

Hamilton Jewish News

SERVING HAMILTON WENTWORTH AND AREA

DECEMBER 2009 VOL 24:3/ KISLEV 5770

AGREEMENT #40007180

Israel awaits...you!

December 16 deadline to enter draw for Israel tickets



The Shrine of the Book, a wing of the Israel Museum near Givat Ram in Jerusalem, houses the Dead Sea Scrolls. Photograph by Paul Roth

UJA Federation of Hamilton is encouraging all community members to make their campaign pledges by December 16th in order to become eligible for two free air fares to Israel. This is the “mantra” of UJA 2010 Campaign leaders, volunteers and staff as every effort is being made to close the campaign by the end of the calendar year.

It is still too early to predict the outcome of the UJA 2010 annual campaign. However, it seems that the strategic objective of getting the campaign completed earlier is being met.

The campaign kicked-off on October 18th. As of November 18th, the campaign was 50% completed on the way toward its goal of \$1.1M. For the Hamilton UJA campaign, this is a “quick start.”

In order to sustain the momentum towards both reaching the campaign goal and also covering all cards by December 16th, the Campaign leadership is reaching out to all its volunteer canvassers to get the job done now! Additionally, special efforts have been taken to engage the leadership

of all of the agencies that are beneficiaries of UJA dollars to staff the phones in a series of closing telethons scheduled between December 3rd and December 16th. A strong response from beneficiary agency leaders will make all the difference. The telethon initiative is chaired by Sandy Morris a UJA Federation Board member and a veteran UJA canvasser.

UJA is continuing to seek out volunteer canvassers. Telethon shifts are available – both day and evening - starting now. As well, volunteer canvassers can help right from their home. Making five calls to support our community is all it takes. Anyone wishing to help can contact the UJA Federation office at 905-648-0605.

If you want a chance at being the lucky winner of the two airfares, don't wait for your volunteer canvasser to call you. Pick up the phone and call the UJA Federation office to make your campaign pledge! Every dollar counts and you could be the lucky person. Please call and make your pledge today.

Israel Boycott Campaign Hits Close to Home

Mountain Equipment Co-op targeted again

Radical elements on the board of Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) are once again attempting to organize a boycott of Israeli products sold through MEC. We will not let this succeed.

The Pro-Israel community is urged to come out to a “BUYCOTT” of Israeli products for sale at the local MEC outlet from noon – 4:00pm on Sunday, November 29th at 1030 Brant Street in Burlington.

This is a perfect opportunity to do your Chanukah or Christmas shopping; to demonstrate your rejection of the boycotters; to say “thank you” to the Board of Directors of Mountain Equipment Co-op for importing Israeli products and to support the Israeli economy.

This activity is to counter a national picket and boycott of MEC stores that is being organized by anti-Israel forces in Canada. MEC has a terrific ethical sourcing

policy and does business with Israel within the framework of that policy.

We want that to continue.

In addition to doing your shopping at MEC on November 29th, we need supporters of Israel to join MEC by December 19th 2009, either by going to the MEC website or making a purchase at one of their stores. MEC members by that date have the right to vote for the Board of Directors and at the MEC Annual meeting in 2010.

We also need people to let us know that they are MEC members by registering at the BUYcott website. www.buycottisrael.ca

For more information about the MEC BUYcott event in Burlington, or if you want to volunteer to help on the day of the BUYcott, please contact Gerald Fisher at the UJA Federation office: 905-648-0605, ext 305 or email gfisher@jewishhamilton.org.

Public Affairs Committee reorganized

Judah Denburg and Monte Levy to co-chair new committee

In keeping with commitments made at the beginning of his term, UJA Federation President Larry Levin has brought together a new volunteer group to assume responsibility for guiding Hamilton's Public Affairs and Community Relations functions.

During the past five months, Levin has consulted with a number of individuals for their perspective on how the Public Affairs function can be better organized and how its mandate can be best implemented. Thus far, Levin has consulted with past members of the committee, the local Rabbinic community, key local leaders as well as representatives from our national community relations agencies. The consultation process will continue, however, we felt it was essential to launch the new initiative now rather than delay any further. Hamilton needs a strong clear voice to represent both our local and Canadian Jewish communities, as well as supporting Israel.

The new Public Affairs Committee will be co-chaired by Dr. Judah Denburg and Monte Levy. Denburg, who has previously served on the Federation Board and Executive Committee, was a co-founder of the Midrasha program and is founding chair of UJA Federation's Community Planning Committee. Levy, a current member of the Federation Board of Directors, also serves as a member of the Hamilton Media Advisory Council.

Other members of the committee include returning member Harold Pomerantz as well as Jeff Shinehoft and Jessica Wasserman. Shinehoft has distinguished himself in Israel advocacy activities and was

selected in 2008 to participate in a year-long national training program provided by Canada Israel Committee. Wasserman is a past president of the McMaster Jewish Students Association and is currently enrolled in the McMaster medical program.

Other members may be recruited as the committee agenda develops. UJA Federation Executive Director, Gerald Fisher will provide staff support.

The committee recognizes that there are many groups and individuals in the community that have an interest in Public Affairs and Israel Advocacy, including all three synagogues, the Jewish Students Association and the McMaster Jewish Faculty Association. UJA Federation is committed to reaching out, to engage, to collaborate and to facilitate activities in true partnership and support.

The full Public Affairs agenda is truly vast. Beyond Israel advocacy, UJA Federation already represents the Jewish community at several ongoing civic projects. The Federation also recognizes the need to take the initiative in engaging various church, ethnic and cultural groups. One of the first orders of committee business will be to review the various components of this initiative and develop a set of priorities that meets both the community's immediate and long term needs, and that can be achieved within the framework of existing resources.

Much is expected of this renewed initiative. The committee co-chairs are committed to keeping the community informed of developments and decisions taking place in this critically important Public Affairs Committee.

A message from your UJA Campaign Co-Chairs

We were born and raised in Hamilton and when we learned that our beloved city has the distinction of being the poorest Jewish community in Canada for the last number of years we were shocked and somewhat ashamed.

We are a strong, vibrant and unique Jewish community with a population of 5000 people, many of whom need assistance from those of us who have the luxury of giving.

We cannot allow the community we call home to flounder. Danna and I are asking you to consider an increase of a minimum of 5% over your 2009 Campaign gift to help us help the most vulnerable in our community.

We know you have heard it before and we would be remiss if we did not say to you again: Our community, in order to thrive, needs your help. Your willingness to dig a little deeper can make all the difference in the world to our most vulnerable.

And remember there is another way to give: “Treasures” UJA's on-line e-bay store, is happy to take your “unwanted, no longer loved” valuables. You will receive a tax receipt for the total sale value and our community will benefit from the proceeds of the sale. Please see page 6 of this issue for more information about which items our treasure seekers are seeking.

Thank you for living generously,

Lisa and Danna



Danna Horwood and Lisa Morris

The JCC and UJA Federation of Hamilton present
Hannukah Party & Mitzvah Day
 Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 12:30 pm at the JCC



- UJA Campaign Telethon**
 Participate in the UJA Campaign Telethon; it's a Mitzvah to be a canvasser! (training will be provided).
- Jewish Social Services Kosher Food Drive**
 Wanted: cans of tuna fish, salmon, corn, string beans, canned fruit, cereal boxes, instant coffee, tea, sugar, canned soups, tomato sauce, Kosher Macaroni and cheese, cookies, crackers and rice
- Jewish National Fund**
 Bring your full blue box and pick up an empty one.
- Canadian Blood Services**
 What's your Type? Find out what your blood type says about you.....sign up to donate at an upcoming clinic
- Card/Story Making Station**
 Create a card or story book for sick children or Holiday Greetings for children and adults!
- JCC Knitting Circle**
 Bring your knitting needles and pastel baby yarn to make 12" squares for neo-natal unit.
- Mystery Mitzvahs**
 You've gotta beat Mitzvah Day to find out the cool things you can do!
- Donations for the Cuban Jewish Community**
 Schools supplies, clothing, shoes, toiletries, pharmaceuticals.

Bring your MENORAH and candles for a Community Hannukah Light!
Food for Sale • Entertainment by children of our community

A word from Dr. Larry Levin

President, UJA Federation of Hamilton



Being President of Federation gives me a unique opportunity to witness and participate in the wide variety of meetings and activities that make our community great.

Many people ask me for an overview of what's happening at Federation and I thought you might be interested in a look behind the scenes.

Week of Nov 9-14, 2009 at Federation:

Monday – The culmination of Holocaust Education Week was a Kristallnacht remembrance presentation. This annual program chaired by Nadia Rosa and Madeleine Levy consisted of movies, speakers and school visits. We all know how important this is for our community at large, and for the next generation, to always remember. This is but one example of the hard work and dedication of Federation Committee volunteers, to insure this important program continues.

