

# Hamilton Jewish News

SERVING HAMILTON WENTWORTH & AREA

MAY/JUNE 2002 VOL 16:5

SIVAN 5762

## Hamiltonians Answer the Call For Israel Emergency Campaign

Senior community philanthropists recently came together at the home of Brenda and Lorne Richter to demonstrate their support of the Israel Emergency Campaign. Federation President Bonnie Loewith was delighted with the results of the meeting, saying that "members of our community have already committed tens of thousands of dollars to the Israel Emergency Campaign before the campaign has even gone public."

The group came together to meet Dr. Howard Weisband, executive director of the Jerusalem office of United Israel Appeal (UIA), who was on a whirlwind tour of Canadian Jewish communities to speak on behalf of the recently launched Worldwide Israel Emergency Campaign.

Dr. Weisband informed the group that North American Federations are working to raise \$300 million for the Jewish Agency for Israel by June 30th. Canada's share of



Hamilton Hebrew Academy students joined 10,000 Canadian Jews at a solidarity rally in Ottawa on

this goal is \$30 million dollars. Coming on the heels of an unprecedented wave of terrorist violence, every dollar raised will be used to support work in three specific areas:

- supporting the victims

- strengthening security around schools, shopping areas and other public facilities

- assisting the thousands of vulnerable families that have been hurt by the

economic consequences of the terror

Dr. Weisband's description of the mood and circumstances in Israel was somber. He said Israelis are struggling to

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## Long-Term Planning for Community a Federation Priority

By  
NICK KATES

Since the January 2002 Annual General Meeting, UJA Federation of Hamilton has taken some important steps toward strengthening its organizational framework and refocusing its energy on the issues mandated in its by-laws.

One area of activity which is fundamental to the good operation of any Federation is a Community Planning function.

Planning, at its most generic, is a range of initiatives designed to ensure that future community needs are identified and that the information is shared with the direct service agencies mandated to address them. In this sense, planning becomes the operational initiative that results in stronger partnerships between the Federation

and the beneficiary agencies we support to provide services to people who need them. Information developed through the planning process is also used to inform the allocations committee regarding emerging priorities and the financial needs they require.

### BACKGROUND

One important component of the series of planning exercises recently initiated by Bonnie Loewith and the Federation has been the establishment of a small working group to develop a long-term plan for our community. The working group, is chaired by Judah Denburg and includes Vivienne Epstein, Sam Soifer, David Streiner, Howie Brown, Nick Kates, Bonnie Loewith and Gerry Fisher.

### DEVELOPING A VISION

We have decided to approach the task by developing our vision of the kind of community we want to be 10 years from now, and then looking at what we need to do to achieve that vision.

This vision needs to represent the collective view and aspirations of all the members of our community rather than those of a small committee. As we meet with individuals, groups and Institutional leaders we will try to find a consensus on the kind of community we want to create, the values and principles that should characterise our community and the programs and institutions we need to support and maintain our community life.

### CHALLENGES

In many ways the Hamilton Jewish community is a good example of a small but vibrant Canadian Jewish community. With a rich cultural life, one of the highest rates of participation in Jewish day school education of any North American community, high levels of synagogue affiliation, an exemplary seniors home and many thriving Jewish organisations we have much to be proud of.

As we look ahead, however, we face many important challenges. The community is not growing and while we can debate its optimum size, it is clear that we can only benefit from attracting new families to join us, to help us maintain a critical mass

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## UJA Federation

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

#### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE HJN IS FRIDAY JULY 26, 2002.

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### From the Director's Desk



Gerald Fisher

Since our last issue, we have witnessed Israel endure a seemingly endless attack of mass murders, accompanied by an equally distressing series of Anti-Semitic events that have been felt across the Jewish world. In the past two months I have personally experienced a sense of fear for the future that I could never have anticipated. I wonder how many others felt that way.

My distress is characterized by an encounter I recently had with a young journalist, who was writing a story on the events at Jenin and asked me to provide balance to the article she was writing about "the slaughter". When I asked her to explain the basis for the use of that term, she waffled. When she used the phrase "illegal occupation" I asked her to provide any sources to justify her allegation. She had none. When I asked her what background she had to write an article on the topic, she had none. However, she seemed a pleasant person and over the next 30 minutes, as I walked her through some of the basic issues, she seemed quite open minded and prepared to consider the information I provided. I followed up our conversation with a series of e-mails that contained information from the Israeli government, from CIC and from a range of independent sources that might provide a broader context for her article.

A few days later, a community member called to tell me they read an article in an obscure publication in which I was quoted. The article was hostile, shallow and full of historical inaccuracies. The article in which I was contacted to provide "balance" was 21 paragraphs long. My contribution was reduced to two sentences in which I said that the Hamilton Jewish community stood solidly in support of Israel. The article then introduced a "Canadian born Jewish man" who immediately contradicted my quote.

To make a long story short I was apoplectic over this – not because it was an article that was hostile to Israel – we can see that any day in the week. What upset me was that the author, who admittedly had no background and who took the initiative to find someone to provide balance and who appeared grateful for the information I provided, still wound up writing a shallow piece of nasty propaganda.

It was at this moment when I tried to imagine what it must have been like for Jews in the 1930's. It was truly shocking for me to recognize that at this brief moment in time, I felt as vulnerable as they must have felt – a maelstrom of vindictiveness swirling up around me and feeling helpless to do much about it. It was an awful moment – but only a moment.

I did try to contact the writer but was unsuccessful. The editor returned my call and seemed genuinely apologetic. Several people, myself included, wrote letters and articles in response. They are being published this week. The rest of the world seems to have discovered the fact that Arab mouthpieces were lying about the "massacre" at Jenin. Evidence documenting Arafat's direct role in the murders is presented in Washington. Operation Defensive Shield has provided enough safety and balance to create conditions that recently brought out the Israeli peace camp in a massive demonstration in Tel Aviv. What's my point?

This truly is a dangerous moment in time. I am sure that many members of the Jewish community felt what I felt last week and immediately made the connection to an earlier time. But I am also sure that the media will, for the most part, be far more circumspect at Arab allegations as a result of what the world now knows truly happened in Jenin. The perception of Arafat will change – in Washington and in the Arab world because of the recent Israeli military action and the evidence it uncovered.

Most of all, I am sure that our Jewish community will respond to this challenge. Your support of the

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The Hamilton Jewish News receives its sole funding from the UJA annual campaign. In order to be more self-sufficient and become less dependent on limited community resources, we will be raising our advertising rates as of September 2002. We hope we can rely on your continued support and we thank you for your understanding.

#### Hamilton Jewish News New Advertising Rates\*

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# Hamilton Rallies For Israel

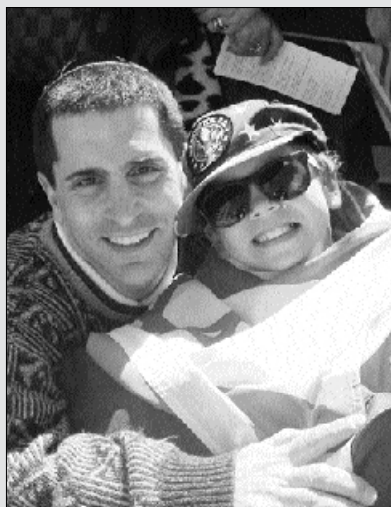
## in Washington

When a bus-load of enthusiastic Hamiltonians drove through the night to rally in Washington DC, on April 15th, joining hundreds of thousands of Israel supporters who were inspired by the messages of Elie Wiesel, Benjamin Netanyahu, Rudy Guiliani and others.



## ...and in Ottawa

150 Hamiltonians rose in the early hours of Sunday morning, April 21, to make their way to Parliament Hill in Ottawa where they joined 10,000 Canadian Jews in a solidarity rally on behalf of Israel.



## UJA Federation

## 550 Area High School Students Attend Symposium Organized by Holocaust Education Committee

UJA Federation's Holocaust Education Committee may be small, but the impact its programs have had on the Hamilton community cannot be measured. One of their most successful programs is the annual Holocaust High School Symposium, jointly sponsored by UJA Federation of Hamilton, Mohawk College, McMaster University and the public and Catholic boards of education.

