

Hamilton Jewish News

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Agreement #40007180

Hamilton participates in Coast to Coast projects in Israel

Smaller Canadian cities pool resources to help revitalize Galilee communities

UJA Federation of Hamilton has been extended an invitation to join UIA's "Coast to Coast" initiative. The invitation was extended "in principal," at the final session of the "Coast to Coast" consultations held at Kibbutz Kfar Giladi.

For a number of years, six of Canada's smaller Jewish communities have been pooling a part of their overseas allocations to maximize their impact in some of Israel's most peripheral communities. Known as the "Coast to Coast" Consortium, the Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa and Maritime communities have devoted significant resources to a series of educational and social service programs, all located in the Galilee Panhandle, Israel's most northern communities.

Federation Executive Director Gerald Fisher, who participated

to Coast" leadership began to consider the possibility of having Hamilton join as a full partner. Kathy Zilbert, President of the Atlantic Jewish Council and current Chair of the Coast to Coast Consortium extended an invitation to Hamilton to join the week-long consultation as observers.

While in Israel, Fisher and UJA Federation President Dr. David Somer fully participated in the consultations, visiting and evaluating each of the currently funded programs as well as visiting a number of new programs under consideration. One of those was the Shechafim School for severely disabled children, a school with which Hamilton now has a relationship because it received the bulk of Hamilton's Israel Emergency Campaign allocation.

According to Somer, this was a unique experience. "I have

From the moment we stepped off a bus, Canadians were warmly embraced by their Israeli counterparts. None of it was 'for show.' People really knew each other, had visited each other in both countries – outside of the work of the consortium – knew each other's children and were very genuinely connected.

DAVID SOMER
President, UJA Federation

in the consultation explained that "Hamilton was not invited to join at the beginning of this initiative because frankly, the perception was that we had not consistently demonstrated the capacity to raise and allocate the dollars required to fully participate. That perspective began to change over the past few years as a result of a growing UJA campaign and especially as a result of our community's very strong response to last year's Israel Emergency Campaign."

In February 2007, Hamilton was invited to join with the "Coast to Coast" Consortium for the purposes of distributing Israel Emergency Campaign dollars. It was as a result of that successful process that "Coast

to Coast" leadership began to consider the possibility of having Hamilton join as a full partner. Kathy Zilbert, President of the Atlantic Jewish Council and current Chair of the Coast to Coast Consortium extended an invitation to Hamilton to join the week-long consultation as observers. While in Israel, Fisher and UJA Federation President Dr. David Somer fully participated in the consultations, visiting and evaluating each of the currently funded programs as well as visiting a number of new programs under consideration. One of those was the Shechafim School for severely disabled children, a school with which Hamilton now has a relationship because it received the bulk of Hamilton's Israel Emergency Campaign allocation.

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Please see COAST TO COAST on page 2

PICTURED ABOVE: Dr. Ethan Vishniac (left), with his aunt, Mara Vishniac Kohn, her husband, Walter Kohn and event chair, Madeleine Levy at the UN International Day of Commemoration of victims of the Holocaust that was held at McMaster University on January 27.

U.N. Holocaust commemoration activities on the increase

GERALD FISHER

Since the establishment of the annual United Nations Day of Commemoration of Victims of the Holocaust three years ago, Hamilton has become the center of commemorative events in Canada. This was made evident by the three major events that took place in the Hamilton area between January 27th and 29th.

The focal point of the Holocaust commemorative activity was the January 27th event at McMaster University, featuring the premiere exhibition in Canada of Roman Vishniac photographs from the collection entitled "A Vanished World." An audience of over 300 community leaders from across the city was captivated by the program, which included Judy Kopelow's musical introduction as well as remarks from the Honorable Jason Kenney, Mayor Fred Eisenberger and MPP Ted McMeekin.

The highlight of the event were remarks offered by Roman Vishniac's daughter, Mara Vishniac Kohn, who travelled from California to participate, and spoke tenderly of her father's love for the culture enshrined in the thousands of photos of Jewish life in Eastern Europe which he photographed in the

years leading up to World War II.

Later that evening a remarkable Holocaust Commemoration event took place at Brantford's New Covenant Christian Fellowship, sponsored by Christians for Israel, Canada, that drew an audience of close to 400 people. Rev. Dr. John Tweedie, Chairman of Christians for Israel, welcomed several guests from the Hamilton Jewish community and an even larger number of Christians for Israel supporters from as far away as London and Toronto. Special guest, Faye Lazebnik Schulman, survivor and partisan, in a fitting tribute to family members and friends lost during that darkest of nights, took audience members back in time to meet these important people in her life.

On January 29th, a third Holocaust Commemorative event took place at Redeemer University College in Ancaster before an audience of 300 people – predominantly young and Christian, who sat in rapt attention as Auschwitz survivor Dr. Eva Olsson conveyed the story of her family's unsuccessful struggle to survive. Her story was touchingly augmented by remarks from Dr. AL Wolters, Redeemer University College

Professor of Theology, who recalled his childhood during the war, when his family hid a Jewish family in their home, at enormous risk to themselves.

The driving force behind much of this activity was Madeleine Levy of UJA Federation's Holocaust Education Committee. When asked about her motivations for such activity, Madeleine replied "Remembering is a necessary rebuke to those who say the Holocaust never happened or has been exaggerated. Holocaust denial is the work of bigots. We must reject their false claims whenever, wherever and by whom ever they are made."

Federation President Dr. David Somer praised Levy for her extraordinary achievements. "Madeleine's commitment to Holocaust education, her creativity in program development, her ability to forge new, meaningful partnerships beyond the Jewish community and her unquenchable spirit combine to provide the Hamilton Jewish community with a precious and irreplaceable asset. As a result Hamilton is now recognized as the Canadian leader in Holocaust and Human Rights education."

Leave a Legacy
See page 4

Ora Markstein
Local sculptor's work at AGH
See page 9

JCC Plan in final stages
See page 6



Carlos Goldberg, director of the educational system department of Mevo'ot HaHermon Council, Ishai Adler, principal of Shechafim, David Somer, David Rose, chair of the Friends of Shechafim Committee.

visited as well as the process that evaluates every program's performance. Somer elaborated on the program content.

"Much of what we saw related directly to programs designed to assist vulnerable populations; the disabled, the elderly, youth at risk etc. Each program was well conceived, delivered and administered with a real focus on getting results. Problems and shortcomings were honestly addressed. We could not have asked for better accountability."

Beyond the programs designed to assist vulnerable population groups, what struck Fisher was the similarities in issues being faced by both Israel's most northern communities and the Hamilton Jewish community. "Both communities are facing significant demographic challenges. Each is losing a significant number of its young people; Hamilton to the GTA and Upper Galilee to the Tel Aviv area. Each faces serious challenges in enticing its young people to return and to attract other young people to join them."

Perhaps what struck the Hamilton leaders the most was the depth of the friendships that have developed between Coast to Coast volunteers and their Israeli counterparts. Somer was deeply moved by

what he witnessed. "From the moment we stepped off a bus, Canadians were warmly embraced by their Israeli counterparts. None of it was 'for show.' People really knew each other, had visited each other in both countries – outside of the work of the consortium – knew each other's children and were very genuinely connected. I would hope that participation in 'Coast to Coast' can lead to those kinds of relationships between Israelis and Hamiltonians."

Fisher's final comment expressed his admiration for his professional counterparts in Israel. People who know Israel know that it can be a somewhat difficult environment to make anything happen the way you really want. The staff professionals in the UIA Israel office; Yossi Tanuri, Michael Biton and Nurit Biderman are miracle workers. I am hoping that we will have large delegation on the November 2008 "Coast to Coast" Mission so that our people can see for themselves the miracles being delivered every single day in our Coast to Coast programs. Once you see this, you will understand everything about why our UJA campaign and other work UJA Federation does for Israelis so vitally important."

Encountering Shechafim

School for severely disabled children receives Canadian funds

One of the most important site visits during the "Coast to Coast" consultations was a special visit to Shechafim School, provided especially for the Hamilton representatives.

The connection between Hamilton and Shechafim was initiated by the Coast to Coast Consortium in response to Hamilton's strong result in last year's Israel Emergency Campaign. Shechafim is the institution that received the bulk of Hamilton's Israel Emergency Campaign resources.

Shechafim is a school for severely disabled children, most with multiple disabilities.

It is located in the small regional center of Mevo'ot Ha'Hermon, a few kilometers south of Kiryat Shmona in the Galilee panhandle region. This area, along the Lebanon border, suffered serious damage during the 2006 war. The school serves a diverse population of Jewish Israelis, Arab Israelis and Druze from the nearby Golan heights.

UJA Federation President Dr. David Somer explained that "We were happy to be asked to participate with the Coast to Coast group during the emergency campaign and were determined to visit the school while with the group in December. One of the key issues I wanted to explore was the viability of establishing an ongoing relationship between the school and our community."

Somer went on to say "the encounter left me with many very deep impressions. The leadership of the school; the principal, the director, the director of therapy are immensely devoted and capable people. It was inspiring to listen to them as they described their achievements and future goals. It was also very clear that this school is in desperate need of resources of every kind. They are counting on support from Diaspora communities and are hoping that Hamilton will be one of them."

