to be regarded as an entity on their own. In the years of Jordanian occupation, we Jews were not allowed access to our Temple Mount, 48 Jewish synagogues in the old city of Jerusalem were burnt, and most of the tombstones in the Jewish Mount of Olives cemetery were used to pave the Jordanian Army's camp roads.

As World War II ended, the magnitude of the Holocaust became apparent (a separate topic is the

disheartening fact that in these very days, many in the Arab world, and elsewhere, are trying to deny the Holocaust ever existed). Accelerated demands arose for the survivors of Hitler's Final Solution to find sanctuary in the homeland of their forefathers. The British worked out an agreement acceptable to both Arabs and Jews but their insistence on the former's approval guaranteed failure and subsequently the issue was turned over to the U.N. in November 1947. The U.N. established a special Commission on Palestine to devise a solution. The Commission's recommendation was for the establishment of two separate states, Jewish and Arab, to be joined by economic union, with Jerusalem as an international enclave. The Jews were not satisfied with the small territory allotted to them by the Commission, nor were they happy that Jerusalem was severed from the Jewish State. Nevertheless, they welcomed the compromise that the Arabs rejected outright. Keep in mind that the Arabs control 99.9% of the Middle East lands while Israel takes up only 0.1% of the region. The U.N. General Assembly rejected, on November 29th, 1947, the Arab demand for a unitary Arab State and recommended partition. Five Arab armies stormed into Israel, forcing a war upon us that claimed 6,000 casualties (1% of our population), just a few years after the Holocaust.

The Arabs, as previously mentioned, were encouraged by their leaders to leave Israel (630,000 did so), promising them a quick return after the Arab armies purged the land of the Jews. Seventy percent of them left without ever seeing a single Israeli soldier. At the same time, one million Jewish refugees were forced to flee from Arab lands due to Arab brutality, persecution and pogroms. All of these Jewish refugees were absorbed into Israel, while almost none of the Arab refugees were welcomed into the neighbouring Arab countries. Even today, more than 50 years later, they continue to live in miserable refugee camps (Arafat and other Palestinian leaders, took refuge in Jordan from whence they were expelled in 1970, after bloody fighting with the Jordanian Arab Legion and after 22 cease-fire agreements, all of which Arafat broke. Since 1948, Arabs have waged wars upon us time and

time again and have lost them all. I myself have participated in five of them.

When the Oslo Accords were signed, I was delighted. I was emphatically against many of the Jewish settlements established in the West Bank and felt badly when our soldiers, my son amongst them (led by the Late Rabin), had to quell the 1985 Intifada (Uprising, in Arabic). Hence last year, when Barak was elected to lead us with an outstretched hand of peace offered to the Palestinians, I was ecstatic.

The doves in Israel, myself being on of them, were preparing trumpets and drums for the Peace Accord ceremony scheduled to be held on the White House lawn.

We were so desperate for peace that we agreed to give into many of the Palestinians' demands, notwithstanding the historical truth of what had transpired to date. Barak left no stone unturned in his quest for peace. He agreed to secede over 90% of what we conquered in wars forced upon us and to which we had a "deed" from biblical times. He even offered to relinquish sovereignty over Judaism's holiest site and internationalize it at the expense of many within Israel turning against him. I was ready to go to the plebiscite planned to ratify what our leader had agreed to, knowing only too well, what a painful blow it would be to some 50% of Israel, those regarded as "hawks". However, I knew they too would go along with this painful peace.

Arafat has had to go on the diplomatic defensive after rejecting Barak's breathtaking generosity at Camp David in July, (recognized by President Clinton and the European leaders alike). He resorted to violence to regain his initiative despite having agreed, in Oslo and thereafter on numerous occasions, not to resort to violence as a means of reaching the Palestinian goals.

What was that old saying? Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. It was then that I ceased turning a deaf ear and began listening. What did I hear and read?

The following is from a live broadcast on the official Palestinian Authority television on October 13th, 2000. It was given by an Islamic leader and former Rector of the Gaza Islamic University, and has since been repeated on many occasions by



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Middle East Crisis

A Country Divided: A View from Jerusalem

BY
BARRY WALFISH

Israelis call it the "matsav," referring to the deteriorating security situation caused by the new intifada, which is really more like a little war, in the occupied territories. It means being more careful about where you go during the day and where you let your kids go day or night. It means a drastic decline in tourism. Hotels are facing 20-30% occupancy rates for the foreseeable future. Educational programs for visiting groups from North America have been cancelled. This is all unfortunate, but understandable.