Tuesday – I chaired the UJA Federation Board Meeting at which all aspects of programming and community activities are reviewed with reports from all committees. Our current focus is on the UJA Campaign, chaired by Lisa Morris and Danna Horwood. The Campaign Cabinet and Canvassers, are working very hard. Together with your generous support, we will have a very successful campaign.

Wednesday – The new Public Affairs Committee met, under co-chairs Dr. Judah Denburg and Monte Levy. (see article, page one)

Thursday – I brought greetings from the Federation Board to the Beth Tikvah Annual General Meeting. Beth Tikvah, (a beneficiary agency of our UJA Campaign) provides a Jewish Home in the community for adults with developmental disabilities.

The same evening, I joined concerned members of the Jewish community who attended McMaster University for a talk by some who would like to see Israel disbanded. It was disturbing, to say the least, to hear the speaker and panelists' anti-Israel diatribe. However our presence at McMaster was to show community solidarity and support for our Jewish students and faculty.

Friday and Saturday – UJA Federation and Adas Israel Congregation sponsored Herb Keinon, a Jerusalem Post Diplomatic Correspondent to speak in Hamilton. Mr. Keinon spoke on Friday night to McMaster University Jewish Faculty and Students and on Saturday to the community. He put the week in perspective by talking about both Israeli geopolitical issues and its vibrant life and people.

On Saturday evening, YAD Hamilton, a group of young community leaders chaired by Mario Stolar, held the Fire and Ice event at the Dundas Curling Club.

Our wonderful Hamilton Jewish community is being well-served by your Federation and all its committees, volunteers, and staff under Executive Director Gerry Fisher, who work tirelessly to ensure the continued success and health of our community. As you can see, much work is being done on your behalf by a whole variety of people who are passionate about making our Jewish community a success now and in the future. Your generous support of the UJA Campaign and your volunteerism guarantee this will continue.

It is an honour and privilege to be your President. Thank you.

INSIDE HJN DECEMBER 2009



RABBIS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Rabbi David Forman, founding chairperson of Israel's Rabbis for Human Rights was Temple Anshe Sholom's scholar-in-residence the weekend of November 20-22. Pictured above, left to right are Rabbi Jordan Cohen, Rabbi Bernard Baskin and Rabbi Forman.



5 FEATURE
5 QUEEN OF THE BOOTLEGGERS
 Bessie Starkman Perri's colourful history



7 JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE
7 THE BABY GROUP
 New moms enjoy joint JCC/Beth Jacob program



SPECIAL MENTSCHEN
9 MILLI GOULD HONoured
 Inspired acceptance speech pays tribute to Hamilton

LIVES REMEMBERED
9 REMEMBERING A WAR HERO
 Leon Karan pays tribute to his father

IN THIS ISSUE

UJA Federation	1,2,6
Guest Voices	4
Feature	5
JCC page	7
Shalom Village	8
Special Mentschen	9
Community	10,11

COMING UP

PASSOVER ISSUE	
• Deadline for booking ad space	Feb. 5, 2010
• Deadline for receiving editorial copy	Feb. 12, 2010
• Deadline for receiving ad copy	Feb. 26, 2010
• Estimated Date of Arrival	Mar. 12, 2010

Hamilton Jewish News

PLEASE RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:
 P.O. Box 81203
 1030 Lower Lions Club Road
 Ancaster ON L9G 4X1
 Agreement # 40007180
Hamilton Jewish News is published 5 times a year by Hamilton Jewish News Inc. and Wendy Schneider
 Circulation 2,000

PUBLISHER
 Wendy Schneider
EDITOR
 Wendy Schneider
 wschneider@jewishhamilton.org
MANAGING EDITOR
 Gerald Fisher
TELEPHONE
 905-628-0058
FAX
 905-627-7099

TREASURER
 Jacki Levin
HONORARY LEGAL COUNSEL
 Allen Wynperle

BOARD MEMBERS
 Yves Apel, Steven Dembe, Gilda Ennis, Vivienne Epstein, Mark Gould, Cheryl Greenbaum, David Horwood, Michael Kam, Howard Katz, Anna Kos, Jacki Levin, Larry Levin, Monte Levy, Bonnie Loewith, Tom Martin, Shirley Molot, Lisa Morris, Sandy Morris, David Somer, Mario Stolar, Harvey Waxman, Janet Weisz-Asa.

UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON
PRESIDENT
 Larry Levin
PAST PRESIDENT
 David Somer
UJA CAMPAIGN CHAIRS
 Lisa Morris & Danna Horwood
VP FINANCIAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
 Shirley Molot
VP HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
 Vivienne Epstein

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.

Chocolate Tales
 Kosher Chocolate parties and events for all ages
 Create your own Hand crafted chocolate made from high quality ingredients
 Little Tikes Chocolate Parties
 Artisan Chocolate Making for Adults
 Weddings and Special Events
 Call 289.808.2891

Wentworth
 METAL RECYCLING
 495 Wentworth St. N., Hamilton, Ont., L8L 5X1
 Tel: (905) 527-1707 Fax: (905) 528-4684
 The Rochweg Family
 Recycling Since 1933
 Proud supporters of the Hamilton Jewish News

TEN STAR

INSURANCE

GROUP BENEFITS

RETIREMENT PLANNING

GUARANTEED INVESTMENTS



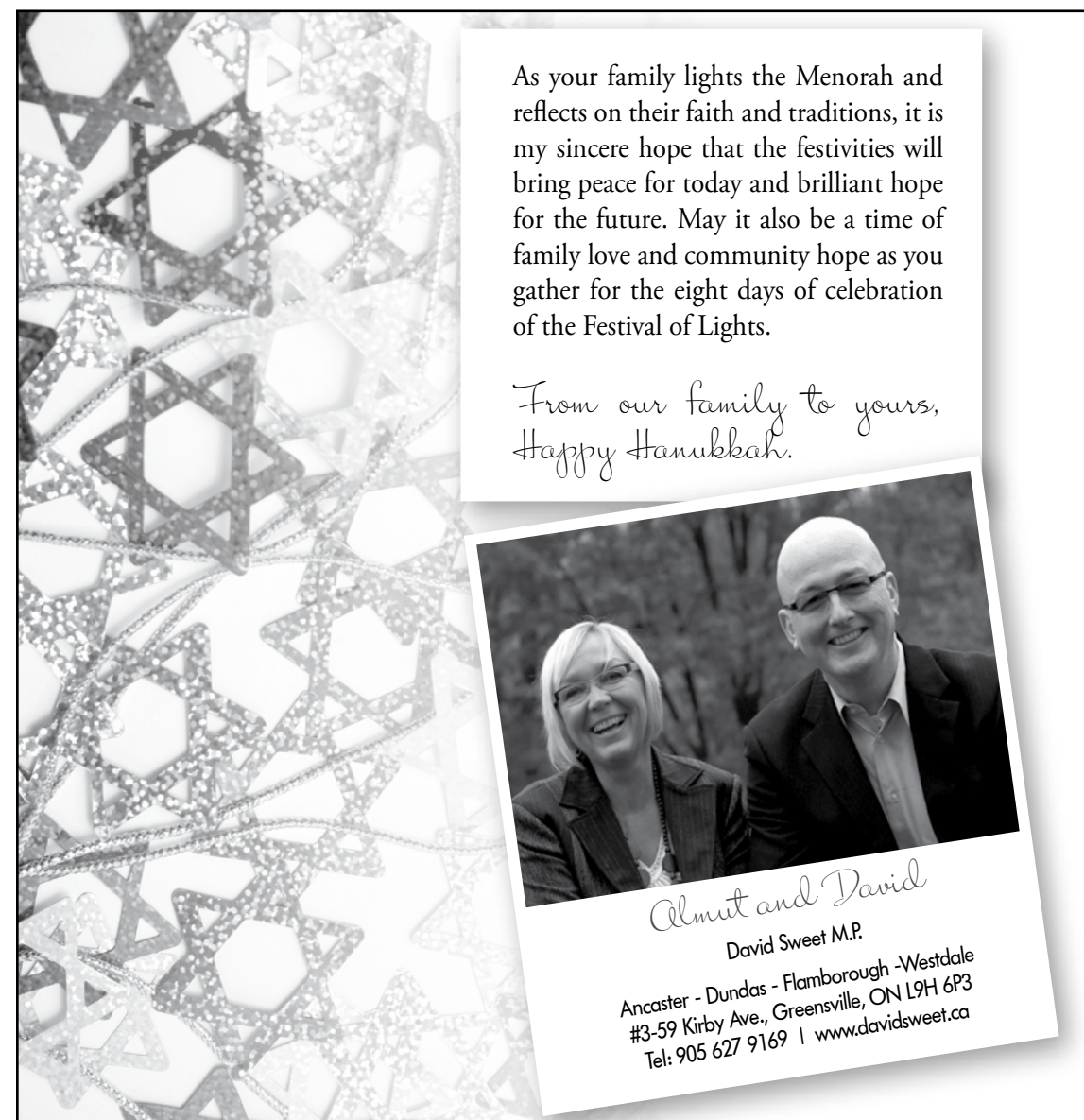
www.tenstar.ca

Phil Leon insurance broker inc. Est. 1965
David A. Leon, FCIP
 Vice President
 21 Hunter Street East, Suite #103
 P.O. Box 1053
 Hamilton, ON L8N 3R4
 Bus: 905.525.0001
 1.800.734.6362
 Fax: 905.525.1690
 dleon@philleon.ca
 Discount rates available for B'nai Brith members.
 Plan underwritten by Novex Group Insurance

"I'm so fortunate that my vet highly recommended McCann Professional Dog Trainers!"
McCANN
 PROFESSIONAL
DOG TRAINERS
 Serving Southern Ontario
 Call 1-888-681-7877 or register online
www.McCannDogs.com

More than 50,000 family pets and their owners trained! New sessions start every month.

