

Hamilton Jewish News

SERVING HAMILTON WENTWORTH & AREA

JUNE 2005 VOL 19:5

SIVAN 5765

Dates to Remember

UJA Federation Annual General Meeting

Monday, May 30

Adas Israel Congregation

Reception at 7:00pm

Meeting at 7:30 pm
featuring keynote speaker

Mayor of Haifa

Yona Yahav

UJA Walkathon

Sunday, June 5

at the JCC

Registration 9:30 am
Walk begins at 10:15 am

UJA Federation presents

Amotz Asa-El

Editor, Jerusalem Post
speaking on the topic:

Risking Civil War in Israel:

Myths & Realities

Monday, June 6

7:30 pm at

Temple Anshe Sholom

Make This The Year

You



Go To Jerusalem

Join us on the

Southwestern
Ontario Jewish
Communities
Mission to Israel

Sunday, Nov 6 -

Tuesday, Nov 15

(see details on page 4)

UJA Breaks \$1 Million Goal Again!

For the second time in three years, the United Jewish Appeal Campaign has broken through the one million dollar barrier. As of this writing, final numbers are not available, but there is some chance that the campaign may equal or even break the record results of 2003.

"I extend my thanks to everyone; both donors and campaign volunteers, who supported us in accomplishing this wonderful achievement."

These are the words of Dr. Larry Levin, UJA 2005 men's Campaign Chair when hearing that the goal had been surpassed.

UJA Federation executive director, Gerald Fisher, complimented Federation staff for their support in the campaign. "Christine Nusca, Elaine Levine, Cheryl Stevens and Wendy Schneider were instrumental in all aspects of the UJA campaign operation".

Fisher offered special praise for Dolly Cohen. Mrs. Cohen was the canvasser of the gift that put the campaign over the \$1M dollar mark. Larry Levin echoed those thoughts and extended his gratitude to the staff for a job well done.

Louise Klinghoffer, UJA 2005 Women's Campaign co-chair, was equally ebullient.

"Jo-Ann and I are deeply

"Words can never describe how you feel being there"

grateful to all of the women's campaign captains and Canvassers for all their hard work. We could not have done it without them."

Jo-Ann Pomerantz, who co-chaired the Women's Campaign with Klinghoffer, is thankful that the campaign has reached its goal.

"United Jewish Appeal is the lifeline that holds our community together and that connects us to Israel and the

cont'd on page 4

March of the Living Participants Express The Inexpressible

by
Wendy Schneider

For the five Hamilton adults who participated in this year's March of the Living, the experience can only be described as transformative. This year's March,, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation from Auschwitz, was open to adults as well as students. As a result, the March, which normally attracts 6,000, attracted over 18,000 participants (21,000 by some counts), 1000 of them from Canada. Among the Canadians were five Hamiltonians, including Lorne and Michele Finkelstein, Willy and Sylvie Steen and Larry Kahn.

Asked to describe the experience, Michele Finkelstein, whose two sons are past March of the Living participants, said that although both she and her husband felt they had a deep understanding of the Holocaust, nothing could compare with seeing it for themselves.

"There's no question when you're there it gives you a whole different perspective", she said,

it's something you have to experience and that you can't get by stories. I'm really glad that we had the opportunity to do it."

The March of the Living is a two-week trip, including a week in Poland, whose highlight is a 3-kilometer walk from Birkenau to Auschwitz on Yom HaShoah, followed by a week in Israel, timed to coincide with Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. Michele said that during their week in Poland, , the weather was appropriately miserable, damp, rainy and cold the entire time.

When the day of the March arrived, it was teeming rain.

"We had to take a train to Auschwitz, which in itself was significant. When we arrived at the Warsaw train station, there was a sea of blue jackets and Israeli flags, with hundreds of people boarding trains for Auschwitz." One unforgettable moment occurred when a train arrived from Moscow, carrying students from a Jewish school. "The kids were waving out the windows and started singing

'David Melech Yisrael' and the whole train station erupted in song."

After a train ride of four and a half hours, they reached Birkenau.

"It's incomprehensible and bigger than you could ever imagine," .

