

Hamilton Jewish News

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SIVAN 5766

Dates to Remember

Sunday, May 21

Lag
Ba'Omer Barbeque
JCC at 6:30 pm

Wednesday, May 24

HHA Dinner Tribute
in honour of the
memory of
Esther Eisenstein a"h
Call 905-528-0039

Thursday, May 25

UJA Federation
AGM
7:30 pm at the JCC
featuring Bernie
Farber speaking on
The State of Jewish
Community Relations
in Canada

Sunday, May 28

UJA Walkathon
in support of
Operation Promise
See page 3



Sunday, June 11

JNF NEGEV
DINNER
honouring
Anne and Mark
Mandell
Keynote Speaker
Daniel C. Kurtzer
former U.S.
Ambassador to Israel
and Egypt
Call 905- 527-5516

UJA 2006 Campaign Sets New Record

Dr. Larry Levin, campaign chair for United Jewish Appeal has informed the HJN that the UJA 2006 campaign is closing with the highest pledge total in peacetime history! As of this writing, the campaign result is estimated to exceed \$1,040,000.

Dr. Levin, along with Women's Campaign co-chairs Jo-Ann Pomerantz and Sue Ellen Gervais are very pleased with the result.

"We want to thank the community and every volunteer who participated in making this campaign so successful. For a community of our size to sustain our campaign at \$1 million + is a very significant achievement."

Although delighted with the overall result, UJA Federation executive director, Gerald Fisher, felt that problems at the JCC facility last fall set the campaign schedule back by several weeks. Normally launched right after the High Holy Days, the Men's Campaign didn't get going until November. In the end, the loss of campaign time was one of the factors that had a negative impact on the campaign. Since the annual allocations review process is about to commence, the campaign must soon draw to a close.

UJA Federation President Leslie Lasky was delighted with the news, saying,

"Although we fell just short of the campaign goal, it is important to remember that this campaign raised more dollars for allocation than any previous campaign in the history of our community, and it is a tribute to all the hard work done by so many volunteers."

Mr. Lasky went on to say "Coupled with last year's record campaign, this is just an outstanding success for our community and our campaign leadership team. I am extremely grateful for everyone's hard work and extremely proud of the result."

Kudos also go to Liz Tick, Sandy Fuss and Shirley Molot for their success in raising several new "Lions of Judah". The Women's Campaign achieved significant breakthroughs this

year, in terms of overall results and in terms of more women making leadership gifts.

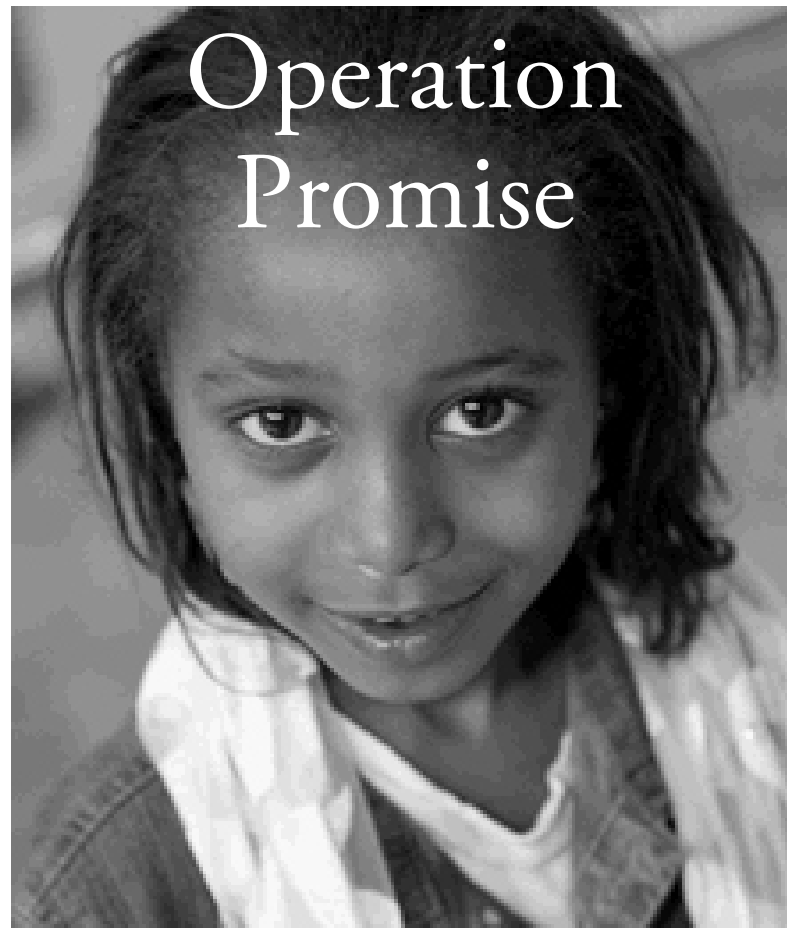
Final results of the campaign will be announced at the UJA Federation Annual Meeting,

scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2006 at 7:30PM.

Congratulations to the Campaign team and to our wonderful community for

demonstrating their support and commitment.

UJA WALKATHON 2006



Sunday, May 28, 2006

UJA Walk Kicks Off "Operation Promise"

UJA Federation of Hamilton will kick off its fund raising initiative for "Operation Promise!" at the May 28th annual walkathon. Funds raised will support the immigration and absorption of Ethiopian immigrants to Israel.

The Aliyah of the last Jews of Ethiopia is now underway. Both the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency have turned to the global Jewish community to assist in this historic endeavor by providing \$160M (USD) over the next three years. All dollars raised will be directed to the costs of immigration and absorption of the last 20,000 members of "Beta Yisrael."

This global effort has been designated "Operation Promise." In fact, there are two promises being made and

kept here. The first promise is that nobody with authenticated Jewish origins, who wants to leave, will be left behind. The second promise is that the global Jewish community will largely provide for the extraordinary expenses of absorbing this deeply needful immigrant group.

Funds from "Operation Promise" will be used primarily to ensure Ethiopian families remain intact as they encounter the bewilderment of a post-modern Israeli society. This is not a small matter. Previous Ethiopian immigrations have resulted in frighteningly high rates of suicide, unemployment, abusive behavior and worse.

Special attention will be paid to children. Child enrichment programs, after school programs,

adult education and re-training programs all have top priority. As well, "Operation Promise" will provide additional support in the areas of housing, language training and employment.

The Jewish community of Hamilton will have its opportunities to do its share in keeping the promise. Those opportunities begin at the annual Walkathon on Sunday morning, May 28th at the JCC. Please bring family, friends and especially children to participate in the walk, raise money from sponsors and stay for the games and BBQ that follows.

Please call 905-628-0998 for sponsor sheets and additional information.

Editorial & Letters

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

**DEADLINE FOR
SUBMISSIONS
FOR THE NEXT
EDITION OF THE
HJN IS FRIDAY,
AUGUST 18, 2006**

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Mark Scholes, David Somer,
Jay State, William Steen, David
Streiner, Debbie Strub, Marty
Strub, Harvey Waxman, Janet

Letters

The following letters and emails were among the hundreds sent to members of UJA Federation's Holocaust Education Committee in the wake of its recent High School Symposium held at Mohawk College on May 2 before over 700 students. To read the full story see page 4.

General remarks about the Symposium

This seminar was definitely worthwhile. I feel that everyone should attend something like this so that they can understand the strength and bravery that these survivors had and to realize what affects discrimination can have on society.

This seminar was amazing, a once in a lifetime experience. The lady gave a detailed description of her experience and it greatly touched my heart. For this lady to stand in front of all of these students and tell her story is an amazing thing and is greatly appreciated. Thank you for this experience.

This seminar was definitely worthwhile. I wish more people would gain the same amount of knowledge and experience as I have so they can go out into this world and spread the truth about the Holocaust. Remarkable!

The seminar was probably one of the greatest things I have experienced thus far in my life. I appreciate all the work that went into this. Thank you!

Never before have I been so overwhelmed with knowledge and emotion about something not directly affecting me. Much, much better than a textbook. I would do it again.

Remarks referring to Holocaust survivor's testimonials, delivered in a small group setting:

I am thrilled I had the opportunity to meet and hear a Holocaust survivor's story. I was very moved by her story and appreciate this opportunity. I will continue to research these survivors' amazing stories.

People our age don't realize the freedom that these Holocaust victims have been stripped of. I feel for the victims who were killed and have the utmost respect for the survivors because they represent what lie as well as strength truly is.

We always hear stories about the Holocaust but that's all they are – stories. Today we see the actual people that went through it.

Remarks about the keynote presentation, delivered by Aaron Orkin

In my 20 years of teaching I have not seen a more effective and well-organized presentation. There were times you could hear a pin drop, despite the large number of students in the audience. It was also an excellent example of the effective use of visuals to enhance the oral message. Well done!

This was an amazing presentation. For being so young this gentleman has accomplished so much. The presentation of the shoes was a very effective way to get a point across. This was truly an experience which could not have been achieved through a history book.

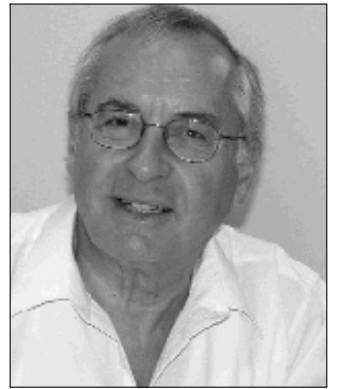
He was very informative. I went in not knowing half of the things that I know now. It's amazing how much information someone so close to my age knows about the Holocaust.

