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# Hamilton Jewish News

THE JEWISH VOICE OF HAMILTON

FEBRUARY 2011 VOL 25:3/ ADAR I & II, 5711

AGREEMENT #40007180

## Pulling back the curtain on Federation decision making

UJA Federation, as our central communal organization, is committed to building a strong, vibrant and enduring Jewish community in the greater Hamilton region, in Israel and throughout the world. Federation is guided by the values of Tikkun Olam – repairing the world, and by Klal Yisrael – the responsibility of each Jew for another. UJA Federation's board of directors works very

diligently, within the framework of its mission, to build and strengthen our Jewish community in many ways. Because much of this work takes place behind the scenes and the value and impact of this work may not always be apparent to the community, we have prepared a summary of the issues addressed by our over the last three months. You can find the report on page 9.



Photo special to the Hamilton Jewish News

## Can we do better?

In our continuing effort to provide a vehicle for Jewish Hamiltonians to express their ideas, concerns and opinions on a myriad of issues, the Hamilton Jewish News devotes this issue to these questions: What's working well in our community? And how can we improve? We invite you to read what some of our readers have to say on the subject in our Community Voices section on pages 12 and 13. You'll see some of those concerns reflected in our Federation columns on pages 2 and 9. Add your voice to the conversation by e-mailing the editor at [wschneider@jewishhamilton.org](mailto:wschneider@jewishhamilton.org).

## We're getting there!

UJA CAMPAIGN EDGES CLOSE TO ITS GOAL OF \$1.15 MILLION



Photo special to the Hamilton Jewish News

**F**irst the good news. The UJA 2011 campaign is well ahead of where it was at this time last year. According to UJA Assistant Campaign Director, Christine Nusca the positive result can be attributed to a combination of working with a strong and dedicated campaign cabinet headed by campaign co-chairs Danna Horwood and Lisa Morris, and the widespread participation of UJA beneficiary agencies. "These factors have made all the difference," she said.

This year's Campaign Cabinet set the tone early on by holding a series of telethons led by volunteer canvassers from across the spectrum of beneficiary agencies. Lisa Morris was delighted by their participation and the result of their efforts that saw a good percentage of donors increasing the size of their gift.

One of the biggest challenges for every UJA Campaign cabinet is setting a fundraising goal that meets Federation's obligations to its beneficiary agencies but does not place too much of a burden on the community. Notwithstanding a promising beginning, campaign co-chair Danna Horwood reported that "we are still \$50,000 short of our \$1.15 million campaign goal."

"Our Jewish community is relatively small and we have a fixed number of individuals to

whom we can turn for support", said Morris, "but we feel confident that, with the participation of those who haven't yet pledged, we'll meet our goals."

Morris and Horwood said that every effort is being made to contact past donors who have yet to pledge to this year's campaign, and to reach out to the nearly 1,000 community members who have never given to UJA.

If you haven't made your UJA 2011 campaign commitment, please call 905-648-0605 ext 306 or donate online at [www.jewishhamilton.org](http://www.jewishhamilton.org). Our Jewish schools, the kosher food bank and so many agencies that assist the most vulnerable in our community depend on your generosity.



Be part of UJA Federation's 75 years of Caring

### Community Time Capsule

Send us pictures, newspaper clippings and other paraphernalia that reflect who we are and what we care about.

**DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH WANTED**

A major Jewish organization is looking for a unique individual who is unquestionably a self-starter. He or she will understand how to effectively use social media. He or she must be very resourceful, well organized, detail oriented and excellent with follow-up. The candidate must be able to engage people to participate in events and become involved with the organization. Event planning experience would be a definite asset.

This is a permanent, part-time position. It will involve some travel around the province. The goal will be to work with and enhance our existing programs and campaigns and create new ones.

Please email your résumé and cover letter to: nfp.employment@gmail.com All applications confidential. Candidates will only receive a response if considered for an interview.

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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**DR. LARRY LEVIN, PRESIDENT,**  
UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON



**Towards a Renewed JCC**

At our May, 2010 AGM, I spoke at some length regarding my commitment to address the major issues being faced by Hamilton's Jewish Community Centre. I am pleased to report that since that time we have made some very positive steps to address them.

Our Hamilton Jewish Community Centre is thought to be the oldest JCC in Canada. It served our community well for many years. Ask any older Jewish person who grew up in Hamilton and you will hear of fond stories about the old JCC. It played a central role in Hamilton Jewish life.

Discussing the future of the JCC has been a recurring theme on the community agenda for a very long time. It is returning to the top of the agenda now for very specific reasons:

- the clear message from the Federation board, and myself as president that this is a high priority for our community
- the continuing efforts of the JCC leadership in highlighting the need for the facility and constantly working to improve the JCC and its programming
- the strong support for Camp Kadima demonstrates a critical mass of young families with children – the key demographic when considering the JCC's future
- JCC programs are drawing larger numbers of participants
- the successes in raising some funding for capital improvements and a re-development plan

Perhaps the most important development driving the JCC back to the top of the community agenda is the emergence of a new cadre of young leaders who have identified the need for a high functioning JCC as a central component in raising their Jewish families in Hamilton, and its value in attracting and retaining new Jewish families in Hamilton.

Emerging out of UJA Federation's YAD (Young Adult Division) and Genesis Leadership Development initiatives, leaders from this group are now meeting regularly with JCC and Federation leadership. Together with Federation, their purpose is to establish a new vision for Jewish life in Hamilton – with a great JCC providing a much needed enhanced focus on informal Jewish activities for all ages, a sports and cultural centre for the entire community and a vibrant programming hub for youth, adults and seniors.

It's not easy to predict what the outcome of this process may be. After all, this is not the first time that enthusiastic volunteers have devoted their energy to consider these matters. However, I think this will be the time that we will be successful in developing a vision for JCC that is attainable and supported by a broad cross section of the Hamilton Jewish community.

I am hopeful because of the high level of genuine cooperation between all parties at the table, including from the JCC – president Joel Feldman and Racheli Kirat – YAD members David Shore and Yves Apel, from Federation – Vivienne Epstein and myself, and member-at-large Hilton Silberg. I am especially hopeful because, at long last, we seem to have passed through the stage of ambivalence about whether or not Hamilton wants a great JCC. We are going to have a great JCC. Our JCC has been here for a very long time, and its time to help it become the central communal jewel our community needs.

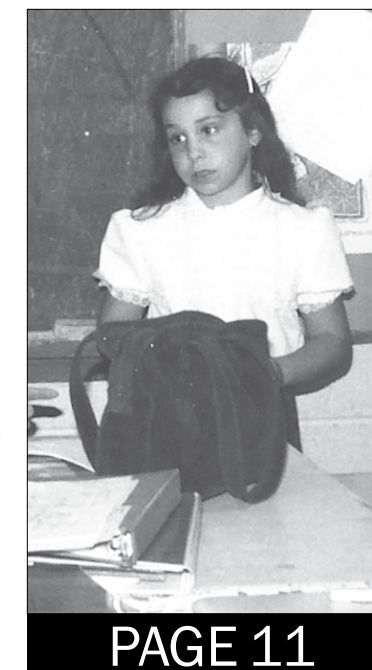
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PICTURED ABOVE: President of the China Judaic Studies Association and Editor-in-Chief of the Chinese edition of Encyclopedia Judaica, Professor Xu Xin, poses with Rabbi Jordan Cohen (left) and Professor Louis Greenspan. Xu Xin delivered a fascinating and well-attended lecture at McMaster University last November entitled *The Jewish Presence in China: Past and Present*. Temple Anshe Sholom's Rabbi Cohen previously served as rabbi of the United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong, the only liberal rabbi at the time serving in Asia. Professor Greenspan is an avid student of Jewish history. Professor Xu Xin's Hamilton appearance was sponsored by McMaster's Department of Religious Studies.