Now that she is home, Michele finds that it is almost impossible to describe her experience. "No matter how much we try to describe it, words can never describe how you feel being there, together with 20,000 other people," she said.

Lorne Finkelstein, who was also deeply affected by the experience, is unequivocal that a trip such as this is essential, not only for Jews, but for people from all religions.

"No matter what we know about the history, when you see the detailed organization required to carry this out it's a lesson for all of us. Each of us must be proactive in stopping similar acts from being perpetrated anywhere in the world."

For Willy Steen, who lost several family members in the Holocaust, and whose father was imprisoned at several satellite camps in addition to Auschwitz, taking part in the March gave him an opportunity to bear witness to the experience of his family members and the six million who perished. The week in Poland, which included a side trip to a small town where his father had been a slave labourer, and where Steen discovered that its citizens had participated in a pogrom following the war, has had an empowering effect. . He plans to write a report for Yad Vashem about the incident. "I now realize that to be a witness is not enough. I have to be a witness with a voice. It's not enough to have seen it. I have a duty to tell it - to my children, and to people everywhere".

As they were leaving Poland, Steen recounts, "the heavens opened up," with a sudden downpour of rain. "I looked up and imagined all the martyred souls looking at us and crying

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UJA Federation

Hamilton Jewish News
POB 7258
1030 Lower Lions Club Rd.,
Ancaster, Ontario L9G 3N6

The Hamilton Jewish News
is published 5 times a year by
Hamilton Jewish News Inc. and
Shadowpress

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CIRCULATION

2,000

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 MONDAY, SEPT 5, 2005.

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Recipient of Walkathon 2004 Funds Thanks Hamilton Community

To the UJA Federation of Hamilton,
We would like to wish a happy Pessach to all the children who took part in the Walkathon and sent the proceeds of \$4,606 to SELAH – the Israel Crisis Management Center. We are using this money for youth who were wounded or who lost a parent or sibling and need individual care. During the upcoming Pessach holiday we are organizing two Partners in Healing seminars for youth, which will include hiking through some of the most beautiful areas of Israel, where accompanied by trained SELAH volunteers, the children learn survival skills and are strengthened.

Please convey our thanks for the generous gift from the children of Hamilton. To all of you and your families, we wish you a joyful holiday.

Sincerely,
Ruth Bar On, Executive director

JIAS Canada Wins Award

UJA Federation congratulates Mila Voihanski, JIAS Canada's Executive Director, who was recognized at the 33rd Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies in Baltimore, Maryland, with a Distinguished Service Award. "She symbolizes the hopes, dreams, determination and vitality that immigrants bring to our countries and to our Jewish communities", according to a JIAS Canada press release. "Mila rose through the ranks of JIAS to become a team supervisor, Executive Director of JIAS Toronto and in 2003, the Executive Director of JIAS Canada. Her expert knowledge and professionalism are widely recognized in Canada and the United States. The spark of Jewish commitment lit by her family in the dark days of the Soviet Union has continued to burn brightly and has grown over the years as Mila has dedicated her life to help immigrants make their dreams come true."

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON & AREA
WILL TAKE PLACE ON

Monday, May 30, 2005

Adas Israel Synagogue
Reception 7:00 pm; Meeting 7:30 pm



featuring keynote speaker
Yona Yahav
Mayor of Haifa

speaking on the topic:
*Israel Beyond the Conflict:
Haifa's example of cultivating cooperation
between Arab and Jewish Israelis*

Mayor Yona Yahav was born in 1944 in the city he now governs. He has a vast knowledge of both the public and private sectors, having served as general manager of the Haifa Tourist Development Association, general manager of Yad David Ben Gurion and chairman of Magen Gas and Oil Reserves, Ltd., a government company.