The following email was sent to local Holocaust survivor, Vera Schiff, on the day following the Holocaust Symposium:

Hello, Mrs. Schiff. I met you yesterday at Mohawk College for the Holocaust seminar that was in session. I am the young woman who approached you with tears in her eyes, and thanked you for surviving, so that I could hear your testimony. If I was not clear about my feelings, but do let me say that you have changed my life in a way that I hope will be beneficial to all those I come in contact with. May God continue to bless you through all your endeavors. I hope in the future that we will meet again. Thank you.

Take Stock of Your Philanthropy

"A breakthrough!" "Extraordinary!" "Remarkable!" are just some of the superlatives charitable organizations have been expressing after the recent federal Budget announced that CAPITAL GAINS TAX on donations of publicly listed securities has been COMPLETELY ELIMINATED. That means substantial savings for those who donate stocks to non-profit organizations such as UJA FEDERATION and the HAMILTON UJA FEDERATION LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND.



Dov Harris

There has never been a better time to consider making this kind of gift.

Whether your stock donation is payment of your annual Federation PLEDGE or an ENDOWMENT through the Legacy Endowment Fund under the expert management of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, you could save a substantial amount of money.

In the following analysis, Jamie Golombek, vice president, taxation and estate planning at AIM Trimark Investments in Toronto and a member of the Jewish Foundation's Professional Advisory Committee, explains the significance of the new budget.

In the new government's first budget delivered last week, the Conservatives followed through on their pre-election promise to completely eliminate the capital gains tax on donations of listed shares, mutual funds and segregated funds to registered Canadian charities. This new rule should provide a huge impetus for a flood of sizable stock donations during the remainder of 2006.

To understand the impact of these new rules let's assume that Mark currently owns shares that have a fair market value of \$100,000 that he purchased many years ago for \$20,000. He is considering donating these shares to charity.

If he simply sold the shares first, he would realize a capital gain of \$80,000 and pay tax of about \$18,000 on the gain, assuming a top marginal rate of about 45%. His net benefit, taking into account the value of the donation credit less the tax on the capital gain, would be about \$27,000.

Under the new rules, since the capital gains tax would be eliminated altogether on the donation of the shares to charity, and since he would still be entitled to his full tax receipt for the \$100,000 contributed, his net benefit would be \$45,000. The budget also indicated that individuals who make qualifying charitable donations of listed publicly-traded securities that were acquired with employee stock options will also benefit from a zero per cent inclusion rate on the associated employment benefit. Note that while the new rules are proposed to be effective for donations made on or after May 2, 2006, they are not yet law as they must still be passed by parliament.

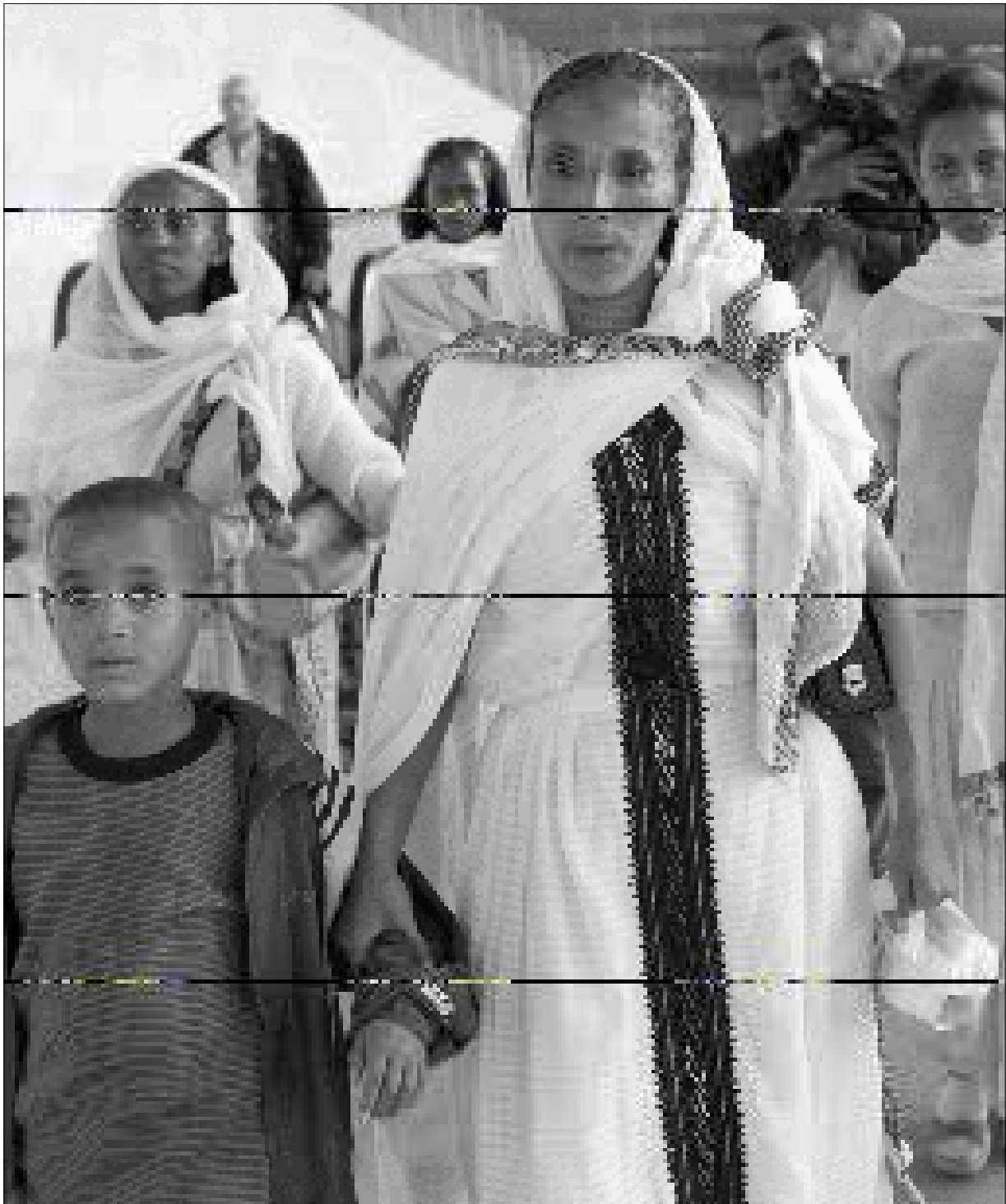
That being said, it would be highly unlikely (and extremely unpopular) for any party to oppose the passage of these new rules.

by Jamie Golombek

Mr. Golombek can be reached at Jamie.golombek@aimtrimark.com. Dov Harris can be reached at 905-648-0605.



UJA Federation



Operation Promise

Symposium Teaches Holocaust Best Understood Through Personal Stories

by
Wendy Schneider

Approximately 700 high school students from across Greater Hamilton assembled at Mohawk College on May 2 for UJA Federation's Student Holocaust Symposium organized by its Holocaust Education Committee. The event, which has been running almost annually for the last ten or so years, includes a keynote address by an expert on the Holocaust, followed by small group sessions with local Holocaust survivors.

This year's keynote address was delivered by McMaster Medical student, Aaron Orkin, 25, the youngest speaker ever to headline the event. Mr. Orkin has been leading seminars on the Holocaust since his days as a student at Westdale High School, and his experiences as a chaperone on the Asper Foundation's Program for Human Rights and the Holocaust and on March of the Living were factors in the committee's choice. Their confidence in his abilities never wavered, even when he informed

committee members of his intent to make his presentation more experiential by asking the anticipated 1000 students to remove their shoes and leave them in a pile on the stage. A little nervous about the logistics of such a task, a compromise was reached, whereby only 250 students removed their shoes and left them in a pile on the stage.

Another significant feature of this year's symposium was the participation of 18 teachers from both school boards who acted as facilitators in small group sessions with survivors. Another group of teachers met with the committee several weeks before the event to work on revisions of the Holocaust kit that is suggested as mandatory reading before the symposium.

The main thrust of Mr. Orkin's presentation, which included a slide of an assimilated German Jewish family, one of whom was his own grandfather juxtaposed with a slide of an Orthodox Eastern European family, was that those who were murdered throughout a twelve year period under varying sets



Aaron Orkin contemplates a pile of shoes on a Mohawk College stage

of circumstances were not a homogenous group, and that the only thing that united them is that they were all victims of the Holocaust.

The pile of shoes on stage drove home the message that, just like in the Holocaust, what people see is an historical

fact, and the individual stories lost. Commenting on a slide portraying a pile of shoes on display at Majdanek he asked the audience to pick out one and try to imagine the life of the person who had once occupied that shoe.

Trying to understand the Holocaust is an impossible task

and perhaps best achieved by listening to personal stories.

The keynote presentation led seamlessly into what followed: small group sessions with local survivors from both Hamilton and Toronto. Mr. Orkin encouraged the students to "learn a story rather than learning history. Ask them, what happened to you and what did it feel like for you. You might discover that the answers to those bigger broader questions might emerge on their own."

Reaction from both committee members and participants was uniformly enthusiastic. (see letters section on page 2) Committee chair, Michele Finkelstein, was delighted with Mr. Orkin's address. "I think our community is extremely fortunate to have Aaron as a resource, and I feel that the audience yesterday was extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to hear him speak. He set the tone for the whole symposium", she said.

Author Reflects on Impact of Canadian bestseller, "None Is Too Many"

by
Wendy Schneider

"Unbelievable" was the word Hesh Troper used to describe the widespread acclaim that resulted from the 1983 publication of the book, None Is Too Many. Troper was in Hamilton to address approximately 400 community members who had gathered for this year's Yom HaShoah commemoration. He described the book, which he co-wrote with Irving Abella, as "the story of a dark moment in Canada's past - an awful tale of a nation of people who were faced with a humanitarian crisis and were refused offers of aid or sanctuary."