UJA Federation Executive Director Gerald Fisher accompanied Somer on the visit to



Shechafim staff member introduces her student to David Somer while Carlos looks on

Shechafim. He told the HJN "for all the love, devotion and professionalism being delivered to these children, the fact is that the school – in its present condition – could not meet Canadian licensing standards. The physical plant is old and outdated. The available equipment was worn out and in disrepair. The rooms were small, cold and poorly lit – just to keep the power bill down. These children need our support and I am hoping we will be able to provide it."

Coast to Coast participants from the Maritimes visited the school while on a mission in November. Their encounter with the school demonstrated the kind of response

be an expression of generosity from Hamilton that rivaled what Jewish Maritimers could spontaneously deliver. I am happy to accept their achievement as a standard for us to attain."

Somer told the HJN, "Over the coming year, as we explore the possibilities of becoming permanent members of Coast to Coast, we will continue to develop a relationship to Shechafim. In addition to our Israel Emergency campaign allocation, we have already directed an additional \$5,000 raised from last summer's UJA Walk, for the purchase of new bedding and therapeutic equipment. Our community professionals have organized

These children need our support and I am hoping we will be able to provide it.

DAVID SOMER
President, UJA Federation

the school really needs from all of us. After visiting the school, this Israel mission – which drew sixty two participants from a population of less than three thousand, across four provinces – raised an additional \$92,000 above their UJA campaign in fifteen minutes, all for the school.

According to Fisher "It would be wonderful if Hamilton – with its larger population, could organize an Israel mission with that many participants. Equally important would

the creation of a mosaic, which will be delivered to the school as our gift on Israel's 60th birthday and we are hoping to have school representatives visiting Hamilton in 2008."

All the components for establishing a warm and rewarding relationship are coming into place. With the support of the community, Hamilton has an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable Israelis in ways we have never done before.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

Deadline for submissions for the next edition of the HJN is **March 3, 2008**.

UJA Federation of Hamilton

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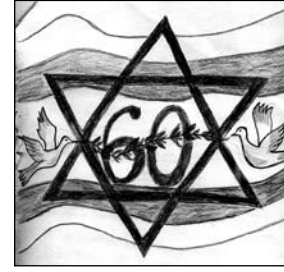
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UJA Federation of Hamilton in partnership with local organizations and synagogues, is proud to be sponsoring a wide range of programs throughout 2008 that will bring the community together to celebrate Israel@60. Check out events, cultural programming and Missions to Israel on jewishhamilton.org

Missions to Israel

Yachdav 2008, an International Mission to Israel for Young Leaders. Celebrate Israel's special birthday in Jerusalem with Karen Hayesod and young people (25-45) from around the world from June 17-20, 2008.

Canadian Coast to Coast Lion of Judah Mission to Europe and Israel from November 4-12, that will lead into the International Lion of Judah Conference in Israel from November 12 - 16. The Europe stop will include Budapest and Vienna and the Israel portion will concentrate on Northern Israel.

UJA Federations Canada (UIAFC) Coast-to-Coast Mission to Israel November 9 - 16, 2008, immediately preceding United Jewish Communities' General Assembly (GA), which will be held in Jerusalem.

Israeli Film Festival

Beth Jacob Synagogue on March 1 and 2, 2008. See ad, page 14 for details.

Yom Ha'atzmaut

JCC Community Wide celebration on Thursday, May 8

UJA Walkathon

This year's UJA Walkathon co-chairs, Carolyn Molot and Denise Calman are pleased to announce that our community will take part in a global WALK THE LAND project in celebration of Israel 60th Anniversary. Our community will join supporters from other cities across the globe in this first-time-every worldwide initiative! Join your neighbors, your community and walkers everywhere as we walk as one for Israel. Walkathon scheduled for May 2008 - watch for exciting details about "Walk The Land".



PICTURED ABOVE: Michelle Urbaneck and Noah Leibtag, alumni of the 2006 March of the Living, who recently spoke at a March of the Living 2008 recruitment meeting on the impact of the program. This spring Hamilton will send a delegation of 7 students who will join thousands of Jewish teens from around the world on this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Those teens include Jonathon Asa, Jordanna Comeau, Jonathan Harris, Jacob Kriszenfeld, Barry Levitt, Ashley Malka and Daniel Miller. The Canadian March of the Living program is coordinated by Canada Israel Experience, a department of UJA Federations Canada, and is subsidized by local UJA Federation campaigns. Their journey takes place from April 28th - May 11, 2008. If you would like to find more about this program visit www.marchoftheliving.org.

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Coming Up...

PASSOVER ISSUE

Deadline for booking ad space

Mar 3 2008

Deadline for receiving editorial copy

Mar 20, 2008

Deadline for receiving ad copy

April 9, 2008

Estimated Date of Arrival

Feb 15, 2008

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www.jewishhamilton.org



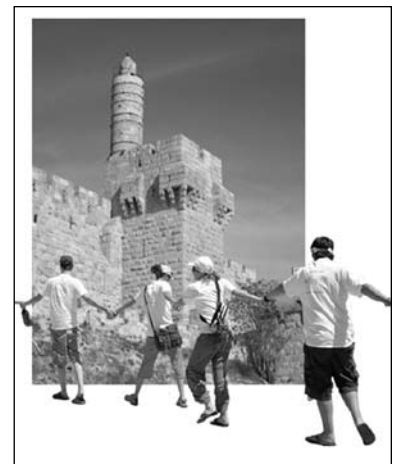
We want to get you to Israel this summer

Ralph Travis Israel Experience Scholarships Available

UJA Federation of Hamilton, is proud to announce that financial support is available to Hamilton students intending to participate in extended programs in Israel in 2008. This support is made available through the Ralph Travis Israel Experience Scholarship Fund. This scholarship fund was created to honor the life, generosity and memory of Ralph Travis; a community member who was truly devoted to Israel and to strengthening Jewish identity in our community's children. This scholarship is awarded as an entitlement to Jewish students from Hamilton, sixteen years or older, enrolling in recognized "Israel Experience" programs. Applications for other education programs in Israel may be considered on an individual basis. For information regarding recognized Israel Experience Programs, please go to www.canadaisraelexperience.com.

The scholarship will be 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. Application deadline for summer 2008 programs is April 30th. Applications available at 905-648-0605, ext 306.

The Ralph Travis Scholarship fund is an important part of the Federation's Legacy Endowment Fund. Additional contributions are welcomed. Please contact the federation office to learn how you can help support this wonderful initiative.



Your Life... Your Legacy



Charitable Bequest

When you choose to leave a bequest of a specific amount of cash, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder of your estate to the Legacy Endowment Fund, you create a permanent legacy that will benefit the Jewish community for generations to come. There's no limit to the amount you may set aside from your estate; you may make a gift as large or as small as you like.

There are many wonderful and easy to make a gift for the future.

- Gift of Cash/Assets – An outright gift of cash or appreciated assets like stocks or bonds is the easiest way.
- Gift of Life Insurance – A gift of life insurance is particularly appealing to donors because of its reasonable cost and tax benefits. By naming the Legacy Endowment Fund owner and beneficiary, the donor is able to deduct the amount of the annual premiums.
- Gift of RRSPs or RRIFFs – A gift of RRSPs or RRIFFs is ideal for transfer in whole or in part, as it is subject to high taxation when left in your estate.

There may be additional funding vehicles available to you. The Legacy Endowment Fund staff or your financial/estate planner can help you select the one best suited to your philanthropic goals.

Here are some examples of how you might create a charitable bequest in your will:

- Help the Jewish community address its most pressing current needs by making a general bequest.
I bequeath \$ _____ (or _____% of my residuary estate) to the UJA Legacy Endowment Fund of Hamilton.
- Support a specific agency or cause of interest to you every year, in perpetuity, with a designated bequest to establish an endowment fund.
I bequeath \$ _____ (or _____% of my residuary estate) to the UJA Legacy Endowment Fund of Hamilton to establish an endowment fund to support (names program(s) or organization(s) of your choice).

These examples are meant only as suggestions. The staff of the Legacy Endowment Fund of Hamilton, in consultation with the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, would be happy to speak with you or your financial/legal advisor or develop language that reflects your specific objectives.

A gift today to the UJA Legacy Endowment Fund of Hamilton, under the management of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, will allow you to be there for your family, your community, and the Jewish people whenever help is needed.

CORRECTION

We thank an alert reader for pointing out an error in our article on "Gifts of Appreciated Securities" where we stated that tax advantages were not available for donations to private foundations. In fact, since March 27, 2007 gifts of marketable securities to private foundations are eligible for special tax savings. Kindly refer to "The JCF Canadian Gift Planning Handbook" by Robert A. Kleinman FCA – www.jcfmtl.org/handbook/



Legacy Endowment Fund Emerges as Major Priority

“Simply put, we want to develop our Federation’s Legacy Endowment fund into the Center for Jewish philanthropy in Hamilton. That is the role of Federation endowment funds in every successful community in North America and we intend to be one of them.”

This was the vision with which Chair Willy Steen challenged the first meeting of UJA Federation’s renewed Legacy Endowment Fund Committee.

Mr. Steen continued by saying “the two key elements in making this initiative successful are support from key community leaders and the cooperation of other local agencies. This will require a level of cooperation that in Hamilton is usually reserved for emergencies. But if you look at the demographics of our donor base, ‘emergency’ may be the most appropriate word to describe our situation. Hamilton has always risen to meet its challenges and we will meet this one as well. All of the elements for success are within our grasp.