After all who wants to be a tourist in a country at war? The situation also means economic hardship for Palestinian merchants in the Old City, and for the West Bank in general, which is suffering from a punishing closure, preventing workers from entering Israeli territory.

Living here gives one a bifocal perspective; there is at this point a dissonance between every day life, which remains calm, routine, and quite pleasant, and the disturbing, gut-wrenching news we hear and see through the media. The situation has fallen into a predictable pattern, with daily skirmishes at various flashpoints in Gaza and the West Bank and in Gilo, a suburb in southern part of Jerusalem, which is under sporadic fire. The carbomb near Mahaneh Yehudah ten days ago was everyone's nightmare, an unpredictable act of terrorism which could not be prevented and could have happened anywhere. It shook people up, especially the children. Now it seems very distant.

In predictable fashion, the dead were mourned, the mess was cleaned up, the appropriate statements were made, and many inappropriate ones, and life quickly resumed its regular routine.

Last week the country mourned the death of Yitzhak Rabin, which occurred five years ago last Friday according to the Hebrew calendar. Countless television programs, ceremonies, and vigils have taken place across the land as part of a national Yom Kippur, or day (actually week) of soulsearching and stocktaking. (The death of Leah Rabin on Sunday, almost exactly five years after her husband, will doubtless continue the mourning process). The picture that has emerged is not a pretty one. The country is more divided than ever. The racism is systemic, the roots of hatred among Jews and Arabs, religious and secular, spread deep and wide. Recent events have brought out the worst in a lot of people and expressions of intolerance and hatred are rife.

The Rabin Memorial has been a welcome respite providing an opportunity for positive forces to reassert themselves. The memorial ceremony in Rabin Square in Tel-Aviv, which drew over 150,000 people was very moving and reassuring. Among other things, it was encouraging to see a representative of the Arab community address the crowd with a message of tolerance and reconciliation. Yet, it is disheartening to hear of a recent survey in which 12% of those polled justified Yigal Amir's heinous act. Equally

disturbing is the sight of Jerusalem plastered with posters declaring that "Rabbi Kahane was right." (Kahane was a racist advocate of ethnic cleansing, i.e., the transfer of the Arab population of Israel to neighbouring countries.)

Like all others who live here, I have been spending many hours trying to sort out the situation for myself, with generally unsatisfying results. It is clear that the Palestinians are on the brink of despair and feel that they have very little to lose. From an outsider's point of view, the fighting is unnecessary. After all, it seemed that the sides were so close to a settlement in the summer. But the Palestinians saw otherwise and decided that what was on the table was not close enough to meet their minimum goals. The Palestinian rhetoric is inflammatory and calculated to stir up passions, calling for armed struggle to liberate the "Palestinian countryside" and holy Jerusalem. The despair and frustration that underpin this rhetoric are

shared by many Palestinians, not only the few thousand young men who are at the forefront of the violence.


Though the Palestinian media portrays Israel as the aggressor, here "on the ground" it seems very clear that Israel for the most part has been reacting to events as they occur as opposed to initiating them. With some tragic exceptions, Israel's response has been restrained and measured. The recent assassination of a Tanzim officer and the attack on the casino in Jericho indicate a shift in Israeli tactics from reacting to provocations to initiating activities. This is a sign that the conflict may be entering a new, more dangerous phase. The murderous attack today on a bus near Ofra only showed again that violent actions provoke violent reactions and don't really solve any problems.

Much of the media talk focuses on the details of the skirmishes and the implications of the ongoing conflict on the larger political scene, the tourist industry, and the economy in general. What has not

received enough attention is the issue of the occupation itself. Yet the occupation and the settlements are at the crux of the issue. Nearly all of the violence has been aimed at the settlements and the army positions protecting them. The message is pretty clear. The Palestinians are going to do their utmost to make life hellish for the settlers. While all violent acts must be categorically condemned it is easy to understand the frustration of the Palestinians who have been watching the settlements expand, roads carving up the West Bank into enclaves, their land being gobbled up by settlers, and their trees destroyed. While the Palestinians are being kept under virtual siege in their towns the settlers are usually free to come and go as they please, under the protection of the Israeli army.


