

Hamilton Jewish News

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Passing the Torch of Leadership at UJA Federation

This year's annual general meeting of UJA Federation marked the completion of Bonnie Loewith's term as president and the installation of incoming president, Les Lasky. The meeting also provided an opportunity to showcase some



Incoming Federation president, Les Lasky

of the outstanding programs for youth funded by the Federation as well as to recognize the many volunteers who have dedicated both time and energy to a wide-ranging number of community projects. The evening also featured a keynote address by radio host, Michael Coren, who spoke on the theme of the close ties between evangelical Christians and the Jewish people. Lester Krames and Paul

Roth, who served as co-chairs of the annual campaign for two consecutive years, received special recognition during the evening. Also on hand was Dr. Larry Levin, who will be next year's UJA campaign chair. Women's Division co-chairs, Heather Ritter and Louise Klinghoffer, were also recognized, as they completed their first year of a two-year term.

Optimism for the community's future was expressed through the recognition of three outstanding young leaders. Lisa Morris was honoured as the first chair of Hamilton's Ben Gurion Society, an initiative adopted by numerous Federations throughout North America, whose membership consists of donors of the age of 45 years of age and younger who have committed \$1,000 or more to the annual campaign. In presenting her with an award, Wendy Schneider thanked her for "modeling to her peers that the healthy future of our community and of Israel depends on young people stepping into the realm of responsible giving." Jill Gaffe and Andrea Molot were also presented with awards for co-chairing the UJA Federation Walkathon for two consecutive years. The long hours they devoted towards organizing what is a huge undertaking was

exceptional, said Schneider, given the demands of their daily lives.

Other presenters during the evening included rando deSilva, of the McMaster Jewish Students Association, March of the Living chaperone, Aaron Orkin, former Asper Human Rights participant, Hyla Kemeny, and Natalie Epstein, a past participant in an Israel experience program, all of whom testified as to the deep impact of their respective Federation-funded programs. Midrasha director, Andrea Zians, spoke about the impact Midrasha is having on community teens and how many speak of it as the highlight of their week.

In passing the torch to her successor, Bonnie Loewith reviewed both the successes and disappointments of her term. "The fact that many donors in the top gift category did not come through with their pledges is cause for great concern," said Loewith, and she urged them to "reconsider their responsibilities and ensure that their campaign commitments stay in step with the growth patterns in the other sectors of the community."

The good news included the first million-dollar campaign in recent memory, a successful Israel Emergency Campaign, the



Outgoing Federation president, Bonnie Loewith (r) with Louise Klinghoffer

establishment of the Community Planning Committee and a number of important initiatives in community relations and public affairs.

As the incoming president of UJA Federation, Les Lasky outlined his vision for the next two years, emphasizing Federation's role as a catalyst for positive change, and the need "to adapt to the changing needs and structure of our community and to plan for the future."

UJA Campaign Closes With Mixed Results

UJA Closes Short as Global Crisis Campaign continues

It was with a sense of disappointment that Dr. Lester Krames, co-chair of the UJA 2004 campaign, reported that the campaign had fallen short of its goal at the UJA Federation annual general meeting. Pending the result of several last minute solicitations, the campaign will likely close at \$950,000.

Dr. Krames reported that "although the overall total is less than what we had anticipated, there were several very healthy signs within the campaign statistics." During the two years he co-chaired the men's campaign with Dr. Paul Roth, 212 people were added to the data base as new donors. This represents almost 10% of the total number of donors. Equally impressive is the fact that over the past two years, every division but one provided card for card increases of between 8 and 14 percent. Lester acknowledged the strong support coming from the Federation board of directors, which showed an increase of 14 percent in each of the past two years.

The only division to show negative growth in this campaign was the "top donor" division. Even after factoring out the loss of several major donors during the past year, the division's results were less than expected. For a myriad of reasons, only a handful of top donors actually met the requested 15% increase over last year.

Commenting on the annual meeting campaign report, Gerald Fisher, Federation executive director, praised the hard work of all the campaign leaders including Drs. Krames and Roth as well as co-chairs, Heather Ritter and Louise Klinghoffer.

"If the existing top donor division had met last year's level, this would have been the second record-breaking campaign year in a row. Anyone sitting through the current allocations process can tell you how desperately we require everyone's financial support."

Fisher further commented by saying "It is unfortunate that our co-chairs were denied the satisfaction of reaching a second

record campaign. There is not a harder working or committed group of volunteers than Lester, Paul, Heather and Louise".

Incoming Federation president, Les Lasky, recognizes that the long term financial future of the community is facing serious challenges.

"Our community has benefited for many years from the generosity of several leading philanthropic families. We are now faced with the challenge of adapting to the reality that for many reasons, we can no longer remain dependent on the largesse of a diminishing number of 'top gift' donors. We have no reason to be complacent. Without a significant turnaround at the top end of the campaign, we are facing serious problems; not sometime in the future – but right now."

Despite the immediate concern over the future of the top donor division, Lasky remained optimistic about the future.

"The first priority of my administration will be to rekindle passion for the community among

our business and philanthropic leaders. I will encourage the Federation executive director and the UJA campaign chair to meet with each individual in the top divisions to lay out a plan for the future and secure their support. Our community is rich in history, assets and potential. It deserves everybody's support and I will do all I can to make bring that point home."

Lasky also expressed his appreciation to Paul Roth, Lester Krames, Heather Ritter and Louise Klinghoffer.

"Their dedication to the community and the campaign inspires all of us to do more and to do it better. They all deserve all our thanks. I also want to acknowledge Dr. Larry Levin who is making room on his agenda to serve as Chair of the UJA 2005 campaign. He will also have a strong team and the full support of the UJA Federation Board.

Time is Short...

Register today for Hamilton's Mission to Israel, see page 4

March Of The Living Kids recount their experiences, see page 5

What is Jewish Yoga? See page 11

Read about this month's "Special Mentschen", Becky Katz and Sam Lewis, see page 12

...and much more

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE HJN IS MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2004.

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From the Director's Desk The Global Crisis Continues



Gerald Fisher
Executive Director
UJA Federation

The ongoing violence in Israel has created economic hardship of catastrophic proportions. Two years ago, Jewish communities around the globe were asked to go out on an "Israel Emergency Campaign" to help raise the dollars required to provide enhanced security around public facilities, to assist the direct victims of terrorism and to address the growing economic problems of rising unemployment. Under the leadership of Rabbi Mordechai Green, The Hamilton Jewish community responded to that need by raising an unprecedented \$500,000+ in just eight weeks.

The Israel Emergency Campaign came to a successful conclusion. Unfortunately the emergency has continued, with an ever rising casualty toll in terms of lives lost and damaged, increasing stress on the security apparatus and economic hardships never before encountered. All of these unfortunate circumstances have only been made more discomfiting because of the palpable rise in antisemitism and anti-Jewish violence around the world.

In response to this ongoing crisis, Jewish communities around the world have again been asked to raise additional dollars to meet these growing emergency needs. During the spring of 2003 the Hamilton Jewish community was asked to raise an additional \$94,000 as its share in the "Global Jewish Crisis" campaign. Arriving in the "afterglow" of our record setting UJA 2003 campaign, the community leadership was confident that we could meet this additional request within the framework of the UJA 2004 campaign and without organizing a separate initiative. They were mistaken.

For a variety of reasons, the UJA 2004 campaign goal, which included this \$94,000, was not met. The UJA Campaign is now closed. Because of the downturn in the campaign, it may be that local social and education programs may find their budgets tightened just a bit. However, the campaign leadership and UJA Federation board of directors remain committed to raising these additional dollars for critical overseas needs. As a result, the Global Jewish Crisis Campaign will go forward until its goal is met.

July 27 - August 4, 2004

Join hundreds of young people from around the Jewish world and get to the ♥ of the matter!

<p>HIGHLIGHTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ^ Explore Israel by camel, jeep, kayak & foot! ^ Meet with Knesset members and high-ranking military personnel ^ Spend time with Israeli peers and soldiers on an IDF base ^ Visit Tel-Aviv — the city that never sleeps! ^ Enjoy shabbat in Jerusalem ^ Solidarity with Israel 	<p>INFORMATION</p> <p>^ Contact Wendy Schneider at 905-628-0058</p> <p>^ OR Jodi Block at UJA Federations Canada: 416-636-7655 x225 jblock@uiafed.org</p>
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UJA FEDERATION TRIBUTE CARDS

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JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES & THE KOSHER FOOD BANK

In Memory Of

IZZY WAXMAN – David & Norma Wright, Louise & Oded Klinghoffer and family. LOU HOTZ – David & Norma Wright. SAM SOIFER – David & Norma Wright, Sarah Olshansky, Maureen & Philip Price and family. HARRY LASKIN – David & Norma Wright. HY FEINSTEIN – Louise & Oded Klinghoffer and family. SOL FRANKEL – Heather, Len, Cliff & Mitch Ritter, Dolly & Ralph Cohen, Janet & Gerald Asa, Carol & Lester Krames, Gloria Silverman & family, Leo & Isabel Strub, Arnie & Lila Strub, Marty & Debbie Strub, Andy & Lisa Strub, Stan & Liz Tick, Gloria Silverman. JERRY FRIEDMAN – Bea & Chuck Matchen, Paul & Helen Hanover, Magda Muller. ALLEN BROWN – Diane Sandler, Bill Nisker & Family, Carol & Lester Krames. JOE COOPER – Gloria Silverman. NAOMI WINER – Gloria Silverman. FAY DALFEN – Gloria Silverman, Gilda & Jeff Ennis and boys. Relative of Charles Kravetsky – Rebecca & Avi Shapiro and family. KATE FOGEL – Dolly & Ralph Cohen. Mother of Christine Smurlick – Paul & Helen Hanover. Brother of Frank Gomberg – Stan & Liz Tick. Mother of Rabbi Zeplovitz – Gilda & Jeff Ennis and boys. Mother of Gayle Kepecs – Carol & Lester Krames

Special Occasions

ARNOLD ROSE – Happy Birthday – Geoff Rose & Gloria. ORA MARKSTEIN – Happy 80th Birthday – Helen Yellin. FRANCINE & MURRAY GERSON – Birth of grandson – Gloria Silverman. EVE FINKELSTEIN – Mazel Tov on your volunteer recognition from Jewish Social Services – Sylvia Livingston. JILLIAN BERNS – Mazel Tov on your Bat Mitzvah – Shirley Yaffee. WILLIAM GARSHOWITZ – Happy 85th Birthday – Goldie Robbins. DAVID GARSHOWITZ – Happy 75th Birthday – Goldie Robbins. DAVID & NORMA WRIGHT – birth of grand-daughter, Maayan Joy – Dolly & Ralph Cohen. DEBBIE & MARTY STRUB – Mazel Tov on Joshua's Bar Mitzvah – Diane Sandler, Bill Nisker and family. MICHELE SCHNEIDER – Mazel Tov on your new job – Diane Sandler, Bill Nisker and family. GLORIA SILVERMAN – Mazel on granddaughter Leah's Bat Mitzvah – Ada & Elmer Farkas. MAUREEN BERGART – Happy Birthday – Ada & Elmer Farkas. DAVID MAGDER – Happy 70th Birthday.

