

Hamilton Jewish News

SERVING HAMILTON WENTWORTH & AREA

DECEMBER 2001 VOL 16:2

KISLEV 5762

Happy Chanukah!



Chanukah begins Sunday evening, December 9

After September 11

ISRAEL: REALITIES AND OPTIONS

Please join us for a continental breakfast and discussion with

PROFESSOR



GERALD STEINBERG

Director: Conflict Management and Negotiation, Bar Ilan University
Consultant: Israel Foreign Ministry
Regular columnist and political analyst for The Jerusalem Post, The Wall Street Journal, Globe and Mail

SUNDAY, DEC 2, 10:30 am
TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM
215 Cline Street North

Co-Sponsored by UJA Federation of Hamilton

UJA 2002 "ISRAEL NOW AND FOREVER" CAMPAIGN GAINS MOMENTUM

\$1,000,000 Campaign now well underway

What is anticipated to be the largest UJA campaign in the history of the Hamilton Jewish community – an expected one million dollars raised – is off to a good start, according to Dr. Joe Greenbaum, chair of this year's Israel Now and Forever Campaign 2002.

The impetus for this unprecedented effort, Greenbaum said, has been "14 months of unending terrorism that has severely damaged the Israeli economy."

Incoming Federation President Dr. Bonnie Loewith elaborated. "In the past six months, the Israeli government has taken close to one billion dollars out of the education, social services and immigrant absorption budgets and moved the money into internal security needs. The result has been the retrenchment of services to Israel's most vulnerable populations: children, the elderly, the poor and the new arrivals. It is rare that the Israeli government makes a direct appeal to the Diaspora for additional funds – the Yom Kippur war, Operation Exodus are two examples that come to mind – so when this does happen, it means the situation is very serious."

In response to the crisis UJA Federation has added a second line to its campaign where community members will be asked for an additional 25% of their total pledge to provide direct financial support to Israel.

Beth Bandler, co-chair of UJA's Women's Division congratulated her divisional captains and canvassers for being so well organized and motivated.

"The Hamilton women's campaign has traditionally been well organized and this year is no different. Our telethons are basically completed and divisional cards are returning to the office quite rapidly now – some of them with very nice increases."

Bandler did mention one anomaly that she felt important. "Because the

women's campaign was organized and active so early this year, UJA Women's Division volunteers were out canvassing donors before the request for additional funds from Israel was received. As a result, many canvassers did not ask for a second line pledge for Israel. This has created some confusion but we are hoping that everybody is now working with the same information".

Women's division co-chair Naomi Eisenberg echoed her appreciation for the volunteers in the Women's Division and made special note of the

fact that "This campaign is not for Israel alone. Our local community agencies also depend on increased support from the Hamilton UJA Campaign. Our day schools, afternoon schools, social services, JCC, Birthright Israel, March of the Living, the food bank etc. all depend on the community's generosity."

UJA Federation executive director Gerald Fisher believes that the campaign will meet its goal.

"One million dollars should be a very reachable goal for a community of this size and with these resources. Other communities of like size

have been over the one million dollar level for many years.

Fisher went on to explain that the sole purpose of the UJA campaign is to raise dollars to provide services for people who need them, both locally and in regions where Jewish communities live under duress, such as Kiev, Moldova and Addis Ababa. Last year, UJA Federation received one million dollars in allocation requests to support the operational budgets of our beneficiary agencies. Only eight hundred thousand dollars was available.

"A shortfall of two

Community Launches Public Affairs Initiative

The Hamilton Jewish community has a new champion in the arena of community relations and public affairs. A community public affairs committee has now been established, headed by Dr. Lawrence Hart.

The committee mandate is to ensure that the interest of the Hamilton Jewish community, especially as it relates to Israel, is fairly presented in the general community. In fulfillment of that mandate, the committee intends to recruit and train volunteers to take responsibility in media relations and media monitoring, liaison with all levels of government and relationship-building with a wide range of local opinion makers. The committee also recognizes the necessity of providing the local Jewish community with speakers and programs that inform, motivate and stimulate ongoing interest and activity in the Jewish public affairs agenda and the issues it addresses.

"The committee is meeting monthly," said Dr. Hart. "Along with conducting our regular business, we will be inviting community leaders from various organizations in order to broaden the knowledge and skill base of committee members."

UJA Federation executive director, Gerald Fisher, complimented the



Alan Livingston, Ron Berenbaum, Rabbi Bernard Baskin and Dr. David Somer are pictured here while listening to a presentation by Paul Michaels, of the Canada Israel Committee. Other members of UJA Federation's Public Affairs Committee include Lorne Finkelstein, Daniel Kollek, Lester Krames, Jeff Levy, Bonnie Loewith, John Ross, Frank Samuels, Judy Schwartz, Evelyn Silver, Andrea Zians

committee on getting off the ground so quickly. "In my experience, new initiatives often take time in recruiting and orienting committee members. This committee received a very quick response to a brief article in the last issue of the HJN. It resulted in volunteers 'self-selecting' to serve on this important committee. These are volunteers with a good understanding of the issues. They have been waiting for a local mechanism that would address such critical issues as unchallenged criticism of Israel in the press, a lack of sensitivity to the Jewish calendar in schools and especially, the lack of a local voice empowered to speak on behalf of the Jewish

community."

The committee has announced the first in what will be a series of public programs designed to inform and motivate the Jewish community. Gerald Steinberg, regular columnist in the Jerusalem Post, Globe and Mail, National Post, Washington Post and New York Times will be addressing the community on Sunday morning, December 2nd, 10:30am (see sidebar)

The committee is also sponsoring a series of workshops, provided by the Canada Israel Committee called LIAT (Local Israel Action Team). Each of the three workshops will focus on a different aspect of advancing a pro-Israel position in the general

UJA Federation

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CIRCULATION
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Canadian Publications
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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

UJA/FEDERATION OF HAMILTON

PRESIDENT
Harvey Waxman

PAST PRESIDENT
Cheryl Greenbaum

UJA CAMPAIGN CHAIR
Joe Greenbaum

UJA WOMEN'S DIVISION
CO-CHAIRS
Beth Bandler, Naomi Eisenberg

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

From the Director's Desk



Gerald Fisher

In some ways it seems like a long time has past, but actually, I arrived on the job just fourteen weeks ago. It's been an intense and challenging experience. As you might imagine, much of this time has been spent getting to know the community and the people in it. Here is a bit of what I have discovered.