In the months preceding publication, the authors were repeatedly told that manuscript was too un-Canadian, too negative, and too much of a downer. Eventually, Malcom Lester, a publisher at Random House, took a chance but no one expected the book to become a best seller and be named as one of the 100 most important books ever published in Canada.

Mr. Troper was the keynote speaker at the two-hour commemoration, which included poetry reading, song and community members describing their experiences at last year's Asper Program for Human Rights and the Holocaust and the March of the Living.



Hesh Troper (right) with Professor Billy Shaffir.

The Yom HaShoah committee also set up a memorial room that included an area to light yahrtzeit candles, a photography exhibit, a collection of sculpted images of Holocaust victims, and a computer generated list of names of lost relatives of local Holocaust survivors. In addition, the Hamilton Shoah Memorial Project was introduced to the community. In its final form, it will consist of permanent memorial banners inscribed with the names of Hamilton family members who perished in the Shoah. Committee member Benson Honig, told the HJN that an artist is currently working on some designs that will reflect both the Shoah and the Hamilton connection. The banners will be designed to allow for names to be added in the future but community members are urged

to advise the JCC of names that have not yet been recorded.

In his presentation, Professor Troper recalled that during the research process, both he and his co-author were often saddened by their findings. He movingly described one particularly wrenching incident that took place as he rummaged through boxes containing pre-war letters in the JIAS office in Toronto. The letters, written by desperate Jews in Germany and Austria, contained pleas begging their Canadian Jewish contacts to find homes for their children. Recurring phrases such as "The situation is desperate" and "Please take our children" drove home the full impact of the Canadian policy. Coming upon a letter that described the writer's two little girls aged two and four, Professor Troper was unable to continue. He packed up the boxes and, with a great weight on his shoulders, went home to his own two children of the same age.

Professor Troper speculated that the popularity of his book was related to the fact that Canada was in the midst of the Vietnamese resettlement program at the time of its publication. Perhaps, he said, it offered mainstream Canadians heartening confirmation that the new Canada was a better Canada.

Canadian Jews, however, saw it differently. Deeply upset by the vilification of Israel and the hostile Canadian response to Israel's invasion of Lebanon, they interpreted attacks on Israel as attacks on Jews everywhere and the book provided confirmation that Jews remained threatened by anti-Semitism.

Professor Troper cautioned

the audience against taking None Is Too Many as a template for the current situation. Canada of 2006, he said, is not the same as Canada of 1936. Canadian Jews are different and the issues they're confronting are different. "We need not be prisoners of history," he said, adding that this is the central message of None Is Too Many.

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UJA Federation

Renewing focus in the fight for school funding

by Igor Ellyn
Chair, Education Policy
Committee Canadian Jewish
Congress Ontario Region

Since last fall, a significant effort has been underway by Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region, in partnership with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, its Board of Jewish Education and Jewish Federations across the province, to refocus our advocacy efforts to secure provincial funds for Jewish community schools.

Since the fall of 2003, when Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty scrapped the Equity in Education Tax Credit (EETC), Ontario families seeking a Jewish education for their children have done so without direct government support. Federations provide crucial financial assistance to our Jewish day schools, but economics dictate that parents continue to pay significant tuition fees to access these schools. This contrasts markedly with Catholic schools, the only faith-based schools that receive public monies based on constitutional guarantees made in 1867.

Facing this reality, CJCONT and our partners decided it was time to refocus our leadership and creatively devise new approaches to this issue of concern to Jewish parents and communities across the province. As part of that effort, CJCONT engaged Jesse Guberman as Education Policy Advisor to review past advocacy efforts and work with all involved to collaboratively develop a new strategic approach to the issue.

CJCONT has held consultations with experts and key stakeholders to determine their views on how best to move the funding issue forward. This process yielded excellent input on how various funding alternatives would resonate with

schools, parents and key external stakeholders. A number of key themes emerged:

- This may not be a speedy process, and the community needs a comprehensive strategy that allows engagement over the short, medium and long term;

- There will likely be a need to coordinate on some level with other faith groups to achieve our goals;

- This is about more than discrimination - it's about creating public policy that ensures fairness and strengthens education in Ontario; and

- Accountability and educational standards are key components of the funding issue.

In January, CJCONT convened a meeting with representatives from Jewish day schools and Federations across Ontario, to present the lessons learned from past advocacy on this issue and discuss a series of basic principles which emerged from the consultations. Following this meeting, CJCONT and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto invited those schools to participate in smaller group meetings to gather more feedback on the proposed strategy and principles. More than 20 schools, representing students from across the ideological spectrum, participated in this important exercise.

Among the participating schools were Hamilton Hebrew Academy and the Kehila Jewish Community Day School. In meetings between these schools, CJCONT and UJA Federation of Hamilton, it became clear that the concerns described by local educational leadership were very similar to those of schools in the Greater Toronto Area and other parts of the province. This confirmed the need to move forward with a renewed strategy and focus.

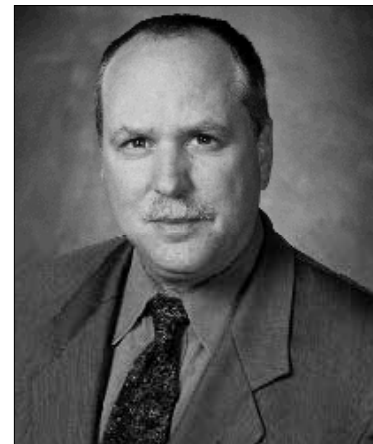
An important development occurred in February of this year when, based on fairness considerations, Ontario Progressive Conservative Party leader John Tory distinguished between funding faith-based schools and elite private schools. CJCONT and its partners viewed this as an extremely positive statement. However, much of the media criticized Tory, saying public schools would suffer if funding were extended to other faith-based schools and that recipient schools would not be accountable to the government. In short, a "public" versus "private" debate emerged.

This viewpoint highlighted CJCONT's long-held view of the importance accountability measures would have in any proposal to be presented to government. It also clarified the need for CJCONT to counter this viewpoint with facts and alternate examples of how faith-based schools can be part of the public realm of education, and in fact enhance education in Ontario. Funding for Jewish day schools, coupled with public accountability, exists in the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Quebec.

CJCONT, together with Ontario Jewish Federations, including Hamilton Federation, is in the process of finalizing a strategic plan in a renewed effort to obtain funding for faith-based schools in Ontario. We have been and will remain engaged in vigorous advocacy efforts on all fronts, including at Queen's Park. The key to our success will be a united community well educated on this vital issue.

UJA Federation AGM Features Bernie Farber, Congress CEO

UJA Federation President Leslie Lasky recently announced that Bernie Farber, long time community activist and current CEO of Canadian Jewish Congress will be the keynote speaker at this year's Annual Meeting of UJA Federation of Hamilton. Farber will speak to the issue of "The State of Jewish Community Relations in Canada."



Bernie Farber

Breaking tradition with past annual meetings, this event will not focus on lots of year-end reports. Annual meetings are generally perceived to be some of the most boring and long-winded events on the community calendar. This one will be different. The business of the meeting will be quickly concluded so that full attention can be directed to the senior Jewish community relations professional in the Canadian Jewish community.

"We are delighted that someone of Mr. Farber's stature and experience will be sharing his perceptions with us. His presence and his topic are especially relevant in view of the rapid progress we have made in re-positioning the Jewish Community within the broader Hamilton framework over the past few years."

Mr. Lasky was referring to UJA Federation's success in changing the common - if very inaccurate - perception held in Hamilton that the Jewish community was uninvolved and indifferent to the issues in the larger community. Immersing itself in the vehicle of SHCI (Strengthening Hamilton

Community Initiative) UJA Federation has successfully countered that misperception by demonstrating leadership in cross cultural and inter religious affairs.

UJA Federation Executive Director, Gerald Fisher, acknowledged that the UJA Federation community relations initiatives have quickly covered a lot of distance.

"We have taken some bold steps by reaching out to the Afro-Caribbean Community, the Muslim Community, the Italian Community, Turks, Kurds, Hindus and First Nations People. Bernie Farber's presence in Hamilton provides a natural opportunity to reflect on what we have accomplished, what the future may hold and how we can continue to progress within the framework of national policy on Jewish Community relations."

The Annual General Meeting of UJA Federation is scheduled for Thursday, May 25th, at 7:30 pm at the JCC. Everyone is welcome to attend.



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UJA Federation of Hamilton

Notice of Annual General Meeting


Thursday, May 25th, 2006

7:30 pm at the Jewish Community Centre
1030 Lower Lions Club Road, Ancaster

featuring keynote Speaker:

Bernie Farber


Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Jewish Congress



speaking on

"The State of Jewish Community Relations in Canada"

For more information call Gerry Fisher at 905-648-



UJA Federation

Hamilton Hebrew Academy Launches Shuttle To Toronto High Schools

Joining the trend of the growing numbers of Hamiltonians who commute to Toronto, a select group of Hamilton teens are making their way along the 407 and 401 to Jewish high schools each day.

“The world has just opened up before us,” explained Rabbi Daniel Green, Dean of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, “Suddenly Jewish high school education is an option for Hamilton children.”

For years, Hamilton has seen the loss of many families who have moved to Toronto to enable their children to attend Jewish high schools. In an effort to address this issue, UJA Federation coordinated a meeting with parents last year to discuss the option of a community shuttle. With the launching of the Shuttle in September the trend has stopped as three families have opted to stay in Hamilton and utilize this groundbreaking service.

The feasibility of the commute has been bolstered by the 407 and the new 403 High Occupancy Lane. The

result: a door-to-door rush hour commute in one hour. The Shuttle, which leaves Westdale at 7:00 am, arrives regularly at its Bathurst and Lawrence destination by 8:00 am. Ironically, many Toronto students attending the same school as the Hamilton teens travel 45 minutes from Thornhill to the same location as they battle traffic along the Bathurst corridor.