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**COMING UP**

- PASSOVER ISSUE**
- Deadline for booking ad space Mar. 7, 2011
  - Deadline for receiving editorial copy Mar. 11, 2011
  - Deadline for receiving ad copy Mar. 28, 2011
  - Estimated date of arrival Apr. 4, 2011

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## Shuls & Organizations

### ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

Can't afford a trip to Israel right now? Miss the Holy Land's charming sidewalk café atmosphere and tasty treats? Well, Elad and Ori (our great shlichim from the Jewish Agency) have organized a taste of Israel right here in Hamilton. In an almost life-like recreation of the ambience of Jerusalem, community members experience the aura, sights, sounds and music of the Land of Israel. From the faux Jerusalem stone to the projected images of Israel, from the chattering of Hebrew speakers (and learners) to the strumming of classic Israeli songs, the Israeli within each and every one of us is at home... with a hot drink in hand and a pastry to munch on.

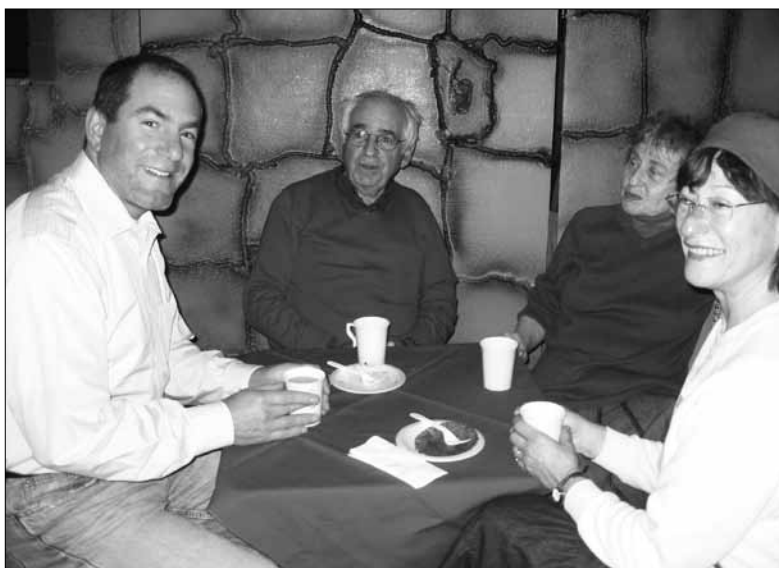


Photo special to the Hamilton Jewish News  
Marty Strub, Henry Schwartz, Molly-Ann Schwartz and Geraldene Katz-Rose enjoying their "cafe hafuch" and soaking up the Israeli atmosphere at Jerusalem Café.

The idea started when community members expressed an interest in getting together to socialize while reinforcing their Hebrew language skills they acquired during their Ulpan class. As interest continued to grow, community members such as Geoff Rose (our volunteer barista and chef) and Yosef Kohanzadeh, rose to the challenge and stepped forward to help organize the food logistics of the evening. This past Jerusalem Café featured "sidewalk" musicians Rabbi Golan Amar and Elad Avidan, both with guitars in hand, leading all present with Israeli karaoke songs projected on the screen. The word on the street is that there are more surprise musical talents to be featured at future café nights. Make sure to come and experience the special atmosphere for yourself (the first Monday after each United Shabbat). Mark your calendars for the following upcoming dates: Feb. 7, March 7, April 4 and May 9.

### BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE



Photo by Lawrence Yanover

Rabbi Dan Selsberg and Cantor Eyal Bitton lead a festive celebration at the opening of Beth Jacob's Shul Within A Shul.

Beth Jacob's grand opening of its new Shul Within A Shul on Jan. 9 exceeded even our biggest expectations. Well over 400 people from across the community and beyond gathered to celebrate this momentous occasion. Commenting on the festivities, UJA president, Dr. Larry Levin said, "The opening of Beth Jacob's new 'Shul Within A Shul' is one of the crowning achievements of our community. All of us can take pride in Beth Jacob's accomplishments and benefit from all the hard work of its leadership and generosity of its membership."

Beth Jacob welcomes the community to participate in our Shabbat services, wonderful kiddush lunches, Kabbalat Shabbat Friday night services and daily minyans. Our family programming under the directorship of Cantor Eyal Bitton encourages children and their parents to learn by participating in musical productions. You also won't want to miss Beth Jacob's signature Big Night event, taking place this coming June 20 and featuring the hilarious comedy of Elon Gold. Gold will perform his critically acclaimed one-man show entitled "Half Jewish; the Other Half

Very Jewish".

On Sunday, Feb. 13 our shul is excited to host the Hamilton premiere of Cantor Eyal Bitton's oratorio, Journey to Jerusalem at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by calling 905-522-1351. On April 2 and 3, Beth Jacob will hold its annual Israeli Film Festival. This year's event will include an exhibit of original Israeli art as well as a photography competition open to the entire community. Send us your best two photographs of an Israeli scene and a panel of judges will choose the best 20 photographs, to be displayed during the event, and present awards for first, second and third place. Please send low resolution images of your photographs to bethjacobisraelifestival@gmail.com. Our film festival committee members are in the process of screening films for this year's festival. Watch for more details at [www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca](http://www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca).

Beth Jacob is committed to offering community programming that is both spiritually and socially inspiring. We look forward to seeing you at our events.

### TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM



Photo by Steve Arnold

Artifacts recently donated to Temple Anshe Shalom by the family of Cantor Henry Theilheimer. They include a cantor's mitre, a shofar cover and pieces of High Holiday religious music Theilheimer wrote down while in an internment camp in Canada at the start of the Second World War. The shofar cover was sewn for him by women in the internment camp. For Cantor Rebecca Moses, the most important pieces are the sheet music, religious music that hasn't been heard since before the Holocaust. "When music like this goes unheard it becomes another victim of the Holocaust," she said, adding, "Hearing music that hasn't been heard in 60 years is like opening a time capsule." Moses is working on getting the music recorded.

### HAMILTON JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

In June 2009 Hamilton Jewish Social Services and Temple Anshe Shalom instituted a Job Club that provided members of the community with information on employment opportunities, resumé writing, vocational counselling and a chance to talk with other people who were looking for work. We are proud to announce that 20 of our members have found employment. Our Job Club is still going strong and we encourage community members seeking employment opportunities to join. Our monthly meetings are a wonderful opportunity to network, practice job interview techniques and learn valuable information such as the following: The government provides financial help to those who are out of work, seek retraining and are the first in their families

to have a university degree; There are key words that you can include in your resumé that will make it more likely for large companies to review it. For more information about the JSS Job Club, e-mail [carolkrames-jss@hotmail.com](mailto:carolkrames-jss@hotmail.com) or call 905-627-9922.

Please join us at our annual Wine Tasting Event on Sunday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at 30 King St. E. in Dundas. Tickets are \$18 or a \$100 donation will entitle you to full tax receipt and two tickets. This is an opportunity to sample Passover wines from Simcha Wines. Please come out to support our Food Bank, meet friends, hear music, sample wines and have a fun evening. For tickets or to make a donation e-mail [carolkramesjss@hotmail.com](mailto:carolkramesjss@hotmail.com) or call 905-627-9922 ex 21.