This is a community of substance. This is a community with deep Jewish roots and deep Jewish commitments, evident in the quality of congregational life, in the impressive Jewish community infrastructure we have inherited, in our passionate views on Israeli politics and Jewish education, in our support for worthy causes such as Israel Bonds and the Jewish National Fund. It is evident by the number of Hamiltonians who now live in Israel and serve as our direct living link to the Jewish state. Speaking of which, how many communities of our size can boast to have produced both the Secretary General of the Jewish Agency (Josh Schwarcz) and a clerk for the Chief Justice of the Israeli Supreme Court? (Eli Greenbaum)

All that being said, I see precious little evidence of people in this community feeling passionately about our Federation. In most communities, the activities of the Federation, the decisions of the Federation leadership, the strategy for the campaign, the results of the allocations process provide the most passionate "grist for the Jewish mill" – but not here. I could be wrong, but my sense is that in Hamilton, the Federation is, at best, an afterthought to most members of the community. Do people really grasp what Federation really is?

Conceptually, all federations perform essentially the same function in every community, that of the central communal agency dedicated to the enhancement and enrichment of the quality of Jewish life and to the perpetuation of the community's identification with Israel.

This is a large and, to me, profoundly compelling mission; one in which every member of the community has a direct stake. The Federation and every decision it makes, not only needs to reflect the community's best interest – it needs to be owned by every community member. Federations are generally the repositories of the strongest community leadership base. Is that true in Hamilton?

In my view, our Federation has a great deal of basic community-building to do. We need to do a much better job of explaining our role to the community. We need to communicate much better and more often to every UJA donor. We need to be better organized to work more effectively. We need to develop genuine relationships with our major donors and relationships with our beneficiary agencies. Most of all, we need to produce results that everyone can see and in which this community can begin to take some pride.

The responsibility for bringing about this change belongs to the Federation leadership, both lay and professional. I came to Hamilton with the intention of providing the professional leadership required to truly reinvigorate this agency and the Hamilton Jewish community. But I cannot do this alone. I need volunteer partners to fill a variety of Federation leadership roles.



THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON

will take place

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

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 TRIBUTE CARDS

**have all the ways of fulfilling your need for community
Thoughtful cards for any occasion sent the same day**

648-0605 EXT. 306

JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES & THE KOSHER FOOD BANK

In Memory Of

RUTH ZAITCHIK - Klinghoffer Family, Ruth & Manny Fine, Matchen Family, Joel Goldberg & family - loss of grandfather - Klinghoffer Family
BETTY FRANK - Matchen Family. MALCOLM GOLDBLATT - Phil & Daphne Leon. REVA RAPHAEL - Ralph & Dolly Cohen, Robert & Marilyn & Michele Wasserman. ANNA FAUMAN - Sam & Anna Taylor. BARNEY BARENHOLTZ - Shirley & Albert Yaffe

Special Occasions

CLARETA & JACQUES SCHOENBERG - birth of daughter, Danna Jade - Francine & Moishe Lindenbaum and family. REBECCA & AVI SHAPIRO - birth of son, Moshe Zvi - Michael & Adalia Schweitzer. NANCY & BRIAN SOMER - birth of grandson, MOSHE ZVI - Michael & Adalia Schweitzer, Francine, Moishe, Sarit & Eric Lindenbaum. ARIELLE STRUB - in honour of your Bat Mitzvah - Benjamin Asa. DAVID & BONNIE LOEWITH - in honour of Lenny's Bar Mitzvah - Ralph & Dolly Cohen, Michele & Charles Schneider, Terry & Bonnie Nyp, Carol & Lester Krames, Christine & Ron Nusca and family, Hilda & Jack Rosen. DAVID WASSERMAN - Happy birthday - Gerri & Sam Shapiro. MICHAEL KEMENY - Happy birthday - Gerri & Sam Shapiro. DARLENE SHAPIRO - Happy birthday - Gerri & Sam Shapiro. JEFFREY SOLOMON - Special Birthday - Louis & Yetta Hotz and family. GERALD & JACQUELINE TOLKIN - 50TH Wedding Anniversary - Dolly & Ralph Cohen, Carol & Lester Krames, Chuck & Bea Matchen. SHIRLEY & ALBERT YAFFE - in honour of your grandson's bar mitzvah - Dolly & Ralph Cohen. DANNA BROWN - being honoured by the State of Israel Bonds -

TEEF - THE EDUCATION ENDOWMENT

In Memory Of

GEORGE SCHOLES - Flora & Allen Rams. RUTH ZAITCHIK - Flora & Allen Rams.

Special Occasion

BRIAN & NANCY SOMER - birth of grandson, MOSHE ZVI - Flora & Allen Rams. AVI & REBECCA SHAPIRO - birth of son, Moshe Zvi - Allen & Flora Rams. HOWARD & JOANNE BERNSTEIN - Amy's graduation - Flora &

KIEV HUNGER FUND

In Memory Of

TAMI TOLKIN - memory of uncle - Trish, Alan, Ayelet, Noam & Yonah Eppel. AGI & ELDAD MEINHARD - loss of nephew and his wife in the WTC - Patricia & Alan Eppel and family. HARRY FINKELSTEIN - Patricia Eppel

Special Occasions

ROBIN & TIM GOFINE - Mazel Tov on your daughter's Bat Mitzvah - Patricia & Alan Eppel. GARY & IETA WAXMAN - Mazel Tov on the engagement of Jennifer to Dan - Patricia & Alan Eppel

RALPH TRAVIS ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

In Memory Of

ELLA RUSKIN - Corinne Travis. GEORGE SCHOLES - Corinne Travis, Harry & Barbara Laskin. RUTH ZAITCHIK - Corinne Traivs, Phil & Daphne Leon. ANNA FAUMAN - Corinne Travis. EVA RAPHAEL - Corinne Travis. MALCOLM GOLDBLATT - Gladys Dubo, Corinne Travis. Dale Polsky - memory of mother - Corinne Travis, Bunny Morris, Irv & Thelma Pitch

Special Occasion

ANNE SCHOENBERG - birth of granddaughter - Danna Jade - Corinne Travis. CLARETA & JACQUE SCHOENBERG - birth of daughter, Danna Jade - Corinne Travis. TOM & SASHA WEISZ - birth of grandson - Mitchell Ryan - Phil & Daphne Leon. DAVID & ESTHER LEVY - Golden Wedding Anniversary - Corinne Travis. DALE & LARRY POLSKY - birth of grandson, Dillon - Corinne Travis, Bunny Morris, Irv & Thelma Pitch.