The goal of the Shuttle is to meet the needs of students from all segments of the Hamilton Jewish community who wish to attend a Jewish high school of their choice in Toronto. From CHAT to Ner Israel, the project aims to cater to the full spectrum of the Hamilton community.

The numbers of participants is anticipated to double from three to six in the upcoming school year. As more families view Jewish high school education as a feasible option the numbers will undoubtedly continue to grow.

Midrasaha Offers Innovative Courses For High School Students

by Lanie Goldberg

After completing its first year as an independent private high school, Midrasaha - Hamilton Hebrew High is poised to offer a variety of innovative courses related to Judaism that students can take for language and social science credits.

Upon being validated as an independent high school this past fall, Midrasaha partnered with similar Jewish high school programs in Toronto and Ottawa in an effort to develop relevant for-credit courses. As a result, a variety of courses were created and submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Education for approval. These new courses will broaden the course options available for all area high school students wanting to continue their Jewish education while receiving high school credits.

We anticipate the release of our full course calendar in the ensuing weeks.

Please keep posted for the Midrasaha Open House and Registration Evening where we will discuss our educational programs and social events. The new course selections will be a welcomed addition to our highly successful Hebrew Language program that will be continued in the upcoming school year.

The mission of Midrasaha is to cater to all high school age Jewish children in our community. Our goal is not only to offer engaging courses but to create a Jewish teen culture through a variety of innovative events and programs. We welcome you to become involved. For further information please call Lanie Goldberg at 905-524-2663. Midrasaha is a project of the UJA Federation of Hamilton & Hamilton Hebrew Academy.

2006 March of the Living Participants: From left to right, Shanee Honig, Michele Urbanek, Sam Yellin, Aily Leibtag and Noah Leibtag

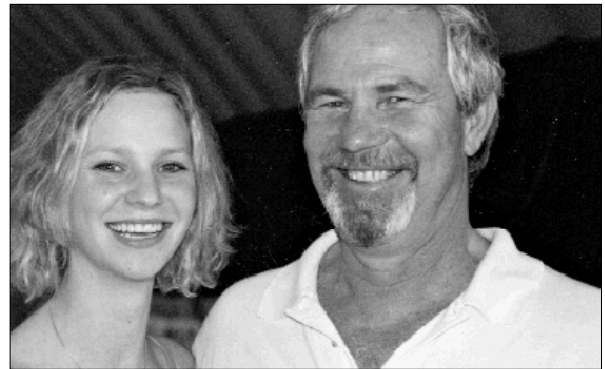
UJA Federation

UJA Federation is delighted to welcome the following community members to its Board of Directors:

- Joy Foster
- Jill Gaffe
- Jerry Goldblatt
- Monte Levy
- Naomi Levy
- Shelley Rochweg
- Hanna Schayer
- Debbie Sheinbaum
- Barry Yellin



The most precious asset we have is our community volunteers.



Racheli Chaimovitz & her father, Moshe, organizers of the annual JCC Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities

From envelope stuffers to presidents, no synagogue, school or service agency would be able to survive without the support of all the good hearted and committed people who serve as volunteers that plan the programs that hold our community together.

UJA Federation wants to thank every volunteer who helps to keep our community strong. In the next issue of the Hamilton Jewish News, we'll be featuring profiles of our community volunteers. If you would like a special volunteer to be featured please contact Sandy Morris at 905-525-8547

Jewish Social Services

JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES AGM

The Jewish Social Services will be having their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday June 7, 2006 at 7:30 pm. The meeting, which will include a mezzuzah dedication and reception with music, will be held at 30 King St East in Dundas. Please call 905-627-9922 for more information.

JSS THEATRE CLUB

Jewish Social Services still has room on the bus for their trips. All the shows are musicals in theatres in Niagara on the Lake, Stratford and Port Dover. Buses leave Hamilton at 10:30 am and return at 5:00 pm. For more information call Carol at 905-627-9922.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hamilton Jewish Social Services is looking for Volunteers to teach beginners computer skills, such as sending and receiving email, using the internet and search engines. Volunteers will be asked to work one on one with students on a one hour a week basis at the

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CAMP KADIMAH

We have a lot of exciting changes coming this summer and we want your children to take advantage of it all so...REGISTER NOW!!!

DISCOVER THE RIGHT UNIT FOR YOUR CHILD THIS SUMMER 2006

K'TANIM - Children turning 3 in 2006

This program is specifically designed for children entering nursery school by a team of educators and parents. This program will run as a _ day - from 9:00 am - 1:30 pm, with an extended care option. K'Tanim provides a secure and nurturing environment as an introduction to the camping experience. All activities are educationally stimulating and age appropriate. SPACE IS LIMITED.

BINONIM UNIT - Children turning 4 or 5 in 2006

This program introduces campers to a full day of camp for the very first time with many fun and educational activities. This program is designed to meet the needs of pre-school aged children with a focus on promoting independence and meeting new challenges on a daily basis.

GADOLIM UNIT - Children turning 6 or 7 in 2006

Gadolim campers are presented with an independent camping experience filled with challenge and adventure. Campers in the Gadolim Unit will have the opportunity to be involved in the Kadimah Tennis Academy and the inline skating elective. These campers will be included in the in-house overnights. Children entering grade 2 will have the opportunity to go on all **OVERNIGHT ADVENTURES**** with the Gadna Unit.

GADNA UNIT - Children turning 8 - 11

This program has been carefully designed with a great deal of focus on outdoor activities appealing to our more seasoned camper. Each week the Gadna campers will venture off site to new and exciting places, including three fantastic **OVERNIGHT ADVENTURES****. These campers will also have the opportunity to be involved in advanced specialty programs, such as orienteering, the Kadimah Tennis Academy, the Inline skating elective, Trail Hiking, and on-site overnights.

LIT/CIT (Leader/Counselor in Training) - Entering Grades 7 - 9

Our LIT/CIT program develops leadership skills, builds self-confidence, initiative and camp spirit through an intensive hands on learning experience. The goal is that everybody has fun during this unique summer experience.

**OVERNIGHT ADVENTURES FOR CAMPERS ENTERING GRADE 2 AND OLDER

CAMP GEORGE

In session 2 (July 11-13), campers will have the opportunity to participate in a three day two night overnight at Camp George in beautiful Parry Sound, Ontario. During their stay, Kadimah campers will participate in a multitude of activities; including water skiing, sailing, canoeing, beach front swimming, ropes courses, and much more.

TORONTO ZOO BUSH CAMP

In session 4 (July 24-25), Kadimah campers will have a once in a lifetime opportunity to spend the night in the African Savanna. Campers will meet the animals, spend the night under the stars, and make smores by the campfire. The overnight will be followed by a full day of sightseeing at the zoo including a trip to the newly opened Splash Park.

CAMP RAMAH

In session 7 (August 15 - 17) campers have the opportunity to participate in a two night, three day overnight at Camp Ramah, located on Skeleton Lake in beautiful Muskoka, Ontario. During their stay, Kadimah campers will take part in a multitude of activities including: canoeing, kayaking, beachfront swimming, water-skiing, ceramics, Israeli dancing, to name a few.

CAMP KADIMAH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

No child will be denied a camp experience for financial reasons. If your financial circumstances are limiting your access to Camp Kadimah, please contact Carol Krames at Jewish Social Services (905-627-9922). All inquiries will be kept confidential.

SAVE THESE DATES FOR SUMMER AND FALL ACTIVITIES

August 24, 2006
Community Wide BBQ - Games and activities for all

September 17, 2006
Ben Meyer Lecture

WERE YOU THERE?

YOM HASHOAH

Over 300 people congregated at Adas Israel Synagogue to commemorate the Holocaust on April 25, 2006. Hesh Troper, an historian in the Department of Theory and Policy Studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto spoke on "The History of Writing History - the case of "None is Too Many"". Troper and his co-author Irving Abella compiled documents to show how the Canadian government would not accept European Jewish immigration before and during the Holocaust. With moving performances from Sarah and Ruthie Pytka Jones, the Kehila Jewish Community Day School Choir, Hamilton Hebrew Academy's dedication to Simon Wiesenthal and the Chai Choir added to the already emotional program. The committee, Anita Bernstein, George Czutrin, Gilda Ennis, Leia Ger-Rogers, Benson Honig, Archie Lieberman, Nadia Rosa, Tony Simecek, Willy Steen, Abe Szpirglas and Beata Vertes with JCC Program Coordinator, Annie Shinehoft put forth all their efforts to make this Yom Hashoah Memorial Service special for the whole community.

SUNDAY FUNDAY BRUNCHES

The community Sunday Funday Brunches were such a success, we had to bring them back. On April 9 and 23, food was supplied by Westdale Deli and Larry Szpirglas with Howard Eisenberg came to reprise their roles as "guest chef". On April 30, Gwen Gordon catered our final community brunch at the "J". Rabbi Golan Amar taught songs to prepare us for Yom Ha'atzmaut. These brunches are a wonderful tradition for this community to participate in. As such, we are excited to tell you that beginning SEPTEMBER 17, 2006, (with the exception of holidays) brunches will be held weekly with MONTHLY themed brunches.

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

Israel's birthday was celebrated with 450 people from our community in the J's gymnasium, with wonderful youth performances from the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, Kehila Jewish Community Day School, Beth Jacob, and Temple Anshe Sholom, a beautiful dinner consisting of our Mediterranean favorites, falafel, humus and burakas to name only a few, Israeli dancing led by Wendy Schneider and much more. The Yom Ha'atzmaut committee chair, Racheli Chaimavitz and her committee Moishe Chaimavitz, Dorina Chaimavitz, Aubrey Friedman, Rivka Shaffir, Fay Shmerling and Ariel Zaltzman, and assisted by Annie Shinehoft, JCC Program Coordinator worked tirelessly to make this program the wonderful success it was.