Jacobs fund for Holocaust Education, among others, support a number of vital, ongoing programs. In addition, there are many family foundations that have provided support for both directed purposes and the general fund as well. We want to honor them for their past support and explain to them the vision we have for the future.”

Another program being planned for early May 2008 is a seminar for both potential donors and for their financial managers. According to Harris “it is important that donors and those who advise them are aware of all the many gifting opportunities and methods that are available to them through the Legacy Endowment Fund. The tax advantages of planned giving are immense. We want to bring this technical information to people who will benefit and who may want to use it to both their personal advantage and to the support of the Jewish community.”

One key asset to this initiative is the fact that the administration of the Legacy

In other communities, schools, social service agencies and other regular beneficiaries work in partnership with federation in developing “menus” to present to potential donors. Directed funds to support specific institutions are easily accommodated within the federation endowment fund which is the vehicle through which every agency benefits.

GERALD FISHER
uja federation executive director

UJA Federation President David Somer commented that “Over the past twenty years, every Jewish community in Canada, large and small, has made development of their endowment fund a major priority... and they have all been successful. Even communities as small as London and the Maritimes have raised millions of dollars in order to secure their future. I am confident that with Willy driving the initiative, we will achieve our goals as well.”

Several community leaders have already offered their support in this project. Bill Morris, Stan Tick and Mark Gould, along with Howard Katz, Allen Rams, Madeleine Levy and Allan Wynperle have all agreed jump start this initiative. Others will soon come on board. Working together with UJA Canada’s Dov Harris, they are planning several programs that will take place in spring 2008.

First and foremost, an April 10th reception to thank donors to the fund is now being planned. According to Harris “it is important to not overlook the many important donors who already support the Legacy Endowment Fund. Programs as diverse as the Ralph Travis Israel Experience Fund, The Education Endowment Fund and the Erwin

Fund was transferred to the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto in 2005. Former Federation President Leslie Lasky, who engineered the transfer, explained “our funds now benefit from the most comprehensive management support and investment strategies available in Canada. They make all the tough decisions and we have a guaranteed pay out. All we have to do is put our energy into raising additional dollars. That’s all we have to do.”

In terms of raising additional dollars, UJA Federation Executive Director, Gerald Fisher, mentioned that the cooperation of other agencies can really make a difference. I look forward to establishing a new level of partnership with all our schools, social service agencies and other regular beneficiaries in developing “menus” to present to potential donors.

The Federation’s Legacy Endowment Fund is the vehicle through which every agency benefits. Directed funds to support specific institutions are easily accommodated within the fund. Federation and agency leaders can approach potential donors together. That is the model I would like us to establish in Hamilton.”

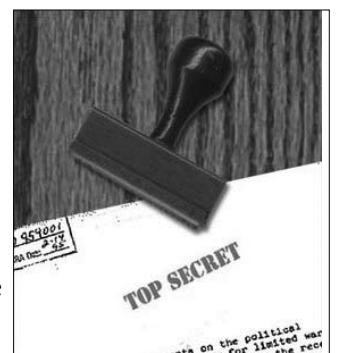
WE NEED YOUR HELP

UJA Federation of Hamilton is asking you to help us out with providing some information in order to serve you better as a community. We are updating our files to include birthdates, shul affiliations and proper mailing addresses.

We hope you can help!

It’s easy to do.... just visit our website at www.jewishhamilton.org to complete the data form or contact the Federation office at 905-648-0605.

All information will be kept confidential.



Five Hamiltonians participate in Young Leadership Conference

ELAINE LEVINE

Five delegates from our community attended the National Young Leadership Conference in Montreal from November 23rd to 25th. The conference was organized by United Israel Appeal of Canada. Mario Stolar, our conference chair, led the recruitment and was enthusiastic about attending to find out more about the Young Adult Division (YAD ages 25-45).

Unlike previous YAD conferences this one was by invitation only and had a maximum of 125 delegates across Canada. The five spaces allocated to Hamilton were filled by Mario and Kristine Stolar, Lisa Morris, Daryn Epstein and Elaine Levine (staff).

Kristine was impressed with the size of this conference. "There were enough people there from all different size communities to share ideas yet it was not too large; you were able to meet and talk with almost everyone and really get to know people."

Lisa found the "best practices" session a highlight and

plans are already underway to implement her suggestion of holding a thank-you telethon in Hamilton. As co-chair of the UJA Campaign Women's Division she found the breakout session on canvassing very inspiring and plans to help bring excellent speakers to Hamilton.

Daryn came away with a new appreciation for those that are involved in the campaign allocation process, "those committee members have to make the tough decisions." He would like to see young adults get together for useful community building projects, and to learn more about Israel. He commented "Community building and socially active projects foster unique experiences which will help to build a strong Jewish identity."

The conference provided Mario with many positive outcomes. His first comment was, "It was great for Kristine and I to get away from our daily routine and have the opportunity to re-connect in a different setting while sharing our



PICTURED ABOVE from left to right, are conference participants, Kristine Stolar, Lisa Morris, Elaine Levine, Mario Stolar and Daryn Epstein.

experiences and values with other young professionals." He wanted to find out how other communities are keeping their young adults more connected. "Throughout the weekend, I kept thinking about how certain people would have loved the conference had they been there," he said, adding that he felt many of his friends had missed out by not being there for the networking. For professional and personal

development he felt it was a must.

I share Mario's enthusiasm to establish YAD in Hamilton! One of my first priorities is to plan targeted events for different age demographics. As a Federation, it is up to us to pay particular attention to our young adults, both those who stay in Hamilton or return to the city to raise their family. If we give this demographic the attention it deserves our future

will be substantially better for generations to come. It is up to us and the time is right now! Together, we can make Hamilton a city where young people will want to come to.

As a result of the In Montreal conference we will be running a Young Leadership Development program from the Fall 2008 to Summer 2009. Enrolment will be limited! Watch our website and the next issue of the HJN for details.

Hadassah-WIZO of Hamilton is preparing a new **Hamilton Jewish Telephone Directory**. If you have moved or are new to the community and wish to be in the 2008 directory, please phone 905-528-0874, fax 905-332-0396 or email astringer@cogeco.ca with changes or additions.

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CHAG SAME'ACH

SELECT FROM OUR HOLIDAY MENUS OR
CREATE YOUR OWN FROM OUR HOLIDAY FOODS.

<p style="text-align: center;">MENU #1</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Sweet & Sour Meat Balls</td> <td>Honey Cake</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls</td> <td>Chocolate Brownies</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roast Chicken</td> <td>Mandlebroit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lockshen Pudding</td> <td>Macaroons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Potato Pudding</td> <td>Seder Plate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carrots Tzimmes</td> <td>Charoses</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cole Slaw</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">\$269.00 for 10 people</p>	Sweet & Sour Meat Balls	Honey Cake	Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls	Chocolate Brownies	Roast Chicken	Mandlebroit	Lockshen Pudding	Macaroons	Potato Pudding	Seder Plate	Carrots Tzimmes	Charoses	Cole Slaw		<p style="text-align: center;">MENU #2</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Gefilte Fish & Horseradish</td> <td>Cole Slaw</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls</td> <td>Lemon Roll</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roast Chicken</td> <td>Apple Cake</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roast Brisket of Beef</td> <td>Macaroons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lockshen Pudding</td> <td>Passover Cookies</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pan Roast Potatoes</td> <td>Seder Plate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carrots Tzimmes</td> <td>Charoses</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">\$299.00 for 10 people</p>	Gefilte Fish & Horseradish	Cole Slaw	Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls	Lemon Roll	Roast Chicken	Apple Cake	Roast Brisket of Beef	Macaroons	Lockshen Pudding	Passover Cookies	Pan Roast Potatoes	Seder Plate	Carrots Tzimmes	Charoses
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UJA 2008: We're Almost There!

The UJA Campaign with the quickest start in history is ever so close to reaching its goal... but is not there yet. The two campaign groups still to finish are the "snowbirds" - who left town before they could be canvassed and the telethon divisions. Special efforts are underway to reach everyone still not canvassed.

Campaign staff told the HJN that "last year, these were the first groups to finish." Because of the Hezbollah attacks against Israel during the summer, dozens of people volunteered right at the beginning of the campaign. They provided the momentum to finish everything as quickly as possible. The telethon divisions were essentially completed before the High Holy Days. Many "Snowbirds" called in their commitments before they left town.

There is less than three hundred commitments left to come in. Everyone received a direct mail appeal near the end of December, with a pledge card and return envelope. Donors are urged to return them as quickly as possible. In addition, youth telethons have been organized from now through mid February to finish the campaign.

And here's something new... as well as volunteering with the closing campaign telethons, our young people will initiate Hamilton's first "Thank You" telethon. Campaign Co-Chair Lisa Morris brought the idea back to Hamilton from the UJA Young Leadership Conference in Montreal. The idea is to let each donor know how much their gift is appreciated. Given that so much of our campaign is devoted to strengthening Jewish identity and to Jewish education, its especially nice young people have volunteered to extend that thoughtful message.

If you haven't made your pledge to the UJA 2008 Campaign, please do so now by calling 905-648-0605 ext. 306 - or make your commitment on-line by going to www.jewishhamilton.org.

JCC Redevelopment in final stages

Plan presented to joint JCC/Federation leadership group in January

GERALD FISHER

The long and complicated process of developing a plan for the revitalization of the JCC is nearing an end. The process began in earnest in 2006 with the engagement of professional consultants from both United Jewish Communities and the Jewish Community Center Association. It concludes with a series of meetings to explore the possibility of public support for the center as a Hamilton-Wentworth Municipal Facility to also serve as a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic Friendship Building.

