

Shem Tov Awards

Honouring volunteers

P10



Special Mentschen

A medal for Morley

P15

Hamilton Jewish News

THE JEWISH VOICE OF HAMILTON

SUMMER 2013 VOL 26:4/ TAMUZ, AV 5773

AGREEMENT #40007180

New leadership at Federation

At the Hamilton Jewish Federation's AGM on May 30, the torch of leadership was passed from outgoing president, Larry Szpirglas to Carl De Leon. While this is not the first time a non-native Hamiltonian has occupied the top lay leadership position in the community, De Leon's background as a Jamaican-born descendent of Spanish-Portuguese Jews, ensures a fresh approach to age-old challenges.

Raised in Kitchener, Carl De Leon attended McMaster University, where he met his wife Sarah, who hails from the Ottawa Valley.

The De Leons' decision to stay in Hamilton after graduation ("a great location and a big city

without being Toronto") is a scenario that Federation leaders have long pointed to as an example of what has to happen (albeit on a much larger scale) to ensure that Hamilton's Jewish community has a strong and sustainable future.

De Leon, 41, runs the roofing division of Sika Canada Inc., a subsidiary of a multi-national construction company. Yet, despite a career that involves world travel and a busy family life, (the couple has three children) he has made volunteering a priority, serving on the Temple board for the last 14 years and as its president for two.

cont'd on page 2



The "Three Amigos" (l to r) Max Rotman, Bill Stern and Sam Brownstone

Jewish Hamilton Archives

A community remembers

The passing of Sam Brownstone this past March marked the end of an era for Jewish Hamiltonians who came of age during the 1950s and early '60s. Along with the late Max Rotman and Bill Stern, the three Amigos, as they were affectionately known, were the consummate Jewish communal professionals, whose strong work ethic, passion for community and genuine love of people created a sense of community that today's communal leadership aspires to emulate. On page 17 community members, both past and present, share their memories of Sam.

Waiting for a helping hand

PARENTS SEEK ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE JEWISH EDUCATION



Zev Leizer, Aitan Selsberg and Steven Wasserman

Photo by Jason Leizer, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

Do children with special needs deserve equal access to a Jewish education? If you answered yes, than ask yourself, who should pay for it?

Over the last two decades there has been a dramatic increase in the number of children diagnosed with autism or ADHD, and parents and Jewish schools are reeling from the financial burden of providing these children with Educational Assistants (EA) and other remedial assistance. But three mothers have come together to raise the profile of the issue of special needs and Jewish education, hoping

that the community at large will take up a share of the responsibility.

It's not surprising that Milena Romalis, Karen Selsberg and Darlene Shapiro have gravitated towards one another. Parents of special needs children share a common language and a mutual understanding, something more than evident when the Hamilton Jewish News joined them for coffee last March.

cont'd on page 9



Maccabiah Games

Help Hamilton athletes play in Israel this summer

P6

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From page 1

Leadership: Carl De Leon's take on community

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

"Carl brings a keen understanding of both the needs of the Jewish community and organizational development," said Rabbi Jordan Cohen. "His term as president ... was marked by great growth and development for our congregation."

Below, De Leon discusses the challenges that face Federation and offers a vision for the community's future.



Carl De Leon

Photo by Wendy Schneider

.....
What do you see as the major issues facing Federation?

All of our communal institutions are struggling financially, and our infrastructure is becoming difficult to maintain. Given that the needs of the current generation are not the same as the needs of past generations, we are going to need to adapt.

.....
How does one go about that?

One of the first things that needs to happen is cooperation between our institutions and a willingness to look at things a little bit differently than we've looked at them in the past. One of the things I hope to bring to the table is a fresh viewpoint on it. While nostalgia is a wonderful thing, for a community to thrive, it has to evolve. Being in the business of change management, I've seen lots of great plans and ideas that fail on implementation, because someone tried to drive it through within six months

or a year. But for change to really be effective, you have to be willing to live with the fact that it takes time to put the fundamentals and infrastructure elements in place, a process that may take five to eight years. One of the reasons we've been spinning our wheels for the past 20 to 30 years is because we haven't been willing to take the time to get there properly. It's not going to happen that quickly.

.....
What past experiences are you drawing from to make this analysis?


I've learned from both the volunteer work I've done as well as from my professional life. I've spent a lot of time working in the Middle East, South America, Europe and South Africa. Working in different cultures with different mindsets one needs to adjust and adapt to different contexts.

How can Federation make the UJA Campaign more relevant?

We can't rely on people to support the campaign simply because it's the right thing to do. We need to take the time to understand what people really need from community, so that they really get its value intrinsically, instead of going about it year after year in the same old way and expecting different results. Long-time Hamiltonians, to some degree, support the Campaign out of habit, but that's not true of the newer generation that we're trying to connect with.

.....
What would be a better approach?

I think the important thing is to have a clearer and more cohesive strategy for the Campaign, taking into consideration what we need to accomplish and what the challenges are, as opposed to dealing with things in silos on an ad hoc basis. I think that we have to deliver a Campaign message that resonates not only with Federation but with the individual institutions. I'm a strong believer in fundamentals, because if you don't have the fundamentals right, implementation will break down. So we need to put in place mechanisms for community support, so that people don't just sit there and look at the president, or the board or the staff as being the vehicles for change to happen.



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OUR VIEW

Our future in your hands

On May 30 the Hamilton Jewish Federation conducted its 37th Annual General Meeting. The theme of the meeting was Celebrating our Past and Creating Our Future, and there was some good news. We elected Carl De Leon as our new president. We inducted four new board members in addition to Carl: Jeffrey Brown, Janis Criger, Mark Gould, Daniel Hershkowitz and Hanna Schayer. Jay State, our outgoing Campaign Chair reported that campaign pledges were up slightly over last year. We recognized 14 volunteers with Shem Tov awards and Hilda Rosen received the CeCe Schreiber award. Federation CEO, Barb Babij, introduced our staff and recognized their contributions. We also celebrated and acknowledged 20 years of excellence in Holocaust education, and recognized past chairs of Holocaust education: Bev Lasky, Moura Wolpert, Gilda Ennis, Michelle Finkelstein, Dr. Nadia Rosa, and Madeleine Levy. Finally, our past presidents were recognized for their contributions to the Hamilton Jewish community.

There was some sad news. We observed a few moments of silence for those in our community who passed away this past year, and recognized the particular contributions of two special men: the late Arthur Weisz and Sam Brownstone.

There was some neutral news. The size of the board was reduced to 15 in accordance with the by-laws that were passed last year. The financial statements from the past year were presented and approved. And both our out-going and in-coming presidents spoke passionately about the need for a strong, sustainable community.

And there was some bad news. Our campaign pledges were up only slightly over the preceding year.

So what can we learn from this mixed news story? One implication is that donor fatigue may very well be a myth; people of goodwill abound in Jewish Hamilton. Volunteerism is alive and well, and our Shem Tov and CeCe Schreiber recipients are proof of that.

The second take-away is that we may not be able to meet our needs in the coming year. A relatively flat campaign in an economy of rising costs means that our dollars have lost their elasticity, they simply don't stretch like they used to. If we don't make a concerted effort to give thoughtfully and responsibly, our four pillars will no longer support our community.

The future we want to create is in our hands; let's build a legacy worthy of Jewish Hamilton.

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WEBSITE LAUNCH

Working Family Stories and Treasures of the Hamilton Jewish Community (WFST) has brought art, print-making, storytelling and drama workshops to Jewish children, seniors and other members of the community, with the goal of preserving and passing on the history of Jewish families and how they have made a living in the Hamilton area. Now, with the launch of its new website www.WFST.ca on June 23, it now has a public home for all the stories, artwork, video, and audio that they have collected. The launch was combined with four workshops on how to start a community arts project to tell community history. They included: Writing and Drama – Ellen S. Jaffe (Freelance Writer) and Emanuela Hall (Shalom Village); Visual Arts – Ingrid Mayrhofer (Centre[3]); Storytelling and Puppetry – Lorrie Gallant (Woodland Cultural Centre); Music (Immigrant Culture and Art Association). Visit www.WFST.ca to view the artwork, access the resources and submit your stories. Pictured above, Jacob and Courtney Richter check out www.WFST.ca.

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COMING UP

ROSH HASHANA ISSUE

- Deadline for booking ad space
July 17, 2013
- Deadline for receiving editorial copy
July 24, 2013
- Deadline for receiving ad copy
August 5, 2013
- Estimated date of arrival
August 21, 2013

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Campaign Report

by JAY STATE, outgoing UJA Campaign Chair

The following is an excerpt from a campaign report made by outgoing UJA Campaign Chair, Jay State at the Hamilton Jewish Federation's Annual General Meeting on May 30.



Jay State Photo by Wendy Schneider

My report is mixed, with both good and bad news. First, of course, the good news. Our United Jewish Appeal Campaign enjoyed another excellent campaign this past year. Together we were able to raise \$1,120,563. This represents an improvement of \$8,000 over the previous year. It also was an improvement of \$34,436 over the year before that.

In short, we have increased our communal accomplishment by \$34,436 over the last two years. We can and should be very proud of what we have accomplished as a community, but unfortunately, we had a shortfall of \$80,000 from our target of \$1,200,000.

That \$1.2 Million goal was not just a wish. It is a real number, that reflects the total of the very scaled-back requests made by our community partners: the beneficiary agencies we support with funds raised by the UJA.

When I say "scaled back", what I mean is that the real needs of our beneficiary agencies are much greater, but they know, from years of involvement in the process, that UJA has been able to do only just so much to assist in meeting those needs, and so they have scaled them back, accordingly. Nevertheless, due to the shortfall, we had to cut back on their collective allocation by \$80,000. It was a painful moment.

We are a wonderful community in so many many ways, and we have much to be proud of. But we need to stretch a lot further in the upcoming campaign by increasing our donations.

I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of all those who worked so hard on the UJA Campaign last year. We started with an absolutely amazing opening, and I thank all those involved in that great event.

I want to thank our professional staff, Barb, Chris, Elaine, Peggy and Wendy. You are dedicated and diligent, and without your support and hard work, the campaign would fail. To our canvassers, and captains, I say "Yasher Koach! Job well done!"

Thank you to our outgoing president, Larry Szpirglas, who was a regular participant at campaign cabinet meetings, providing sage advice and good direction.

And great thanks to our exceptional cabinet, Yves Apel, Michele Finkelstein, Sandy Fuss, Danna Horwood, David Horwood, Cindy Kam, Harvey Katz, Gayle Kepecs, Sharon Lax, David Loewith, Lisa Morris, Liz Tick, Sasha Weisz, Allen Wypnerle, Lawrence Yanover and Joel Yellin. These volunteer leaders met regularly and frequently to plan and implement the campaign, and continue to do so as we prepare for the next one.

It has been an honour and a privilege being your chair for the last two years. I will remain involved in the campaign and Cabinet as your past chair in the forthcoming campaign.

I close with a very sincere request. I am asking that you come on board. Assist as a volunteer. We need help to achieve our community's goals. We need canvassers, and we need others to help out in other ways as well. If you cannot canvass, we still need your help for activities other than canvassing, such as calling to say thank you to our community for your pledge.