### MAGEN DAVID ADOM

HILDA ROSEN

Magen David Adom (MDA) is known throughout the Middle East and around the world for providing equal treatment to all people.

Did you know that:

- Magen David Adom (MDA) was one of the first responders to set up a hospital in Haiti?
- Thousands of critically injured Arab patients are transferred from Palestinian ambulances to receive immediate care in Israeli hospitals?
- The head of the Jordan Red Cross and Red Crescent and director of the International Department of Magen David Adom are urging that politics be set aside so both Israelis and Palestinians may work together.
- MDA provides training and seminars for Palestinian paramedics and other medical personnel in Israel.
- 15 Jordanians have chosen to study for their Bachelors degree as paramedics in Israel where they are studying at Ben Gurion University of Negev in Beersheba
- Hamilton will soon be able to purchase a Corpus3 Defibrillator - the latest type of life saving equipment. With each donation, the goal of this \$35,000 purchase will be possible.

To receive a tax-deductible receipt, please make your donation to CMDA and mail it to Hilda Rosen, 27 Haddon Ave S., Hamilton, ON, L8S 1X5. For Mastercard or VISA, please call 905-529-4824.

You may honour a loved one by ordering a card or certificate. You will be performing a mitzvah by supporting CMDA.

On behalf of Canadian Magen David Adom (CMDA), thank you for continuing to save lives in the Middle East.

## Jewish Education

### KEHILA JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

RINA RODAK

This year at Kehila, community clergy are not only serving in an advisory capacity, but are in the classrooms teaching or adding their special touch to daily t'fillot. Over the course of a month each grade is visited by at least one community rabbi, exposing our students to different teaching styles, different denominational interpretations, and forming a connection with the men and women who serve as our spiritual leaders. With the guidance of their classroom teachers, students are encouraged to formulate questions about their current Judaic theme of study. The questions are dropped into a special "Ask the Rabbi" box found in each classroom and picked up by the rabbis for their session. Even the youngest students have posed creative, interesting, and poignant questions.

This month, Rabbi Dan Selsberg spoke to Kehila's third and fourth graders about the issue of "snitching and tattling." He presented the students with the relevant laws on the topic and guided them in a heated discussion. In future sessions, Rabbi Stephen Wise of Oakville's Shaarei-BethEl Congregation and Rabbi Jordan Cohen of Temple Anshe Shalom will lead discussions with our kindergarten and Grade 1/2 class. Rabbi Zev Eisenstein, known for his wonderful stories that apply timeless Jewish values to modern day life, infuses his sessions with unbounded enthusiasm and ruach.

By lending their time to our students, community rabbis and cantors are shaping the minds of our community's future leaders. In the short term, they are expanding horizons, presenting options and enlightening minds. For all of that, we at Kehila are ever ever so grateful.



Photo special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Rabbi Selsberg takes questions from Kehila students during their monthly Ask the Rabbi session.

### HAMILTON JEWISH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Thanks to the generosity of Hamilton Hebrew Academy graduate Rabbi Joshua Krames, the school's Judaic teachers will be introduced to SMART boards, that will profoundly enhance their Judaic based programs. A cross between a whiteboard, an iPod touch, and a computer, SMART Boards allow for information to be creatively presented and reviewed (and emailed to students for homework) instantly. The potential for creative and relevant learning opportunities is boundless. "We are embarking on a new era of education," said Rivka Shafir, HJMS principal, adding, "The effects of SMART Board technology will eventually be felt in most subjects taught in the middle school." Not only is the technology revolutionizing the delivery of general studies, but it will enable teachers to break new ground in Judaic studies as well.

Matt Scheben, the HJMS technology consultant, has already begun training our General Studies teachers on how to integrate and utilize the new SMART Board system to further enhance the educational experience of our students.

The new technology will allow for students to partner with classrooms across the globe, and in particular, Israel. With all the possibilities surrounding SMART Boards it sure seems like a SMART decision.

### MIDRASHA

Week after week, a large group of teens flock to the kosher Second Cup in Westdale to sip lattes and to discuss various Jewish topics. The teens are part of a program called Latte and Learn that invites high school students to increase their Jewish knowledge in a comfortable safe environment. The program offers an open and interactive discussion for Jewish teens to ask their questions and to voice their opinions. Second Cup is an ideal location because of the kosher drink selection and casual, fun atmosphere. The informality of the setting allows Jewish teens to discuss relevant life issues while learning Torah values. Discussion topics have included: shemirat halashon (ethical speech); current world events; and how to treat others with respect. "One of the reasons this program has been so popular is because we are bringing Judaism to a place where teens want to hang-out, and offering the teens topics of specific interest to them," explains Yaakov Morel the coordinator of this program. The group meets every other Thursday night from 7-8 p.m. For more information contact Yaakov Morel at [Yaakov.morel@gmail.com](mailto:Yaakov.morel@gmail.com) or call 905-512-1960.

Sunday May 1st, 2011

Yom Hashoah

### Margaret's Legacy

a Youth Holocaust Education and Commemoration event  
For students in grades 6 and up.

premiere screening of the documentary,  
"Margaret & Arthur's Story"

Using the harrowing yet inspirational story of Margaret & Arthur Weisz as a backdrop, "Margaret & Arthur's Story" is a documentary produced specifically for young viewers and their parents. It is intended to educate about the Holocaust and open a dialogue about the broader themes of tolerance, courage and survival. Survivors will be present at this event to comment on their personal stories and, with the help of educators, answer students' questions.

10:00 a.m.

Liuna Station

360 James Street North, Hamilton

Admission is complimentary, but preregistration is required  
[www.margaretslegacy.ca](http://www.margaretslegacy.ca)

### HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY

Last semester, HHA students created art pieces inspired by their understanding of the styles of a number of great artists. Grade Five created Georgia O'Keefe-inspired flower paintings, Grade Three students drew cubist-style chalk portraits based on the style of Pablo Picasso, and Grade Four students created large-scale abstract paintings inspired by Wassel Kandinsky. In addition, JK students created an assemblage of old toys and other discarded objects



Photo special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Grade Two students apply their art history research of totem poles to create their own works of art.

inspired by Louise Nevelson. The result is a phenomenal work that attracted unsolicited offers to purchase this one-of-a-kind piece.

In the primary grades and preschool HHA teacher, Mrs. Glaser integrated art with the literacy program. In Grade Two, the students reviewed Where the Wild Things Are, the classic book by Maurice Sendak. Using crayon-resistant and liquid water colours, they used their imaginations to depict their own wild thing. In Senior Kindergarten and Grade One, the children read the book, The Dot, by Peter H. Reynolds, and learned that art isn't about being the best but about creating your individual style.

This coming semester our students will continue exploring great world artists, as well as focus on applying their acquired artistic skills within the Judaic program.



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MARCH BREAK 2011

Mar. 9 - Mar. 20

PASSOVER 2011

April 16 - April 30

SUMMER 2011

June 26 - July 10

June 3 - July 17

June 17 - July 31

June 24 - August 7

June 31 - August 14

August 14 - August 28

WINTER

Dec. 15 - Dec. 29

Dec. 18 - Jan. 2, 2012

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## CAMP KADIMAH

Jonny Vaisberg is thrilled to join the Camp Kadimah team this summer. Jonny comes to us from Camp Kinneret in Mont Tremblant, Quebec, where he attended as both camper and staff for 11 years. In addition, he has been involved with the North American Federation of Temple Youth, Union for Reform Judaism, Camp George, McMaster Jewish Student's Association, and teaching at various GTA synagogues. He especially has a love for Jewish and Israeli music. He is currently completing a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour, with a focus on Music Cognition at McMaster University. Jonny believes that the best learning atmosphere for children is when they are surrounded by friends and mentors in a fun and familiar environment. He is excited to bring his wealth of Jewish programming experience, while still maintaining the fun and dynamic atmosphere that Camp Kadimah promises and provides.