This year 550 area high school students came together at Mohawk College to hear British Columbia resident Ken McVey, a promoter of Holocaust education and creator of the Nizkor Project ([www.nizkor.org](http://www.nizkor.org)), repudiate racism and Holocaust denial. McVey was joined on the podium by Torontonian, Elizabeth Moore, 25, a former member of the white supremacist group, Heritage Front. The audience was riveted by Moore's personal account of the dangers of being drawn into groups that promote hatred and racism. Following the keynote address students were divided into small groups, where they heard personal testimony by local Holocaust survivors.

Michele Finkelstein, a committee member, was delighted with the program. "It was very satisfying for

## Hamiltonians Answer the Call

cont'd from p1

lead as normal lives as possible under the unending threat of terrorist violence. He also spoke with pain about the terrorist murders of two close relatives of UJA staff.

He went on to explain that it is unclear if North Americans fully grasp the economic damage suffered in the past twenty months. Although there is some conceptual appreciation for the 3 billion dollars lost in the tourism industry, he said, that doesn't often translate into an appreciation of the thousands of jobs lost throughout the economy and the difficulty so many people face in just feeding their families. Unemployment is now over 20% and continues to rise. Given the drastic downturn in the economy overall, it is unlikely that many of those who lost jobs will find new ones quickly."

Another overlooked factor is the ongoing aliyah. According to Weisband 3,000 - 4,000 people a month are still moving to Israel - despite everything. Most of the recent olim are still coming from the former Soviet Union. However their numbers are being enhanced by a growing number of immigrants from Argentina. There is also measurable growth in the number of immigrants

coming from France, primarily in response to the growing anti-Semitism that confronts them across the country.

The world Jewish Community has a responsibility to provide for these new arrivals in terms of housing, language skills, job training and employment. The reality is that integration into Israeli society is going to take much longer now because of the employment situation. Immigrants will remain in absorption centers for much longer than normal periods and will be dependent on Jewish Agency programs to sustain themselves until they find meaningful work and become financially self sufficient.

Weisband also discussed another difficult aspect of living with the violence.

"Providing security to public facilities, especially schools and shopping areas has grown increasingly difficult. School attendance has become more erratic as parents are fearful of letting their children out of their sight. It is now common for parents to call schools to inquire into their available security services every day, before dropping their children off", he said

Security now requires younger, better-trained,

more alert and more physically capable people than the retirees who would occasionally check your handbag at the door. The army cannot afford to use its personnel in that way. The situation will be addressed through the availability of extra dollars to hire, train and monitor professional security officers at a higher level than we are doing now.

Before he concluded, Dr. Weisband referenced the range of services now provided to the victims of terror and their families.

"In the past 20 months, over 1000 Jewish children have become orphans, dozens of families have lost children to the violence, families have lost breadwinners, many hundreds of individuals and families are in need of direct intervention", he said.

UJA Federation executive director Gerald Fisher said,

"Our intention is to conduct the Emergency Campaign through the existing UJA divisional structure and especially by having all our community organizations volunteer their time to sponsor Emergency Campaign telethons.

"If everybody recognizes the real need and pitches in, we can run successful campaign with an early conclusion."

## Long-Term

cont'd from p1

for our current and future activities. We need to create an environment that will make it more attractive for more of our young people to stay in, or return to Hamilton as they complete school, university or work-related training. We need to redouble our efforts to identify Jews in Hamilton who have little connection with Jewish activities and link them with events and organisations that may be

of interest.

We need to ensure that our efforts to enhance the educational, spiritual, social and cultural life - as well as our planning activities - are well co-ordinated, with institutions working together to use a relatively small pool of resources as efficiently and effectively as possible. And in the end, creating the most vibrant community we can will serve not only to

Many years ago, Yigal Carmon stated that negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization mark "the most revolutionary change in the history of the State of Israel." At the same time, he said, major problems lie at the heart of that diplomacy, and Mr. Carmon explained why a positive outcome to the peace process may not occur....

## An Insider's View of Terrorism



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## UJA Federation

## Raising the Bar for Canadian Young

BY  
NAOMI EISENBERG

The Canadian Young Leadership Executive conference, held last March in Edmonton, was designed to enhance the awareness and raise the commitment of Canada's young Jewish leadership. Such conferences are held every two years and, given that this was only the second time this was held, one could say that it was a rousing success. The first conference, held two years ago in Vancouver drew approximately 25 people from across Canada. This conference entertained approximately 60 committed young men and women, with large contingents from Toronto and Edmonton. Hamilton was represented by Yves Apel, UJA Federation Women's Division co-chair Naomi Eisenberg and Wendy Schneider.

Weekends like these are working weekends, filled with seminars, plenary speakers and "hands on" workshops. We were treated to the wit, wisdom and scholarship of Professor Ellen Cannon, an American social and political scientist. She has made studying the Jewish community her life's work, and what she had to say gave us all cause for concern.

The Friday night keynote speech addressed the "Jewish" role in 9/11. Professor Cannon carefully traced its origins to the Six Days' War, and the changes of thought in Arab intellectualism post war, which eventually led to the formation of Hamas in the late 1980s. The role of the American political system was not exonerated, and the combination of 'neglect' and a failure to recognize what was happening in Saudi Arabia with the rise of Islamic



Naomi Eisenberg and Yves

fundamentalism played a huge role.

Her plenary speech on Saturday was much more chilling. During her presentation Professor Cannon said, that unless current trends of secularization and intermarriage reverse, Jews are destined to become "like the Amish", a culturally quaint but religiously insignificant group.

Interactive programs included Torah study sessions and sharing our special programming with our peers. We ate dinner on the West Edmonton Mall's pirate ship, and were entertained by local comic..... This event was opened to the entire Edmonton community and it was well attended, as well as hilarious. More merriment followed, but that is best left to the imagination.

One of my favourite memories is the Havdalah service that was conducted by Eli Rubinstein. There is something about being in a room of one-time strangers united by faith and commitment that truly touched me deeply. Singing the same songs, gazing at the candle and sniffing the spices... something about those moments transformed them into moments of commitment, pride and, most importantly, CONNECTION.

Sunday morning we were treated to a visit at

## "I Never Felt at Risk" Showing Solidarity Through Visiting

BY  
PAUL ROTH

Before leaving for Israel on this mission, I was asked by many people why I was going. Am I nervous about going? Do The truth is, although I had some concerns, I never felt at risk going to Israel.

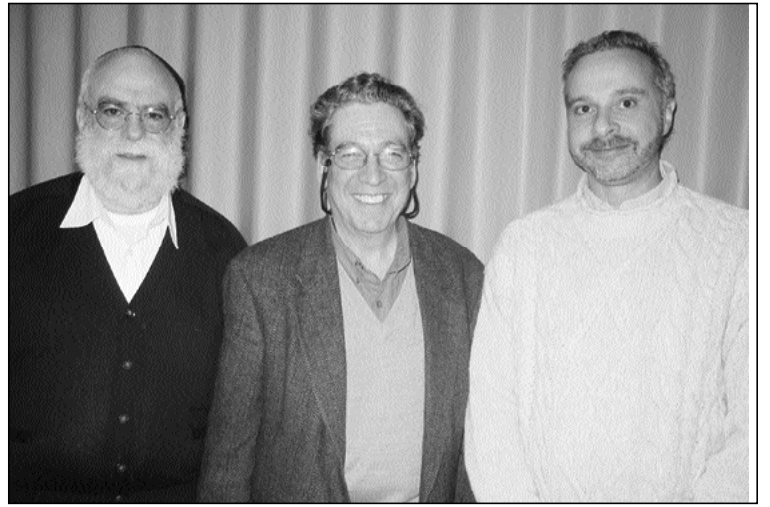
Tel Aviv airport was empty when I arrived. It is difficult to describe the emotional roller coaster that the twenty mission participants experienced during this trip. Our emotions swung from euphoria to sadness to pride to horror depending on the moment and the circumstances. Israelis were thrilled to see us and shared their stories openly and from the bottom of their hearts.