Speak to me, to Barb Babij or to Chris Nusca at 905-648-0605. Give us your name and number, and some of your time. Thank you.

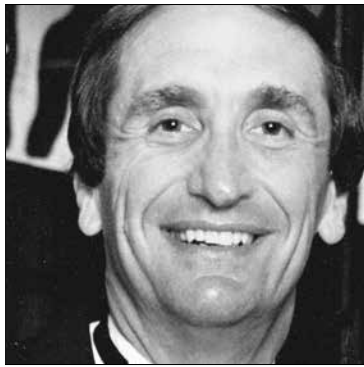
An exciting program is being planned by
National Young Leadership Canada
Jewish Federations of Canada

**Hold the Date: Friday, October 4th, 2013
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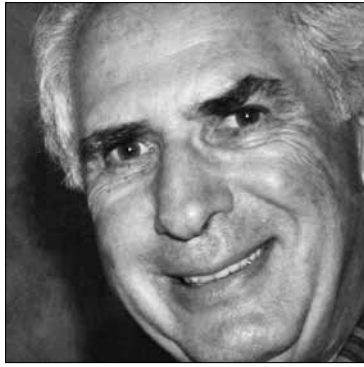
A national program
that matches 10 hosts with 10 guests
to spend Shabbat at their home.
Details to follow! Questions?
Contact Elaine at elevine@jewishhamilton.org

Lessons learned

It's not an easy job, but each of the dedicated individuals pictured here voluntarily stepped up to take on the mammoth task of overseeing Hamilton's Jewish communal infrastructure. Below, Hamilton Jewish Federation past presidents reflect on the issues that drove the Federation agenda under their leadership. Their responses reveal the degree to which the challenges that face today's communal leaders have persisted for a very long time.



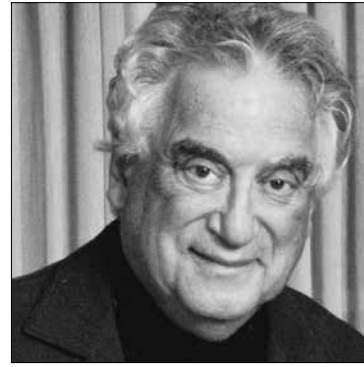
Justice Norman Bennett



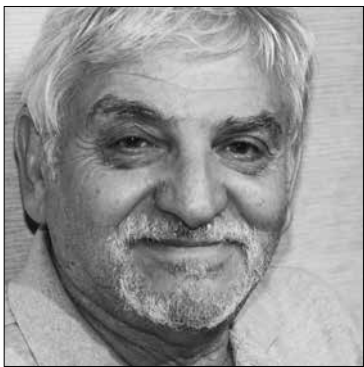
Stan Tick



Abe Szpirglas



Justice David Steinberg



Harvey Waxman



Les Lasky



David Somer



Dr. Larry Levin



Larry Szpirglas

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

Ask any Federation president to describe the years during which he or she served at the helm of Hamilton Jewish community's central governance body and you'll likely hear the word "tumultuous." That came across loud and clear when the Hamilton Jewish News asked past presidents to identify the issues that drove Federation's agenda during their term.

But first, some background. Before Hamilton adopted the Jewish Federation model in the mid 1970s, its many Jewish communal institutions came together for monthly meetings under the auspices of the Council of Jewish Organizations (CJO), a forum through which they could give reports and coordinate activities. Fundraising for essential local needs that included feeding the hungry, resettling immigrants, securing jobs and treating the sick and elderly was coordinated through the United Jewish Welfare Fund. Fundraising on behalf of Israel was another matter entirely, and conducted by a national body called the United Israel Appeal (UIA).

The adoption of the Federation model centralized fundraising under a single "one-stop" United Jewish Appeal (UJA) campaign, with a campaign cabinet, allocations committee and board of directors overseeing the distribution of funds, and an executive director to help with fundraising, administration and issues of

concern to the Jewish community at large. Furthermore, the UJA Campaign would also raise funds for Israel. Below, Federation past presidents reflect on the issues that drove the organization's agenda under their tenure.

What were the major issues that drove Federation's agenda under your tenure?

Justice Norman Bennett (1979-80)

Education: The Hamilton Hebrew Academy felt that since their enrolment was increasing, they required more funds. A new allocation formula hashed out "in the eleventh hour" averted a crisis.

Israel: We had just allocated \$100,000 for education and there was a large Russian immigration that was taking place. And, certainly, Jewish Social Services was overloaded and had to take care of them. The United Israel Appeal was asking for a bigger allocation than we were prepared to give, but, in the end, we remained firm with regards to our local needs and a formula was worked out that had the lion's share of funds raised remaining in the community.

The JCC: How to fund it was another big issue. I think there's a need for it because not everybody is affiliated with synagogues and I think there should be an independent place where people can go and express their Jewishness.

UJA Campaign: During my term we raised the campaign from

\$750,000 to \$1 Million. Thirty years later, we're still collecting around the same amount.

Stan Tick (1983-85)

Leadership: The important thing is to get people to step up to the plate, volunteer and do things and to contribute according to their means, to make the community a better place to live. We don't have enough people who want to change things and make a difference.

Abe Szpirglas (1992-93)

Fundraising: Trying to find a balance between available funding and the needs was and remains an issue.

Leadership: The biggest challenge was in finding people to step up, who would look at the community as a whole, instead of trying to preserve their particular constituency.

David Steinberg (1994-95)

The JCC: Quite frankly, the JCC. It's very expensive to maintain especially since Jewish Social Services moved out.

Harvey Waxman (2000-02)

Education: We tried to bring together the two day schools and the two afternoon schools. We really felt a lot of pressure because of the dwindling enrolments at the schools and demands for more funding, but then it came down to property and buildings and discussions broke down. That was

probably the biggest disappointment for me.

McMaster Jewish Students: Another thing we put a lot of energy into was supporting Jewish students at McMaster because they were feeling very terrorized at the time.

Les Lasky (2005-07)

The JCC: The status and future of the JCC and its Lower Lions Club Road facility was – and remains – a significant issue on the community agenda.

Relationship building: One of the most important developments was establishing Federation's rightful place within the social fabric of the City of Hamilton. We took significant first steps in developing working relationships with other faith and cultural groups and with our MP's.

Holocaust Education: The budget for the Holocaust Education Committee rose ten-fold, enabling it to create and deliver a substantial Holocaust and Human Rights Education program.

David Somer (2007-09)

The JCC: The issue of the JCC and what was going to happen to it occupied a large amount of my time and unfortunately the situation was never resolved.

Larry Levin (2009-11)

Divisiveness: There was division in the community around how best to deal with anti-Israel voices both on and off campus. I established a new Public Affairs Committee and worked hard to listen to our

community and act responsibly in how Federation supported Israel, and deal with dissenting voices.

Education: The Hamilton Jewish Middle School was being formed and I acted as a mediator to facilitate its formation.

The JCC: Many meetings were held to try and plan a collaborative future for Federation and JCC.

Larry Szpirglas (2011-2013)

Governance: The Board of Directors were met with numerous challenges these past two years – finding a new CEO, revising our model of governance and building the supporting structures defined by the new bylaws, and beginning to more fully develop Federation's role and capacity as a community planning body.

Sustainability: The major challenge was and will continue to be ensuring the sustainability of our beneficiary agencies and our community. This requires our community to find the ways and means to support the financial needs of these institutions subject to our community agreeing upon and supporting priority services. This process requires that every member of our community engage in discussions on how to deal with the political, philosophical and financial challenges that are holding us back.

Leadership: The challenge to leadership was and continues to be, to have the courage to ensure this happens.

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Let the games begin

Hamilton area athletes seek funding to enable them to represent Canada at Maccabiah games in Israel

by SCOTT BALINSON, ALLAN FELDMAN and WENDY SCHNEIDER, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Max Balinson

Sixteen-year-old Max Balinson, a 2012 Ontario Hockey League (OHL) Guelph Storm draft pick from Ancaster, has been selected as one of the members of the Maccabi Canada's Junior Boy's ice hockey team for the 19th Maccabiah Games.

Intensely competitive tryouts took place last summer for aspiring players from across the country. Former coach of the Ontario Hockey League Niagara Ice Dogs, Mario Cicchillo will conduct training camp in early July then take the team to Israel, where all games will be played at the Canada Centre rink in Metula.

Balinson, who plays defense, grew up playing hockey in Ancaster and made the Hamilton Junior Bulldogs AAA team during his minor midget draft year.

Balinson's dad, Hamilton Police Service Staff Sergeant Scott Balinson, played on the Men's Rugby Team for Canada at the 1997 Maccabi Games. He found the experience challenging and remembers being so impressed how the team gelled very quickly after such a short time together for training. The tragedy of the bridge collapse at the opening ceremony and the determination of the athletes to continue the competition was indicative of the indomitable Israeli spirit. He will never forget the candle light vigil for the athletes who died.

When asked why he wants to play on this team, Max, who thrives on challenges, talks about his passion for being on the ice—a commitment he has shown since he was first on skates at age two. Playing in Israel will be an amazing experience and he knows the competition will be fierce.

To donate visit www.maccabicanada.com and click on the "Donate Now" on the top tool bar. Select "Fund Raising programs" from the drop down menu and scroll down to: 19th Maccabiah Games box. Click on "Search for a specific athlete". Enter the name: "Maxwell Balinson" in the box when the athletes name box appears. This will link you to Max's page. Please click on the box to "Donate now" and follow the instructions.

Joel Dembe

For the first time ever, this summer's Maccabiah Games will include Jewish athletes with physical disabilities competing in five sports events. This is a source of great pride and excitement as the Jewish ideals of inclusion and equality are put on display on the international stage.

Among the paralympic athletes representing Canada will be Hamilton born and raised, Joel Dembe, Canada's top ranked wheelchair tennis player. Dembe, no stranger to high level international competition, participated in wheelchair tennis at both the Pan-American Games and Paralympic Summer Games in London.

Rather than scheduling its Paralympic games following the regular Maccabiah Games, Israel's paralympians will march with their countries in the opening ceremonies and compete concurrently with the other events. "The message, said Dembe, "is that we are all accomplished athletes, with the necessary skill, tenacity and drive to excel."

Although hoping to medal this summer, Dembe's aim is to compete to the best of his abilities in what is sure to be a very strong field. "The Israelis have some of the top players in the world and they do a great job in the area of disabled sports," he said.

To help Joel Dembe get to Israel this summer, click



Max Balinson scoring in the OMHA semi-finals
Photo courtesy of The Hamilton Spectator



Joel Dembe on the court
Photo Courtesy of Joel Dembe



Akiv and Sharon Jhirad
Photo by Arvith Jhirad

on <https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/donate>. Under the "Select a Team/Sport" heading, choose Paralympics from the bottom of the drop-down list.

Sharon and Akiv Jhirad

It's all in the family for Sharon and Akiv Jhirad, a father and son duo from St. Catharines, who will play on Maccabi Canada's cricket team at the Israel Games in July.

The Jhirads moved to Canada from Mumbai in 2001 and settled in St. Catharine's. Akiv, a second year student in the Engineering/Physics program at McMaster, is beyond thrilled to have the opportunity to play his beloved sport in Israel.