Jonny Vaisberg

### CAMP KADIMAH EXCURSIONS

- July 4-8 SPCA
- July 11-15 Fire Station
- July 18-22 Lunatic Adventures
- July 25-29 Camp Ramah overnight
- Aug. 2-5 Zacada Circus School
- Aug. 8-12 Camp Shalom overnight
- Aug. 15-19 Adventure Village
- Aug. 22-26 Bingemans Water Park

## Living it Up at the JCC

Nothing is more satisfying to me than seeing new and old faces at JCC programs. Fall was a very busy time for us with programs offered every month. During the month of October children from our community enjoyed coming out for our after-school sports program led by Max Katz. Later that month students from grades fight to eight enjoyed our annual youth casino night and at the end of the month community members enjoyed a delicious brunch catered by Andrea Levy's Sweet Noshings. In November we offered a Canadian Red Cross Babysitting Course, a day packed with valuable lessons for our children. Another course will be offered in the Spring. Adult offerings in the month of November included Maven Day, where four teams enjoyed friendly games of Mah Jongg and cards. Our 4th annual Hamilton Jewish Film Festival was well attended as was the return performance of musician David Cavan Fraser. The JCC hosted a jewelry sale by Ilana Bayer's Thea's Jewelry Box in November, and, for the first time ever, the JCC offered two Games Nights, one in November and one in December. More are in store. Our Chanukkah party, held in December, was a big success as the community came out to shop at our vendors market, play bingo and enjoy delicious pizza from Sweet Noshings. As you can see the JCC calendar is quite full. We can't wait to see you at our events this spring. (see below)

Are you a Maj player or do you have the desire to learn how to play Maj? If so then the JCC is the right place for you. Please join us every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the JCC lounge.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Apr. 3  
**Morris Black Public Speaking Contest**  
 Start time: 2 p.m.  
 For students in grades three through eight.

Sunday, May 1  
**Yom HaShoah**  
 Start time: 4 p.m.  
 Adas Israel Synagogue

## Remembering Survival

The Annual Yom Hashoah Memorial will take place on Sunday, May 1, at 4 p.m. at the Adas Israel Synagogue. Please join us for a candle lighting and memorial service. The keynote address will be given by Dr. Christopher R. Browning, the distinguished Frank Porter Graham Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He has served as an expert witness in war crime trials and Holocaust denial cases in Australia, Great Britain (Deborah Lipstadt vs. David Irving) and in Canada at the second Zundel trial in Toronto in 1988. In memory of those who perished and in awe of our survivors in the greater Hamilton area, Dr. Browning will address our community and share survivors' riveting testimonies of life in a Nazi slave-labour camp at Starachowice, in central Poland, where between 1942 and 1944 thousands of Jews were forced to produce munitions for the Nazi war machine. The truth of this dreadful period of our history, through eyewitness accounts, is revealed and exceptionally well told in Dr. Browning's book, *Remembering Survival*. All family and friends are welcome.



Laura Laengerer

# The fight for religious pluralism

## Anat Hoffman challenges the status quo

by STEVE ARNOLD, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Israel's unending struggle with the Palestinians may command the world's headlines, but Anat Hoffman says that conflict only hides the even more important struggle for the soul of the country. The executive director of the Israel Religious Action Centre (IRAC) and chair of Women of the Wall, Hoffman has been at the centre of that struggle for more than 20 years, including 14 years on Jerusalem city council as an often lone voice against a Haredi bloc using the country's byzantine political system for its own ends.

Now her stand could land her in an Israeli prison for three years for the crime of carrying a Torah scroll and attempting to read from it at Judaism's holiest site.

"What we're involved in here is the labour of changing the character of Israel," she told an audience at Temple Anshe Sholom recently.

The struggle Hoffman describes results from a decision in Israel's earliest days to make Orthodox Judaism the official religion of the new country. Orthodox rabbis, paid by the state, are the only ones permitted to officiate at life events in Israel and to decide religious questions such as "Who is a Jew?" That religious



Anat Hoffman, far left, chair of Women of the Wall, with Rabbi Jordan Cohen and Cantor Rebecca Moses

establishment, Hoffman said, has been taken over by a Haredi element she accuses of trying to shape the country in its own image.

That effort has seen Haredi groups verbally, and sometimes physically, attacking women who seek to pray at the Western Wall wearing tallitot and reading from Torah scrolls; efforts to gender-segregate public services in the name of their notion of modesty; forcing women to the back of school lecture halls and to erect physical barriers between the genders on the

streets during public holidays.

The Supreme Court of Israel has ordered a stop to the practice, but response has been slow, Hoffman said.

The same Haredi rabbinate also gave Israel an international black eye recently with a rabbinic order barring Jews from renting apartments or selling property to Arabs in the country "That was just an insane thing to do," Hoffman said. "If they are state employees then they should not act against the people of the state."

Hoffman urged liberal Jews everywhere to oppose these developments by making their anger known to the government of Israel, by raising the issue with Israeli representatives and by supporting groups like IRAC.

What they shouldn't do, she said, is separate themselves from a country that is important to the Jewish future.

"This is about who holds the keys to Judaism, who controls the holiest places in Judaism," said Hoffman.

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## New registry brings history to your fingertips

by STEVEN BROCK, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

As morbid as it may sound, among the most important of resources available to help trace your family genealogy are the inscriptions carved onto grave-stones. Literally a treasure trove of information, the Matzevah will usually tell you among other things, a person's name in Hebrew and English, the date the person passed and either the date they were born or their age when they died. They may tell you where a person was from, whether they were married, had siblings, children, or grandchildren. They also provide a very important link back to the previous generation, as almost all Jewish gravestones will state the name of a person's father.

While the gravestone can provide all this important data, it isn't always convenient or even possible to travel to the final resting places of your ancestors. However, with the rapid expansions of the internet over the past few decades, one no longer has to travel farther than to their home computer in order to access data from thousands of miles away.

It is for these reasons that JewishGen.org has set out to create a searchable database cataloguing every Jewish burial site throughout the world. Apty named the Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR), it now contains the data of more than 1.57 million graves from more than 3,000 cemeteries and burial

records from 47 countries, dating from the earliest records to the present.

JOWBR collects its data through a network of volunteers, including Jewish genealogical and historical societies, museums, or even individuals who have made an effort to index data one cemetery at a time.

Included for the first time in JOWBR's most recent update from December is data from three of the six Hamilton area Jewish cemeteries. In a project spanning four years to date, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton and Area (JGSHA) has photographed and indexed the more than 3,500 Jewish tombstones in the Hamilton area. A total of more than 840 graves from the Adas Israel Congregation Cemetery on Old York Road, and both sites of the Grand Order of Israel Congregation Cemetery on Snake Road are now online. Work is continuing to finalize the submissions for the Anshe Sholom, Ohev Zedek and Beth Jacob cemeteries. These will include another 2,700 records.

The JGSHA meets monthly at Temple Anshe Sholom. On March 9, we will welcome Michael Rajzman of the Ontario Jewish Archives as he explains how to unravel the mysteries of photographs. For more information visit www.jgsh.org/Events.php or e-mail jgshamilton@gmail.com.