Israelis feel united in their struggle against terrorism. The country as a whole is 100% behind Ariel Sharon's "Operation Defensive Shield". The people I met said that they felt like virtual prisoners in their own homes. With the military incursion they felt as though they had some control over their lives.

The situation with the reservists is another clear indication of the country's strong support of the current military operation as reservists show up even before their units are called up.

Most Israelis I spoke to avoid public places and try not to go out as a family together. Most restaurants now provide security personned posted outside and many have included a voluntary charge to offset the costs. Needless to say, people are happy to pay it, in itself an unusual circumstance because Israelis usually hate to pay anything that can be construed as taxation.

For me, the most moving moment occurred at Jerusalem's Moment Café. Outside the café is a sign that reads as follows: "We



Paul Roth (far right) with Jewish Agency scholar-in-residence Dr. Danny Levine (center) and Lester Krames during a recent visit to

weep, We weep, We weep.... And then we go forward." The message on this sign encapsulates the present Israeli mentality.

The situation in Israel is very grave and can be compared in severity to the situation during its War of Independence. There has

been no other time during Israel's short history when she has felt her very existence threatened.

This is a time when Israel needs our support more than ever: through giving of our financial resources, visiting the country either

## Community Calendar

■ **A CELEBRATION OF JEWISH WRITERS & WRITING- May 24-26, at Temple Anshe Sholom** will feature 18 Canadian Jewish writers of film, plays, stories, novels, children's literature, and poetry promises to be a weekend of inspiration, exploration, incantation, and communication. Call **905-528-0121** for more information

■ **11TH ANNUAL CANADIAN AMERICAN HAVURAH WEEKEND SHABBATON JUNE 14-16, AT CANTERBURY HILLS IN ANCASTER.** A gathering of Jews from Toronto, Buffalo, Hamilton, Rochester, Cleveland and places between and beyond. Share a dynamic Jewish weekend of study, Jewish renewal and spiritual growth incorporating both tradition and innovation. The shabbaton is open to those of all backgrounds, affiliations, ages and levels of Jewish knowledge. The unattached, families and couples are all welcome. Call **Yael Greenberg and Alan Livingston at 905-524-2687** for more information.

For more community listings check out the community calendar badge on [www.jewishhamilton.org](http://www.jewishhamilton.org). To have your event listed on the community calendar contact **Chris Nusca at UJA Federation at 905-648-0605** or email at [cnuscauja@on.aibn.com](mailto:cnuscauja@on.aibn.com)

## Adult Education

The Yeshiva of Hamilton's following courses feature acclaimed scholars who offer unique perspectives in their respective fields of Jewish thought. Call **905-528-0039** for more information

**In Search of God: From the Ministry To The Minyan Wednesday, May 22 @ 8:00 pm.** Kim Gardner discusses his spiritual journey from the ministry to life as a practicing Jew.  
**Psychology & The Torah: Is Seeing Believing or is Believing Seeing? Wednesday, May 29 at 8:00 pm.** Dr. Lester Krames. Dr. Lester Krames is professor emeritus at the Department of Psychology at the University of Toronto.

**Do Archaeology and the Bible Conflict? Wednesday, June 5, 8:30 pm.** Dr. Joseph Greenbaum. Dr Greenbaum's passion for archaeology and biblical studies has led to years of extensive research in life during biblical times.

**Intermediate Talmud For Men Mondays @ 8:00 pm with Rabbi Aaron Selevan.**

**Fundamentals of Jewish Prayer: Wednesdays @ 7:00 - 8:00 pm: with Rabbi Morton Green.** Join us for a unique three-week course on the meaning of Jewish prayer.

**The Laws of Kashrut: Wednesday, May 15-29 with Rabbi Daniel Green.** The dos and don'ts of keeping Kosher.

**Hebrew Reading Crash Course: Wednesday, May 1- June 5 - 6 weeks with Avi Shapiro.** Learn to read Hebrew in 6 weeks.

**Topics in Jewish Mysticism begins Thursdays @ 7:00 - 8:00 pm with Rabbi Zalman Itkin.**

**Studies in the Weekly Torah Portion begins Thursday, April 25 @ 8:00 pm with Rabbi Aaron Selevan**

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**UJA Federation**

## An Insider's Look at the business of UJA

At the Annual General Meeting of January 2002, the board and staff of UJA Federation made explicit commitments to demonstrate a higher level of transparency and accountability to the community. In keeping with that commitment the Hamilton Jewish News will publish the highlights of Federation Board meetings as well as motions presented and their result.

In many respects, the Board agendas are now "pro forma." Since the board is now operating within the framework of the existing by-laws, the agendas focus on brief reports from the five operating committees, examine policy issues and set direction for the work of those committees. The recent meeting provides a typical example.

The most recent meeting of the Federation Board of Directors took place on April 11th, 2002. The key issues on the agenda included two important decisions for the Financial Resources Development Committee and the presentation by the Committee For Human Resources Development (HRD) of a Letter of Commitment to be adopted by every member of the board.

### Financial Resources Development

Lester Krames and Paul Roth, co-chairs of the UJA 2003 Men's Campaign presented two major issues for decision:

1. A decision from the board to launch an Israel Emergency Campaign in confluence with the rest of the North American Federation system. Discussion focused on the nature of the emergency, where money raised was to be allocated and what steps need to be taken to ensure that the campaign is effective.

2. A decision to explore the possibility of co-sponsoring an opening events with Israel Bonds on September 11th. A number of fundraising events were booked into the calendar on dates that conflict with the UJA schedule and that conflict with each other. The purpose of the community calendar is to ensure that dates don't get double-booked for events and to prevent various fundraising initiatives from damaging each other. The process is not working well now. The suggestion of a co-sponsorship was one creative approach to addressing an immediate dilemma while maintaining "shalom bais".

### Human Resources Development

Agi Meinhard, vice president of HRD presented a draft of the Board Letter of Commitment. This letter was created out of an exercise at the March 10th Board orientation program. The intent of the letter is to provide a clear framework of responsibilities, behaviour and expectations for members in their leadership roles on the Federation Board. No such document, or set of definitions has existed previously.

The letter references a variety of issues. They range from basic expectations such as attendance at meetings and the obligation to play an active role on one of the five operating committees to more complex issues such as upholding board policy once established - even if you disagree. The letter also references the critical issue of maintaining confidentiality until board decisions and documents are made public.

In all, the letter references three major board responsibilities, fifteen duties and obligations and ten collective undertakings. The letter, once approved by the board will be printed in its entirety, in a subsequent issue of the Hamilton Jewish News.

### Community Relations Committee

David Somer, vice president of Community Relations presented a report detailing the substantial work of the Public Affairs Committee. He provided a summary of our delegation's experience at the CIC Policy Conference and a synopsis of our activity with local media.

He discussed the need for greater board and volunteer involvement with the Hamilton Jewish News and mentioned that a meeting took place with the organizers of the JCC Yom Ha'atzmaut to better ensure a format that was in keeping with the difficult circumstances in Israel. David also discussed the need to better support Jewish students and offered a motion

# The Kosher Food Bank Depends on Your

BY CAROL KRAMES  
DIRECTOR, JEWISH SOCIAL

What is it like to run a food bank? It is like running a supermarket but having to depend on your suppliers to donate the food. It is having to carefully give food to people to make sure there is enough for everyone. It is feeling the pain and frustration of all the people who know they need the bank to survive.

The Hamilton Kosher Food Bank is celebrating it's 10th birthday, but this is not a cause for celebration. When we first opened the Kosher Food Bank we were told that food banks should only last for two years until the economy improved, when there would be no more need. Unfortunately the opposite has happened. The government began to depend on food banks to supplement the meagre welfare or family benefits they were giving to recipients.

Some families in the Hamilton Jewish community have been using the Food Bank for the past ten years. I am afraid to think where they would be without this service. When government gives a single adult on a disability pension \$900 and rents are at least \$600, how can one have money for food?