SPRING INTO TENNIS AT THE JCC

FREE beginner lessons for new beginner members!

Mondays and Wednesday, May 1, 3, 8, 9

6:00 pm - 6:45 pm Juniors

7:15pm - 8:00 pm Adults

Minimum of 5 Registrants per class; Additional Instruction offered for all ages

Junior Lessons: Spring 2006 Sundays

8 Year Old Beginner 1:00pm-1:45pm

9 Year Old Beginner 1:45pm-2:30pm

10 Year Old Beginner 2:30pm-3:15pm

12 & Over Beginner 3:15pm-4:00pm

10 Weeks, \$150.00

Mondays, April 9 to June 18

14 Year Old Beginner 3:45pm- 4:30pm

14 Year Old Advanced 4:30pm-5:15pm

12 Year Old Adv. Intermediate 5:15pm-6:00pm

8 Weeks, \$120.00

Tuesdays, April 10 to June 12

12-13 Year Old Beginner 3:45pm-4:30pm

10 Year Old Intermediate 4:30pm-5:15pm

12 Year Old Intermediate 5:15pm-6:00pm

10 Weeks, \$150.00

Wednesdays, April 1 to June 13

10 Year Old Beginner 3:45pm-4:30pm

15 Year Old Advanced 4:30pm-5:15pm

16-17 Year Old Advanced 5:15pm-6:00pm

9 Weeks, \$135.00

April 26 to June 21

Summer Tennis Memberships

Effective from May 1st to September 30th, 2006

Family - \$250.00

(2 parents, resident children under 23)

Single Adult \$100.00

Full Time Students (ages 16-23) \$65.00

Youth (ages 10-15) \$36.00

FOR INFO ON FULL YEAR MEMBERSHIPS AND FURTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION CONTACT "THE J" AT 905-648-0605 OR EMAIL US AT RECEPTIONJCC@ON.AIBN.COM

WATCH FOR THE "J" BROCHURE COMING TO YOU MID AUGUST 2006 FOR FULL DETAILS ON THE FALL/WINTER PROGRAM

The Jewish Community Centre Pages



Special Mentschen

HONOURABLE MENTSCHEN

The HJN congratulates Lauren Schoenberg for cutting her long locks and donating them to "Locks of Love", an organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from cancer. "I'm doing this because it is a great mitzvah", said Lauren. "My grandfather died from this disease and I would do anything to help."



Lauren Schoenberg

Proud mother and Dundas resident, Sima Skarica, recently informed the HJN that her son, David Skarica, who at age 28 is already a well-established economist, has published his second book. The Contrarian Who Saved The World is a story which uses fiction to explain technical analysis of the stock market.

Born in Toronto and raised in Dundas, David's list of accomplishments would make any mother proud. At the age of 18 in 1996 he became the youngest person on record to pass the Canadian Securities Course. In 1998, he began to write the investment newsletter Addicted to Profits, which specialized in technical analysis of the markets and stocks. In December 1998 his first book Stock Market Market Panic! How to Prosper in the Coming Bear Market was published. The book foresaw the stock market crash of the early 2000s along with the increasing gold, oil and resource prices of the time.

From 2001-2005, Dave appeared on many financial radio and television shows in Canada. In 2004, he ended Addicted to Profits to start other

ventures, which included the website stockchartoftheday.com. In 2005, he started another publication The Skarica Letter, which uses a unique star rating system to rank stocks.

The HJN also congratulates David Goldberg, 21, for being awarded a prestigious



David Skarica

Wexner Graduate Fellowship. Wexner Graduate Fellowships are awarded annually to 20 outstanding individuals in North America who seek to prepare themselves through graduate training for careers in Jewish Education, Jewish Communal Leadership, the rabbinate, the

cantorate and Jewish Studies.

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, the late Rabbi Israel Silverman, David will begin studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary rabbinic school in September. The Wexner Fellowship will help cover the costs of the five-year program.



David Goldberg

David's mother, Lanie Goldberg, called the Fellowship "an amazing mentorship and leadership program." Out of over 100 applicants, only 20 are selected and David is among the youngest recipients.

In addition to financial awards, Wexner Graduate Fellows are required to participate in interdisciplinary institutes and programs, and are afforded unique opportunities for ongoing interaction with outstanding Jewish leaders and for extensive interchange with each other. They receive leadership training, peer support, professional mentoring, and networking across career choices and denominational affiliations, both during school and throughout their lives.

MAX NATHAN

Born on June 12, 1930 in Springfield Massachusetts.

Died in Hamilton on March 2, 2006

We are a lucky family, because our father was Max Nathan, a legendary pediatrician, a tremendous teacher, a man of determination and dedication, an adventurer, and most importantly, a great Dad.

We all knew growing up that our father was a living legend, one of the few doctors who would make house calls, and who would never turn anyone away from his office. Everyone was his patient, not just the children. When examining a sick child, he was famous for always remembering to ask the mother how she was feeling. Our Dad shared one of the largest pediatric practices in the city of Hamilton. He earned his medical degree at the University of Western in London, Ontario and he earned his specialization in Pediatrics at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children, at Montreal Children's and at Harvard Children's in Boston. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Our Dad was completely dedicated to his patients. This dedication was repaid with their respect and affection. We could never go out anywhere together as a family in Hamilton without meeting somebody. We would be sitting at a restaurant or walking in a park, and always, there would be at least one interruption from a friendly child coming over to our table to say "Hello to Dr. Nathan". Even at the Juravinsky Cancer Center, where our father spent countless hours over the last 16 months, he would often find himself in the company of a former admiring patient, now employed at the center.

Our Dad was a great teacher. He taught us how to be strong, how to be determined, and how to laugh and have fun. He was a guiding light to so many - and he was a guiding light to us. He worked so hard, and such long hours, that he taught us more through his example than he ever realized.

Our Dad was a man of determination - everything he did, he did with strength and purpose. He taught us not to accept things the way they are, but to fight for the way things should be. This was the way he lived his whole life. Perhaps the best example was just a few months ago, after he was told that the advanced cancer drugs prescribed by his oncologist were not available at his hospital. Armed with the latest research and his tremendous common sense, he was successful in paving the way for this new drug to not only be administered to him, but to be administered to all future patients requiring the same treatment.

Our Dad loved adventure and lived life to the fullest. We will always remember the sparkle in his eyes, his infectious smile, and his zest for life.



Max Nathan

Our Dad was entirely dedicated to his family, throughout his life, nothing was more important. As kids we spent countless hours together. We had numerous Friday night games of monopoly and Sunday evenings cooking dinner together. We traveled together on memorable family vacations. One of our very special family trips was the Disney Cruise organized to celebrate our Dad's 70th birthday. It was the year 2000, and together, we sailed the stormy seas for the Zaida Max Cruise, laughing, snorkeling, and most importantly, being together. He loved his family so very much and was so proud of his nine grandchildren.

On October 24, 2005 our lives were shattered. Our father was diagnosed with colon cancer. He fought for his life with great determination, but at the same time, he was determined to fulfill his life's responsibilities, as he knew this was a battle he could not ultimately win. He fought hard - but always with a smile on his face, never showing what he really felt. During the 16 months that followed, his focus was never on himself, but on providing for our Mom, the love of his life. He insisted that he not be a burden to anyone, and would rarely allow any of us to accompany him for his treatments - he was determined to be independent, and he was so until his very last days.

As our Dad leaves us behind, we take comfort in knowing that he has no more pain.

We know that he will live on in our hearts and in our memories forever.

Our Dad, Dr. Nathan. He touched the lives of so many, dedicating his life to the community of children in the city around him.

We will always love you Dad, from your children, Sandi, Karen and Rick.



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Special Mentschen

MAURICE WOLPERT

Born on October 4, 1940 in Johannesburg;
Died on October 21, 2005 in Hamilton.

The phone rang at 5:45 a.m. on October 21, 2005. I was already awake, dreading the phone call that I knew was coming. My father, Maurice Wolpert had died from pancreatic cancer. 5:45 a.m., the time he had woken up every morning for the last 30 years to get ready for work. Two days later, on a Sunday, we laid him to rest, huddling under a canopy of umbrellas to shield us from a gentle rain. My dad was buried in the last available spot in the cemetery, ironically among children, and under a hundred year-old oak tree, similar to the ones surrounding my parent's home. His childhood tallis draped around his body and the family soccer ball at his feet. I can clearly visualize his devilish cackle and that twinkle in his eye. Knowing my dad, I am sure he has already organized a soccer game or two.

Anyone who had the privilege of knowing my father always enjoyed his happy and outgoing manner. Whoever spoke of him, talked about his kindness, his gentle humour and the good atmosphere that he always seemed to create around him. My father had a positive attitude, was interesting and enthusiastic and left one with the impression that "life was great". He added an engaging mind and a compassionate manner to every conversation.

My father has many passions in his life, and one of them was his sports, namely soccer. My father once said to his sister Rhona, if he could not kick a soccer ball, he could not live. And kick a ball he did. As a youth growing up in Germiston, he broke many a window at his parent's house. My grandmother had a standing arrangement with the window company to come and fix the windows at a moment's notice, before my grandfather got home from work. He taught my brother, sister and I all to play, as well as his 6 grandchildren. There was never a family gathering when a soccer game was not arranged in the backyard.

My father was an avid sportsman. He excelled at every sport he played and he strived for perfection in everything that he pursued. He was an accomplished downhill skier, only learning to ski at 49 years old. He also loved his mountain bike and loved riding the trails near his house. My dad always kept his bike in his minivan and often went cycling after leaving the office, to ride along the Burlington waterfront.



