

Celebrating community

A collage

P7



Hamiltonians in Israel

Final in the series

P14

Hamilton Jewish News

THE JEWISH VOICE OF HAMILTON

SUMMER 2012 VOL 25:5/ TAMUZ, AV 5772

AGREEMENT #40007180

You made a difference!

Remember last summer's Cycling for Shechafim fundraiser when cyclists, Geoff and Daniel Rose and Ori Menachem embarked on an epic 2,000 kilometre bicycle ride from Hamilton to Halifax in support of the Shechafim School for special needs children in the northern Galilee? Thanks to their efforts and the generosity of Hamilton donors, funds were raised to purchase three therapeutic tricycles, one of which is shown here in a photograph showing Israel's Minister of Education, Gideon Saar, during a recent visit to the school. Kol HaKavod to everyone who contributed!



Photo courtesy of Jewish Federations of Canada UIA.



Community member Gayle Kepecs looks at one of the photographs at the Art to Heart exhibit
Photo by Elaine Levine Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

SACH touches Hamilton

Close to 200 people from across Hamilton, including a Palestinian couple from East Jerusalem, and a couple from Ethiopia, attended Art to Heart, a photography exhibit highlighting the extraordinary work of the Israeli humanitarian organization Save A Child's Heart. The greater Hamilton community donated \$20,000 during the weeks and months leading up to the event. "In a world of negative press about Jews and Israel," said one community member after the event, "last night was a wonderful way to change the perception." Read more on page 5.

Honouring our volunteers

DOLLY COHEN RECEIVES CECE SCHREIBER LEADERSHIP AWARD IN VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE



Federation president Larry Szpirglas presents Dolly Cohen with her award at the Federation's AGM on May 22. See pictures of the event on pages 8 and 9.
Photo by Wendy Schneider, Hamilton Jewish News

Our community is so much more than just a sum of our parts. This was more than evident at the Hamilton Jewish Federation's Annual General Meeting, held on May 22 in Beth Jacob Synagogue's new sanctuary, where a spirit of unity and community pride reigned supreme. As volunteers from across the community spectrum were called up one by one to receive their Shem Tov award, their efforts were recognized by generous and heartfelt applause in a room filled with smiling faces. In this, the final issue of the 2011/12 season of the Hamilton Jewish News, we proudly showcase the individuals and organizations that make our community so special. On behalf of the board and staff of the Hamilton Jewish Federation we wish you a wonderful summer.



When scrap was golden

Industry veterans look back

P12



FOWLER & ASSOCIATES
Complete Investment & Estate Planning

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

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

TEN STAR

**INSURANCE
GROUP BENEFITS
RETIREMENT PLANNING
GUARANTEED INVESTMENTS**



www.tenstar.ca

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LARRY SZPIRGLAS,
PRESIDENT,
UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON



One year ago at this time, I was honored to be elected president of the Hamilton Jewish Federation. I assumed the role with some trepidation, but with a vision of where I thought we, as a community, needed to go in order to meet our most pressing challenges. I'd like to report on what has been accomplished thus far and to share some further thinking with you on what may lie ahead.

We are a small community with a static population of less than 5,000 and with a diminishing financial resource base. Nevertheless, we have a community agenda that is similar to communities twice or triple our size.

Last year, at this time, I made a commitment to develop a strategic plan that would guide the work of the new board for at least the first year of its operation. This commitment has been kept. The opportunity to work from a blueprint has made it possible for the board to follow a coherent path toward achievement of identified goals in a specified time frame. With this blueprint in place, we are measurably more successful in achieving our goals while working in a much more organized fashion.

- From a practical perspective, we have achieved the following:
- developed sustainable governance by drafting new by-laws.
 - created a leadership succession structure
 - implemented a strategic planning task force
 - made progress in the Gro-Hamilton arena

In addition, we have initiated discussions with the Jewish Federations of Canada and with CIJA – our national advocacy group – about re-defining the Hamilton Jewish Federation as a regional hub for Jewish services around the Golden Horseshoe from Oakville to St Catharines... and this will be pursued in the coming year.

Better Fundraising

With the economic climate being what it is and with the demographic challenges we face, fundraising is becoming increasingly more difficult. Our success in addressing our priority issues will be a direct function of how successful we are in raising the dollars to pay for the programs and services that hold this community together. One very bright element in the picture is the stability we have been able to establish in terms of campaign leadership. UJA Chair Jay State's decision to remain on board for a second term is an enormous asset to the community and I thank him for his commitment and leadership.

Obviously, we have a great deal more to do, especially in the areas of financial resources sustainability. But we also have a great deal more to do in communicating better with our stakeholders – donors, beneficiary agencies, national partners and others. Every priority needs more attention.

This is certainly a challenging time for all of us in leadership positions... but it is an exciting time as well. The recommendations of our task force on planning and priorities are going to challenge us to re-think how we understand community priorities and how we address them. This will affect every one of us and every institution in the community.

Also, we will soon be welcoming new professional leadership to the federation. Gerry Fisher will be retiring after more than a decade as Federation's senior professional. I am confident in our board's ability to choose the right professional partner for the challenges that await us. Administration vice president Cindy Mark is chairing the search committee which has started the search process with assistance from the Jewish Federations of North America and the Canadian Jewish Federations UIA.

During his tenure, Gerry Fisher has provided dedicated, committed professional leadership to support the work of the volunteers. He has helped to redefine the organization as a true federation that provides a higher level of advocacy and bridge building, community development and fundraising than ever before. None of this would have been possible without his guidance and support and that of the staff who worked with him. We are indebted to Gerry for his commitment and loyalty to our community. Federation will be hosting an event to properly recognize Gerry at a later date where all members of our community will be invited and will have the opportunity to offer their best wishes.

We are truly a remarkable community having achieved so much for a community of our size. With your ongoing support, we look forward to building on those accomplishments and going from strength to strength.

Table of Contents

HJN SUMMER 2012 IN THIS ISSUE:

- 4 HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION RETIREMENT REFLECTIONS**
An interview with Gerry Fisher
- 8 HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION MANY FACES - ONE COMMUNITY**
Honouring our community's volunteers
- FEATURE**
- 12 WHEN SCRAP WAS GOLDEN**
Remembering the golden years of the scrap industry
- SPECIAL MENTSCHEN**
- 13 SINGING HIS SONG**
Sam Lewis at 100 years old



PAGE 5

DEPARTMENTS

UJA Federation	4, 5, 8, 9
Shalom Village	6
Community	7
Community Pages	10, 11
Feature	12
Special Mentschen	13
Israel	14, 15

COMING UP

ROSH HASHANA ISSUE

- Deadline for booking ad space July 20, 2012
- Deadline for receiving editorial copy July 27, 2012
- Deadline for receiving ad copy Aug. 19, 2012
- Estimated date of arrival Sept. 3, 2012



ONTARIO HONOURS SURVIVORS

Premier Dalton McGuinty joined the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem at a ceremony honouring 19 Holocaust survivors for their enduring contributions to Ontario. Pictured above are Hamilton residents Emmy and Erich Weisz with Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and the Hon. Charles Sousa Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and MPP Monte Kwinter.

Photo © Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2012

The PJ Library
JEWISH BIRTH STORIES & SONGS FOR BABIES

PJ Library Delivers Its 3 Millionth Book!

Is your child, age 6 months through 5 years receiving one?
Call 905-627-9922, ext 24 to find out more.

Hamilton Jewish News

PLEASE RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:
P.O. Box 81203
1030 Lower Lions Club Road
Ancaster ON L9G 4X1
Agreement # 40007180

HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS
is published five times a year by Hamilton Jewish News Inc. and Wendy Schneider
Circulation 2,000

EDITORIAL POLICY

The HJN invites members of the community to contribute letters, articles or guest editorials. Written submissions 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.

PUBLISHER
Hamilton Jewish News Inc.

EDITOR
Wendy Schneider
wschneider@jewishhamilton.org

TELEPHONE
905-628-0058

FAX
905-627-7099

HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION
PRESIDENT
Larry Szpirglas

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Larry Levin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Gerald Fisher

BOARD MEMBERS
Yves Apel, Steve Dembe, Danna Horwood, Jacki Levin, Monte Levy, Lisa Morris, Allan Fein, Lorne Finkelstein, Alex Kepecs, Sharon Lax, Cindy Mark, Ron Richter, Geraldine Katz-Rose, Ira Rosen, Paul Roth, Jay Rosenblatt, Avi Shapiro, David Shore, David Streiner.

