

UJA Campaign Results

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Max Mintz remembers

Tales from the Chicken Roost

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Hamilton Jewish News

THE JEWISH VOICE OF HAMILTON

SUMMER 2011 VOL 25:5/ SIVAN, TAMUZ, AV 5711

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Who we are

Our featured theme in this, the final issue of the 2010/11 season of the Hamilton Jewish News, is UJA Federation. Within these pages you will see examples of the work that we do, whether it's caring for those in need, deepening Jewish engagement, advocating on behalf of Israel, setting communal priorities and providing critical financial support for a myriad of beneficiary agencies. You will read about our invaluable and dedicated volunteers without whose tireless efforts our community would surely not be the thriving centre of Jewish life that it is today. Read and be proud to be a part of what we as a community have accomplished.

UJA Campaign co-chairs stepping down



Lisa Morris (left) and Danna Horwood at the UJA Campaign Closing event at the JCC.

Photo by Karma Photography

UJA Federation expresses its appreciation to Lisa Morris and Danna Horwood, who are stepping down as co-chairs of the UJA Campaign after a three-year and two-year term respectively.

"The 2010 campaign was affected by the severe down-turn in the economic climate," said outgoing Federation president, Dr. Larry Levin. "However, both Lisa and Danna through their hard work and dedication motivated both the Campaign Cabinet and the community to surpass the million dollar level once again. They have been a real pleasure

to work with and we are very grateful for everything they have accomplished."

Morris will continue on as chair of the "Thank You Telethon" which she initiated during the 2011 campaign. Both Horwood and Morris will continue to put the final touches on a school campaign initiative that combines leadership, education and Tikkum Olam for the 2012 UJA Campaign.

We look forward to their continued involvement with the campaign. See page 7 for a personal message from Morris and Horwood.

Passing the torch of leadership

DR. LARRY LEVIN HANDS OVER FEDERATION LEADERSHIP TO INCOMING PRESIDENT LARRY SZPIRGLAS



Larry Szpirglas (left) presents outgoing president Dr. Larry Levin with official tribute and acknowledgement of his leadership.

Photo by Wendy Schneider

He stepped up into this community's top leadership position with a vision of sowing harmony among its disparate factions and he worked tirelessly towards that goal. After two years as president of UJA Federation, Dr. Larry Levin passed the torch of leadership at the organization's Annual General Meeting on May 25 to Larry Szpirglas.

The JCC was packed to overflowing at the meeting as incoming board members mingled with Shem Tov honourees and their families. Highlights of the evening were related to volunteer recognition: Shirley Molot's acknowledgement of CeCe Schreiber as a mentor and source of inspiration while receiving an award in her name; Vivienne Epstein's receiving the first President's Award by Levin for being his "right hand" throughout his presidency; the calling up of 16 Shem Tov recipients from across the community for outstanding volunteerism; and the installation of a new board with incoming president

Larry Szpirglas at its helm.

Mostly, there was good news about the state of community affairs, although both Levin and Federation treasurer, Jacki Levin, warned that the sustainability of the community's extensive and impressive infrastructure in the long-term will be dependent on creating a large endowment fund – and that building up the Jewish community's relatively small one has to be a priority for future boards.

Levin's closing remarks appear on page 2 of this issue and Szpirglas's vision for his tenure can be read on page 8.



Cycling for Shechafim

From Hamilton to Halifax

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HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS 2011/12 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

FOR ADVERTISING RATES AND PUBLICATION SCHEDULE VISIT WWW.HAMILTONJEWISHNEWS.COM

Rosh Hashana Issue	Aug. 12, 2011		
Deadline for Booking Ad Space	Aug. 19, 2011	Passover Issue	Feb. 23, 2012
Deadline for submitting editorial copy	Aug. 29, 2011	Deadline for booking ad space	Mar. 2, 2012
Deadline for receiving ad copy	Sept. 13, 2011	Deadline for submitting editorial copy	Mar. 12, 2012
Estimated Date of Arrival		Deadline for receiving ad copy	Mar. 21, 2012
		Estimated Date of Arrival	
Mid-Fall Issue	Oct. 7, 2011		
Deadline for booking ad space	Oct. 14, 2011	Spring/Summer Issue	May 4, 2012
Deadline for submitting editorial copy	Oct. 24, 2011	Deadline for Booking Ad Space	May 18, 2012
Deadline for receiving ad copy	Nov. 3, 2011	Deadline for submitting editorial copy	May 23, 2012
Estimated Date of Arrival		Deadline for receiving ad copy	Jun. 7, 2012
		Estimated Date of Arrival	
Chanukah Issue	Nov. 10, 2011		
Deadline for booking ad space	Nov. 18, 2011		
Deadline for submitting editorial copy	Nov. 24, 2011		
Deadline for receiving ad copy	Dec. 9, 2011		
Estimated Date of Arrival			

REFLECTIONS

DR. LARRY LEVIN,
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT,
UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON



As I come to the end of my term as president, I can't help but reflect on what an amazing experience this has been. The past two years have been full of important decisions and events that reflect the joys and complexities of Jewish life in Hamilton.

I look back on the past two years with great satisfaction that we have made measurable progress on many fronts. I would like to highlight a few.

- Despite the economic downturn our Federation stayed true to its first overarching priority. Recognizing that requests for assistance go up at the very same time that campaigns come down, we sustained and even increased our support to our local agencies that assist the vulnerable.
- With direct Federation involvement, we were able to help establish the Hamilton Jewish Middle School. It may not be perfect yet, but we have initiated and sustained a conversation between multiple stakeholders in Jewish Education that might not have ever taken place without our involvement.
- Over the past two years, Federation has been able to re-establish its Public Affairs Committee. Deliberately reflecting a widely diverse range of viewpoints, our committee has been able to achieve consensus on many difficult issues. Working effectively within the national strategy of 'shared values' our community's relationship to media, elected officials of all parties and at all levels, others who influence public opinion, as well as many other cultural and faith groups has never been better.
- I am particularly pleased to report that our disciplined approach to advocacy has strengthened Hamilton's relevance to our national partner agencies, as evidenced by CIJA (Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy) reaching out for our involvement in their recent re-organization and CIC (Canada Israel Committee) reaching out to include Hamilton voices in developing their strategic approach to dealing with the Israel boycott movement. We have never had stronger relationships with our national partners than we do right now.
- Our community development initiatives are important. Establishment of the Hamilton Jewish Leadership Forum, our Jewish Community Professionals Group, YAD (the Young Adult Division) and the Genesis Leadership Development Program, have all contributed to strengthening our community in multiple areas.
- The growth of our human rights and Holocaust education programs has been remarkable. Our Asper Program gave 86 students, from all walks of life, along with 21 chaperones, training and a life changing experience of a trip to the United States Memorial Holocaust Museum in Washington. The Hana's Suitcase Project allowed thousands of students in the greater Hamilton area to read the book, see the movie, and be inspired by the concept of personal responsibility for what happens in the world around them.

All of these initiatives, and many others, make me very proud to have led such an amazing team of dedicated volunteers and professionals. I am deeply grateful for having had the opportunity to play a role in guiding the Federation's direction and agenda towards these positive results.

I can also assure you that much remains to be done. Each item on our agenda calls out for further growth, development and attention. For example:

- We still have much to do as our Visioning Committee continues to address the role and future of our JCC and the 'Gro-Hamilton' initiative.
- Our community needs an actively developing Endowment Fund to secure our future financial viability.
- Perhaps most important of all is the need to find ways for our diverse community to work together and to demonstrate respect for opinions, decisions and individuals – even when we don't agree. Our community expects that from all of us, and they deserve nothing less.

In closing, I want to again thank everyone who has served as a volunteer or on a professional basis, on every Federation committee, the Executive and the Board of Directors, during the past two years, for their confidence in me, for their cooperation and for their commitment to the well being of our entire Jewish community.

It has been my privilege to serve and I hope to continue to serve in whatever capacity my successor will find helpful. Thank you all very much.

Sincerely,

Larry Levin

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COMING UP

ROSH HASHANA ISSUE

- Deadline for booking ad space
Aug. 12, 2011
- Deadline for receiving editorial copy
Aug. 19, 2011
- Deadline for receiving ad copy
Aug. 29, 2011
- Estimated date of arrival
Sept. 13, 2011



Standing with Federation

Photo by Wendy Schneider

At UJA Federation's recent AGM, the three community rabbis were on hand to congratulate both outgoing president Dr. Larry Levin and incoming president Larry Szpirglas. Pictured above are (from left to right) Rabbi Jordan Cohen, Rabbi Dan Seisberg, Dr. Larry Levin, Larry Szpirglas and Rabbi Daniel Green. A selection from Rabbi Cohen's introductory remarks appear below. "The work of the UJA... can largely focus on numbers. How many people do we have in our community, how many have made a commitment to the campaign? How much money have we raised this year, and how much more can we target for the next? How much will we be able to allocate to each of the worthy organizations in our community that seek our support and how much can we send to Israel? This is important work – it is holy work – but it is hard work. It is Tzedakah, but it can also be thankless and trying...To our new leadership we humbly ask that you hold always before your eyes the names and the uniqueness of each individual person behind all those numbers. Each of us seek the success of your leadership, and each of us have something to contribute. Always maintain within your hearts the key Jewish values of God, Torah and Israel, and, as leaders of Hamilton's Jewish community, conduct yourselves always as befits leaders of the People of Israel. Only then can we be strong against those who would harm us, admirable amongst those who work with us, and maintain the integrity of who we are. Only then, will each of us be able to bring forth the holiest part of our selves and find our own unique place, in relationship to our community, and in relationship to our God."