"The fact that we have Bene Israel players attending an event like the Maccabiah Games is a huge sense of accomplishment for our community," he said.

Fundraising has proven to be difficult, however, "because, unlike hockey or soccer, cricket is an unknown sport to Canadians. Very few even know about it, let alone understand it."

To help Akiv meet his fundraising goal of \$8,300, visit his personal page at <http://my.e2rm.com/personalPage.aspx?registrationID=1692034&langP ref=en-CA>.

For the sake of Torah

Synagogues collaborate on joint Shavuot study program

STEVE ARNOLD, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

For almost 12 hours on erev Shavuot, the holy day celebrating the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, two of Hamilton's synagogues came together to do something unusual for the Jewish community.

They put their religious differences aside and studied Torah.

Dubbed Tikkun Leil Shavuot, the event was a joint venture between Temple Anshe Sholom and Beth Jacob Congregation, Hamilton's Reform and Conservative synagogues.

Tradition teaches that some of the newly-freed Israelites at Sinai missed the revelation of Torah because they slept through the event. From that, a tradition developed of studying through the night before Shavuot.

Up until this year, all three synagogues conducted their own Shavuot study programs. The idea of Beth Jacob and Temple Anshe Sholom hosting a joint study program grew from a casual conversation between Rabbi Selsberg of Beth Jacob Synagogue and Rabbi Jordan Cohen of Anshe Sholom about a Buffalo event Selsberg had heard described.

"It all came together quickly and we ran with it," Cohen said. "We thought we'd maybe get a dozen people."

The actual event drew about

100 people, roughly evenly split between Beth Jacob and the Temple. By the time breakfast was served at 5:30 the next morning about 14 remained.

Through the night, participants were treated to a series of one-hour sessions on a wide range of topics. Included in the program were presentations by Rabbi Bernard Baskin on The 10 Commandments, Cantor Eyal Bitton on Top 10 Torah Songs, Laura Wolfson on Rebecca, Rabbi Selsberg on Elisha ben Abuya, Rabbi Chanan Gans on actualizing potential, Aharon Gans on blessings, Rabbi Cohen on what Israel did not know standing at Sinai and Paula Baruch on Ruth and the mitzvah of assistance to the needy.

Selsberg said the program was designed to cover a range of topics from many perspectives, including the Orthodox view.

Hamilton's Tikkun was unique because it marked one of the first times in living memory elements of the community came together for a religious observance rather than a political event such as a Holocaust memorial or Israel support meeting.

"Community programs like this are usually around Israel or Holocaust events facilitated by a JCC and not the congregations," Cohen said. "This is the first time a major

festival has been celebrated across denominational lines."

A key part of making the program happen, he said, was the willingness of Beth Jacob congregants to hold their erev Shavuot service at the Temple, eliminating the need to travel between two buildings. The longer Reform service was held in the Temple's main sanctuary while the shorter Conservative service was held in the chapel.

"That made it work. All of a sudden, we were on our way," Cohen said.

"Jewish learning cuts across the denominations," he added. "Torah was given to all the Jewish people, and that's what Shavuot is about."

Selsberg echoes that view.

"We're a unique nation in the world but we've always had our internal divisions," Selsberg said. "Despite that, the deepest thing that binds us together is Torah, and that's a religious, not a political act."

Both rabbis said they want to see a children and youth component to the program next year, likely in the early part of the evening.

"Adults and kids from the entire community joining together to study Torah would be wonderful," Cohen said.

The Tikkun's success could lead to cooperation on other religious events.

"There's no reason why not,"

Israel Apartheid Week at McMaster A Student Responds

Reprinted courtesy of *The McMaster University Silhouette*.

Israel Apartheid Week is a campaign that intimidates Jewish and Israeli students on campus, spreads propaganda under the guise of "human rights" and demonizes the only liberal democracy in the region.

Suppose for a minute that Israel was a Muslim nation, but with the same policies regarding the Palestinians. Do you think that McMaster students would really go out of their way to criticize it, call for boycotts and sanctions against it, or compare its policies to those of Nazi Germany? I doubt it. That would offer obvious proof that IAW is an anti-Semitic venture – a week whose sole purpose is to gang up on the Jewish state.

I hope that I am wrong. Perhaps if Israel were a Muslim nation, our schools "social justice" clubs would organize a campaign to try to delegitimize it. Well then, I ask, why are we only hearing about Israel's faults? This is an issue worth exploring.

Take Syria, Israel's northern neighbour. If you opened a newspaper in recent months, you are probably aware of the atrocities committed by Bashar al-Assad's regime against his own people. We have seen thousands of civilian deaths, Internet being shut down, rampant censorship, towns being bombarded – it's a brutal civil war. To make matters worse, Palestinians in Syria are being especially targeted and cannot escape the country. Where is Syrian Human Rights Week?

In Egypt, tensions rose as the country's new Islamist leader tried to implement more conservative Muslim legislation. The government is shaky; the political situation still hasn't settled since the recent revolution. While all this is happening, minorities in Egypt, specifically Coptic Christians, are oppressed and persecuted. Copts have suffered mob assaults on their churches, Coptic girls and women have been regularly abducted and trafficked, and Copts face state-sanctioned discrimination at both political and judicial levels. Where is Egyptian Human Rights Week?

In Jordan, there is a monarchy with a tight grip on the population. A large portion of Jordan's population is comprised of Palestinian refugees, or those of Palestinian descent; nearly two million of the country's population of six million. Jordanian Palestinians do not enjoy the same rights as their Jordanian counterparts, and are severely underrepresented in the higher education and electoral systems. Where is Jordanian Human Rights Week?

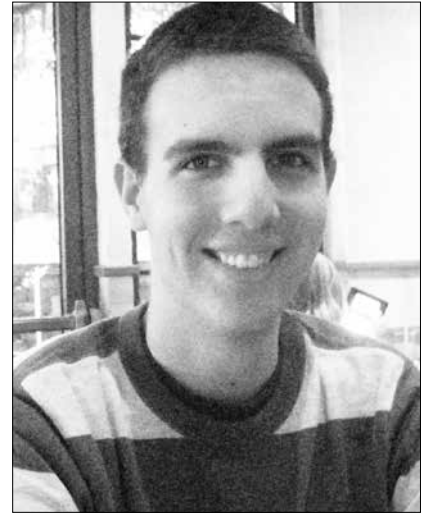
In Lebanon, Palestinians face perhaps the worst of discrimination. They are barred from over 25 professions, including medicine, law and engineering. They are also prevented from registering property, and according to Human Rights Watch, they live in "appalling social and economic conditions." Where is Lebanon Human Rights Week?

Any critical thinker could understand that the cases of Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon represent serious human rights violations and are topics worthy of discussion.

To date, little if any campaigning has been done at this university to shed light on these issues. If anything did take place, it was a far cry from a week of boisterous and aggressive action – the kind of week dedicated to criticizing Israel. So we're back to the start. If students committed to human rights, peace and justice are going to campaign on this campus – they ought to cover more of the issues. Choosing to obsess over Israel is hypocritical at best and anti-Semitic at worst. I believe that the McMaster community deserves to see a better use of their student centre. The IAW slogan commands us to "call it what it is" and so we should. IAW is toxic, it is divisive, it is a twisting of facts and most of all it is hypocritical. If you want to gain knowledge about the Middle East, you can do better than this. Check out scholarly research, read various newspapers, or take a course on the region's history and contemporary issues.

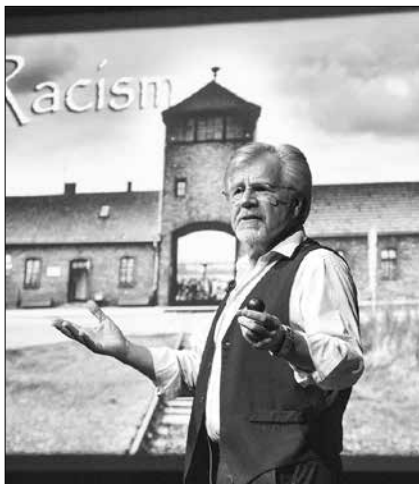
By educating yourself and thinking critically, you will become a more responsible global citizen.

Alon Coret is entering his third year at McMaster University's Arts and Science program.



Alon Coret Photo courtesy of Alon Coret

More than a thousand attend Holocaust student seminar



More than a thousand students attended 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 featured a keynote presentation by Dennis Nash and survivor testimony by Elly Gotz.

Top left: Teachers Rob Flosman (far right) from the Waterdown District High School and Deb Brown (second from right) from Sir Allan MacNab Secondary School are presented with the Sharon Enkin Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education by James Enkin and Madeleine Levy. The award is presented annually to an elementary or secondary school teacher who has demonstrated a commitment to teaching students about the Holocaust.

Top right: Dennis Nash gives a provocative and impassioned keynote address.

Left: Students sit in rapt attention listening to presenters Dennis Nash and Elly Gotz.

Photos by Wendy Schneider



PJ Library

Building a stronger Jewish people one book at a time



PJ Library participant, Gitty Weiser

Photo by Elaine Levine

More than 150 people stopped by the PJ Library table at the combined Yom Ha'Atzmaut and Walk the Land program held at the JCC on April 16. The event was an opportunity to highlight PJ Library, a program introduced to the Hamilton community thanks to the Shirley and Morris Waxman Family, our local UJA Lion of Judah Division, the Grinspoon Foundation and Hamilton Jewish Federation.

"Our whole family loves when the PJ Library items arrive," wrote in one parent. "Our youngest takes such pride in sharing HIS Jewish books with his family."

"I think I am as excited as the kids are when the books arrive," wrote another parent. "We had lots of other fairytale books, but these books are more relevant to their lives and teach our children Jewish values."

Beth Jacob Hebrew School

Fostering an understanding of the value of Tikkun Olam presents a special challenge when working with children. First they must explore fundamental questions; "Who am I and where do I fit in the world?" "What came before and what will follow?" And finally, "What is my role in all of this?" This year at Beth Jacob, we have been looking at our Jewish lives against the backdrop of our ancestors and our obligation to them. A family program at the cemetery demonstrated how Jews revere life and care for the deceased. At Shalom village we paid tribute to our elders and at a Tu B'Shvat program we considered our responsibility to animals and the natural world. We look forward to continuing to explore this difficult concept next year, and to find new ways to contribute to the world around us.



Photo by Jodie Waxman

TIKKUN OLAM IN OUR SCHOOLS

As part of their ongoing *Tikkun Olam* initiative, a group of Kehila students donated their hair for the creation of wigs for cancer patients. "We had a total of 69 inches from the six girls who donated their hair to Pantene's Beautiful Lengths program," wrote proud mother, Kristine Stolar. Pictured above (Back row l to r) are Emma Waxman, Talya Stolar and Olivia Waxman, and (Front row, l to r) Maddie Waxman and Miriam Shore. Missing from the picture is Naomi Shore.