Speedy Recovery

ISRAEL IS CALLING.
OUR COMMUNITY IS ANSWERING.

The response has been overwhelming.

UJA Federation Campaign is mobilizing donors and volunteers at a time of crisis for Israel and the world. We are delighted by the response. Your gift increase will answer Israel's request for help and directly assist Israelis most affected by the government's transfer of funds from vital services to meet mounting security costs.

Please join thousands of other concerned community members who are answering Israel's call during these difficult days.

To donate, call the UJA Federation at 905.648.0605. ext 306

To volunteer, contact Gerald Fisher, executive director, UJA Federation at 905-648-0605. ext 305.



UJA FEDERATION CAMPAIGN 2002

ISRAEL NOW
AND FOREVER



UJA Federation

Opening UJA Telethon sets new standards of cooperation

On October 21st, UJA and JNF co-sponsored a Super Sunday Telethon – Blue Box Collection Drive.

Gerald Fisher, new UJA Federation executive director, explained.

"When I first arrived I was made aware of certain tensions existing between UJA and JNF. I made it my first priority to resolve this issue."

A meeting with JNF emissary Effie Zussman provided an opportunity for each professional to quickly realize they had a friend and colleague in the other. On the basis of their emerging

professional relationship, JNF chair, Sharon Hart, suggested the concept of the co-sponsored event.

"It seemed a simple matter of two organizations, each with a strong Israel focus, coming together to support Israel during this time of terrible violence", said Mr. Fisher.

The event proved to be a very good first step in what may turn out to be a much closer, supportive relationship between the two organizations.

"What we did was actually quite simple," explains Fisher. "We made an extra effort to reach

UJA donors over the phone, letting them know that if they could write a check for their pledge right away, JNF Blue Box volunteers would come by to pick it up, along with their blue boxes. Dozens and dozens of donors took advantage of this, giving UJA a big boost in cash collections. We raised and collected almost \$18,000 for Israel and local needs in one morning."

More importantly perhaps, this one small event may have laid the groundwork for a renewed sense of partnership between two

UJA Lawyers Division chairs

Jay State, Abe Szpirglasz and Harvey Katz collectively chair the UJA Lawyers Division. In preparing for the recent lawyers division telethon, the team learned that the average UJA gift in the Hamilton Lawyers Division is \$645. The national average is \$1,000. With this information in hand, the team has been able to set a measurable standard for the division. The results have been immediate. The November 18th telethon brought several breakthrough increases.

Upcoming UJA Campaign activities include the Builders Division telethon, chaired by Paul Roth, the Dental Division campaign co-chaired by Drs. Larry Levin and



Harvey Katz explaining the compelling needs of the

Lawrence Yanover and a major gifts event, featuring Mr. Joel Tauber. One of North America's premier Jewish lay leaders, Mr. Tauber serves as chairman of the national executive committee of United Jewish Communities and as national chair of United Jewish Appeal. According to Gerald Fisher, "Joel's presence in Hamilton will provide a unique

Imagine feeling overwhelmed by a personal and financial crisis.

Imagine hearing you have just been laid off and are suddenly faced with anxiety about how you will pay your mortgage, your bills, your food.

Imagine that you are a single parent, making minimum wage. How will you ever manage?

Imagine that you are an isolated senior, unable to cope with your social, housekeeping and shopping needs.

With your support of the UJA Campaign Hamilton Jewish Social Services will be able to respond to these compelling local needs. Please respond generously when you are called for the United Jewish Appeal Campaign 2002.



In the words of our clients...

"Thank you for giving me back my life"

"We could not have made it without Jewish Social Services"

"Your care and support helped us through this crisis"

"You knew how to help my family help ourselves"

Beneficiary Agencies

MIDRASHA HIGH SCHOOL

THE MEANING OF CHANUKAH



Andrea Zians

If I polled your average Jew walking down the street, what do you think he or she would say was the essence of Chanukah? Would I hear about the lighting of the menorah, the savory latkes frying in oil, the spinning dreidels, or jelly filled donuts?

Maybe if I was lucky I would hear about parties, and presents, and Chanukah gelt. Maybe if I caught a day school graduate I'd hear about a war that was won by a small group, or all about fighting assimilation. Sure all these answers are correct, but they miss a very special aspect of Chanukah.

Have you ever

wondered why we light one candle on the first night and then increase a candle each subsequent night? I mean why not light eight candles each night? Or maybe (like Shammai ruled) light eight candles the first night and decrease by a candle each night of Chanukah? What is so important about these candles and increasing their light as we proceed throughout the holiday?

We at Midrasha have the answer to that very question. You see the primary focus of lighting these small little flames is to increase the spark of Judaism in our lives. The flame of the candle is compared to the Jewish soul. A flame constantly leaps upwards, regardless of which direction you actually hold the candle. So too, a Jewish soul is constantly striving to go up, and increase in spirituality.

Now we can begin to understand why we light one candle on the first night and then add a subsequent candle for each corresponding night. The message is clear. Don't ever go down in spirituality. Always increase. Strive to bring more light into the world. Don't ever decrease the light in this world.

At Midrasha we strive to instill these messages.

Increase the Judaism in your life. Don't think your education is over because you finished Sunday school or the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. Keep growing. Don't ever stop, because you may (G-d forbid) extinguish your flame.

As I have gotten to know the students at Midrasha, I am amazed at the dedication of both the parents and these young adults who have placed Jewish education at such a high value in their lives. These kids give up their free time, study time, and time from extra curricular activities. Their parents are often carpooling them, and fixing quick dinners for the nights they have to be out studying. These families deserve a real Yasher Koach from our community. They have made the commitment to grow in their Judaism, and I can see that our community will be a better place because of these families and their

McMaster JSA a forum and support for Jewish

BY HAGIT SOIBELMAN, McMASTER JSA

As young adults in university, Jewish students need a forum where they can discuss issues relevant to Jews and interact with other Jewish students. The Jewish Students' Association (JSA) at McMaster provides us with such a forum and so much more.