How utterly exhausting and draining it is for families, month after month and year after year to have to depend on a food bank. How utterly frustrating it is for the Jewish Social Services that the community does not

contribute to the Food Bank on a regular basis. If every time community members purchased a few extra food items for the food bank on their grocery excursions, our shelves would always be full.

Our schools and shuls are wonderful in organizing food drives but it is not enough. Organizations try to get

people to bring canned goods to meetings but most do not respond. Please try to make the effort. It teaches your children about sharing, tzedakah and kosher products.

It is a reality that the Food Bank is a part of the Canadian Social Service scene. Let us try to make this mitzvah beautiful. Let's try to avoid having

## Celebrating Victory



On Thursday, May 9th the older members of the Russian Jewish Community celebrated Victory Day. Every year since WW2 people remember the martyrs and the allies who fought for freedom and at the Jewish Community Centre veterans don their medals of honor at a special luncheon. People speak about the war, their memories and their loved ones. We thank all the people who fought in WW2 to make

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## Local Events

## Professor's response to anti-Israel petition receives positive

BY DR. AGI MEINHARD,

Deeply disturbed by a petition emailed to faculty members of Ryerson Polytechnic University in Toronto accusing Israel of committing "crimes against humanity" and calling on the Canadian government to dismantle illegal settlements and recognize Palestinian refugees' right to return, Dr. Agi Meinhart, associate professor of Organizational Behaviour and director, of Ryerson's Centre for Voluntary Sector Studies at the university's Faculty of Business, responded in writing. Her letter, which received widespread, is reprinted below in its entirety.

I generally refrain from engaging in debate on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict because of the facile way in which people jump in and take sides, painting a very complex picture in stark black and white. I end up with knots of frustration in my stomach. It is with reluctance, therefore, that I enter this discussion, but I feel I must enter it. Before doing so, I would like to present my "credentials", so that my words will not be automatically dismissed as biased because I am Jewish.

I lived in Israel from 1970 until 1980. While there, I was very active in the Peace Now movement. When the first settlements were being planned, I, along with hundreds of Israelis, traveled to the West Bank and linked arms with Palestinians to form a human fence to stop then agricultural minister Ariel Sharon's bulldozers from breaking ground for the

new settlement. We stood in solidarity, hand in hand, and at least for that day, the bulldozers were stopped.

Along with hundreds of thousands of other Israelis, I marched to urge the Begin government to sign the peace treaty with Egypt and dismantle the settlements in the Sinai desert. Later I stood, with the Women in Black and alongside Palestinian women, protesting the settlement policies that were clearly detrimental to peace. I belonged to several organizations that promoted dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians. I was among the few Jews, who, from the very beginning believed that there would also have to be compromise on Jerusalem.

Given this background, I think it is fair to say that I have probably been more actively involved in promoting peaceful coexistence between Palestinians and Israelis than those who composed and signed the Race Conference Resolution. I am disturbed by the tone of the resolution and the inaccurate depiction of the situation. A one-sided resolution will never bring parties to peace.

I do not, and never have, supported all of Israel's policies. Nor do I deny that horrible things might have happened during the Israeli army's recent incursion into Palestinian cities. The loss of innocent lives is never acceptable. However, to call what happened in Jenin "crimes against humanity" is unreasonable. Aerial photographs show

that only a small portion of the refugee camp was demolished. Only where there was stiff resistance did the tanks move in, and this, only after warning the civilian population to leave. Can one really compare this very unfortunate loss of innocent lives to "crimes against humanity"? To date, Red Cross and Red Crescent workers have found no evidence of a massacre. Lives were lost during heated battle, a battle that Israelis were reluctant to enter, precisely because they knew that it would lead to innocent deaths. Witness the fact that:

- suicide bombings have been taking place at regular intervals, and with increasing frequency, for the past 19 months, yet for most of those months, Israel's response had been:

- at first restrained (no action taken after the bombing of the Dolfinarium, in the hope of implementation of the Tenet plan)

- then after several more suicide bombings, muted (bombing empty buildings after warning the civilians to clear out),

- only later, when Arafat refused to arrest the leaders and perpetrators of these acts of terror, did the Israeli army resort to targeted assassinations, in a misguided attempt to stem the flow of terror (certainly not something I approve of, but it was not directed at innocent civilians, unlike the suicide bombings, which clearly were).

All this proved ineffective. The terrorism continued, even as Sharon,

in response to Zinni's March mission, agreed to start negotiations without a total cessation of violence and agreed to move forward with the Tenet and Mitchell plans.

It was Arafat who scuttled Zinni's mission. The horror of the Passover massacre shortly thereafter, and a high toll of 126 Israeli deaths in one week, was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back and led to the incursion. I ask those who wrote and signed the resolution, how they would feel if, day after day, going on the subway, or to the supermarket, or enjoying a holiday meal with their family and friends, they were in danger of being blown up?

This, coming after they had recognized that the occupation had to end, after they had been ready to make the difficult concessions for a peaceful, two-state solution. What would they expect their government to do to protect them when all else failed? I am no supporter of Sharon, and have been active in my opposition to his policies, both in the past and now, but I cannot

see how else he, or any leader, could have responded to such provocation after having tried other routes.

Besides the one-sided condemnation of violence expressed in the preamble to the resolution, the resolution itself contains inaccuracies that further distort the very complex context of the Israeli - Palestinian conflict. The resolution states that the Palestinians "have been made to renounce 78% of their historical lands." This statement is inaccurate on two counts. First, the lands the Palestinians claim were taken from them, were legally purchased by Jewish settlers who came to Palestine during the Ottoman Empire and during the British Mandate. It is also often overlooked, that since the dispersion of the Jews in 70 C.E. there have always been Jews in the land that came to be known as Palestine. There were vibrant Jewish communities in Safad, Tiberias, Hebron, and of course Jerusalem, a city in which, for most of its history, Jews formed the majority of the population.

cont'd on p 9

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Professor's

Thus the "historical lands of the Palestinians" are also the historical lands of the Jews, from ancient to more recent history.

The statement is inaccurate in another sense as well. In 1947 the UN partitioned the British protectorate of Palestine into two states, a very small state for the Jewish population, and a much larger state for the Arab population. The Jews accepted the small portion of land that was granted them, the Arabs rejected the partition and in May 1948 launched a war against the newly established State of Israel. So in effect, the Arabs renounced their own state. Unfortunately, as a result of the war that they started, they lost even more land, and what was supposed to be the Arab Palestinian state was annexed by Jordan.

The resolution continues to say that Palestinians "have an absolute right to be liberated from occupation." I wholeheartedly agree and have been actively supporting that for over

cont'd from

three decades. What is terribly sad about the situation is that the Palestinians have missed several opportunities to create their own state. The occupation of Gaza and the West Bank was the result of the 1967 war. Here too, Israel was a reluctant combatant. In an interview a few years before his death, King Hussein admitted that the Israeli prime minister had begged him not to open a third front in the war with Egypt and Syria, but he refused their request and subsequently lost the West Bank to Israel. After the war, Golda Meir offered an exchange: the return of the occupied territories for peace and recognition of Israel's right to exist as a state in the region. The response to this offer was three resounding "No"s in a meeting of the Arab League in Khartoum: No negotiations, No recognition, No peace.

But we don't have to go back that far. In 1999, Arafat rejected the far-reaching compromises that Barak made through President Clinton's

Temple Players "Annie" A Smash



The Temple Players' production of Annie, directed by Vicky Wylson Sher and Elaine Levine, played to rave reviews and raised funds for Temple Anshe Sholom. The "Annie" orphans and orphan chorus are shown here with Matt Hayes when they appeared live on CHTV at Noon. Pictured above are (back row), Brooke Cowitz, Ruthie Pytka-Jones as Annie, Bess Martin, Samara Strub, Hanna Strub, Matt Hayes, Sari Morris, Katie Genge and Yael Algranti. Front row from left to right are Ashlee

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Shalom Village is a testament to the vision and dedication of our community. Today, Shalom Village is recognized as a leader in creating a warm, vibrant and caring place where people want to go. It is likely that everyone in our community has a personal experience to tell about the genuine concern, care and love demonstrated by the staff towards our families.