HJN ADVISORY & EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
Aviva Boxer, Steven Dembe, Brenda Deskin, Celia Rothenberg, Wade Hemsworth

Phil Leon insurance broker inc. Est. 1965



David A. Leon, FCIP
Vice President

21 Hunter Street East, Suite #103
P.O. Box 1053
Hamilton, ON L8N 3R4
Bus: 905.525.0001
1.800.734.6362
Fax: 905.525.1690
dleon@philleon.ca

Discount rates available for B'nai Brith members.
Plan underwritten by Novex Group Insurance



"I'm so fortunate that my vet highly recommended McCann Professional Dog Trainers!"

McCANN
PROFESSIONAL
DOG TRAINERS
Serving Southern Ontario

Call **1-888-681-7877** or register online
www.McCannDogs.com

Now offering Doggie Day Care with a difference!

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

ALBERT SNOW
HAIR DESIGN GROUP

1036 KING WEST HAMILTON
WWW.ALBERTSNOW.COM
905-525-0831

DARE to be YOU

EXCLUSIVE
TECHNIQUES | DESIGN | IMAGINATION



Buzz in Building in our Community for the

UJA Campaign Opening

Mark your calendar now for our

Musical Extravaganza

Thursday, October 18, 2012

Beth Jacob Synagogue @7:30pm

Featuring hit numbers from our Jewish community's musicals

Watch for details

www.jewishhamilton.org



Because you care, HomeWell is there.

HomeWell SENIOR CARE

Trusted Providers of Hourly, Overnight and Live-in Care

- Companionship/Supervision
- Dressing/Bathing
- Meal Preparation
- Incontinence Care
- Transportation/Errands
- Personal care
- Light Housekeeping
- Palliative Care
- Medication Reminders
- Alzheimer's / Dementia
- In-home Hair Care/Foot Care
- Life Enhancement Activities Program

and much more!

Call today for a free no obligation in-home consultation

1-888-845-2228
(905) 639-HELP (4357)



Veterans Affairs Canada Health Cards Accepted

www.homewellseniorcare.ca

ISRAEL 2012-2013

FAMILY TOURS

COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES

Inc. 5 star Hotels
Eilat and Petra options
Call us for recent references

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony included
All-inclusive deluxe hotels
• More days of sightseeing
• More meals
• A true family itinerary

SUMMER 2012

July 1 - July 15; July 8 - July 22
July 15 - July 29; July 29 - Aug. 12
Aug. 5 - Aug. 19; Aug. 19 - Sept. 2

WINTER 2012 - 2013

Dec. 20, 2012 - Jan. 3, 2013
Dec. 23, 2012 - Jan. 6, 2013

MARCH BREAK 2013

Mar. 6 - 18, 2013

PASSOVER 2013

Mar. 20 - Apr. 4, 2013

www.israelfamilytours.com
Call Kathy Ext 345

Community Mission

The Best Community Mission in North America
April 23 - May 6, 2012
Unique itinerary!
Call Kathy, ext. 345

Magen David Adom Deluxe Tour of Poland and Israel Oct. 14-29 or Israel Only Oct. 17-29

More meals & sites than any other tour!
Please compare!
For info call Kathy ext. 369

PRIVATE CUSTOM TOURS

MOST Professional
Most Innovative
Best itineraries
BEST value for \$\$

PRIVATE GUIDE & CAR from \$499/DAY

DON'T TRY TO DO IT ON YOUR OWN. BOOK WITH US AND SAVE

BEST AIRFARE TO ISRAEL - SPRING
DIRECT FLIGHT FROM \$85 +TAX

Don't book with anyone else before talking to us first!

PEERLESS TRAVEL & CRUISES
YOUR FULL SERVICE TRAVEL AGENCY

905.886.5610
800.294.1663
info@peerlesstravel.com

7117 Bathurst St., Just N. of Steeles. Thornhill, ON L4J 2J6

Retirement reflections

Federation executive director looks back on 11 years on the job

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

After 11 years at the helm of the Hamilton Jewish Federation, its executive director, Gerry Fisher is retiring at the end of June. Fisher's first day on the job was August 9, 2011, just four weeks before 9/11, an event, he says, that shaped the way in which he understood his professional responsibilities. Below, Fisher reflects on Federation's accomplishments and challenges over the last decade.



Gerry Fisher

HJN: How did the events of September 11th impact on how you viewed your professional responsibilities?

Fisher: On September 13th I read in The Hamilton Spectator that in response to 9/11 and the burning down of the Hindu Samaj, the mayor of Hamilton called a meeting of the leadership of every faith, cultural and community group in the city to consider what we could do to strengthen Hamilton. That turned out to be the first meeting of what became the Strengthening Hamilton Community Initiative (SHCI). No Jewish organization, Federation included, was on the invitation list. I made it a priority over the next several months to ensure that City Hall knew who we were, what we represented and that the Jewish community, represented by Federation was invited to the next SHCI meeting. This was the beginning of a concerted effort to attach the Hamilton Jewish community to the broader social fabric of the city. The results of this have been our warm relationship with a whole range of faith and cultural community groups that seek common cause with us. We have also developed solid relationships with the media, elected officials and others who help shape public opinion in Hamilton.

HJN: What are some of the other success stories?

Fisher: Given that we seem perpetually short of resources, it's hard to keep in mind that over the last 11 years we've raised more money through the Federation for various causes than ever in the history of the community. The fact that the campaign has sustained itself through demographic change and the economic climate, is worthy of note and we've done it within a philanthropic environment where an entire generation of our senior community philanthropists have either passed away or moved away. Our campaign leadership has worked hard at sustaining the annual UJA campaign. Another area that has come a long way has been Holocaust and Human Rights Education. Our local Asper program for Human Rights and Holocaust Education is world-class. So are Hamilton's other related programs such as Holocaust

locally and for Israel. I think that the long term future of the greater Hamilton community depends in large measure on the success of developing this new framework. Thirdly, every possible avenue should be taken to ensure that there is sustainability in the lay leadership. We need to meaningfully engage people at a younger age and provide them with opportunities to grow and develop, to affirm themselves within the community and to reward them for their efforts. This is the only way to ensure managed succession of capable community leadership.

HJN: How does that get accomplished?

Fisher: We've taken a couple of steps in the right direction, but they've been restrained by the lack of resources. The establishment of Federation's Young Adult Division and the Genesis Leadership Development Program are positive examples. I hope that Federation will continue to pursue the concept of a Young Business and Professionals Group, perhaps in conjunction with JNF and other community organizations. The establishment of the Hamilton Jewish Leadership Forum is another important resource in identifying and engaging volunteers with leadership potential. Fundamental to every challenge this community faces is the lack of resources, financial and human. The fact is that half of our staff is paid through grants, because the UJA campaign doesn't generate enough money to pay for Federation staff. Our staff is as good as any staff in any federation. I don't think they're appreciated enough and they're not given the resources to do the jobs that this community needs to have done. So securing funding for staff, which I believe is the community's greatest asset, should be another high priority for my successor.

HJN: Is there anything else you'd like to say to this community?

Fisher: I've come to really appreciate the uniqueness of Hamilton's Jewish community. I've feel privileged to be able to work with our community leadership. You know, when I want to introduce guests to the Baal Ha'batim in Hamilton, I don't take them for a drive down a street like Toronto's Bay Street. I take them for a drive down Burlington Street. I have really come to appreciate what is special about Hamilton and I'm grateful for having had this opportunity. I know I gave my best professional effort. I hope that people will appreciate what was accomplished and that the community will continue down a path of positive growth and development.

Close encounters

IDF soldiers visit Birthright friends



Pictured above, l to r, Bill Nisker, Diane Sandler, First Sergeant Yizhar Almagor, Chaia Nadal, Sergeant Idan Basri, Lieutenant Noa Guy, Warren Kimel and Debbie Kimel.

Photo by Julie Dembe, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Mifgash. It's a Hebrew word that literally means "encounter," but has come to refer to the bonds established between Birthright participants and the Israeli soldiers that accompany them on their whirlwind 10-day tour of Israel. Last April three Israeli soldiers came to Ontario for a series of "reverse mifgash" events with past Birthright participants on their home turf. Among the hosts were Dundas residents Bill Nisker and Diane Sandler, whose sons Ari and Dan were 2010 Birthright participants. The evening, promoted as a partnership between the Birthright Israel Foundation of Canada and UJA Federation of Hamilton, was the first of its kind held in the area.

The event was made particularly poignant, Sandler said, by the fact that their eldest son

Teddy, 25, had just left to go on Birthright the day before the soldiers came to speak in their home.

"Having the IDF Soldiers at our house was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Sandler. "I was astounded by the maturity of these Israeli young adults," she said. Lieutenant Noa Guy, for instance, said Sandler, entered a special navy officer's course at the age of 18 and is now in charge of training 65 male recruits. "It's astounding to have so much responsibility at such a tender age," said Sandler.