Without the JSA, most of us would find it hard to explore our Jewish identities while at school. Before I began university, a wise person said to me: "Many students who are just starting university feel that they can just coast with their Judaism throughout college. They feel that they will simply maintain their involvement without increasing their knowledge but without decreasing it either. But Judaism doesn't work that way, you're always moving - if not forwards, then backwards!" Now that I am at university, I

take these words very seriously.

With the current conflicts Israel is facing, Jewish students across North America face unique challenges while on campus. Problems ranging from a misrepresentation of historical facts to blatant anti-semitism are just some examples of the issues Jewish students deal with on a constant basis, EVEN IN HAMILTON!

When "times get tough" as was the case last year with the start of the intifadah and this year with Israel continually at war, it is most important that Jewish students on campus have a forum in which to meet, discuss, learn and gain support. Our events range from social nights to cultural and educational programs. We sometimes have guest speakers on various issues ranging from the political situation in Israel to intermarriage.

The Midrasha and the McMaster Jewish Students Association

are just some of the UJA Beneficiaries supported through your gift to the UJA Campaign.

Please respond generously when your canvasser calls.



MIDRASHA ANNOUNCES

FREE HEBREW CLASSES for adults at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy.

For more information call Andrea Zians at 905-308-7647 or

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Winter Programs

Camp Horef / Winter Camp

December 24, 27, 28, 31 and January 2, 3, 4
 Ages: 3 - 10 years (toilet-trained)
 (Turned 3 years by December 15, 2001)
 Time: 9:00 - 3:00 pm
 Members: \$15 a day or \$35 for 3 days
 or \$60 for 6 days \$65 for 7 days
 Non Members: \$25 a day or \$65 for 3 days or
 \$110 for 6 days \$125 for 7 days
 Bring a dairy lunch, snowsuit, boots, hat and
 gloves and be prepared to have lots of fun.
 Registration required.

Adult Education at the JCC

Instructor: Rabbi Meir Joshua
 Wednesdays - January 9 - February 13

Basic Judaism at 7:00 pm

Bring your own questions regarding fundamental
 concepts and customs. Focus will be on the Kosher
 dietary laws.

Beginning Hebrew at 8:00pm

If you are interested in conversational Hebrew,
 understanding the prayerbook or studying Bible in
 it's original language this course is for you. We
 will discuss introduction to grammar, vocabulary
 development and improving reading skills. For
 people with little or no previous experience with
 Hebrew.

Talmud Bavli at 9:00 pm

The text that has captivated the "People of the
 Book" for two millennia. In depth study of the
 original text with commentary of Rashi. The topic
 will be "Mesechet Ketubot" which deals with laws
 and responsibilities of Jewish Marriage.
 Registration for all classes required.

\$10 JCC Members \$20 Non Members

Become a Certified Babysitter

Age 11 & up Instructor: Rachel Gold
 Thursdays 7:00 - 8:30pm
 January 10 - February 28, 2002 (8 weeks)
 \$35 JCC Members \$55 Non JCC Members

Table Tennis

Instructor : Allen Harris
 Tuesdays 6:45 - 8:45 pm, Jan 8 - March 5, 2002
 \$30 JCC Members \$50 Non-Members

Rhythmic Toning

Instructor: Irina Egorova
 Thursdays, 9:15 - 10:45am
 January 10 - March 7, 2002 (9 weeks)
 \$149.80 JCC Members \$171.20 Non Members

Pilates

Instructor: Susan Cocks
 Fridays, 9:15 - 10:15 am
 January 11 - March 8, 2002 (9 weeks)
 \$96.30 JCC Members \$117.70 Non Members

Coming Soon

Celebrate Purim at the JCC

Sunday, February 24, 2002
 Watch your mail for further details.

Morris Black Public Speaking Contest for Grades 4 - 9

New date

Sunday, March 24, 2002

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

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

JCC Pages

"Mr. Congeniality"



Jonathan Wolff was the winner of the Marshall Shapiro
 Memorial Award at this year's Maccabi Youth Games.
 The award is presented annually for "Congeniality and
 Sportsmanship" and the winner is selected by the
 athletes. We congratulate Jonathan. He is a worthy



Come to the JCC for a Community Chanukah Party

Thursday, December 13, 2001
 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Lots of jelly donuts, magic show, storytelling,
 games and a special Teen corner to meet and
 brainstorm teen programming and social action
 with Bev Mann, the new JCC Teen Advisor.
 JCC Members \$2 \$4 Non Members JCC
 Members \$7 per family Non Members \$10 per

Enhance your simcha with Tzedakah Tzentrepieces

Food Baskets decorated to your taste to be
 donated to Hamilton's Kosher Food Bank
 Cost: \$15.00 and up

(tax receipt issued for food portion)

A Hamilton Jewish Community Centre project by
 Jewish Community Teens

Call the JCC at 905-648-0605 to place your order
 Any Teens interested in working on this project
 please call the JCC to have your name placed on
 the call list. This invaluable program brings
 together teenagers from the community, to enjoy
 the pleasure of tzedakah.

Tenders now being accepted for a Kosher Snack and Salad Bar at the JCC

Profits to you - Small commission to JCC
 Contact Joy Foster by December 31
 905-648-0605 if interested

The JCC Thanks

Leo and Isabel Strub for their donation of a table
 tennis table for our popular program instructed
 by Allen Harris; Ross Andrews for the donation
 of a cash register; and Abby Zeplovitz, Deena
 Zeplovitz, Nathan Zeplovitz, Talia Asa, Evan
 Schneider, Jason Waxman and Annie Zeplovitz
 for being so creative with the Tzedakah
 Tzentrepieces presented in honour of Lenny
 Loewith's Bar Mitzvah by the Loewith Family.

Bingo Thank Yous

Virginia Mendes da Costa & Rob Murdoch
 Nancy & Howard Katz, Susan-Bayla & Stephen
 Waxman, Shelley Marks, Cheryl Hossiasohn
 Aubrey Friedman

Camp Director

The Jewish Community Centre is hiring a
 director for it's Camp Kadimah/Gadna
 summer day camp.