As the needs of our community for increased facilities and services grow, Shalom Village responds. With the new fitness centre we now have a special place to exercise on custom equipment designed for our special needs. Our Bistro allows our residents the opportunity to dine in elegant

surroundings without having to leave home. Our Ruth Sherman Centre allows us to form a stronger bond with McMaster University.

Once again Shalom Village finds itself needing more room to serve its growing population. Our new home, located just north of our present building will enhance and expand the Shalom Village experience. The new facility will be home to 64 people who require long term care and will offer 32 apartments for individuals or couples. "Goldie's Place", our adult day program center will enjoy a much needed larger facility to accommodate the increasing demand. We will also be able to care on a short term basis for individuals recovering from surgery or illness as a respite for care givers.

Even in these times of many demands on the community's finances we trust that the needs of our parents will not go unheeded. Our team of volunteers will be contacting you soon to discuss how you can Honour your father and mother by making your donation to Shalom Village.

**Ground  
Breaking  
this August**





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Individuals and businesses may be recognized throughout our home. Recognition opportunities and donation levels are shown in the chart. We invite anyone contemplating a naming donation to contact us to discuss this opportunity.

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Silver Tree	'The Club' The Adult Day Program The Courtyard The Front Gardens The Spa and Coffee Shop IT Solutions for Better Living	\$250,000
Bronze Tree	The Bistro The Kitchen The Mechanical Room	\$150,000
<b>B U I L D E R</b>		
Gold Leaf	Apartments - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Apartments - 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Lobby - Main Floor Dining Rooms	\$100,000
Silver Leaf	'Houses' Home Family Rooms (2) Home Great Rooms Elevators Chaplain's Office	\$50,000
Bronze Leaf	Blocks on 'York Street' Promenade Offices Individual Apartments	\$25,000
<b>S U P P O R T E R</b>		
Green Leaf		\$5,000 - 10,000
Orange Leaf		\$1,500 - 5,000
Red Leaf		\$180 - 1,499

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Jewish Community Centre presents a

# Classical Evening

Sunday, June 2, 2002  
at 7:30 pm

featuring

Compass Rose Wind Quintet ; Flute - Jennifer Denise Bell  
Oboe - Homer Seywerd; Clarinet - Frances Cohen  
Bassoon - Sandra Clay; French horn - Myra Kennedy  
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BEN MEYER MEMORIAL LECTURE

# Jewish State/ Arab State

by John Ross

Monday, June 3, 2002 at 8:00 pm

Hamilton lawyer, John Ross has been delving into archival material relating to the establishment of the State of Israel. His talk will be an examination of the U.N. Partition Report of 1947. He will discuss myths and facts concerning this report and its relevance to the current crisis in the Middle East. All Welcome; Lecture and refreshments gratis

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7th Annual

# Golf

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## JCC TRIBUTE CARDS

### Condolences

JOE LASKIN: Michael Feldman, Gord & Myrna Goldberg, Joy Foster, Harvey & Shelley Waxman, Rochelle Waxman, JCC Board of Directors & Staff. SAM LAX: Joy Foster. Mother of MOISHE LINDENBAUM: Moshe & Dorina Chaimovitz & Family. Brother of SHARON NAGLER: Abe & Gina Szpirglas.

### Speedy Recovery

VIRGINIA MENDES DA COSTA: Aubrey Friedman, JCC Board of Directors, Amy Katz Martin & Tom Martin & Family. SAMANTHA RICHTER: Moshe & Dorina Chaimovitz & family. LILY WOLPERT: Amy Katz Martin & Tom Martin & Family.

### Best Wishes

ELMER FARKAS: JCC Board & Staff. MRS. G. SAX: Rochelle Waxman. ISABELLE & LEO STRUB: JCC Board of Directors & Staff. DRS. GERALD & MAY COHEN: JCC Board of Directors.

### Mazel Tov

THE KATZ FAMILY (Brooke's bat mitzvah): Edie

# Hamilton Jewish Film Festival returns this Fall with new

According to tradition something is engaged in three times becomes a tradition that should be continued. The Hamilton Jewish Film Festival is vying for that distinction with this third effort.

The planning of the third Hamilton Jewish Film Festival is in full swing. A group of interested filmies has been meeting via the internet for the past 10 months and has managed to flesh out many of the main details. Recently that committee met at the home of Joel Starkman, along with some new members and began attending to more of the details as the shape and scope of the festival becomes more concrete.

The first two festivals took place under the auspices of the Beth Jacob Sisterhood. Those festivals proved that there is solid demand for a festival of this kind in Hamilton.

The opportunities for the third festival are to create a truly community wide experience. Accordingly efforts are being made to increase the reach and scope of the third festival.

Initial commitments for funding and organizational support have been forthcoming from the Jewish Community Centre and various other community institutions as well as numerous individuals and some corporations.

The Art Gallery of Hamilton has

decided to participate as a sponsor and exhibitor of films as well lend its expertise in promotion and administration. According to Tor Lukasic-Foss, director of community programming services, the Jewish Film Festival provides an ideal vehicle to fulfil the AGH's mandate of community outreach and involvement. By dovetailing the efforts of the Jewish Community and the current AGH film exhibition program there will be a synergy that would not exist otherwise the result of which will provide for an expanded programming opportunity in all respects.

Some new features of the third Hamilton Jewish Film Festival to look for will be a 4 day format taking place in 3 venues, the expected inclusion of guest speakers, the opportunity for various receptions, the possibility of live Klezmer music, the probability of value pricing, (ie: lower ticket prices) and the fabulous opportunity of creating a truly multi faceted community wide event.

According to Joel Starkman, the current chairperson of this organizing group, there is always something to do to make this 3rd festival a resounding success. "We are endeavouring to create a festival that the community can enjoy and be proud of", Starkman commented, "... One that will continue from year to

## THANKS TO OUR BINGO VOLUNTEERS

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## Have you registered your children for Camp Kadimah/Gadna yet?

If you send your kids anywhere this summer, make sure you include at least one or more weeks at Camp Kadimah/Gadna to:

- Meet other Jewish Children
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Call today for your application form and give your children "A summer to remember"

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING AT CAMP KADIMAH/GADNA

For the 2nd year this ever evolving Leader-in-Training program will offer an interactive hands-on summer of fun, working with Director Matt Szpirglas and experienced counsellors.

The KIT (Kadimah in Training - entering Grades 7 & 8) and GIT (Gadna in Training - entering Grades 9 & 10) will have the opportunity to work with both campers and counsellors. 2-week sessions only;  
JCC Members \$36 Non-Members \$54.00

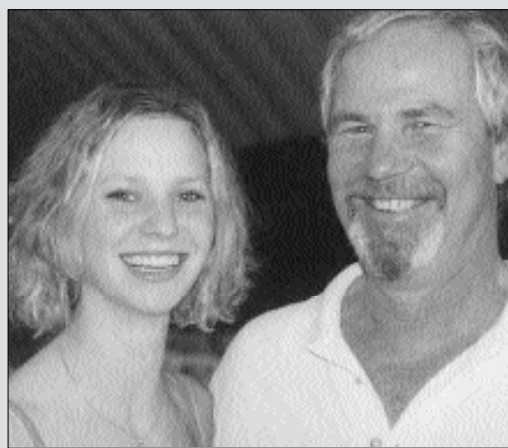
## 3-on-3 Basketball brings 28 teams to the JCC

Teams from as far as Toronto, Mississauga, Dundas, Ancaster, Hamilton, Burlington who enjoyed the day, complimenting the JCC for their fantastic facility and hospitality. Once again Howard Katz and his family, Nancy, Marci, Becky, Laura and Sasha did an amazing job for which we thank them.

## JCC Table Tennis Champs

Players from the Hamilton JCC Table Tennis club represented the West Central Region in table tennis at the Ontario Winter Games in Guelph and brought home the bronze medal. Team members included Alyssa Barrs, Adam Dembe, Jennifer Gilbert, Carmel Jacob, Jaclyn Katz, Lenny Loewith and Danielle Zur. Jennifer Gilbert placed seventh, Danielle Zur, ninth, Alyssa Barrs finished tenth, Jackie Katz

# Were you at one of these great JCC Yom Ha'atzmaut



Yom Ha'atzmaut was a great success bringing together over 400 community members to enjoy and celebrate Israel's existence over the past 54 years and all its future years.