Hamilton Jewish News

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This year at the Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School has been a very busy one. We have, as always, learned a lot. We've studied hard, improved our Hebrew, spent time trying to make the world and our community a better place, and maybe even learned something about ourselves in the process. That is why I know that both our students and our parents are looking forward to celebrating our achievements and the beginning of summer with a fabulous picnic on June 4 after the close of Religious School. There is so much to celebrate and so much to look forward to this summer with many of our young people going off to Camp George, the Union of Reform Judaism's summer camp

here in Ontario. Before we say goodbye to the school year though it is important to take a moment, as a whole community, to say thank you to all the wonderful people who help give our students a Jewish education, regardless of where they teach. Here at the Temple we are fortunate to have Suzanne Goldflus, Kathy Borer, Lorraine Cohen, Ellen Hoffman, Sheila Levitt, Noa Reich, Jonny Vaisberg and Paula Baruch teaching our students with assistance from Misha and Nathan Apel and Rebecca Sampson. With teachers such as these, our students are certainly lucky. From all of us here at the Temple we wish you a very happy, healthy, fun-filled summer.

BETH JACOB HEBREW SCHOOL



Ilana and Thea Fein enjoy one of Beth Jacob's Family Education programs.

Photo by Cantor Eyal Bitton

Beginning in September, Beth Jacob Hebrew School will offer four enriching programs in which your child can participate: Torah for Tots (for children up to Senior Kindergarten), Jewish Dimension (for Grades 1 through 7), Chai School (for Grades 7 and 8), and All in the Family (for all ages).

Torah for Tots is a wonderful introduction to the world of Judaism for the very young. Twice a month during Shabbat services, Natalie Sobel leads this engaging program in which students learn about Jewish concepts and Torah tales. Kids love it.

Jewish Dimension provides students with a full Jewish experience. Hebrew language skills are developed on Wednesdays from 4:30-6 p.m. On Saturday mornings, students learn about Jewish ideas, values, holidays, and Torah. They also learn the tools of Jewish ritual – how to say Kiddush, motzi, and other prayers. And they learn to have a leadership role within the

congregation by taking an active part in Shabbat services as well.

All in the Family gives the whole family an opportunity to take part in Jewish activities together. These sessions are always creative and generally hands-on. Some of our amazing programs include a Jewish Animation Workshop at the National Film Board in Toronto, where kids will have the opportunity to make a short film which they can keep!

Chai School is an enriching program for students in Gr. 7-8. Sessions are conducted in discussion groups led by Rabbi Dan Selsberg and Cantor Eyal Bitton.

We're proud to offer quality educational programs for our kids – from early childhood to Bar Mitzvah and beyond. Visit www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca to view or download our educational brochure detailing our full program. To register, please contact Cantor Eyal Bitton at 905-522-1351.

HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY



Approximately 200 Hamilton Hebrew Academy alumni and 60 past and current teachers attended the recent 50th anniversary gala reunion.

Some hadn't seen each other in 35 years. Groups of middle-aged men and women sat together around tables as they once did as children. Yet they all shared one common feature – a smile from ear to ear – as they reminisced about some of the greatest days of their lives at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy Gala 50th Anniversary Reunion on May 15.

"Few institutions, if any, fostered this sense of warmth and nurtured the totality of each student," said Kenny Cohen, class of 1987.

The Gala also commemorated the retirement of community rabbi, principal and icon, Rabbi William Zev Eisenstein. In his keynote address, Rabbi Eisenstein

expressed his great appreciation to everyone within the school community and told the story of how destiny brought him to Hamilton.

Throughout the evening the mood shifted from sentimental to electric as the program blended videos and presentations by alumni, current students and parents. The evening also featured a video tribute prepared by alumni now residing in Israel. The long list of names of graduates who have made aliyah to Israel underscored the strong connection of the school to Israel and Zionism.

Among the guests were 60 past and current teachers.

The event was emceed by

Cohen and Gala co-chair, Danna Horwood, class of 1987, and culminated in a group photograph of many of the approximately 200 alumni who attended the event. "It was touching to see the continuity and great love that people have for this institution," said Horwood.

The gourmet food and desserts, the elegant décor and floral arrangements, were all produced by volunteers – many clocking 60 hours each for the event.

"It was an honour to give back to the community that gave me so much," said Alumni Association President (and volunteer chef) Andrea Levy. "The spirit of the HHA is as strong as ever."

MELTON



Melton Mini-School graduates at their closing event in May.

Photo by Marty Strub

It's been two years since the Melton Adult Mini-School has come to Hamilton and coordinator Marty Strub is more than satisfied. "I think it is amazing that all three rabbis have embraced it," he said. "...and they've all agreed to teach a graduate course next year."

The two-year program, developed at the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School Institute of Hebrew University, takes place four times a week, with different teachers teaching an identical curriculum at four different locations. Rabbi Daniel Green and Andrea Zians teach on Tuesday nights at the Adas Israel; Rabbis Cohen and Selsberg teach a Wednesday night class either at the Beth Jacob or Temple Anshe Sholom, and on Monday afternoons three educators representing the Conservative, Orthodox and Reform streams of Judaism – Karen Selsberg from Beth Jacob, Andrea Zians from the Adas Israel and Laura Wolfson from Temple Anshe Sholom take turns

teaching a women's class at the JCC. Students are free to go to whichever class they want. This year there were 50 students enrolled, some of whom signed up two years ago and celebrated their graduation at a ceremony on May 29 and some who began this past year.

Strub said the feedback has been extremely positive and points to the Monday afternoon class as an example. "I just completed year one of the Melton course on Monday afternoons at the JCC," wrote one participant recently. "I loved the class, the teachers and the candid honest atmosphere. It was wonderful to meet with a diverse group of women and discuss Jewish topics. Many times our discussions became quite personal and relevant to our every day lives."

Registration for next year's Melton program is now open. For more information please contact coordinator Marty Strub at 905-973-6623 or email mstrub@gmail.com.

KEHILA



Grade One students recite a Hebrew poem at the annual Israel Studies Avigal Presentations at Kehila.

Photo by Rina Rodak

It has been two years since Kehila School asked the Hamilton Hebrew Academy to work together on establishing a joint-effort Jewish Middle School, capitalizing, in part, on the generous grant from the AVI CHAI foundation. At this point the Kehila board of trustees has decided that we will not continue our limited involvement in the HJMS. As such, we are pleased to announce that beginning next academic year we will focus on offering Grade 6 and continuing to grow the school. We plan to commence accepting students in September 2012. This year we will undertake a fundraising campaign to secure adequate facilities to house these upper years. We hope that the community will join us in this endeavour.

Each year Kehila students at all grade levels, learn about a specific characteristic of the Land of Israel

– this year our students focussed on trees of Israel. Students learn how to research, synthesize information and prepare both a visual (power-point), a display board presentation, a creatively built representation of their tree, and an oral presentation on their particular tree of choice. This year each Grade 3 and 4 student focussed on a specific tree, in Grade 1-2 students researched trees in small groups and Kindergarten students learned about trees in general.

Presentations this year consisted of poetic performance, choral reading, dramatic presentation, Israeli dances and musical interludes.

At Kehila Jewish Community Day School we look back on a very successful year. Our student achievement is at an all time high – both academically and creatively. We will continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of school life.

Record 83 students participate in Asper Trip to Washington



Students from the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies program at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. This year a record 83 students participated in the bi-annual program.

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HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

ANNUAL STUDENT SEMINAR ON THE HOLOCAUST



Veteran teacher and Holocaust educator Dennis Nash delivered a riveting keynote address at the Student Seminar on Holocaust Education at Mohawk College.

Photo by Wendy Schneider

One thousand high school students and their teachers gathered at Mohawk College on May 3 for the 13th Student Seminar on Holocaust Education, an annual event organized by UJA Federation's Holocaust Education Committee for high school students from Grades 10 through 12 throughout the Hamilton-Wentworth area. This year's keynote presentation was delivered by Dennis Nash, a member of the committee since its inception in 1994 and an internationally-recognized expert in Holocaust education. Nash's electrifying presentation employed both a highly effective multi-media presentation and occasional role play, and kept students and teachers at the edge of their seats. Following his address, students attended one

of eight breakout sessions with local survivors Emmy Weisz, Frank Junger, Helene Goldflus, Leslie Meisels, Max Eisen, Vera Barany, Vera Schiff and Ed Carter-Edwards. Madeleine Levy, who co-chairs of the Holocaust Education Committee together with Nadia Rosa, was very pleased by the feedback. "The student evaluations were extremely positive. Many students wrote how profoundly they were affected by the experience." Nash's presentation succeeded, she added, "in putting a human face to the Holocaust and the need for personal responsibility... serving as a powerful catalyst for students and teachers to internalize the lessons of defending human rights and accept the true meaning of civic responsibility."

The Sharon Enkin Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education



Lawrence and the late Sharon Enkin, in whose name the award was established.