Kehila Jewish Community Day School presents

## Dinner with Friends

BY DONALD MARGULIES



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## UJA Federation

### Federation board business

The following is a summary of the business addressed by the Federation board over the last three months.

#### Board retreats

Our Federation board members and staff have devoted several Sunday sessions in a Retreat format, to think broadly about the future of the community and the most appropriate roles for UJA Federation to play in ensuring a "strong, vibrant and enduring future."

#### Visioning a More Successful JCC

Discussions at our board retreats clearly showed that the JCC was an important building block for a healthy Jewish community and that a decision on how to proceed was a high priority. A vision committee including JCC, YAD, and a member at large was formed to examine and work on this issue. (See president's column on page 3 for more information.)

#### Hamilton Jewish Leadership Forum

This forum brings together the lay and professional leadership from across Jewish Hamilton to consider broad issues affecting our community. We have had important presentations and discussions concerning demographics and their impact on our community's future in regard to fundraising, education, care of the elderly, and volunteerism.

#### Year-round UJA initiative

United Jewish Appeal is the primary annual fundraising mechanism that supports many of our local institutions, our Canadian national infrastructure and also connects us to Israel and the global Jewish community.

Our UJA Campaign Cabinet has been very successful during our campaign. It will now continue to meet year round to plan campaign activities in order to do a better job of outreach, education, and to cultivate and train new volunteers. Unfortunately there are many people in our community who are not donors, and we will continue to work to educate them so they will become donors and join us in our important work.

#### U.N. commemoration of victims of the Holocaust

Several years ago, the United Nations designated January 27th as an international day of commemoration for victims of the Holocaust. This year, under the auspices of Federation's Holocaust education committee, a commemoration took place in City Hall, at the beginning of a City Council meeting, attended by the mayor, the city council and via Cable 14 to hundreds of other viewers from across Hamilton.

As you can see, the board of Hamilton Jewish Federation is actively pursuing the mission of building a strong, vibrant and enduring Jewish community in Hamilton, in Israel and around the globe. We invite each of you to participate with us, as donors and as volunteers in helping to create a strong Jewish future for Hamilton.

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# More Affordable than you think

SPRING INTO FASHION AT MILLI

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, Hamilton Jewish News

For some it's a luxury only to be indulged for a special occasion. For some it's the only place to shop. And for some, the thought of entering its premises is intimidating beyond words. Milli, the legendary women's clothing boutique on Main Street West, is ready to welcome a new generation of sophisticated shoppers who, its sales associates are eager to communicate, are under the mistaken impression that its wares are strictly for the wealthy elite.

"You have to walk through the front door, get past the exterior and walk into the warmth," said sales associate, Susan Coolsaet, who said her long time clients find the atmosphere "nurturing, caring and friendly."

According to her colleague, Emily Middleton, what really sets Milli apart from similarly-priced chain stores is its unparalleled level of service.

"It's about education, not elitism," she said. "I help all my girlfriends with their wardrobes," she said. "They're buying houses and having babies, and their priorities are not what they put on their back."

Appreciating her friends' tight budgets, Middleton will help them choose one or two classic items that will offer both style and

versatility and provide much more long term value than an impulse buy at a less expensive store.

Actress Michele Tredger, who moved to Hamilton with her husband, Beth Jacob's Cantor Eyal Bitton, a little over a year ago, happily accepted an invitation to model fashions from the store she had often noticed while driving down Main Street. Treated to the full "Milli experience" over two mornings that included a preliminary session and a subsequent photo shoot, Tredger had only good things to say.

"The sales staff are very professional, and they know how to pull an outfit together better than I would on my own. They're familiar with body types, know what looks good on you and they have an eye to pull unique pieces together." As for the prices, Tredger was pleasantly surprised.

"What people don't realize is that there are great sales. I was really surprised at how far the price had come down from the original price on some of the items. You can find a really unique piece, designer quality right here locally."

Milli invites you to come out of the cold and into the warmth. You may be surprised by what you find.



This jacket has great structure and beautiful lines highlighted by contrasting colours.

**COAT** Pink Tartan trench coat, \$595  
**BOOT** All-weather black patent ankle boot Aquatalia, \$425



A versatile spring look shows off the fresh designs of Kim Mimran's designer line, Pink Tartan.

**TANK** Lilla P scoop neck, \$75  
**SWEATER** Cotton knit, \$225  
**PANT** Black crop pant, \$275



**HANDBAG** Black Eli Tahari tiered in grey leather strips, provides the finishing touch to this look, \$392 sale price.



**SANDALS** Dove grey Valentino thong sandals with darling leather rosette appliques, \$199 sale price.

Photos by Wendy Schneider



An injection of colour is a great boost for your wardrobe moving into spring. This playful look shows Michele in a Pink Tartan floral skirt and cardigan.

**TANK** Wolford Athens stretch underpinning, \$160.  
**CARDIGAN** Pink Tartan cotton cardigan in soft pink, price, \$225. **SKIRT** Pink Tartan skirt, \$295.  
**SHOE** Plum suede open toe heel, Cole Haan, \$325.



Above: Layering beautiful knit wear and basics with unique details are important for the changing weather and season. Below: Susan Coolsaet provides just the right finishing touch.

**WRAP** One-sleeved wrap, \$175. **SCARF** Cashmere and silk blend scarf, \$190. **PANT** Light and stretchy boot cut jean by Cookie Johnson, \$145. **SHOE** Grey, low heel, Cole Haan, \$210.



Fall pieces moving forward to spring ease the transition into a warmer weather wardrobe and take advantage of off season sale pricing.

**UNDERPINNING** Silver sleeveless cowl neck, Luisa Cerano, \$195. **JACKET** Brocade Elizabeth and James boyfriend blazer, \$412 sale price. **PANT** Grey Cambio skinny jean, \$130 sale price.

## Upcoming Events

### REUNION



Photo special to the Hamilton Jewish News

LEFT: Class of 1983 Grade eight girls: From top to bottom, left to right, Julie Zikman Toporoski, Rivka Shaffir, Naomi Goodman, Ilana Langsner Clamp, Michal Berman, Sondi McLean, Aviva Blajchman Kidorf, Eva Melanenchuk, Kimberly Abrahams Mungal, Heather Orson Guttman, Marianne Bennet Altschul and Elisheva Baumgarten.

BELOW: Circa 1978: students sporting their new sports trophies. From left to right, Geoffrey Phillips, Cemmie Green, Michael Kavelerchik, Ira Rosen, Alan Delman, Steven Orgel and Steven Fuss.



Photo special to the Hamilton Jewish News

# 50 years of beautiful days

## HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY TO HOLD 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA CELEBRATION

by MARTY STRUB, special to The Hamilton Jewish News

50th anniversaries are often referred to as "golden." On Sunday, May 15, 2011 the Hamilton Hebrew Academy will celebrate its 50th anniversary at a gala dinner recapturing the golden memories shared by over half-a-century of our community's Jewish children.

First graduating class alumna Ilana Goldberg (née Silverman), class of '69, shared the following feelings: "The impact of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy on our Jewish community cannot be overstated. Not only here in Hamilton, but throughout Canada, Israel and the world. Something special was fostered within these walls. The school built and nurtured our foundations for life. The best testimony is our alumni's great accomplishments."

Gala co-chair, Danna Horwood (née Weisz), class of '87, shared her motivation for becoming involved in the historic event: "Our goal is to rekindle

50 years of memories in one evening. Our shared experiences at the HHA have affected us all in profound ways."