Applicants should possess the following:
 Experience in camp management,
 knowledge of Jewish Holidays and traditions
 and ability to relay this as part of the
 curriculum. Outgoing and fun personality,
 ability to work closely with peers, campers
 and community. Good managerial,
 organization and communications skills.
 Send your resumé to Joy Foster at the Jewish
 Community Centre.

Counsellors Needed for Camp Kadimah and Camp Gadna

Send your resume or application for the
 attention of Joy Foster at the JCC

Yom HaShoah

Planning is underway for the
 annual Yom HaShoah
 commemoration. If you have any
 additional names to be added to
 the remembrance recording
 please call Michele Schneider at
 905-648-0605 by no later than

Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton
 & Area

Hamilton Jewish Communal Projects

ANNUAL GENERAL

MEETING

VOLUNTEER

RECOGNITION NIGHT

January 10, 2001 7:30pm

Installing Officer: Howie Brown
 President Virginia Mendes da Costa
 President Elect: Aubrey Friedman
 Executive Board Members: Howard
 Eisenberg, Joel Feldman

Board Members 2000 - 2001

Susan Gilbert, Mark Gould, Amy Katz
 Martin, Helene Katz, Nancy Katz, Alisa
 Krieger, Barbara Laskin, Harry Laskin,
 Randy Levinson, Shelley Marks, Pauline
 Morris, CeCe Schreiber, Susan Waxman, Ed
 Zaltz

Members at Large : Gerald Asa, Richard
 Leibtag

Advisory Council : Sheldon Frank, Mel
 Gunn, Harvey Katz, Howard Katz,
 Michael Kemeny, Les Lasky, John Levy,
 David Loewith, Herb Schreiber, Sandy
 Silver, Leo Strub, Abe Szpirglas, Larry
 Szpirglas, Sam Taylor, Harvey Waxman,
 Warren Waxman

For Board Members 2002 - 2004

Support your JCC and win

"Dinner for Two Anywhere in the World"

if you are the holder of the
 winning ticket bought in the

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\$100 per ticket
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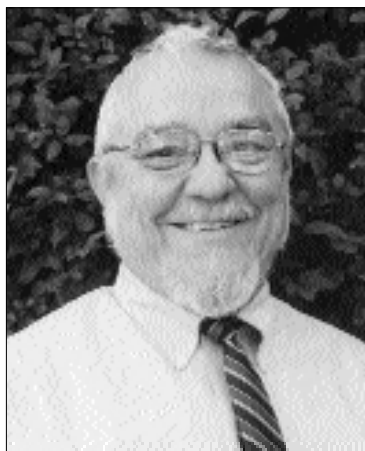
Rabbi leaves legacy of memories of 'beautiful

BY
WENDY SCHNEIDER

The news came on a Friday afternoon and spread like wildfire. At pick-up time, parents found their children emerging from the Hamilton Hebrew Academy with tears in their eyes. Rabbi Eisenstein, they reported solemnly, was retiring. And everyone was suddenly aware that an era had passed.

The era began 28 years ago, when Rabbi Ze'ev Eisenstein was hired as the principal of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. What role, one wonders, did fate play in this native New Yorker's decision to make his home here after a professional career that was spawned in Seattle, Washington, refined in St. Louis, Missouri and almost took him to Los Angeles? Whatever combination of events were responsible for bringing Rabbi and his wife Esther to Hamilton, it is probably no exaggeration to say that no other individual has had as far reaching an impact in this community.

Among his former students there is a



Rabbi Ze'ev Eisenstein

unanimity of opinion about the qualities that made him so loved. His ability to see the beauty and uniqueness in each child, his infinite optimism, his insistence on finding joy in everyday experiences, are consistently cited.

What were the early experiences that shaped this man's life? Growing up poor in finances, but rich in love, he was raised in an orthodox family in New York City. The rabbi credits his parents for instilling in him a reverence for education and a propensity to see the good in every human being. Ironically, the biggest challenges he faced as a child were in school. When his grade one teacher, convinced he was

purposely underachieving, forced him to wear a dunce cap, the rabbi learned an important lesson about the power of a teacher to impact on a child's self-esteem.

"The more she treated me that way, the more I lived up to it."

Self-preservation meant making the best of a bad situation. "I couldn't change the teacher so I worked on myself. I found a lot of satisfaction helping people."

Even during his years as a local gang member (about which his students never tire of hearing), he continued to get his greatest satisfaction from helping people.

The rabbi also developed a deeply-felt passion for Israel. At the age of 17, he went for a year and stayed for four. Responding to family pressures, he returned to the States, taking a job as a teacher in a Jewish day school in Seattle. His instant success made it clear that returning to Israel was not going to be as easy as he had hoped.

"I felt I couldn't leave. I loved these kids and couldn't leave them."

Seven years later, however, he, Esther and their young family moved to St. Louis, where the rabbi worked as a principal and studied speech therapy, his dream of moving to Israel still very much alive. He was seriously considering taking a position at Tel Aviv University when a fateful conversation with his rabbi once more changed the course of his life. As a result of that conversation, during

which his mentor convinced him that Israel didn't need speech therapists as much as diaspora children needed a fine educator, that he decided once again to look for a position in North America. Deciding between Hamilton and Los Angeles was relatively easy.

"I loved Hamilton because it was a small town. I didn't just want to be a principal who sits in his office and does what he has to. I wanted to be involved in people's lives."

Rabbi Eisenstein's educational philosophy can be summarized by a Talmudic expression that says 'what comes from the heart goes to the heart.'

In his own words, his goal "was to give the kids a love for yiddishkeit, a pride in being Jewish and a positive attitude towards Torah and mitzvos." His authentic and unwavering commitment to that goal created a family-like atmosphere at the school where each child felt completely accepted, no matter what the level of his or her family's observance.

That every student who attended the Academy during the last three decades felt part of one family had repercussions far beyond the walls of the school. The parking lot of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy has been a place for parents from diverse backgrounds to mingle and to form friendships, something rarely found in a larger Jewish community. Non-observant children feel at home at Shabbat and holiday dinners

hosted by religious families, while observant children's kashrut requirements are sensitively met at their classmates' birthday and B'nai Mitzvah celebrations. It was due to Rabbi Eisenstein's influence that the Hamilton Hebrew Academy has been a unifying force in what is generally seen as a fragmented community.