"If our community is fortunate enough to have soldiers from this program come to Hamilton again, I would urge everybody in the community to make every effort to attend such a function."

SACH touches Hamilton

cont'd from page 1

The Public Relations Committee (PRC) of Hamilton Jewish Federation touched many hearts when it sponsored the recent photo exhibition of the Save a Child's Heart Foundation (SACH) at Beth Jacob Synagogue. Two of those hearts belong to children — one from Ethiopia and one from the West Bank — who have now had life-saving pediatric cardiac surgery in Israel; The post-op surgical care (\$10,000 per patient) has been paid for by the generosity of local Hamilton donors.

Brief remarks were delivered by SACH Canada CEO, Karen Diamond; SACH Canadian President, Dr. Bernie Goldman; Hanna Shayer on behalf of the PRC, Max Levitt, a Queen's University student who has volunteered with SACH in Israel; and local philanthropist and activist, Elham Farah, who is well known for bringing groups together on behalf of peace. In addition, a heart rending video of SACH's care for children from Arab, Muslim, Asian and African countries as well as from the West Bank and Gaza was shown.

A highlight of the evening occurred when PRC chair, cardiologist Dr. Lorne Finkelstein, presented a cheque for \$20,000 from the donations Hamilton Jewish Federation collected for SACH to cover the costs for the two surgeries. Following the evening, another \$6,000

was pledged. To date, a total of \$27,980 has been received, which is almost enough to cover the cost of a third child's care.

Special thanks were given to those who volunteered to pay for the costs of transportation, including Eastgate Ford, and Mark Gould on behalf of Milli's. Ron Richter, Melinda Richter, Julie Dembe, and Hanna Schayer provided tremendous support. And the Dundas Valley School of Art donated the use of the easels for the exhibit.

Finkelstein was especially touched by the letter of support he received from the Pediatric Cardiology Service at McMaster Children's Hospital. "These local physicians not only made a monetary contribution to the program," he said, "but one of their members, Dr. Dragos Predescu, has decided to volunteer two weeks of his professional time to the SACH program in Israel."

Finkelstein also expressed his deep appreciation for the wonderful support this program received from Hamilton's diverse communities including the Hindu Community, the South Sudan Community and the Black History Committee. He noted that the benevolent activities of SACH belied the accusations of Israel being an apartheid country.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

ANNUAL STUDENT SEMINAR ON THE HOLOCAUST



Leora Schaefer gave the keynote address at this year's high school symposium on the Holocaust. Photo by Wendy Schneider, the Hamilton Jewish News

It was standing room only with 1,100 in attendance at this year's student seminar on the Holocaust organized by Federation's Holocaust education committee. The annual event is held at Mohawk College with participation by students and teachers from every local high school in the public and Catholic school boards. The event was co-chaired by Madeleine Levy and Nadia Rosa.

This year's keynote presentation was given by Leora Schaefer, director of Toronto's Facing History and Ourselves, an educational resource centre to combat racism, anti-Semitism and prejudice. Schaefer's presentation was followed by breakout sessions with local survivors.

Rosa was deeply gratified by overwhelmingly positive response and the fact that another group of students had an opportunity to hear, first-hand, testimonies from survivors that they can pass on to future generations.

"The further we move away from the horrific events of the Nazi slaughter, the more the tragedy of the Holocaust dims in memory," said Levy. "We are living in a period of history that questions the existence of the Shoah. Our annual symposium and the work of our committee enable teachers and students to work together to create a sense of empowerment through education."

This year's program also served as the platform for the second annual Sharon Enkin Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education. Named in memory of the late Sharon Enkin, known for her philanthropic and educational initiatives for the many years she resided in Hamilton, the award honours local teachers who have demonstrated unique commitment and creativity in engaging students in Holocaust Education.

This year's recipients included Beth Carey from Westview Elementary School and Kevin Williams from Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School. Sharon Enkin's son, James, presented the award on behalf of the family.

A special thank you to survivors Ed Carter-Edwards, Helene Goldflus, Elly Gotz, Frank Junger, Nate Leipziger and Emmy Weisz for speaking at the program and to the dedicated volunteers who helped make the program run smoothly. We are grateful for the support we receive from Mohawk College and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.



Above: Holocaust Education Committee co-Chair Madeleine Levy and James Enkin with award recipients Kevin Williams and Beth Carey (above right)

Right: Survivors who gave personal testimony, from l to r, Ed Carter-Edwards, Emmy Weisz, Helene Goldflus, Elly Gotz, Nadia Rosa, Frank Junger and Nate Leipziger.

Photos by Wendy Schneider and the Holocaust Education Committee



Why you don't want to miss Chai Tea at Shalom Village

Mark July 5th on your calendar for the premier event of the summer social season



Tea and scones, fresh fruit, elegant desserts, tiny sandwiches and big hats mark the height of the summer social season at Shalom Village. You don't want to miss the 31st Annual Ladies Auxiliary Tea on July 5th in Goldie's Place at Shalom Village.

Proceeds from this year's event have been earmarked to help us replace the nurse-call system in Shalom Village Original.

"Replacing the nurse call system is a huge job, but absolutely necessary," according to Shalom Village CEO Jeanette O'Leary. "Our residents will benefit immensely from new technology that allows for better communication and integration with our other communication systems."

Call your friends and start planning your outfit now!

High Tea or Chai Tea?

Everything you always wanted to know about tea*
(*but were afraid to ask)

The **Duchess of Bedford** is credited with introducing the practice of High Tea in the mid-1800s. At the time it was fashionable in wealthier homes to take a late evening meal by gaslight around eight or nine p.m. The only other meal was a late breakfast, and the Duchess found herself fading later in the afternoon. She invited some friends over for tea and light refreshments, and the afternoon tea was born. These gatherings soon spread across high society and became a favourite pastime of ladies of leisure.

"Chi" or "Hi"?
Chai Tea, with Chai pronounced "chi"

as in the first three letters of "China", is a spiced black tea diluted with milk and sugar that originated in India. Chai is the word for tea in many countries.

To further confuse things, "Chai" is also the Hebrew word for "life". In this context the pronunciation is closer to "hi", with the "h" sound pronounced from the throat in the Hebrew manner. This is the meaning that we use at Shalom Village as we celebrate our Ladies Auxiliary Chai Tea.

To life!
L'chaim, l'chaim, to life!

Tea Photo Album



As you can see in the photos above, guests had a wonderful time at last year's Tea. Get your tickets now so you don't miss this year's event!

Pennies for Possibilities

Your stash of pennies can help support possibilities at Shalom Village

Many **once-popular** expressions will soon become anachronisms. No longer will you be offered a "penny for your thoughts", and even if you were, you would have a hard time contributing your "two cents worth". This is because Canada has discontinued manufacturing one-cent coins after more than a century of faithful service.

It seems that Canadians have been hoarding their pennies rather than spending them. It was costing taxpayers more than it was worth to produce new ones every year that mostly ended up languishing in jars and drawers. On May 4, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty pressed a button at the Royal Canadian Mint in Winnipeg that stamped the last penny, marking the end of an era.

Although pennies will no longer be manufactured, they will still be accepted as legal tender.



Do you have a stash of pennies? Why not put them to good use by donating them to Shalom Village's **Pennies for Possibilities** campaign?

Pennies are not expected to develop much of a collectable value according to coin experts, and yours could be helping our residents live better lives every day.

Containers will be placed around Shalom Village for you to drop off your rolled pennies, or you can leave them at our reception desk. Call Kathleen Thomas at (905) 529-1613 ext. 264 or email kathleen@shalomvillage.ca for more details. Remember, a penny saved is a penny earned!

Need to know

What: 31st Annual Shalom Village Ladies Auxiliary Tea. A highlight of the summer social season for more than three decades, it is a wonderful afternoon where guests enjoy party sandwiches, scones, fresh fruit and decadent desserts.

When: Thursday, July 5th at 1 p.m.

Where: Goldie's Place at Shalom Village.

Ticket and sponsorship info: Volunteers will be calling soon to offer tickets to you and your friends. For ticket information, or to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, call Kathleen Thomas at (905) 529-1613 ext. 264 or email kathleen@shalomvillage.ca.