Leslie Lasky, president

UJA FEDERATION TRIBUTE CARDS

648-0605 EXT. 306

JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

Jeanette Tauber - memory of daughter - Chuck & Bea Matchen, Helen Yellin, Gloria Silverman, Helen & Paul Hanover, Carol & Lester Krames. MORRIS WRIGHT - Gloria Silverman, Lore Bronner. MOISHE LEIBTAG - Barbara & Izzy Abraham, Hilton & Shirley Silberg. JACK ROSEN - Barbara & Izzy Abraham. SARA POLAN - Gloria Silverman. Sam Balberman - memory of wife - Barbara & Izzy Abraham. HARRY SILVERSTEIN - Gwen & Harvey Schwab, Helen Yellin. ALFRED LEVIN - Susan & Paul Roth, Carol & Lester Krames, Louise & Oded Klinghoffer. MORLEY KATZ - Shirley Yaffe, Gertrude Goldblatt, Paul & Helen Hanover, Paul & Susan Roth. SETTIMO LALLI - Moura & Bernard Wolpert. IRVING KATZ - Marilyn & Robert Wasserman. MARJORIE BASKIN - Sam & Odette Brownstone, Carol & Lester Krames. Irving & Shirley Levine - memory of grandson - Carol & Lester Krames, JSS Chai Choir, Ruth & Manny Fine, Goldie Robbins

FRAN HOFFMAN - Helen Yellin, Shirley Yaffe, Dolly & Ralph Cohen, Carol & Lester Krames, Gloria Silverman, Bella & Henry Muller. EVE FINKELSTEIN - Helen Yellin, Dolly & Ralph Cohen, Jewish Social Services, Gloria Silverman, Louise Klinghoffer. PEARL COHEN - Helen Yellin. DAVID HOFFMAN - Shirley Yaffe, Dolly & Ralph Cohen, Carol & Lester Krames. MICHAEL FRIEDLAND - Hilton & Shirley Silberg. PHIL YANOVER - Gwen & Harvey Schwab, Barbara & Jack Shinehoft. DAVID YANOVER - Barb & Jack Shinehoft. SUSAN CORMACK - Ruth & Manny Fine

GOLDIE ROBBINS - Special Birthday - Barbara & Izzy Abraham, Sid & Sonia Shumacher, Ida Shuman. ANNA HALPREN - birth of twin granddaughters - Gloria Silverman. JOSEPH & CHERYL GREENBAUM - birth of grandson - Carol & Lester Krames, Susan, Paul, Leah, Jay & Jordan Roth, Brenda & Sol Sandberg and family. LYNNE & GEORGE CZUTRIN - engagement of son Daniel - Gloria Silverman, Jeff & Gilda Ennis, Susan, Paul, Leah, Jay & Jordan Roth. JEFF MEYERSON - 50th Birthday - Ennis Family. LEN & HEATHER RITTER - engagement of your son, Cliff - Susan & Paul Roth, Barb & Jack Shinehoft. ELAINE & CUPPY KATZ - engagement of your daughter, Carolyn - Sam & Odette Brownstone, Carol & Lester Krames. JAY ROTH - Mazel Tov on your engagement - Catherine Weddum. JO-ANN & HAROLD POMERANTZ - birth of grandson - Susan & Paul Roth

THE RALPH TRAVIS ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

In Memory Of

HARRY SILVERSTEIN - Phil & Daphne Leon. MORLEY KATZ - Corinne Travis

Special Occasion

SHELLEY & NATE SAMBORSKY - 50th Wedding Anniversary - Phil & Daphne Leon. GABE & CORINNE CHAIMOVITZ - birth of daughter - Phil & Daphne Leon. FRAN & LLOYD ORSON - birth of grandson - Corinne Travis

TEEF - THE EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

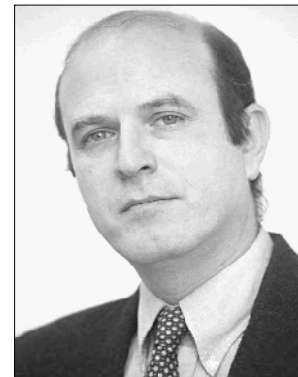
Gerri Bromberg - in memory of father - Allen & Flora Rams. HARRY SILVERSTEIN - Allen & Flora Rams

LEN & HEATHER RITTER - Cliff's engagement to Lindsay - Allen & Flora Rams.