During the days and weeks following the rabbi's retirement, students, parents and teachers, past and present, were asked to reflect on the impact he had on their lives. The following are among the thoughts that were shared:

"One day I was walking from the car to the playground and I had a chance to observe Rabbi Eisenstein in the playground. He was so gentle and loving. He wasn't that way because he thought someone was watching him. He does what he does because he truly loves people."

"Rabbi Eisenstein is one of the most joyful and kind people I've ever met. He really taught me to be happy at all times, to see the good in every situation."

"Rabbi Eisenstein is one of the most special and influential people in my life. When I first came to Hamilton, Rabbi was the first person to welcome me into the community. I like to think of him to be my friend and I am so sad to see him retire."

"Rabbi Eisenstein has made a tremendous impact on my life both personally

Temple Anshe Sholom welcomes contributions to

It was great luck the day I visited Shalom Village to view the recently opened sanctuary. In a corner I discovered a carton and on closer inspection I found a Torah mantle originally from the Hess Street Shul, Ohav Tzedek. I asked the Shalom management if they would lend the mantle to the cabinet at Temple Anshe Sholom. They agreed and it is now on display. It is hoped many will visit our found treasure.



Shannon Shapiro

Should anyone have articles of Judaic significance and wish to lend or donate to this cabinet, please

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Shalom Village



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Pat Morden

Shalom Village A place to call home

Shalom Village from its earliest inception as an idea in the late 1970's has meant that when health or social challenges make home an impossibility, there is a warm vibrant community - a home away from home - to turn to for our seniors and their families. From that early idea Shalom Village has grown into its own - now providing life and living space for over 100 people.

Not many could have dreamed in those early days that with our evolution would come an affiliation with McMaster University, participation in published research, development of a state of the art fitness club, having nationally recognized nurses providing compassionate, highly skilled care, or a partnership with Ohav Zedeck in our Shalom Village Beit Kneset. Dining at our popular Bistro, seeing the many people from our community enjoying a meal together, or watching our busy TLVC (Teen Leadership and Volunteer Camp) having a car wash out front, it is hard to imagine that a few short years ago Shalom Village was viewed by many as a place only for the old. So too has our waiting list changed, as more and more people see Shalom Village not as a place of last resort, but a home that can help smooth some of the bumps of living with aging bodies.

To continue to meet the growing demand in our community and maintain your expectation that Shalom Village represents the best quality in services for our seniors Shalom Village is expanding. The purchase of the vacant school yard to the north of our current building will allow the addition of Shalom Village Too. This new structure will be home to 64 persons who require long term care and 30 apartments for single individuals or couples. Our Adult Day Program will have dedicated space and gardens for the growing numbers of people who visit us on a daily basis to benefit from our care and services. Shalom Village Too will increase our short term care capacity, giving more opportunity for a short stay while recovering from hip, knee and other types of surgery or injury. This service is well used now as people book ahead to have an interim convalescent stay before returning home. Our ability to respond to the needs of those seeking a hospice setting will also

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Shalom Village's Bistro restaurant, one of this community's best-kept secrets, has received rave reviews by anyone who has had the pleasure of dining in its elegant surroundings. The restaurant, open to the general public twice a month, is often sold out in advance. Residents appreciate the excellent food, elegant surroundings and the opportunity to host friends from the community.

A typical meal at the Bistro includes hors d'oeuvres served on arrival followed by a mixed green salad, squash soup, choice of Cornish hen stuffed with wild rice and mushrooms or grilled sea bass in white wine sauce on a bed of rice pilaf with glazed baby carrots with fresh dill; Dessert pumpkin chiffon cake or fresh fruit cocktail, select wines from Shalom Village's cellar, specialty coffee

Special Menschen

Found Treasures: ELMER FARKAS

Welcome to Found Treasures, a new feature of the Special Menschen page. Found Treasures will profile a diverse range of people who, in ways both big and small, are making a positive impact on the community in which they live. The HJN thanks

BY
PHYLLIS SHRAGGE

It's a typical Shabbat morning at Beth Jacob Synagogue. Congregants are assured of ritualistic consistency and an ongoing sense of community. Children are guaranteed a bonus, a warm greeting from a true gentleman who, with a twinkle in his eye, extends a firm handshake and a mini package of M & M's. Or maybe a Werther's butterscotch candy, or maybe a surprise treat. Elmer Farkas is never empty-handed.

The beloved Elmer is a Beth Jacob treasure whose



Elmer Farkas

eyes light up when he sees you. He has a gift, the ability of being sincerely appreciative of your presence. And to state the obvious as he admitted in

a recent interview, "I love people."

What is it about chocolate and Elmer? Back in the days when he lived in Windsor, there was a girl named Ada Minster who lived across the street from his family. Ada and Elmer went to the same parties and dances, but they hadn't dated one another.

"I liked dancing with her, but she was always with someone else," Elmer said. "One day I went with a girl (she was my friend's sister, but everyone thought she was my girlfriend) to visit Ada, who was sick. She was

quite happy to see us. I decided to go back the next day to bring her a box of chocolates. In those days, towards the end of the war, around 1943, you couldn't get chocolates anywhere. I remember driving all through Windsor and East Windsor, scouring the stores for chocolates. Finally I bought some under the table."

The chocolates must have impressed Ada because that was the beginning of their courtship. Elmer and Ada have been married for 57 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

Elmer played football in high school, so well in fact, that he was one of two in his school who made the "All-Star Team of '38." After high school, he played semi-professionally in Windsor, Sarnia and West Virginia. His football career came to an abrupt end, however, when after a game, he went to visit Ada at her cottage. "I didn't have time to shower and I was pretty banged up." Ada took one look at him and said: "You have to make up your mind, it's football or me!"

"She finished my football days," Elmer said,

without too much regret.

Elmer attended the Detroit Institute of Technology, left to play football, and subsequently worked for the Ford Motor Company. Then Ada's father needed help with his painting business in Hamilton. Elmer took a leave of absence from Ford. "Fifty-two years ago I came here for one year. In those days, the route from Windsor to Hamilton was through Brantford, Ingersoll and Woodstock. Anyway, I lost my road map," he said, with a grin, "I couldn't find my way back to Windsor."