Photo courtesy of the Enkin family

New to this year's High School Symposium on the Holocaust was the presentation of the Sharon Enkin Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education to teachers Crystal Dumitruk of Glendale Secondary School and Grace Centritto of Bishop Tonnos Catholic Secondary School. The \$500 award will be presented annually to an elementary or secondary school teacher in any discipline who has demonstrated a commitment to teaching students about the Holocaust and its important lessons for humankind. The award was established in memory of former Hamiltonian, Sharon Enkin, whose lifelong involvement with education and community, affected the lives of thousands of students. The award was made possible by her husband Lawrence Enkin and their children.



Holocaust Education Committee co-Chair Madeleine Levy with award recipients Grace Centritto and Crystal Dumitruk.

Photos by Wendy Schneider



Living it up at the JCC!

Morris Black Public Speaking Contest

On April 3, 40 students in Grades 3 through 8 participated in the annual Morris Black Public Speaking Contest, a wonderful event that the JCC has hosted for more than 25 years. The JCC congratulates all the participants and thanks the Black family and volunteers who helped to make this event a huge success.



Grade 6 winners: Sari Horwood, Arielle Earn and Nathan Apel



Grade 5 winners: Rivka Zians, Ela Levigoren, Bar Richter and Celia Ohayon

Yom HaShoah

On Sunday May 1 the community came together to commemorate the Holocaust. This year our speaker Dr. Christopher Browning discussed his most recent work, "Remembering Survival" which focused on the remarkable stories of survival in a Nazi slave-labour camp in central Poland. The program included greetings from His Worship Mayor Bob Bratina, the Hamilton Hebrew Academy choir, and a moving performance by Ruthie and Sarah Pytko-Jones. Every year we invite Holocaust survivors to light a candle in memory of the six million, we are very fortunate to have survivors in our community who are able to attend and participate. Thank you to Rabbi Selsberg, Rabbi Cohen, Rabbi D. Green and to Cantor Moses and Cantor Bitton for participating and to the Adas Israel for hosting this year's program.



Photos by Lawrence Yanover

HOLD THE DATE!

Wednesday, Aug. 24 for the JCC Annual Community BBQ
You won't want to miss it!



JCC Yom Ha'atzmaut & UJA Campaign Closing



Congratulations to Carl DeLeon winner of two airfares to Israel



Congratulations to Carl DeLeon, pictured here with UJA Campaign co-chairs Lisa Morris (left) and Danna Horwood, for winning two airfare tickets to Israel. DeLeon's name was drawn from all donors who made their pledge before the 2011 UJA Campaign deadline.

A farewell message from UJA Campaign Co-Chairs Lisa Morris and Danna Horwood

What does UJA mean to you?

For us it means:
United as One
Jewish Values and Traditions
Appeals to Families – Your Family and Ours

It is with you in mind that we strive to do our best and give back to our community... Hamilton. We could not have done this without you. We also want to take this opportunity to thank all of our campaign cabinet members, volunteers, captains and canvassers who have given of their time and energy to make this campaign our 75th another wonderful success. Nor could we have accomplished this without the help of our dedicated staff Chris Nusca, Elaine Levine, Julie Dembe and Gerry Fisher.



Photos by Troy Miller
karma photography.ca

Thank you to our sponsors: Active Tool Repair, Airborne, Anonymous, Yves Apel, Canbear Equipment, Joel Feldman, Alex Kepecs, Posner Metal, Sampson Transmission, Larry Szpirglas, Tegs Tools & Waxman Industrial. Thank you to Shelli and Mark Eisenberg for donating exquisite pieces of jewellery. A special thank you to all our volunteers and thanks to Zacada Circus School, Airbourne Amusements & Trulee Odd Entertainment for a unique experience like never before.

UJA Walk for Israel

On Sunday, June 5 community members came out in large numbers for the UJA's Walk & Fun Run for Israel. New this year was online registration for individuals and teams. Congratulations to Kehila School for raising \$479 and to our youngest walker, Samuel Morris for raising \$550. To date, a total of \$4,850 has been raised. You can still donate to the Walk for Israel by going to www.jewishhamilton.org.



Camp Kadimah

Camp Kadimah begins on July 4th and we are so excited to see many old faces and are thrilled to welcome our new Kadimah campers. We want camp to become a second home! Join us on our new adventures in a very safe environment. Kadimah offers a dynamic summer experience with a variety of physical and Jewish cultural activities including tennis with the JCC tennis Pro Frances Critchley. We look forward to our special camp wide theme days and parents nights and we can't wait to meet you all.

Laura Laengerer (Camp Supervisor/JCC Coordinator)
Jonny Vaisberg (Director)
Nomi Cuneo (Administrative Coordinator)
Geoff Zalter (Unit Head)

WEEKLY TRIPS

July 5: SPCA
July 12: Fire Station
July 19: Lunatic Adventures
July 26-28: Camp Ramah
Aug. 4: Zacada Circus School
Aug. 9-11: Camp Shalom
Aug. 16: Adventure Village
Aug. 23: Bingemen's Water Park

SPONSOR SOME SUNSHINE!

Every summer the Jewish Community Centre provides camperships to many children whose families are financially unable to manage the cost of day camp. For many of these children, attending day camp provides them with contact to the Jewish Community during the summer. Your support of providing a week of camp valued at \$200.00 will allow us to continue and expand this proud and important tradition of helping children in our community. Please contact the JCC at 905-648-0605 if you would like to help or please send a cheque directly to the JCC at 1030 Lower Lions Club Road, Hamilton, PO Box 81203, L9G 4X1. On behalf of our campers, we thank you!

Check out our new website at www.campkadimahamilton.com and add us on facebook

GAMES DAY AT THE JCC

BEGINNING JUNE 7TH

JOIN US ON TUESDAYS FROM 10-12
PLAY MAJ, BRIDGE OR KANASTA

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恭禧發財

AN INTERVIEW WITH Larry Szpirglas FEDERATION PRESIDENT

Incoming Federation president, Larry Szpirglas is no stranger to Jewish communal life. His first job out of university was at the BloorJCC in Toronto as its physical education director. After going back to school and getting his Masters in Social Work, he worked for several years as the executive director at the Ottawa JCC. In 1981 he worked as a consultant for the JCC Association out of New York City, before moving back to Hamilton in 1986. In Hamilton Szpirglas took on a number of roles, including UJA Campaign co-chair for two terms and JCC president. Below, Szpirglas shares his vision for the future.



Why did you want to take on the role of Federation president?

I've always viewed Hamilton as my community. I wasn't born here but I grew up here and whenever anybody ever talked to me about where home is, no matter where I was, home was always Hamilton. The people who were my mentors were primarily from this community: Max Rotman, Sam Brownstone, Bill Stern ... and as a young person growing up here they were fundamentally important in my life. I think Federation does a really outstanding job in so many areas in our community but people are not necessarily aware of it. We need to better promote what we do and our donors need to believe that what we do is something to be valued and sustained over time.

It's well-known that you've been a strong advocate of our Jewish Community Centre. How do you see its future unfolding?

I have an affinity for all of our communal organizations. I get what each one of them does and how important each of them is to our community. I think the trick in all of this is finding a smooth way of delivering service, that is non-competitive and supports what the community really needs and wants. I think the JCC, like all of our beneficiary agencies, has to take a look at what it needs to do to be a sustainable organization, not just for the next couple of years, but beyond that. There was a visioning committee that was put into place during Larry Levin's presidency, whose mandate was to examine what the organization does, how well it does it and at what cost. It's a very important exercise to walk through, in order to demonstrate the good things that the JCC does and the ways in which it might have to improve itself going forward.

What do you hope to accomplish over the next two years?

It's hard to really respond to that question right now in a meaningful way until our new board has gone through an exercise of identifying a list of priorities that we believe are important to move ahead with. Some of those will flow from the outgoing board. Others will be developed over the next couple of months.

One of the things I see as critically important is the sustainability of our beneficiary agencies, and that is going to take some effort in terms of evaluating where the strengths and weaknesses are within the operations of all our beneficiaries. Our campaign has climbed over the \$1.1 million mark and that's due to the hard work of a lot of people, but in particular to Danna Horwood and Lisa Morris. But we have to do even better than that if we're going to continue to be able to meet the needs of our community. One of the things that I'd like our new board to accomplish is present our donors with a business plan that is credible and realistic and one that will help us support our beneficiary agencies, as well as meet our national and overseas responsibilities.

If you take a look at recent census information our community appears to be a stagnant one – in terms of growth. We're an aging community, and one of the things we have to do is look at how we can benefit from the anticipated economic and population growth within the greater Hamilton area.

The torch is passed...

AS FEDERATION WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP TO ITS HELM INCOMING PRESIDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS



Yves Apel

A number of years ago I participated in the Budget and Allocations Committee and found it to be a huge benefit in understanding how the community works

... I wanted to participate in other decision making. *Vision:* The community is starved for funds and one of the most important functions of the board is to raise funds and then, allocate them. It is our obligation to make sure that the money we raise is managed in the best interests of the stakeholders and that the process is very transparent, so that people are inspired to continue to give, give more and participate.



Steven Dembe

I would like to see a number of initiatives carried through that will not only make Hamilton a more vibrant Jewish community but expand our geographic

boundaries into the Golden Horseshoe and right through to Oakville because the people who live in those areas think Hamilton has much to offer and they have no services. *Vision:* If we can give something to them, hopefully they can give us a hand by joining our United Jewish Appeal.