When speaking with alumni there is an overwhelming sentiment that they were privileged to experience something truly unique. Debbie Diamond (née Schwartz), class of '74, reminisced how one of her few regrets in life was how her children couldn't experience their childhood years in Hamilton. "Toronto is a wonderful community with so much to offer," she commented, "yet despite all the amenities there was something so unique and special about my formative years at the Academy. Those can't be replicated anywhere."

The school was founded in 1961 during an age when parochial Jewish education was seen as ghettoizing and divisive. "Those early years were challenging but exciting," reflected Rabbi Mordechai Green, the school's founding dean. "The Hamilton Hebrew

Academy was a trailblazing institution during a time when Jewish day schools were practically non-existent particularly in smaller communities."

Yet, despite the opposition to day school education, the school began to thrive – first under the principalship of Rabbi Herbert Millen and then, in 1973, under the direction of Rabbi William Zev Eisenstein. With his trademark slogan – "It's a beautiful day at the HHA" – the enrolment swelled to more than 300 students, the highest enrolment in Jewish day school per capita of any community in North America. One of the great contributions of Rabbi Eisenstein was his ability to reach out to all segments of the community and attract students from all denominations of Jewish life. "One of the hallmarks of the Academy was its ability to be a great unifying force in the Jewish community," said Rabbi Eisenstein. "No matter where you were from, or what your

background, the Academy was your home. Every child was #1."

As an alumnus himself and now a parent, Rabbi Daniel Green, class of '84 commented: "As a former student, current parent and dean, I have no greater joy than watching my own children and the children of our community experience the opportunities I had attending the HHA. It's time to create the bridge between generations."

"Part of the beauty of the Academy is the sense of community and continuity," said Mrs. Rivka Shaffir, principal and veteran educator. "To see the generations as they unfold and to teach the children of students is profoundly inspiring and rewarding."

The evening on May 15th will be a nostalgic voyage through the various decades at the Academy highlighting the students, the principals, the teachers, and the staff from the past 50 years. An expand-

ing alumni committee is being developed to engage the more than 1000 Academy students from over the years.

"Over 20 years later, my social milieu is still my Academy friends," stated Kenny Cohen, class of '86, and gala co-chair. "I may not currently live in Hamilton but the Academy lives within me. Our hope is to create an unforgettable evening, rekindle the memories, and support the future of the Academy."

Recently, the Alumni committee developed a Facebook profile called Hhaalumni Hamilton that attracted more than 200 "friends" within the first 24 hours alone. The Alumni network has had incredible response and has been re-kindling social networking among old friends.

For more information on the gala please visit [www.hamiltonhebrewacademy.ca/alumni](http://www.hamiltonhebrewacademy.ca/alumni), email [alumni@hamiltonhebrewacademy.ca](mailto:alumni@hamiltonhebrewacademy.ca), or call 905-528-0330.




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# OUR COMMUNITY...

## What's working?

- YAD Hamilton.
- The Hamilton Jewish News.
- Camp Kadimah is great for younger children. Of course, it would be better in a fabulous new JCC with a pool.

Anonymous



- Something for every age group.
- Synagogues support each other's fundraisers.
- Jewish education for varied lifestyles.
- There have always been volunteer opportunities for those who are able to help out.
- We were made to feel welcome by representatives from many organizations and synagogues.

Rikki Gross

- Well-organized social groups with programs catering to many different aspects of Jewish life.
- Excellent help for our poorest and most vulnerable members.
- Religious institutions that cater to most large Jewish denominations.
- Well developed fund raising organizations.
- A JCC available for athletic, and social needs of the community.

Leo Winter

- We support Shalom Village.
- We support the idea of a strong JCC.
- Our sense of history.
- We support local Jewish businesses.
- We care about our future.

Barry Yellin

- The annual UJA campaign.
- A huge variety of Jewish cultural events for our small community, sponsored by the various Jewish organizations.
- Great community newspaper and Jewish Hamilton e-news bulletins.
- Multiple Jewish education options for children and adults, that we should all be proud of.
- Strong concern for Jewish students at McMaster.

Laura Wolfson



Photo by Lawrence Yanover

- I would define the term "community" as an extended family. A healthy family acknowledges the unique differences of its members but always remembers its shared roots and the bonds of blood.
- Growing up in Hamilton, our strength as a community was always built upon mutual respect and our ability to transcend denominational lines. Our feeling that we were one family with a shared past and destiny was the cornerstone of our strength. Our extended family included an unwavering commitment to our Jewish brothers and sisters in Israel as well. With our changing demographics, and the infusion of new fresh faces, this will be an essential component of our future strength.
- Beyond our familial attitude towards each other, community growth is predicated on personal growth. We recognize that we can't expect our children to be excited about Jewish knowledge if we, ourselves, never learn. If we want our community to be engaged and flourish, we need to take the lead and expand our own minds and souls.
- In recent years The Florence Melton Adult Education Mini-School helped attract more Jewish learners than ever before in recent history. By enriching ourselves individually, we create the fertile soil for those around us to grow as well.
- In short, our strengths are our weaknesses. We need to continue to foster Jewish unity and a strong culture of Jewish growth. These two pillars can be divided into as many categories as we want. Ultimately, they will tell the story of our community's future.

Rabbi Daniel Green  
Adas Israel Congregation

- A motivated base of committed individuals who help build sacred communities.
- A somewhat-motivated base of marginally committed individuals, who regularly help build our sacred communities, even though it's not something they thought they'd ever be doing (this sounds something like a joke, but it's meant quite seriously).
- A rich local tradition of respect among Hamilton's many and varied Jewish institutions (and their partisans).
- The degree of support for just responses to issues of Jewish interest, both local and international, involving Jews and non-Jews.
- The warmth, spirit, and love for Torah found here – I get to see it in my own synagogue on a daily basis, and I find it in most every other corner of Hamilton's Jewish community with incredible frequency.



Rabbi Dan Selsberg  
Beth Jacob Synagogue

- There is a great sense of community identification that goes well beyond synagogue/institutional affiliations.
- This is a strong caring community. People rally together and take care of one another.
- Shalom Village is a gem.
- We have three healthy synagogues that provide a range of options for living a meaningful Jewish religious life.
- The Hamilton Jewish community is well respected in the general Hamilton community. We are viewed as a well structured community that is a model to other ethnic or religious communities.

Rabbi Jordan Cohen  
Temple Anshe Sholom

**“This is a strong, caring community. People rally together and take care of one another”**

Rabbi Jordan Cohen  
Temple Anshe Sholom

- That there are three synagogues in town, given the size of this Jewish community, is pretty impressive.
- There is a decent selection of kosher food, as well as kosher caterers
- There are two Jewish day schools to choose from, which offers Jewish families with a choice.
- We are close enough to Toronto to benefit from its Jewish scene quite easily.
- Even though we're a relatively small Jewish community, it's possible to find neighbourhoods where you know you'll be near other Jewish families.

Celia Rothenberg

We asked and you answered. Below community members share their thoughts about what's working well in our Jewish community and what's not.