Bat Mitzvah project pleases the palate



Adas Israel Bat Mitzvah Group

Photo by Rebecca Shapiro

Meghan Krieger's idea for a Bat Mitzvah project turned out to be more successful than the Hamilton Hebrew Academy student could have imagined. With help from her mother, Alisa and Adas Bat Mitzvah Club coordinator, Goldie Weiser, Meghan organized a bake-sale to raise money for Hamilton's Jewish Social Services. The Adas Bat Mitzvah group shared the expenses of purchasing the ingredients amongst themselves and spent an entire day baking delicious cupcakes, cookies and cake pops. The bake sale was so successful that it sold out within a half hour, making it necessary for the girls to run back into the kitchen and bake more for an advertised sale later that evening. The girls felt great that they raised more than \$300 for such a worthy cause and were so happy to know that their hard work had paid off.

Life lessons for Temple Teens

PAULA BARUCH

Our teens willingly stay involved with Temple religious school beyond their Bar or Bat Mitzvah!

What's our secret? Our B'Yachad youth engagement program with project based learning. Today's young people enjoy contributing to their community and along the way they learn skills that will be a lifelong benefit.

Most recently our B'Yachad class visited Shalom Village. On our first visit we were given a complete tour of the facility and a session on how to engage in conversation with the elderly. Our students were very impressed with what Shalom Village offers our senior citizens.

On our next visit each teen was paired with a resident for conversation time. One look around the room showed immediate evidence of this program's success! The conversations were energetic and enthusiastic. Both teens and seniors had huge smiles and animated faces that beamed with delight. The Shalom Village staff was equally impressed with our young people. On the way home from the program the students shared how much they got out of the experience. It was clear to them that the residents love visiting and talking with them and any apprehensions about their ability to engage with seniors had quickly evaporated. Learning Judaism, living Judaism, loving Judaism is our focus at Temple Anshe Sholom.

Changing the world through unity



Hamilton Hebrew Academy students took part in a memorable Jerusalem Day commemoration, thanks to Lauren Boubilil and Shlomit Komar, university-age students performing their Israeli national service here in Hamilton. *Yom Yerushalayim*, a day that commemorates the reunification of Jerusalem and the miraculous victories of the Six Day War, represents the reunification of the Jewish spirit. To capture these themes, the program included a skit about the metaphorical significance of the Golden City, a student video that explained how Jerusalem's name comes from the word for peace, a dance performance by the preschool and Grade 2 classes and a prayer for Jerusalem sung by the school choir. Students also filled a jar with prayers written on notes that will be placed in the Kotel. The event culminated with a spontaneous expression of joy as students, parents and teachers broke out into dance circles, filling the air with enthusiasm and togetherness.

From page 1

Waiting for a helping hand

Taking turns finishing each others' sentences, the women spoke about the confusion, exhaustion and loneliness that are the constant companions to a parent of a special needs child. Confusion, because when it comes to case managing your child's disability, there is no road map to follow; exhaustion, because of the need to juggle caring for a special needs child with your other familial responsibilities; and lonely, because while parents of typically developing children may sympathize with your struggle, they will never really understand.

Then, there's the cost. Darlene Shapiro and her husband have spent tens of thousands of dollars providing their son, Steven, with an EA since they transferred him to Kehila. While at the time his parents thought there was no choice, he no longer needs that level of remedial assistance.

"There's a specific way Steven learns," said Shapiro, "and he needed people to understand that."

The reluctance to pay out of pocket for an EA was the deciding factor in Milena Romalis and Jason Leizer's placing their son Zev in public school when they moved to Hamilton from Toronto three years ago. But now, they too, are considering placing their six-year-old, who has a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome, in a Jewish day school.

"While Zev was provided with some services from the autism team," said Romalis, "we have paid for speech therapy and academic tutoring privately." Real learning, his parents have concluded, is more likely to take place in a private school setting.

Aitan Selsberg, 5, who has a global developmental delay, is entering Kehila next Fall, and his parents, Rabbi Dan and Karen Selsberg, have been assured that the school will help offset the costs of hiring an EA. But Karen Selsberg has limited expectations of what an EA can do for her child.

"An EA in the classroom means that your child receives an individualized education program, but is still doing the same work," she said. But what her son really needs is probably a complete program tailored to his needs, something neither of the Jewish day schools have the resources to provide.

The government has very specific criteria when deciding which children are entitled to receive one-on-one intensive therapy, according to Mary Martha Starkman, who supervises special needs at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy (HHA), and even when that funding is made available it's not open-ended and often runs out after a few months.

As unsatisfactory as it is, the only thing that both Jewish day schools currently offer children needing remedial assistance is an EA at the parents' expense.

"It's an incredible burden because parents are already paying tuition," said Starkman.

Kehila principal, Peter Greenberg agrees, and says the school is looking into ways "to ease this financial burden."

A whole other challenge for Jewish day schools, said Starkman, is that half the curriculum is taught in the Hebrew language.

"We also try to provide support for that as well," said Starkman, referring to the HHA's annual recruitment of "B'not Sherut" – young Israeli women who do their national service by volunteering overseas. But there's no question, she said, that finding extra funds for special needs education has been "a big funding problem."

Where those funds will come from is, as yet, the unanswered question.

"I would love for Federation to make a specific special needs allocation to the schools," said Selsberg.

Romalis said it's unfortunate that Hamilton has no equivalent to Toronto's Board of Jewish Education, an organization that educators turn to for resources and support for their special needs programs. But she still believes that some out-of-the-box thinking could provide some relief and support for families.

"The worst difficulty when you have a child with special needs is just this rushing sense of that you don't know what you're doing," said Romalis. "You're working completely on your own to figure out which way to go. You might see a doctor, psychologist or other service provider, but there's

"The worst difficulty when you have a child with special needs is ... that you're working completely on your own to figure out which way to go because you might see a doctor, psychologist, or other service provider but there's no one you can go to and say 'tell me what to do.'"

Milena Romalis

no cohesion in the way that these services work and there's no one you can go to and say, 'tell me what to do.' Within our Jewish community we have social workers, doctors and psychologists. We all informally access these people but it would be so wonderful to have some kind of support network to take advantage of their professional knowledge."

Federation CEO Barb Babij is open to these and other suggestions as to how to ease the burden on parents and schools.

"Our community has an obligation to provide Jewish education to every child, and special needs children are no exception."

Babij, who has worked with autistic children, feels a personal connection to the issue. "The hard reality is that parents of special needs children are required to make difficult decisions that no parent should have to make," she said. "We need to find the means to smooth their path. While the path forward remains unclear, that we do nothing is untenable. If we can bring a bit of relief to these families, we will have succeeded."

Until then, Selsberg is intent on creating a support group made up of parents who find themselves facing similar challenges. Such a group, she envisions, will offer both the emotional support and advocacy power that she fervently believes this issue deserves.

"In the Jewish community we have a way of celebrating and really valuing academic and professional success," said Romalis. "These are the things we value in our kids." It's time, she said, that the community turns its attention to its more vulnerable population.

"I think that the community has an obligation to our special needs children, so that a Jewish education is accessible to every child."

To join the support group or for more information please email Hamilton Jewish Community Cares at hjcc@outlook.com.



Ma'ayan, Racheli, Edden and Ayalah Kirat and Yali Levigoren

Photo by Terry Babij

JCC News

More than 300 community members came out to celebrate Israel's 65th birthday on April 16 at a combined Yom Ha'atzmaut and Walk the Land event at the Jewish Community Centre.

What a celebration it was, with delicious food, great entertainment, bouncy castles, photo booths, a marketplace and cake. Our thanks to our event sponsors and supporters for their generosity: Acme Battery - Errol Fisher, Active Tool Repair, Ancaster Jewellery, Yves and Luba Apel, Eastgate Ford, Joel and Nicole Feldman, Harlem Globetrotters, Kathy Johnston BMO, Larry Szpirglas Broker/Manager, Judy Marsales, Score Media, Schreiber Family Foundation, Stan Tick and Associates, Tegs Tools, The Effort Trust Company, Posner Metals, Vine and Partners LLP, Tricia Waxman, Michael Weinberger, Weisz Family Foundation. Thank you to the Afikim Foundation for their supply of Israeli sunflower seeds and murals of Israel for our Celebrate Israel@65 program.

A special word of thanks to our many volunteers who helped to make this event fun for the community. We applaud you!

Camp Schedule

- July 3 - Loewith Farm
- July 9 - Fire Station
- July 16 - Tisha B'Av Program
- July 16 - Splitsville
- July 17 - Parents' Night
- July 23 - Earl Haig Family Fun Park
- July 25 - Rocks & Rings
- July 26 - Theme Day
- July 30 - Hoop Fun Zone
- July 31 - Aug. 2 - Camp Shalom
- Aug. 6 - Ice Skating
- Aug. 13-15 - Camp George
- Aug. 16 - Reptile Guy
- Aug. 20 - Bingeman's
- Aug. 21 - Community BBQ
- Aug. 22 - Maccabiah



Meet Mara and Baila



Mara Waxman
K'tanim Specialist



Baila Vaturi
Judaica Director

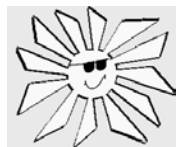
Camp Kadimah is excited to introduce its new staff members, Mara Waxman and Baila Vaturi.

Primary education specialist Mara Waxman will offer your toddler a nurturing environment in our K'tanim program. K'tanim campers' days will be filled with the "five S's" of sunshine, socializing/sharing, sleep time, snacking and swimming.

Baila Vaturi, whose family has recently joined our Hamilton community, will incorporate Jewish themes and activities through interactive learning groups, games, songs and stories, using the over-arching theme of Tikun Olam.

Sponsor Some Sunshine!

Help send a child to Camp Kadimah



Every summer, the JCC and Hamilton Jewish Federation provide 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 their only contact with the Jewish community. Your support, in any amount, 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 send a cheque directly to the JCC at 1030 Lower Lions Club Rd. Hamilton, PO Box 81203, L9G 4X1. On behalf of our campers, we thank you.

Visit www.hamiltonjcc.com/campkadimah.htm for more information or call 905-648-0605 ext 307. Register at www.hamiltonjcc.com/registration.htm

Hold the date for the annual JCC community BBQ Wednesday, August 21 at 6 p.m.

This program is a great way for the community to come together and finish off the summer with a bang.

Free hot dogs and veggie dogs • Fireworks
Carnival games • The Puppet Tamer • Face Painting
Visit representatives from the community's Jewish organizations.

We hope to see you there!

2013 Shem Tov Awards

honouring our community's

Volunteers



Passing the Torch: Larry Szpirglas steps down as Federation president



Outgoing Federation president Larry Szpirglas (left) with Federation CEO Barb Babij and incoming president Carl De Leon. Photo By Wendy Schneider, the Hamilton Jewish News

"No one understands what it means to be president until they are placed in the role," said Larry Szpirglas, outgoing Hamilton Jewish Federation president, at the organization's Annual General Meeting on May 30.

Included in the "outstanding work on the community's behalf" accomplished by the Federation board during his two-year term, was the board's setting a new strategic direction, strengthening its governance structure and examining the sustainability of Jewish communal institutions.

Szpirglas singled out the Public Relations Committee and its chair, Lorne Finkelstein for their ability to craft well-thought out responses to antisemitic or anti-Israel incidents.

A major area of concern to any Federation president is the success of the UJA Campaign, and Szpirglas did express disappointment that "we have not been able to grow our campaign to where it should be." That fact alone "dramatically affects our ability to build a sustainable community," he said

and Federation must continue its efforts to bring together its beneficiary agencies to work towards a common goal of building a strong and unified community.