Thanks once again to **Moishe Chaimovitz** for making this all happen. To **Racheli Chaimovitz** and **Manny Rams**, both giving their time to help pull together all the finer details and whose consistent support and loyalty to this program shows that future generations will understand and respect the need for this program to continue. Thank you to the committee headed by **Moishe, David Loewith, Allen Rams, Flora Rams, Sam Soifer and Nancy Somer** and to all the volunteers, including **Louise Algranti, Nadia Amenikiva, Rhonda Dahan, Lanie Goldberg, Suzanne Goldflus, Ilene Haripko, Danna Horwood, Eva Khrin, Irving Levine, Shirley Levine, Anna Pekar, Rebecca Shapiro, Genya Sher, Michael Sher, Ahuva Soifer, Ida Shuman, Milli Somer, Jean Vertlieb, David Volman and Ida Volman.**



Thank you to the following sponsors who helped offset the financial aspect of this program. **Hadassah-WIZO, Shalom Village, Beverly Caulking, Jewish Community Centre, Pepsi Cola, R&R Jewellers, Strub Brothers, Tegs Tools, UJA Federation.**

## Morris Black Public Speaking Contest



Mazel Tov to the winners of the **Morris Black Public Speaking Contest**: 1st Prize winners : **Ari Zians, Adam Zur, Samara Strub, Bess Martin, Nomi Cuneo, Max Mandel, Tamara Hoppe, Morrissa Silvert**; 2nd Prize winners: **Hava Starkman, Sarah Goldberg, Sari Morris, Simcha Walfish, Jennifer Waxman, Trevor Sher, Danielle Zur, Ilana Klinghoffer** 3rd Prize winners: **Justine Goldberg, Joshua Friedland, Jonathan Ventresca, Rafi Rosenberg, Noah Leibtag, David Lonn, Lenny Loewith, Josh Black.**

Thanks to **Rick Black and the Black family, Hadassah WIZO and the JCC** for making this contest happen. **Yashar Koach** to all the participants.



## Yom HaShoah



**"It is far better to light a candle  
.... than curse the darkness"**

This years Yom HaShoah program took place on April 9 at the Temple Anshe Sholom. **Yasher Koach** to **Celia Berlin**, the Yom HaShoah program chair for the past 13 years, for all her hard work and creativity in bringing this meaningful program to the community. Thank you to **Gary Frydman** whose dedication to making sure that this program will continue on, to the committee, **Irene Albert, Samantha Berlin Bromstein, Leia Ger Rogers, Anita Bernstein, Gilda Ennis, Sid Leon, Debbie Richter** and all those many volunteers whose work made the difference. A special thanks to **Bobby Richter and Nadia Rosa** for once again adding additional names to the recording and **Marcia Cohen** for the use of the hands.

Special Menschen

# From the Ministry to Mincha: Born Again with a

By  
WENDY SCHNEIDER

Kim Gardner says he's been born again. From evangelical Christianity to orthodox Judaism is a distance that few have travelled and Gardner's story is as transformational as it gets.

Gardner's religious zeal began in early childhood. He remembers himself at the age of four, kneeling in front of his living room sofa with his mother and praying for Jesus to come into his heart. By the time he was in high school he was an accomplished evangelist, taking on leadership roles in Christian clubs. But Gardner's fundamentalism always had a distinctive quality in his commitment to scriptural authority and his attraction to "godly" people, of any faith. Early in his life he made the decision that if he could be convinced of an argument based on scripture, he would capitulate to it. These aspects of his personality put him on a path that would ultimately lead him to Christianity's source:



Kim Gardner

Judaism.

His first conversion occurred as a result of Gardner's encounter with a Seventh Day Adventist whose character he much admired. (Seventh Day Adventism is an evangelical Christian sect whose adherents observe Saturday as the Sabbath) Becoming convinced of Adventist doctrine, Gardner enrolled in its college, emerging a few years later as a minister.

Fast forward to Gardner's first posting in White Rock, B.C., a town near the U.S. border, where he struck up a friendship with a congregant who had a fascination for Judaism.

The two spent long hours engaged in discussions on the inconsistencies between Jesus' teaching and how Christianity eventually evolved. As a result of these discussions Gardner came to the conclusion that there is no inherent contradiction between what Jesus taught and what Judaism teaches. And so began a crisis of faith so profound that Gardner was finding it increasingly difficult to preach Adventist doctrine during his Sunday morning sermons.

At Gardner's subsequent posting in Richmond, B.C., a member who was attending synagogue services and classes given by a local Lubavitch rabbi, caught Gardner's attention. Following an impulse to investigate, Gardner decided to check out the class for himself. He was unprepared, he recalls, for the impact caused by his immediate recognition that this rabbi was also in possession of the godly qualities to which he had always felt drawn. By the end of that first class he was hooked, and soon

Gardner was sneaking out every week to attend the rabbi's classes. A growing realization that there was no turning back compelled him to confront the rabbi one night after class.

"Rabbi", he said, "do you know what this means? I'm out of the ministry. I have to become Jewish."

While the rabbi offered him the option of becoming a "B'nai Noach", those who follow some commandments but choose not to convert, for Gardner, this was not an option.

While that moment was a turning point the final break was still a long way off. In the meantime Gardner continued to immerse himself in Jewish study, borrowing audio-tapes from his mentor and attending classes. His sermons were now reflecting many of these "new" ideas and ironically, had become increasingly popular.

This might have gone on indefinitely had Gardner and his wife not come across audio-tapes put out by Rabbi Tuvia Singer of Outreach

Judaism, whose specialty is addressing young Jews who have been drawn into Messianic sects. The Gardners were transfixed by Rabbi Singer's arguments.

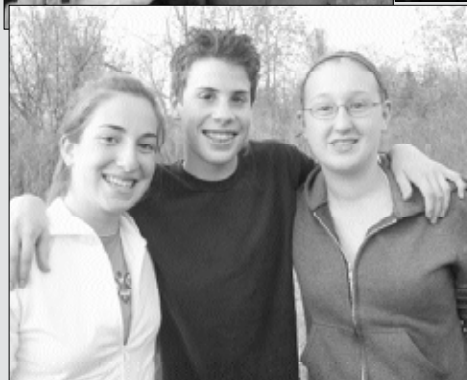
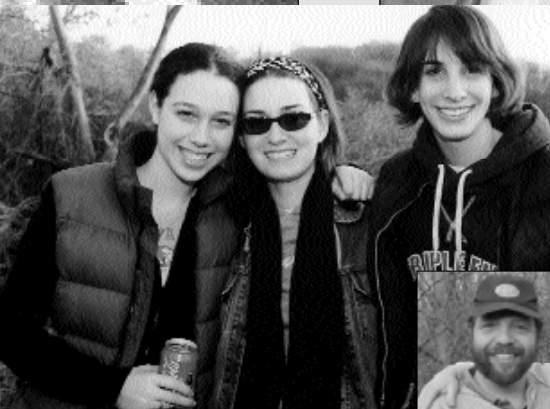
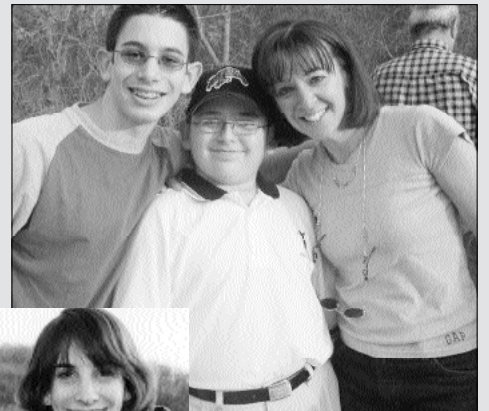
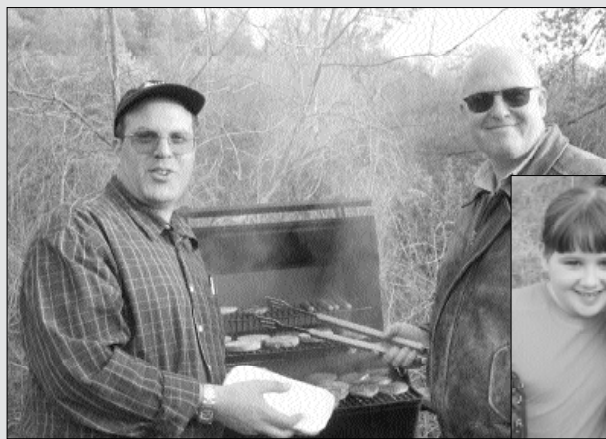
"He took it all apart," he said. "By the time he was finished, I might as well have burned my New Testament."