Dr. Lorne Finkelstein

I wanted to be part of a group of volunteers who were willing to work constructively on behalf of our Jewish community. *Vision:* I have had more than

20 years of media experience involving both medical-political and multi-cultural activities. I hope to use that experience to establish a new public affairs committee that could help enhance the reputation of our Jewish community with local media and local organizations, and to improve communication about Federation activities with our own community.



Geraldine Katz-Rose

I wanted to become more involved with the Jewish community in a position that would enable me to make a difference. *Vision:* I am a big proponent of Jewish

education, Jewish identity and bringing all Jews together. In other words, maximizing our similarities and minimizing the differences.



Alex Kepecs

I want to contribute to assist our Jewish community through collective work with colleagues on the Federation board. *Vision:* To provide a meaningful contribution in whatever capacity I can serve.



Jacki Levin

I would like to continue my work with the Allocations Committee. We are doing important work in trying to rationalize and bring fairness and equity to the way in which Jewish education is funded by the Federation. We are also working to build a model where the Federation is truly a partner with its beneficiary agencies and where the partnership involves accountability and trust in both directions and where the assistance that the Federation gives is both fiscal and non-fiscal.



Monte Levy

I feel that it's important to give back and the only way to do that is to get involved. *Vision:* When I started several years ago this community was very fractured and even though there continue to be divisive issues I think we have slowly but surely begun to build bridges so there's more cohesiveness within the community. If we do nothing else over the next two years but continue in that direction, I will be very satisfied.



Ira Rosen

I wanted to get more involved in the Jewish community. I've also been on the Holocaust Education Committee for three years and thought this was the next step. *Vision:* More unity. I think that there are several conflicts between certain factions that we could probably avoid if we had better unity in the community.



Cindy Mark

I'm at a point in my life where I feel I can give of myself and my experience in life to the board and to help out the federation and bring this community together. *Vision:* I feel that the community is in a lot of factions right now and I'd like to see it come together.



Ron Richter

Vision: Having spent many years in retail management where working with talented individuals toward a common goal was always the task at hand, I hope to be able to play a role in supporting harmony within the Jewish community and its



Jay Rosenblatt

I feel that I can assist Federation in improving our local Jewish community and federation's support of Israel. *Vision:* My vision is to raise Federation's profile

in the community, and expand our community's awareness of Federation's efforts and accomplishments so that federation can better serve its constituents.



Avi Shapiro

There's a need for young blood and young Jewish minds thinking about the needs of the greater Jewish community. *Vision:* To ensure that there's a continuity of people who are

getting out there and donating their time to help the Jewish people.



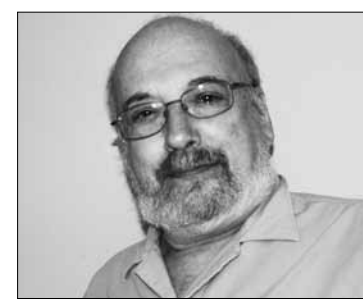
David Shore

Vision: I have a vision for a Jewish community that is more united, stronger and larger.



David Somer

As a past president I hope to be useful and to help out wherever I can. *Vision:* I'd like to see a more active board. I think we have a lot of really new committed people and I think it's going to be great.



David Streiner

I think it's important to foster Jewish identity in Hamilton and to strengthen it any way we can. *Vision:* I think the kids are our future and I'd like to see what we can do

about straightening out the finances of the Jewish schools and make them more viable and affordable for Jewish families.

Board members not pictured:

Alan Fein, Jill Gaffe, Danna Horwood, Sharon Lax, Larry Levin, Lisa Morris and Paul Roth.

UJA Federation AGM Highlights

Shirley Molot receives CeCe Schreiber Leadership Award in Volunteer Excellence



Outgoing Federation president Larry Levin and Vivienne Epstein (right) present the CeCe Schreiber Leadership Award for Volunteer Excellence to Shirley Molot.

CeCe Schreiber, with her daughter, Karen



"Chair" for outgoing Federation president



Federation executive director, Gerry Fisher, presents outgoing president, Larry Levin (centre) with new boardroom chair, dedicated in his honour. Looking on is incoming president Larry Szpirglas.

UJA presents 16 Shem Tov Awards for dedicated community service



Above: Outgoing Federation Vice President of Human Resources, Vivienne Epstein, presents Shem Tov Awards to Charles Kravetsky, nominated by Jewish Social Services and Miriam Mervin, nominated by Chabad Hamilton. A total of 16 Shem Tov Awards were presented to community volunteers. Photos by Wendy Schneider



Thank you for living generously

Anonymous, Enid Aaron, Julia Abelson, Barbara Abraham, Izrael Abraham, Victor & Diana Abraham, Jamie Abram, Sari Ackerman, Geri & Vince Adamo, Tishelle Adelman, Janet Aizenstat, Samuel Aizenstat, Brian Albert, Irene Albert, Evelyn Albert, Albert Lager Foundation, Esther Alexander, Louise Algranti, Sol Algranti, Brian Allen, Marlene Altman, Yves & Luba Apel, Donnie & Yael Arnold, Stephen Arnold, Mollie Aron, sima Aronowicz, Gerald Asa, Marlene Atlas, Debbie & Michael Avefission, Steve Azmier & Susan Vaisler, Marc & Gayle Bader, Allen Bain, Joan Bolinson, Morley Bolinson, Scott Bolinson, Sigal Balshine & David Earn, Andrea Banner, Bill Banner, Garry Barankin, Vera Barany, Donna Barclay, Marilyn Bar-Or, Ron & Anne Barrs , Rabbi Bernard Baskin, Mary Louise & Dennis Beecroft, Karen Beer, Barry Bender, Dafna Bener, Judy Bennett, Norman Bennett, Terry Bennett, Ron Berenbaum, Sophie Berenbaum, Jerome Bergart, Maureen Bergart, Robin Bergart, Leona Bergman, Daniel Berk, Judy Berk, Michelle Berk, Ruven Berk, Samantha Berlin-Bromstein & Michael Bromstein, Ruby Berns, Anita Bernstein, Howard & Joanne Bernstein, Stephen & Cindy Bernstein, Rachel Billigheimer, Binkley Investments Limited, Cantor Eyal Bitton, Rick Black, Wendy Black, Gail Blackman, Clara Bloom, Ruth B. 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We've done our best to be diligent in recording your name and we apologize if your name has been inadvertently omitted. If it has, please contact the Federation office at 905-648-0605, ext 306.

* Deceased

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UNITED JEWISH APPEAL 2011 CAMPAIGN RESULTS

\$1,115,270 allocated

Assisting the Vulnerable \$181,350

- Jewish Social Services
- Beth Tikvah Foundation Hamilton

Strengthening Jewish Identity and Jewish Education \$411,000

- Beth Jacob Hebrew School
- Hamilton Hebrew Academy
- Kehila JCDS
- McMaster Jewish Student Association
- Midrasha
- Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School
- Israel Experience Scholarships
- Birthright Israel/March of the Living
- Jewish Community Centre
- Camp Kadimah

Support for Israel & National Organizations

- United Israel Appeal Overseas \$172,063
- Jewish Agency for Israel
- Canadian Jewish Congress
- Canada Israel Committee
- Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish advocacy (CIJA)
- National Jewish Campus Life
- JIAS

Community Development \$350,857

- Community Relations / Public Affairs
- Israel Advocacy / Holocaust and Human Rights Education
- Community Leadership Forum
- Genesis / Leadership Development
- YAD - Leadership Development
- Kashrut Services
- Hamilton Jewish News

Thank you for your confidence in us to do the job we are pledged to do: Assist the vulnerable among Hamilton's Jewish population, educate our children in Jewish values, support Israel and our national organizations and develop tomorrow's leaders. We couldn't have done it without you!

✓ Come to your Census

and ensure a thriving future!

Canada's Jewish citizens need to be counted in the 2011 Census.

The information collected in the voluntary long-form census questionnaire will be used to determine what our community will look like tomorrow.

By taking just 20 minutes to fill out this important questionnaire, and by proudly checking off "Jewish" in the "religion" or "ethnicity" box, you will help ensure large population numbers so that our voice will be strongly heard.

It only takes 20 minutes. Please count yourself in!



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Cycling for Shechafim

RIDING FROM HAMILTON TO HALIFAX

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

Avid cyclist Geoff Rose had an ambitious plan for himself and his son Daniel this summer. They would embark on a 2,000 kilometre trip to Halifax on Rose's classic tandem bike, camping every night. Joining them on a separate bike will be Ori Menahem, a young man on shlichut (an emissary from Israel) at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. In the midst of the planning, his wife, Geraldine Katz-Rose, was thinking aloud about bike rides that raise funds for cancer, when it struck them both simultaneously that Geoff's ride could serve as a fundraiser for a school in northern Israel that had captured their hearts during a recent trip to Israel.

The Roses first heard about the Shechafim School for disabled children with severe mental, emotional, and physical challenges, from an article in the Hamilton Jewish News, describing it as a partnership project of the Hamilton Jewish Federation. Katz-Rose was intrigued, because the school is located just outside of Kiryat Shmonah, a town in which she lived for three years in the early 1980s.