JOANNE & HOWARD BERNSTEIN - engagement of your daughter Amy to Mike - Allen & Flora Rams

UJA Federation and the Canada Israel Committee invite you to hear

Amotz Asa-El
Editor, Jersuaem Post



speaking on the topic:

Risking Civil War in Israel?
Myths and Realities as Disengagement Looms

Monday, June 6, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

Temple Anshe Sholom
215 Cline Avenue North, Hamilton

Sponsored by the Canada Israel Committee
and UJA Federation of Hamilton



Walkathon Chairs Discover Rewards of Community Involvement

The story of how Alma Arguello Yellin and Allyson Brown came to co-chair this year's Walkathon is serendipitous, to say the least. The two struck up a friendship about a year ago when they were participants in a women's study group. When an email was sent out from the Federation office last March, warning that if co-chairs could not be found the annual Walkathon may not take place, both women, independently of each other, responded. Allyson, who checks her email regularly, immediately sent a reply expressing her interest in chairing the event. Meanwhile, Alma heard about the possible cancellation at a Friday night dinner with extended family members. While her initial impulse was to step up, she hesitated, fearing that the demands of the task might be too much for a new mother with a small infant. But, the impulse remained and first thing Monday morning, Alma called the Federation office to let them know she was willing to chair the event. Later that same day, she called her friend Allyson and asked if she would co-chair the walk with her. Allyson was amazed, particularly when she



Alma Arguello Yellin and Allyson Brown

found out that Alma had no idea that she had already volunteered to do just that.

Another area in which the two women were in complete agreement was the decision to direct funds raised by this year's Walk to fight poverty in the Hamilton Jewish community. And, once again, each came to the decision based on their personal experiences. "I was reading the article about poverty in the Jewish community in the Hamilton Jewish News, and it really went to my heart. It was such a great need and I thought we should address the growing poverty levels," she explained. Alma, who hails from Honduras,

and who moved with her parents and siblings to Canada in 1992, brought another perspective.

"My family started from nothing and I remember how hard it was," said Alma, whose parents' professions as psychologist and doctor were not recognized and subsequently, they had to work as cleaners. With no support system, and no extended family in the country, it was left to Alma to care for her siblings when her parents were at work. "Parents try to do their best to provide for their children and a lot of time it is frustrating because they can't. I have a lot of empathy for families that are struggling."

Alma's parents' hard work and values obviously paid off. Their daughter went on to study at the University of Windsor, where she met Barry Yellin, her future husband, when he was president and she vice-president of the Jewish Student Association. They moved back to Hamilton two years ago and are the proud parents of an eight month old son named Aaron.

The community stands to benefit immensely from the partnership of these two creative and dynamic women. Allyson, who is the owner of

That's Entertainment, an entertainment booking agency, has a background in drama. To promote awareness of the walk and encourage participation, Allyson has written a skit for community teens to perform for the students of the Academy and the synagogue afternoon schools. Other new elements in this year's event will include family entertainment by Steve Parton from Avalon Music Academy.

Allyson sees her meeting Alma and their co-chairing of the Walkathon as the work of providence. She met Alma indirectly through a Hebrew course she was taking at the JCC. Her instructor, Avi Shapiro, encouraged her to join a women's study group organized by his wife Rebecca and it was here that she met Alma.

"And full circle here I am back at the JCC, doing something for the community", she said. "The community had done something for me because I wanted to learn Hebrew, had it on the back burner and it was a why not situation. I thought that if they were going to cancel the Walkathon, why not do it? Instead of sitting back and letting other people do things

I felt if I can do it and make a difference than why shouldn't I do it?" Rabbi Hillel would have been proud.

This year's Walkathon will feature a number of additional elements. Committee member, Howard Katz, has been instrumental in arranging for a moment of recognition of the late Aaron Lax immediately prior to the Walk. Aaron was consistently one of the event's most successful fundraisers and for years, would be found at the head of the line carrying the Israeli flag. Katz has also arranged for Hamilton's representatives at the upcoming Maccabiah Games in Israel to accept sport challenges from walkers during the picnic and festivities following the Walk.

Howie Lipton of Nerds on Site will also be at the JCC, and asks Walk participants to bring donations of food or toys for the Kosher Food Bank to load up the Nerds on Site beetle. For more information, or to sponsor, donate or volunteer for the Walk, please call Wendy Schneider at 905-628-0058.