Speedy Recovery

LESTER KRAMES – Michael & Adalia Schweitzer and family, Christine Nusca. MICKEY BOGART – Sondi Goldblatt, Barbara Goldblatt. BETTY FOSTER – Sondi Goldblatt, Barbara Goldblatt. MEL DULBERG – Ruth & Manny Fine. MORLEY In Appreciation. JOANKIZELL – Michele & Charles Schneider. RICHARD & CHERYL KIZELL – Michele & Charles Schneider. CHANA ITKIN – Fish &

MCMASTER JEWISH STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Special Occasion

GERRY & FRAN KIRSH – birth of grandson, Benjamin – Amy Freedman, Jon Arno Lawson, Sophie & Asher. AMY FREEDMAN & JON ARNO LAWSON – birth of son Asher – Ken & Arlene

In Memory Of

Mother of Roz & Jeffery Zikman – Amy Freedman & Jon Arno Lawson. Uncle of Amanda Ross – Amy Freedman & Jon Arno Lawson. HY FEINSTEIN – Brett Malowitz

THE RALPH TRAVIS ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

Special Occasion

GLORIA WUNDER – birth of grand-daughter, Isabel Rose – Corinne Travis. MR. & MRS. AUBREY SUGAR – birth of daughter – Corinne Travis. TRAVIS – GAL FAMILY – Bar Mitzvah of Yanai Gal – Gwen & Harvey Schwab. GLADYS DUBO – 80th Birthday – Corinne Travis. CORINNE TRAVIS – Bar Mitzvah of your grandson, Yanai Gal – Mel & Didi Dulberg, Al & Marilyn Foreman

In Appreciation

VIVIEN RETHAZY, BONNIE HORWITZ – Corinne Travis

In Memory Of

JERRY RUSKIN – Corinne Travis. HELEN MENDELSON – Gladys Dub. SOL FRANKEL – Phil & Daphne Leon. Mr. & Mrs. Martin Freedman – condolences on your loss – Gladys Dubo. LOU HOTZ – Corinne Travis. IZZY WAXMAN – Corinne Travis. HARRY LASKIN – Glen Watts. LESPASIS – Corinne Travis. Mother of Gayle Kepecs – Corinne Travis, Glen Watts. IRWIN MILLER – Phil & Daphne Leon. HARRY ROSENBERG – Phil & Daphne Leon

Speedy Recovery

ROCHELLE FINGER – Corinne Travis. LORRAINE STARR – Corinne Travis.

UJA Federation

This Year's Walkathon Will Support both Israeli and Local Causes

This year's UJA Federation Walkathon, scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 6 at 10:15 am, is breaking new ground. For the very first time, funds will be split between local and overseas needs. On a local level, funds will provide much needed bursary support for Jewish day schools, ensuring that no Jewish child is prevented from attending because of financial hardship. The overseas portion of funds will be directed towards the Israel Crisis Management Centre, which provides crisis intervention and long-term emotional and

financial support to Israeli new immigrant victims of terror.

The impetus for keeping some funds in the community came from this year's co-chairs, Yves Apel and Michael Glogauer, who share a close friendship and a passion for making Jewish education affordable. Apel, who is president of Kehila Jewish Community Day School and Glogauer, whose children attend the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, are enthusiastic about working together. Their partnership is another example of breaking new ground as it models a way that competing

institutions can overcome their differences and work together for a common goal.

Commenting on the decision to split funds raised between both local and overseas needs, UJA Federation executive director, Gerry Fisher, said, "The coming together of our two day schools to provide leadership for the annual Walk for Israel is a wonderful example of our beneficiary agencies working together, under UJA Federation auspices, to address these urgent priorities and at the same time strengthen our community fabric. This creative approach allows

everyone to benefit while providing a really fun day for the entire Jewish community."

This year's Walkathon committee, including the two co-chairs, Luba Apel, Deborah Glogauer, past co-chairs, Jill Gaffe and Andrea Molot, Cindy Kam and Marli Bennett, has already put in many hours planning what promises to be a spectacular event.

Hamilton's own "A Touch of Klez" will provide entertainment. Young children will be entertained by a variety of activities, including the ever-popular

"bouncy castle". Community teenagers will be out in full force, acting as marshalls and monitoring children's activities. As well, the honour of leading the walk will be given to this year's March of the Living participants.

For more information check out the community website at www.jewishhamilton.org. To volunteer, please call Wendy Schneider at 905-628-0058.

UJA Federation's Annual General Meeting



Michael Coren



Wendy Schneider presenting Young Leadership awards to Andrea Molot (left) and Jill Gaffe



Midrasha director, Andrea Zians, McMaster JSA executive member, Brandon deSilva and incoming UJA campaign chair, Larry Levin, addressed the audience.



Lisa Morris was presented with a Young Leadership award by Wendy Schneider



Budget and Allocations chair, Liora Malka, with Lester Krames and David Somer



A large turnout of community members came out to hear keynote speaker, Michael Coren

If you are new to our community (since June 2003) please report to the GROHAMILTON table to receive your complementary pass to the Walk

UJA Federation

Former Hamiltonian in Israel is delighted by opportunity to meet with community members

BY
WENDY SCHNEIDER

Unlike most North Americans living in Israel, Amy Matchen, daughter of Bea and Chuck Matchen of Dundas, never officially made aliyah. It was 1985 when the 25-year old decided to enroll in WUJS, a year-long program in Israel.

"I had finished university and I was working in Toronto but since my first trip to Israel when I was 16, I always had it in my mind that I would come back."

During a volunteering stint at where she was put to work fixing tanks at an army base later that year she met her future husband. She's lived in Israel ever since.

By any standards, Amy's career path is impressive. Her first job in Israel, where she was employed for ten years, was as an executive assistant for a small start-up research and development firm that became one of the flagships of the Israeli high tech industry, Indigo. Within a year, she was managing marketing communications at Indigo and has specialized in international marketing ever since.

In 1997 she was hired as the director of international marketing for another leading Israeli company that develops and markets software for internet security. A year ago she received a call from the president of the Weizman Institute, who offered her a position as vice president



Amy Matchen

of international affairs. Today, Amy oversees the institute's public relations department and manages 40 people. She lives on campus with her two children, aged 16 and 12. And, she loves her job.

"It's a huge privilege to be associated with the Weizman Institute because as a research institute it's among the top in the world. The people are incredibly intelligent, creative, committed and working with them every day is an honour."

A month ago, Amy was delighted to receive an email invitation to join Hamilton mission participants at a picnic barbeque next October. Asked what the gesture means to her, she replied,

"I think this barbeque is a wonderful idea because it gives me an opportunity to introduce my children to where I came from and gives me an opportunity to

meet other Hamiltonians who have moved here. I want to show my kids is that different kinds of people can get together and have a good time and be tolerant of each other, because one of the problems we have in Israel is that we're not very pluralistic. Hamilton is a perfect example of a community where people are friends not based on religious reasons. I think that for the participants, it will be a highlight, because it's personal. There are lots of tours to Israel but the fact that they are choosing to go with a group from Hamilton means that they care about the community. I think it will be a real bonus for all of us."

Amy also emphasized that hosting people from home gives her a chance to show people what life in Israel is really like these days.

"Hosting people from Hamilton gives me a chance to show people that life here is perfectly normal. We're not in constant danger. We're raising our kids and living our lives. You can't live here and not be engaged in the public discourse. Everyone has a different political approach, but everyone would like to go back to a time when there's more optimism and more hope for the future. And I think it's entirely possible."

MISSION CO-CHAIRS EXCITED BY COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Organizers of the upcoming "With Israel – in Israel" mission are encouraged by growing interest among members of the community. The invitation to take part in the October mission has been extended to other smaller communities from across the province and co-chairs, Michael and Pam Taylor and Michele and Lorne Finkelstein, are optimistic that interest will continue to grow. To date, there are 16 registrants, a number they hope to see increase to 30 in the coming weeks.

Michele Finkelstein has just returned from a Women's Leadership Conference in Ottawa, organized by UJA Federations Canada (the Hamilton Federation's parent body). At the meeting, she had an opportunity to speak with a number of other Canadian women who have recently participated in missions and she reports that her initial security concerns have diminished significantly.

"The feeling I came away with", she said, "is that while everybody, of course, has concerns about what's going on in the Middle East, when you hear stories about how powerful the experience of a mission is, and how so many communities are continually sending groups, I realized that I can put my fear aside."

Furthermore, in her conversations with participants from recent Winnipeg and

Ottawa missions that numbered over 100, Michele commented on how wonderful it would be to see higher numbers of Hamilton participants.

"Now is not the time to be apathetic", said Michael Taylor. "The recent acts of vandalism that have taken place in Kitchener, Toronto and Montreal are nothing compared to what Israelis have had to endure over the last few years and this mission provides members of our Jewish community with an opportunity to stand up for our identity and show our solidarity with Israel."

And in an email sent to the Finkelsteins, a former Hamiltonian, now residing in Israel, said,

"For the last two years I would walk by the Laromme, now the Inbal Hotel, and look up at the dark, empty windows of the hotel. It symbolized how alone we were. But now, the hotels are beginning to thrive again, groups and families are coming back, showing their support and believe me, the Israelis pay attention to it and are so grateful... It would be great if the Hamilton Jewish community chose to be part of this renaissance."

If you are still making up your mind about whether or not to register for the mission, you are encouraged to contact one of the co-chairs or UJA Federation mission coordinator, Wendy Schneider at 905-628-0058. We'd love to hear from you.