Soon after this Gardner was reassigned to his home church in Simcoe, Ontario. Still living the double life, he made weekly trips to the "Bayit", an orthodox synagogue in Thornhill, to borrow audio-tapes. He and his sons also began attending Hebrew classes in Brantford, taught by Rabbi Eisenstein.

When circumstances finally conspired to force a "coming out" to church elders, Gardner made the final break.

It is hard to avoid drawing a comparison between the Gardners' decision to leave behind church, family, community, jobs and pensions in order to embrace a new religion and embark on an unknown future with the

## Lag Ba'Omer Extravaganza a Huge



## Travel

## Destination Sepharad: A Journey To Jewish

BY  
IRWIN FEUERSTEIN

I retired recently from McMaster University where I have been Prof. of Chemical Engineering for 30 years. Throughout my career, I always felt that I was going to school rather than to work; teaching and learning new things have always been fun for me. Seven years ago, I saw a need at Shalom Village for programming in the areas of Jewish history and culture. As a volunteer, I have presented many interactive sessions on a variety of subjects including: Jewish artists, immigration to Israel, the lives of Ethiopian Jews in Israel, the Israeli Kibbutz system, the Jews of India, and have also focused on Sephardic (Spanish) Jewish History and Music. The Media Library at the Jewish Community Centre in Toronto and the local synagogues have provided a variety of video tapes which gave additional life to these events. Through the preparation of these programs, I have expanded my knowledge of the Jewish people. Also, these activities have launched me into the new world of education for older adults, something that I have carried into retirement.

Now, as a way of extending my teaching and learning, I have become associated with an educational travel company, Pauwels Travel, of Brantford. I will be adding the world of Jewish history and culture to the variety of subjects the company has to offer. We have designed an educational tour to Spain, with a focus on Spain's Jewish past. On the way to Spain, a stop will be made in Paris for 2 nights. We will visit the Marais District, which contains the Jewish

quarter, and it's Jewish Museum. The tour will feature in-depth visits to Toledo, Cordoba, Granada, Seville and Gibraltar. Visits to fascinating historical sites will be complemented by programming on Sephardic history, culture and great personalities, such as: Solomon ibn Gabriol, Jehudah Halevi and Maimonides. A musical program is planned, as well as a discussion of the contribution of Sephardim to the Jewish liturgy.

The Golden Age for Jews in Spain was from the 9th to 11th century. At that time, most Jews lived under Moslem control where tolerance was shown to Jewish and Christian subjects. In the words of J. Trachtenberg, "The Jewry of Moslem lands (Spain) produced the flowering of Jewish philosophy and poetry and science and mysticism. The North (Central Europe) produced Talmudists and a burgeoning superstition and magic". We shall focus on this period with discussions of personalities and their contributions. Spain is unique in having available a number of sites of Moslem origin which we will visit. These provide a flavour of the environment in which Jews lived and flourished.

I am happy to be working with Pauwels Travel. They have designed and implemented tours for groups with a variety of interests ranging across art, architecture, food, wine, music and literature. Pauwels Travel Bureau has developed itineraries and ensured experienced tour leadership to such diverse institutions as the Art Gallery of Toronto, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Montreal Museum of

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### Lawrence Hart

National President of Maccabi Canada  
Immediate Past-President of B'nai Brith Canada  
Chairman of Public Affairs Committee; UJA Federation of Hamilton; Previous executive committee member of Canadian Jewish Congress (Ontario Region); Previous executive committee member of the Canada Israel Committee; Member, Community Editorial Board, Hamilton Spectator

### featuring guest speaker Dennis Ross



Wall Street Journal: January 30/02 by Dennis Ross  
Arafat "was incapable of saying yes to peace...but only too capable of saying yes to violence....The only choice Mr. Arafat consistently makes is to avoid making a choice...."

Washington Post: February 21/02 by Dennis Ross  
"Terror is a daily occurrence, and getting worse. Israelis see little prospect of peace or security. They know there is no military answer to their Palestinian problem, but they also see no partner for peace. As they see it, Arafat could not say yes when the historic opportunity to end the conflict presented itself. He has incited too many times, winked at if not encouraged terror too many times, lied too many times. And, today, after the seizure of the arms ship Karine A, they wonder if he wants or is even able to bring things under control."

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## Shalom Village



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Pat Morden

## Goldie's Place at Shalom Village A home away

Shelley Waxman and her team provide a home away from home for seniors who need the services that Shalom Village

offers to help keep them able to continue living happily and well at home. The adult day program has been renamed by her family in memory of Goldie Lax. During her life, Goldie Lax committed herself to ensuring that her family had the support and services they needed to remain independent, enjoying their own home and their community. She also knew how much people needed a resource such as Goldies Place. Social and health programs are provided at Goldies Place in concert with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care standards and the professional knowledge and skills of the Shalom Village staff. Rehabilitation, care giver relief, a chance to socialize and reconnect with friends and interests are all part of the day at Goldies Place. For families it provides peace of mind - knowing that their loved one is at Goldies Place gives them time for work, personal activities and respite from the care giving role. Overnight stays can also be arranged, a unique feature - giving more chances for families to keep on caring. Each and every time I visit Goldies Place I immediately feel the sense of family and coming home often described by participants. From a hug at the front door, to the last crumbs of the mornings freshly baked muffins, Shelley, Tammi and Glenna all work to make Goldies Place a truly welcome addition to our Shalom Village family of services. We are deeply grateful to the Lax family for helping us build a new and larger space for our program. Goldie Lax set a standard for caring, and we know that you can count on Goldies Place to be a true reflection of her dedication to family, community and care. If you or a family member

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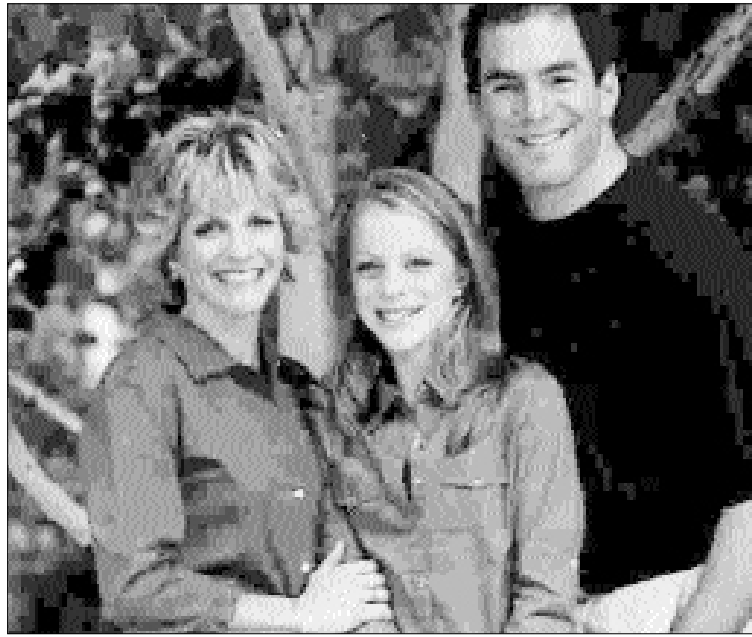
A RICHTER COMPANY



Organizations

Debbie Strub and Amy McLean to co-chair Bonds Women's

State of Israel bonds would like to take this opportunity to thank our 2001 co-chairs for a most exciting Women's Division program last November 4th. Nancy Katz and Amy Mclean were an outstanding team and helped to make the Israeli Fashion Show that many of you attended honouring five incredible young leaders, Danna Brown, Rina Goldberg, Deanna Levy, Rachael Loewith & Alana Vertlieb, an event to be remembered.