ALBERT SNOW
 HAIR DESIGN GROUP
 1036 KING WEST HAMILTON 905-525-0831
 WWW.ALBERTSNOW.COM
DARE to be YOU
 EXCLUSIVE
 TECHNIQUES | DESIGN | IMAGINATION
 2007 CANADIAN BUSINESS AWARDS
 Diamond



As your family lights the Menorah and reflects on their faith and traditions, it is my sincere hope that the festivities will bring peace for today and brilliant hope for the future. May it also be a time of family love and community hope as you gather for the eight days of celebration of the Festival of Lights.

*From our family to yours,
Happy Hanukkah.*

Almut and David
David Sweet M.P.
Ancaster - Dundas - Flamborough - Westdale
#3-59 Kirby Ave., Greensville, ON L9H 6P3
Tel: 905 627 9169 | www.davidsweet.ca



On the menorah, the Shamash candle plays the role of the leader, spreading flame from wick to wick.

This Chanukah, we ask that you be our Shamash. We ask you to share your flame, your passion and devotion to Israel. We ask that you donate through Na'amat Canada.

You can make a difference in an underprivileged child's life. Please share the light and give generously.

Happy Chanukah from Na'amat Canada

Enhancing the lives of women and children in Canada and Israel since 1925

Na'amat Canada Toll Free: 1.888.278.0792 E-Mail: naamat@total.net Web: www.naamat.com

Virtual Holocaust Museum at Mac

NOAH SHENKER

McMaster University Library is currently developing the Virtual Museum of the Holocaust and the Resistance. It is a digital collection featuring holdings including the extraordinary collection of books and ephemera assembled by Michel Brisebois of Montreal. This project was launched in January of 2009 and it continues to grow through the contributions of the Hamilton community and the commitment of the McMaster Library. The holdings have been amassed through the generous and inspirational support of Monte and Madeleine Levy. In addition to benefiting from the passionate stewardship of Dr. Carl Spadoni, the Director of the Archives and Research Collections, and the invaluable guidance of Dr. Alan Mendelson, a Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at McMaster University, the Library has recently hired Dr. Noah Shenker as a postdoctoral fellow to coordinate the project.

The Virtual Museum will employ innovative digital technologies, creating an interactive infrastructure containing interlinked digital images, personal case studies, themes, and a vast digital archive of the collection made available to scholars, educators, and students for both academic scholarship and teaching. When completed, the Museum will include six modules, reflecting the materials acquired. They include sources in the following areas: Prisoners held in German concentration camps, internment and transit camps, Gestapo prisons, and POW camps; the Jewish underground resistance; Allied and German propaganda distributed

by air drops and shelling; the German Occupation of Belgium and France; the Underground Resistance in Europe and Africa; and Nazi culture, the Holocaust, and anti-Semitism.

This work is crucial considering that the Canadian government has made Holocaust education a priority and has created a national task force to educate Canadians about this history. There is a need at many levels to make this material available through digital sites. More importantly, in both Hamilton and in Canada at large, there is a vital community of Holocaust survivors and scholars whose voices and expertise are needed to ensure that the legacy of the Holocaust is responsibly preserved. The McMaster team has already given presentations to gatherings of local groups and is currently exploring partnerships with regional and national academic departments, museums, and educational institutes.

The Library continues to build this collection and those who have documents or artifacts they would like to donate are warmly welcomed to do so and will receive tax receipts for their contributions. Many of the preexisting sources in the archive are written in languages including German, Polish, Yiddish, Hebrew, Czech, and French, to name only a few. McMaster invites members of the community to lend not only their knowledge of these languages for translation, but also their powerful reflections and insights representing the personal experiences of this larger historical tragedy. For further information please contact Dr. Noah Shenker at 1-905-525-9140 ext. 22790; shenker@mcmaster.ca.

A Student's View: Doing the "Write" Thing at the General Assembly

ADIRA WINEGUST

From November 8th-10th, I had the pleasure of being the only McMaster student to attend the General Assembly (GA) of the United Jewish Federations of North America in Washington D.C. I was lucky enough to be selected to participate in the World Zionist Organization's Hagshama Branch journalism conference, "Do the Write Thing". This track is devoted to developing journalism skills in students interested in writing about Zionism and Israel Advocacy on their campus newspapers.

The training took place in small meetings with well known Israeli politicians and members of the Israeli and Jewish media, including Ido Aharoni, Joe Klein, Galia Alibon, Dr. Gil Troy and Natan Sharansky. We also participated in the a general plenary where we heard addresses by Rahm Emanuel and Benjamin Netanyahu.

Each of the speakers spoke eloquently about their given topics for approximately 50 minutes, followed by a ten minute question and answer period. They treated us like equals and were genuinely interested in what we had to say. I did feel, however, that when it came to the topic of the current climate on North American campuses, they seemed to lack a true comprehension of the difficult environment in which Jewish students find themselves. Sometimes I find myself wishing for the days when

Jewish advocacy on campus dealt with fighting for human rights for Ethiopian and Soviet Jewry, and not have to be focused on justifying Israel's existence.

One thing we heard over and over again was the emphasis that the Jewish Federation system must engage the "Next Generation" of 18-30 years olds. The solutions that were brought up repeatedly were the Birthright Israel trip and the need for more social action trips and initiatives to engage college age students. I thought that all this discussion was rather ironic, considering there were only 200 college students in attendance, compared with a previous GA that I attended in Los Angeles. That GA, attended by approximately 500 Hillel students, featured meetings and a plenary just for the students. This year, these kinds of meetings were sorely lacking, given the increasingly hostile situation on college campuses. This may have been a symptom of the current trying economic times, but perhaps following the theme of this year's GA that, "Anything is Possible", it might be possible to engage the younger generation and empower them to take back their campuses.

Overall the message I took away from the conference is that I have the responsibility of presenting Israel in the best light possible, and not only in the context of the conflict.

Every Stone Has A Story

Bessie Starkman Perri - Queen of the Bootleggers

STEVEN BROCK

One of the initiatives that the Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton and Area (JGSH) has undertaken over the past few years is to photograph, translate, and index each and every matzaveh (Jewish tombstone) in the Hamilton area. The purpose of this is to contribute this data to a worldwide Jewish database of burial data.

However, as I walked with my camera upon rows and rows of graves through the various Hamilton cemeteries, I couldn't help but think that every person buried within had an individual life with hopes, dreams, achievements, setbacks, happiness, sadness, joy and tragedy. Each person had their own unique story.

Within Hamilton's rich Jewish history there is no lack of fascinating characters who have carved out the history and folklore of our community. Among the most interesting characters that ever ran amok in this town was Besha (Bessie) Starkman Perri.

Besha Starkman was born in Poland in 1889 and came to Toronto with her parents in the closing years of the 19th century. Like many of the thousands of poor Jews, they settled in St. John's Ward, an overcrowded neighbourhood which became home to many immigrants. Bessie, as she became known, soon married a bakery deliveryman by the name of Harry Toben. Together they had two daughters.

In 1912, Harry and Bessie took in an Italian boarder named Rocco Perri. Bessie quickly fell for the charming Perri, and together they ran off to St. Catherines, abandoning her family in Toronto. After four years of working on the Welland Canal construction project, Rocco was laid off, and



Rocco & Bessie Perri; Photo from Rocco Perri: The Story Of Canada's Most Notorious Bootlegger By Antonio Nicaso.

the couple relocated to Hamilton. Working as a salesman for a local pasta company did not keep Perri and Starkman in the lifestyle they desired and they soon took advantage of a unique opportunity.

In 1916, as Canada was in the throes of World War I, Ontario's Conservative Premier William Hearst enacted the Ontario Temperance Act (OTA). Like Prohibition in the U.S. during the 1920's and early 1930's, the OTA made the possession of alcoholic beverages for distribution illegal. Although you could keep a "cellar supply" for your own consumption, it became illegal to sell an individual "drink". Overnight, all bars, taverns, clubs and liquor stores were shut down.