Two things have become clear to me over the past weeks with regard to this conflict. One is the folly of hanging on to the settlements. Sooner or later, the majority if not all of the settlements will have to be





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Special Menschen

Women's Interest Group still meeting after 38



The University Gardens Interest Group, a local women's group founded 38 years ago, is thriving and still going strong. Originally members of a local chapter of National Council of Jewish Women, chair, Lee Lauer, told the HJN, the women were involved for many years in the organization's social and volunteer activities. Eventually, they decided to form a new group, whose focus would be on learning. Guest speakers are invited to speak on a range of topics, including politics, medicine, law or book reviews. Each member takes a turn hosting a meeting which take place over lunch, one Wednesday of every month. The hostess is also responsible for finding the guest speaker. Membership dues are \$10 a year with funds raised going to a local charity. Past recipients have included the Kosher Food Bank, the JCC and Shalom Village. The executive of The University Gardens Interest Group includes Lee Lauer, chair, Edith Rochkin, treasurer, and Freda Hoffman, House and Sunshine chair, whose responsibilities include finding homes for meetings and sending cards of congratulations, condolences or speedy recovery to members. Photo taken at the November meeting, hosted by Jacqueline Tolkin, at which Patricia Eppel,

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- coordinate B'nai Brith Canada membership in the Hamilton Region on a part-time basis (10 hrs. per week)
- assist membership in program planning, fundraising events and advocacy.

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Special Menschen

**Federations
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JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

Heading a call from Israeli officials to visit Israel, Jewish federations across North America are launching solidarity missions.

The new effort comes in the wake of the recent General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities at which Israeli government officials appealed to North American Jews to show support for Israel amid its ongoing conflict with the Palestinians.

The missions come as Israeli is reporting a sharp drop in tourism. Several previously scheduled federation missions were cancelled in October and November as a result of concerns about violence and Israeli officials report that North American Jews have cancelled trips in far greater numbers than evangelical Christian groups.

In addition to expressing solidarity with Israelis and bolstering tourism, the solidarity missions aim to "show the situation as it is, not through the eyes of the media," said Nechemia Dagan, executive director of the UJC's overseas programs and missions.

UIA Federations Canada is finalizing plans for a solidarity mission from February 13 to 18, 2001. The cost of the mission is

Enkin Family honour parents' memory and enhance synagogue



Pictured above are Larry and Sharon Enkin with Shannon Shapiro standing near a magnificently crafted showcase they recently donated to Temple Anshe Sholom in honour of their parents. The cabinet will house Judaica and be used to teach

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Organizations

Tom and Sasha Weisz



State of Israel Bonds is delighted to announce that Tom and Sasha Weisz will be honoured at the Inaugural 50th Anniversary Campaign Event. This national Prime Minister's Club Gala dinner is being held on January 14

Special Education receives

BY SUSAN AND PAUL ROTH, CO-CHAIRS

On Sunday November 12th State of Israel Bonds, (in conjunction with The Education Endowment Fund, T.E.E.F.), honoured Allen Rams at an elegant cocktail party at Adas Israel Synagogue. This represented a departure from the Bonds' Breakfasts in past years. TEEF monies are held in the Legacy Endowment Fund of the UJA Federation. Last year the UJA Federation allocated money from this fund to assist severely developmentally challenged students being tutored by Joy Zians. In his speech, Allen referred to himself as a "man of many hats"; a man who is involved in many different things and has a hat to go



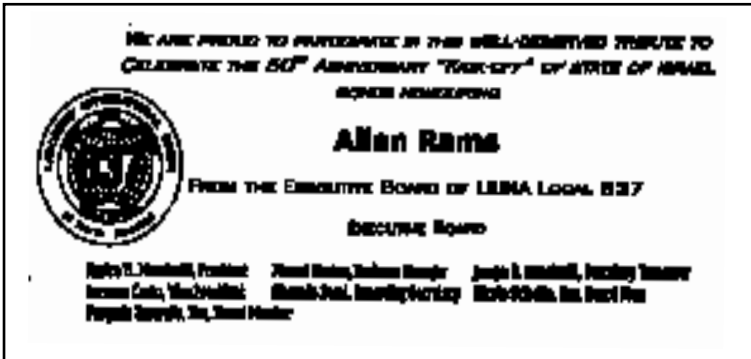
Allen Rams, a man of many hats, wearing his UJA hat

with each. It was with great appreciation of Allen's devotion to so many different facets of our Hamilton Jewish Community that about 150 people attended that evening. Over the years, Allen has demonstrated the utmost dedication to T.E.E.F., UJA, State of Israel Bonds and the Ralph Travis Israel Experience fund, to name just a few. Barbara Balonjan, past executive director, State of Israel Bonds, was also honoured for her years of devoted service.