Elmer ultimately became the manager of National Painting and Decorating (Hamilton) Ltd., and the branches in St. Catherine's and Kitchener. The Hamilton business community has acknowledged Elmer's professional success. Elmer was inducted into the Hamilton Construction Association Hall of Fame, in January 2000.

Elmer is extremely proud of his success in business. "I had 300 people working for me at peak season, plus office staff. My workers became part of the family. We still are in touch."

Sports, such as baseball,

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Rabbi Green to be honored by State of Israel Bonds in Palm Beach, Florida

Hamilton State of Israel Bonds is pleased to announce that Rabbi Morton Green will be honored at the Gala International Prime Minister's Club Dinner in Palm Beach, Florida on February 17, 2002.



Rabbi Morton Green

A native born son of Montreal, Rabbi Mordechai Green received his early religious training in Montreal and continued his studies in Yeshiva University in New York, from which he graduated in 1955, and was awarded the Talmud Prize. Since his ordination in 1958, he has served as rabbi of the Adas Israel Congregation.

Rabbi Green was instrumental in erecting the magnificent edifice of the congregation and in 1962 established the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, Zichron Meir, a unifying force in the community.

In 1964 Rabbi Green was the recipient of the Amudim award of Torah Umesorah, the national society of Hebrew day schools. He was the first rabbi in the active rabbinate to receive this coveted award, given each year to outstanding leaders in the field of Jewish education.

Rabbi Green served as chair of the United Jewish Welfare Fund of Hamilton Wentworth, chair of the Israel Bonds campaign and was a Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner honoree. He has held executive offices in national and international, rabbinical, Zionist and congregational organizations.

Young Voices

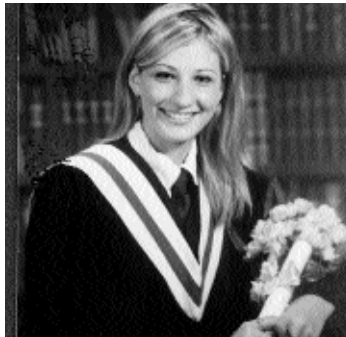
In the midst of hatred, a plea for tolerance and

The HJN is delighted to introduce Young Voices, a page devoted to the voices of our youth. If you 'd like contribute to these

Hatred. Everywhere I turn today this word invades my thoughts. News broadcasts, the radio, newspapers all report of a world where hatred is growing and spreading. As a Jewish teenager growing up in Hamilton, I have been educated continuously about the importance of acceptance and tolerance.

In Grade 9, I entered a school where there were people of many cultures, religions, backgrounds, and even sexual orientation. I finally realized the importance of these ideals in a diverse community. I relaxed in this comfort and security, never truly appreciating how important this refuge was to me until it was threatened.

September 11 is a date which no one will ever be able to forget. On that day hatred forever changed the face of this world as we know it. As the world froze in a state of disbelief, I too experienced many



Catherine Kates

emotions in a way I had never experienced them before. Shock, uncertainty, sadness, anguish, and fear. I was faced with a new and harsh reality, that of the power of hatred.

After September 11 there was a strong call for unity, advocating that we should all join together to fight this evil cause. This event seemed to bring out goodness and compassion in people throughout the country and world. But it also brought to light new faces of racism and hatred.

If we are united, then why are acts of prejudice and racism occurring? Why was a Hindu Temple in Hamilton set on fire?

The answer is ignorance.

Even at my school, acts of hatred are becoming more common. A darker skinned boy had the words, "Go home Bin Laden" scraped into the side of his car. The walls of the boys' bathroom were painted with swastikas.

As a people who know what it feels like to be targeted we must take this opportunity to stand up for those who are victimized and fight this hatred as fervently as we can. The way we choose now will affect our lives in the future.

Our tradition teaches us the reality of evil but reminds us, too, of our ability to overcome evil, to affirm hope, and to achieve healing. We speak of the notion of Tikkun Olam, saving the world. When we look at the world around us it definitely reflects one filled with disease and in dire need of healing.

Bombings and shootings may not be the right

answer. Negotiations may get us nowhere and we may never find the solution to hatred or the issues that surround it. But one thing we know for sure. Hatred must be stopped. And each of us can contribute to this daunting task. Accept and help people around you, not because you agree or disagree with them, but

because they are human. People who share the same skin colour or nationality as the monsters who committed these crimes are not responsible for what they did and should not have to suffer personally.

As Jews we know from bitter experience that religion can be used as an excuse for hatred. It is only

A View of Jordan

even the birds are at war here.

once I met a small boy with large hands
in the soft bramble of the eastern hills;
he told me we had nothing to hide
and I believed him –
the bird on his shoulder eyed me with pity,
his goat forlorn and unsteady
on the dry hill.

for a fleeting moment
I felt like bounding into Jordan
with its mists and stone cities –
the ephemeral clarity of a madman
in a country at war with itself.

when I turned back
he was gone, and so was his black bird
and his goat.

I have since returned to that dry hill
in search of a boy
with large hands and a goat, in search
of the absurd peace that haunts my bones, that
sucks on
the marrow of this land
and its dry hills.

and to find a black bird that did not cry,
did not shriek and mourn its desert fate
like all birds here,
but eyed me in sad silence
with clipped black wings.

Avi Denburg

Avi, son of Judah and Susan Denburg, is currently spending the year at the Rothberg International

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Fun, Food and Friendship... Na'amat retreat focuses on shared

BY
LAURA MESTELMAN

When was the last time you went on a scavenger hunt, tried to build a Playdoh and spaghetti bridge strong enough to hold a coke can, or shared a meaningful show-and-tell by a wood-burning fire with 18 interesting women? This (and other planned and spontaneous activities) was the delightful fate of those from Naamat's Nitsan chapter who attended their late-October weekend retreat entitled "Our Values Ourselves - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow".

With facilitation support by others, this feast for the body and soul was well organized by members Jan Hastie, Helen Metz and Michele Ronen. Participants were hosted in three



Yael Greenberg Livingston, Shelley Marks, Gloria Mostyn, Dora Fischer and Michele Ronen were among the participants of

nearby cottages in the quiet late-autumn Lake Simcoe area. We dined family-style on delicious and diverse culinary offerings brought by all attendants, and cooperative kitchen duty added well to the bonding experience.