UJA Walkathon 2005 "Families Helping Families"

in the fight against poverty
in our community

SUNDAY, JUNE 5,

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Registration at JCC: 9:30 am

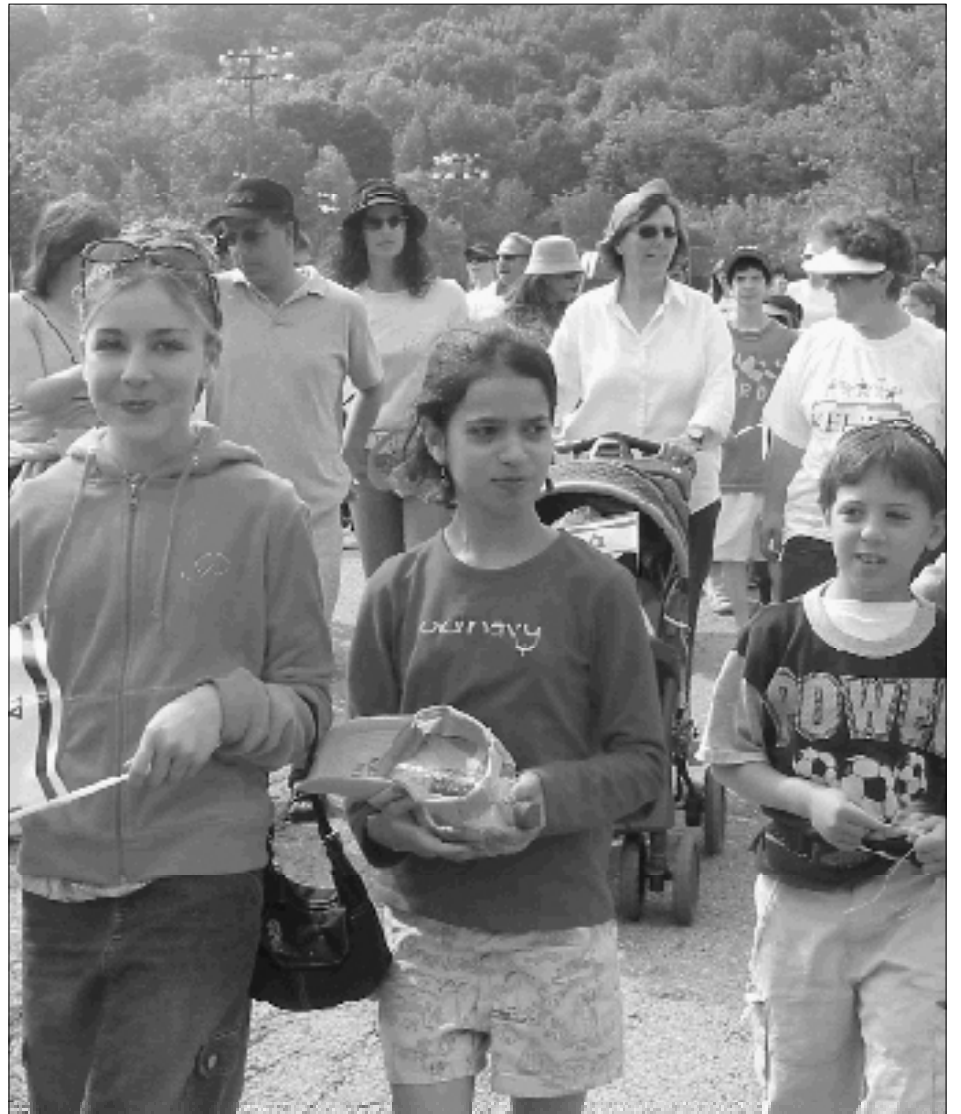
Walkers leave: 10:15 am

Lunch, Games & Entertainment after the walk

For sponsor forms, to make a donation or to volunteer call Wendy Schneider at 905.628.0058

*Prizes will be given to the individual child in each age category who raises the most funds

all funds raised will be directed towards fighting poverty in the Hamilton Jewish community



Bring a kosher food item or a new toy to fill up the Nerds on Site beetle!