Contact info:
Kathleen Thomas
Executive Director
905-529-1613 ext. 264
email: kathleen@shalomvillage.ca
Trish Mongeon
Major and Legacy Giving Coach
905-529-1613 ext. 231
email: trish@shalomvillage.ca
Kate Buchanan
Executive Assistant
905-529-1613 ext. 356
email: kate@shalomvillage.ca



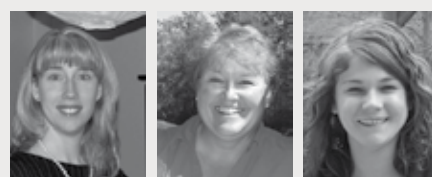
Shalom Village
shalomvillage.ca
70 Macklin Street North
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 3S1
P: 905-529-1613 F: 905-529-7542
E: info@shalomvillage.ca

Thank you

Grateful thanks to the families of **Murray Stein** and **Frances Marzoli** for requesting donations to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers.

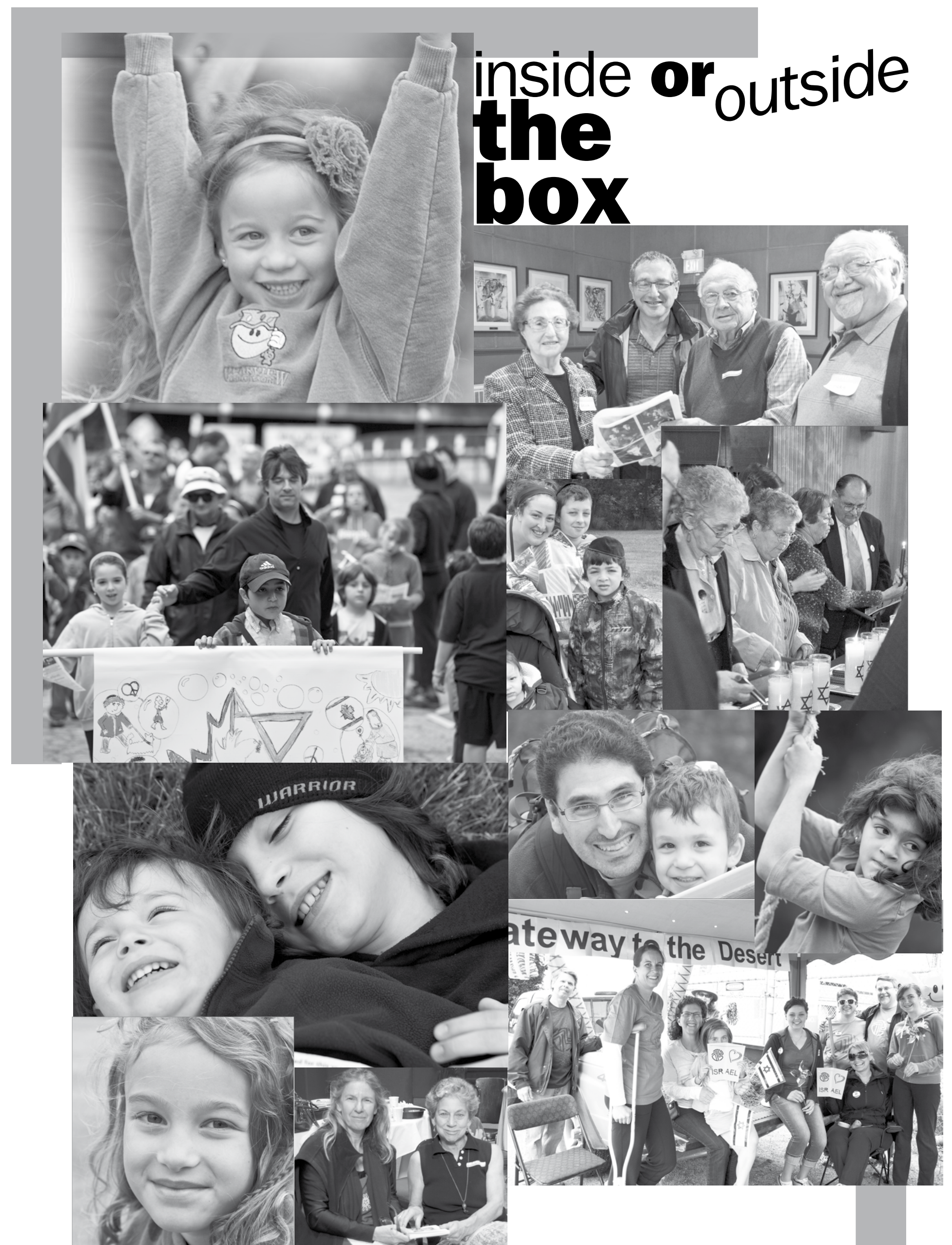
Memorial donations support the **Possibilities Fund** at Shalom Village, making many special programs and services possible for our residents.

Your Foundation Team



Kathleen Thomas, Trish Mongeon and Kate Buchanan are the faces behind the Shalom Village Charitable Foundation. Contact them to learn more about how you can help make possibilities possible at Shalom Village.

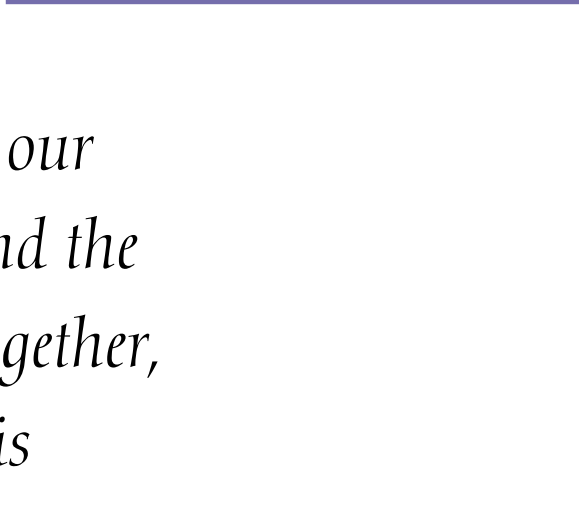
inside or outside the box



we are
one

UJA FEDERATION
of HAMILTON
Live generously
www.jewishhamilton.org

Many faces ... One Community



The outstanding volunteers pictured here were honoured at Hamilton Jewish Federation's Annual General Meeting on May 22. They, and so many more like them, are our community's most treasured resource.

In celebration of both our wonderful diversity and the values that bind us together, we proudly present this year's honourees.

Shem Tov Award Winners:

Top row: Joel Goldberg, on behalf of the Jewish Student Association at McMaster, pictured with Madeleine Levy and Judy Schwartz. **Second row, 1 to r:** Jo-Ann Pomerantz on behalf of the JCC pictured with JCC co-presidents Ed Zaltz (left) and Lowell Richter; Lisa Morris on behalf of UJA Federation, pictured with Larry Szpirglas and Gerry Fisher; Dan Levy on behalf of Beth Jacob Synagogue, pictured with Beth Jacob co-president Cindy Richter; Alain Wiesenenthal on behalf of the Adas Israel Congregation; Jan Hastie on behalf of Na'amat, pictured with Na'amat co-president Dena Honig. **Third row, 1 to r:** Doreen Korman on behalf of Temple Anshe Sholom, pictured with Temple president Carl DeLeon; Cheryl Newburgh on behalf of Sha'arei Beth El in Oakville; Phil Rosenshein on behalf of the Jewish National Fund, pictured with JNF president Neil Silvert. **Fourth row, 1 to r:** Kathy Jackson on behalf of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy and Hamilton Jewish Middle School, pictured with Rabbi Elliot Feldman; Michael Bernholtz on behalf of Chabad; Ian Binnie (right) on behalf of Beth Tikvah, pictured with Frank Simkevitz. **Fifth row, 1 to r:** Sheila Manley on behalf of Shalom Village pictured with CEO Jeanette O'Leary and incoming president, Dr. Larry Levin; Rina Rodak on behalf of Kehila Jewish Community Day School; Michael Sher on behalf of Hamilton Jewish Social Services, pictured with Jewish Social Services director Carol Krames.

Dolly Cohen receives CeCe Schreiber Volunteer Leadership award



It is with great delight that Hamilton Jewish Federation presents the CeCe Schreiber Award to Dolly Cohen. Established in 2007, the CeCe Schreiber Award is our community's most prestigious volunteer leadership award, named after one of Hamilton's most respected and accomplished volunteers. Dolly's volunteer career began in Toronto when she was still a girl with the Bnai Brith Youth Organization. During the Second World War she received much deserved recognition for her work with Women's Volunteer Services. Shortly after moving to Hamilton from Toronto, Dolly played a key volunteer role in the creation of the Aviva Chapter of B'nai Brith, serving as its first president. The synagogue has always played an important role in Dolly's life. She has held more

positions at the Adas Israel than any of us can remember, including president of the Adas Israel Sisterhood. She also worked tirelessly on behalf of the Adas Israel men's club, which honoured her in 1988 as "Man of the Year." Dolly has always been an activist on behalf of Hamilton Jewish Federation. She has served as co-chair of the United Jewish Appeal women's Campaign. She has played leadership roles in Hadassah-Wizo, ORT, Emunah Women, Adas Israel, State of Israel Bonds and the Jewish National Fund. In every setting and in every role, Dolly has served with great distinction and humility – never seeing her contributions as extraordinary – which they certainly have been. In her entire volunteer career, she has never sought the limelight and has always put the needs of the community before her own.