"Are we able to overcome insular thinking and silo mentality? Are we able to find sufficient ground for compromise to build a community that will endure, given demographic considerations, philosophical leanings and structural arrangements?" he asked rhetorically. To do that kind of self-examination he said, will take "courage and fortitude" on behalf of every constituent.

Szpirglas concluded by expressing his thanks to Federation staff and to new CEO Barb Babij, in particular. Since taking over the position seven months ago, Babij "has applied her remarkable skills and knowledge to improving our operations, and all of us are looking forward to working with her on our communal activities going forward." Carl De Leon will succeed Szpirglas as the next Federation president.

The outstanding volunteers pictured here were honoured at Hamilton Jewish Federation's Annual General Meeting on May 31. They, and so many more like them, are our community's most treasured resource. Federation takes great pride in presenting his year's Shem Tov honourees and Hilda Rosen, the recipient of the CeCe Schreiber Volunteer Leadership award.



Federation Shem Tov nominees Sandy Fuss and Liz Tick



Sandy Fuss (left) and Liz Tick

Photo by Wendy Schneider

Over the years, the dynamic duo of Sandy Fuss and Liz Tick has been a big factor in the success of our annual UJA campaigns. As longtime co-chairs of Top Gifts, Women's Division and members of the campaign cabinet, Sandy and Liz's strong sense of commitment, passion and responsibility constantly inspire us to continue our goal of building a stronger Jewish community now and for the future. We feel both fortunate and proud to have them on our campaign team.

Sandy Fuss writes, "Volunteering has always been important to me. It is how I met people decades ago when I first came to Hamilton and made friends that I am still very close with today. For me volunteering is a small way of giving back to a community that has always been good to my family and me."

Liz Tick writes, "It is important to be a volunteer in our community to enable it to be strong and vibrant. Without volunteers in leadership positions, our community will not survive."

Hilda Rosen receives CeCe Schreiber Volunteer Leadership award

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. This year's award winner was Hilda Rosen, who has been the Hamilton ambassador for Canadian Magen David Adom (CMDA) for more than 20 years. Thanks to Rosen's hard work, determination and passion for Israel and its people, numerous pieces of vital medical equipment have been purchased, including ambulances, medical scooters and a defibrillator.



CeCe Schreiber (left) and Hilda Rosen

Photo by Wendy Schneider

On accepting her award, Rosen said her greatest reward lies in knowing that every ambulance and scooter purchased by our community bears the inscription, "To the people of Israel; With love from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada."

After years of selfless activism, Rosen is stepping down from a leadership position with CMDA, but she pledges her support to anyone who, inspired by the power of one individual to make a difference, is willing to take up the cause of saving lives and performing miraculous rescues on a daily basis.

2013 Shem Tov Awards

1. RHONDA DAHAN

Rhonda Dahan spends at least 25 hours every month supervising the baking of challahs, pita and other ethnic breads for the Adas Israel United Shabbat lunches. The Adas community is grateful to have such a devoted and reliable volunteer. *Dahan: "Volunteering gives me great pleasure and satisfaction. It is a way to give back to my community, for all of the support I have received over the years."*

2. WENDY SCHNEIDER

One of Beth Jacob's most dedicated, and yet unheralded volunteers has been Wendy Schneider. Wendy was, along with John Levy, co-president of Beth Jacob for five years. During that period they re-invigorated Beth Jacob and created a better future for their beloved shul. Concurrently, Wendy managed Beth Jacob's publicity arm. For the past year, she has been the driving force, the propellant behind Beth Jacob's 125th anniversary celebrations. *Schneider: "My time volunteering with Beth Jacob has been deeply fulfilling and provided me with many life lessons."*

3. DAVID MACCOY

David MacCoy is Beth Tikvah Foundation's Shem Tov nominee because of his commitment to our organization. Despite the fact that he travels from Toronto and has no ties to any of our Beth Tikvah clients, he gives of his knowledge and expertise freely. He has an extensive background in the developmental disabilities sector and has provided our board with tremendous insight as to how the sector works and how to work with the system. He is an invaluable board member.

4. VERA CHAIMOVITZ

Vera Chaimovitz has a long association with the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. Her children are alumni and she herself is a former member of our teaching staff. Vera is a dedicated

volunteer for our breakfast club, and has been instrumental in ensuring that our students can begin their school day properly nourished and ready for school. In addition, she regularly provides our school with general studies educational material. Vera's enthusiasm and energy are an inspiration for us all. *Chaimovitz: "Being a volunteer in our breakfast program means that every child has the right to start the day on a happy and healthy note."*

5. RACHELI KIRAT

The Jewish Community Centre's nominee, Racheli Kirat has been a member of our board for more than eight years. Both before she became a mother and now, with a busy family of three daughters, Racheli has overseen the Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebrations. Recently Racheli became the JCC's vice president. She is eager to help in her spare time and is always a phone call away. We are lucky to have Racheli and we wish her Mazal Tov on being a Shem Tov recipient. *Kirat: "It is important to me to volunteer in our community because being Jewish and having a love for Israel is something that I cherish. If I have inspired even just one person to feel the way I do about Israel and Judaism, then I have done what I have wanted to do. I hope to continue to share this passion for many years to come."*

6. HAZEL BOON

As a founding member of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton and its first president, Hazel has helped many of our members and community members with their inquiries into their own family histories. Her newsletters are filled with items of interest in the world of genealogy, and have become a real perk of membership along with our website which she spends time updating regularly. We are truly lucky to have Hazel as our president. *Boon: "One of my greatest joys is in helping our*

members to find ways to discover their family histories. Their excitement in making discoveries and sometimes in finding living relatives is all the thanks that I need to continue with this work."

7. LEON KARAN

Hamilton JSS is thrilled to nominate Leon Karan for organizing and conducting the Chai Choir. Leon's professionalism and commitment has raised the profile of our choir in the general community and the many accolades it receives are due, in no small part, to him. We thank Leon for all that he does for our community. *Karan: "I love people and music is a perfect tool for sharing feelings and feelings from generations past. I have gained much wisdom from my encounters with the people around me and enjoy our choir meetings, which are about much more than just about making music. They are an opportunity for us to share thoughts about international events and tips for healthy living, while enjoying learning a great art form."*

8. CLARA HALPERN

Clara Halpern has supported JNF for many years and has steadfastly volunteered for our various telethons and has made a point of attending our events whenever possible. She is one of our most productive telethoners, able to engage supporters in a way that defies comparison. Clara is passionate about Israel and the work done by the JNF to help improve the quality of life for all Israelis. *Halpern: "I am inspired to work on behalf of the JNF because I am passionate about promoting the interests of Israel. I enjoy becoming acquainted with the remarkable Negev dinner honorees, and I am fascinated by the projects they choose to support. I sincerely believe that the JNF helps to ensure the future of Israel and the continuity of the Jewish people."*

9. KAREN SELSBERG

There are numerous things that must be done in order for a small faith-based school like Kehila to function effectively. Some of these include arranging for parents to assist with special events, dealing with staff contractual issues, acting as a liaison within the larger community and managing governance issues. These roles and many others are carried out on a regular basis by Karen Selsberg, without whose support and personal drive, Kehila could not function at its current level. *Selsberg: "Volunteering helps to create a strong Jewish community where all children can reach their full potential."*

10. SUSAN ROTH

Na'amat Hamilton nominates Susan Roth as our Shem Tov nominee, for her endless enthusiasm for helping people and a deep love of Israel. Susan is a tremendous role model and puts her whole heart into any project she is involved in. She has a way of making volunteering fun and is able to keep the momentum going amongst Na'amat members. *Roth: "Na'amat has been a passionate cause for me for the last 13 years, where I've assumed many leadership positions. It's wonderful to work with an amazing group of like-minded women towards an important goal."*

11. BARBARA KATZ

Barbara Katz is a warm, friendly, dependable and extremely valued volunteer at Shalom Village. She is loved by all the staff, residents and volunteers. For the last 25 years, Barbara has been involved in numerous roles at Shalom, including accompanying residents on shopping trips and doctors' appointments, answering phones and volunteering in Bubbi Bessie's. *Katz: "I really enjoy helping people. I want to do anything I am able to do. I enjoy being with the staff and residents. I feel good because everyone there makes me feel wonderful."*

12. ELLEN HOFFMAN

Temple Anshe Sholom nominates Ellen Hoffman, a greatly cherished member of our community whose generosity of spirit has contributed so much. From teaching in our religious school, tutoring B'nei Mitzvah Students, serving on our board and numerous communities, singing in our family Shabbat jam choir and Purim schpiels, helping lead services and delivering divrei Torah, Ellen steps up whenever called upon to help make the Temple a welcoming, inclusive and meaningful Jewish home for all. *Hoffman: "All that I do at Temple comes back to me in so many ways. Being a part of it feeds me spiritually, emotionally and warms my heart to see the smiles it brings to both young and old. As a teacher, being called "Morah Ellen" is one of the greatest things to hear. I try to do my part in keeping the "Torah sweet on their tongues".*

13. LIZ FEIN

Whenever you glance up on the bimah and the choir is singing, you will likely notice one smiling face that truly loves being here, and that is Liz Fein. Over the years Liz was active in just about every aspect of synagogue life, the choir, education, ritual, the board and more. In fact she served a term as our synagogue president. Liz is a natural leader and outgoing optimist. We are so grateful to for all the love and hard work she has put in to make Shaarei Beth El what it is today, and we are proud to honour her with the Shem Tov Award. *Fein: "As a volunteer, all I want is to give back what I have received in love and commitment to my synagogue community. I have received so much love from the people around me, especially my family, it's the least I can do to send forth my love. I think love is what makes our community amazing."*

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Shalom Village

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Service Awards for Geriatric Excellence

Shalom Village Dream Team wins award



Shalom Village's "Dream Team" of family physicians were recognized with a Service Award for Geriatric Excellence at a special awards ceremony at the Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton on May 24.

Team Category

Dr. Alan Taniguchi, Dr. Doug Oliver, Dr. Anna Emili and Dr. Danielle O'Toole are the physicians who care for our 127 long term care residents, including our 15 bed Convalescent Care Program. They were presented

with a SAGE Award in the team category. This accomplishment is especially notable when you consider that there were 14 other distinguished teams nominated in the category. "These are four amazing physicians who are role models in their profession, for their students, for our staff and other health professionals they interact with," says Shalom Village CEO Jeanette O'Leary, "and most importantly a beacon of compassion and reassurance in the sometimes overwhelming journey of frail seniors and their loved ones".

Recognizes excellence

SAGE recognizes outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations who demonstrate excellence in positively influencing the quality of life of seniors and to highlight geriatrics as a critical area of health care. This unique program



Dr. Alan Taniguchi, left, along with Dr. Doug Oliver, Dr. Anna Emili and Dr. Danielle O'Toole are the Shalom Village Physician Team

celebrates the professional excellence of individuals and organizations that provide health care and community services for seniors and their families.

Congratulations to Patricia

Congratulations also go to our Physiotherapist Patricia Smalling who received a SAGE nomination in the Individual Category.