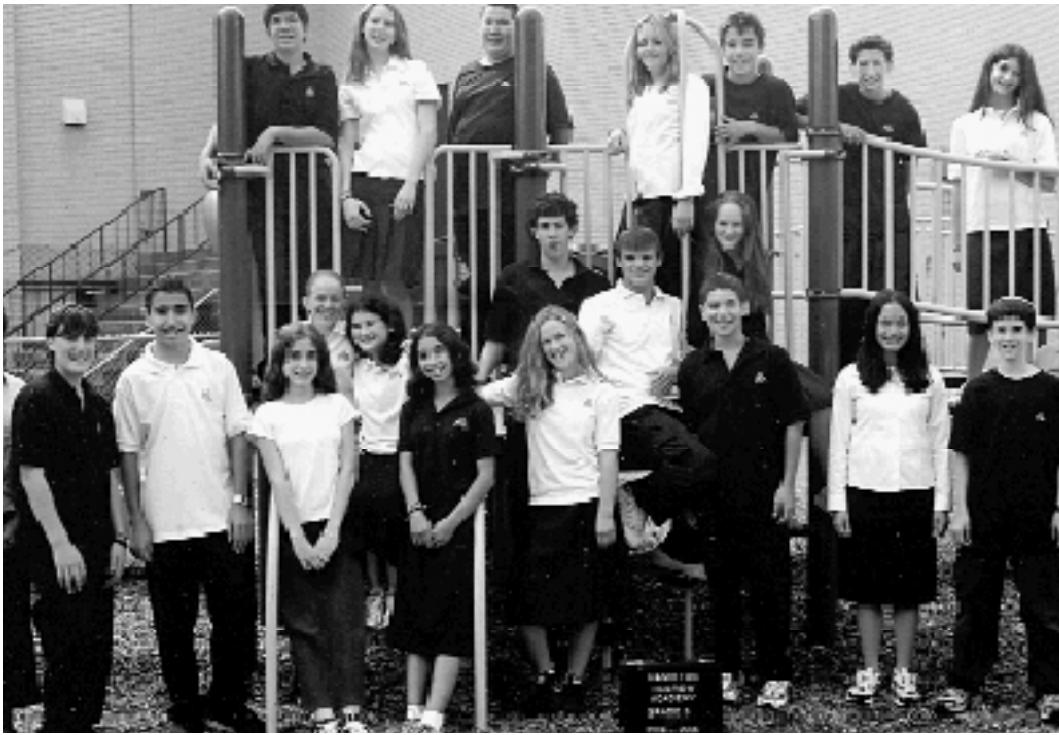
For more information visit our website at www.jewishhamilton.org

Walkathon 2005 Co-Chairs: Allyson Brown & Alma Arguello Yellin
A joint project of UJA Federation and the Jewish Community Centre



Beneficiary Agencies

Mazel Tov to the Hamilton Hebrew Academy Graduates



Twenty vibrant young people are set to graduate from the Hamilton Hebrew Academy this June. Members of the graduating class are (back row, l to r) Geoffrey Zalter, Joanna Comeau, David Kravetsky, Devorah Leah Lavin, Isaac Greenberg, Zakari Krieger, Samara Strub; (middle row, l to r) Ashlee Woolfson, Elli Sheva Selevan, Jonathan Ventresca, Gilon Hershkowitz, Kyle Katz; (front row, l to r) Danile Hosiassohn, Taylor Sabbag, Masha Barsky, Mira Livingston, Bess Martin, Jessie Schoenberg, Vanessa Tamara Sehayek and Simcha Walfish.

UJA Campaign Reaches Goal

cont'd from page 1

hard work that went into making the campaign a success. He also went beyond that to re-iterate the fundamental purposes of the campaign.

"UJA is the community's only mechanism that addresses the issues of 'rescue and relief', 'assisting the vulnerable' and 'strengthening Jewish identity'. If our community intends to have a meaningful future, the UJA campaign must succeed. There is really no alternative."