## What's not?

- The JCC needs a major overhaul to make it more usable and attractive to the community members. The JCC facility should really be the central address of the Hamilton Jewish community, but it is not really fulfilling that function.
- A more vocal centrist voice in regard to Israel. Both the extreme left and right wing in Hamilton are very active and strident in expressing their views about events in Israel. It plays out in the op-ed pages of The Hamilton Spectator, the Canadian Jewish News, through e-mail and letters, and many active grapevines. However, moderate centrist voices are either muted or intimidated into silence. The centre needs to speak up!
- More active Jewish youth programs that don't have to be ideological. Jewish youth need to get together just to have fun, especially for those who do not attend the day schools.
- We need to make the students on university and college campuses feel more welcome as part of the general Hamilton Jewish community. We tend to make Jewish students on campus a "cause" who need our support to combat the anti-Israel forces. This just fosters an identity of victimization, which turns many students off. Rather, we should be helping them to enrich their religious and spiritual lives and make them feel like a valued component of Hamilton Jewish life.
- A systemized plan to try and attract more young Jewish families to Hamilton. As a community, we are not very good at self promotion.



Rabbi Jordan Cohen  
Temple Anshe Sholom

- It would be nice to have one non-denominational organization that would bring together kids from the day school system with those who are not, so everyone could have the opportunity to get to know other Jewish kids in their age group. We have such low numbers to begin with.

Brenda Deskin

- Cliques behaviour, superiority complex, exclusionism within our community
- Lack of an effective voice to combat increasing anti-semitism.
- Poor leadership in the major fundraising organizations.
- Lack of transparency in Federation decisions and actions.
- Lack of cooperation among different Jewish institutions, organizations and political groups.



Leo Winter

- Having a JCC with a pool and an excellent workout room that would be widely used across religious lines would change the quality of our Jewish life here. In that scenario, we would become JCC members and go every weekend. Instead of paying all the money we currently pay to the Flamborough YMCA, we would be putting that money into the Jewish community. A much-improved ecumenical and full-service JCC, used by both Jewish and non-Jewish members, would give our community enormous visibility, respect and gratitude in the wider community and create income for the centre.
- What would truly change the quality of my life here as a Jew is if there was more choice for a good and thorough Jewish education outside of the day school system. I want to know that my kids can get a good Jewish education in the Conservative/Orthodox realm without going to a day school. For those seeking Jewish education options beyond the Reform option, there is a gaping hole and it's been very painful for us not to have found a solution for our needs. I believe that teaming up (between the Conservative and Orthodox) is the only way.

Celia Rothenberg

**“Having a JCC with a pool... would change the quality of our Jewish life here.”**

Celia Rothenberg

- A Jewish Welcome Wagon with small gifts and gift certificates and invitations to visit local businesses.
- A Jewish representative on city council.
- Someone to take a formalized leadership role in furthering and nurturing our community's relationship with the Shechafim School in Northern Israel.
- A widely publicized, well-organized Jewish community-sponsored project that benefits and partners with a non-Jewish community organization that serves Hamilton's needy. This would highlight our participation in the greater Hamilton community, and widen the spectrum of opportunities for members of our community to get involved and contribute to tikkun olam in the name of the Jewish community.
- A GTA-West Jewish business showcase/job fair of Jewish-owned businesses from the Golden Horseshoe. This would be an excellent opportunity for job-seekers and those seeking to expand their business network.



Laura Wolfson  
Former Educator and Cantor at Temple Anshe Sholom



“I am a periodontist in Hamilton and a professor at the University of Toronto faculties of dentistry and medicine. We lived in Hamilton from 2001 to 2009. If there had been a high school for my kids we would have stayed.”

Michael Glogauer

- Better understanding, communication and coordination among community organizations to avoid duplication of services, conflicting events and competition.
- A well-functioning and centrally located JCC with a clear mandate and vision of its future.

Barry Yellin

- A fabulous new JCC – with a pool.
- A middle-school that offers Jewish education that represents all streams of Judaism.
- To find a way for Orthodox and less-observant community leaders to work together in the best interest of the ENTIRE community.

Anonymous



- A shuttle service for seniors to enable them to attend community events at the JCC and other venues.

Dorothy Rosenthal

## “PAY AS YOU GO” FITNESS MEMBERSHIP



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## Shalom Village residents have the 'ear' of the premier of Ontario



MPP Ted McMeekin, left, and Premier Dalton McGuinty at Shalom Village.

**Lotti Redner** told Premier Dalton McGuinty that being able to give her children and grandchildren peace of mind was one of the important reasons she chooses to live at Shalom Village. "Living at Shalom Village means that my children and grandchildren can get on with their jobs and contribute to the Ontario economy," she said.

**Frank and open dialogue**  
On the advice of Ted McMeekin, MPP for Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Westdale, the premier chose the residents of Shalom Village to provide him with insights into what seniors in this province think is important. Nestled in Samuels Bistro, Dalton McGuinty listened intently as they talked about the things that matter to them. Without the glare of the media,



Aron Shiffman, left, with Dalton McGuinty and Doug Watt

the premier was given the opportunity to have a frank and open dialogue with 20 individuals representing all sectors of the Shalom Village community of services, including supportive housing, long term care, adult day and convalescent care.

"What is the most important thing we can do for your grandchildren, what is the most important thing we can do for your children and what is the most important thing we can do for you?" asked Mr. McGuinty. Lotti's comments were met with strong support by others in the room. Her clear insights into the value of investing in seniors were a different perspective than what likely was expected, but her words ring true for many of her peers, their families and the premier himself, who shared with the audience how our health care services had been there for his mom when she broke her hip during his campaign. Knowing she was well cared for helped him keep focused on his role and his goal.

**People want to come here**  
Investing in appropriate supports for seniors also speaks volumes to our values as a province and a country. The premier paraphrased Tony Blair's metaphor for success, saying "when I look around at the work we are doing, I want to ensure that we are a province that more people want to come to than want to leave."

**Transportation**  
Several residents spoke about the need for affordable, available transportation. To be able to give back to the community, for example by volunteering in reading programs in schools, transportation is needed. Transportation is a key ingredient in maintaining independence.

**Get outside and enjoy nature**  
Practicality was a common theme for many residents. "All we need are enough resources so we are able to get outside and enjoy the sun, nature and the changing seasons and not be isolated," said Margaret Field. For many this requires the assistance of staff.

**Not only health care**  
The premier was reminded that long term care was not simply health care and that supports are needed for residents to live their lives. The programs supported by *Aging at Home* dollars, such as the nurse led teams and ambulatory convalescent programs at Shalom Village, are helpful in supporting seniors staying at home. Supportive housing also provides the flexible, affordable access to services that allows many in the room to remain active, healthy contributors to their community and their families.

**A unique visit**  
This was a unique visit in the 30-year history of Shalom Village. We are hopeful that the premier taking this type of



Premier Dalton McGuinty with Shalom Village's Shirley Levine

personal interest in the voice of seniors signals an increasing recognition by policy makers that serving the needs of seniors is good for all Ontarians. Similar to our goal at Shalom Village, we look to the support necessary for ensuring that more people who need us are confident in coming here rather than feeling that this is somewhere they would not want to be. We need the creativity and support of the government to truly be the place you want to be if life changes necessitate a move home to Shalom Village.

Grateful thanks to Ted McMeekin for arranging this meeting and to Premier McGuinty for taking the time to listen to our residents. It was an important event for all seniors and we value the trust they have shown by choosing Shalom Village.



Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty speaks with Shalom Village residents.