Beyond fun, food and friendship, the multi-purpose Friday night to Sunday noon retreat was to explore our shared values and interests. To help us individually clarify what has been and still is meaningful to us, an open

process of several self-exploration activities was used; these also fostered a consideration of why we have come to Naamat. With these lists developed, the participants looked at what values we might want to emphasize in our future involvements and efforts.

As several of the coordinators noted, everyone had something to contribute. We were able to celebrate our differences yet generate a lot of ideas as to where we want to go as a group. The end-of-retreat evaluations were overwhelmingly positive.

The Nitsan chapter of Naamat holds monthly meetings on various topics of interest to Jewish women and runs a number of fund-raisers for social service projects in Israel,

including the annual spring authors luncheon. Anyone interested in more information can contact either Susan Roth at 905-628-0777 or Wendy Schneider, at 905-628-0058.

This year Na'amat Nitsan Hamilton will be sharing Chanukah with the students of the Hadera Technological High School in Israel. We are selling beautiful \$100 Chanukah gift cards. They are tax receipted for the full amount and all the proceeds will be going to our project in Hadera.

The students at the Technological School have a history of social problems and disadvantage; including drug abuse, minor criminal activity and poverty. This school

Israel Bonds honours the next generation of community



State of Israel Bonds' fashion show and luncheon drew a sellout crowd on November 5, honoring young women (from left to right), Danna Brown, Rachel Loewith, Alana Vertleib, Deanna Levy and Rina Goldberg

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CHANGES TO THE HAMILTON JEWISH TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

The Hamilton Jewish Telephone Directory is now available through the Aeshel Shalom Hebrew School, the Beth Jacob Hebrew School, the Hamilton Hebrew Academy and the Kehila Day School. The book can also be purchased at the Hadassah-WIZO office between the hours of 9 A.M. and 12 P.M. Monday through Friday.

There is an added page (page 111A) available for the book at the point of purchase. This page was inadvertently missed in the printing process.

The following are corrections to the listings:

Bader, Marc	103 Reding Ave.	Anc	L9G 1M9	905-304-8609
Davine, Ben & Fanny	3A-7D Macklin St.	Ham	L8S 3S1	905-528-7529
Jayson, William & Joan	21-2153 Dunsmuir Dr.	Burl	L7P 4R4	905-336-2101
Lax, Sheridan & Gloria	21 Markland St.	Ham	L8P 2J5	905-528-6446
Levy, Martin & Sandi	71 Pimlico Dr.	Dun	L9H 6J6	905-628-0106
Livingston, Jordan & Sylvia	305-77 Governor's Rd.	Dun	L9H 7N8	905-628-5342
Richter, Lowell & Cindy	164 Chancery Dr.	Anc	L9H 4M3	905-648-8030
Rossman, Richard & Carol	21 Lantern Lane	Dun	L9H 6N9	905-627-9737
Shogilev, Noranne & Marian	390 Oakwood Dr.	Burl	L7N 1X2	905-631-3221

Also please note:

K. D. Finley's Clothier 384 Pearl Street Burlington 905-333-6552
Fax: 905-333-8386

The Arctic Experience McNaught Gallery page 208 Web Site: www.arcticexperience.com

Indigo Books page 62 Web Site: www.indigo.ca

Hamilton Learning Centre page 68 Web Site: www.hamiltonlearningcentre.com

CIBC page 120 905-572-3112

PROFESSIONAL LISTINGS:

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Tikkun Olam

For many Jews, engaging in acts of tikkun olam or repairing the world through social action, is the primary means of satisfying the need to create a sense of Jewish community and identity. Acts of tikkun olam provide us with channels through which we can apply our Jewish response to contemporary issues. It is in this spirit that the HJN begins a new tradition in this issue of highlighting volunteer opportunities in our community on this page. To contribute to or be featured on this page,

Volunteer Opportunities

■ **UJA Federation** is seeking community members with marketing and promotional skills to participate in UJA Federation's communications committee. For more information call executive director, Gerald Fisher at 905-648-0605.

■ **Jewish Social Services** is looking for volunteers to play cards, board games and engage participants of the JSS adult day program in conversation.

Volunteers who are qualified in occupational and speech therapy, special education and psychology are needed to help children with learning difficulties.

Volunteers are also needed to tutor new immigrants in English. Call Carol Krames 905-648-0605, ext 325.

■ **Beth Tikvah** is in need of new furniture and appliances, maintenance services such as painting, renovations and roof repair and a van. Volunteers are also needed to provide social contact with residents.

■ **The Beth Jacob Mitzvah Committee** invites you to participate in **Out of the Cold** (see article, this page) Call Pat Dermer at 905-628-0612 or Joanne Manishen at 905-637-9026 for more information. The Beth Jacob Mitzvah Committee is also collecting toiletries to make gift baskets for clients of Jewish Social Services, the Native Women's Shelter, Second Stage Housing and guests of Out of the Cold. Sample sizes of soaps, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, hand cream, etc, and large sizes are all needed. Help fill the bathtub in the Beth Jacob foyer and provide for the less fortunate in our community.

■ **Temple Anshe Sholom Caring Committee:** Call Madeleine Levy at 905-648-0951

■ **Shalom Village** has many volunteer opportunities. Call Barbara Abraham at 905-529-1613.

'Out of the Cold' attracts volunteers from across community spectrum

Each Tuesday, from November through March a large group of volunteers of all ages, from Beth Jacob Synagogue, Temple Anshe Sholom, McMaster Jewish Students Association and from the community at large, prepares and serves a full hot meal as part of the Hamilton Out of the Cold program. Last year we served almost 2,000 of the 7,000 meals provided by Out of the Cold.

This project of the Beth Jacob Mitzvah Committee also provided shelter and a hot breakfast and bag lunch to the homeless and working poor of Hamilton.

We work at the James Street Baptist Church in the downtown core of the city.



Shirley and Brynah Silberg prepare a hearty meal for Out of the Cold

All indications are that this will be a difficult winter for the growing number of poor. Anyone wishing to volunteer should call Pat Dermer at 905 628-0612 or Joanne Manishen at 905-

637-9026. Contributions to underwrite the cost of the program are also welcome. It costs about \$75 to feed one person over the winter, since all the labor, except for security personnel, are

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