Shalom wakes up the garden



Residents, family members, staff and volunteers came together on May 23rd to wake up the gardens at Shalom Village. This is an annual event where we work together to plant and prepare our garden areas for the coming season.

This year we were joined by students from Hamilton Hebrew Academy and Kehila Jewish Community Day School who planted sunflower seeds for Israel as part of the YomHa'atzmaut Celebration arranged by the Federation.

Residents especially enjoy getting outside and feeling the earth between their fingers. Many have been active gardeners all their lives and look forward to spending time outdoors enjoying nature.



Tribute Cards

Did you know that you can send Shalom Village Tribute Cards to mark special occasions?

Call Kate at 905-529-1613 ext. 356 to learn more.

Thank you

Grateful thanks to the families of **Arthur Weisz, Myrna Goldberg, David Burman, Jerry Wasserman, Edythe Rochkin, Joseph Singer, John Swartz and Murray Rothberg** 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.



Shalom Village

shalomvillage.ca
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Hamilton, Ontario L8S 3S1
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E: info@shalomvillage.ca

The Shalom Village Ladies Auxiliary 32nd Annual Chai Tea

Tea time at Shalom Village July 4



It's a sure sign of summer when tea time is on the horizon at Shalom Village. A highlight of the summer social season for 32 years, the tea has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for projects at Shalom Village since the first event more than three decades ago.

Spa

This year's tea takes place on July 4th at 1 p.m. in Goldie's Place at Shalom Village. Proceeds will be used to renovate our beauty salon and spa to make it the wonderful oasis of tranquility that our residents deserve.

Friendship and food

We hope you will join us for a social



afternoon of friendship and wonderful food, including party sandwiches, fresh fruit, and fabulous desserts. Your tea volunteer will be calling you soon. Please be generous—they work hard to make life better for our residents!

Tickets

Tickets are \$25 but we hope you will consider VIP giving at the \$36, \$72, \$118, \$250, and \$360 levels.

Sponsorships

Corporate sponsorships are also available with a variety of advertising benefits. Call Kathleen Thomas at (905) 529-1613 ext. 264 for more information.



You can help give our residents the beauty salon and spa they deserve



For the gents!

Join us in the mancave

This year we are offering alternate activities.

There will be food, fun, and prizes. Shoot a game of pool, play some cards or join in other activities. You can even put your feet up and relax!

Date, time and giving levels are the same as for the Tea.

Mark your calendar! Our residents love to be creative



32nd Annual Ladies Auxiliary Tea
July 4th 2013



12th Annual Hannukah Hustle
November 17th 2013

Shalom Village residents love activities that allow them to express their creative side.

Bubbi Bessie's move to new quarters allowed us to create an art room in the old location. Debbie Ginsberg's fabric painting and Keith Hamilton's pottery classes are just two of the creative activities that take place in the new space.

Of course, Gary Ulrich's sessions in Harry's Woodshop are as popular as ever.

"When I come to woodshop, I don't have to be anyone, except who I am," says Sylvia, one of our long term care residents.

"She told me 'I don't feel like I have Alzheimer's,'" said Community Centre Coach Brigitte Bonas. "She said its the good fun and laughter that makes



Participants in Keith Hamilton's pottery group have created many beautiful pieces in our new art room

her feel this way. I was just so touched by how meaningful she finds her time at Harry's Woodshop."

Other residents prefer the performing arts, as demonstrated by Emanuela Hall's active chair dancing, glee club and drama club groups.

Making possibilities possible

BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE'S

125 Years Anniversary

Beth Jacob's 125th anniversary celebrations that were held on the weekend of June 7-9 will surely go down as one of the highlights in the synagogue's history. The festivities began with a beautiful Kabbalat Shabbat service led by Cantor Eyal Bitton followed by a Friday night dinner. The warmth and camaraderie continued the following morning in a Shabbat service whose highlight was the premiere of Cantor Eyal Bitton's "Mechalkel Chayim" sung by Cantor and choir and commissioned by Friends of Beth Jacob in honour of the synagogue's 125th anniversary. The culmination of the weekend took place on Sunday afternoon, when 400 congregants, past congregants, friends and special guests came together for a delightful afternoon of activity, food, reminiscences and spectacle that no one who was present will ever forget. Among the highlights:



The Book

The Beth Jacob Family Album, published especially for the occasion, is an extraordinarily beautiful volume and keepsake that highlights the shul's history, the families who shaped it and the values that have guided its members through the decades. As participating families lined up to receive their copies, they marveled at its beautiful design and took pride in seeing a permanent record of their family's contribution to the shul. Kudos to graphic artist extraordinaire, book designer Voeun Mom, and to its editor, Wendy Schneider. A special thank you to Sari Ackerman for her exceptional proof-reading skills and to all the families, individuals and corporate friends who participated in the project.

The Museum

The treasures of Hunter Street Shul, including the Goldblatt Window, have found a new and permanent home in a museum curated by Melinda Richter in the shul's former chapel. The space will be the future site of the Rose and Phil Rosenshein Beth Jacob Museum, where the congregation will celebrate its past through exhibits of cherished objects and stories. A special thank you to graphic designer, Jeremy Kemeny for creating a beautiful timeline (pictured right) that highlights the shul's history.



The Production

Sunday afternoon's main event featured a video presentation that highlighted five peak eras in the shul's history: The Hunter Street Shul era, the move to Aberdeen Avenue era, the Rabbi Weiner era, the Silverman era and the current era under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Dan Selsberg. The interviews with individuals whose vivid memories of those times, interspersed with insightful comments from Rabbi Selsberg, musical interludes by Cantor Eyal Bitton, Michele Tredger and Jordan Abraham, left many in tears and culminated with a standing ovation. Yasher Koach to Wendy Schneider, Khalm Smiderle, Dennis Haradyn and Jordan Abraham for all their efforts.



The People

When all is said and done, it is the people who have made the shul what it is. As Rabbi Selsberg said in his concluding remarks, "The life of the shul is really the people in the shul ... Our corner of the Jewish people here at Beth Jacob have worked and celebrated, wept and rejoiced with each other in service of this mission for over 125 years now. It is the story of immigrants and native-born, rich and poor, men and women, old and young, reverent and irreverent, Jews-by-choice and Jews who don't know what to choose, those of blessed memory, and those whose stories are still being written ... Each person here has an essential part in the story of this shul, and you form the values that will guide us ... The Jewish future and our shul's future is yours."



Photos by Lawrence Yanover

... and You

Join our present and help create our future. Joining our community will provide you with meaningful, educational and spiritual experiences. Whether you're a young family that's interested in our Keshet Religious School and family programs, or you're interested in our High Holiday Services or adult education classes, or you're looking for a warm and welcoming community, we want to hear from you! Call us at 905-522-1351, email us at office@bethjacobsynagogue.ca or visit our website at www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca.

Honourable MENTSCHEN

People are talking about ...



Photo by Lawrence Yanover

Phil Rosenshein, affectionately known as “Mr. JNF”, who was acknowledged at the recent Negev Dinner for his 45 years of fundraising.



Photo courtesy of Lorne Finkelstein

Dr. Lorne Finkelstein, who was recently awarded a Life Membership Award by the Ontario Medical Association for his outstanding contribution to the medical profession.



Photo by John Steven Fernandez

Maya Eventov, who was recognized with a Pioneers for Change Award on June 6 for her outstanding achievements as an artist. Eventov’s work has been exhibited in many of the finest galleries in North America.



Photo by Wendy Schneider

Rabbi Eliot Feldman, for his recent appointment as Head of School of the Bess and Paul Sigel Hebrew Academy in Hartford, Connecticut. The Hamilton Hebrew Academy and the Jewish Federation wish him *hatzlacha* in his new position.



Photo by Rosalind Vaisberg

Jonathan Vaisberg, for whom Temple Anshe Sholom recently held a farewell tribute concert, “Jammin For Jonny”. Vaisberg was an original member of the Temple’s Shabbat Family Jam Band, and a songleader for Shabbat morning services and many holiday celebrations. Vaisberg will begin a MA/PhD program in audiology at Western University in the fall.



Photo by Nomi Cuneo

Josh Shapiro, 16, who was recently elected to the regional executive of the Eastern Canadian Region United Synagogue Youth (ECRUSY). “Going into our spring convention,” said Hamilton USY advisor, Nomi Cuneo, “Josh didn’t know many people, but he quickly became everyone’s best friend.”



Photo by Jim Murray

YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNIZED

by STEVE ARNOLD, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Uniforms have been a large part of Morley Balinson’s life. First was the Canadian Army uniform of the Second World War, then that of Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry during the “police action” in Korea in 1950 and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada’s reserve regiment. Then a decade in the scarlet and blue of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police followed by several more years with the Corps of Commissionaires in Burlington.

Years of service to high ideals of courage and dedication. Years that were honoured recently with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Throughout last year, 60,000 of those medals were distributed across Canada – at least two to members of Hamilton’s Jewish community – Balinson and his son Scott, who continues the family’s uniformed tradition, serving as Staff-Sergeant with the Hamilton police department and the Argylls where he is Pipe Major of the Pipe and Drum corps.

The decades of service that led Morley Balinson to this latest honour started immediately after he graduated Westdale Secondary School and rushed to join the army. The Second World War

was then in its final phase. Two of Balinson’s brothers had enlisted earlier, one making the supreme sacrifice in Malta. By the time he finished basic training, however, the war in Europe was over, so young Balinson spent a few years working in the family printing business until 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea and a call went out for Canadian volunteers.

In October 1951, Balinson returned to Hamilton and his family’s printing shop, working at that trade for several more years. Along the way he also enlisted in the Argylls and rose to the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major. At 87, he is the oldest surviving holder of that title.

Balinson’s Jubilee medal was presented by Hamilton Centre MP David Christopherson in an April ceremony. In the above photograph, taken at this year’s Remembrance Day ceremonies, Balinson is pictured in front of his former regiment. “It is the first year he felt unable to march,” wrote his wife, Joan, for whom the picture is particularly poignant. “Instead, he walked to the cenotaph at his own speed.”

ROTMAN HUMANITARIAN YOUTH AWARDS

The Max and Stella Rotman Humanitarian Youth award is presented every year to Grade 11 and 12 students across the greater Hamilton community, who have “conducted themselves in a manner that brings honour to their community while maintaining a cheerful dedication to serve the needs of their fellow persons and who show the potential of being a future leader.”

Among the 81 students receiving an award at this year’s ceremony on June 5 at Temple Anshe Sholom were Noah Houpt, Neomi Goldshtein, Justin Kaminker, Amanda Katz, Teaghan Lerner, Mallory Pierce, Rebecca Sampson and Tzippy Zians.



Photo by Paul Vasilak

It really does “take a village” family discovers



Photo by Jason Leizer

The Romalis/Leizer family moved to Hamilton from Toronto three years ago. With no nearby family supports, a busy lifestyle and three children – one of whom is Zev, a spunky, quirky seven-year-old on the Autism Spectrum – the parents were a little overwhelmed.

“While the joys are endless, so is the stretch between the end of school and bedtime,” said Romalis.