The crowd enjoyed the upscale, elegant atmosphere, feasted on sumptuous delights and "shmoozed" with great

pleasure. A good time was had by all.

Many thanks to: Bob Hemburger Catering for supplying us with all of our food at cost and for donating his own personal time to our cause. Nancy Somer and Debbie Strub for their amazing artistry at setting up the buffet table. Heather Ritter and Nancy Katz for their superb decorating work. Shirley Silberg and her ticket sellers for their great success in selling tickets. Chaya Meisels for supplying us with truly delicious desserts at a very reasonable cost. Joe and Cheryl Greenbaum for donating the wine. Adele from Adele's and



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Birthday

NOAH TORNO: Sonny Caplan. Helen Yellin: Natalie Strub. ARLENE & IS SMITH: Pearl, Ricky & Allen Waxman. SAM LAX: Norman & Blanche Levitt. CELE STEINBERG: John & Anne Nieland. Mazel Tov

AARON SHIFFMAN (birth of granddaughter): Melissa, David, Chelsea, Benjamin. MR & MRS AL FOREMAN (new home): Rose & Phil Rosenshein. MR & MRS DAVID REDNER (new home): Gloria & Les Roefe, Evelyn Silver. JOE SONSHINE (80th birthday): Anita Smurlick. LES & LEAH LOWINGER (new home): Perry & Milton Lewis. ROCHELLE WAXMAN (honored by State of Israel Bonds): Jackie Wasserman, Moishe & Faye Leibtag. SHELLEY WAXMAN (honored by State of Israel Bonds): Jackie Wasserman, Bertha Ortmann. MARILYN & AL FOREMAN (new home): Donna & Henry Vine. KATHLEEN BLACK (wedding): Abe Latner. BEN & SHIRLEY SAUDER (new home & new year): Clara Bloom, Rose & Phil Rosenberg. MARCIA & STEVEN GOLDENBERG (Jay's bar mitzvah): Bessie Goldblatt. ESTHER AXELROD (grandson's bar mitzvah): Bessie Goldblatt. CELE & DAVID STEINBERG (40th anniversary): John & Anne Nieland, Carol & Danny Davids. BETTY FOSTER (great grandmother): Lotti & David Redner. BESSIE COHEN (103rd birthday): Hershel & Bill Stern. SUSAN & SHELDON GUREVITZ (new home): Les & Gloria Roefe, Barbara & Jack Katz & Family.

Thank You

SHIRLEY & ANDY NOSEWORTHY: Noah Torno. JOY ZIANS: Shirley Yaffe. JOSH BACH: Pat, Bob & Kathleen. BARRY BENDER: Board & Staff of Shalom Village. RUTH & YAACOV GOLDBERG: Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village

Shana Tova

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Hadassah-WIZO

BY
LINDA MILLER

On Saturday, November 11, Hamilton Hadassah-WIZO held its third annual Fall Fantasy Auction. Everyone in attendance will agree it was a tremendous success.

K-Lite FMs Sunny Genesco hosted a fun-filled evening of silent and live auctions, with the proceeds going to Martha House for scholarships to summer camp for women at risk.

Proceeds also went to Hadassah's Women to Women projects in Israel.

Special thanks go to Sheila Levitt and Arlene Direnfeld for their hard work and dedication, to the Highland Senior Jazz Band for its wonderful performance, to Brian Waxman and Ariel Shaffir for sharing their talent and Lowell Richter of Eastgate/Westgate Ford for his wonderful job of spotting. We would also like to thank K-Lite FM Oldies 1150 and Assante,

Hamilton Hebrew Academy welcomes new

The Hamilton Hebrew Academy welcomes Frank Samuels, formerly of South Africa to its staff. Samuels, the new vice principal of administration, brings much a wealth of experience and expertise to his new position. The following is an interview with Samuels conducted by the HJN.



Frank Samuels

How were you employed in South Africa and what do you bring to the Academy?

I was the Principal of the Yeshiva College of South Africa, a private Jewish Day School in Johannesburg. Some 850 students, ranging in age from K through 12 attended the various schools that made up the Yeshiva College campus.

Do you have a personal philosophy/vision and how would you describe it?