Join Co-Chairs Michele & Lorne Finkelstein & Pam & Michael Taylor at UJA Federation's

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CALL NOW For more information call
Wendy Schneider at 905-628-0058 or
Gerald Fisher at UJA Federation at 905-648-0605.

UJA Federation

March of the Living participants report on a transformative experience

Last April, four Hamiltonian high school students embarked on an unforgettable journey to Poland and Israel. They were part of a Canadian contingent of approximately 300 students, who, together with Jewish youth from Israel, Canada, U.S.A., Mexico, France, Great Britain, South Africa, South America, Australia and Eastern Europe — 6000 in all, took part in the 2004 March of the Living.

The Poland portion of the trip coincided with Yom HaShoah, a day in which participants march in silence through the gates of Birkenau to Auschwitz. Following Yom HaShoah, the students were flown to Israel, where they celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day with hundreds of thousands of Israelis.

The March of the Living participants were asked to reflect on the impact of the experience and their comments follow:

Brian Rochweg: "On April 28, 2004, I returned from the most powerful journey and experience I have ever been involved in — The March of the Living. I found this trip



Hamilton participants in the 2004 March of the Living include (from l to r), chaperone, Aaron Orkin, Brian Rochweg, Lauren Levine, Tanya Schneider and David Honig

interesting, educational and emotional. Although I have many stories I could tell, I will speak of one that was a personal experience of mine on the trip. The first concentration camp we visited was Auschwitz. This day was extremely emotional

for the members of our group. The last place we visited at the camp was the gas chamber and crematoria. I had a sick feeling being inside that building and once outside, I found a patch of grass to sit on and reflect.

Looking down at the grass, much to my surprise, I found a four-leaf clover. I am not one to believe in superstitions, however, I was quite angered to find a good luck charm less than 20 feet from a building designed for mass murder. I debated whether to rip up the clover in anger or show the rest of my group and hear their reactions. I showed the clover to the group and many people were quite shocked and disturbed by it, as I was. To remember this experience, I saved the clover and still have it today. This was just one of many powerful experiences on this trip. I would recommend the March of the Living to anyone who was looking for the experience of a lifetime."

Tanya Schneider: "Most people expect the March of The Living to be a very shocking experience. I, however, found it to be extremely positive and motivating for me as a person and as a Jew. Although I, too, shared in the emotional intensity of the concentration camps, overall it made me feel a stronger connection to my Judaism. One of the most amazing moments for me was when one of the survivors who was traveling with our group led us in the Kiddush in an old synagogue in the town of Aushwitz. It was just incredible to have a big group of Jews

praying in the middle of Poland. After Kiddush, we broke out into song and dance, as everyone in the room was celebrating our survival of the Holocaust. It was times like these that made us feel so spiritual and strong. Coming on the trip I wasn't usually one to willingly open up about my Jewish culture, but the March of The Living has allowed me to appreciate who I am. It was the most unforgettable journey and I have made the most amazing bonds with Jews all across the globe. I encourage others to participate on the March in the Living."

Lauren Levine: "The March of the Living has been one of the most incredible experiences of my life. Between Poland and Israel I felt almost every emotion possible. I did not realize that so many people, from so many different places around the world could find such a common bond. I not only bonded with fellow Jews, but felt a deep connection with Judaism as well. We bonded in sorrow walking through the concentration camps, and we bonded in joy in Israel. Landing in Israel was a wonderful experience. Everyone cheered when the plane touched the ground, and as we were disembarking we hugged each other and kissed the holy ground. It was absolutely beautiful. I found the March of the Living to be a very worthwhile and meaningful journey that I feel every Jew should consider attending."

David Honig: "My most memorable moment was standing outside the monument for the Ghetto Fighters in Warsaw. It was raining and cold and the weather suited the mood. I think that I matured a lot and found myself in those two weeks. I feel as if I'm a different person, more responsible, more outgoing and more fun."

The next March of the Living will take place in 2006. Call Elaine Levine at the Federation office at 905-648-0605 for more information.

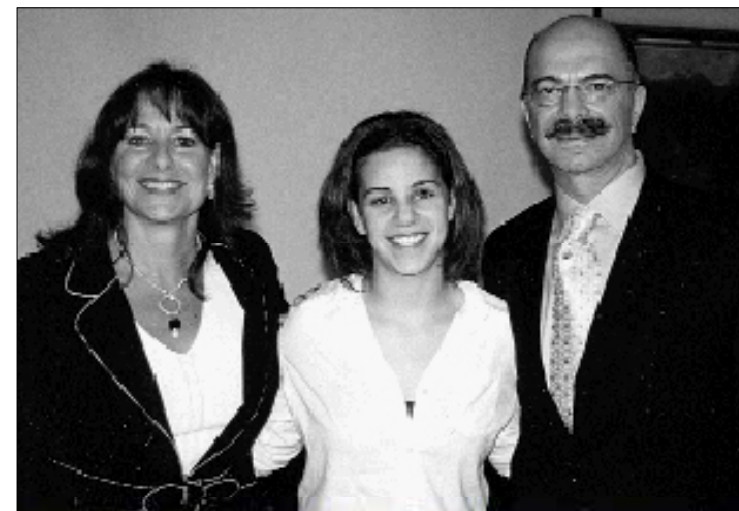
Asper Participant waxes eloquent about Program's Impact

BY
WENDY SCHNEIDER

When Elaine Levine of UJA Federation received a phone call from a senior programmer at the Asper Foundation last April, asking if she could recommend a Hamilton student to give participant's perspective on its annual Holocaust and Human Rights Studies Program at a press conference in Toronto, Hyla Kemeny came to mind. Hyla was one of 16 Hamilton students who participated in last year's Asper Holocaust and Human Rights Program, a bi-annual program that sends Canadian high school students to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

The late Izzy Asper, who launched a campaign to build the Canadian Museum of Human Rights in April of 2003, envisaged the \$270-million complex as having a 70-metre Tower of Hope; a Canadian Gallery, which will explore dark periods in Canadian history; a Holocaust Gallery; a Hall of Fame and Shame; highlighting moral icons such as Mother Theresa and Nelson Mandela, as well as others who have become synonymous with evil; and many more features. The Asper Foundation has pledged up to \$50 million toward the project, with the federal, provincial and municipal governments contributing a total of \$140 million. The remaining money will be raised by the Friends of the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, whose goal is to raise \$60 through the private sector.

Hyla spoke at a press conference attended by representatives of Toronto based media outlets. The conference was sponsored by the Friends of the Museum. According to Levine, the teenager delivered her



Hyla Kemeny (center) with Gail Asper and Moe Levy

speech flawlessly, speaking with both poise and passion. In an interview with the HJN Hyla said that she was enormously "excited and honoured" to have had a chance to meet Gail Asper and other organizers of the program.

"It was like I owed it to them to do this", she said, "and it made me feel I was doing as much as a 15 year old could by letting them know that the experience they gave me definitely changed my life."

She began her remarks by saying that the Asper Washington trip was "one of the most important days of my life." Among the most poignant of her remarks was the following:

"I read the names of towns that were wiped out but nothing prepared me for the shoes. I walked down a flight of stairs and turned the corner and on either side of the room was piles of shoes. Shoes that a father never saw again, shoes that a little girl didn't have when she was trying to find her family. It was then that it all sunk in... Millions of people never got their shoes back, millions of people never got their lives back and that's why I'm here to say that the building in Washington and buildings like it tell the stories,

show the misfortunes and change lives. The world needs to know that holocausts still happen and by building museums people are reached, people like me who are now able to tell the stories of the six million who can't tell theirs."



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McMaster Students Host Kosher "Meet" Market

BY ALANA KAYFETZ

Look out Hamilton: They're Jewish, single, and ready to mingle! The McMaster Jewish Students Association (JSA) recently hosted their first annual "Kosher 'meet' Market" for single Jewish youth. Hosted at the Funky Monkey on Queen Street in Hess Village, the party drew Jewish students from McMaster and Guelph University, as well as other singles from Hamilton and Dundas. Though the 'mingle' turned out to be a tremendous success, setting a new high for event participation with over 150 people in attendance, the JSA student executive was initially unsure of how it would materialize, given low turnout rates in the past. They attribute the success to the widespread and enthusiastic publicity, that

included meticulously posting on and off campus, the distribution of leaflets, and the circulation of event information through several email list serve groups.

The event had been in the making since the school year kicked off in September, when Alana Kayfetz, social chair of the JSA, put forth the suggestion. After extensive preparation and promotion, word began to spread in the Jewish community.

The JSA also attributes the evening's success to having accommodated first year students, who are under 19 years of age and not of legal age to attend, by implementing a wrist-band policy to differentiate between those who could consume alcohol, and those who could not, but who nonetheless had a rockin' good

time.

Planning members and attendees alike were overwhelmed by the success of the event. The high turnout was testimony to the fact that maintaining one's Jewish identity is of serious concern to today's Jewish youth. Leanne Campbell, the JSA president, stated that "the Jewish student community on campus as well as the JSA membership is growing. This is reflected in the large turnout of the event. I would also like to thank Alana Kayfetz for her hard work and dedication organizing this event and making it a success".

See you next year at the second annual Kosher 'Meet' Market.

If you have been thinking of moving to Shalom Village, the wait is over...

If you have been thinking about moving to a retirement facility...

If you have a need for some assistance with daily living...

If you no longer want the problems the stress and the financial burden of a family house...

If you thought there was no chance of moving to Shalom Village because of a long waiting list for apartments, the wait is over.

**Shalom Village
just got better!**

With the opening of Shalom Village Too we are strengthening our vision of care for older adults with a state of the art facility conveniently located on Macklin St. in west Hamilton.

A full range of care options and solutions

Care at Shalom Village can be light assistance in your apartment to long term care in Shalom Village. If your needs should change there is no need to have to relocate from the building. This is your home.

Shalom Village is all about people. Yes the facility and the amenities are beautiful, but our reputation is not built on bricks and mortar. Our reputation is built on living our At Home Approach.

Our management our team leaders, and our front line, clearly understand that for our residents, Shalom Village is just a change of address not a change of attitude or ability.

**Shalom Village Too is
Now Renting!**

30 beautiful one and two bedroom apartments.

All the services and amenities you are looking for including:

- Our own unique fitness club
- Our own Samuel's Bistro restaurant
- Additional full meal service available
- Beautiful gardens, recreation centre and views
- Free transportation in our Millimobile to local banks and shops
- 24 hour care and assistance available.