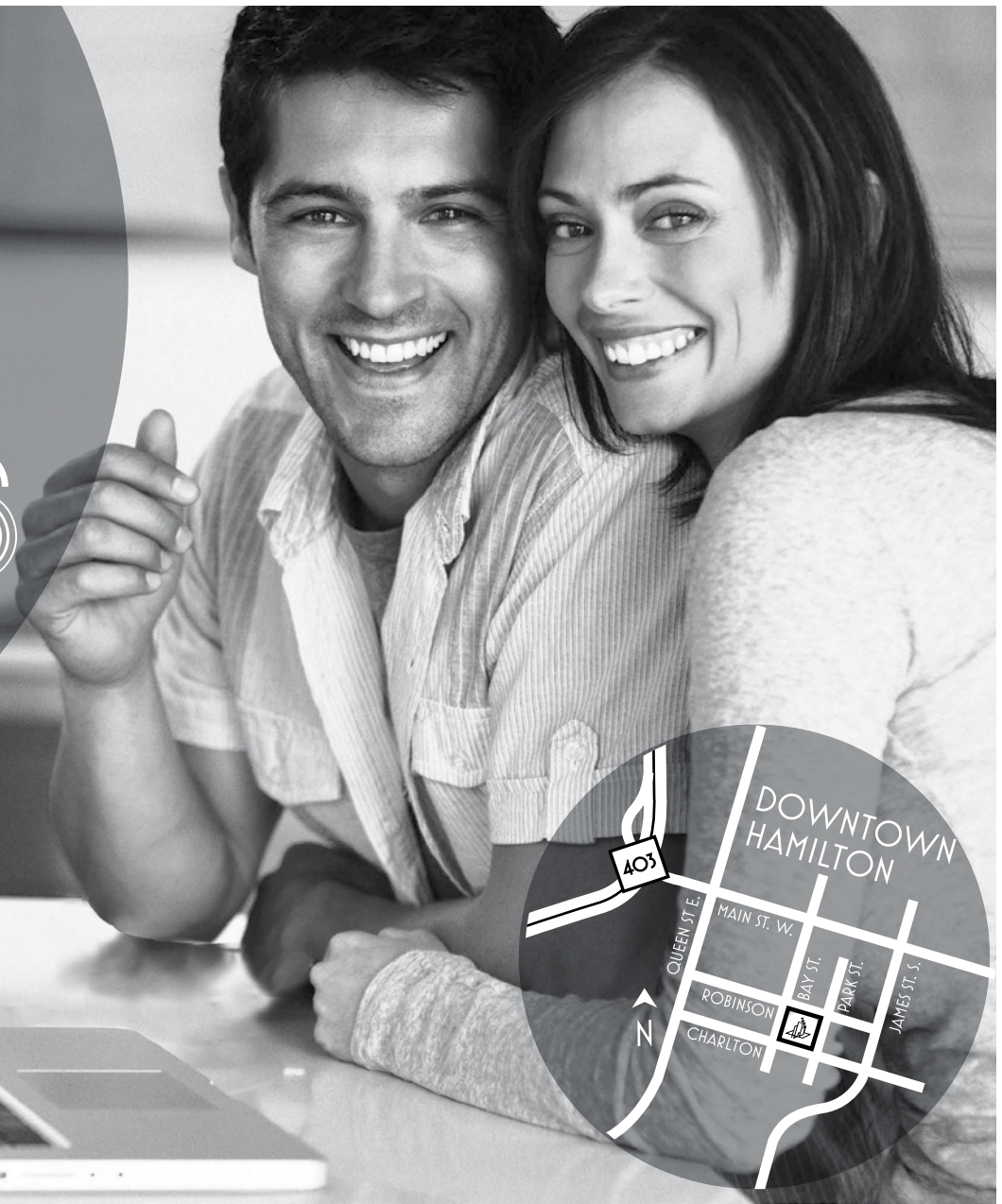
But this year their family was blessed with a gift in the form of Geoff Zalter, a McMaster student in his last year, who had met Zev at Camp Kadimah two years ago and offered to work with him one-on-one. From September to June, Geoff came weekly to “play” with Zev.

“With infinite patience, Geoff was able to form a deep connection and offer valuable social skills coaching to our son,” said Leizer. “We commend Geoff on his efforts and thank him from the bottom of our hearts for his generosity of time and spirit.”

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602	777	Caroline	1 BED+DEN	\$269,990
702	777	Caroline	1 BED+DEN	SOLD
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PH 1	1750	PH 1 - CS1	2 BED+DEN + 2 BATH	\$889,990
PH 2	968	PH 2 - CS1	2 BED+2 TERRACE	SOLD
LPH 6	1432	LPH 6	2 BED+DEN/LIBRARY + 2 BATH	\$599,990

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City Square also has a select few penthouse suites still available. Reminiscent of the grand proportions and fit and finish of New York's famed Central Park apartments, they offer more traditional layouts with formal rooms, sweeping panoramic terraces and luxury built-ins. Unlike penthouses in the GTA that stare down at concrete, these offer views of the escarpment and the leafy green canopy of heritage neighbourhoods like the Durand, at a fraction of the price. Some will even drink in the views of the Harbour and Lake Ontario.



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A legend in his time

In a career that spanned 35 years, Sam Brownstone's impact on a generation of Jewish Hamiltonians can scarcely be measured. For Brownstone, Jewish communal work was nothing less than a calling, and 50 years down the road, those who were on the receiving end of his attention and devotion, still speak with awe about a *mentsch* whose gentle and compassionate heart stands out as a model of how to live and give.



The star athlete was born in Winnipeg's notorious North End, at a time, his son recalls, "when there were not many Jewish boys accepted into mainstream sports." Hamiltonians who came to know and love the gentle soul that was Sam Brownstone, may have been surprised to learn that he played football with the Winnipeg Bluebombers in the late '40s. His true calling, however, was social work and, as fate would have it, Hamilton was destined to be the place where he would share his extraordinary gifts.

Speaking at his father's funeral last March, Justice Harvey Brownstone, provided the biographical details of his father's long career in Hamilton's Jewish communal life.

The love and respect evident in Harvey Brownstone's tribute to his father are echoed in the testimonies from those whose lives Brownstone touched. The HJN, itself a publication that Brownstone took a great interest in, is pleased to reprint those tributes here.

The following have been adapted from remarks made by Justice Harvey Brownstone at his father's funeral.

A son remembers

Brownstone's first job in Hamilton was as the Jewish Community Centre's youth director.

He organized the Jewish Social Services and was responsible for resettling Holocaust survivors.

Brownstone was the first director of Camp Kadimah, which operated out of the JCC before moving to Dunmark Park.

He also established a nursery school and Talmud Torah at the JCC.

Brownstone mentored many of the Jewish community's future leaders and was a supreme match-maker. Many couples met at the JCC; in fact, that is where Brownstone met his wife, Odette.

Brownstone ran youth groups, Sunday afternoon programs for children, Saturday night dances for young adults, intercity events, concerts, sports tournaments, arts programs, day programs for the elderly. He also opened the JCC to the general community, hosting such diverse groups as Parents Without Partners and St. John Ambulance

Together with his colleagues, Bill Stern and Max Rotman, Brownstone turned the JCC into a true community centre, which offered a multiplicity of services to everyone.

Following the death of Max Rotman, Brownstone and the City of Hamilton founded the Max Rotman Humanitarian Youth Award, which continues to be presented annually to deserving youth.

Brownstone became the JCC's executive director in the early 1970s.

Following his retirement in 1982, Brownstone was honoured as a Negev Dinner honouree.

Brownstone was often referred to as the "mayor" of Hamilton's Jewish community and was widely seen as "the glue that held the community together."

Brownstone was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1988. For 25 years, he managed his disability with perseverance and dignity, never complaining about his illness.

Brownstone was an exemplary husband and father, a true family

man and a true gentleman. The world was a kinder, gentler place with him here. He never had a bad word to say about anyone and was truly beloved by everyone who knew him. He personified the word class.

A community remembers

Sam Brownstone was a very good friend and never had a negative word to say about anyone.

William Morris

Sam Brownstone exuded and generated such warmth and genuineness. To this day I recall his vibrant smile as we fed him the basketball, and he would take long shots from the gym entrance. Rarely missing! Sam was the perfect role model for those of us who experienced his love of people, community and sport. He built people's character through positive role modelling and acceptance of all who walked through the JCC doors.

Mitch Beube

Sam was a very caring and loving man. He always took an interest in the younger children. He was always there for us. He will be remembered for all the good things he did for everyone.

Elaine Shuman

Sam Brownstone was one of those special people who could relate to any person of any age. He was loved because of his thoughtful, supportive, and non judgemental manner and his zeal to create the best communal experience for all.

Larry Szpirglas

As a fellow Hamiltonian, I saw that Sam was the guy who made the JCC

tick. His infectious enthusiasm was infused throughout the place.

Steve Paikin

By organizing the weekend JCC socials, Sam arranged for those of us with two left feet and no sense of rhythm to learn how to dance. At the socials, Sam assured that all kids got to know and respect one another, and those values remain with "Sam's Kids" today.

Larry Paikin

Almost from the time our family arrived in Hamilton (1956), Sam was a warm, welcoming personality, who facilitated in making our transition to life in Hamilton easier. Sam had a gift for making you feel part of the community. He nurtured and assisted in the development, and mentoring of leadership for the Jewish community. Problems became opportunities for growth, and personal development. His gentle, assuring demeanour in service to our community, always with a twinkle in his eye, and never uttering a negative word at trying times, towards anyone, will always resonate with those who knew him well.

Abe Szpirglas

When I was 14, we moved from Ancaster to Hamilton. My parents, wanting me to meet other Jewish teens, suggested that my brother and I go to the dances at the JCC. Unfortunately, the girls were not very friendly and the boys only hung out with the popular girls. Sam, upon seeing me alone as a "wallflower," rescued me by engaging me in conversation. I will all ways remember his kindness, his caring and his intuitiveness sensing that I was having a difficult time.

Elaine Dembe

I am one of the people who is forever grateful to Sam. He recognized my potential as a teenager, gave me a job at the centre --- "you are going to be good with kids and you need to leave home." He was a mentor and a support, fortunately, some years ago we had a talk and I was able to thank him ... I thank Sam for recognizing my potential and urging me to "go for it" He was always someone I looked up to.

Shirley Silbert Waxman

I remember the kindness of Sam. He was that special kind of person that could make you do the right thing. You felt that you were in the presence of someone you could trust.

Harvey Waxman

Life was tough and the kids were tougher, making life difficult for the new kid who did not speak any English. I remember Sam sitting with me on the front steps of the Delaware JCC many times consoling, advising and encouraging me.

Moishe Chaimovitz

Sam Brownstone hired me as the JCC receptionist in 1977. I remember him as a kind and gentle man with a focused gaze that made you feel as if he was looking into your soul. There was always someone coming into the building to see Sam, and he was always there to help anyone who came through the door. Sam always took time to talk to people. He had the ability to really listen and make everyone feel welcome.

Christine Nusca



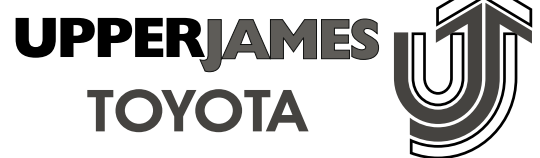
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Untapped potential

Conference examines ways to better integrate Israel's Arab citizens

by BEN SHRAGGE, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Israeli Arabs, who comprise one fifth of Israel's population, are an underutilized source of strength for the Jewish state.