Working with a collaborative group of Federation and JCC leaders, the consultants developed and implemented a community study designed to elicit reliable data on community perceptions of the current JCC and on the kinds of programs and services the community would like the JCC to provide. Perhaps most critical to the

study was a series of questions designed to elicit the degree of community support there might be to finance a major upgrade of the facility and programs. The results were delivered to a community meeting in February 2007.

The several hundred surveys, the half dozen focus groups and private interviews with potential major donors revealed a complex set of results. Respondents clearly expressed their preference for a continued JCC with an independent and upgraded facility. However - and not unusual for studies of this kind - respondents were far more ambivalent about their willingness to financially support such an initiative.

During the private interviews, several potential major donors indicated that they may have an interest in financially supporting a renewed JCC, but would not indicate any commitment before reviewing a plan for the redevelopment of the site as well as an operational business plan. JCC leadership recognized this as an important opportunity and went to work to develop these plans.

The redevelopment plan and operational business plan are

now essentially completed.

A presentation of the plan to a joint JCC Federation leadership group took place in late January. Although it generated many questions and will require some fine tuning before formal approval and presentation to potential donors, there was a sense that a substantial piece of work had been accomplished.

The plan calls for a redevelopment of the site in three parts: a complete redevelopment of the existing building to provide enhanced meeting space, office space and health club facilities, the replacement of the existing basketball court bubble with a permanent facility that would include an auditorium and function facilities and the permanent covering over the three indoor and three outdoor tennis courts into a year-round facility.

Looking toward the future, JCC President Joel Feldman said "this is an opportunity for every member of our Jewish Community to take part in shaping the future of the Jewish Community Centre and the future of the Jewish community. Together we can develop a JCC that we can be proud of."



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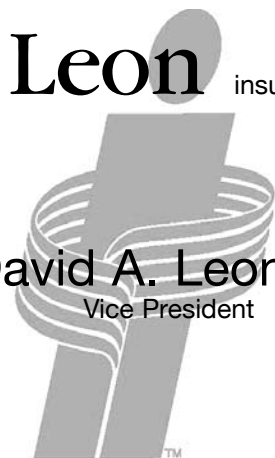
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Jewish Social Services

Yiddish Club

The newly formed Yiddish club had their second meeting on December 23, 2007. Twenty five people attended, some speaking a beautiful Yiddish, many knowing a lot of Yiddish words. We meet from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at 30 King St E Dundas, for a nosh, speak some Yiddish, watch a Yiddish Video (with subtitles) and listen to songs and jokes in Yiddish. We are "high tech" in that we will be using taperecorders and video recorders. We also enjoy many Yiddish stories downloaded from the internet. Last month we laughed to a video of famous Yiddish comedians. We all use our Yiddish names and if someone does not have one we give them one. The next Yiddish Club meeting, that includes a light lunch, will take place on Sunday, March 9, 2008, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at 30 King St. E. in Dundas. Come and learn the "Joys of Yiddish"! "YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEAK YIDDISH" you just have to want to have fun. Please make your reservation with Lillian Hinkley at 905-627-9922, ex 25 or Ruth Fine at 905-679-1797.

Kosher Food Bank

Who uses the Hamilton Kosher Food Bank? You would be surprised. Our clients could include your neighbor, children who go to school with yours, single parents, seniors who only have their Canada pension to live on and others who do not even qualify for Canada pension, families who are having a tough time surviving from paycheque to paycheque, and people who are living on disability allowances that barely have enough money to pay the rent and the bills, let alone buy food. All of our clients are helped in a confidential and dignified way. In Hamilton there are over 50 Jewish families who receive help from us on a monthly basis – either through receiving financial aid or food vouchers. Having this extra help allows people to get through the month with enough food to give their children breakfast, provide them with lunch and have enough food for themselves – and help them purchase extra supplies during Jewish holidays. Thanks to the ongoing support of our donors we do not have to turn anyone away. But we can always use more help and you help make a difference by sending a tribute card for Purim, Rosh Hashana, or any other happy occasion. You can also order a Tzedaka Centerpiece for your upcoming simcha. You are helping people in this community have a better quality of life, helping children not feel the pangs of hunger, or saving someone from living on the streets because they choose to eat.

Theatre Club

Wednesday March 5 at 2:00 pm
THE CLEAN HOUSE at the Bluma Appel Theatre in Toronto \$57

Wednesday, April 2 at 2:00 pm
WONDERFUL TOWN at Niagara on the Lake. \$61.

Wednesday, May 28 at 2:00 pm
DIRTY DANCING at The Royal Alex in Toronto. \$92.

Wednesday, June 18 at 2:00 pm
DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS at St. Jacob's Country Playhouse. \$52.

Wednesday, July 2 at 2:00 pm
FIRE at the Lighthouse Theatre in Port Dover. Based on the lives of pop icon Jerry Lee Lewis and his cousin evangelist Jimmy Swaggart. \$46.

Wednesday, August 13 at 2:00 pm
CABARET at Avon Theatre in Stratford. \$80.

Wednesday, August 27 at 2:00 pm
JERSEY BOYS at The Toronto Centre for the Arts, a musical based on the smash Broadway hit and Tony award winning singing group "Frankie Valley and the Four Seasons". \$95.

Tuesday, September 16 at 2:00 pm
AFTER THE DANCE at the Royal George Theatre at Niagara on the Lake. It's 1938 and the generation of Bright Young Things are still carrying on like it's the Roaring Twenties although the threat of another war looms. \$63.

Tuesday, October 23 at 2:00 pm
MUSIC MAN in Stratford. \$81.

Tuesday, November 6 at 2:00 pm
CAESAR & CLEOPATRA at Stratford. \$58.

Prices quoted includes transportation as well as the price of one ticket. These trips make great birthday, anniversary, Mothers and Fathers day gifts. If you would like to be put on our mailing list call 905-627-9922 or email carolkramesjss@hotmail.com.

Newly formed Jewish Faculty Association at McMaster

Group to promote Israel and Jewish interests on campus

JUDY SCHWARTZ

With the help of UJA Federation of Hamilton's Campus Services Committee, we are pleased to announce that the Jewish Faculty Association (JFA) has now become a reality. This is open to Jewish members of faculty and staff at McMaster as well as non-Jewish faculty who wish to join. The JFA was formed with three goals in mind.

1. To promote Israel and Jewish interests on campus.
2. To work closely and collaboratively with the Jewish Student Association (JSA) - in order to help provide a supportive and secure environment for Jewish students on campus and in their classrooms.
3. To provide a welcome address for Jewish faculty and staff who are new to McMaster (and Hamilton).

The JFA's first program was held on February 4 and featured

Dr. Aurel Braun, speaking on Campus Rights and the Middle East. The following program is will feature the film, Hero in Heaven, on March 18. The Association is open to all Jewish members of faculty and staff at McMaster, as well as to non-Jewish faculty who wish to join us. Anyone who wishes to receive future announcements about JFA programs please contact Fred Hoppe at hoppe@mcmaster.ca.

The JSA and Israel On Campus (IOC) are very happy to welcome the Jewish Faculty Association to campus and thank them for their support.

We are off to a good start this term. Our first major event was a "Virtual" Israel Birthright Experience. Special thanks to Rabbi Danny Green who gave us permission for the use of the Yeshiva for this amazing program. The building echoed with Israeli music and the

delicious smell of Westdale Deli falafel. Thanks to our students, Anna Kos, Alison Fine, Andrea Rowan, David Goldberg and Steve Mendel and many others for all their hard work.

On Friday January 25th we held the very first inter-faith Shabbat dinner on campus. We owe much thanks to the university for helping to accomplish this goal. Members of each cultural club, members of the chaplaincy and the student union will be there to share in the Shabbat experience. Thanks to Rabbi Eisenstein for his support and accepting the role as our scholar and leader for this event.

We are very involved in planning many new events for Israel Week on campus which will take place from February 4th to 8th during which the JSA, in cooperation with IOC, are bringing speakers Benjamin Pogrud and Yariv Oppenheimer to campus. Also in February we are helping to coordinate "Shabbat 100" with Chabad Lubavitch and are looking forward to topping last year's record number of students to more than 100 attendees.

In conjunction with Shalom Village and the Gerontology Department at McMaster we are holding our senior prom at Shalom Village on March 6th. This has now become an annual event and is very special to both students and residents alike.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Hamilton Jewish Social Services Food Bank presents the
'CHILDREN HAND IN HAND FUN FAIR'

Sunday, May 4, 2008

at The Hamilton Jewish Social Services in Dundas.
Children will bring food for needy children in our community, and entertainment and refreshments will be provided.
The purpose of this day is to bring awareness to the community and get food donated to our Food Bank.

We all know how difficult it is to fill the stomachs of hungry children when no money is available. Please come and support these children!



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The Jewish Community Centre

HIGHLIGHTS

Living it up at the JCC



Thank you to the entire community for helping to make this year's Hamilton Jewish Film Festival a huge success. Thank you to our committee, our volunteers and our sponsors for a job well done!



The Teen Casino night held on November 17th was a huge success. The teens played joker poker, poker, black jack, roulette, war and more and participated in our amazing silent auction. Thank you to Howard Katz, Mrs. Katz, Mario Stolar, David Kravetzky, Norma Jack, Shannon Girt and Andrea Rowan for volunteering their time.