How to find out more
To find out more about the Shalom Village
Apartments and arrange your personal tour
call Colleen Clementi at
905-528-5377 ext. 370.

Jewish Social Services

Looking for extra help in your house? Tired of all the repairs that never seem to get done? Need a babysitter or someone to care for an elderly parent? Need someone to do lawn maintenance or other outside work? Jewish Social Services can recommend experienced people to help you. Call Carol Krames at 905-648-0605, ext 325 or email Carol_krames@Eudoramail.com.

If you looking for work as a babysitter or have a truck that can make deliveries, Jewish Social Services may have employment opportunities. Call Carol Krames at 905-648-0605, ext 325.

USED CLOTHING

Jewish Social Services does not accept used clothing. However good and clean used clothing can be dropped off at the front entrance of the Jewish Community Centre for Hadassah-WIZO, which will be having a bazaar in November 2004. For more information please call Jill Gaffe at 905-546-0953.

JSS THEATRE CLUB

We still have openings for the following trips: A Month of Sundays, Sunday, July 18 in Erin, \$35; Wednesday September 1, Summer of Love in Port Dover \$37; August 4 - Hairspray in Toronto, \$81

REMINDER

The Annual General Meeting of
Jewish Social Services
will take place on
Tuesday, June 1, 2004
at Shalom Village Too
Highlights
Volunteer Recognition
Chair Choir



The GroHamilton Committee thanks

Vicky Wylson Sher

*for her generosity in making GroHamilton
a recipient of a portion of the proceeds from
Fiddler On The Roof ticket sales. In the coming year,
we hope to build on the strong foundation which
you,
as GroHamilton's first chair, helped to create.*

**The GroHamilton Committee invites
community members to participate in the
following upcoming programs:**

*Annual Welcome Barbeque for Newcomers,
Sunday, August 29, at 6:00 pm at the JCC*

*Create Welcome Wagon Baskets for
Newcomers
Shabbat Dinner Home Hospitality*

*Meet & Greet Newcomers
as they arrive to our community*

*Mentoring Newcomers who share Your
Profession*

Local Events

Neshama Carlebach Coming To Hamilton

Renowned singer and storyteller Neshama Carlebach, from New York City, will be appearing in Hamilton on June 21 at 7:30 pm for an Emunah Women Benefit Concert.

Neshama is the daughter of the legendary Reb Shlomo Carlebach, a composer and singer of spiritual melodies so influential that he has been credited with writing the Jewish soundtrack for the twentieth century. Shlomo encouraged his daughter's singing, bringing her on stage in his concerts and praising her spiritual gifts and talent. When he died in 1994, there was a sense that her father had passed the torch to her.

Neshama has continued to sing her father's songs, interpreting them in her own passionate and stylish way. Her music is deeply spiritual. She has named Billie Holiday and



Neshama Carlebach

Joni Mitchell as influences and characterizes her sound as pop, with some jazz, Middle Eastern, acoustic and big-band thrown into the mix.

A review in the prestigious music magazine Billboard noted that, "Carlebach's dark hued, spiritually evocative soprano draws comparisons to the likes of Sheryl Crow and Linda

Ronstadt, while the haunting melodies and glistening pop sophistication of the arrangements are reminiscent of Amy Grant".

The concert is being hosted by Emunah Women, an international organization that provides assistance to underprivileged children in Israel. The Irene Hoffman Emunah Women Chapter of Hamilton has been committed to help the children in Israel for over four decades.

A special reception with Neshama Carlebach will be held at 6:30 pm for Mother in Israel concert sponsors. To order tickets, or to be a Mother in Israel Concert Sponsor, please call 905-528-0039. Tickets are \$18, Mother in Israel sponsorships can be purchased for \$79 & \$120.

Introducing *Nalaga'at*: Israeli Deaf-Blind theatre

The Consulate General of Israel in Toronto proudly presents a special Israeli theatre experience -Nalaga'at-Hebrew for "Do Touch". The actors suffer from Usher Syndrome, a partial or total deafness at birth and a gradual shrinking of field of vision ending in total blindness. As June is deaf-blind awareness month, Nalaga'at will be the event to be at.

This unique combination of triumph over adversity fused with art is a visual and emotional delight for the theatre going public. This show of deaf and blind actors is an enormous success in Israel and this will be the first

time they will perform outside of the country. Toronto will be the first city of their North American tour. This special concept brings to the stage a strength and intensity that makes you forget that the actors don't see or hear.

The show will take place at the Bathurst Street Theatre, 736 Bathurst Street, Thursday June 17 at 7.30pm.

To order tickets call Wendy Schneider at 905-628-0058 or Sonia Rosenblatt, Director of Scientific and Cultural Affairs at 416-640-8521. Please visit their website www.nalagaat.org.il

It's Back!
the HADASSAH-WIZO
Bazaar

Monday, November 8, 2004
After a 6-year absence, the Hadassah Bazaar is returning to Hamilton

Please save all your "collectibles" when you are doing your spring cleaning. Clothing, Baby Stuff, Treasures, Books, CDs, Video Games, Sporting Goods, Plastic Bags, Wire Hangers, etc...

For collection/drop-off and volunteering, please call: Jill Gaffe at 905-546-0953, Deb Sheinbaum at 905-572-9391
We need volunteers for Sunday, November 7 and Monday, November 8

Come out and help us recreate a Hamilton tradition



Nalaga'at
A stage for the deaf-blind

PRESENTS: LIGHT
IS HEARD
IN ZIG ZAG



An Israeli theater production performed by deaf-blind actors who share their dreams and realities with the audience

Thursday, June 17, 7:30 pm at the Bathurst Street Theatre, 736 Bathurst St, Toronto, (one block south of Bloor)
For reservations call Wendy Schneider 905-628-0058.

Hailed by the press: "This week I saw 'Light is Heard in Zig Zag' and here is my recommendation: Get out of the house, leave your regular life and go see this theatrical production...they completely challenge the concept of 'acting', 'theater', 'culture'... a superb production." Adam Baruch, "Ma'ariv"

It's different at Saturn of Hamilton East



JCC Pages

Upcoming Events

Accessible JCC One Step Closer

Since moving to the Lower Lions Club site, JCC boards of directors have been striving to raise funds to ensure that the physical barriers to the JCC would be removed. Over the past few months changes have been occurring. Thanks to Jeff Paikin, who spearheaded a fundraising campaign to honour the memory of his friend, the late Barry Foster, a ramp and an airlock door have now been installed at the JCC, which have enabled more people to access the gymnasium. Additional

funds are needed, however to complete the terms for the payment of the airlock door.

Thank you to those who have contributed thus far: Jeff Paikin, Gary Minden, Warren Waxman, Sally Lax, Larry Kahn and Debbie Sheinbaum, Michael Benjamin, Benjamin's Park Memorial Foundation, Gerald and Janet Asa, Sheldon and Bonni Carr, Marvin Goldblatt, Max and Samieth Mintz, Tennis Canada, Marnie and Larry Paikin, Norma and Maurice Mishkel, Elmer and

Ada Farkas, Hamilton Tennis Association, Steven and Cheryl Dembe, Joel Feldman, Jerry and Elena Goldblatt, Philip and Dalia Kriszenfeld, Gerry and Rochelle Swaye, Lillian Cohen, Norma and David Wright.

The enjoyment of those who can now access more of the facility cannot be measured. To make a contribution to this important cause, please call committee member, Steve Dembe, or call Joy Foster at the 905-648-0605.

The JCC Congratulates

Frances Critchley

Our tennis professional for representing Canada at a World Team Tennis Event in Antalya, Turkey. Frances played Italy's #1 player, the current world champion, losing 6-4 and 7-5 but her team beat Italy 2 matches to 1 to move into the top 4 in the world and...

Jennifer Gilbert

who is in the top 100 women in Canada's table tennis players and ranks 18th in Ontario. Jennifer has been in Al Harris's JCC table tennis program for several years and attends the Maccabi Youth Games. Proud parents are Susan and Alex Gilbert.

Max Rotman Youth Humanitarian Awards

76 high school students were honoured on May 30 for their significant volunteer contributions to the community. The JCC thanks, Howard Katz who chairs the event every year.

Take Tennis Lessons at the JCC with world class tennis pro Frances Critchley. Call 905-648-0605 for more info.

Let your child experience a great summer at the Jewish

Camp Kadimah
Nursery to Grade 2

Camp Gadna
Grade 3 - Grade 6

Leaders in Training
(Grade 7 - Grade 10)

New Camp Director: Katie Kalman



Morning opening - Feel the ruach (spirit)! Learn the Hebrew word of the day.

Sports - JCC's perfect playground serves as a soccer field, racetrack and much more as well as providing the perfect rain day solution, play in the bubble

Drama and Music - improv games and preparation for a summer musical

Arts and Crafts - finger painting, foam animals, hand puppets and much, much more

Science and Nature - kibbutz style hands on experiments, hikes, through the conservation, to the JCC's creek.

Play - Spot the deer, rabbit, chipmunk and all the other animals that share our land.

Swimming - a fun bus ride filled with songs and cheers, free play at a public swimming pool (scheduled time for Camps Kadimah and Gadna only) under the watchful eye of the pool lifeguards and the camp counsellors

Older campers (Camp Gadna - Grade 3 - 6)

experience twice a week day trips such as:

African Lion Safari, Earl Haig Sports Park, Westfield Pioneer Village, Royal Ontario Museum, Christies Conservation, Staircase Theatre, Down 2 Earth

Leaders in training (Grade 7 - Grade 10)

are part of an extensive training program, teaching skills in first aid (Red Cross run), leadership, hands on cabin placements and much more.

Our Counsellors are well-trained, eager and happy to be with the campers, helping them make their summer camp experience memorable.

Weekly themes

Safety First: We are a PEANUT FREE camp.

Thank You

Drs. Claude and Rachel Billigheimer wish to express their heartfelt appreciation to all who so honourably assisted in the sad passing of their beloved brother and brother-in-law, Ludwig Raphael, especially Rabbi Daniel Green and Dr. Nahum Spinner, who so finely honoured Lutz's memory, Dr. Samuel Ajzenstat, Dr. Jeffrey Zucker, Dr. Henry Schwarcz, Aaron Shiffman, John Ross and Hersel Tehranzadeh.

We express our deep appreciation also to those who so graciously conveyed honour to the memory of Lutz, Rabbi Morton Green, Rabbi Daniel Green, Rabbi William Eisenstein, Dr. Lester Krames and Dr. Samuel Ajzenstat.