I believe firmly that the sum total of any individual is a constant. That is to say that every person has within him or her, the ability to succeed. Every child is a winner and needs to be treated with the necessary respect and

love. While different children may have different strengths, everyone is good at something and I think that the main task of education, especially at the elementary level, is to develop the self-confidence and inner strength of every child. I hope to encourage a love of learning, and the ability to learn well by drawing on the different abilities of every learner. I like to think that I am a very positive person and I firmly believe that one's attitude plays the most important role in any situation.

Do you see similarities between the challenges facing the Hamilton

Jewish community and those facing the South African Jewish community?

I see many similarities between the Jewish Communities of Hamilton and of South Africa. Both have low birth rates and both suffer from the "grass is greener" syndrome. South Africa has the challenge of immigration; Hamilton has the challenge of 'Torontofication'. Now I would never deny any person the right to live wherever he or she chooses, and there is a certain degree of irony in my words as I answer this question, but I feel that there is so much that Hamilton has to offer, that I just do not understand the desire to move to Toronto. I always felt that South Africa has much untapped potential and I definitely feel that way about Hamilton. I have met so many tremendous, generous, warm-hearted people since I have been here that I have no doubt that there is nothing that this wonderful community can not do.

The Hamilton Hebrew Academy

Kehila School



Music teacher Ruth Hoffman with her students at Kehila Jewish Day School explore how a violin works, as part of the arts and science curriculum. This was a prelude to a concert and backstage tour of the orchestra at Hamilton Place. Out in the community, the children helped build a sukkah at Shalom Village, and on December 15th, the school will be hosting a Hannukah party for students from a local public school.

Kehila opened extra classes to help families in the Jewish community affected by the recent public school strike. Principal Hamutal Deckel said the

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Mazel Tov

BRAM ROCHWERG (graduation): Livia, Peter, Alexandra, Jessica & Lisa Kocsis. PAULINE KESSLER (bat Mitzvah): Ethel Levy & Family. AARON & GABRIELLA YANOVER (bar/bat Mitzvah): Mary Martha Starkman. DOV GREENBAUM & SABRINA GLUCK (engagement): Alec & Leah Bukhman. CORY FAJERTAG (engagement): Rivak & Barry Iseman & Family. AMY KATZ & DAVID MCLEAN (marriage): Jack, Barb, Adam & Jeff Shinehoft. ALEX & PHYLLIS KANTOR (50th wedding anniversary): David & Norma Wright, Myrle Cwitco. IRVING & ELEANOR SHNIER (60thwedding anniversary): Ada Stock. PETER GRABEN (NEW venture): The Gaffe Family.

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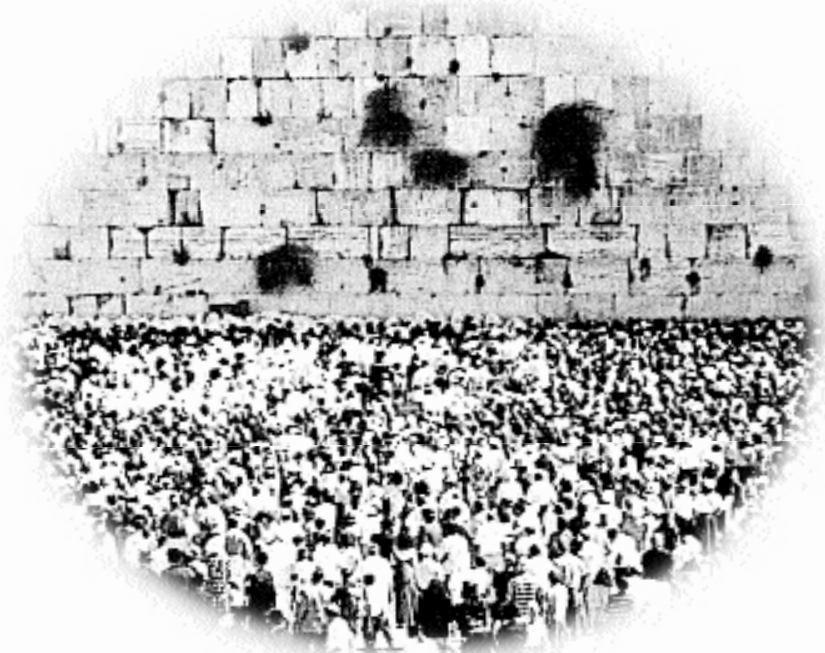
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