Judy Schwartz receives Holocaust Education Award of Distinction

Judy Schwartz's passion for Holocaust education has a long history. Beginning in 1994, she devoted hundreds of hours towards interviewing 63 local Holocaust survivors on behalf of Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. Judy began her involvement with Federation's Holocaust Education Committee in 1988. She was instrumental in developing the Survivor Speakers Bureau that brings survivors to the various schools to give powerful and personal testimonies. As the committee's outreach chair for the past 14 years, Judy has coordinated the speakers and survivors for the annual student symposium and teachers seminar. In her role, she responds to anti-Semitic incidents in schools by arranging for speakers and educators to deal effectively with these situations. She has worked with local teachers, training them to become facilitators for the Holocaust student symposium.



Federation wishes Judy all the best as she steps down as director of McMaster's Jewish Students Association, a position she held for 14 years. We thank Judy for her devotion to Jewish students at McMaster throughout her long tenure.

Jacki Levin receives President's Leadership Appreciation Award



Every once in a while someone special comes forward who truly exemplifies all of the values and qualities of commitment, dedication, leadership, skill and Ahavat Yisrael – love for Israel. The President's Leadership Appreciation award was created to honour just such a person, and this year was awarded to Jacki Levin. Jacki has been a member of the Hamilton Jewish Federation board for the past five years, during which time she has served as chair of the allocations committee and as treasurer. Simultaneous with her work with the Federation, Jacki also served a full term as president of Shalom Village. She has also served as a board member of several other Jewish organizations, including the JCC. In each of these functions, she has served with diligence and with distinction. Jacki has presented a model of community volunteer leadership

which is an inspiration to us all. Jacki, together with her husband Dr. Larry Levin, were this year's most well-deserved Negev Dinner honourees.

Your Best Move Yet.



1122 Wilson St. West
Ancaster, ON L9G 3K9

905.648.4451

ROYAL LEPAGE
STATE REALTY BROKERAGE
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED



www.tanishall.com

ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

In 1910, the original Penn Station, providing a towering and grand entrance to NYC was built. Among its many impressive elements, it had a giant waiting room with 150-foot tall ceilings, flooded with sunlight from its expansive iron and glass roof. As trains became less popular, it was demolished in the 1960s to make way for Madison Square Gardens. The ruins were dumped into a landfill and many residents were devastated.

When the Adas Israel's building campaign began in the 1950s, the tag line for the project was, "Once in a lifetime... for a lifetime." The founders were determined to build the "New Adas" as a timeless landmark in which every detail was planned to perfection. Building Campaign chairmen Max Hoffman and Sam Katz along with their enthusiastic committee members devoted much time to this project. The building plan was ahead of its time, providing easy access for wheelchairs and families with strollers to access all of the rooms in the synagogue both for prayer and to the social and banquet halls.

Today, our community is privileged to be the beneficiary of this magnificent synagogue. We have already begun to renew and restore our majestic facilities in anticipation of our centennial celebration. Over the coming



Pictured above, Max Hoffman and Sam Katz at the dedication of the new Adas Israel in 1961.

year we will have rebuilt our main sanctuary with new radiant heating, enjoyed the wood restorations in the small chapel, upgraded our restrooms, we include a new wheelchair accessible washroom and an infant care area, and addressed urgent roof repairs, to name a few.

As part of our new building campaign, we are offering the opportunity for pew dedications in our main sanctuary and chapel as well as other re-dedication opportunities. Many families in our congregation have sat in their pews for several generations,

danced with their family Torahs, celebrated multitudes of family simchas, while others are charting a new family history. At our rededication ceremonies, we intend to re-create the magic and glory of the original Adas Israel dedication weekend based upon the original program. For dedication details or more information about getting involved contact the shul office at 905-528-0039 or e-mail office@adasisrael.ca. Come join us October 26th - 28th, 2012 for our dedication weekend and experience the Adas Israel, aged to perfection.

HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY

The obligation to acknowledge kindness received from another is called hakarat hatov. On May 23 the Hamilton Hebrew Academy held a special assembly to recognise the greatness of staff leaders, students and volunteers. The student recognition spanned accomplishments across the board from academic and creative achievements to exemplary middot (qualities) and sports accomplishments. Students received trophies for their leadership and for contributing positively to the school environment. Morris Black Public Speaking contest trophies were presented and certificates of participation given to all of the students who partook. The school also presented awards for student achievements in public programs and various sports activities including first place trophies against Toronto Jewish day schools and Hamilton Wentworth District School Board's entire first place volleyball banner. In-school triumphs in choir, spelling, recycling and Mishnah (to name a few)



2011/2012 student council executive receiving awards for leadership with Rabbi Yaakov Morel who also received an award for his leadership of this hard working team.

were celebrated and highlighted. One of the most significant parts of the assembly was when parents and community volunteers were called up to receive awards. Excitement filled the air as HHA and HJMS students cheered for their parents and the generous volunteers responsible for feeding them and making special events run smoothly, to the lesser known volunteers who work tirelessly to

raise funds for students to receive the quality of education they were awarded for at the beginning of the assembly. Inspired by the volunteer power at HHA's tribute dinner on May 9 honouring the era of Rivka Shaffir a'h, retired veteran staff members, Marion Freeborn, Barbara Morton and Barbara Wasseljew volunteered to re-establish the grade 5 play next year.

KEHILA JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL



David and Danna Horwood receiving their award from Kehila principal Leia Ger Rogers.

From generation to generation we have taught our children the importance of remembering the past and planning for the future. On April 3, Kehila Jewish Community Day School hosted a gala dinner at Temple Anshe Sholom, during which we learned about past history and saw the great potential of the future.

David and Danna Horwood were the honorees of the evening. All three of their children have attended Kehila, and the Horwoods have provided both volunteer and financial support to the school throughout. Both served on the Kehila board numerous times, and David chaired the board for the 2007/8 academic year. This family is a true inspiration for leadership in this community. The main feature of the event was the world premiere of Margaret and Arthur's Story: Love, Courage, and Family, an educational documentary produced by Danna for the purpose of teaching children about the Holocaust. The film documents the survival story of Danna's grandparents through the Holocaust and beyond. Their journey from Hungary to Hamilton provided an inspirational highlight to the entire evening.

The juxtaposition of an outstanding teaching documentary about the Holocaust with the learning going on at the school provided a poignant example of why we need more Jewish education in Hamilton. The elementary years are when students learn all of the things that matter: how to treat others, how to respect oneself and how to become engaged community members. The education at Kehila provides the assurances that the losses of the Shoah were not in vain: this education provides the future of the Jewish community.

Transitions

As the school year comes to an end Kehila will enter its next phase. Leia Ger, principal for the past five years, will be moving on to new projects and Peter Greenberg will take the helm at Kehila.

During Ger's tenure, Kehila moved to centre-based teaching, allowing the students to become involved in their own learning. She also encouraged a totally integrated curriculum, working with the teachers to interconnect the Judaic, secular and arts curriculum. In addition, Ger encouraged the use of computer technology, insisting that all students learn to use a variety of programs for all aspects of their education.

We wish Ger shalom u'vracha, all the best in her future adventures.

Incoming principal Peter Greenberg comes to Kehila as an experienced educator and administrator, having held several positions within both public and private education. Currently, he is the director of Arthur Francis Educational Consultants. He is also active at the Dyslexia Resource Centre in Ancaster. Greenberg served as principal at Dundas District Secondary School and special educational services for the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board. He is also a past educator at the Temple Anshe Sholom Hebrew School.

Together with Kehila's outstanding staff, Peter will continue to ensure that Kehila has a progressive atmosphere where students thrive socially, academically and Jewishly. Baruch Habah, Peter!

BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE

Here's something to look forward to during what promises to be the long, hot summer of 2012. Beth Jacob's biggest annual fundraiser, The Big Night, has a new date. The event will take place on Wednesday, August 29 at Beth Jacob Synagogue, featuring acclaimed comedian Modi.

Voted one of the top 10 comedians in New York City by the Hollywood Reporter and Back-Stage, Modi is one of the comedy circuit's hottest young comedians. Modi has appeared on CBS's CSI: NY, HBO's The Sopranos, NBC's Last Comic Standing, among many others. He has also played leading roles in two films: Waiting for Woody Allen, which won the 2004 LA Film Festival, and Stand Up, a feature length film released in 2006.