That was the message of the second Irwin Green Conference, held at the Prosserman JCC on March 3 under the title "Israel's Arab Citizens: The Untapped Potential." The Israeli Arab Issues Committee of the Toronto UJA invited several speakers to address the issues facing Israeli Arabs, with an emphasis on ongoing efforts to achieve integration in Israeli society. The speakers included Jewish, Bedouin, and Druze Israelis committed to Jewish-Arab dialogue.

Amal Elzana Ahl'jooj, co-founder of the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development, recounted growing up as a shepherd, then emerging as a women's rights activist, in patriarchal Bedouin society. She outlined the challenges the Bedouin face as a minority within the larger Israeli Arab minority, living in the underdeveloped Negev region, and moving from a traditional way of life into modern society.

Ahl'jooj was inspired to work for Jewish-Arab cooperation when, as a graduate student in Montreal, she was humiliated by a bus driver who demanded she speak French. When an Israeli Jewish woman came to her aid, she felt a sense of kinship she hadn't felt in Israel itself. Ahl'jooj went on to start an Israeli program for single

mothers, Arab and Jewish, who found common ground in their shared challenges.

Addressing the disconnect between Israeli Arabs and the Israeli state, Ahl'jooj said that "I work with them (the Israeli government) because I want them to see me as an Israeli citizen, who's trying to contribute, trying to build, and trying to be part of the solution."

The next speakers, Maimoon and Raya Azmi, were an Israeli Druze couple touring Canadian campuses. Maimoon, who declared that "Israel lives in the bottom of my heart," recounted breaking down barriers by serving in a formerly all-Jewish military unit. Azmi described meeting an Egyptian student who was shocked to learn that she was "allowed" to speak Arabic in Israel. She recalled telling him that by defining herself as an Israeli, an Arab, and a Druze, she was "the living proof for peace and for coexistence."

When asked about practical measures to encourage a more integrated Israeli society, Ahl'jooj and Raya Azmi emphasized education. Ahl'jooj said that, having gone to Israeli school, "I know Talmud, I know Torah, I know Tanakh (the Hebrew bible), more than most of you here." She went on, "We know more about the Jewish people in Israel than they know about us." Azmi added, "Why don't the Jewish kids learn more about the minorities?"

Shalom (Shuli) Dichter, executive director of the Hand in Hand Centre for Jewish-Arab Bilingual Education, continued with the theme. Israeli Arabs, he said, are not on the "cognitive map" of his fellow Israeli Jews. "In the United States, in every single Jewish community," Dichter noted, "there is a special committee for relations with the non-Jewish communities around them." Why, he asked, do Israeli Jewish communities, living among millions of non-Jews, not have the equivalent? Dichter encouraged the audience to promote Jewish-Arab dialogue in Israel, pronouncing "Diaspora wisdom did not make aliyah. I'm saying this as a Zionist, please make aliyah!"

Jeffrey Stutz, chair of the Israeli Arab Issues Committee, concluded the conference on a positive note, stating, "We are seeing the Israeli Arab community advance, we are seeing a revolution in government funding in Israel, we are seeing real change, and we are finding, as Jews, real partners."

The Israeli Arab Issues Committee of the Toronto UJA promotes fundraising for the Social Venture Fund for Jewish Arab Equality and Shared Society. The Social Venture Fund, organized by the Jewish Federations of North America, supports education and economic development for Israeli Arabs. To learn more, visit <http://www.jewishfederations.org/social-venture-fund.aspx>.

Volunteers Wanted!

Are you looking for a way to fill in some time? We can help. The Hamilton Jewish Federation is looking to match your interests with our needs. We are starting a volunteer corps to engage with us in campaign, in Holocaust education, in planning fun, administration, making phone calls — well, you get the idea. If you are interested or have questions, please call Bernie Katz at 905-719-4025 or Peggy in the office at 905-648-0605, ext. 302.

Wishing you
a fresh and
joyful start
to the spring
and summer
seasons!



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HAMILTON HEBREW HIGH

The pulse of Jewish teenage life in the Greater Hamilton area

2013/14 Course Schedule

Grade 9 Hebrew Language Wednesday @ 3:45 to 5:45pm

This course is designed to enable students to communicate with native speakers of modern Hebrew. Students will read age & language appropriate passages and will explore aspects of Israeli culture, including social customs & the arts by participating in cultural events and activities involving both print & technological resources. Open to Grade 9 students and qualifying students in Grade 8. Reach Ahead!

Grade 10 Ethical Dilemmas (PBL) Monday @ 5:00 - 7:00pm

Be equipped to face the ethical challenges of modern life. Explore current ethical dilemmas in the realms of medicine, business and family dynamics from a uniquely Jewish perspective. This course is designed to probe the ethical foundations of Jewish belief and show their relevance for everyday life. Open to Grade 9 & 10 students

Grade 11 Biblically Speaking (PBL) Wednesday @ 5:00 - 7:00pm

Find out how it all began & how the stories of the earliest Jews changed the world. Open to Grade 10 & 11 students

Grade 12 U Philosophy Monday @ 5:00 - 7:00pm

Investigate the answers to some of life's most important and puzzling questions... with a Jewish twist! Why am I here? Is there objective good and evil? What is beauty? Prerequisites: Any university or university/college preparation course in social sciences and humanities, English or Canadian and world studies

In addition to exciting events, Shabbat dinners, and retreats, H3 offers a great way to learn and earn high school credits with courses in Jewish related topics for students in grades 8-12. (Grade 8 students attend through the Reach Ahead Program.) In order to receive an Ontario Secondary School credit students must complete 110 hours. 80 of these hours are completed in class through two hour sessions, and 30 hours are completed by required attendance at various scheduled programs and events. H3 approaches everything with an open and honest mind and lets you draw your own conclusions. Programs are open to all Jewish high school students regardless of affiliation, background or previous Jewish education.

Hamilton Hebrew High welcomes Racheli Kirat to the team as Director of Education. She will be taking over the administrative responsibilities of Gord Garshowitz who has been an asset to our team and will remain with us on an advisory basis. For more information visit www.hcubed.ca, call Yaakov Morel at 905-512-1960 or email yaakov.morel@gmail.com.

Hamilton Hebrew High / Midrasha is a joint project of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy and the UJA Federation of Hamilton

27 Quick and Easy Fix Ups to Sell Your Home Fast and for Top Dollar

Burlington & Hamilton area — Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you'll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here's a way to help you to be as prepared as possible.

To assist homesellers, a new industry report has just been released called "27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar." It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today's tough, aggressive marketplace.

Through these 27 tips you will discover how to protect and capitalize on your most important

investment, reduce stress, be in control of your situation, and make the best profit possible. In this report you'll discover how to avoid financial disappointment or worse, a financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach, you will get the straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money.

Order your free report today. To order a FREE Special Report, visit www.SellYourHomeFastAndForTopDollar.ca or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-800-448-1145 and enter 1023 You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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HHA IS...

Hamilton Hebrew Academy
 Hamilton Jewish Middle School
 Hamilton Hebrew High

Jewish Tradition

Sukkah Fair Chidon Hatanach Carnival
 Purim Matzah Baking
 Chanukah Gala
 Shabbat Love of Learning tefillah tikkun olam
 Siddur & Chumash Parties
 Cultural & Source Based Tracks
 Model Seders Friday Night Dinners
 Shofar Latkah Fry Factory

Academic Excellence

Differentiated Instruction Building Lifelong Learners
 Meeting Diverse Needs
 Weizmann Institute Math-By-Mail
 CHAT Science Fair Curiosity & Wonder
 Annual Holocaust Symposium
 Royal Canadian Legion Creative Writing Competition
 Integration

Family

Tradition of Warmth
 lifelong connections beyond the school walls
 friendships Nurturing Teachers
 passionate alumni

Community

Honoring War Veterans Raoul Wallenberg Tribute
 Terry Fox Run
 Shalom Village
 Jumprope For Heart
 Ti-Cat Nutrition Partnership
 JNF Police Services Appreciation Luncheon
 Hamilton-Wentworth Athletic Association
 MS Readathon
 Kristallnacht Commemoration
 Jewish Social Services



Loving Israel!



Loving Torah!



nurturing caterpillars to become butterflies!



father & son alumni



Leor Naftali & Danielle Vaknin win great Leafs tickets at Hamilton Hebrew High



HHA / HJMS Jewish enrichment program special trip to Niagara



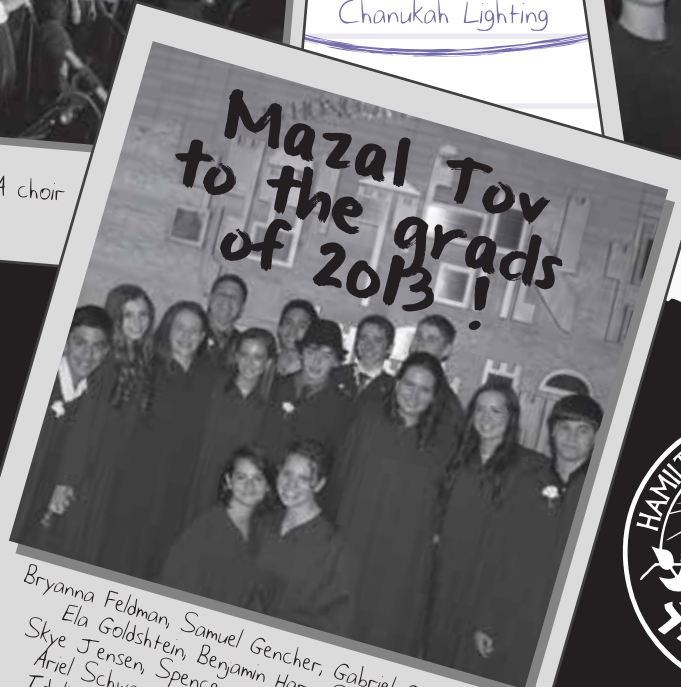
HHA choir



UJA Ferreira Annual Mural Exhibition City Hall Chanukah Lighting



HJMS Police Service appreciation luncheon



Mazal Tov to the grads of 2013!

Bryanna Feldman, Samuel Gencher, Gabriel Gershkovich, Ela Goldshtein, Benjamin Hara, Sari Horwood, Skye Jensen, Spencer Johnson, Rina Komissarov, Ariel Schwartz, Simcha Sehayek, Abigail Shore, Idalia Sngdman, Ron Vaknin, Zev Wiesenthal.



HJMS
 HAMILTON JEWISH MIDDLE SCHOOL

The HHA welcomes Joanne McIntosh to the family!

Ms. McIntosh is one of the most distinguished and innovative educators at the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board specializing in elementary school education. She currently serves as Principal of Queen Victoria Elementary School, a 21st Century Learning Environment. Ms. McIntosh, over the past few years, has transformed Queen Victoria, an inner city school in Hamilton, into a model educational institution with one of the highest academic ratings in the city.

In September, she will be officially accepting the position as Principal of our school.

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