With Rocco's charismatic personality and connections along with Bessie's intelligence and ruthless ambition, the couple soon became the largest source of contraband liquor in Hamilton. With the declaration of total alcohol prohibition in Canada on December 23rd 1917, and in the United States in 1919, the Perris established themselves as Canada's "King of the Bootleggers". While Bessie never forgot that Rocco was the "Boss", it became common

knowledge that she was in fact the brains of the operation - handling the money, accounting and day-to-day operations.

Together they built an organized crime syndicate that was reported to be grossing a million dollars a year - close to \$30 million in today's money - expanding into bookmaking and narcotics trafficking. During a time where women - as a rule - were not permitted to participate in any aspect of mob business, Bessie was not only openly known as Rocco's second in command, she had also earned the respect of the other gang members. Over time the Perris became local celebrities; granting interviews and generally holding court in the lavish Hamilton mansion they purchased at 166 Bay Street South.

On August 13, 1930, Rocco and Bessie were returning home from an evening out with friends. At about 11:15 pm, Rocco parked the car in their garage which sided onto Bold Street. As Bessie got out of the car and headed for the garage light switch, she was struck with a shotgun blast in the neck and abdomen. A second shot rang out and a car fled the scene. Rocco ran to Bessie's side but she was already dead. Neighbours reported hearing Rocco yelling, "My girl has been shot!" Police later found two weapons not far from the scene, but neither had yielded any fingerprints.

Bessie's funeral on August 15th was the most extravagant in Hamilton history. Over ten thousand people crowded the cemetery and later the Bay street mansion. Bessie was buried in the Ohev Zedek cemetery on Upper James Street. Ironically, the name Ohev Zedek is Hebrew for "Lovers of Justice". Her large, but non-descript gravestone includes the



Bessie Starkman's Grave at Ohev Zedek Cemetery in Hamilton

Photo By Steven Brock

names Toben and Starkman, but appears to make no mention of Perri. However upon closer examination, you can see that the five raised letters of her "common-law" surname have been removed from the inscription.

There is a tale in local folklore which may or may not be true, that illustrates Rocco's displeasure with the location of Bessie's grave. Because she had abandoned her family and renounced her religion in order to run off with the non-Jewish Perri, the synagogue would only let her be buried in the far rear corner of the cemetery. A few years after her death, Rocco purchased the lot adjacent to the rear of the Upper James site and donated it to the Shul. Ohev Zedek then used the donated site to expand the size of their rapidly filling burial grounds and Bessie's final resting place is now closer to the center of the graveyard.

While many theories circulated as to the motive and perpetrators of Bessie's murder, no one was ever arrested, and the case was never solved. Rocco kept the mob going strong, and eventually paired up with another strong Jewish woman, Annie Newman. He was imprisoned during the Second World War, and disappeared for good in 1944. It was widely

believed that he had also been murdered, and his body hidden, but later accounts implied that he moved to the States where he led a low-key life in Massena, New York until his death in 1953.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton & Area (JGSH) meets monthly at Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Avenue North, Hamilton, ON L8S 4A1. We begin with our Meet & Greet at 7:30PM, followed by our guest speaker.

Please check our web site, www.jgsh.org, for our line-up of exciting speakers, or contact Hazel Boon, by email at president@jgsh.org or phone 905-524-3345.

Do you know where your UJA dollars go?

- Hamilton Hebrew Academy
- Keheila Jewish Community Day School
- Beth Jacob Shearim Hebrew School
- Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School
- Midrasha - Hamilton Hebrew High
- Hamilton Jewish Social Services
- Hebrew Free Loan Association
- Hamilton Kosher Food Bank
- Camp Kadimah
- McMaster Jewish Students Association
- Beth Tikvah Foundation
- Jewish Community Centre
- The Hamilton Jewish News



JUDY MARS SALES REAL ESTATE LTD.
Brokerage

David Richter
Sales Representative
richter@judymarsales.com
Cel: (905) 520-4497

Hamilton: (905) 522-3300 Dundas: (905) 628-2200
Fax: (905) 522-8985 Fax: (905) 628-0570
www.judymarsales.com

BonaPro
Bonafide Professional Painting & Decorating
Residential • Commercial • Interior/Exterior

Quality Workmanship at Reasonable Rates
Detailed Surface Preparation • Paper Hanging & Removal
Wood Staining • Plaster & Drywall Repairs • Colour Consultations

Call: 905 220-0881
Michael Avetesian / Owner

Master Licensed / Fully Insured
Free Estimates / Senior's Discount
Clean, Reliable Expert Service

TD Waterhouse
Wealth of Experience

FOWLER & ASSOCIATES
Complete Investment & Estate Planning

Scott Thomson Investment Advisor 905-528-6349	Dwight A. Fowler Vice President, Investment Advisor 905-528-4254	Shane Fowler Investment Advisor 905-528-0113
---	--	--

Toll Free: 1-800-775-0037
Fax: 905-528-6897

TD Waterhouse Private Investment Advice is a division of TD Waterhouse Canada Inc. (Member CIPF), a subsidiary of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. TD Waterhouse is a trade-mark of The Toronto-Dominion Bank, used under license.

Treasures

a new way to give

SHIRLEY MOLOT

We, the Hamilton Jewish Federation, are in the retail business!

We have an on-line Ebay store. It works like this: The things in your house that you no longer need or want, (we call them treasures because to someone else they are treasures.) those things are put on ebay by our Treasure's team.

The Hamilton Federation gets the money and you get a tax receipt for the full amount of the sale.

It doesn't cost you anything!! It is like found money. These things are just lying around in our cupboards and drawers collecting dust and now it will bring money to our community and tax receipts to you.

So partners, because we are in business together, we need to all do our part. How exciting to clean out some space, big or little and make money doing it. All the inventory for this store comes from all of us.

All you need to do is call Federation office or go online to the UJA website to Treasures for the phone numbers. A treasure team member will come to your house and pick up your treasure or treasures.

Now this is serious business. We are asking for items starting at \$150: Silver, vases, old comic books, vintage license plates, signed paraphernalia, designer handbags, art, etc. Anything and everything sells on ebay!! Just call us.

Our treasure team will document your treasure, photograph it and record the details carefully for your records and for tax purposes.

Our store is now officially open for business and with your help, we won't let down those that depend on us. Call with your treasures starting



PICTURED ABOVE: Treasure Seekers...In the back row, l to r: Sasha Weisz, Sandy Fuss, Elaine Siegel, Judy Bennett, Molly Kumer, Carolyn Molot, Rosaie Gaffe, Cindy Greenbaum Smyth, Jeanie Lavin, Denise Calman, Front row, l to r: Shirley Silberg, Shirley Molot, Liz Tick, Sheila Levitt, Andrea Molot and Jill Gaffe.

tomorrow, the next day, or the next month....no rush. But hurry up. Don't forget to find yours, your friends treasures.

The more inventory we get, the more money we make and the less money you pay in taxes. Everyone is happy. Our sales have just started and if everyone participates our business will be a great success.

This is an innovative project. The Jewish communities across Canada are watching us. I like being in business with all of you. It's a known fact that most of us have at least 25 items in our closets, basements and attics that we don't use.

It feels good to give and it feels good to get. So let's clean up together...

We are currently focusing on Collectables and Collections; coin and stamp collections, old train sets, figurines, Olympic paraphernalia and vintage license plates.

the YAD report

Fire & Ice a huge success!

Over 60 people enjoyed a great evening at the Dundas Granite Curling Club on Saturday, November 14th. Havdalah was led by Yaacov Morel, as the Young Adult Division experienced a symbolic ceremony to end Shabbat together.



Fire & Ice enjoyed a large turnout from across the community.

We had some natural curlers on the ice as they delivered the rocks in good form following a short beginner's lesson. The music of Rhythm and Bones was enjoyed by all as well as good food and drinks. Steven Farber, Chair, National Young Leadership and Mindy Eklove, Director, National Young Leadership Development, UJA Federations Canada attended the event as part of their Coast to Coast visits to all UJA Federations. Both Steven Farber and Mario Stolar, Chair, YAD Hamilton, delivered a short message about community, connection and contributions to the UJA Annual Campaign. Everyone was reminded the UJA Campaign is underway and encouraged to support it to the best of their ability. The annual campaign supports all beneficiary agencies in our community as well as national and overseas needs. Everyone is invited to the combined Community Hanukkah Party/ National Mitzvah Day program at the JCC on Sunday, December 6th at 12:30 pm.

If you are 23 - 45 yrs., make sure you are on the YAD list at www.jewishhamilton.org or YAD Hamilton on Facebook. Stay tuned for more details.