The Big Night is a signature event that includes a featured comedian, a fabulous silent auction and a draw for a dream vacation of your choice.

There are two ways to enjoy this fabulous evening: by purchasing a ticket for \$36 or, purchase a lottery ticket for \$100 (only 250 sold) that includes a draw for the trip and two admissions. Call the synagogue office at 905-522-1351 for tickets.

Together with Israel. That's what we're calling our upcoming shul trip to Israel scheduled for late May, 2013. You don't have to be a member of Beth Jacob to participate in what promises to be an unforgettable experience. Please join us on Thursday, June 28 at 6:30 pm at the shul for an information meeting with Rabbi Dan Selsberg and travel agent Avi Esakov. Both the willing-to-commit and just-curious are welcome.

Plans are underway for Beth Jacob's 125th anniversary celebrations scheduled for the 2012/13 year. Stay tuned for more details in future issues of the Hamilton Jewish News.

HAMILTON JEWISH MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Hamilton Jewish Middle School is pleased to announce the addition of Dennis Nash to our HJMS faculty as Grade 6 general studies teacher commencing in the new school year. Nash has extensive teaching experience at both the elementary and high school levels. For the past 20 years, he has been a teaching specialist at the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. Nash earned his teaching certification from Hamilton Teacher's College, his certification as a Special Education Specialist from Brock University, his Masters of Science in Deaf Education from Canisius College, and his Bachelor of Arts in history and English from McMaster University.



Dennis Nash

In 2007, Nash was one of only 35 educators selected worldwide to participate in the international school for Holocaust studies at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. The following year he returned to Yad Vashem as a presenter, training teachers from across the globe on the pedagogies of Holocaust education. He continued his research in Holocaust studies on site at death camps in Germany and Poland.

In 2008 Nash was the keynote speaker at the Hamilton Jewish Federation Holocaust Education Committee's Annual Teachers

Seminar. His informative topic, How to Teach the Holocaust in 100 Minutes, was designed to provide teachers with the proper resources and methodologies to best present this sensitive subject matter. In his current role at our school's Diverse Learning Centre, and as a supply teacher, students have enthusiastically embraced his dynamic and engaging teaching style.

For more information about the Hamilton Jewish Middle School, e-mail info@hjms.ca or call 905-528-0330.

FSU VETERANS CELEBRATE VICTORY DAY

On May 9, Hamilton Jewish Social Services workshop participants celebrated Victory Day, marking the capitulation of Nazi Germany to the Soviet Union in the Second World War. Many Russian communities in United States and Canada organize public gatherings on this day. The JSS celebration included excellent Russian fare and a great many toasts to their glory days.



TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

Here at the Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School, most of our kids are counting down the days to when they leave for Camp George.

A huge percentage of our students attend the Union of Reform Judaism's summer camp, which has been going strong for 13 years, a period during which no summer has passed without a strong contingent of Temple kids. Sometimes there are more than 50 of our members there once you count the kids, the staff and the faculty.

Why do so many of our students embrace this experience? Our students have an amazing time being among other Jewish kids, creating Jewish memories, and being immersed in Judaism in a way that is impossible back here in the "real world." Camp George is a beautiful setting for this transformative experience. There really is nothing quite like outdoor Shabbat services in the Beit T'fillah surrounded by beautiful

trees and overlooking a clear calm lake.

While we know that our students are getting a lot out of their time at Camp George, we also know that they will bring a little bit of camp back with them. They will bring the values they learn, the friendships they form, and a renewed love of being a Jewish kid. That is why we strive so hard to make camp financially viable for all families who want to send their kids to a Jewish Summer Camp experience. Every year we raise, on average, \$20,000 dollars to help our students make it to Camp George.

The Foundation for Jewish Camp probably sums it up best: "Children with pivotal Jewish camp experiences are more likely to become adults who value their Jewish heritage, support Jewish causes, and take on leadership roles in their communities."

While we will miss our kids over the summer, we can't wait to see what they bring back from camp this year!

When scrap was golden

HAMILTON SCRAP FAMILIES RECALL THE GOLDEN AGE OF SCRAP

by STEVE ARNOLD, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Jewish history is filled with tales of people who, barred from most other trades and professions, built lives and fortunes in fields no one else wanted.

In Europe, centuries ago, that was money changing, an enterprise scorned by Christians at least until they needed to finance a war or a new castle.

For many of the Jewish immigrants who flooded to North America in the last years of the nineteenth century and the first of the twentieth, that field was recycling scrap metal and other waste material. Hamilton, with its booming base of metals industries and steel mills, was a centre of that enterprise. It was a tough, gritty business but from it rose a Jewish community.

Veterans of that once thriving enterprise gathered recently at the Jewish Community Centre to lunch on lox, bagels and egg salad while remembering the way it used to be. The gathering was one part of the Working Families Stories and Treasures of the Hamilton Jewish Community project.

The project is an effort to preserve the history of the work of Jewish families, reminding today's children of the efforts made by their parents and grandparents to build a strong and vibrant community – whose community centre, houses of worship and other buildings are marked with the names of men who sweated and toiled in dirty yards hoping for a better future.

Frank, Goldblatt, Hoffman, Hotz, Lax, Levy, Paikin, Posner, Rochwerg, Waxman is only a partial list.

Many of the stories told around the table that day had similar starting points – a poor man from Latvia, Poland, Russia or a similar place lands in Canada with a few words of English and a few coins in his pockets and drifts into the only trade open to him. Sometimes, there was a helping hand and for many of those who got their new start in Hamilton, that helping hand belonged to Jacob Goldblatt.

"My zaydie came here from Poland and started with a horse and buggy he got from Jacob Goldblatt," recalled Harvey Waxman.

He's not related to the Waxmans of I. Waxman and Sons – his family made their name in the scrap auto part of the industry – stripping reusable parts from retired cars and then selling the metal skeletons to companies that cut them up and eventually sold the steel back to the blast furnaces of Stelco and Dofasco.



Jacob Goldblatt helped many families get into the scrap business.

Larry Paikin tells a similar story – his grandfather left the Old Country because Goldblatt offered to set him up in the scrap business here. Like so many others, Paikin recalls his grandfather working with a horse and wagon, plodding the streets of Hamilton crying out for "rags, bottles and bones" and keeping the horse in a small stable behind their home in the centre of the city.

Another theme that weaves through memories of the industry is the camaraderie of those who made their living from it.

"What got me as young girl growing up and working in the scrap industry was that it didn't matter what happened during 6 and 5, if your brother needed you they banded together," recalled Ellen Hoffman whose father Sol ran yards first downtown and later in the far east end. "These men, there were very few women at the time, built an entire Jewish community. They made sure we had everything."

Hoffman has memories of her father and Morris Lax, the best of friends away from business, yelling and screaming at each other over the phone fighting over a few cents a pound and then meeting that same evening to raise money for Adas Israel and the Hamilton Hebrew Academy.

Sometimes, recalled Skippy Caplan, the meetings were about blowing off steam rather than community building.

"They would have meetings after hours, but it really wasn't a meeting, it was a drinking party," she said.

Harvey Waxman has the same memories of his father dealing with Lax.

"We'd send him 100 batteries and he'd count them as they came off the truck and it would always be only 92 or 93, never 100," he

recalled. "Then they would yell and scream at each other in English and Yiddish for a while and eventually saw it off somewhere between."

Norm Levitt spent 50 years working in the industry, starting with his father who would take a truck to places like Wyndham Centre and when he had a full load of scrap metal would bring it back to Hamilton.

The basic structure of the business was simple – smaller operators like Hoffman would buy from peddlers and other small dealers and then sell to larger firms like Lax which could assemble enough material to sell to Stelco or Dofasco. There was also money to be made taking scrap steel from the mills, or waste paper from The Hamilton Spectator or other products from other businesses.

"A lot of guys would do that," Waxman recalled. "They'd buy from peddlers and then stockpile until they had enough. The smaller guys would sell to the bigger players."

While some of the old Jewish families are still in the scrap business – Posner Industries is one example – others have faded. Sol Hoffman, for example, sold his yard to Posner in the 1970s and died within a couple of years. I. Waxman and Sons has vanished although a grandson of one of the founding brothers now operates a new firm, Waxman Industrial Services.

Part of the change, Harvey Waxman said, simply reflected the growing prosperity of those families and their fierce determination their children would never have to claw for a living in the same way. The collapse of old prejudices – the years of Jewish quotas for university enrolment for example – also opened new possibilities.

"At one time it was all Jewish because it was the only business they could get into," Waxman said. "As the next generation came up, their parents wanted them to have more. They wanted them to be doctors and lawyers and be educated. They wanted a better life for their children, not to have to get their hands dirty in the scrap business."