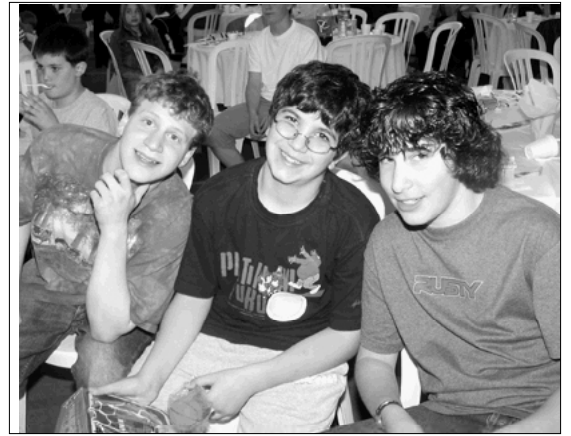
Our thanks also go out to Dr. Lester and Carol Krames for their thoughtful generosity, to Michael Zians and Phil Zians for providing a beautiful setting and to the many who warmly brought us Shiva meals. We also express thanks to Rabbi Zalman Itkin and Rabbi Aaron Selevan for their constant friendship. Thank you also to those who personally assisted us in different ways and to those who sent us messages of condolence.

JCC Pages

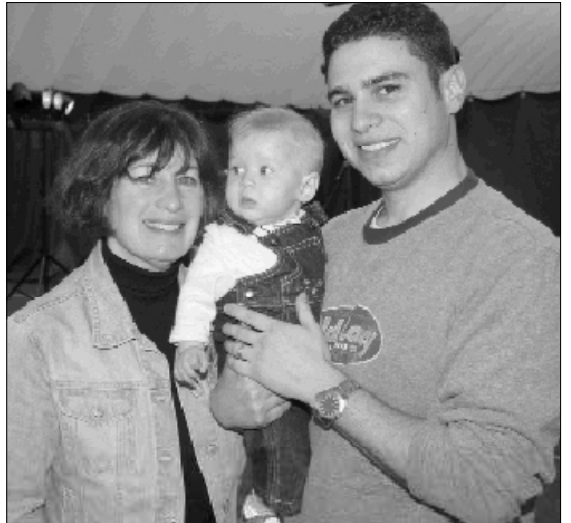
Yom Ha'atzma'ut at the JCC



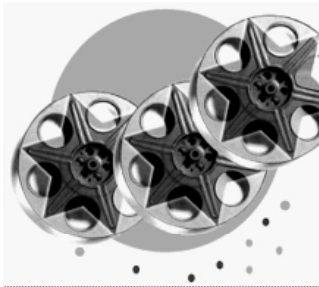
This year's Yom Ha'atzma'ut Festivities was a multi-generational event, as grandparents, parents and children gathered together to celebrate Israel's 56th year. The JCC thanks Moishe Chaimovitz and his daughter, Racheli for co-chairing this annual event honouring Israel's Independence Day. Racheli initiated a new innovation this year: craft tables, where children made bracelets with a Magen David sent from Israel, had their faces painted and won prizes for answering a quiz about Israel. The fabulous food was sponsored by the following generous contributors: Mike & Moishe Chaimovitz, Tegs Tools, Hilton & Shirley Silberg, Day Night Pharmacy, Larry Szpirglas Sales Rep, Castellano Real Estate Inc, R&R Jewellers, Ron & Angie Sabbag, Mike & Devora Weinberger, Phil & Dalia Kriszenfeld, Royal Mattress, Strub Brothers Ltd. Volunteers helping Moishe and Racheli, included Aubrey Friedman, Mila Zaltz, Louise Algranti Ilene Haripko, Mia Hershkowitz, Eva Khrin, Helen Schlotter, Sari Meyerson, Joelle Jackson, Ida Volman, Sarie Chaimovitz, Natalie Epstein, Ilana Klinghoffer and Steven Schneider. Flag Ceremony and Israeli Dancers were organized by Ayelet Tahover, Rivka Shaffir, Yael Greenberg Livingston.



The JCC congratulates
Bernie & Rhoda Katz
winners of this year's
"Dinner Anywhere In The World" Lottery
and to the five \$200 winners: Gerry Fisher, Glen Watts,
Moishe Gold, Paul Gaffe and David Menary
Thanks to everyone who supported this year's lottery!



The Hamilton Jewish Film Festival has had a successful run...



To work on next year's festival
call Joy Foster at 905-648-0605.

500 attend Yom HaShoah Memorial Services

The Yom HaShoah memorial service was observed this year by approximately 500 people, including children from throughout the community at the Beth Jacob Synagogue. Greetings were delivered from Nadia Rosa, Aubrey Friedman, Lester Krames, MPP Stan Keyes and Hamilton Councilman Russ Powers. Rabbi Mark Biller, Leia Ger-Rogers, Steven Schneider, Baya Vertes and Tova Vertes introduced the lighting of the memorial candles. Candle lighters included Helen Katz, Harry Korman, Anna Lalli, Tony Simecek, Elizabeth Solomon, Anita Spenser and Morley Balinson. Cantor David Bercovici conducted the memorial prayers. Stories of Hamilton survivors were read by Jessie Schoenberg (David Schoenberg), Joanna Szpirglas for Sam Szpirglas, Rabbi Bernard Baskin for Jack Rosen. Anthems and presentations were delivered by Lorraine Cohen, Ruthie Pytka-Jones and Meagan Nederveen, Chai Choir, Leon Karan. Thank you to Yom HaShoah committee members, Anita Bernstein, Naomi Bernstein, Gilda Ennis, Leia Ger Rogers, Suzanne Goldflus, Archie Lieberman, Shelly Sender, Abe Szpirglas, Joanna Szpirglas and Baya Vertes whose dedication to this program helped to ensure that this memorial was respectful, educational and significant. Thank you as well to those who helped the committee: Nathan Goldflus, Ryan Goldflus, Michael Goldflus, Steven Schneider, Daniel Ennis, Jonathan Ennis.



JCC TRIBUTE CARDS

In Memory Of

DOMINIC AGOSTINO: JCC Board of Directors. Father of **HOWARD BROWN:** Aubrey Friedman & family, Cheryl & Stephen Quitt, Charles & Michele Schneider, Abe & Gina, Joanne & Jeff Szpirglas, Rochelle Waxman. Mother of **HAL BORDY:** JCC Board of Directors. Sister of **SYDNEY BROWN:** Rochelle Waxman. **CAROL COHEN:** Jonathan & Gwen, Craig & Shannon Fleisch, JCC Board of Directors **FAY DALFEN:** Harvey & Shelley Waxman. **HY FEINSTEIN:** Aubrey Friedman, JCC Board of Directors & Staff. **SOL FRANKEL:** Aubrey, Aaron, Alysha & Joel Friedman, Oded, Louise, Tamar, Naomi & Ilana Klinghoffer, Moishe, Leah, Michael & Tova Morgenstern, Charles & Michele Schneider & Family, Rochelle Waxman, Warren & Karen Waxman, Howard Eisenberg & Marlene Altman, Mel & Jan Gunn, Vince & Geri Adamo, JCC Board of Directors. Father of **BARRY & BONNIE MENDEL:** Moishe, Leah, Michael & Tova Morgenstern. **IRWIN MILLER:** Howard Eisenberg & Marlene Altman, JCC Board of Directors & Staff. Nephew of **VERA & JOE PALMER:** Joy Foster **FRANK SPALLINO:** JCC Board of Directors. Mother of **RABBI IRWIN ZEPLOWITZ:** JCC Board of Directors

Mazal Tov

JEN GILBERT (winning Bronze at Southwest Ontario Games): JCC Board of Directors. **MURRAY AND FRANCINE GERSON** (birth of grandson): Aubrey, Aaron, Alysha & Joel Friedman

JCC YOUTH MACCABI GAMES FUND

In Memory Of

SAMKRAUSZ: Larry & Doreen Goldblatt. **IRWIN MILLER:** Larry & Doreen Goldblatt.

Best Wishes

DR. FRANK SHAPIRO (retirement): Jerry & Linda Bromstein
BARBARA GOLDBLATT: Larry & Doreen Goldblatt.

BARRY FOSTER TRUST FUND

In Memory Of Father of **HOWARD BROWN:** Joy Foster.

FAMILY
& BAR/BAT
MITZVAH
TOURS

JULY 4-18

JULY 11-25

AUG. 1-15

AUG. 19-SEPT. 2

DEC. 18 - JAN. 2

DEC. 19 - JAN. 2

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Shalom Village



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Mazel Tov

MYRNA & GORDIE GOLDBERG: Norma & David Wright. MINNALOEWITH: Joyce & Irv Dain; Magda Morgentern; Hanna Faulkner; Lore Bronner; Goldie Robbins & Ida Shuman; Ruth & Yaacov Goldberg. ANITA SMURLICK: Lottie & Dave Redner. MILLIE & ALSTATE: Joyce & Irv Dain. LES & GLORIA ROEFE: Freda & Seymour Rosenfeld. MEL & DIDIDULBERG (Bar Mitzvah of grandson): Sylvia Katz. MILLIGOULD: Paul & Helen Hanover, Ann Halpren. DR. RONLEVINE: William Nisker & Diane Sandler. DR. & MRS. MICHAEL SHERMAN (Debbie's marriage): Donna & Henry Vine; Frances Silver. JACK KATZ (Man of the year): Laurie, Brian, Ronnie & Family. SHIRLEY & MORRIS WAXMAN (50th Anniversary): Jack & Barbara Katz & Family. SUSAN HUMPHRIES (Alzheimer Society of Ontario Founder Award): Stanley & Debra Cooper. LORISCHINDEL MARTIN (Registered Nurses Association of Ontario's 2004 Merit Award): Stanley & Debra Cooper. LOTTI & DAVID REDNER (54th Anniversary): Samieth & Max Mintz. PAUL & HELEN HANOVER: Anna Taylor. WILLIAM & YETTAGARSHOWITZ: Esther, Goldie & Margaret. GLORIA & SHERIDAN LAX (Grandson's Bar Mitzvah): Freda & Seymour Rosenfeld. NORMA & DAVE WRIGHT (Birth of granddaughter): Didi & Mel Dulberg. COREY ROCHKIN: Dolly & Ralph Cohen. ARTHUR WEISZ: Michael & Pam Taylor; Anna & Robin Taylor. EDIE ROCHKIN (Grandson's Bar Mitzvah): Jack & Barbara Katz & Family. KATHLEEN & SHAWN THOMAS (Birth of twin girls): Aaron Shiffman; Larry & Jay Rosenberg. HERB SCHREIBER (Honorary degree at McMaster) Michael, Pam, Anna & Robin Taylor.