Last March, during a trip to Israel, they dropped in unannounced at the office of Shechafim principal, Yishai Adler.

"It's an amazing place," said Rose. "We were so impressed... not just with the facility, but with the staff and the kids."

The Shechafim school serves children throughout the Upper Galilee – whether they come from Jewish, Christian, Muslim or Druze families – who cannot fit into any other of the region's special education frameworks. In essence, this school is their only chance. There are currently 45 students at the school and a staff of 50.



Above: Geoff Rose (right) and Ori Menahem prepare for their long ride to Halifax. Missing from the photo: Daniel Rose.



Right: A Shechafim student on her tricycle. The cyclists hope to raise \$6,800 purchase two adaptive tricycles and helmets.

"Everybody seemed so skilled," said Rose. "It was clear that the staff really care about the students and they know what they're doing."

The Roses took their fundraising idea to UJA Federation executive director, Gerry Fisher, who offered full administrative backing, a webpage, and a fundraising site. After asking Adler for a wish list, the Shechafim principal suggested that funds raised be used to purchase therapeutic Rifton Adaptive Tricycles that will enable students to go for outings in the nearby JNF Canada forest, and do other recreational activities that so many of us take for granted.

The riders for Shechafim have set a fundraising goal of \$6,800 – enough to purchase two Rifton Adaptive Tricycles and two helmets for use by students. Every dollar raised will go directly to the school and any amount pledged will be most appreciated. Their departure date is Sunday, June 26 (weather permitting) from the Adas Israel, at approximately 9 a.m. They're hoping for an enthusiastic send-off and invite avid cyclists to the community to accompany them out of Hamilton for as long a distance as desired. To make a donation visit www.jewishhamilton.org and follow the links that take you to the Cycling for Shechafim webpage.

Off to Israel thanks to a Ralph Travis Israel Scholarship

UJA Federation congratulates Sarah Kohanzadeh, who has recently been awarded a Ralph Travis Israel Scholarship. Kohanzadeh, for whom this will be her first trip to Israel, will be attending the Tomer Devorah Seminary in Ramot, Jerusalem. For the last several years, Kohanzadeh has been one among several Hamilton area students who have taken a Federation-sponsored shuttle to Toronto, where she was a student at the Ulpana Orot Girls High School.



Sarah Kohanzadeh

"My life-long dream has been to go to Israel," Kohanzadeh told the HJN. "This grant is an honour for me. I feel like my hard work of volunteering and giving to my community and school has been an amazing experience. I cannot wait to go to Israel and share what I learn there with others. I feel like every person should have a chance to travel to Israel and fall in love with the culture and land. I am a big believer in what the UJA stands for and how they help Jews with their dreams and goals."

Kohanzadeh leaves on Sept. 5 and we wish her a nesiya tova.

Need to Know

What: Cycling for Shechafim from Hamilton to Halifax.

On behalf of: The Shechafim School in Northern Israel.

Funds will purchase: Two Rifton adaptive tricycles and helmets.

Fundraising Goal: \$6,800.

Send Off: Sunday, June 26 at 9 a.m. at the Adas Israel. The Shechafim cyclists invite other community cyclists to accompany them on their way out of Hamilton.

How to donate: Go to www.jewishhamilton.org and follow the links.

Federation receives Trillium grant

\$86,100 for Holocaust education and leadership develop



PICTURED ABOVE: From l to r, incoming Federation president, Larry Szpirglas, Trillium Foundation volunteer, Leo Normandeau, MPP Ted McMeekin, Nadia Rosa and Madeleine Levy. Photo by Wendy Schneider

At the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program graduation ceremonies on May 29, there was some additional good news to share with the large, assembled audience.

Local MPP Ted McMeekin and Leo Normandeau, a volunteer with the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), formally announced that Hamilton Jewish Federation has received a two-year, \$86,100 grant. Funding from the grant will be used to help Federation continue to build and expand on its participation in the Asper program.

The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Program is an extraordinary educational experience that culminates in a four day trip to Washington D.C. to visit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the National Museum of the American Indian and a variety of other important sites. Students prepare for the experience by taking a series of eight sessions on human rights issues, genocide and Holocaust studies. They are also required to volunteer in their communities on public projects of their choosing prior to the trip.

"This program, run bi-annually, brings together a dynamic group of students from diverse backgrounds studying social justice issues in the world," said program chair, Madeleine Levy. "The record number of students this year – 83 students from 22 different high schools – is a profound testament to the educational and social value of this unique initiative and the wonderful support we receive from the public and Catholic school boards."

Speaking to the audience of more than 300, MPP McMeekin said, "The best measure of our progress as a nation is our progress in education and there is no more important education or measure of progress that education in Human Rights. Congratulations to Holocaust Education Committee co-chairs Nadia Rosa and Madeleine Levy and their entire team. Please keep up this wonderful work."

Funding from the grant will be used to strengthen the capacity of the Hamilton Jewish Federation to continue to offer this program, build new partnerships and engage and train new volunteers. While the Asper program focuses on youth, other Holocaust remembrance events such as the UN International Holocaust Remembrance events and Holocaust Education Week, raise awareness amongst people of all ages. Other speakers at the event included Hamilton Mayor Bob Bratina, MP David Sweet, MPP Ted McMeekin, Jeff Morey of the Asper Foundation and Trillium leader Leo Normandeau. Students and chaperones offered personal reflections on the meaning of the experience.

A leading grantmaker in Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation strengthens the capacity of the voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. An agency of the Government of Ontario, OTF strives to build-healthy and vibrant communities. www.trilliumfoundation.org. For further information about becoming involved in Holocaust education please call Elaine Levine at 905-627-9922.

PJ Library comes to Hamilton

Story by story, kids learn about their identity

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

It's your child's bedtime. After a long day, you consciously set aside this time to strengthen the bonds between the two of you by cuddling up together with a good book. The desire to make that moment a Jewish moment was the impetus behind the PJ Library, a Jewish literacy program created by Massachusetts-based philanthropist Harold Grinspoon.

Launched in 2005 the PJ Library – PJ for pajamas – is an international award-winning Jewish family engagement program designed to strengthen the identities of Jewish families and their relationship to Jewish community. Currently, more than 70,000 books are mailed out each month to more than 145 communities in the United States and Canada receive free, high-quality Jewish children's books and music on a monthly basis.

Now, thanks to the Morris and Shirley Waxman Family and UJA Federation's Lion of Judah division, PJ Library will be coming to Hamilton in the fall.

"This is the most important educational outreach initiative to children in our community in a long time. It provides for an exciting opportunity in the promotion of a proud Jewish identity and we are happy to be a part of it," said Michael Waxman on behalf of the family.

Dr. Bonnie Loewith, who, as a member of Hamilton's Lions of Judah, attended a presentation by a PJ Library representative, was duly impressed.

"It's simple, non-intrusive and can help more people engage with the Jewish journey."

RABBI DAN SELSBERG
Beth Jacob Synagogue

"He had a lot of stats about how the program opens the first door to involving unaffiliated families in Jewish life," she said.

The formal launch of the PJ Library will begin with a campaign that will encourage families from both the Greater Hamilton area and Oakville with children ages six months to five-and-a-half years to enroll in the program. Once enrolled they will begin receiving monthly mailings of Jewish-themed books and music.

Hamilton's Jewish community professionals first learned about the PJ Library program earlier this year at one of their monthly gatherings, during a presentation by one of the program's representatives.

The response was overwhelmingly positive.

"The innovative part of PJ library," said Rabbi Dan Selsberg, "is that, unlike so much of Jewish life, people don't have to come to us – the synagogue, the JCC – but we can come to them. It's simple, non-intrusive and can help more people engage with the Jewish journey of their lives, and their children's lives."

Administrators from the community's Jewish Day Schools were equally enthusiastic. "The research has shown that the PJ Library enables families to build a library of books and music for Jewish children in their own homes, enhances their children's early Jewish education and literacy development, and builds family connections to the Jewish community and Jewish life," said Hamilton Hebrew Academy vice-principal Mary Martha Starkman.

Kehila principal Leia Ger Rogers agreed. "Kehila Jewish Day School is so happy to be part of this community project. It is a beautiful way to celebrate literacy at home, and to promote positive family time from a very young age."

Watch your mailbox in the fall for a sample PJ Library book and a letter explaining how to sign up. For more information call Elaine Levine at 905-627-9922, ext. 24.



YAD Hamilton is an organization for community members between the ages of 23 to 45. We organize social activities, fundraising events and provide opportunities to become community builders. We believe the future of our community promises something very exciting and we want you to be a part of it. For more information visit yadhamilton.org or contact Elaine at elevine@jewish-hamilton.org



YAD members assembled Passover items for the Jewish Social Services Kosher Food Bank at its Mitzvah, Matza and Martini Night. Pictured above (l to r) are front row: Augustina Gershkovich, Tiki Levigoren, Yael Reznick-DeMarco, Lisa Morris; Back row: Alon Goldshtein, Yarden Goldshtein, Yaron Levigoren, Vadim Gershkovich, Igor Vassor, Claire Atkin, Nili Golan and John DeMarco.



Y-YAD, for those between the ages of 23 to 35, is your opportunity to meet, socialize and network with other young Jewish adults from the greater Hamilton area! Contact Talia Asa at talia.asa@gmail.com or Brian Rochweg at brochweg@hotmail.com if you'd like to get involved.