Maurice Wolpert

True, my dad was an extremely accomplished athlete, but what made him truly special was his strength of character. He made everyone around him feel at ease. You could not be around my dad without laughing. That's what he did- he made you laugh and feel good about yourself. He had an amazing sense of humour, and always saw the funny side of life. My dad only saw the good in people. He never criticized anyone or spoke badly of people. My father was the type of person who enjoyed the scenery on a detour. He was such an easy going person. Few things seemed to bother him. When everyone else around him was frustrated or irritated because of a traffic jam or poor service in a restaurant, my dad took it all in stride. He believed that there was no point in getting upset or angry. He just sat back and enjoyed the experience.

My dad had a magnetic personality and people were genuinely attracted to him. He had an incredibly caring soul and a huge heart, especially when it came to his family. We really were the luckiest kids in the world because we had such a kind, loving father. We grew up in a household filled with fun and laughter. To say the least, our father especially in his younger days, was a little bit on the wild side. My mother was probably the only one who could really tame him. He was like the wild centre-forward of our home, and my mom was the team manager. They were a perfect team. Their marriage was a beautiful example of love, respect and kindness.

My father truly enjoyed life to the fullest. He never waited for life to happen. He believed in enjoying each day. He never believed in waiting until you were older to do something, or waiting until the kids grew up; or waiting for the perfect moment. He never waited, and because of that, he had a great life. Shortly before his death, he told me that he wouldn't have changed a thing. That was my dad-living every day to the fullest and never wasting a moment doing it.

We could all learn a thing or two from how my father lived his life. Treat people respectfully and with kindness; laugh; don't sweat the small stuff; enjoy this life which we have been given. For we never know when this gift will be suddenly taken from us.

by Rochelle Robbins

Freemasons and Jews Share Common Bonds

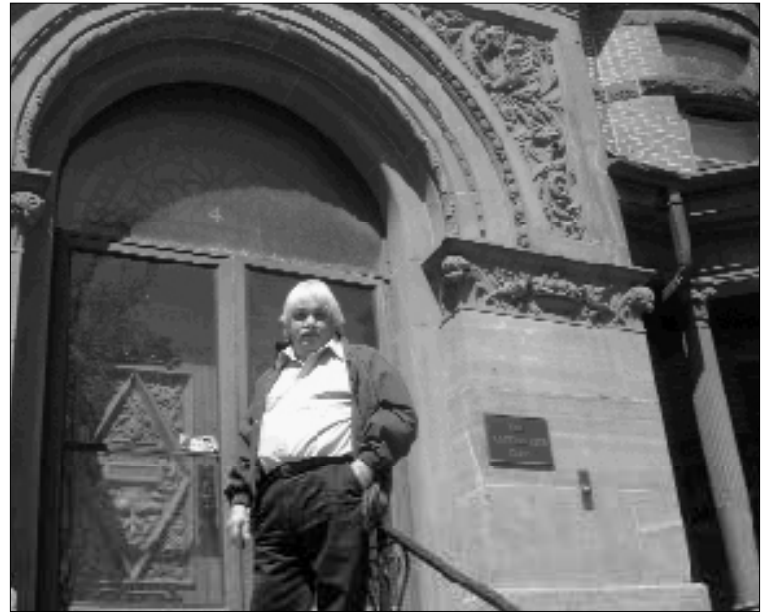
by
Wendy Schneider

The dining room at the Scottish Rite, a magnificent Victorian edifice on the corner of King and Queen Streets may seem like an unusual venue for an appointment with the Hamilton Jewish News - but, as it turns out Hamilton's Scottish Rite is the centre for Hamilton's Masons, a good many of whom are Jews. The lunchtime interview was with Victor Abraham, a past president of Beth Jacob Synagogue, its current Torah reader, and an activist with the Bene Israel community of Toronto.

Mr. Abraham, born and raised in India, received an undergraduate degree in architecture in his native country and a post-graduate degree in planning at Leeds in England. A job opportunity with the government of Alberta as a junior planner in urban design and regional planning brought him to Canada in 1966. In 1968 an offer from the City of Hamilton as a senior planner brought him to this city. He became reacquainted with his a childhood friend Diana, when she immigrated to Toronto in 1969. They were married in 1970.

In choosing to become a mason in 1980, Mr. Abraham that he was the last one in his family to do so - his uncle and grandfather were masons in India. The connection between Jews and Freemasonry dates back to 18th century England. Many Jews joined the society as part of their "emancipation" from the old legal and social exclusions. Freemasonry's philosophy of the brotherhood of all people indicated Masonry would accept Jews as members. Some Jews joined lodges that were primarily Jewish and the B'nai B'rith organization in its early days had a ritual parallel to Freemasonry.

There are many common



Victor Abraham, in front of The Scottish Rite

themes and ideals in Masonic and Jewish rituals and symbols: Belief in one God is fundamental - the letter "yud" symbolizing the name of God, is a well known symbol in Masonic ritual. The giving of charity, and acting respectfully to all human beings are essential elements of Freemasonry as well as Judaism; Masonry and Judaism teach discipline and follow rituals to help develop this ability; Judaism and Masonry give the greatest respect and support for freedom of individuals - Freemasons are not allowed to proselytize and membership is considered only for those who request it; One of the fundamental symbols of Masonry is the Temple of Solomon and the Second Temple.

Freemasonry, stressed Mr. Abraham is not a secret society, but rather a society with secrets. Its secrets are related to its rituals, which take the initiate through a series of "degrees" (the origin of the expression "third degree" comes from Freemasonry) Each degree, explained Mr. Abraham, involves a different ritual, some of which are dramatizations of Second Temple Jewish history. These dramatizations are done

in period costume and can be compared to the Midrash, in their fanciful elaboration of a biblical reference.

Sadly, Jews and Freemasons have been linked throughout the last two centuries in that both groups have been accused of being disloyal to their countries, keeping strange secrets, and conspiring to take over the world. The ultimate form of this hatred was the sinister "Protocols of the Elders of Zion". Some bigots claimed that this document was a transcript of a meeting of Jewish leaders plotting world domination, in partnership with Freemasons. Even today, there are claims among some Islamic fundamentalists and conspiracy theorists that the Iraq war was planned by a secret group of Jews and Freemasons. The absurdity of these accusations is apparent to anyone with a familiarity with either Judaism or Freemasonry. Perhaps one Freemason blogger said it best when he asked, "When they harangue against Freemasons and Jews, ask how many children can walk because of their philanthropies?"



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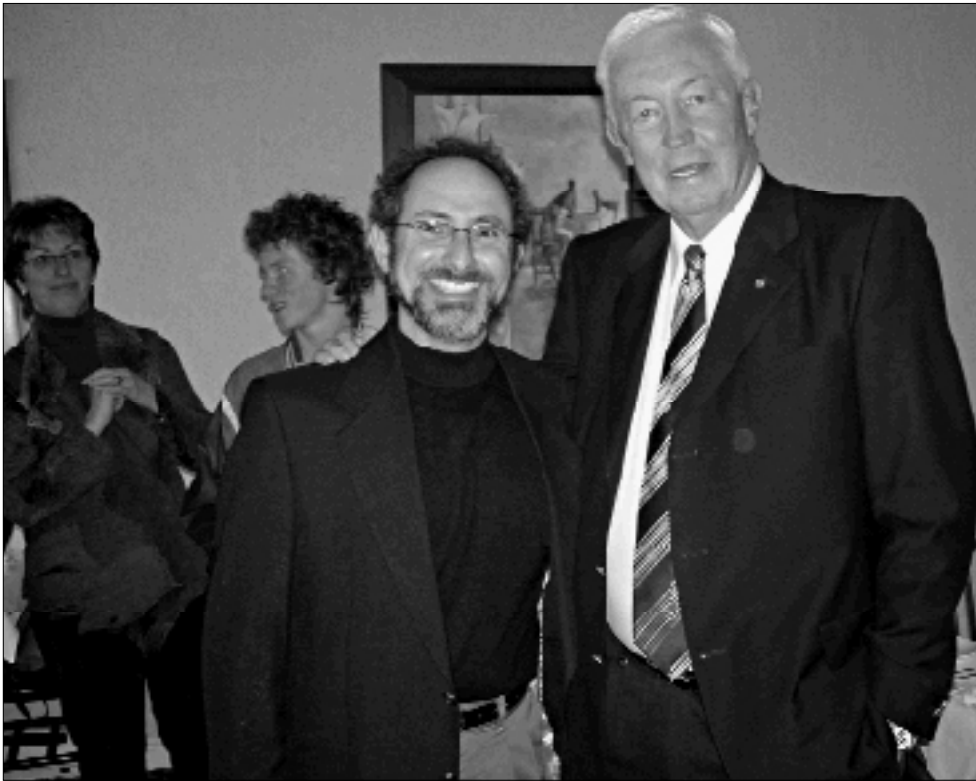
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Community

Na'amat Hosts Jean Beliveau



Hamilton Hockey Fans were in for a treat when they came out in full force to Na'amat Hamilton's An Evening with Jean Beliveau, on April 30, to hear the hockey legend reminisce about some of the greatest moments of his career. Proceeds of the event will be used in the dedication of a Na'amat Daycare Centre playground in his name. Pictured above are Joel Yellin with Mr. Beliveau. Pictured in the background are Dora Fisher, event co-chair, (together with Simone Rotstein) with her son Aaron.

The Shalom Village Ladies Auxiliary Cordially
Invite You to Celebrate their

~ SILVER ANNIVERSARY ~

At the 25th Annual Shalom Village
Ladies' Auxiliary Tea

Be part of an important Hamilton tradition!
Goldie's Place at Shalom Village, 70 Macklin
Street North, Hamilton, Ontario

Enjoy "Chai" Tea

Thursday, July 6, 2006 at 1:00 pm

Help us meet our goal of enhancing life
for the residents of Shalom Village by becoming
a special donor:

VIP: \$180	Anniversary: \$125
Patron: \$72	Double Chai: \$36

Tickets \$20 Dollars

(All donations will receive income tax receipts less the
cost of the luncheon)

Tickets are available from Members of the Shalom Village
Ladies' Auxiliary, at the Corner Store at Shalom Village
or by calling the Foundation Office
at (905) 529-1613 ext. 265

New this year....