Winter Camp at the JCC led by Director Sari Meyer-son and her team was a great success. Activities at camp included arts and crafts, popcorn and a movie, sledding, human snakes and ladders, bubble play including sports and the bouncing castle. We had tennis led by Frances Critchley and Gymnastics led by Nicole Carter. The campers stayed warm with hot chocolate and had a blast!



There was standing room only at the JCC Jazz and Comedy night January 26, 2008. The Mohawk Jazz Trio was incredible and the Comics were very funny. It was a great time had by all!

Upcoming Programs

Indoor Soccer

Wednesdays, 4:30 to 5:30 pm
February 6 - April 16 in the JCC Bubble
Cost: \$55/child; Ages 4 - 8
Weekly snack provided.
Coaches Moriel Mesterman and Raffi Shulman.
Don't delay; Register today! 905-648-0605.



Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 16, 2008
from 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Music and a magic show,
face painting, balloon animals,
CHESTER THE CLOWN, carnival games,
food, fun and much more



Hamilton Shoah Memorial Project

The Yom Hashoah Committee has created a permanent memorial banner to honour our beloved family and friends who perished, but who will never be forgotten. Once again we are inviting the Hamilton community to contribute names of family and friends who have not yet been included. Any donations will be appreciated and can be forwarded to Laura Laengerer at the JCC. Yom Hashoah will take place on **May 1st, 2008 at 7:30 pm** at Temple Anshe Sholom. Please review the list posted on jewishhamilton.org and fax your submission to 905-648-8388 or bring it to Laura Laengerer at the JCC.



Please contact the JCC for information on the following upcoming events or check our website at jcchamilton.com

- Sunday, February 24th, 2008
Morris Black Public Speaking Contest
- Saturday, March 8th, 2008
Saturday Night Fever Disco Party
- Sunday, March 16th, 2008
Purim Carnival
- Saturday, March 29th, 2008
Jewish Singles Night
- Sunday, March 30th, 2008
High School Coffee House & Talent Show
- Sunday, April 6th, 2008
Guitar Hero for Grades 6-10
- April 22, 23 & 24, 2008
Possible Passover Camp
- Thursday, May 1st, 2008
Yom Hashoah
- Thursday, May 8th, 2008
Yom Haatzmaut
- Sunday, May 25th, 2008
Lag Ba'Omer
- Sunday, June 1st, 2008
Yom Yerushalayim Ride For Life
- Sunday, June 22nd, 2008
Patio Party
- June 30th, 2008
Camp Kadimah begins

Camp Kadimah is looking to hire the following specialists:

Dance/gymnastics, K'tanim, sports, drama, science and nature, computers, Judaica/Mashgiach, photography, arts and crafts.

Please forward your resume to receptionjcc@on.aibn.com c/o



From August 17 to 22, over 2500 Jewish teens from North America, South America, Israel, Australia and Europe will come together for a week of competition, community service and social activities in Detroit. The Metropolitan Detroit Jewish Community Center will host the JCC Maccabi Games. The Maccabi Committee is looking for your help to send Hamilton athletes to Detroit. Please contact Laura Laengerer at the JCC if you can be of help!



Joel Feldman

President's Message

I am nearing the end of my first year as president of the JCC. When I took on this position, I had two mandates. The first was to ensure that the JCC is providing the necessary programming that will meet the needs of our Jewish Community. The second mandate, was to rally the Community and develop vocal support, to ensure the JCC will continue to operate and solidify its role as the true Centre of our community.

I am proud to say that the JCC, with the help of Laura, Inbal and the entire JCC team, has done an incredible job in providing comprehensive programming for all ages, all the time. You just have to read about the successful programs that have taken place and the upcoming programs, to know that there is a tremendous amount happening at the JCC. When you talk to Laura and Inbal, you can not help but share their enthusiasm and passion.

The Board of the JCC has completed the Redevelopment Plan of the JCC, including the architectural diagrams and the business plan.

Where we go from here will be up to the community. One person or a board, does not have the ability to change an entire community. It is only when a Community joins together for a common goal, will true change ever come.

I ask all of you to be open to the changes that are going on at the JCC, be active in helping with programming, participate in the events at the JCC and most importantly, be vocal in your support for the JCC.

Together we will shape the future of our Jewish community and the future of our Jewish Community Centre.



Ora Markstein's sculptures to be showcased— at Art Gallery of Hamilton

The freedom to create

Ora Markstein recalls her journey towards artistic self-expression

Wendy Schneider

If great art is a reflection of the artist's soul, then the sculptures of Ora Markstein tell the story of a woman whose diminutive physical stature is contrasted by a force of nature so powerful that neither the Holocaust nor a lifetime of struggle could diminish its determination to create beauty in the world. This February, Hamiltonians will have an opportunity to view a sampling of her exquisite marble and alabaster sculptures at the Art Gallery of Hamilton's Atelier: Ora Markstein, an exhibit that runs from February 16 to April 27, 2008.

Markstein's sculptures, according to the Art Gallery of Hamilton's website, evoke "a rare purity that cuts through to the heart of the matter, by finding the life in the stone." Their creator too, cuts to the heart of the matter, when recalling a life lived unflinchingly—facing all of its challenges head on, while holding a steady course towards the freedom to create.

Born and raised in a Hungarian town near Budapest, Markstein was 15 year old when the Holocaust arrived at her door. She and her sister were raised in a tightly knit, sheltered environment, a fact, she acknowledges, that made the hell that was to come especially hard to bear. "I always say, until the Holocaust, I was just dreaming and I woke up in Auschwitz."

Miraculously, Ora, her immediate family, and her



Sculptress Ora Markstein

fiancé, Francis Markstein, survived the war. Ten days after her return from the camps, she and Francis were married at a ceremony in which they just barely scraped together a minyan among the town's survivors. With no idea of where they were headed, the couple left Hungary in 1946—despite Ora's pregnancy and her father's objections.

She recalls that her father said, "You barely survived and you take a rucksack on your back and you leave? Where are you going?" But Markstein "could not bear to stay there" and was desperate to leave.

With the birth of the State of Israel still two years away, the Marksteins, travelling in an illegal transport organized by the Jewish Agency, were taken to a UN sponsored refugee camp in Germany, where Ora gave birth to her son, Igor. While in the camp, the couple befriended a 16-year-old orphan and fellow survivor

named John Hirsch and this relationship proved providential in bringing the Marksteins to Hamilton some thirty years later.

After a year in the refugee camp, the Marksteins travelled to France in search of work. However, the post-war atmosphere proved inhospitable to Jewish refugees and they reluctantly returned to Hungary, now under communist rule. With the newly-born Jewish state in their sights, they fled again at great personal risk before finally reaching Israel in 1949. Life in Israel was challenging: poor economic conditions and constant strife with the indigent Arab population made it difficult to eke out a viable living. The Marksteins uprooted themselves several times before settling in Holon, chosen so that their son, who was demonstrating considerable musical talent, could study with a master teacher. Markstein, too, had found a teacher—a Hungarian sculptor

to whose one-room studio she would go to learn how to model in clay and cast in plaster by the light of a small kerosene lamp.

As the years passed, their son continued to thrive and in the early 1970's, he moved to Illinois to further his studies. During a 1975 visit to Montreal, the Marksteins made a spontaneous decision, to help Francis apply as a mature student to Sir George Williams University (now known as Concordia). Following his acceptance, the wheels were set in motion for the family's permanent move to Canada.

The next chapter of her life began when Markstein made the acquaintance of Montreal based sculptor Ethel Rosenfeld. After showing her photographs of plaster models that Markstein had made in Israel, Rosenfeld told her, "But you are thinking in stone. You feel in stone."

Markstein was still riding high on those words when the sculptor called the following week with news that she had arranged for a scholarship at the city's Saide Bronfman Centre. The memory of Markstein's first day of class is as fresh as if it happened yesterday.

"You don't need me," he said. "Just work."

Meanwhile, their old friend, John Hirsch came to visit them in Montreal. Shortly after their time together in the German refugee camp, Hirsch had been accepted into Canada as a war orphan and was adopted by a Winnipeg family. Now a successful theatre director with the CBC and the Stratford Festival, Hirsch was anxious to help his old friends acclimate to Canadian life. When Hirsch learned that Francis Markstein had found employment in Hamilton as a teacher at Beth Jacob Synagogue's afternoon school, he was delighted. He excitedly informed the Marksteins that his good friends, Larry and Sharon Enkin, would welcome them like family.

The Enkins opened their hearts and home to the Marksteins, introducing them to the community and helping find them a home. Sharon Enkin became a champion of Ora's art and arranged for an exhibit at the Jewish Community Centre on Delaware Avenue, with Hirsch himself coming down to open the show. Over the next several years, Markstein worked prolifically and both her sculptures and paintings met with widespread acclaim.

Her sculptures are incredibly expressive and moving — all crafted from stone, which is extremely rare.

SARA KNELMAN
Curator, Art Gallery of Hamilton

"There were mostly women working there... doing it as a hobby. [The instructor] gave me a small piece of soapstone that somebody had already ruined. He put me at a table and gave me two tools, which were [also] not very good. And he said, "do something." And I began to work and made something... I'm still crying when I think of it. Because I felt so elevated. I felt so happy. I can't even describe it. After a short time, the instructor came over and looked at her work.