Happy Passover

RAY ROSENBERG: David & Lotti Redner; Evelyn & Fran Silver. MR. & MRS. LARRY ROSENBERG & MORGAN: Evelyn Silver. RABBI & MRS. MARK BILLER: Evelyn Silver

Thank You

SHALOM VILLAGE STAFF: Hilda & Jack Rosen. JACKI & LARRY LEVIN, MARVIN CAPLANADELE REINHARTZ, BARRY & SIMCHA WALFISH: Susan Denburg.

Happy Birthday

MRS. E. CORD-60th Birthday: Harold & Eleanor Levine. CECIL SAPERSON - 75th Birthday: Adele & Amiram; Danielle & Adam Zur, Cissie & Labie Morris; Jennifer & Michael (Chopper) Friedland. LAWRENCE POLLOCK - 80th Birthday: Leo & Evelyn Ross. FANNY DAVINE: Minna Loewith. PAULINE O'GAZEK: Harry, Helen & Suzanne Mendelson. EDIE ROCHKIN: Joanne & Harold Pomerantz. STANTICK (Special Birthday): Jerri & Larry Bromberg

Get Well

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Pat Morden,
CEO, Shalom Village

Leading The Way To Honour Our Fathers and Mothers

During my participation in the Genesis program I explored the Parsha Yitro that includes "honour thy father and mother", the mission of Shalom Village, for my d'var torah. At Shalom Village our A.T.H.O.M.E. approach codifies how we on a day to day basis honour father and mother. As I read more about Yitro I learned about its

equally compelling and important message about the necessity of sharing leadership and responsibility to enable a community to flourish. Both Moses and G-D give powerful examples of engaging others in leadership. Shalom Village is, I believe, a living example of this message. Our success is founded in the members of our staff, volunteers, donors and community partners who take leadership in helping us live our mission. Recently several members of our staff team have been honoured for their leadership. Lori Schindel Martin, director of the Ruth Sherman Centre for research and education, was voted the best individual leader in long term care in the city and chosen as the recipient of the highest award given by the Registered Nurses Association, its Founders Award. Susan Humphries, a clinical leader, was nominated by Hamilton as its candidate for the Alzheimer Society of Ontario recognition award. Aaron Shiffman, a two time winner of our Shalom Awards is one of this years JNF Distinguished Service Award winners. Arthur Weisz, our campaign co-chair, will receive his honorary doctor of laws from McMaster University in early June in recognition of his tremendous community leadership. Michael Taylor, our president, exemplifies the caring attention to the individual and to the community that has provided a strong strategic direction for us all.

Leadership also speaks to the partnership we share with the families of our residents. Shalom Village can only truly be home if they too continue to take leadership in the lives and days of their family member. We provide the leadership in care and the support for families to continue to be themselves, which can be extremely challenging under the stress of a loved ones illness. We are here at any time to help families in their decision making and learning about changes brought by advancing age and illness.

Shalom Village will continue to take leadership in our professional practice in developing care and services strategies that will help each of us feel that we can truly count on being A.T.H.O.M.E. at Shalom Village. We will continue to seek leadership partnerships to ensure that we remain an outstanding, quality community resource. Most especially now, as we have become a much larger organization, we look to leadership and the support of our community in ensuring our new space also honours our A.T.H.O.M.E. approach. To do this we will continue to listen to our mission's message and encompass the wisdom of the words in all that we do.

room for dessert

Special Feature

Adherents say Jewish Yoga builds deeper connection to Judaism

BY
WENDY SCHNEIDER

During the last several decades, thousands of Western spiritual seekers have looked to Eastern religions and disciplines to satisfy their thirst for a more accessible and gratifying form of spirituality. For an entire generation of Jewish seekers, Judaism was perceived as a religion "preoccupied with social and political issues", whose adherents were "embarrassed by expressions of spirituality" Eastern religious practices, on the other hand, were seen to offer opportunities to experience union with God through direct experience.

The majority of these "wandering Jews" would most likely have been astonished to learn that Jewish history is filled with examples of movements that have taken a more spiritual and mystical approach to Judaism. Among them: Kabbalah, Hassidism, Musar and the modern Jewish renewal movement. To a great degree this is due to the fact that until recently, much of the Kabbalah and Chassidic literature was inaccessible to ordinary Jews and the study of Kabbalah was traditionally considered to be forbidden to any male under the age of 40 and out of the question for women.

The dawning of the late 1960s ushered in a new era as religious leaders slowly awoke to the fact that institutionalized religion was sorely deficient in responding to the needs of an entire generation. In the early 1980's, the publication of Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan's groundbreaking book, *Jewish Meditation* responded to a longing by many Jewish seekers for a Jewish context in which to frame their evolving spirituality.

A dramatic increase of Jewish renewal congregations and communities throughout North America, as well as a proliferation of classes in Kabbalah, Chassidism and other topics of a spiritual nature in mainstream synagogues, educational institutions and Jewish Community Centres throughout the world are sure signs that, over the last twenty years, a huge transformation has occurred in the world of Jewish worship.

Yoga, promoted as a practical, spiritual discipline that does not require its practitioners to accept a prescribed set of beliefs, has had widespread appeal to Jews in the West. Evidence does suggest, however, that many secular Jewish yoga students feel unsettled in settings where Sanskrit chanting, altars, and pictures of gurus and Hindu gods are present. As for Orthodox Jews, for whom the prohibition against idolatry is taken with great seriousness, they have, for the most part, kept their distance from any spiritual practice that may bring them into contact with forbidden subjects.

In recent years, however,

many Jewish yoga students have been asking the question, "What are our equivalents?" "What does Judaism have to offer that parallels the experiences and teachings I am finding in my yoga classes?" And in many cases, they are rediscovering Judaism by finding parallel beliefs to those learned in their yoga and meditation practices within the Jewish mystical tradition. The search to find a Jewish context for one's yoga practice has created a new phenomenon: Jewish yoga teachers beginning to explore and experiment with "Judaizing" their yoga classes by substituting Hebrew words and phrases for Sanskrit chants and Torah study for Patanjali's yoga sutras.

Hanna Sara Zeller was raised in a non-religious, secular-Zionist Jewish family in New York City. She discovered yoga in the 70s, to seek relief from long hours of sitting studying calligraphy with Suzuki Roshi in California. Yoga not only provided relief from physical discomfort, it answered a deep yearning she had carried throughout her life for peace and spirituality. Eventually her journey brought her to study with world-renowned teacher, Sri Swami Satchidananda, founder of Integral Yoga, best known for his teaching "Many Paths – One Truth".

"He used to say, wherever you're going to be, dig a well and if you can't dig it deeply in yoga, then go be a Jew because that's how you were born. He sent a lot of people home."

Zeller, herself, became one of those who were "sent home", by becoming a "ba'al tshuvah", the term used to denote those who "return" to Orthodox Judaism. But she never abandoned her yoga practice, which had become an essential part of her life. Still deeply attracted to spiritual realms, she immersed herself in the study of Kabbalah. Inevitably, as the parallels began to emerge, her personal yoga practice became quintessentially Jewish.

Today Zeller lives in a religious settlement in Israel with her husband and children, where she is bringing the world of yoga to an Orthodox clientele. She teaches in religious high schools, seniors' centres and at Yakar, a study and meditation center in Jerusalem, where her husband is resident rabbi. Deeply grounded in both Jewish tradition and yoga she has found that integrating the two has been almost effortless.

"The more I live it [Judaism], the more I practice it and make shabbes and do the holidays and learn and read the parsha, it integrates [with yoga] naturally... It's like if you had a beautiful tree and a beautiful vine that were planted next to each other and they just happened to grow up together, growing into each other and all around each other."

In recent years, Zeller has

noticed a shift in Orthodox Jewish attitudes towards yoga. Israel's ultra-Orthodox community, she says, has had to come to terms with the fact that a life based on strict observance of the commandments does not necessarily immunize their members from issues found in society at large such as addiction. As a result many have become more open to exploring disciplines like yoga, which they are recognizing can help people deal with stress and the harsh realities of life.

Diane Bloomfield is somewhat of an anomaly among teachers of Jewish Yoga, in that she had attained a thorough grounding in Jewish study before coming to yoga. Bloomfield, who lived in Israel for 20 years, spent much of that time studying and teaching Torah at the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem. But, she had always felt a need to pray and understand Torah with her body. And so, when she began taking yoga classes at the Kripalu Centre in Massachusetts, during a hiatus from her studies, she felt an immediate resonance and connection. She also sensed that, on a very deep level, the yoga she was doing was an experience of Torah.

"When I would learn teachings from the different yoga teachers, I would always know where they were in the Torah... and when they would quote text or talk about some yoga philosophy and I would absolutely translate it in my head into Hebrew and into Torah."

Intrigued by the high number of Jews in her yoga classes Bloomfield began to share her insights with other Jewish students who, she noted, were "thrilled to have any idea that this yoga path had anything to do with their Jewish roots."

As the connections between Judaism and yoga became more and more obvious to her, Bloomfield realized that she was ideally placed to integrate

the two and before long, she was teaching "Torah Yoga". Bloomfield's approach to teaching is theme-directed. Her classes begin with a ten-minute warm up, a 15-minute lesson from a Jewish text, a meditation based on a theme chosen from the Kabbalah or a Chassidic teaching, and an hour-long series of yoga poses.

Bloomfield will also use themes associated with Jewish holidays. During Torah Yoga classes that take place in the weeks leading up to Passover, for instance, she will explore the concept of "Yetziat Mitzrayim", the departure from Egypt:

"When I look at 'ye'tziat mitzrayim' one of the main ways I look at it is to say that inside the word 'mitzrayim' you have the word 'tsar', which is narrowness. So 'mitzrayim' is a word that within it has this concept of narrowness. Surrounding the 'tsar', you have the letters 'mem, yud, mem' which spells 'mayim' or water. So you have this expansion – water, which is the opposite of contraction. The chassidim say that when you're contracted in your consciousness you're in Egypt and when you're in expanded consciousness, that's leaving Egypt... The understanding of both yoga and Torah is that your consciousness is not just somewhere in your brain. Your whole body is a field of consciousness."