Join Our Circle of Support

To mark this very special occasion we invite you to join our
Circle of Support by reserving one of only ten available Circle
of Support tables at this year's Tea. You and your four guests
will experience our high tea delights in the intimate setting of
our Bistro. As a Circle of Support donor, your contribution
of \$500 reserves your table for five. We will provide you
with personalized invitations for each of your guests and at
the tea they will find individualized cards with a message
from you, along with a small gift. This is a fabulous way to
acknowledge your friends, staff / colleagues to thank them
for their dedication, hard work, support or leadership. Your
generous donation will be acknowledged with a charitable tax
receipt for \$400.

Begin the Circle of Support ~ recognize the important people
you work, live and play with in this very special way, while
helping the Shalom Village team provide exemplary care and
services to the seniors in your community.

The Circle Begins With You.....

Call Kathleen Thomas today to reserve your table,
(905) 529-1613 ext. 265 or email kathleen@shalomvillage.on.ca



SHALOM VILLAGE TRIBUTE CARDS

Call 905-529-1613 ext 265

In Memory Of

HUGH DUFFY: Geraldine Nicholls. MOLLIE SHAPIRO: Anna Taylor & Family. BELLE GREEN: Harry & Margaret Kelman. CISSIE MORRIS: Raefie & Vivienne Epstein. MAX NATHAN: Raefie & Vivienne Epstein, Norma & David Wright, Honey & Gary Chertkoff, Joe & Joy Rochweg. ALBERT COHEN: Sylvia Cohen, John Attridge, Joseph & Margaret Brosek. LARRY WOLFE: Lecato Family. PHYLLIS LONGTHORNE: Anne Pritchard, Carol & Allan Bain, Sonny Caplan, Dorothy Rosenthal, Jack & Barbara Katz & Family, Lil Cohen. JOE SONSHINE: Anita Smurlick. MURIEL CLUGSTEIN: Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village. JAMES McCULLOUGH: Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village. HARRIETTE SMURLICK: Sam Yanover & The Maccabees. RITA ENNIS: Jennifer & Michael Friedland & Family, Vivienne & Raefie Epstein, Jack & Barbara, Mende & Kathleen Katz & Family. LILLIAN ROSEN: Raefie, Vivienne, Daryn, Danna & Natalie Epstein, Ron, Anne & Reesa Barrs. GEORGE GOLDBERG: Maggie Agro, Josh & Vicky Bach, Jack & Barbara Katz & Family, Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village, Leon & Vivien Price, Ethel Levy, Ron Berenbaum, Miriam Lebow Joan Silverman, Maria Buchner, Aaron Shiffman, Cathy McDowell, Vincent & Diane Scime, William & Dorothy Oliver. HAROLD STRASHUNAL: Ruby Berns, Maurice & Laura (Berns) LeBreax. MRS. WOSK (MOTHER OF SHARON LAX): Sasha & Tommy Weisz, Mark & Lisa Levy. SIDNEY POLLOCK: Anna Taylor & Family. NAHUM SPINNER: Jacki and Larry Levin, Richard & Arlene Leibtag & Family. KATHERINE (KATI) GREEN: Jack & Barbara Katz & Family. ROSE COWITZ: Samieth & Max Mintz, Joan Silverman, Bessie Goldblatt, Gert Goldblatt, Cathy McDowell, Dorothy Rosenthal, Soula Dionissopolis, Marina Sarikadakis, Sue, Phil, Jason, Elaine, Adam & Shari Bronsther, Helen & Solly Adler, Didie Dulberg, Frances Silver, Sarah & Harold Rochweg, Paul Dulberg, David & Risa Dulberg, Joanne & Mark Richardson, Miriam Lebow, Sylvia & Bert Bronsther, Larry & Jay Rosenberg, JoAnn & Harold Pomerantz, Sally Praiser, Brenda & Sol Sandberg. ALICE RUTH WELAND: Michael & Pam Taylor, Anna Taylor, Helen & Solly Adler, Pat & Doug Morden, Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village. MOTHER OF RHONDA PEER: Ada & Elmer Farkas. MOTHER OF EDITH MAJER: Ada & Elmer Farkas. MANNY SPINNER: Jack & Barbara Katz & Family. MOTHER OF COLLIN SPITOFF: Charles Barone. MINDIE LILLIAN FENTON: Jack & Barbara Katz & Family. JACK MANDEL: Jack & Barbara Katz & Family, Al & Ruby Berns, Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village, Richard & Arlene Leibtag, Ron & Miriam Davidson, Norma & David Wright, Ruth & Sam Klapman & Family, Amanda Sachs, Harold & Sarah Rochweg, Blanche & Norm Levitt, Friends at MacLaren McCann, Arnold & Julia Swartz. IRENE HERSHBERG: Mickey Ossea. FANNY GRINSPAN: Dosta Ciganovic. HARRY KRIVY: Boris & Rochelle Krivy & Family

Get Well

EDIE ROCHKIN: Pearl Waxman, Dorothy Rosenthal, Sylvia Katz & Family, Fanny & Ben Davine, Anita Smurlick, Frances & David Hoffman, Sally Praiser, Freda Hoffman. GLENNA MACKAY: Heather Ritter, Frances Silver, Jack & Barbara Katz, Shirley Yaffe, Carole & Allan Bain. CANTOR BERCOVICI: Susanne & Harry Mendelson. MRS. L. EDELSTEIN: Ron & Anne Barrs. MRS. G. SHAPIRO: Ron & Anne Barrs. IRVING GOLD: Sharon & Stephen Lax

Happy Birthday

SALLY LAX: Ronnie, Gail, Ashley & Jared Faust. LOTTI REDNER: Sid, Anita, Rebecca & Gabe Redner. MANNY FURMAN: Ruth & David Magder

Mazel Tov

ROCHELLE WAXMAN: Bebe Katz, Jack & Barbara Katz & Family. CLAIRE & LOU LATNER: Leslie, David & Laura, Larry & Lisa, Natalie & Avi. NAMMY KAMALANATHAN: Jack & Barbara

Send Shalom Village Tribute Cards for acknowledging life cycles and milestones ~ birthday, anniversary, bar and bat mitzvah, get well, special occasion and memorial cards are available. When a loved one passes away, honour their memory by having memorial donations made to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers.

Passover Cards on Sale - \$5.00. Just send your list to Kathleen@shalomvillage.on.ca or call (905) 529-1513 ext. 265



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Community

Beth Jacob Synagogue Hires New Rabbi

Beth Jacob Synagogue is delighted to announce its hiring of Rabbi Dan Selsberg, who recently graduated from The Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles.

Rabbi Selsberg, his wife Karen and their two year old twin sons will be moving to Hamilton this summer. In the following interview, Rabbi Selsberg outlines his vision for Beth Jacob.



Rabbi Dan Selsberg

to explore who they are, who they're going to be and how they're going to live their lives. I hope to put in place programming that addresses precisely this, both by working with the religious school and by making going to Beth Jacob on Shabbat a welcoming experience for people regardless of their age.

How do you see the rabbi/congregant relationship?

I grew up in a town where the rabbi was seen as the "professional Jew" and congregants let him, and later her, "do" their Judaism for them. I see the mission of my rabbinate as encouraging congregants to own their Judaism and to feel confident not only to practice in private, but in the public sphere; whether it be through teaching, leading davening or by delivering a d'var Torah. All of this is a sign of a healthy community, and I'm happy some of this is already in place, and look forward to encouraging it all the more so. One of the exciting things of coming to Hamilton is to be in a place where, as a rabbi, I can have a lot of interaction with congregants of all ages, especially those of bar and bat mitzvah age. Having face-to-face time with the rabbi and knowing that everybody in the community takes you seriously is very empowering to an adolescent. I had that growing up and now, years later, my rabbi who performed my bar mitzvah is coming to my rabbinical ordination. It's clear how meaningful it is to her to have one of her students become a colleague in the rabbinate. Obviously that's fairly rare, but I look forward to building a connection with students that can carry through into their adult lives.

What unique set of skills do you feel you bring to this

compromising the core value of what a synagogue should be, which is to first and foremost provide people with a Jewish religious experience, I'd like to see Beth Jacob also offer things like movie nights, yoga classes and book groups. I think it's essential to offer Adult education that challenges and edifies-- and I'm looking forward to teaching and learning. I also look forward to more programming for parents and children. There are so many aspects of Jewish life that parents and kids, either together or separately can learn and have fun with: art, music, as well as learning about different topics relevant to Jews. For starters, I'd love to have more children's programming on Shabbat morning so entire families can come together for Shabbat at Beth Jacob.

How do you hope to attract young families?

The fact that families have a lot of different options of what to do with their time is the challenge that we're facing. I hope to show parents that developing an inner religious life and feeling connected to community is at least as important as attending, for example, sporting events. When kids grown up they may or may not still be playing hockey, but they'll still be Jews. It's important to help them develop a strong foundation and give them opportunities

What brought you to the rabbinate?

A desire to teach and to contribute to a community, specifically to building a Jewish community and to help people along the path to lead more deeply fulfilling lives. I attended the University of Wisconsin, where my Judaism was focused on social action and majored in education, because I was looking for a way to serve people. I went to Israel after school and it was there that I found a deeper connection with the ritual aspects of Judaism. My love of teaching and my love of Jewish tradition and of the Jewish community prompted a friend to suggest the rabbinate-and I immediately realized it was a good fit.