In 1991, Markstein's life was forever altered by the death of her beloved Francis. Her husband, whom she describes as "a genius", was a renaissance man who wrote poems and produced translations of classic works in English, French, German, Hungarian, Hebrew, Italian, Spanish and many others. For two years, she was unable to produce any artwork. Then, one day, "I realized that if I just go on crying day and

Please see FREEDOM on page 13

"Royal Mattress – 40 Years Young!"



PHIL KRISZENFELD WORKING AWAY AT THE ROYAL MATTRESS FACTORY.

PHOTO BY TAE PHOTOGRAPHY.

After 40-years in the business of putting people to sleep, Royal Mattress doesn't show any signs of slowing down. These experts in the art of making the perfect mattress that can fit any type of sleeper, know that getting a good night's sleep takes more than just getting the recommended eight hours. It takes the right kind of mattress, "We understand that no two people are alike," Said Phil Kriszenfeld, President and Owner, "So we can customize a mattress to satisfy the needs of any individual. For example, take a couple that shares a bed, if one person likes their side extra firm or extra soft, we can customize one mattress to suit both people."

Opening their first location in Hamilton in 1967, Royal Mattress currently has six locations in Ontario, including one in the Ancaster Meadowlands, as well as their factory location in Burlington where the mattresses are made. "We are proud to be a Canadian owned and operated company," said Kriszenfeld, "That's one of the things that really makes us stand out from our competitors, all of our mattresses are made right here in Canada at our Burlington factory location."

Royal Mattress has reached a great new milestone by now offering the world's number one brand the Tempur-Pedic mattress. The Tempur is a temperature sensitive pressure relieving material that moulds to the shape of a person's body, providing excellent support and comfort. Developed by NASA, the pressure relieving properties of the Tempur helps improve sleep quality. And though Royal Mattress doesn't make this particular mattress, they understand the importance of being able to offer its customers a luxury at a price that won't break their budget, "We offer a great line of custom made mattresses as well as mattresses like the Tempur-Pedic and now is a great time to take advantage of our wide selection." Said Kriszenfeld

For more information on Royal Mattress and their line of custom made mattresses, please visit www.royalmattress.com

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Rabbinical couple honoured

Tribute concert in June to honour Rabbi Morton and Sylvia Green

WENDY SCHNEIDER

This spring, the community will have an opportunity to honour the 50th anniversary of Rabbi Morton and Sylvia Green's arrival in Hamilton. On Monday June 2nd at Hamilton Place, a cantorial concert will be held, featuring Boris Brott and the National Symphony Orchestra, Montreal's Congregation Shaar Hashomayim music director Stephen Glass and celebrated Cantor Gideon Zelermyer. The music played and sung throughout the evening will be organized into ensembles that represent the many aspects of Jewish life on which the Greens have bestowed a lasting legacy, including the Adas Israel Congregation, the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, and the State of Israel. Monies raised by the event will go towards an endowment fund for the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. Tickets for the event will be \$36 and a special dedication journal will be produced.

Although the story of how

Rabbi Morton and Sylvia Green came to Hamilton in 1958 is familiar to many and has been well documented, there are some highlights worthy of review. At Yeshiva University in New York, Rabbi Green was a rabbinical student studying at the feet of the renowned Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, when he received word that an orthodox shul in Hamilton was seeking to hire a rabbi. According to his own recall, the Rabbi's audition in June of 1958 at the Cannon Street shul (the predecessor to Adas Israel) did not go over very well with the congregation's younger generation, who were not looking to raise their level of religious observance. But everything changed during a Shabbat afternoon shiur (lesson) given in Yiddish to a small group of the congregation's elders, who were impressed by his depth of knowledge and passionate commitment to orthodox principles.

Those principles were strongly tested during the next

few years as the new edifice on Cline Avenue was being constructed. At that time, the trend was to move away from strict observance of Jewish ritual and the majority of small orthodox shuls seeking to relocate to suburban areas were aligning with the Conservative movement, which dominated North American Jewish life at the time. Rabbi Green's total commitment to orthodox Jewish life never wavered, despite tremendous pressure from most of his congregants to forego the construction of a mechitza (while keeping separate seating). However, phone call to Rabbi Soloveitchik was enough to convince the shul's executive and particularly, the late Max Hoffman that the mechitza would indeed be erected. "That was the major turning point in terms of the evolution of the synagogue and the path that it took," said Rabbi Daniel Green. "It wasn't a break from the past but it was a break from the ethos at the time."



Rabbi Morton and Sylvia Green

Against all odds and with the unwavering support of his mentor, Max Hoffman, Rabbi Green proceeded to raise the bar for his congregants again and again over the next several years. An uncompromising visionary, he managed to raise the funds to build not only a magnificent new shul, but also a mikva, which served only a handful of Jewish women in those early years and, against all odds, the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. The stories behind each of these incidents range from the mystical (the money for the mikva came to him from an elderly congregant who was told in a dream to give the rabbi money) to the controversial – the founding of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy met with fierce opposition.

"I think that his greatest contribution stems from his sense of optimism and his belief in the power of the individual," said his son, Rabbi Daniel Green. "He arrives in Hamilton at the tender age of 24 years old and to have that courage and the belief that you can really make a difference, was, I think, the seed of his success and the greatness that he achieved. There was never a challenge that was insurmountable and there was rarely a dream that couldn't be achieved."

The younger Rabbi Green also cites another area in which his father left a lasting legacy

– that of inspiring a number of Hamiltonians to make aliyah.

"He is a very staunch Zionist. From the pulpit it was a major theme that he reiterated over and over again. That had a major impact on a lot of kids, particularly in the generation that is now in their mid to late 40's."

The senior Rabbi Green credits the late Rabbi Soloveitchik, whom he calls, "one of the greatest Talmudists and thinkers of the 20th century," as the inspiration for much of his activities throughout his career.

"What my rebbe conveyed to me was that philosophically and logically the future and survival of Am Yisrael was through halachic Judaism and any variation of this would not survive."

In reflecting on his legacy, it is his family and the Hamilton Hebrew Academy that gives him the greatest satisfaction.

"The Hamilton Hebrew Academy was distinct in that it was open to every Jew, no matter where they belonged and teaching them the ideals, recognizing that at least they will know what the Torah demands of a Jew and strive to achieve it to the best of their ability."

As for his family, he feels blessed that all of his children and grandchildren are living lives steeped in the principles so precious to him and it brings him particular joy to see his youngest son following in his footsteps.

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Photo Exhibition

Shalom Village resident Leon Blevis has a talent for capturing the simple beauty in his photographs that cause the viewer to see everyday things in a new light. Our staff recognized an opportunity to show off the hidden talents of a resident and organized a Photo Exhibition on December 13th.

Hundreds Hustle Home to Shalom

It was a perfect day with plenty of sunshine and plenty of smiles as more than 300 Shalom Village residents and their supporters walked, ran or rolled at the 6th annual Hannukah Hustle on November 25th. Active living is healthy living and this popular fun fundraiser brings together people of all ages and abilities to support the possibilities at The Club Fitness Centre.

Wagons Ho

The main events included 1k and 5k walks as well as 5k and 10k runs. Two unusual side events helped keep things interesting. CHML broadcaster Jamie West challenged Shalom Village Charitable Foundation president Michael Taylor, who is also the key sponsor of the event, to a wagon race. After thrilling the crowd with a close race featuring several heart stopping spills, Michael Taylor emerged from behind to claim victory.

Muscle at the Hustle

All eyes were on the clock to see who would claim the jackpot in the "Muscle at the Hustle" event. Entrants tried to guess the difference between the finishing times of Shalom Village CEO Pat Morden and Club Head Coach Greg Almas, with the closest guess claiming the prize. There was plenty of trash talking, but in the end both combatants performed well, crossing the finishing line just over 9 minutes apart.

Thank You

The Club relies on the Hannukah Hustle to help fund fitness programs for people over the age of 70. Your donations support fitness and mobility projects for people from the community as well as Shalom Village residents.



Harry shares his dream

Ever since he moved home to Shalom Village, retired cabinet maker Harry Templeton dreamed of a place where people could share his joy of working in wood. Thanks to Harry's founding donation Shalom Village has made this dream possible for our residents.

In the photo above Peggy Martin discovers a skill she didn't know she had, proving that you're never too old to try something new. There are a number of exciting programs coming to the woodshop in February. Stay tuned for details.

Shalom Village Tribute Cards

Shalom Village will send a beautiful tribute card with your personal message to acknowledge life's milestones and special occasions. Your card is sent directly to the recipient and includes recognition of your donation, your personal message and your return address. Funds raised by the Shalom Village Charitable Foundation support life and living at Shalom Village. Together we make possibilities... possible!

Thank you to the families of Claire Ridker, Harry Mendelson, Maria Nonis and Murray Pollock for choosing to honour their memory with donations to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers. This is a wonderful way to honour a person's memory while helping others. All it takes is a phone call to Joan Ulrich at (905) 529-1613 ext. 231 or by e-mail to joan@shalomvillage.on.ca.

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

IN MEMORY OF: Mr. Simkevitz; Frances Simons; Donald Goldland; Surkie Levy; Father of Jean Vertlieb; Phillip Segal; Father of Liz Hughes; Kathleen Scobie; Maria Nonis; Harry Goodman; James Luesby; Lenny Zalter; John Birchall; Harry Mendelson; Joanna Cooper; Sybil Gordon; Evelyn S. Rosenberg; Brother of Susan Pashkow; Evelyn Silverberg; Bruno Cerello; Dorothy, sister of Lil Cohen; Malka Lyons; Claire

Ridker; Freda Sauder; Lillian Miller; David Claver; Faye Levy; Bert Zaltz.