Y-YAD members at its inaugural program at Skyline Billiards. Pictured above (from l to r) are Samara Chitavat, Talia Asa, Mike Gainfort, Brian Rochweg, Ari Nisker, Jeff Skarica and Daniel Nisker.

Community steps up to meet the challenge

When Mike Nielsen saw a need in The Club Fitness Centre at Shalom Village he decided to do something about it. Nielsen, who works with Goldie's Place participants in The Club, couldn't help noticing residents patiently watching TV or using other equipment while they waited for their turn on the NuStep, a specialized low-impact exercise machine that is effective, safe and easy to use. It has an ergonomic design and a comfortable seat that swivels out to facilitate transfers, even from wheelchairs.

"That's one reason it's so popular," said Nielsen.

A challenge to the community

Nielsen and his mother Linda kicked off a campaign to buy a second NuStep with \$1,000 of their own money. They challenged the Shalom Village community to come up with the additional \$6,500 needed to make the dream a reality.

The community proved to be up to the challenge, stepping up (pun intended) to meet the challenge in less than a week.

The new machine has been installed in The Club, and members are keeping it busy.

"It has made a world of difference to me," said Joe Kostyk, who has been working out regularly at The Club for the past four



L-R, Club Head Coach Greg Almas, Club members Jim Kennelly, Rachel Cobham and Joe Kostyk, incoming Shalom Village CEO Jeanette O'Leary, Shalom Village Charitable Foundation Director Kathleen Thomas and Shalom Staffer Mike Nielsen at the NuStep unveiling

months. "My arms, my legs, everything is stronger, and I have more stamina."

Any ability level Nielsen says that the machine not only provides a great workout, but it can be adjusted to any ability level.

"I can get a great workout on it," said Nielsen, who is very active physically, "or it can be set up for a person with limited mobility and endurance."

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who supported this campaign!

Thank you

Grateful thanks to the families of **Geraldine Nicholls, Murray Adelman, Norma Wright, Mollie Goldwater and Betty Finlayson** for requesting donations to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers. Memorial donations are earmarked for palliative care at Shalom Village. This thoughtful gesture will help other families as they face many challenges at the end of life.

An Invitation

The Corporation and Foundation Boards of Shalom Village invite you to join us in celebration as we thank Pat Morden for all she has done for our loved ones, our team, long term care and our community over the past 21 years.

Open house
A cocktail reception/open house will take place on Thursday June 23rd 2011 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Shalom Village.

Pat is moving on to the next phase of her journey, but her legacy will live on at Shalom Village through the *Pat Morden*

Leadership Bursary.

Ticket information
A limited number of tickets are available. Please call Kathleen Thomas at (905) 529-1613 ext. 264 to order your tickets or make a donation to the Pat Morden Leadership Bursary. You can also send a personal message that will be included in a special presentation to Pat at the event.

For more information call Kathleen, email kathleen@shalomvillage.ca or visit our website at shalomvillage.ca.

Plan now to attend our 30th Annual Tea on July 7th

Ladies Auxiliary plans to refurbish original kitchen

It's hard to believe that it was three decades ago that a group of dedicated volunteers got together to create a fund-raising event to support of the residents who call Shalom Village home.

Summer highlight
This Ladies Auxiliary Tea has since grown into a popular event that is a highlight of the summer social season. The Tea has raised funds for many worthwhile projects at Shalom Village over the



years, from electric lifts to telephones. Most recently, our long term care residents all received new high-low power assisted beds thanks to funds raised at the tea.

Kitchen Renovation
Ladies Auxiliary Co-chairs Rochelle Waxman and Jo-Ann Pomerantz have been involved from the beginning. They recently announced that proceeds from this year's tea will help pay for

Jeanette O'Leary named Shalom Village CEO

Dr. Susan Denburg, President of the Board of Directors of Shalom Village, is pleased to announce the appointment of **Jeanette O'Leary** as the new Chief Executive Officer of Shalom Village. The selection committee, composed of members of both the Governance and Foundation Boards of Shalom Village, worked with a professional search firm to identify and competitively evaluate a slate of able candidates from diverse health care settings. After several months of work, the committee is delighted to present O'Leary as our unanimous choice for this unique and critical role.



Joined Shalom in 1997

O'Leary has been a part of the Shalom Village staff and leadership team since 1997. She began her career at Shalom Village as a clinical leader and registered nurse, and has held positions of increasing leadership and accountability over the past 13 years, including Executive Coach Long Term Care for Shalom Original and Shalom Too, Executive Coach of the Ruth Sherman Centre for Research and Education, and most recently as the Chief Operating Coach – Health, a role that provides leadership for the health care programs at Shalom Village and the staff who deliver nursing and personal care to the residents.

Leadership

O'Leary has provided leadership for many of the important achievements and areas of growth for Shalom Village, including the development of the AT HOME approach to care and leadership standards, Accreditation awards, and the implementation of our Supper Club Program and organization-wide programs such as ethics, staff development and leadership coaching. O'Leary is also a sought-after speaker and provides important links to our community through her clinical faculty appointment with the School of Nursing at McMaster University and representation of Shalom on the Hamilton-Niagara-Haldiman-Brant Long

Term Care Network Council, the Nurse Led Outreach Team Steering Committee and the Ontario Long Term Care Association.

Excited about the possibilities

Pat Morden, the outgoing Chief Executive Officer, is excited about the possibilities for Shalom under O'Leary's leadership. "The future of Shalom Village lies with all of us continuing to support, to encourage and to innovate. Choosing Jeanette O'Leary, who is a creative, passionate leader, focused and committed to all that Shalom Village stands for, demonstrates the continued wisdom of the board in guiding, building and sustaining the excellence that is Shalom Village. The future is in loving, capable hands!"

Building the future

O'Leary is proud to lead the continuing growth and innovation that will shape Shalom Village. She will provide leadership to all of the teams to ensure each and every resident feels and experiences Shalom as a "place to call home". Both the Board of Directors and the Foundation Board are eager to work with O'Leary in her new role as CEO beginning July 1. Her knowledge, experience, vision and commitment will ensure both a smooth transition and an exciting future as Shalom Village continues to strive for excellence in partnership with all its stakeholders.



The Pat Morden Leadership Bursary

Pat Morden's legacy at Shalom Village will reflect her commitment to education and her desire to build a quality organization through developing strong leadership at all levels. A fund has been created to provide the educational opportunities that will help our staff and volunteers develop the leadership skills that will sustain us into the future. Your support of this initiative will ensure that Shalom Village continues to live up to its reputation as a leader and innovator.

Now you can donate online!

It's fast, it's easy and it's secure. Visit our website at shalomvillage.ca to make donations or send tribute cards with a few clicks of your mouse.



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Special Mentschen

Legendary restaurateur recalls colourful career

by STEVEN BROCK, special to The Hamilton Jewish News



On May 11, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton (JGSH) and Area hosted retired Hamilton restaurateur, Max Mintz for a hilarious and touching evening of reminiscing about his days at the helm of such Hamilton eateries as the Chicken Roost, the Jet, the Colony and Maxwell's. Below are some of the more noteworthy stories.

The Jean Harlow death hoax

By the age of 10, Max spent several hours a day supplementing the family income by selling newspapers on the street corners of Toronto. He would often encourage sales by shouting out a major headline of the day. On one particularly slow day, he began shouting out the headline "Jean Harlow Died". In the 1930's, Jean Harlow was the premier movie siren of the day. So news of her untimely passing would be huge, and would garner significant newspaper sales. As Mintz shouted out the sensational headline, a crowd quickly gathered, lining up to buy his papers. Servicing the throng of customers, he took their money (three cents each), folded the paper into three – hiding the headline, and tucked each paper under the buyer's arm. In no time, he was sold out, and made a hasty retreat from his corner. One customer caught up with him and angrily informed him that there was no mention about Jean Harlow dying. To which, the cagey Mintz replied, "She dyed her hair".

Suits me fine

On Oct. 1, 1948, Mintz and his brother Benny prepared for the grand opening of their Chicken Roost restaurant on King Street. Mintz, wanting to make a good impression on his customers on this special day, dressed up in his best suit – actually, his only suit. Finally, the brothers headed to the restaurant to check one last time that everything was in place and that nothing had been forgotten. At the last moment, they realized that they had no money for the cash register. How would they make change? Having sunk their last pennies into the restaurant, they had nothing to contribute to the till. With only minutes until the doors opened, Mintz, with a heavy heart, dashed over to Jerry's Men's Wear down the street and sold his only suit for \$10, enough to fill the cash for the opening.

Bussing more than tables

In the early 1960s, Mintz opened the Colony Restaurant on Main and Hollywood. To publicize his new endeavour, he held a contest offering a free trip to London, England as first prize. To promote the contest, he hired a UK Routemaster double decker bus to ride around town. After gaining attention from every corner of Hamilton over the course of the afternoon, the bus returned to Main Street and parked in front of the restaurant. With the onset of rush hour, the behemoth took up more than one of the busy lanes. Traffic quickly snarled and the police soon ordered Mintz to move the bus. Doing his best to comply, he hopped aboard and as luck would have it, the key broke in two as he attempted to turn it in the ignition. Traffic behind the bus continued to build on Main. Mintz called a locksmith to come and resolve the problem. Finally, after several hours, all was back to normal. The next day in all the papers, the Colony received lots of publicity, but not in the way they intended.