Debbie and Marty Strub with daughter, Arielle

She grew up in a family committed to the community, UJA and Israel. Today, Debbie's parents and brother are living in Israel. Her love for Israel began on her first organized trip - The USY summer pilgrimage. She also spent a summer doing a three month army program for Jewish students from around the world and since then has been to Israel many, many times. Debbie attributes a lot of her personal growth to the time spent in Israel

and has a true love for the country. She is passing this feeling on to her children Arielle, Joshua and Adam by setting a positive example.

Debbie's volunteer work in Hamilton is extensive. It includes culinary chair and décor for Bonds luncheons, Youth Aliyah function co-ordinator, past president of her Hadassah WIZO chapter, a UJA captain, Negev dinner committee, past PTA co-president at the HHA,



Amy McLean

We would also like to thank the following committee co-chairs and their helpers for making this event so very special: Stephanie Mclean, Jean Vertlieb, Sandra Fuss, Hynda Halpren, Kathy Borer, Pauline Morris,

Debbie Strub, Fay Schmerling, Nicole Feldman and Lila Strub. A very special thank you goes to the "culinary girls" and all their helpers - Sarit Zalter and Susan Waxman will be a hard act to follow. The luncheon was both delicious and professional. To all those who came out to help, a special Yasher Koach on a job well done. A special thank you to Lawrence Yanover for the great picture he took and an extra special thank you to Larry Goldblatt who made the fabulous poster that highlighted the head table.

State of Israel Bonds is

pleased to announce that Debbie Strub has accepted to serve as co-chair, Hamilton Women's Division for the 2002 Campaign along with Amy Mclean.

Debbie comes to us from Atlanta, Georgia via a year at Tel Aviv University and then three years at the university of Texas. After a year in Boston she married Marty Strub and came to Canada. Debbie has worked professionally as a travel agent, chef, restaurant manager, bag designer and her latest venture, the world of personal training. Her favorite job is being a mother and wife.

Rabbi Green



BONDS AWARD: Rabbi Morton Green was recently honoured at Israel Bonds International Prime Minister's Club Dinner in Palm Beach, Florida. Gideon Patt (left), former president and CEO, State of Israel Bonds Worldwide, is seen here presenting the Denenders of Jerusalem Aard to Rabbi Green and his wife, Sylvia. Silvan Shalom, Israeli minister of Finance, is seen

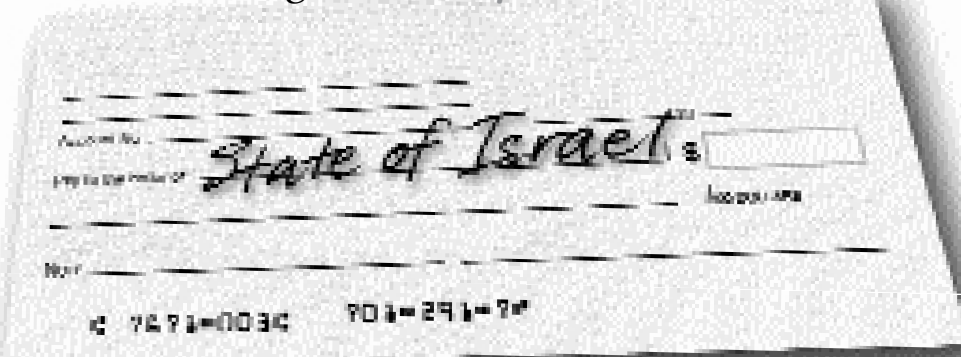
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## Organizations

## A Dying Community?

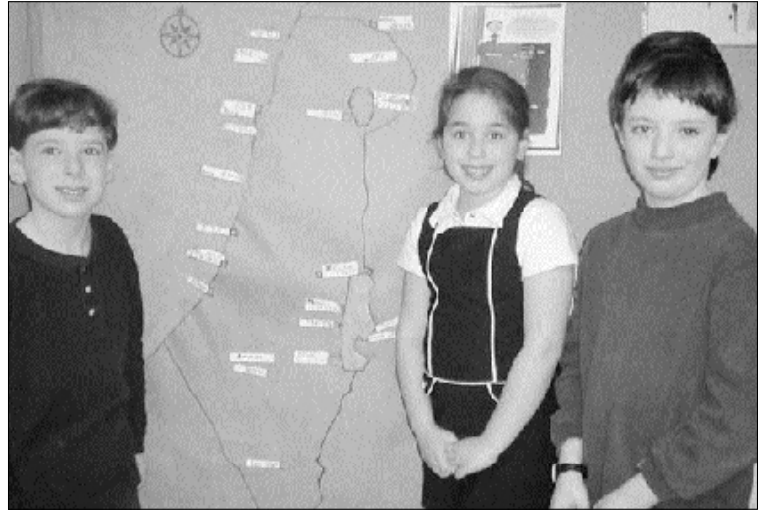


Contrary to public opinion, the Hamilton Jewish community is, in fact, growing. Pictured above, Rabbi Morton Green at the bris of his newest grandchild, son of Rabbi Daniel and

## Kehila celebrates Jerusalem Day

Kehila Day School celebrated Jerusalem Day by transforming into Israel, and visiting parents and families arrived to find their tour guides for the morning were the school's students. Each child chose a place of interest or historical site in Israel to take the visitors. Some of the places on offer included a kibbutz in the Galil, the ancient cities of Jerusalem and Jaffa: the Wailing Wall, Masada, and the Golan Heights – and after the extensive sightseeing, tourists and their guides shared an Israeli lunch.

As well as marking Israel's birthday on Yom Ha'atzmaut, Kehila holds an annual celebration of Israel. The event was established as the Avigail awards by the Kollel family in memory of a close Israeli friend.



Annie Cast Members pictured above are (from l to r) Allan Feldman, Barry Bender, Julie Brendan-Dembe, Rabbi Irwin Zeplovitz, Laura Wolfson, Lila Strub and, in front, Ruthie Pitka-

Preparation and research for the event spanned several weeks. The students were encouraged to use books, magazines, photos, videos and web-sites in their studies and honed their team skills as they pooled their research with other members in their group. Each team

also built a model for display using a choice of materials – from cardboard and clay to paper and papier mache. In other classes at the school, the students continue to explore drumming instruments as part of music studies: there will be a visit to a dairy farm to integrate

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**Dr. Sharon Marcovitz Hart**  
2002 Negev Dinner honouree

Dr. Marcovitz Hart will speak on "The Big Lie"

The Youth Aliyah and Youth Services Tea will take place at the home of Sasha Weisz on Sunday, June 18, 2002

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HHA students enjoy special activities

Ms Secord is a registered Psychometrist and Behaviour Therapist who specializes in the assessment and treatment of children and adolescents with learning and behaviour difficulties. In addition, Ms Secord has worked with our teachers, guiding their curriculum interpretation and helping them to devise specific classroom strategies for all of their children. Ms Secord represents part of the kaleidoscope of activities and support that we provide at our school so that each child can

grow and develop in all areas of education.

Our newly established Playschool is home to fast growing two year olds and has succeeded beyond our expectations. Under the nurturing eye of Mrs Cheryl Hossiasohn, our littlest learners have progressed from a small group of individuals to a powerful unit of eager learners.

We look forward to their joining our Nursery programme next year. As we look back at some of the activities that flourished in our school this year, from pizza lunch, to Winter Olympics to our ever-successful sporting programme and our Purim

## Hamilton Jewish Community experiences a South African



A combined Hamilton-Toronto 30-voice choir, led by Chazzan David Fihrer, conducted the Friday night and Shabbat morning services at the Adas Israel during the South African Shabbat Experience recently, inspiring the congregation with their hauntingly beautiful melodies and

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