UNVEILING: Tillie Netkin.

Yahrzeit: Harriette Smurlick; Ann Freedman.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Anita Smurlick; Esther Axelrod; Mollie Aron; Bruce Lieberman; Millie Albert; Minna Loewith; Shirley Weddum; Saul Eisenberg.

MAZEL TOV & CONGRATULATIONS: Donna & Henry Vine; Grace Diffey; Danny & Carole Davids.

HAPPY HANNUKAH: Lotti & David Redner; Abe & Gina Szpirglas.

RETIREMENT: Oded Klinghoffer.

GET WELL: Elaine Katz; Emma Shapiro; Sally Lax; Ahuva Soifer.

THINKING OF YOU: Pepi Ross.

NEW HOME: Larry Pollack.

A complete list of card senders can now be found on our web site at www.shalomvillage.on.ca. Thank you for your support.

Shalom Tube

Check out our on-line videos!

Catch a glimpse of life at Shalom Village by tuning in to **Shalom Tube** on our web site at www.shalomvillage.on.ca. Just click on the "Videos" button on the left side of your screen and sit back and enjoy a selection of short videos portraying AT HOME living, including the Hannukah Hustle and our Bubbie's to Grandmothers project. Our residents even made a music video!

You may even spot someone you know!

Fun, fitness and funds to Shalom

Do you need some motivation to stay active? Come meet personal trainer Ana Alexandre. Ana, who helps our residents keep fit during the day, is offering exercise classes for everyone in The Club Fitness Centre on Tuesday & Thursday evenings at 5 p.m. and Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. The cost is low and part of the proceeds go to support Shalom Village. Ana also offers personal training and nutritional counselling. Just show up at The Club on workout night if you are interested or e-mail Ana@vitallifedesign.com for more information.



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Jewish National Fund

Tu Bi'Shevat Festival Not Just for Kids

On January 20th, about 60 people attended the third Annual Tu Bi'Shevat Festival at Shalom Village. Children were entertained with games and puzzles and arts and crafts. Everyone enjoyed a great 'nosh' prepared by the kitchen at Shalom Village and several people participated in a telethon to plant trees.

This popular event was co-sponsored by the Jewish National Fund, the Jewish Community Centre, Shalom Village and Hamilton Jewish Federation.

JNF, Tu Bi'Shevat and Food A Perfect Combination

The exclusive Rattlesnake Point Golf and Country Club in Milton was the focal point for the Jewish National Fund's Annual Tu Bi'Shevat Gourmet Israeli Dinner. Seventy people from Hamilton and Toronto were treated to a cornucopia of Israel gourmet food and wine prepared by Executive Chef Ariel Porat and Chef Boaz Sharabi in collaboration with Chef Kevin Watson of Rattlesnake Point. The dinner featured a 5 course meal including fresh fish poached in Olive Oil and an exotic dessert of Mahalabi on little cakes made with figs, dates and cranberries. Lorraine Cohen, President of JNF Hamilton summed up the evening this way, "It was a relaxing, casual evening with wonderful food and great conversation and a terrific way to showcase Israeli cuisine."

Special thanks to Danna Horwood, Jill and Lorne Gaffe for their help in making this year's dinner such a great success.



Children doing activities for Tu Bi'Shevat



Lorraine Cohen calling for the Telethon

FREEDOM continued from page 9

night I'm finished. My husband did not want that." Markstein somehow found the strength to carry on and return to her art. In 2005, her good friend, an art collector, persuaded Art Gallery of Hamilton's curator, Sara Knelman, to visit Markstein's home studio.

"I sat down with her for an afternoon that I still remember so vividly," said Knelman, describing her first glimpse of Markstein's sculptures as "incredibly expressive and moving - all crafted from stone, which is extremely rare."

Sculpting in stone is no longer common, explained Knelman. "It's technically difficult and not easy to manage," she said, adding how amazed she was that such a tiny woman was able to create in such a physically challenging medium.

Knelman organized the exhibit with a view to showcasing the artist's "incredible emotional strength" by highlighting themes that Markstein has explored consistently in her art - love, loss, and renewal.

Markstein herself is very pleased about all the fuss, although it pains her deeply that her husband did not live to share in the moment. That sorrow will be tempered, however, by the presence of her son and daughter-in-law, Florida based musicians, who will perform at the opening reception on February 17. She is clear, however, that there is much within her that still seeks to find expression.

"Even if I am 83 I still have plans and ideas," she said, adding, "As long as I can create I feel I am not old."



Bonnie Stern, Boaz Sharabi, Sharon Marcovitz Hart, Ariel Porat and Diane Brunetti



Bonnie Stern and Lorraine Cohen with guests

The Jewish National Fund is pleased to announce that the 2008 Negev Dinner will pay tribute to Shalom Village

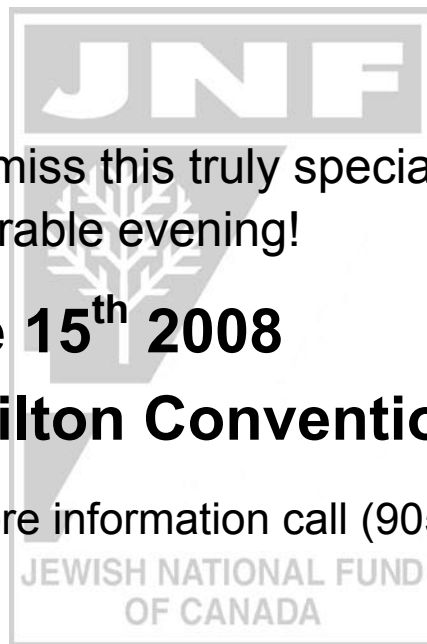


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Chabad celebrates Chanukkah



Children watch as Rabbi Chanoch Rosenfeld of Chabad Lubavitch prepares to light the LEGO menorah in FORTINO'S this Chanukah.

Jewish Genealogical Society

HAZEL BOON

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton and Area was pleased to have Rabbi Jordan Cohen as our first speaker of 2008. Rabbi Cohen served as the Rabbi of the United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong and as rabbinic advisor to congregations throughout Asia over a three year period. Drawing on his experiences during that period, he painted a vivid picture of how Jewish and Asian cultures and values found common ground. He also explained why China has provided a safe haven for Jews in periods of persecution. It was a memorable journey much enjoyed by the many members and friends in attendance.

On February 27th members Esther and Ralph Bloch will address the problem of how to attack difficult areas in genealogical research. They will be using members' actual research conundrums and dead ends to illustrate their solutions that will be presented via PowerPoint projection. We'll have to wait until February to hear about the "brick walls" the Blochs have been able to knock down for our members.

On March 26th we will welcome Jim Pogany as our speaker. His topic will be "The Jewish Communities of Northern Ontario." Jim was born in Melbourne Australia to Hungarian parents who escaped Europe in 1939. He came to Canada in 1967 with a degree in dentistry. After three years in Toronto, he moved his dental practice to Kapuskasing staying there for 17 years before moving to Oakville. Despite its very small Jewish presence, Kapuskasing had a meaningful

Jewish life as did other more remote areas. Jim will share with us his experiences of Jewish life in Northern Ontario.

All of these meetings of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton & Area will be held at Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Avenue North, Hamilton. We begin at 7:30 with a Meet and Greet followed by the evening's speaker.

We encourage one and all to join us in pursuing and discussing our individual and collective family histories. This includes not just tracking ancestors and living descendants, but also learning about how our families lived and why they left one place to journey to another.

Membership in the JGSH is open to all regardless of religious affiliation or level of genealogical experience. Some of our members are just beginning their journeys while a few of our members are published genealogists. For those members seeking to investigate their family histories, we can provide mentors, guidance and encouragement.

Members attend meetings at no charge; non-members are asked for \$5 to help us cover costs for the evening. That \$5 will be applied to the membership fee (currently \$25) for anyone joining JGSH in the current membership year. We welcome anyone who is interested in searching his or her Jewish Family History. For additional information please visit our website www.jgsh.org, email jgsh@cogeco.ca or phone 905-524-3345.



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Events

□ **Saturday, February 9:** Enjoy a relaxing evening by the fire featuring the sounds of the Rendezvous Band in the JCC Lounge featuring Ron Wilmont and Iris Kacor at 8:30 pm. For tickets call 905-648-0605.

□ **Thursday, February 14:** The GLBT Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton invites the community to commemorate and celebrate Pink Triangle Day at a screening of Paragraph 175, a documentary film chronicling the lives of several men and woman who were arrested by the Nazis for homosexuality from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Beth Jacob Synagogue in the Upper Social Hall. Light refreshments will be served. Kashrut will be observed.

□ **Fri, February 15 & Sat, February 16:** If Cows Could Fly, written and performed by Allan Merovitz, a well-known singer, actor and storyteller. If Cows Could Fly traces the story of both sides of Merovitz's family – Waxman and Merovitz – from Poland, Lithuania and Kishinev to the rural Ontario community of Smiths Falls. Allan has reconstructed the fragmented memories of his family in diaspora, and

interspersed them with a wide range of musical styles – Yiddish songs, country-and-western ballads, as well as Klezmer and Ottawa Valley fiddle tunes. Downtown Arts Centre mainstage, 28 Rebecca Street at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$15 and \$10 for students. Call 905-543-8512.