The Jewish Community Centre

WINTER GREAT EVENTS

JCC WINTER CAMP

DECEMBER 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30 & 31

K'tanim
(Pre School children)
9:00am-1:30 pm
JCC Members: \$19/day
Non Members: \$25/day

K'tanim
9:00am-5:00pm
JCC Members: \$32/day
Non Members: \$42/day

Junior Kindergarten - Grade 6:
9:00am-5:00pm
JCC Members: \$28/day
Non Members: \$38/day

Register for all 8 days & receive a 10% discount!!
Family Discount: 5% off for registering 3 or more children

* please note December 24 & 31 camp will run from 9:00am-4:00pm. To register and for more information call 905-648-0605



A WORD FROM ALLAN FEIN

In our process of renewing our vision here at the JCC we want to be more than just a place you come every once in a while. We really want to become part of your every day life. Some of you reading this may be thinking that because you are not interested in tennis that there is nothing here for you. We are looking to change that perception and become relevant to your daily life through recreation and wellness. Beyond all of the great JCC programming you see on this page we are also looking at starting ongoing social and physical activities. Perhaps you'd be interested in joining us to plant a community garden in the spring, participate in our "Pedometer Challenge", or just come in for a gourmet coffee treat from our new cappuccino machine.

In January, when you make that new year's resolution to get into shape again talk to us first and see how we can help you achieve your goal - we are not your local fitness club looking to get your money without caring if you show up after January 3rd. We look forward to seeing you and becoming a true Community Centre fulfilling all of your recreation and wellness needs.



LIVING IT UP AT THE JCC

Laura Laengerer

This year we want everyone in the Jewish community to become a member of the JCC, because we have events for everyone.

- Youth programs... After-school programs, the Morris Black Public Speaking Contest, the Babysitting Course, Table Tennis, Maccabi Games, Max Rotman Humanitarian Awards, Youth Casino Night, High School Coffee House, Teen lounge (coming soon) teen lounge which will be a fun place to hang!
- Cultural Programs... Chanukah Party, the Hamilton Jewish Film Festival, Yom Hashoah, Yom Ha'atzmaut and Lag Ba'Omer festivities.
- For Adults... CPR course, Computer 101, and Dance Fit (coming soon), Open Gym for basketball (Thursdays from 7:00 - 11:00pm), tennis, fitness room. Social Programs... Sunday Brunches, the Music Series, Mah Jongg Maven Days, Comedy Night, Girls Just Want to Have Fun parties. Fundraising... Annual Golf tournament, Skiathon.
- I have been working with the Jewish Students Association and AEPI from McMaster and together we will be venturing out to see Avenue Q in November and in March I will be hosting A night of Comedy here at the JCC for them.
- The JCC has partnered with the Early Years Centre and we are looking forward to a new experience. They will be offering Mother Goose beginning Thursday January 7th from 3:00 pm-4:00pm and will continue thru to February 25th, 2010.

We are always looking for volunteers and people to sit on our committees. A Family Social Membership only costs \$185.00 and gives you access to our fitness room, use of the golf and driving range, tennis lessons for a fee, discounts for facility rentals programs and camp and informal use of the JCC lounge, gymnasium at all free gym times. What more could you ask for? That works out to less than \$16.00 a month for an entire family. Are you planning a party this coming year? We have an incredible facility for birthdays, Bar & Bat Mitzvahs, Brit Milas, anniversaries and more.

If you would like to see a specific program please feel free to call. Your suggestions are always welcome and if you are in the neighbourhood, drop in to say hello.

The Baby Group



Are you a new parent or a parent of a toddler? If so, then please come and join us for bagels and cream cheese, shmooze and get to know your community. The baby group has begun and we are excited to welcome the following people to the JCC and Beth Jacob: Deena and Aiden Richter, Ilana Bayer and Noah Fein, Meredith and Eli Melamed, Inbal and Leerum Chaimovitz, Jen and Joel Lobb, Herbert Brill, Shoshana Telner and Morrison, Jennifer and Mya Klein, Zohar and Amy Levy, Karen and Aitan Selsberg, Elissa Press, with children Adam and Leah and Aviva Boxer with Emmett. If you have free time on a Monday or Wednesday morning, feel free to drop in!

Coming Soon...

Outdoor Skating



Stay tuned for the JCC outdoor skating rink, when it is cold enough you can be sure that it will be up and running!

back by popular demand
DAVID CAVAN FRASER
February 6, 2010

UJA Day at Shalom Village

On Sunday, October 25th UJA Federation held its first program for residents of Shalom Village. Under the direction of Amy Back, a half hour song and dance show was performed for the residents. Back comments, "I enjoyed putting the show together for Shalom Village. We had a great cast and they were happy to come together for this worthy cause. It is exciting to work with a range of ages, and of course, the little ones always steal the show! I hope that in future we will be able to involve more of the talent in our community, and bring a larger number of residents to see the show".



Marmie Wolfson and Teaghan Lerner entertained Shalom Village residents

Prior to the beginning of the program, Lisa Morris, 2010 campaign co-chair spoke about the importance of the campaign. Following the entertainment residents were treated to ice cream and had the opportunity to make their 2010 commitment. This allowed for the opportunity for Lisa and her co-chair Danna Horwood to connect with the residents on a personal level.

Our thanks to Shalom Village, Amy Back and her fellow cast members, Morley Weinberg, Dennis Schwartz, Marmie Wolfson, Teaghan Lerner, Alan Livingston, Tamar Livingston, Jamie Rose Horwood, Ethan Tehranzadeh, Madelyn Waxman and Emma Waxman for making this event a success. UJA Federation looks forward to continuing to build this partnership.

Going for the Gold at the UJA Campaign Opening



Linda Silvert and Shirley Silberg "Going for the Gold" Co-Chairs

Talk about a golden opportunity! On Sunday, October 18th the UJA Federation held our first "Going for the Gold" event as part of 2010 Campaign Opening programs. The concept originated with the Treasure's Team co-chairs Shirley Molot and Liz Tick. Shirley Silberg and Linda Silvert were thrilled to co-chair this exciting new campaign fundraiser. They felt it was another wonderful way to connect with our Jewish community. Everyone who participated was over-joyed by the amount of funds they received for items that were literally just collecting dust - like broken or unwanted gold, silver, coins, pocket watches, diamonds, etc. 80% of the cash went directly into their own pockets and 20% of the money collected was allocated to the UJA local needs, with the participants receiving a tax receipt for their generous donation. Barry Turk and David Stokotelnj, co-owners of Barry's Jewellers Ltd., were excited to be a part of this inaugural event. Barry commented, "I consider the gold sale to be a success because it afforded myself and my company an opportunity to help the community and meet new friends.

Limited Time - 2 Days Only

Phoenix Fitness Hamilton - December 4th and 5th, 2009



Resolution Blitz
8 Personal Training Sessions
1 Month Unlimited CrossFit Classes
1 Month Unlimited Spin Classes
Fitness Consultation
reg. \$720
Now \$449

Holiday Fit Start Package
3 PT Sessions
1 Month Membership
Fitness Consultation
1 Spin Class
1 CrossFit Class
reg. \$324
Now \$199

Boxing Days Package
8 weeks of Boxing Classes
Boxing Hand Wraps
Boxing Training Gloves
reg. \$322
Now \$149

Biggest Loser Package
12 Weeks of Boot Camp Classes
12 Week Green Meal Plan
12 Weekly consults
reg. \$649
Now \$299

PHOENIX FITNESS

1685 Main St. West, Hamilton | 905-577-0626

www.PhoenixFitness.ca

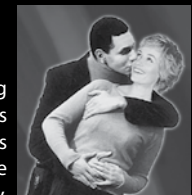
3rd Annual Hamilton Jewish Film Festival & Artist Market

December 5 & 6, 2009

Bad Faith/Mauvaise Foi

December 5th @ 8pm

Ismael and Clara are two French thirtysomethings happily enjoying their four year romance. It means nothing to them that Ismael is Muslim and Clara a Jew because both are non-practising. This film is a comedy that is a realistic account of the connection that arises between two people of different faiths and their future as a family.



I Will Not Die

December 6th @ 8pm

Inspired by the poems and drawings of the children of Terezin Concentration Camp, Canadian violinist Ruth Fazal composed "Oratorio Terezin" for orchestra and choir. This remarkable film follows the three year process that led to the creation of this work, from the auditions and premiere in Toronto to the grand venues in Vienna, Prague, Bratislava, and Israel. Guest: Director Marion Rice-Oxley



Artist Market/Shuk 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Tickets \$20 per Evening/Students \$15
Contact the JCC @905-648-0605

Hosted by Westside Concert Theatre 434 King Street West



A community is not truly great until it is great for everyone...

United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton proud supporter of Jewish Social Services



United Way is a Major Funder, not a charity. Other than the Federal and Provincial Governments, United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton is the largest funder of social and health-related services in the cities of Burlington and Greater Hamilton.

429 Elizabeth St., Unit C, Burlington, ON L7R 2L8 905-635-3138
177 Rebecca St., Hamilton, ON L8R 1B9 905-527-4543
www.uwaybth.ca BN 10746 2988 RR0001

- United Way is investing in our community under the following priorities:
- Poverty Prevention and Reduction
 - Strengthening Neighbourhoods through children, youth, families and individuals
 - Supporting Seniors



Goldie's Place at Shalom Village

Getting people out of hospital and back home

Shalom Village's Goldie's Place... is a... program... designed to help... people... get... home...