Laurie Wolko, a New York City based yoga teacher, came across Ophanim during a visit to Israel and has incorporated some of its elements into her Jewish yoga classes. Having felt a considerable degree of discomfort with the chanting, altars and imagery that she had encountered during her early training Wolko was seeking ways to integrate her yoga practice with her Judaism, which, in recent years, had taken on greater importance to her.

Wolko now leads workshops in Jewish yoga in the New York

area, that include elements from the Chassidic tradition, Kabbalah and traditional yoga. She will often begin her sessions by leading her students in the chanting of a niggun or a Hebrew verse. She finds that repetitive chanting has a similar effect to the repetition of a mantra in the way that it takes students beyond their thinking minds. Following this mood-setting exercise, she will give a lesson in Torah, teach a selection of yoga poses, and end with savasana and meditation.

Today, Jewish yoga classes are appearing in communities throughout Israel, North America and Europe. While these classes are as diverse as the individuals leading them, they share one essential quality: the intention to use the spiritual practice of yoga as a gateway towards a deeper understanding of and appreciation for Judaism.

Laurie Wolko, perhaps, said it best:

"I put it [my practice] in a Jewish context in the sense that I see my physical practice as a prayer to God. And a prayer to myself and to the world. Some people would say that sun salutations are avodah zarah, and I understand where they're coming from. But I believe it's the intention that you put into it. What I do is to frame it in a Jewish way... So no matter what I'm doing in my practice, it becomes Jewish because I have couched it in a Jewish way."

The facts speak for themselves. Thousands of disenchanted Jews are seeking a way back to Judaism. And, for a significant number of them, Jewish yoga is a legitimate path that can lead them to reconnect to the richness and depth of their heritage.



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Special Mentschen

Social Action a Family Affair for the Katz Family

BY
WENDY SCHNEIDER

For Becky Katz, social action comes naturally. The 19-year-old McMaster student, who is the daughter of Howard and Nancy Katz, is a constant presence at a multitude of community events. Her grandmother, Sylvia Katz, was the longtime president of and driving force behind Hamilton ORT. So when the annual "Shave your head" assembly for cancer came around, a Highland Secondary School tradition that her sister Marci started two years ago and which is now spearheaded by her other sister, Sasha. (There are six Katz daughters: Amy, Kathy, Marci, Becky, Laura and Sasha.) Becky felt she might be able to raise a lot of funds by shaving her head. The impetus to take this bold step was entirely personal. Two and a half years ago, Becky and Marci's mother, Nancy, was diagnosed with breast cancer. And, for the last two years, Nancy has addressed the students at the annual assembly. Her mother, said Becky, "puts cancer into perspective, and talks about how close to home cancer can affect you." Nancy's presentation also includes her removing her wig, an act that invariably evokes an emotional response from the students.

At this year's assembly, Sasha invited three motivational speakers to address the students. One was a woman who runs



Members of the Katz Family, (from l to r),
Kathy, Marci, Sasha, Laura, Becky.

a cancer support group called Circle of Friends, of which Nancy is a member. Another was a cancer survivor who had climbed Kilimanjaro. Nancy was the third speaker. Following the speakers, those who had chosen to shave their heads assembled on the stage. This year, there were 20 volunteers, seven of whom were teachers. Becky was among them and so was her dad, Howard. Asked how it felt to have her head shaved in this manner, Becky answered,

"It was scary. It was so emotional and really weird." Becky's girlfriends came to show their support and sat in front of the stage, "bawling their eyes out." Becky cried too.

At first, Becky tried not to look at herself in the mirror. And although her friends and family told her she looked terrific, she felt more comfortable wearing

a wig for the first few weeks. "Getting my head shaved brought home to me what my mom feels... The only difference is that mine's growing back."

Becky's gesture received an enormous boost when her grandmother, Sylvia, decided to help her raise funds by sending a letter asking for support and a self-addressed return envelope to her entire ORT contact list. The response, said Becky, has been "unbelievable", making her goal of \$10,000 suddenly seem attainable.

Nancy, who possesses a radiant and indomitable spirit, has been deeply touched by the outpouring of love and support. She only needs to look to herself, however, to see its source.

Hamilton Treasures: Sam Lewis

Sam Lewis, at his store

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Teen Leadership Opportunities at Shalom Village

Are you looking for a great summer experience? Learn about volunteering and leadership with our staff and the teen leadership volunteer coordinator. Shalom Village offers two sessions each summer for students between the ages of 12 and 16. Sessions run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday. The first session runs for the month of July and the second session runs for the month of August. The cost is only \$40.00 per session. For more information about the Shalom Village Teen Leadership and Volunteer Camp call Barbara Abraham at 905-529-1613 ext. 236, or email barb@shalomvillage.on.ca

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The annual Negev Dinner, which will be held this year on June 6, will honour Joseph and Cheryl Greenbaum for their excellence in community involvement and strong dedication to Israel. Also at the dinner, a new award for distinguished volunteer service in the community will be presented to Albert Berns and Aaron Shiffman. Guest speaker will be Jonathan Kay, editorial editor of the National Post newspaper. He is well known as a staunch advocate on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people. He is a frequent contributor to Commentary, The New Yorker and many other journals. In April 2002 he received Canada's National Newspaper Award for Critical Writing. This is sure to be a most memorable evening. Tickets are still available. Please call the JNF office at 905-527-5516.

More than 400 attend Na'amat Author Lunch

Na'amat Hamilton recently held its 19th Celebrity Author Luncheon with another sellout affair that attracted over 400 community members.

Eleanor Wachtel, host of the CBC's "Writers & Company" and "The Arts Today", held the audience spellbound with her witty and humorous recounting of most memorable moments among the hundreds of interviews she has conducted with hundreds of writers from around the world.

The audience was particularly delighted by listening to taped excerpts highlighting unexpected and surprising comments from her more renowned subjects and off-the-cuff revelations about the ups and downs of her own personal career during the question and answer period that followed her formal remarks.

The annual author luncheon, which has become a Hamilton



Radio host and author, Eleanor Wachtel, with Phyllis Shragge, who, along with Deena Sacks, co-chaired the authro luncheon.

cultural tradition, is Na'amat Hamilton's biggest fundraiser, with proceeds being directed to a network of day-care centres, vocational schools and women's shelters in Israel.

This year's luncheon was co-convened by Deena Sacks

and Phyllis Shragge, who were ably assisted by an army of dedicated Na'amat volunteers.

Na'amat Hamilton welcomes new members. For information call Jan Hastie at 905-627.9796.

Temple Book Drive strikes resonant chord

BY WENDY SCHNEIDER

Canadian Jews received a collective shock on the morning after the first Passover seder last April when front pages of newspapers across the country carried the headline reporting on the firebombing of the St. Laurent branch of Montreal's United Talmud Torah school library. As the news spread, there was an immediate outcry among both Jews and Gentiles throughout the country, followed by spontaneous outpourings of offers of support and gestures of solidarity.

As principal of Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School, Laura Wolfson was among those who received a flurry of emails relating to the event in the days following Passover. One of them was from

a fellow educator in the Reform movement from Toronto, who had been a student at the school, urging her colleagues to extend a helping hand.

Wolfson responded by sending an email to her congregation's distribution list requesting donations of books to send to the library and cash to cover the costs of shipping. When executive director of UJA Federation, Gerry Fisher, received a copy, he immediately offered to distribute the request through the Federation's own extensive community email list.

The response from both the Jewish and non-Jewish community, Wolfson reported, has been "overwhelming." Within days of sending the email, which had now, "bounced around the city", Wolfson was

bombarded with offers to help. Among them: an offer from Strub's Pickles to handle the shipping, free of charge, a large number of cash donations, offers from Ancaster High, several area Catholic schools, employees from the City of Hamilton, OPIRG (The Ontario Public Interest Research Group) and a host of private individuals with books and moral support.

As of the first week in May, the Temple had received a few thousand books. For Wolfson, it's been a gratifying experience. "People in this community understand that it's our collective responsibility to stand up and show that acts of hatred will not be tolerated and cannot continue", she said.

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Organizations

Hamilton Hebrew Academy Gears Up For Homecoming 2005

What better reason to come home than a celebration? On May 28-30, 2005, all Hamilton Hebrew Academy alumni are invited to Hamilton for the best party of the year. Homecoming 2005 is a great opportunity to relive old memories and create some new ones. Come see what's changed, what's grown and what's stayed the same.

The Hamilton Hebrew Academy Community School is a unique institution with a longstanding history of academic excellence, student life and rich tradition. "Homecoming 2005: A Celebration of Our Graduates," reflects our pride in having one Canada's strongest community day school programs.

Homecoming will allow students, faculty, staff, and alumni come together to celebrate another beautiful day at the

Jewish Genealogy Meeting Sells Out

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton & Area (JGS-H) attracted a sell-out crowd at its first meeting ever. Moishe Gold, an experienced amateur genealogist himself with significant projects to his credit, introduced amateur genealogist Barry Spinner whose topic was "Finding your Jewish Roots". Barry emphasized interviewing living elders as the major building block. "They hold the keys to knowledge about the family's history," he said, explaining how to structure a series of 'life interviews'. There was a great deal of helpful information in this excellent introductory talk given by Mr. Spinner.

Hazel Boon emphasized that the study of family history is best accomplished with aid and guidance from others. JGS-H should act as a support group, if nothing else, assisting all to pursue their individual goals in the study of their family's history. With membership comes greater

HHA.

Homecoming events include Shabbat Services lead by our alumni, Motzei Shabbat program including a kumsitz with Rabbi Eisenstien, Rabbi Kaufman, and Mrs. Shaffir, opportunity for alumni members to socialize and catch up on old times and a community banquet during which we will honour our alumni and induct our current grade eight class into the alumni

We hope you join the Hamilton Hebrew Academy Community School family and help institute a tradition of community celebration that homecoming fosters. Please do join in on the festivities. Don't miss out on the excitement! Help us locate as many of our alumnae as possible. Contact Lester Krames at (905) 526-1101 or email les_krames@hotmail.com

access to assistance and support worldwide in solving research problems, genealogy publications from around the world and eventually access to specialized books that our local libraries don't currently own.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 15th at the Jewish Community Center. The Dundas Library was very accommodating, but it seems we need a larger room as well as a venue at which we can go beyond 9PM. I believe that there were a few questions left unanswered as we ran out of time, said Mrs. Boon. We welcome anyone with an interest in studying their Jewish roots. All those who contact us (email t HamiltonJewishGen@canada.com) prior to the next meeting will be added to our email list.