Steven Brock is a member of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton. The group meets monthly at Temple Anshe Shalom. Please visit www.jgsh.org or e-mail jgshamilton@gmail.com for more information.

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HONOURABLE MENTION

Mazel Tov to **Stan Tick**, one of eight Ontario lawyers honoured by the Law Society of Upper Canada on May 25, for representing "the highest level of achievement and commitment to serving society." Tick received the Lincoln Alexander Award, in recognition of his "leadership in helping Ontarians maintain access to threatened hospital services and gaining improved services for the developmentally disabled and mentally challenged." Tick was also named in the Best Lawyers in Canada peer review list under personal injury, as well as legal malpractice, in 2007. He is widely respected for establishing the Beth Tikvah Foundation for adults with developmental disabilities.



Stanley M. Tick with Law Society of Upper Canada Treasurer Laurie H. Pawlitzka. Photo courtesy the Law Society of Upper Canada

Kudos to Carl **Loewith** for being recognized by the Rotary Club of Dundas at its Paul Harris dinner and awards night.

Congratulations to veteran Hamilton Spectator business writer, **Steve Arnold**, for winning the 2010 Labour Journalism Award from the union representing Ontario journalists. Arnold won the award for his "stellar coverage" of the conflict between U.S. Steel and Hamilton steelworkers.

Congratulations to **Madeleine Levy** for being recognized by the Asper Foundation "as a dedicated community leader and great supporter of human rights and Holocaust education." Levy was presented with a plaque of recognition by Jeffrey Morry, senior program manager of The Asper Foundation during the graduation ceremonies of the most recent Asper Program for Human Rights and Holocaust Education held on May 29 at Temple Anshe Sholom. As Program Chair of The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program in the Hamilton region, Levy was praised for playing "an instrumental role in leading a committed team dedicated to delivering the program to a large and diverse group of students from many Ontario communities." The ceremony marked only the third time in the program's history that The Asper Foundation presented this plaque of recognition.

Mazel Tov to **Nadia Rosa** and **Arthur Weisz**, who were among 19 Holocaust survivors honoured by Premier Dalton McGuinty and the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem at Queen's Park on May 19 for their contributions to the province of Ontario. The Premier, the Consul General of Israel, Amir R. Gissin, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Dr. Eric Hoskins, and MPP for York Centre, Monte Kwinter, presented each honoree with a scroll, and thanked them on behalf of Ontarians.



Sasha Weisz

Yasher koach to **Sasha Weisz**, who will be honoured by Israel Bonds at its annual Golda Meir luncheon on June 20 at the Park Hyatt in Toronto to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the organization. The Keshet Award will be presented to Weisz and five other women for demonstrating a long-term commitment to Israel Bonds.

Mazel Tov to **Nadia Rosa** and **Arthur Weisz**, who were among 19 Holocaust survivors honoured by Premier Dalton McGuinty and the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem at Queen's Park on May 19 for their contributions to the province of Ontario. The Premier, the Consul General of Israel, Amir R. Gissin, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Dr. Eric Hoskins, and MPP for York Centre, Monte Kwinter, presented each honoree with a scroll, and thanked them on behalf of Ontarians.

The art of finding common ground

A CONVERSATION WITH LOCAL PLAYWRIGHT MARCIA KASH

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

Marcia Kash is accustomed to living in many places. But the Canadian-born freelance theatre director and playwright is very content to have landed in Dundas two-and-a-half years ago when her husband, Ron Ulrich became Theatre Aquarius's artistic director. Last spring, the theatre hosted the world premiere of her play *For This Moment Alone*. The play, based on a true story that happened in Kash's own family, tells the story of how different members of an immigrant Jewish family living in post-war Toronto react to the discovery that Freddie, the relative they brought over from Europe, is not who he says he is. The play garnered rave reviews from theatre critics and audience members alike, testifying to the universality of the dilemmas faced by its characters.

The Hamilton Jewish News caught up with Kash immediately following the play's two week run, just days before her departure for Prince Edward Island where she is currently directing *Anne of Green Gables*.

Did the events that took place in the play really happen?

It's based on a true story. The part that's true is that the boy did show up off the train and it wasn't him. And my grandfather's family took him in... He lived with them about a year-and-a-half... All the stuff that's around that and the relationships is not necessarily true... The part of the story that intrigued me was 'How do people cope with that event?' Because that was pretty major for people to wrap their heads around. I wrote it originally as a radio play for CBC in 1998 and it's taken me all this time... to get it to the stage. It was a difficult story to write.

Your play was very effective in its depiction of the way people interacted with Holocaust survivors right after the war.

When (survivors)...started to tell their stories, people just couldn't



Playwright Marcia Kash at Theatre Aquarius. Photo by Wendy Schneider

(comprehend) and so they stopped talking. They really only spoke about their experiences with other survivors and even then, there were things that were off limits.

In your play, the character Freddie refuses to reveal his real name. Was it shame that made him not want to reveal who he really was?

I think it was more than shame. I think it's guilt. I think it's horror. I mean imagine coming out of that and then arriving in Toronto and sleeping in a bed and being fed and being touched... it's unfathomable... one of the things I'm exploring in the play, (is) how people can survive such loss and carry on... and that's got nothing to do with shame. That's just got to do with people... This is not a Holocaust story. This is a story of how people accept and move on with their lives.

What kind of a reception has your play received?

I have to tell you that the reception to it has been incredible. The theatre's been receiving letters from all kinds of people saying how much they loved the play.

What was it that touched so many people's hearts?

I hope it's the humanity of Joe's (the family patriarch, based on Kash's grandfather) actions...

Joe took Freddie in and brought him into the family and decided to give the guy a chance even though it would have been easier not to... I heard women talking in the bathroom saying, 'What would you have done?' To me that's music to my ears, to see people engaged in that way.

What's your long-term ambition for the play?

A really good production in an Off Broadway theatre... I'd also like to make it into a movie... and get a really good production of it across Canada and the States and get it published.

Do you think you'll return to the Holocaust in future plays?

I'm not sure I'll write another play about it but it's something I'll continue to study and be involved with, in terms of Holocaust education because I can't not.

What aspect of it grips you?

So much of it grips me. Part of the thing that I can't let go of is the systematic approach of the Nazis in wiping out a people. I cannot get my head around that, plus the continuing hatred of the Jewish people by others... For our entire history we have been feared and loathed and detested. I've read tons of literature about it and I find it an endlessly fascinating subject.

Children's book focuses on food allergies

by DIANA BROCK, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

We met 10 years ago at a synagogue event. Tibor Choleva, a Hamilton Graphic Designer, and I, a Food Allergy Advocate from Oakville, have many things in common. We are both passionate about animals; we share a love of reading; and we both enjoy giving back to the Jewish community. We also have a mutual affinity for children's books.

Last year, Tibor and I decided to pool our experience and talents

to create a children's book together. In February 2011, we published *The Best Audience - A Lesson about Food Allergies for Young Children*. The book is beautifully illustrated by two of my sons, David (20) and Evan (19). Tibor is responsible for all the technical aspects of the book's creation, including the layout and computer colourization. He is also the creator of the book's website.

Since its publication, interest in *The Best Audience* has been strong and sales are steady. It is not surprising that the book would be in demand. Food allergies are a growing health concern. Experts estimate that the rate of food allergies has doubled in the past decade. More than one million Canadians are now at risk of anaphylaxis, the most severe form of an allergic reaction that can result in death. For an ever growing number of Canadian children, life-threatening food allergies are simply a fact of life.

There is no cure for food allergies. Strict avoidance of one's allergens is the only way to stay reaction-free. Accidental exposure through either hidden ingredients, cross-contamination or airborne particles is a serious concern. Therefore, the safety of a food-allergic child, especially in the school setting, requires the awareness and cooperation of the entire community. Allergy education is of paramount importance.

I began educating others about food allergies in 1995, two years prior to registering my allergic son Evan for kindergarten. Back then, I hit many roadblocks when it came to gaining the understanding and cooperation of teachers, school administrators and other parents. I quickly realized that children were considerably more open to new concepts and were especially concerned about the safety of their classmates.

Today, I still educate school children about food allergies. Lately, I do it by simply reading my new book, *The Best Audience*, to the classes. Created as an educational resource, the concept is quite simple - the reader (a teacher, librarian or parent) passes on the same allergy lesson that I have been giving for nearly sixteen years.

To schedule a September author visit for your school, or to order books, visit www.thebestaudience.ca



Author Diana Brock and graphic artist Tibor Choleva. Photo by Arnold W. Kirschner

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NA'AMAT HAMILTON



Na'amat Hamilton recently celebrated its 26th annual Celebrity Author Luncheon, featuring Dr. Brian Goldman, host of CBC Radio's White Coat, Black Art and author of The Night Shift. Na'amat Canada works with Na'amat worldwide in providing legal counselling, homes for abused women and children, recreational and retraining programs, vocational and agricultural schools, and a country-wide network of daycare centres in Israel. Na'amat facilities in Israel, particularly those that work with families in crisis, are vital today as people struggle with the horrors of violence, terrorism and a floundering economy. Na'amat Hamilton is a vibrant women's group and welcomes new members. Pictured above are Na'amat members posing with Goldman. Na'amat invites women looking for camaraderie and meaningful volunteer activities to contact Dena Honig at 905-627-9507.