...program... designed to help... people... get... home... Shalom Village's Goldie's Place...



Transportation services available to Goldie's Place clients in the Hamilton area.

Goldie's helps caregivers at home too!

Goldie's Place offers... services... to help... caregivers... at home... Shalom Village's Goldie's Place...

...services... to help... caregivers... at home... Shalom Village's Goldie's Place...



Goldie's Place offers... services... to help... caregivers... at home... Shalom Village's Goldie's Place...



Goldie's Place offers... services... to help... caregivers... at home... Shalom Village's Goldie's Place...

Shalom Village Tribute Cards

Shalom Village will send beautiful tribute cards on your behalf to acknowledge life's milestones and special occasions. Cards are sent directly to the recipient and include your own personal message.

UP & COMING

Director of UN Watch to speak at McMaster. Join Jewish students and faculty at McMaster to hear Hillel Neuer, Director of UN Watch on November 26 at 7:30 pm to speak on the topic, From Eleanor Roosevelt to Qaddafi, The Rise and Fall of Human Rights at the United Nations.

Beth Jacob Synagogue presents Free Films for Frozen Nights Saturday, November 28 at 7:00 pm in Beth Jacob's Upper Social Hall, featuring Praying With Lior, a fascinating documentary focuses on the phenomenon of Lior Liebing, a boy with Down's syndrome considered a "spiritual genius" for his boundless enthusiasm for prayer and professed close communication with God.

Rabbi Zalman Itkin Memorial Lecture, marking the third Yahrzeit of Rabbi Z. Itkin a"h, will take place on Thursday, December 3 at 7:30pm. A Pastor's Journey to Judaism. Room 3020, Michael DeGroot Centre for Learning, McMaster University. Yaakov Parisi tells the story of his journey from an evangelical pastor in the Bible Belt to a Jew living in Israel.

The Jewish Hamilton Project at History and Heritage The City of Hamilton's only storefront museum, History and Heritage on 165 James Street North is featuring The Jewish Hamilton Project from November 13th to January 8th, 2010. The Jewish Hamilton Project features Jewish Hamiltonians reminiscing and reflecting on their experiences of living Jewish lives in Hamilton particularly during the 1930s through the 1960s. History and Heritage is open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11:00 am to 5:00pm. Visit http://www.historyandheritage.ca/podcasts/ to hear an interview about the project.

Ancaster's Fieldcote Museum is calling on local residents to find out about immigration to Canada. This museum wants to know about your family's immigration to Canada story... Interviews will form part of an exhibition at Fieldcote opening in May 2010 called "From Whence We Came: Immigrant Stories" Interviews will be scheduled between Nov 2009 and Feb. 2010 Call (905) 627-5378 or ljarvis6@cogeco.ca.

Milli Gould inducted into Hamilton Gallery of Distinction



Milli Gould

The HJN congratulates Milli Gould for being among six inductees in its 2009 Gallery Of Distinction. Gould was recognized both for her vision and leadership as an outstanding entrepreneur whose iconic Main Street store, Milli, has attracted an international clientele and for her extensive philanthropy in the greater Hamilton community.

Thank you for this great honour! I am deeply humbled and very grateful. I was born in Hamilton, raised my family and founded my business in this community. My success is a direct result of my upbringing in Hamilton. My world has become one of elegance and fashion, bringing out the beauty in people.

I like to be in the background - finding the uniqueness in each person, making others look and feel their best. That's really where I feel most comfortable.

Hamilton is beautiful - the mountain, Cootes Paradise, the waterfalls, our surrounding towns and villages. The beauty of our Arts and Culture - our Art Gallery - the lively arts scene on James Street North, our Symphony, our Brott Music Festival, our Opera, our Theatre Aquarius and yes, the beauty of our Steel mills and heavy industry - for so long the backbone of our prosperity.

Beauty comes not only from that which is pretty and comfortable. Fashion and art is often gritty and strong. Just like Hamilton. Just like me!

Speaking of which you are not honouring only me. I share this honor with many people. Milli's is a family - my late husband Allan - our children Mark and Ben - our devoted employees who work to give our clients the very best. And all of you - our public - without whom we wouldn't exist at all. In truth - You are the Hamiltonians of Distinction. You are the community that has nurtured

me, taken my family and Milli's to your hearts and made us feel there is no other place on earth we'd rather be. You are beautiful and I thank you!

New CEO at United Way



Len Lifchus

Len Lifchus, the United Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton's new CEO, brings with him 31 years of experience working in the voluntary sector. The Vancouver native, who has held the top position in United Way in both Kelowna and Peterborough, is thoroughly enamoured by the Greater Hamilton area.

"This is such a wonderful community and beautiful community... I think the diversity of the horizon is truly incredible. You've got your waterfalls, your water, your industry, your escapement. You've really got it all."

Shortly after taking on his new position, Lifchus was delighted to discover that United Way is a funder of Hamilton's Jewish Social Services.

"It shows that the community is very global in its thinking. United Way is looking for lasting solutions and poverty knows no religious boundaries," he said.

Lifchus credits his parents for teaching him that "you took care of your own back yard first and then you took place of the extended community, then Israel" for inspiring him to choose a profession where he could see the fruits of his labour.

"When I go to the Eva Rothwell Resource Centre in the heart of North Hamilton's Keith neighbourhood, and I see that kids have a place to play safely after school, have homework clubs and clothing banks, I know my efforts are making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate."

Lifchus says he's received a warm welcome by members of Hamilton's Jewish community and looks forward to deepening that relationship.

Lives Remembered Gregory Karan

Born on December 5, 1909 in Bobruisk, Belarus; Died on November 4, 2009 at Shalom Village in Hamilton.

My father, Gregory Karan was born in Bobruisk, Belarus on the first light of Hanukkah December 5, 1909. His father, Leib Karan, served in the Tsar's army for 25 years. During World War I, my grandfather received Imperial Russia's most prestigious military award - The Order of St. George - unusual for a Jew - for his role in the Russia-Japanese War's Battle of Port Arthur. Towards the end of that war, he shot his cannon into the chimney of the biggest Japanese armoured marine frigate, delaying the capture of Port Arthur by three months. After being captured by Japanese troops he was traded for a high ranking officer.

After dismissal from the army service Leib supported his family of four children as a shoemaker and involved the entire family in what was a very labour intensive business.

During the World War II he saved the family from starvation by exchanging all of his four golden precious medals for potatoes and bread. He died from starvation at the age of 64.

During World War II his son Gregory served in the Red Army and was decorated with orders and medals covering both sides of his chest. He knew that he was fighting for survival of his family and that there was no alternative.

Throughout his life my father worked as a gym teacher and a high-ranking weight lifting coach. He himself was a champion weight lifter before World War II, and that rigorous training no doubt helped him to survive.

My father dearly loved his students and they gave him a standing ovation upon his arrival in Canada in 1991. It was a stunning and pleasant surprise for him to see so many his former students greeting him and showing their appreciation for his work and kindness.

My father was an exemplary family man, providing food, shelter and the best education possible for his two sons and sharing his knowledge of physical training with his beloved grandchildren and showering them with love and care in their everyday lives.

My late mother told me the story of how she managed to get in touch with my father during World War II when she, together with her four-year-old son Vladimir and her parents, were starving in Ulyanovsk, Siberia.

It had been three years since they'd been in contact and my mother decided to send thousands of postcards to all the post offices on the front line, to inform him of the location of the family. At that time my father's brigade was in Poland advancing towards the German border. My father's friend was going to the Post Office to retrieve a letter from his own family and encouraged my father to ask if there was a letter waiting for him as well. It was a real moment of joy for him when he discovered there was indeed a message waiting for him from his family. Being a high-ranking officer, he sent two drivers almost 3000 kilometres with a truck full of baked goods, meat and cheese to all the people who had been evacuated from Bobruisk, his homeland. But upon their arrival, the emissaries got drunk (a common thing in Russia) and all the goods disappeared from the truck overnight. When my father met the drivers on their return he was so angry that he took his gun and shot them. They were lucky to survive because my father was very emotional at that moment and could not get a good aim.

My father will be greatly missed by his family and leaves behind a lasting legacy.

Leon Karan



Gregory Karan

Advertisement for Upper James Toyota and Parkway Toyota. Features logos for both dealers, a 'HUGE OFFER!' banner, and photos of Marik Pinassi and Ilya Pinassi. Text includes: 'Buy or lease any new Toyota ONLY from Parkway Toyota and Upper James Toyota and you will never again pay for an oil and filter change as long as you have the vehicle. All you do is indicate you saw our ad in the Hamilton Jewish News. Ask dealer for details.' Website: www.upperjamestoyota.ca (905) 387-9287

Hamilton Jewish Middle School to Host Tour for Perspective Parents and Students

Only a few months into the school year at the HJMS and the 26 grade 6 and 7 students are already benefiting from the efforts made by both dedicated staff and supporters throughout the entire Hamilton Jewish community.