Many of the stories being collected through the Working Families project will be turned into art work. A map showing all of the locations of the Jewish scrapyards in Hamilton is also being assembled. More information on the project is available by e-mail at workingfamilystories@gmail.com.



Above: Ellen Hoffman maps out areas of Jewish scrap companies. Photo by Steve Arnold Special to the Hamilton Jewish News.



Left: Many leaders in the scrap industry started out as peddlers of rags, bottles and bones like the one pictured in this archival photograph.

Need to Know



Local artist Becky Katz instructs Hamilton Jewish Middle School students on the printmaking process.

Name of Project: Working Family Stories and Treasures of the Hamilton Jewish Community.

Funding: Funds were made available from the Trillium Foundation and the UJA Federation of Hamilton.

Mandate: To preserve the history of the work of Jewish families and to pass on to our children what it has taken to create a community in a new land.

Partners: Beth Jacob Synagogue, Hamilton Jewish Middle School, Jewish Community Centre, Kehila Jewish Community Day School, Temple Anshe Sholom Supplementary Program, Shalom Village and The Print Studio.

The method: A series of workshops for students in grades 3-8 and for seniors at Shalom Village, during which students and seniors research their family's working history and write stories or produce skits, prints and sculptural representations of their family's working history. **The facilitators:** Coordinator Melinda Richter is a curator with strong roots in this community; Emanuela Dussin ran the drama workshops; Becky Katz and others from The Print Studio ran the printmaking workshops; Hana Pinthus taught the participants to make multi-layered collages; Ellen Jaffe helped with writing stories.

Exhibits: Videos of workshops, along with stories, prints and artwork are on exhibit at Shalom Village, Hamilton Jewish Middle School, Kehila and Beth Jacob during the month of June. The Print Studio (173 James St. N.) is exhibiting work from Temple Anshe Sholom's workshop until July 7.

Coming Up: Still in the planning stage are workshops for adults focusing on businesses along York and James streets and farms in the Hamilton area. A final, full exhibit for the entire Hamilton community will be held at You Me gallery on James St. N. Details will be announced at a later date.

Contact: If you would like to take part in these workshops, please contact workingfamilystories@gmail.com.

Singing his song

Centenarian Sam Lewis knows the secret of a well-lived life

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

Sinatra himself couldn't have sung it better. The occasion was Sam Lewis's 100th birthday; the setting, Beth Jacob Synagogue, the song, The Best Things in Life Are Free, sung with pitch perfect tone and expert phrasing by the man of the day. As the centenarian stepped up to the podium that Shabbat morning a collective hush descended upon the many family members, friends and congregants who had come together to mark the milestone celebration.

For Lewis's daughter Rosalie Gaffe, the long-awaited moment was a beautiful exchange, with love offered and love returned. She believes her father's choice of songs was meant to relay something essential.

"It's the little things in life. It's love, nature. They're free," said Gaffe.

"My father relates to people through song," said Gaffe. "He's not as articulate as a lot of people because he had to leave school after Grade 6. He doesn't have the mastery of the language that way but he does through song... When my mother was really sick at the end of her life, he used to sing her a love song every night before she went to sleep."

It is a fair assumption that, to the young Sam Lewis, it wasn't yet clear that the best things in life are free. The second of six children born to Polish-born immigrants, Lewis's early years were marked by extreme financial hardship. As the eldest son, there were expectations and obligations. Finishing public school was out of the question.

When his father opened a pool hall on Toronto's Queen Street West his son was by his side. In an interview with the HJN, Lewis recounted the time an inspector walked into the shop and asked his father why his kid wasn't in school.



Sam Lewis: still going strong at 100 years and counting. Photo by Wendy Schneider, the Hamilton Jewish News

"My father took him to court and said 'look he's my only son, he's my only support. Give me a chance.' And they let me go," said Lewis, without a trace of bitterness. In those days, that's just how it was amongst immigrant families.

Gaffe tells a story about her father's early years that is particularly revealing of the man he was to become. It took place in small town Ontario, following the family's move from Toronto. One day, the young Lewis, still just a child, took it upon himself to stock up with tea and coffee from his parents' grocery store and go on the road trying to sell it to the local farmers. It turned out to be the beginning of a brilliant career in sales.

"In one day he made more money than my grandfather made in a week," said Gaffe.

"My father's a consummate salesman. He knows how to

endear himself to people and sell himself... And he hasn't given up on that and that's what keeps him going," she added.

Lewis took his sales acumen one step further in 1935, when he and two partners purchased Hamilton Store Fixtures. In 1947 he sewed the seeds of what was to become a thriving third generation family business operated today by his son-in-law and grandsons.

"My grandfather set values for our business," said Lorne Gaffe, "We are highly ethical and operate under the same tradition and foundation that he set. When I face a work-related crisis, I always ask myself, 'what would my grandfather do?' Making sure I maintain his values makes it easier to make a decision."

Asked what it's like being 100, Lewis replied with characteristic wit. "It's not like when you're 35. If I had my life to live over again I wouldn't change a thing."

Memories to last a lifetime!



Open to everyone!



- Theme Days
- Family Night
- Weekly Trips
- Special Guests
- Arts & Crafts
- Science & Nature
- Mixed media
- Tennis
- Baseball
- Cooking
- Swimming at Dalewood Recreation Centre

For more information contact Jonny at c
ampkadimahdirector@gmail.com or call 905-648-0605.



www.jcc-hamilton.com

Did you know that...

the PJ Library sends 100,000 free books and music to families across North America each month

Sign up your child at www.jewishhamilton.org or www.pjlibrary.org or contact Elaine at elevine@jewishhamilton.org

DAVID SWEET M.P.
905 627 9169
DAVIDSWEET.CA



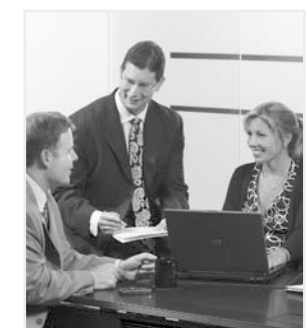
Welcoming back the family fun and joys that summer time brings.

Ancaster - Dundas - Flamborough - Westdale
#3-59 Kirby Ave., Greenville, ON L9H 6P3

TAYLOR LEIBOW

ACCOUNTANTS AND ADVISORS

... THE DIFFERENCE IS LEADERSHIP



- Auditing & Accounting
- Business Consulting
- Succession & Estate Planning
- Tax Minimization
- Litigation Support
- Business Valuations
- Corporate Finance
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- SR&ED Tax Credits
- Corporate & Personal Bankruptcy
- Corporate & Personal Debt Restructuring

HAMILTON
Tel: (905) 523-0000

BURLINGTON
Tel: (905) 637-9959

www.taylorleibow.com





Dodo and Jerry Pollock at their home in Modi'in. "The best thing about Israel are the relationships."



Rachel Jonah, yoga teacher and massage therapist: "I've tried leaving and it's just not possible."



Rochel Seidenfeld at her home in Efrat. Life here is not much different than it had been in Toronto, she claims.

Hamiltonians in Israel

A FINAL LOOK AT THE LIVES OF FORMER MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE LIVING THE ZIONIST DREAM

Story and photos by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

In the summer of 2011, the Hamilton Jewish News spent three weeks in Israel conducting a series of interviews with a small cross-section of the estimated dozens of former Hamiltonians living in Israel. The conversations with these olim – the Hebrew word for immigrants – provided a glimpse into the aliyah experience and insight into how the experience of being part of Hamilton's Jewish community for however long a period, impacted on their decision to live in Israel.

Amidst the diversity of backgrounds and worldviews, a common refrain was that by aligning their personal destinies with that of the Jewish State, these individuals, for the most part, felt that their lives had a higher purpose. What follows is a summary of common issues and themes expressed during these fascinating conversations.

Reasons for Aliyah

Most of the interviewees were born during the first decade of Israel's existence, when the concept of a Jewish State was spoken of in the family home as a miraculous event. Many spoke of their own longing, once they came of age, to see for themselves the miracle of which their parents and grandparents spoke.

A significant number attended the Hamilton Hebrew Academy (HHA) or were deeply influenced by the Adas Israel's Rabbi Morton Green, who often spoke about the importance of moving to Israel. Out of former HHA student Shari Pilo's (née Wright) graduating class of 12 or 13, more than half made aliyah, a remarkable statistic.