HAMILTON JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

Kosher Food Bank Mitzvah Club

The Hamilton Kosher Food Bank has added frozen kosher chickens to its inventory. For a donation of \$12 per month you can ensure that an individual or family will enjoy a chicken dinner at least once in four weeks. To donate call 905-627-9922, ext. 21 with your Visa number and we will arrange for a deduction of multiples of \$12 per month, depending on how

many chickens you would like to donate. Donations are tax deductible, and donors are entitled to send a free tribute card for every donation. Please consider joining this wonderful Mitzvah Club.

Important information for Holocaust Survivors

If you are a Holocaust survivor, you may be eligible for some financial help. The definition of a survivor now includes people who have been relocated or were forcibly

evacuated during the Second World War. Income for a single person must be less than \$23,000 per year or \$27,000 for a married couple (not counting your principal residence or car.) Assets should be less than \$23,000 for a single person or \$34,000 for a couple. Another program being offered to survivors is homecare. For more information on both programs call Hamilton Jewish Social Services at 905-627-9922 ext. 28 or email niljss@hotmail.com.

CANADIAN MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Our 2011 Spring Campaign was another outstanding success. Thanks to the many donors who collectively donated \$35,000, making it possible to purchase a much-needed Corpul 2 Defibrillator. This multi-purpose unit will be available to all hospitals in Israel and will provide the finest equipment available to save lives.

My sincerest thanks to everyone who made this purchase possible. With your continuing help, Magen David Adom Israel is able to provide uninterrupted emergency services to the people of Israel.

For beautiful cards and certificates for that special person or occasion, please call Hilda at 905-529-4824. Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

CHABAD HAMILTON

Another school year – another year of connecting to Jews across campus and throughout the Hamilton Jewish community. At the Beit Menachem Jewish Student Centre Chabad House at 177 Sterling St., the year began with a kick-off barbecue and a strong turnout of familiar faces as well as many first year students. On weekday evenings Café Chabad offered home-baked goodies and hot, filling soups for students to grab on their way to or from school. Our weekly Shabbat dinners continued to attract many students, both new and regular attendees, as did our occasional barbecues and trademark "Midnight Breakfast" during exam week.

Rabbi Chanoch and Shaina Rosenfeld were available for students whenever needed, whether to schmooze, learn about our heritage or receive guidance on any issue. And, if a student wasn't feeling well, there was always homemade, hot chicken soup, just like the doctor ordered.

As is the Chabad tradition, there were community-wide programs for the various chagim. The Sukkah-mobile gave high school and university students an opportunity to fulfill the mitzvot of the holiday. On Chanukah we held our annual community menorah lighting at Fortino's, with a Lego menorah built by the children. Purim brought with it Megilla reading at Shalom Villiage and Pesach was brought in with a model matzah bakery for day-school children. One highlight of the year was the Rabbi Z. Itkin Memorial Lecture, marking the yartzeit of the founder and director of Chabad Hamilton, Rabbi Zalman Itkin. Another highlight was Shabbat 100, a program co-sponsored by the McMaster Jewish Students Association, that brought 75 students to a Shabbat dinner on campus. Chabad Lubavitch would like to acknowledge devoted student volunteer Miriam Mervin, who, always willing to step up to the plate and do anything that was needed, made our programs a success. It was our pleasure to nominate Mervin for UJA Federation's Shem Tov Award.

ADAS ISRAEL



A scene from the 1961 inaugural ceremony celebrating the opening of the Adas Israel Congregation. Photo courtesy of the Adas Israel

Fifty years ago this autumn, the doors of a brand new Adas Israel Congregation were opened in Westdale.

For the many who gathered for the inaugural ceremonies in the grand and expansive edifice the moment was momentous. The walls of the sanctuary reverberated with the operatic voice of legendary cantor, Moshe Koussevitzky. Rabbis and dignitaries included Rabbi Dr. Samuel Belkin, President of Yeshiva University, and Allan Bronfman, the well-known Canadian philanthropist.

The ceremony was the culmination of the extraordinary and unexpected achievements of a

handful of mostly Polish immigrants and a young Rabbi Mordechai Green. Few could have predicted the historic accomplishments and vibrant Jewish life that this young congregation would achieve a half-century later.

This fall, the Adas Israel will commemorate its Golden Anniversary at a historic rededication ceremony. Over the summer, the magnificent facilities will be refurbished, restrooms updated, and much needed mechanical updates addressed. We hope you will join us as the torch of history is passed from our founders to the next generation.

Do you have a loved one living in Israel?

The Hamilton Jewish News will profile former Hamiltonians living in Israel in its upcoming issue. If you can provide contact information please email wshneider@jewishhamilton.org or call 905-628-0058.

Negev Dinner honours Dr. Kevin Smith



The Hamilton Convention Centre was filled to capacity on May 30 for JNF's Negev Dinner during which Dr. Kevin Smith, president and CEO of St. Joseph's Health System was honoured. Both Smith and keynote speaker and former First Lady Laura Bush, spoke of their connections to Jewish community and causes.

PICTURED ABOVE: JNF president David Loewith (left) and JNF director Frank Simkevitz present Dr. Kevin Smith with a plaque in recognition of his ongoing support for the State of Israel and for the Jewish community as well as for his contributions to the City of Hamilton.

RIGHT: Smith shares a laugh with keynote speaker Laura Bush.



Photos by Lawrence Yanover

Beth Jacob Synagogue's

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Monday, June 20, 2011
Beth Jacob Synagogue
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Doors open at 6:30 pm. Show starts at 7:30 pm
Draw for the trip, reception & silent auction after the show. Call 905-522-1351 for tickets.

Two Ways To Enjoy a Fabulous Evening:
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It's a family affair: a story 31 years in the making

By Ilya Pinassi

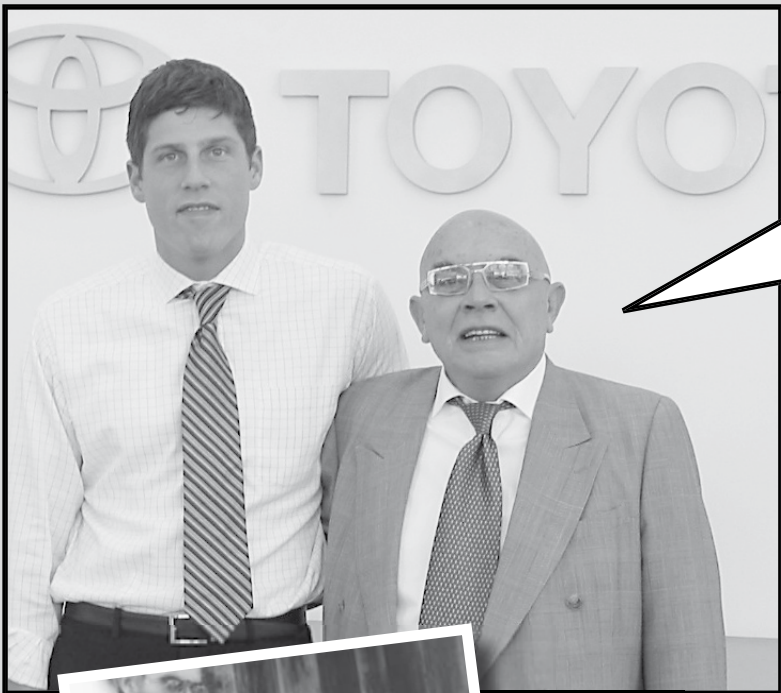
The Pinassi's group of companies is a family affair and a story that has been 31 years in the making. The original dealership was guided on the back of Mr. Marik Pinassi who came to settle in Canada with his family from Iran, via London, England in 1980. Marik came to sell high-quality Toyota vehicles and worked hard to expand the dealership's operations. Those were very different times. The economy of Hamilton was very different as was the demographics and buying patterns of Hamiltonians. With a great deal of time and effort, Mr. Pinassi invested his life, and the life of his family into the city. We come from a long line of car people. My father's father was a mechanic in Iran with his own garage. My mother's father was in the scrap metal and recycling business in California. It seemed only natural that the rest of us would follow in their footsteps. My mother and father met in California while my Dad was attending school. After many insistent proposals of marriage,

my mother Cory finally gave in and agreed to marriage. Not long after, the couple left for Iran to seek their fortune. Unfortunately, that fortune never materialized. My parents took jobs teaching, then my father worked for Datsun (now Nissan) and then Toyota while my mother was busy tending to her new son and her soon-to-be born daughter, Nama. The revolution of 1979 came to Iran during the same time my frazzled mother gave birth to my sister and our family's need to leave became imminent. With very little money, we briefly sought refuge in London, England. With the support of a close family friend, we had the good fortune of living and working in Hamilton when the opportunity presented itself. While not all of us are visible on a daily basis, my mom, dad and sister are all pitching in through different facets of the business. Our businesses support local charities, amateur sports teams and arts initiatives. We greatly appreciate what Hamilton has enabled us to achieve.



The Pinassi Family through the years

Join our growing family and we'll take care of you...



Marik Pinassi
Ilya Pinassi

"We greatly appreciate what Hamilton has enabled us to achieve."

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