Over the summer, the school administration attended a conference on brain research and student learning which they shared with the staff for practical application in their perspective classrooms. The Judaic Curriculum Consultant, Dr. Charles Grysman, who completed his doctorate in the area of multi-streamed Judaic education, graciously assisted Rabbis Amar and Morel in the development of an integrated curriculum encompassing both the Textual and Cultural Track. Although two tracks learn separately, they both study the same topics in tandem, and then come together for projects and field trips. Mrs. Fajgi Itkin has been very involved in the development of this curriculum and the practical application of Biblical Jewish tradition to modern daily living. For example, the students read about the biblical commandment to leave a corner of the field for the poor. The students then fulfilled a similar goal by leading a school wide food drive for the Kasher Food bank.

Ms. Leia Ger-Rogers has been preparing a curriculum module for the New Year and the entire school is anxiously anticipating its implementation. The technology consultant, Mr. Matt Scheben, has been working with the teachers and administration in modifying and improving the school website, introducing new technology, such as SmartBoards, and improving the interactive technologies that are already being used where teachers and students communicate on a secure site to access homework, assignments, model tests, etc. The science teacher, Mr. Ryan Kratfcheck, in topic areas such as animal dissection and weather patterns, utilizes computer



HJMS leading a food drive for the Kasher Food bank

Simulations. Both the grade 6 and 7 English teachers, Ms. Patricia Grynspan and Ms. Brittany Werstiuk, have been incorporating computer technology and using the computer lab in their classrooms. Students have completed an internet research unit, used what they learned to develop a radio play and then published those plays on MP3 files which were then placed on the class website.

The students themselves are happy with the HJMS uniforms, especially the logo that mimics the lettering found on University Athletic Apparel. The physical education program has produced outstanding results at several cross-country competitions and volleyball tournaments, where they compete against Hamilton Public Schools.

In an effort to assure that the momentum continues, Danna Horwood and Rebecca Shapiro, co-chairs of the HJMS Development Committee have worked with the two school administrations to plan tours and special programs for existing & prospective students and their families. It is hoped that students presently in grade 5 at Kehila, the HHA and other schools I Hamilton & surrounding areas will be invigorated by what they see and hear so that, next year, they can experience the inclusive learning environment enjoyed by the HJMS students today. For more information please call the HJMS office at 905-528-0330.

MAGEN DAVID ADOM FOR ISRAEL

HILDA ROSEN

In last June's issue of the HJN we proudly printed a picture of "our" scooter/ambulance presented to Magen David Adom in November of 2008. This was followed by a purchase of four Emergency Tauma Packs for \$20,000. Both of these purchases were gratefully acknowledged by letters received from Yonaton Yagadovsky, Director of the International Department.

Below you find information about Sderot, a town bordering Gaza. The episodes referred to below along with many other attacks of various types within Israel encourages me to once again call upon you to make the purchase of another Scooter/Ambulance a reality. Your donations totalling \$25,000 will make it happen and I thank you most sincerely for your participation. I wish you all a Happy Chanukah and may all the people around the world be blessed with Shalom.

Residents of Sderot live on the edge of fear. This is the third "quiet period" Sderot has seen. During the first, over 300 rockets landed in the region and during the second, over 500; now, the number is steadily rising to over 226 rockets. The world may have found new topics in the news, but that has not stopped the rockets. Sderot is continuing to go about its daily life through the eerie quiet, knowing well that the rockets will return in full force in due time.

TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

LORRAINE COHEN

Our year is off to a great beginning. I have taught at the Temple Religious School off and on for about eight years. The first children that I taught became b'not mitzvah two years ago. It is incredible to be part of the process that turns our youngsters into young Jews. This year I have a combined grades 3-4 class, of twelve students. They encompass at least three levels of knowledge in Hebrew, and many levels of Judaic knowledge. Being a supplementary school, operating about five hours weekly, it is challenging to meet the needs of all these students, but somehow we manage.

I endeavor to make the learning relevant and interesting; Integrating music, arts and crafts with Hebrew language and Torah learning. Our particular curriculum includes learning about Jewish traditions and Jewish community. We have started inviting Jewish professionals, and volunteers into our classroom to exemplify how our congregation and community operate.

We talk about Tzedakah, G'milut Chasadim and Obligations without measure. We start each Shabbat with a discussion about the calendar and the Parashah Ha Shavuah, as well as attending services Wednesdays and Shabbat.

I hope that I along with the other teachers in our school, am making a difference in the lives of the young students whom have been entrusted to me.

HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY

While 1.1 million Canadian Soldiers went to war against the tyrannical Nazi regime, a contingent of young Jewish men from Hamilton were proudly sent to battle for their country and liberate their brethren from genocide. While most returned, many did not.

The Hamilton Hebrew Academy will be honouring the ultimate sacrifice of the fallen Jewish war heroes from our community by dedicating a tree at the entrance to the school. In front of the tree, the school will be erecting a monument upon which the names of the fallen soldiers will be inscribed.

The announcement of the dedication follows a Remembrance Day commemoration which honoured Mr. Morley Balinson, Mr. Jack Krieger, Mr. Norman Levit, and Mr. Leonard Miller, for their valour during the war years.

"Recognizing the history of our past is an essential component of Judaism. By seeing the names of the fallen Jewish soldiers, our children will learn that liberty and freedom are values that were earned through dedication and sacrifice."



Grade 4 students at the HHA with Morley Balinson in front of tree to be dedicated to the fallen Jewish war heroes from our community

In honour of Remembrance Day the HHA invited, Mr. Jack Krieger & Morley Balinson to share stories of their service during WWII with the students. Mr. Krieger described the recruitment process and how he gained prominence as a leading instructor of Morse code to the Allied Forces while Mr. Balinson discussed his wartime experiences and the sacrifice of his brother Alexander, who died in the war. The grade four students presented a choral reading of the poem "In Flanders Fields" which was also shared over the school PA system, following a minute of silence observed by the entire student body.

ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

The incorporation of a dramatic arts program into Hebrew Village (Adas Israel's Sunday School) has been amazing. Not only has it brought out a bigger crowd than ever before, but the children are immensely enjoying this new way of connecting with their heritage. Golan Amar, the program director for Hebrew village was asked how the dramatic arts program became such a strong point in the Hebrew Village program and he answered, "We were trying to think of a project we could do to incorporate the special talents of all our kids from 3 to 13 years old. We truly believe that each child is blessed with their own individual talents and strengths and we needed a project to bring those qualities out. Unlike other stereotypical Sunday school programs, we have built Hebrew Village as an experiential learning environment where each child can explore



Ride the Wave at Hebrew Village's Dramatic Arts Program

his or her area of interest. Along with an experienced staff your child will have the opportunity to participate in activities that include drama, music, singing, dancing, art, sewing, stage production, and much more!" The musical production of "Noah" is bound to be quite a performance and we encourage any children ages 3 to 13 to join.

For more information contact Rabbi Golan Amar or Rebecca Shapiro at 905-528-0039

MIDRASHA HAMILTON HEBREW HIGH

SARA GOLDBERG

Going to Hamilton Hebrew High (HHH) was one of the best decisions of my life. I know that it sounds like a cliché but when I walk into a classroom and see an energized teacher and all of my friends I know I will have a good time and learn in the process. Getting my hours out of class is easy and enjoyable. There are so many fun and enlightening events planned all year round that my friends and I can go to in order to get our hours. For example, movies, community events, dinners, B-B-Q's and lots more. My favorite is the annual New York trip where I get to meet new people from Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Kitchener, Halifax and hang out with old and new friends, go shopping, along with other fun New York activities.

The first Friday night dinner of the year attracted a nice crowd. The homemade Shabbat food and the intriguing discussions allowed us all to escape from the hustle and bustle of the week and just relax and enjoy the company of our friends. Yaakov and Shira Morel host all of our dinners and events. They are such kind and caring people that you just can't help but love

them and create a good relationship with them. They devote so much time and effort into making the HHH activities fun and they always succeed. I have never had a bad time with HHH activity's or classes.

HECC (Hebrew Educational Culture Club) has launched its exciting club again at Highland Secondary School. It is very exciting to see such a huge turnout at the club. The delicious smell of hot pizza right out of the oven definitely helps to attract all kinds of students to the room. I am envious that I am too old now to participate but I know the buzz around school is that the games, discussions and interesting topics of conversation is what keeps everyone coming.

For more information you can join the facebook group "HECC" and see what the fuss is all about. Yaakov Morel is always around to answer all our questions. If you have any questions or need more information about any of the HHH programs contact him or join the HHH facebook group. Just type in "Hamilton Hebrew High" and join the fun! You could e-mail Yaakov at yaakov.morel@gmail.com or call him at 905-512-1960.

BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE

At Beth Jacob's last Shabbat Mishpacha held on November 6 and 7 the atmosphere was electrifying. Cantor Eyal Bitton conducted a service that featured original compositions of Lechu Neranena and Lecha Dodi set to incredible toe-tapping tunes from Morocco/Algeria. Although none of those present had heard it before, kids and parents alike sang along with enthusiasm. Adding this musical element to Rabbi Dan Selsberg's Torah discussions, which continue to focus on relevant and spiritual topics, and the warm atmosphere created by regulars and newcomers alike, Shabbat at Beth Jacob is an antidote to the stresses of the work week.

On every Shabbat at Beth Jacob, Cantor Bitton introduces either a new composition or adaptation. On Saturday, December 5, Cantor Bitton will premier a new composition that is a mix of Sephardi, Ashkenazi, and modern music. On Saturday, December 19, he will conduct a very special Shabbat service a Beatles Shabbat. Next month, maybe you'll be the one to tell your friends, "You should have been there!"

Keeping tradition alive while adding contemporary innovations, is a personal passion for Cantor Bitton, who refers to the Golden Age of Hebrew poetry in Spain during the 10th century as a paradigm. "If



Rabbi Dan Selsberg and Cantor Eyal Bitton at the YAD Fire and Ice curling event.

all you do is sing the old classics, you're a museum," he said. "Vibrant Jewish life uses the past to guide us on new paths."

Cantor Bitton employs this philosophy not only at Beth Jacob but outside as well. Since September he has sold dozens of copies of his CD, High Holiday Memories: Timeless Moroccan & Sephardi Classics, to people around the world, and on iTunes. At the same time, two of Cantor Bitton's musicals have been licensed to groups in Boston and in Nairobi, Kenya.

Family programs to fill your Shabbat, new and classic musical directions, deep intellectual and spiritual engagement are a part of life at Beth Jacob. All are welcome to join us as we draw on our past to build a meaningful Jewish present and future.

Melton Adult Mini School

The Hamilton franchise of the Florence Melton Adult Mini School is alive and thriving with over 60 students in total. The first year courses, Rhythms of Jewish Living and Purposes of Jewish Living, being taught at three different but concurrent venues. The Monday afternoon class at the JCC, taught by Paula Baruch, Karen Selsberg and Tali Bloom, is alive with lively discussions and participation by all the women attending. Tuesday nights at the Adas Israel, are overflowing with students wanting to learn about their heritage with Rabbi Green, Tali Bloom and Rachel Shour sharing the duties. Wednesday nights, first at the Temple then later at the Beth Jacob, are delving into serious discussions about our rich heritage, taught by Rabbi Cohen and Rabbi Selsberg. Initial expectations were hopefully for 10 students at each venue. Instead they are close to double

those original numbers! Those wishing to sample a class to determine whether they are interested in next years program, are encouraged to contact Marty Strub to arrange a time. The Florence Melton Adult Mini School is a project of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, written by a team of experts at Hebrew University's Melton Centre for Jewish Education. The course brings a systematic course of study that investigates issues of Jewish thought, practice, ethics, and history. The motto of the school is: No Tests, No Homework, No Grades, KNOW JUDAISM! Melton in Hamilton was brought to Hamilton by Rabbi Daniel Green and Danna Horwood and is sponsored in memory of Margaret Weisz & Rose Swaye. The program is made possible by the cooperation of the JCC, Temple Anshe Shalom, Beth Jacob and the Adas Israel.

The Hamilton chapter wishes all our donors, families and friends a warm and festive

Chag Ha'Chanukah

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

With **YOUR** help - MDA continues to provide uninterrupted emergency services to the people of Israel

Hilda Rosen, Ambassador

27 Haddon Ave. S., Hamilton ON L8S 1X5
Tel: 905-529-4824 • E-mail: hcrosen@cogeco.ca
Donate at www.cmdai.org

**ISRAEL CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT MAGEN DAVID ADOM
MAGEN DAVID ADOM CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT YOU**

KEHILA JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

DAVID I. SHORE

My wife and I are both staunch advocates of public education. We believe that the public school system suffers each time well-educated and involved parents choose to send their children to a private school. So, why, you must be thinking, do we send our four daughters to a private Jewish day school? The answer is quite simple: the day school experience instills a Jewish identity and a love of Israel. The most recent data from UIA agrees with this assessment stating that "Jewish education leads to more involved Jews".

Having made the difficult decision to forego public education, we were still left with the question, Why Kehila? For many reasons, this was an easy choice. As a board-run school, Kehila provides a clear forum for direction from involved parents. My wife has served on the board and I am currently the chair. While parent representation on our board is strong, all community members interested in Jewish education are welcome to become involved.

A second reason for our decision to choose Kehila was the educational philosophy and active curriculum development. The arts-based approach teaches students to effectively express themselves through many different media—public speaking, visual arts, music, and drama. The interactive methods focus on academic excellence in the secular subjects while the Judaic studies form the core driving force. This integrated curriculum brings Judaism to life by showing its applicability in all streams of education. My teaching experience and research in the area of developmental psychology have left me keenly aware that children operate best when things relate one to the other.

Immersive early Jewish experiences such as day school and summer camps are critical to developing involved community members. This conclusion is echoed in the UIA report on Engaged Communities, which highlights the need for multiple options in education so that the maximum number of children can be included. Many families who want to send their children to Jewish day school cannot afford the full tuition. Kehila's bursary fund provides anonymous tuition assistance to those in need. One of our most important ongoing fundraising efforts to support these bursaries has been our Sponsor-a-child-for-a-week initiative. One week at Kehila for one student costs \$250. If you believe in the future of our Jewish community as I do, please consider giving the gift of Jewish education. Donations can be made by calling the school at 905-529-7725 or at www.kehilaschool.ca.

The decision to enroll our four girls at Kehila has already paid off in countless ways. They are constantly singing Hebrew songs, bringing home amazing works of art, and regaling us about the parsha of the week. During our sabbatical year in Israel, our two older daughters integrated well and achieved good grades in an entirely Hebrew curriculum. During Pesach last year, our girls told the story of the exodus from Egypt and led our family's Seder. I am confident that my daughters will develop a rich Jewish identity and will become engaged, active community members.

If you are interested in learning more about Kehila, please feel free to contact me directly at board@kehilaschool.ca.



The Shore girls ready for another exciting year at Kehila.

DM Dolls

One of a Kind Chanukah Dolls

Available at the Westdale Delicatessen
893 King St. West, Hamilton
or by contacting www.dmdolls.com

Tropical Expressions

... the only Jewish owned florist in our community

Now accepting orders for Hanukkah floral arrangements, gourmet baskets and bonsai plants

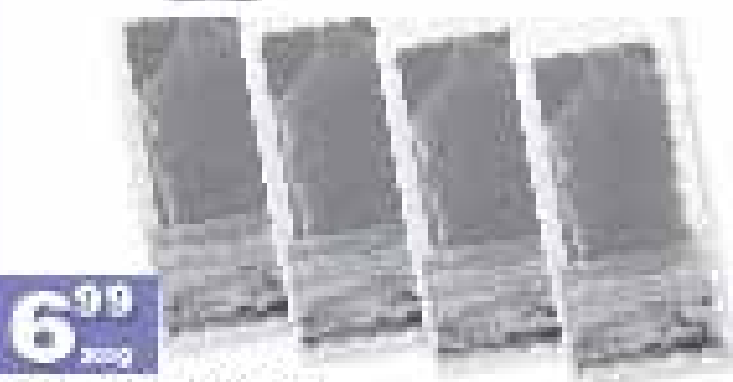
22 East 25th Street
Hamilton, Ontario L8V 3A1
Tel/Fax 905-387-3330

www.tropex.ca



Happy Chanukah

Save on all your favourites



6⁹⁹
/pkg

Central Smoked Fish assorted
smoked salmon



2⁷⁹
/king

whole cut-up chicken
fresh Market of Chai



3⁹⁹
/pkg

Central Epicure Garlic Fish
smelt or sculpin loam



1⁹⁹
/100 lbs

red or yellow potatoes
fresh produce Ontario



5⁴⁹
/1000g

lean ground beef
fresh Meat Market



7⁹⁹
/1000g

beef frankie made with
cornmeal, fresh Market



SAVE
.80

4⁹⁹
/400g

Sabes spreads
assorted varieties



SAVE
.50

3⁴⁹
/pkg

Montreal Kasher
Smoked or Dressed
selected varieties



.99
/200g

New Delicia
chocolate assorted
varieties



SAVE
.19

7⁹⁹
/200g

Milk chocolate-coated
selected varieties



SAVE
1.30

2⁹⁹
/300 ml

Katers sparkling
juice



1⁹⁹
/200 ml

Mikouda herbs
of pairs
white trout



SAVE
1.10

2⁴⁹
/120g

Croysen House
real-to-bell milk
or mini bell soup mix

PRICES EFFECTIVE FROM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 2009

WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD ON CHANUKAH CANDLES OR CHOCOLATE COINS



300 Lawrence Ave. W., North York
1570 Main St. E., Hamilton
50 Burnham St., Hamilton