Where they live

Most former Hamiltonians live in large urban centres like Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv or in the smaller communities like Ranaana, Herzliya, Beit Shemesh, Modi'in and Zichron Ya'acov. A small number live beyond the Green line – in Ma'ale Adumim, Tekoa and Efrat. Only one former Hamiltonian lives on kibbutz. Most live in English-speaking neighbourhoods. Rochel Seidenfeld, a daughter of Rabbi Morton and Sylvia Green, for example, described her daily routine in Efrat – almost 100 per cent populated by English speaking immigrants,

as no different than her former (married) life in Toronto.

Worldview

The majority of those interviewed self-identify as orthodox Jews, and their comments about life in Israel were focused primarily on the joys of living in an environment where the Jewish calendar is so dominant. They tended not to dwell on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or on societal disparities.

Those who self-identify as secular or "traditional", a word that has come to refer to any religious stream other than orthodox, were more likely to voice criticism of government policies. South African born and raised, Shifrah Alleson, a founder of Na'amat Canada's Hamilton chapter, voiced concern about an increase in legislation that targets left-wing and human rights groups. "The left ... has totally disappeared," she said. "and the whole country seems to be run by little interest groups."

When it came to weighing in the possibility of establishing peace with its Arab neighbours, it was sadly apparent that everyone appeared to hold the belief that the two sides are farther apart than ever before.

Raising Israeli children

Without exception, every interviewee sang the praises of raising children in Israel. Israeli kids, they say, are more independent, self-aware, knowledgeable and altruistic than their Canadian counterparts. Furthermore, many stated emphatically that the day their child joined the IDF was the first day they saw themselves as truly Israeli. Both parents and grandparents talked about their children's army service with tremendous pride, albeit mixed with sadness that so many years after their own aliyah, peace remained elusive.

Challenges

For those who made aliyah past the age of 30, one of the greatest challenges has been attaining fluency in the Hebrew language. In contrast, those who made the move in their early 20s, managed much better. This demographic, however, is experiencing real emotional turmoil at being so far away from their aging and

sometimes ailing parents.

The economic pressures of living in Israel were universally acknowledged as an ongoing source of stress. Even for those who are managing quite well financially, people expressed concerns for the next generation's ability to make ends meet. The interviews coincided with the large scale tent protests in cities that took place across the country throughout the summer of 2011 and almost everyone referred to the social unrest as something they could relate to.

Canada versus Israel

In 1996 Dodo Pollock's T-shirt store in Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Center was badly damaged in a suicide bomb attack. The shocked and stunned Pollock was pulled to safety by a passerby. Did the thought of packing up and returning to Canada enter her mind? "Oh goodness, no," she said. Paradoxically it's in Canada where she feels "scared out of my mind." Why?

"They don't look at my bag when I'm going into a department store." Both Dodo and her husband, Jerry Pollock say nothing could ever make them leave Israel because of the friends they've made there.

"When I grew up in Hamilton in the '30s and '40s," said Jerry, "everybody in the community was very close and very friendly..." That began to change, he said, in the 60s and 70s. When they moved to Israel in the 1980s, "it was like going back in time. People are warm and friendly. If you need someone, they're there ... and you don't have to ask. They just do."

"There's a lot of people with whom I resonate, spiritually, emotionally, culturally," said Rachel Jonah, a massage therapist and yoga teacher. "I don't think there's anywhere in the world where you could find so many like minded people in terms of community ... As soon as you leave and you're in a different airport it feels different ... You can't take this energy and put it somewhere else. Once it's under your skin and it's in you it's very hard to be anywhere else. That's what makes me stay. I've tried leaving and it's just not possible."

Exciting opportunity for study at Hebrew University

BY H. C. MILLER, Courtesy of THE EDMONTON JEWISH NEWS

A unique study experience awaits students at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Open to students of all disciplines, faiths, and traditions, scholars have travelled from every corner of the globe to study in one of the oldest civilized areas of the world, soaking up the culture and language and enjoying the extensive research goals of the university.

Founded in 1925 by prestigious leaders and thinkers such as Sigmund Freud, Albert Einstein and Martin Buber, the university was established on the principles of no limits and no borders. The goals have not changed in the years since those tentative beginnings, some 23 years before the state of Israel became a reality.

Moshik Galanty, national director of Student and Academic Affairs, encourages students to consider the many opportunities to complete part or all of their degree studies with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

"We have partnerships with several Canadian universities," he said. "And we also have many scholarship programs which students may apply for. As one of the best 100 universities in the world we have been recognized as having many exciting programs."

"During the past three years we've been concentrating on developing additional graduate and undergraduate programs. Everything is in English and the courses are recognized at a Canadian university, if they wish



Hebrew University offers both undergraduate and graduate programs for visiting students. Photo courtesy of Canadian Friends of Hebrew University

to do just a semester abroad with Hebrew University," continued Galanty.

"Others prefer to attend for a full year, and a summer program is available, which is a one or two month commitment, so it's very flexible."

The beauty of the program, he adds, is that it's not just an academic education. "It is partially in class and out of class. We want them to take advantage of being in Israel, to be open to such a variety of opportunities, with students exploring the country with field trips, alternative lectures, and meeting people as well as seeing historical sites," he says.

Some students come for a semester or a year, and then they decide to stay to complete their studies. "With Israel being a hub to Europe, they can enrich their international experience, all the while getting their degree," he adds. A social activity program is built in as well,

allowing students to choose their interest and attend whatever they like from a vast variety of offerings.

Undergraduate programs include the study of human culture and explore fine arts at one of the top music schools in the world. "We have a partnership with various schools to combine studio classes with Hebrew University classes," he said. Other areas of study include philosophy, religion, history, and language and literature. Even those who are not enrolled in a degree program are welcome to attend individual courses in their area of interest, such as local diplomats.

There are several graduate programs as well, including non-profit management and leadership, and global/local studies. Human rights and international law as well as international public health are also popular programs.

More information can be found at www.cfhu.org.

Insights into Israel

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

Lisa Morris recently returned from a whirlwind trip to Israel that included, among other things, a unique opportunity to participate in Dragon Boat Israel, a joint Canada-Israel initiative to introduce the sport of dragon boat racing to Israel. In addition to the excitement of participating in the exciting two-day event, Morris made arrangements to visit projects funded by Hamilton UJA and JNF dollars.

"I always knew a portion of money raised by Federation went to Israel. But without seeing it first hand it wasn't tangible for me."

Morris set out on the morning of her "Hamilton" day by planting trees for her family and as a tribute to this year's Negev Dinner honourees, Dr. Larry and Jacki Levin. Then, it was off to Tzfat to Bar Ilan University's new medical school. There she met Maayan and Amir, two out of four Israeli students who have received financial assistance from Jewish Federations of Canada United Israel Appeal.

"You could see the gratitude on their faces and hear it when they spoke about the opportunity given to them," said Morris. Morris's day concluded in the Upper Galilee with a visit to the Shechafim School, a school for severely disabled children and the beneficiary of several Hamilton fundraisers, including last summer's bicycle ride from Hamilton to Halifax. There, she toured the school and met several teachers and students. "Being able to see first hand all the good that comes from our yearly UJA campaigns gives meaning to volunteering," she said. "I would like to take this opportunity to ask the community to find the time to volunteer. Hamilton needs you, Israel needs you and we need you."



Lisa Morris (right) with Israeli medical students, whose tuition was subsidized by the Jewish Federations of Canada. Photo courtesy of Lisa Morris. Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

The best way to reach Hamilton's Jewish community.

For information about advertising rates visit www.jewishhamilton.org

THE BEST U CAN BE!

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Music, Dance, Art, Law, Politics, Business and More!

FINANCIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

English One Year, Semester, Summer and Graduate Programs in Israel

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

CONTACT: Moshik Galanty • admissions@cfhu.org
Canadian Friends of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Tel: 416-485-8000 • www.cfhu.org/students

JOIN OUR GROWING FAMILY

We'll Take Care of You



Ilya Pinassi & Marik Pinassi

FREE OIL & FILTER CHANGE

Buy or lease any new vehicle from **Upper James Toyota, Red Hill Toyota, Red Hill Scion** or **Parkway Nissan** and you will never again pay for an oil and filter change as long as you have the vehicle. All you do is indicate you saw our ad in the Hamilton Jewish News. Ask us for details.

**parkway
NISSAN**

91 Centennial Pkwy N.
905.667.9001
www.parkwaynissan.com

Hamilton Group Autobody

HGA

171 Ferguson Ave. N.
905.527.7027
www.hgab.ca

VISIT ONE OF OUR LOCATIONS TODAY

**UPPER JAMES
TOYOTA** 

999 Upper James St
905.387.9287
www.upperjamestoyota.ca

Red Hill  **TOYOTA**

2333 Barton St. E.
905.561.1202
www.redhilltoyota.ca

Red Hill  **SCION**

2333 Barton St. E.
905.667.2466
www.redhillscion.ca