□ **Saturday, February 16:** The Hamilton Bulldogs invite the entire Jewish community to their game that night (Bulldogs vs. Lake Erie Monsters, 7 p.m. at Copps Coliseum) followed by a one hour family skate. Tickets sold through the offices at Temple, BJ, Adas, HHA, Kehila, Temple Playhouse.

□ **Sunday, February 17:** Na'amat Hamilton is hosting a Beatles Tribute concert featuring the tribute band "FabFour" at 7:00 pm at Temple Anshe Sholom, with proceeds going to the support of underprivileged children in Israel. It will include a silent auction and a reception with hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Tickets are \$40.00 and can be obtained by contacting Ellen Resnick at 905-628-4804.

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Hamilton Hebrew Academy

WILF GEROFKY

Four teams, four city championships. The Hamilton Hebrew Academy volleyball teams, Junior and Senior boys and Junior and Senior Girls teams have all won the city of Hamilton Public School championships, the first time in history when all four teams from one school have swept all four championships.

In professional terms, this is as if the Leafs, the Raptors, the Blue Jays and the Rock all ended up champions of their leagues in the same year.

And it isn't as if these kids were playing against some hoaky, wimpy competition. They fought and won against all 48 schools in the Hamilton District School Board, some very large schools in every part of the expanded city. With a bench strength of only 38 players, boys and girls, to draw on for all four teams, they beat all comers in a tremendous effort that saw the senior boys end up the season with a record of 28-0!

If only the Tiger Cats could approach that record.

Coach Albie O'Hanian has run the athletic program at H.H.A. for the last ten years.

They have teams that participate city-wide in cross-country, track and field and basketball in addition to volleyball. Now they have 20 banners hanging proudly in the gym, yellow for division championships, red for city championships.

"It's a team effort" says Rivka Shaffir, principal of the school. The kids come early and stay late to hone their skills. Coach O'Hanian often works eleven hour days. Parents and teachers are supportive. Parents drive the teams to early practices almost every morning, and to games in all parts of the city. And principal Shaffir is always there to support her teams.

"We started to bring the program up about ten years ago", says O'Hanian. "We didn't want to be like 'lightning in a bottle' but began to build a slow, steady program so that now we're continually strong. We may not win every year, but we're always strong and competitive."

"What's really remarkable is seeing the team learning to function as a team. I've seen other teams who crumble if they lose the first game in a 2 out of 3 series, I've seen our kids come from behind in the championships. The Junior Boys had lost the first game, but their coaching



H.H.A. coach extraordinaire, Albie O'Hanian

made them fight through to win the series.

I want the kids to play properly, even if they play properly and lose. There's real character in their ability to stay focused and be good sports. Everything I say, they just soak it in and they do it."

The team is often physically much smaller than their opponents, but skills and teamwork have often turned the bigger kids' initial laughter into respect. Because they are so much smaller, they don't often have the opportunity to spike the ball like a team with taller players can.

"We attack from the back row, and if we can hit it off the net we have a better chance to get it over. We're about the only team that attacks from the back line."

A big advantage we have here in Hamilton are the resources available from McMaster. Clinics are available for coaches and kids, and some of our kids attend the summer volleyball clinics that they make available. O'Hanian takes full advantage of these opportunities, which only a few other coaches do.

"The kids that are skilled in the volleyball area don't necessarily get the super high marks in academics. It broadens the areas where different children can shine, and that's great," says Shaffir.

"In a small unique school like this, with our Hebrew and our traditions and religion I think that sports are important and it shows that we can get out there and play with the rest of the city and excel."

Kehila



Kehila students present their collected blankets and sleeping bags to representatives from MacSOC

JEFF TESSIER

Kehila Jewish Community Day School has embarked on a Tikkun Olam project in which they have partnered with McMaster Student Outreach Collective in order to donate materials and services to Hamilton's homeless population. The effort is a mitzvah project for the school and is integrated into the new Global Education component of the curriculum at Kehila.

McMaster Student Outreach Collective, or MacSOC, organizes volunteers who make weekly visits to the city's homeless in order to provide them with food, clothing, blankets, health information, and assistance in accessing medical services. Kehila principal Leia Ger-Rogers began working with MacSOC in 2002 while serving as principal of Lawrence College. Intending to get the students there involved in community service work, Ger-Rogers discovered that most community outreach programs do not allow the participation of children under the age of fifteen. MacSOC, at the time just starting as a pilot project, was willing to coordinate their own work in the community with the efforts of children of any age who were tasked with contributing to the overall goal in whatever way they could. This sort of coordinated effort is at work in the group's partnership with Kehila. The blankets and sleeping bags collected by the students

were distributed by MacSOC volunteers at a drop-in centre run out of a church in downtown Hamilton.

MacSOC representatives spoke to the students and explained to them that their work was going to help improve the lives of many people in the city who live in circumstances unfamiliar to the students. The students received an education in the reality of the marginalised and disadvantaged segments of society as the MacSOC volunteers explained that many families, including young children and the elderly, live on the streets and face the cold Ontario winter without adequate shelter or clothing. The group presented the school with an honorary plaque.

Kehila's mitzvah work for the homeless of Hamilton continued with the collection of winter coats, hats, and socks in January. In February, the school will organise an effort to prepare sandwiches for distribution to the hungry of the city. Principal Ger-Rogers says that this Tikkun Olam project at the school exemplifies the hope and social commitment expressed in Margaret Mead's saying, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world."

Kehila is hosting its annual Open House on February 11, 6:30-8:00, at Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Ave. North.

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New Study Aims to Prevent Heart Disease In Millions

HOPE-3 to study effect of lowering blood pressure and cholesterol levels

Fifty million people die in the world every year, and about one third of those die from heart disease and stroke. Around half of those, eight million people, will die from these conditions without previous disease, nor any warning symptoms.

The HOPE-3 (Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation) study will investigate the prevention of first strokes and heart attacks, and the results have the potential to benefit millions of people worldwide.

Lowering blood pressure and reducing cholesterol levels are two highly effective strategies in the prevention of heart disease and stroke in many people. To date, the benefits of these interventions have been studied only in people who have traditionally defined high blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

However, recent data suggest that what we consider "average" or "normal" blood pressure and cholesterol today is actually far higher than it should be, and many of these apparently "normal" individuals are at risk for heart disease and stroke.

In fact, most heart attacks and strokes occur in people who are considered to have "normal" blood pressure and cholesterol levels. It may be that the key to preventing heart attacks and strokes in these people is to lower their blood pressure and cholesterol levels to below normal levels. In achieving these goals many

people require lifestyle changes as well as medications. The HOPE-3 (Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation) study will address this question.

About 10,000 middle-aged men and women with average blood pressure and cholesterol and without known heart disease or stroke will be recruited from 10 countries worldwide (including about 3,000 from Canada). They will receive either blood pressure and cholesterol lowering medications or a placebo in addition to healthy lifestyle advice. Participants will be followed closely for about five years to determine whether these treatments can prevent first heart attacks, strokes and death from cardiovascular causes.

The impact of preventing other related adverse outcomes such as heart failure, kidney disease, atrial fibrillation (a dangerous irregular heart rhythm) and impaired cognitive function will also be evaluated.

The study is led by the Population Health Research Institute at McMaster University and Hamilton Health Sciences in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Funding for the study is provided by AstraZeneca through a \$33 million investigator initiated study grant.

"The concept of primary prevention in average individuals is the next frontier for research in cardiovascular disease," said Dr. Salim Yusuf, the HOPE-3 Principal Investigator. "HOPE-3 will test the concept of whether

or not we can slow down, or better yet, reverse the process in most people before they develop cardiovascular disease. This will mean that people live longer and healthier, and many more years of life could be spent disease free."

"The burden of cardiovascular disease is increasing in non-Western countries and the large international participation in this study speaks to the global importance of the question," said Dr. Eva Lonn, the Co-Principal Investigator of the study.

"Our approach of involving a large number of Canadians and participants from several countries representing all inhabited continents of the world, not only produces reliable and rapid results, but also conclusions that can be applied worldwide," said Jackie Bosch, the Project Director.

"This investigator-initiated study will examine worldwide prevention of one leading cause of death," said Dr. Steve Collins, associate dean of research (Health Sciences) at McMaster University. "McMaster researchers are committed to quality global medical research."

"We can all relate personally to how devastating heart attacks and strokes can be for individuals and their families," said Murray Martin, President and CEO of Hamilton Health Sciences. "Through this grant, AstraZeneca is demonstrating its confidence that with continued research and innovation, Dr. Yusuf and his team can improve the future for people locally, nationally and internationally. I want to thank AstraZeneca for sharing our vision and congratulate Dr. Yusuf and his team on their

pioneering work in heart and stroke research."

The PHRI is affiliated with Hamilton Health Sciences and McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and has previously conducted the first two HOPE trials, and more than 40 other major studies involving over 500,000 participants. These studies have changed medical practice and led to improved care of patients worldwide.

Dr. Allen Greenspoon, a Hamilton physician is working with Dr. Salim Yusuf and Dr. Eva Lonn as part of their research team, is currently recruiting patients for this study. If you are interested in further information call Nancy Simpson, Research Coordinator at 905-529-1221 or email hchc@cogeco.net.

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