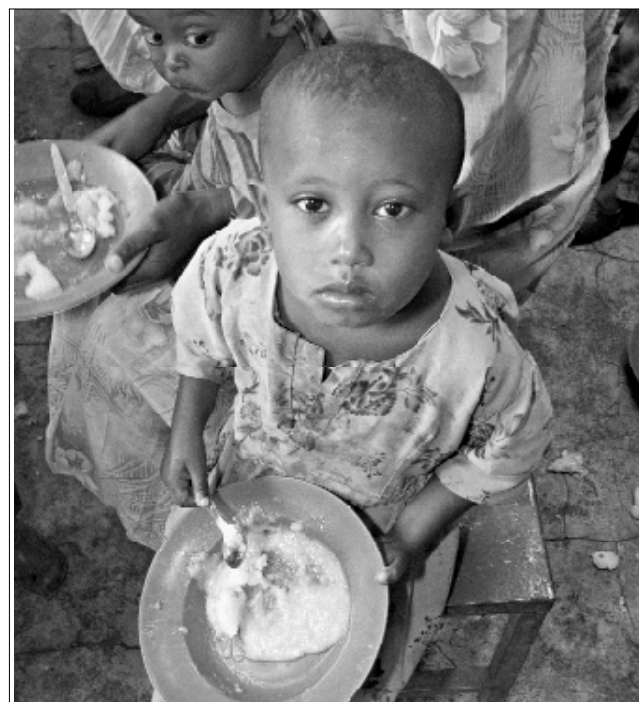
What does the Conservative movement have to offer to Jews today?

Conservative Judaism is unique in its way of blending of tradition with a respect for the evolution of our culture. Conservative Judaism gives people an anchor in tradition while using modern methods of studying Torah to bring out deeper truths and to continue to find new meaning in our sacred texts. I think one of the most wonderful things about the Conservative movement in general and the Beth Jacob in particular is its giving women's voices equal weight in the public domain. I grew up in the Reform Movement and spent some time learning in Orthodox settings, and I have deep respect for both. All streams of Judaism have much to offer. At the same time, I find that Conservative Judaism inspires by demanding deep engagement with the Torah and intellectual honesty- and it's this confluence of the spiritual and intellectual that feels deeply rewarding.

What's your vision for Beth Jacob?

Mordecai Kaplan, who taught at the JTS for over 50 years, wrote about the need for synagogues, in addition to serving the spiritual needs of a community, to address communal needs. Without

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Community

Yom Ha'atzmaut at the HHA



HHA students are served pita by Rabbi Golan Amar made over a fire in a makeshift Bedouin tent

The Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration at the Academy this year was an exciting and enriching experience for all. Our school assembly featured our outstanding choir singing Israeli songs, and our energetic and graceful dance group who both performed wonderfully at the community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration as well. The Waxman Social hall was beautifully decorated for Yom Ha Zicharon and Yom Ha'atzmaut. A moving tribute to Israeli soldiers, the presentation of the Israeli and Canadian flags by our grade one students, and a presentation by the SK students added to our assembly. Our new LCD enabled all to enjoy the excellent slide shows of Israel and Israeli soldiers. At lunchtime we thoroughly enjoyed the delicious felafel lunch prepared by our PTA parent volunteers. Our school lunchroom was magically transformed into a world of blue and white to represent both Israel and the kibbutz. The afternoon activities were amazing. Our students travelled through four stations; a Negev Bedouin tent where they made pita over a fire; Jerusalem Bingo, Tzfat Mystic Art workshop for the creation of chamots; and a Tel Aviv soccer-baseball station. To end the day we had delicious birthday cake and a very special ice cream treat thanks to a group of parents that arranged for the Stoney Creek Dairy ice cream truck to come to our school. All in all it was another beautiful day at the HHA!

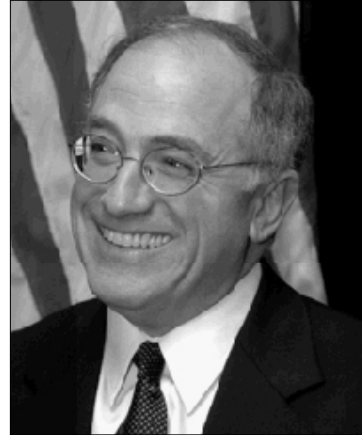
JNF Negev Dinner Honours Anne and Mark Mandel

by
Shirley Zucker

The honorees at the JNF 2006 Hamilton Negev Dinner are Anne and Mark Mandell, both of whom are Holocaust survivors. They are both extremely involved in community and Zionist affairs, and are most worthy recipients of



Anne and Mark Mandel



Daniel C. Kurtzer

this honour. The Mandells have willingly associated themselves with this year's project in Israel, which is a sports and recreation area for residents of the Tlalim Home in Dimona, next to the Ben-Gurion Forest in the Negev.

The residents of this home are adolescents and adults with varying levels of intellectual disabilities. The Sports and Recreation Area will provide a much-needed exercise location specially equipped to meet their needs. At the same time, the JNF has determined that the completed project will also cater to the benefit of the children and youth of Dimona. The Anne and Mark Mandell Sports and Recreation Area will offer the residents of Tlalim a wonderful outlet that will not only enhance

their lives but also the lives of all the children and youth who live in this part of the Negev.

The featured keynote speaker at the Dinner is Daniel C. Kurtzer, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel and Egypt. In acknowledgement of his significant contributions during his service as ambassador, he received several of the U.S. Government's most prestigious awards, including the President's Distinguished Service Award.

Prior to his diplomatic service in Israel and Egypt, Daniel Kurtzer served in numerous influential policymaking positions within the U.S. government.

This event, which takes place on Sunday, 11th June at the Hamilton Convention Centre, will no doubt be a most memorable evening.

Cocktail Reception is at 5:30p.m. followed by Dinner at 6:30p.m. For further information, please call the JNF office at 905-527-5516.

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Community

Kehila Students Dance At Rikudiya



Temple Anshe Sholom's New Torah Mantels

by
Holly Ginsler

In 2004 Hamilton's Temple Anshe Sholom realized it was desperately in need of new Torah mantels. Funds to purchase these new mantels were raised through the sponsorship and ticket sales for a concert held at the synagogue in October 2004. The concert's musician was Joshua Nelson, a Jewish, African-American gospel singer. The show was a huge success.

The artist hired to create these new mantels was Temma Gentles, who had been an artist-in-residence at Temple Anshe Sholom four years prior. She had graduated from the University of Toronto with an M.A., and had extensive design training at the Ontario College of Art. Being a well known artist of Canadian Judaica, she was also a founding member of the seventeen year old Pomegranate guild, a collection of Judaica textile artists. Temma has done widespread work in Canada and the U.S.A.

It took the artist over a year to finish all of Temple Anshe Sholom's mantels. The old mantels are still at the synagogue and at some time in the future they may be donated for use in other projects.

The art depicted on the Torah mantels represents the seven species of agricultural produce that are mentioned in the Torah to symbolize the fertility of Israel. These include wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. Although the Seven Species are not representative of Israel's main diet anymore, they are still prominent in large areas of the countryside.

The everyday mantels were made from hardy, upholstery-grained fabrics so that they could withstand continuous use. They fit onto the Torah,

"like a wrap, whereas the



Torah Mantels designed by Temma Gentles

High Holy Day mantels were created with something like a kick pleat," said Lorraine Cohen, Temple Anshe Sholom's past president. As is the tradition, the High Holy Days mantels were produced in a white material. The artist, as well as the synagogue's ritual committee, helped pick the fabrics, organize and catalogue

all the mantels, their Yads, and their breastplates. Temma used a combination of sewing, appliqué and embroidery to help create these striking mantels. The Torahs now stand next to each other in flowing complimentary colours. The resulting artwork is something that Temple Anshe Sholom can be proud of and enjoy.

New Rabbi at Beth Jacob

cont'd from page 13

position?

I have a passion for Jewish tradition, a love for Jewish books but in a love for the entire people. At the same time I didn't grow up observant, and understand and respect the decisions people make even when they're different from my own. I look forward to being in Hamilton and meeting members of the entire community, and finding out what issues they feel need to be addressed, and where there's a lack that they believe Beth Jacob can help fill. I also pride myself on being able to bring perspectives to what it is I'm doing. I try not to take things too seriously if they shouldn't, to and give proper weight to the weighty matters that are part of a rabbi's life. I like to joke around when appropriate. I enjoy good conversation, talking about sports with my wife Karen and my friends, and playing with my kids. I try to live what I learn, and hope to bring a sense of humor, a sense of the ineffable, and a sense of joy into my rabbinate.

Kehila News

Kehila's month of April was filled with many wonderful activities and celebrations.

Kehila's Grades 2, 3 and 4 students represented our school in the 36th Rikudiya event in Toronto. The students learned 10 Israeli dances and performed them beautifully.

Our students conducted an egalitarian model Passover Seder and were happy to tell the Passover story to their new friends from the Colin Macdonald School.

Kehila students were proud to participate in the Yom Hashoah ceremony. The Kehila choir sang a beautiful solo and accompanied the Chai Choir for Hatikvah.

At the community Yom Ha'atsmaut celebration, Kehila and HHA danced Israeli dances in unison. The choir sang Israeli songs and concluded with Hatikvah.

On May 7th Kehila held its annual Movie Night, with the screening of Walk on Water. The evening was a great success - the community came out in full force to support the school and the silent auction was a great success.

Congratulations to Max Schwartz, for winning second place at the Morris black speech contest. We also congratulate Emma Zwaigenbaum on a Job well done.

Next year promises to be another great year at Kehila - we already have 26 students enrolled for next year starting in JK and going to Grade 5. We are now accepting enrollment for JK - please contact our Principal Ariel Zaltzman at (905)-529-7725 for more information.

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