## Shalom Village tribute cards

The following individuals have been honoured by family and friends with a donation to Shalom Village:

**IN MEMORY:** Oscar Weitzman, Ruth Goldberg, Michael Moore, Elgin Jury, Saul Linder, Kathy Blackborow, Morris Sherkin, Nickolai Umanski, Frances Deutsch, Ada Stock, Abe Greenspan, Gerald Pinder, Virginia Alavata, Sylvia Katz, Frank Levy, Sol Yungler, Harry Bick, Rita Shapiro, Eithel Shephard, Henry Waks, Sarah Lakin, Harry Rosenberg, Sarah Kirzner, Yetta Krakower, Ben Sauder, Mary Robbins, Roy Pearce, Wilburn Hylton, David Redner, Dorothy Gracie, Brenda Sandberg, Raymond Siganski, Dolores Doherty, Manny Kubly.

**YARTZEIT:** Ernie Tarr, Harry Isenberg.

**NEW HOME:** Jay & Flora Rosenblatt, Shirley & Irving Levine, Murray & Ruth Stein.

**THANK YOU:** Lorraine Kudlats.

**GOOD LUCK:** Pat Morden.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Harry Hotz, Anita Smurlick, Ruth Freedman, Merle Cwitco, Libby Kraft, Ethel Levy, Max Rubenstein, Shirley Weddum, Ruth Rosenblatt.

**GET WELL:** Anne Minden, Helen Hanover, Frances Hoffman, Harry Bick, Robin Lauer, Ben Sauder, Helen Yellin, Lilly Schwarz, Yetta Krakower, Carol Kramer.

**MAZEL TOV & CONGRATULATIONS:** Sandy Morris, Larry & Jacki Levin, Joey Cohen, Gloria Greenspan Clayt, Rose Halpren, Minna Loewith, Hynody & Murray Halpren, Jerry & Elena Goldblatt, Mark & Lisa Levy, Victor & Diana Abraham, Edie Rochkin, Bill Morris, Tom & Sasha Weisz, Michael & Gwen Sherman, Sally Lax, Ted & Bonnie Lax, Jacob Shekter.

**ANNIVERSARY:** David & Cele Steinberg, Tish & Murray Adelman.

**HAPPY HANNUKAH:** Freda Hoffman, Lisa & Mark Levy, Ellen Hoffman & Steve Arnold, Lonie & Joel Goldberg.

**SEND SHALOM VILLAGE 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.

To send a card call Kathleen Thomas at (905) 529-1613 ext. 264 or send an e-mail to kathleen@shalomvillage.ca.

Funds raised by card sales help us make possibilities possible at Shalom Village. Many of the wonderful things that make being AT HOME at Shalom special would not be possible without your support.

**Thank you**

Grateful thanks to the families of Roy Pearce and Sarah Lakin for requesting donations to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers. Memorial donations are earmarked for palliative care at Shalom Village. This thoughtful gesture will help other families as they face many challenges at the end of life.

## E-mail newsletter

You can get regular updates by e-mail about happenings at Shalom Village. Simply visit our web-site at shalomvillage.ca and submit your e-mail address to join our mailing list.

We will respect your privacy and your e-mail address will not be shared. Sign up now and stay informed!



**Shalom Village**  
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Hamilton, Ontario L8S 3S1  
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## Film Review

### From Russia with love

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, Hamilton Jewish News

Jerusalemites know it well, and as of 2009, with the release of the award-winning Israeli documentary, *Diplomat*, so do many more. The film, *Diplomat*, provides a window into the world of the Diplomat Hotel, a once luxurious, five-star hotel in the city's Arnona neighbourhood, reincarnated in the early '90s as an absorption centre for Russian immigrants. The film will be screened at Beth Jacob Synagogue's annual Israeli Film Festival on Sunday, April 3.

*Diplomat*, a gem of a film by Israeli filmmaker Dana Goren, follows the lives of three of the hotel's 500 residents: Sima, an 83-year-old diva who loves to dance; Michael, a brilliant, 80-something pianist, who rails against his fate and the State of Israel; and Lonya, a budding musician and the sole teenager in the residence, who lives with his grandmother.

Among those featured in the film is former Hamilton resident, Alice Jonah, who made aliyah in the late '70s with her husband Effry and their four children. Jonah was the Diplomat's educational, cultural and social director between the years of 1990 - 2005, and known to many as a one-woman force of nature who tirelessly advocated and raised funds on behalf of the hotel's residents.

Jonah was in Hamilton recently and spoke with the HJN about her work with Russian immigrants and the making of *Diplomat*. She shared fascinating information about the characters featured in Goren's film, filling in details about their stories that provided deeper insight into their struggles. Jonah revealed, for instance, how Lonya was just three years old when he, his ailing mother



Alice Jonah works with elderly Russian olim at Jerusalem's Diplomat Hotel.

#### Need to know

Beth Jacob Israeli Film Festival Saturday and Sunday, April 2 and 3.  
375 Aberdeen Ave.  
Hamilton

Watch for details at:  
www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca

and grandmother immigrated to Israel, and how, his mother, an accomplished cellist, died of a brain tumour within a year of their arrival. She also remembers arranging a visit between Lonya's mother and cellist Ayala Seidelman, another former Hamiltonian living in Israel.

Jonah also played an important role in shaping Lonya's future, in a moment that serendipitously took place during filming, and which Goren captured in the film's most poignant and pivotal scene.

*Diplomat* offers an intimate and moving portrait of one of Israel's most interesting immigrant populations and viewers will not be disappointed.

The Beth Jacob Israeli Film Festival will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 2 and 3 at 375 Aberdeen Ave. The festival will also feature an exhibit of Israeli art and a photography competition. More details can be found on page 4.



**Call us for information or a home visit:**  
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### Israel Experience Scholarships Available

The Ralph Travis Israel Experience Scholarship Fund was created to honor the life, generosity and memory of Ralph Travis, a community member who was devoted to Israel and to strengthening Jewish identity in our community's children.

The scholarship is awarded as an entitlement to Jewish students from the Hamilton/Burlington/Oakville area, 16 years or older, enrolling in recognized Israel Experience programs in 2011. Applications for other education programs in Israel may be considered on an individual basis.

The scholarship may have a value of up to \$500 per student, depending on the number of applications and availability of funds.

Participating families are expected to be in good standing with United Jewish Appeal. For information regarding recognized Israel Experience Programs, visit [www.canadaisraelexperience.com](http://www.canadaisraelexperience.com)

Applications available at 905-648-0605, ext. 306 or can be downloaded at [www.jewishhamilton.org](http://www.jewishhamilton.org).

Application deadline for 2011 summer programs is Apr. 30, 2011.

### HOLD THE DATE!



#### 2011 Negev Dinner to pay tribute to one of Hamilton's Community Leaders

The JNF of Hamilton will be paying tribute to **Dr. Kevin Smith on May 30, 2011** at the annual Negev Dinner at the Hamilton Convention Centre.

Dr. Smith is President and CEO of St. Joseph's Health System, one of Canada's largest health sciences networks. He is an Associate Professor at the De Groote School of Medicine, McMaster University. Kevin is being recognized for his ongoing support for the State of Israel and for the Jewish community as well as for his contributions to the City of Hamilton.

For more than five decades, this prestigious community event has been raising funds for vital infrastructure projects in Israel while honouring deserving community leaders in Canada. Since its inception in 1901, the JNF has championed the principle of sustainable development and has evolved into a global

For more information or to support the 2011 Negev Dinner, please contact the Jewish National Fund office at 905 527-5516.



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To learn more or to register today for the summer 2011 camp season at Camp Ramah in Canada, visit [www.campramah.com](http://www.campramah.com), or contact Michael Wolf, director, at (416) 789-2193 or [michael@campramah.com](mailto:michael@campramah.com). This special tuition grant is made possible through the generosity of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, the National Ramah Commission, and local partners.