The group is grateful to Tim Hortons for their generous donation of coffee and supplies for the evening.

by
Angela Topping

Kehila's second annual movie night was a great success with close to 200 people coming out for the screening. The school bursary fund gained enough money to fully support two students who would not otherwise have the opportunity for a Jewish education. Thank you to all the sponsors, advertisers, and the Kehila team of parents and staff who made it happen. We have already begun planning next year's movie night with a Jewish theme.

Students attending Kehila Jewish Community Day School and residents living at Shalom Village are participating in an innovative program that aims to bring the young and old closer together. Every month, the students at Kehila visit Shalom Village and participate in sessions that are designed to engage the children in new learning while helping the seniors retain their abilities.

There has been great

enthusiasm recently for intergenerational programs that strengthen the ties between the young and the old. For the residents at Shalom Village, the opportunity to participate in the experiential learning of the students of Kehila provides a multitude of benefits including increased life satisfaction, enhanced self-esteem, ongoing skill development and a sense of usefulness and connectedness to the community.

As part of their enriched Judaic curriculum, Kehila teachers use intergenerational activities to provide a 'hands-on' link between specific subject objectives and the human lifespan. Students and teachers plan, prepare and practice using critical problem-solving skills, the best way to get their message across to a large audience of Jewish seniors. Students have performed skits, recited poems/speeches and sung songs in Hebrew as various methods of describing their shared history and understanding of significant Jewish holidays

and events. After the larger presentation, the students join the older residents at tables to work on a mutually interesting activity or craft. Seniors participating in the program enjoy the time they have to talk, smile and laugh with the students of Kehila who are also learning to value the skills and knowledge of their elders. Throughout the program at Shalom Village, students have the opportunity to develop their self-confidence as they practice their Hebrew and share their understanding of Jewish culture and history. Further, students are able to develop healthy attitudes toward aging, receive educational enrichment, and strengthen their sense of community and social responsibility.

As the student population at Kehila doubles next year, it will be possible to expand this valuable program. For further information on Kehila Community Jewish Day School, please contact the principal Carol Desoer at 905-529-7725.

The Arctic Experience Gallery The McNaught Gallery

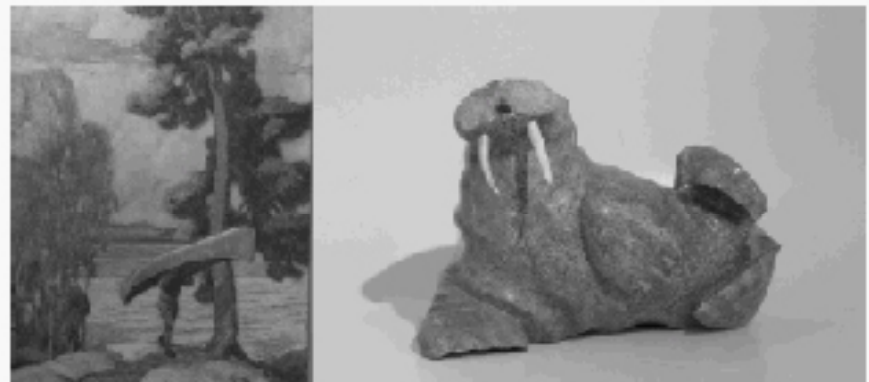


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We now welcome enrolment enquiries for all grade levels (JK-10) for the 2004/05 academic year!

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We at SBE aspire to connect our students, families, and community through a strong foundation of Jewish knowledge, skills and experiences, cultivating a lifelong commitment to Jewish living and values.

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Please send your resume and cover letter to Ran Salamon, Education Director at

Organizations

Beth Jacob Now Fully Egalitarian

by
Joshua & Vicky Bach

Beth Jacob Synagogue is pleased to announce that the Board of Governors has extended full equality to entitle women to lead religious services. At its meeting on March 24, 2004, the Board unanimously approved a motion that Beth Jacob congregation adopt the practice entitling women to lead services, effective immediately. We have followed a stringent process in reaching this goal, spread over almost ten years.

This has been the wish of our congregation, as expressed at several annual meetings. This question was debated and passed at the Religious Affairs Committee, the Executive, as well as the Board. The necessary time has been taken throughout the process to allow everyone to become comfortable when implementing these changes.

At Beth Jacob, women have participated on the bimah for many years, also chanting the haftorah. We have enjoyed the benefit of women holding synagogue office for many years and we have progressed through several separate steps, (i) women

having aliyot, (ii) counting women in the minyan, and (iii) entitling women to lead religious services.

Classes were held for the congregation at large on each of these separate steps. Classes were held for the Religious Affairs Committee and the Board as well. And so 40 years after the Conservative movement first took the step, our Beth Jacob Board voted to entitle women to have aliyot (1997-98). Under Rabbi Biller, the Board voted to count women in the minyan (2000), and now to permit women to be shaliach tzibbur and to lead religious services (2004).

Historically, in most Conservative synagogues, it was accepted that men and women sit together during services. By the mid-1950s, some form of Bat Mitzvah ceremony had been accepted by most Conservative synagogues. A series of decisions of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards gradually extended full equality to women in synagogue rituals: having aliyot (1955), being counted in the minyan (1973), voting and

holding office in the synagogue (1973), serving as witnesses in judicial proceedings, such as marriage, divorce, and/or conversion (1974), and even serving as rabbi or cantor (1974). Finally, the Seminary voted to admit women to the Seminary (1983).

While egalitarianism has taken hold in the US, Canada tends to lag behind somewhat. Thus we are on the leading edge of progress, as we in Canada slowly catch up with the rest of the Conservative movement.

Beth Jacob Synagogue has been blessed with a number of very learned women in the shul who have supported this development, some of whom have been Gabbais for Torah reading, and some who have read Torah and Haftorah and the Megillah.

We are confident that the Hamilton Jewish community will support this development in our Synagogue, and we encourage all Jewish women and men across Hamilton to come and worship with us.

Sharing The Warmth!

Norma Mishkel spearheaded Beth Jacob Sisterhood's participation in Project Linus

In honour of those lost in the Shoah, busts from images of loved ones lost in the Holocaust are being sculpted for "Marrow Fragments", an installation dedicated to those lost to mass violence. These busts will be displayed each year at the Yom HaShoah service. Please send photographs (not to be returned) of your lost loved one by mail to the artist with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Janus, 140 York Street,

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The Back Page

Temple Player's "Fiddler" A Smash Hit!!!

by
Wendy Schneider

There are countless stories associated with the Temple Player's production of Fiddler on the Roof...how Dennis Schwartz, for instance, who played Tevye, only planned to try out for the chorus and almost didn't show up for the audition, and how Lonnie Zwaigenbaum, a pediatrician at Chedoke Hospital, who played the role of Motel the tailor, showed up for a rehearsal the day after his fourth child was born. After over seven months in production, director, Vicky Wylson Sher, choreographer, Elaine Levine, and the cast of over 50 are still coming down from a high in the afterglow of the play's success, that succeeded in raising over \$10,000 for the temple. Below are reflections of some of the members of the cast:

"When a friend called last fall to ask me to join him at



A scene from Temple Player's "Fiddler on the Roof"

the audition for Fiddler on the Roof, I was going crazy with work and family responsibilities, and performing in a musical production was the furthest thing from my mind. However, like many others in our diverse cast, I got caught up in the excitement

at the prospect of participating in this wonderful show, and joined into what was ultimately the experience of a lifetime. What was most remarkable to me is how our group truly developed into a community, and that despite our differences in age, religious and professional backgrounds, we all became part of an extended family both in and out of character. As the show completed its final performance, each song took on a new meaning and resonance, reflecting the genuine sense of closeness that we had come to feel, as well as the bittersweet realization that we had come to the end of our journey and would be parting, not unlike the residents of Anetevke. I thank Vicky, Elaine and Christabel for taking us on that journey, and will always cherish the friendships that were formed in that little village, little town of

ours." Lonnie Zwaigenbaum

"From the day I joined the cast, I was energized by the enthusiasm of the group. Since this was my first experience in a theatrical performance, I did not realize the enthusiasm would be so infectious. I relished kibitzing and making new friends with the cast and crew. The bond that developed within the group made the rehearsal times a social gathering as well. For me, nothing beat the excitement of opening night. I wouldn't trade the butterflies I had in my stomach for anything. Then sadness sunk in as I walked silently off the stage on closing night. When the curtain fell, and the stage lights dimmed, I just wasn't ready for the night to end." Gary Minden

"It was great to work with such a great group of people, of varying ages. "Fiddler" was very much a group effort, and I have

many great memories of eight months of hard work. What made "Fiddler" work so well was the dedication and commitment of everyone involved. I'm really going to miss the friends I made in the last eight months!" Aha Blume.

For me, being in 'Fiddler on the Roof' was definitely a gratifying and memorable experience. Although having been in a small number of plays beforehand, this was my first "lead" role, so that was very exciting. Throughout the months, I got to work with, and got to know an amazingly talented and fun group of people. I learned how many hours and hard work go into putting on a show, and eventually had to conquer my fear (and great dislike) of singing in front of people. I remember, on the first night, right before the show started, nerves were definitely wreaking havoc on some people (myself included), yet, once we got out there and started singing, the nerves seemed to slowly fade away and were replaced with a surge of fun and excitement. And at the end of the show, I think we all felt a sense of pride and accomplishment, not to mention heaved a huge sigh of relief that we had made it through the entire show, and nothing had gone horribly wrong. Melissa Weddum

The Bistro is Back!

Shalom Village's Gourmet Kosher Restaurant Returns June 10 & June 22, 2004 Shalom Village's renowned Village Bistro is reopening in a wonderful new venue under a new name. Samuel's Bistro will continue the tradition of offering fine kosher dining in an elegant setting for our residents, families and other members of the community. A full course gourmet meal, complete with cocktails and dessert, served in an intimate, candlelit room complemented by soft music, our Bistro has received rave reviews, including a full-page feature in The Hamilton Spectator, and is often sold out well in advance. We plan an expanded schedule in the months to come, and we would love to see you at our grand reopening in our new location in Shalom Village Too!

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