Lasky said that every single dollar raised by UJA is used to provide support to critically needed programs locally, nationally, in Israel and around the globe. Referencing the recently released statistics on growing Jewish poverty, Lasky said

"We have a moral obligation to continue our support for Israel and global Jewish needs at its current levels. However, we have critical needs right here in Hamilton including

the phenomenon of rapidly rising levels of poverty in the Jewish community that must be addressed right away. Every dollar is precious and no dollar will be wasted."

Planning for the UJA 2006 campaign is already underway. Larry Levin and Jo-Ann Pomerantz will continue in their roles as campaign chairs. Levin was sufficiently motivated by this year's result to agree to continue another year.

"We made great strides for the community in the last twelve months but the job is far from complete. Future campaigns will benefit from a stronger campaign plan and volunteer infrastructure. Along with Jo-Ann and the staff, I am hoping to be able to develop a more effective model for the campaign... one that will really make a difference to future generations.

Canada-Israel Committee Advocacy Poster Competition

CIC is looking for advocacy posters to display across Canada as part of its ongoing Israel-awareness campaign directed at Canadians unfamiliar with Israel beyond the conflict. The posters should present a fresh image of Israel, be thought-provoking and visually engaging. The contest is open to Canadian residents 14 years or over. The winning poster will be published in the Canadian Jewish News; 1st Prize: US\$1000 State of Israel Bonds. Email entries to postercompetition@cicweb.ca by June 30, 2005



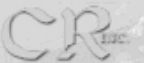
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Join Co-Chairs Amy Katz Martin & Tom Martin on the

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Cost: 2,999* EL AL from Hamilton (via Toronto)
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Included: Airfare, Transfers, All Touring, Most Meals, Deluxe Accommodations, Portage, Airport Tax

Not Included: Gratuities

* with a minimum \$500 donation to the 2006 UJA campaign

**2 nights Tel Aviv; 1 night Upper Galilee;
3 nights Jerusalem**

Highlights:

- p Political and security briefings with government officials
- p Travel to Lebanese Border & The Golan Heights
- p Travel to Massada & The Dead Sea
- p Face-to-Face encounters with Israelis
- p See your UJA dollars in action: Meet with organizations assisting victims of violence & terror & witness extraordinary programs for Russian and Ethiopian olim
- p Friday afternoon picnic with former Hamiltonians living in Israel
- p Shabbat in Jerusalem



Hamilton Mission to Israel 2004 Participants with Natan Sharansky

Call Now:

For more information and to receive a registration form, call Wendy Schneider at 905-628-0058 or click on "Missions" at www.jewishhamilton.org

UJA Federation

Asper Washington Trip Leaves Lasting Impact

by Carol Krames, Hamilton JSS director

Recently, a group of ten Hamilton teenagers and three adults, travelled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies program.

The late Israel Asper, launched the program in Winnipeg in 1997. To date, 4,500 Canadian students from nine provinces have participated in the bi-annual trip.

As the focus of the Asper program is to educate students of diverse backgrounds on the promotion of tolerance and to sensitize Canadian high school students to the consequences of racism, UJA Federation took the initiative to extend an invitation to students from the Black community to participate in the program.

The following remarks were submitted to the HJN by Samuel Yellin, a participant in the program.

The exhibits at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum were very powerful. One topic of discussion focused on the impact of a tall room filled with pictures. In this room, there are countless numbers of photographs all from a single shtetl that was controlled by the Nazis. There are so many different photographs in this room that it seems impossible to see each picture. During our discussions, we viewed this as a



Asper 2005 Hamilton participants: (Back row from l to r) Altair Morgan, Alyssa Dass, Sam Yellin, Aily Leibtag, Kyle Ferreira, Jackie Shulman, Adrea Rowan (Chaperone); (Front row, l to r) Jared Mark, Emily Wong, Max Mandel, Aaron Orkin (Chaperone) Kareem Ferreira; Not pictured: Elaine Levine (Staff)

metaphor for the countless stories of people who went through the Holocaust that cannot be viewed or summarized into one single story.

Another focal point for discussion was a room filled with piles of shoes that were removed from prisoners as they entered one of the camps. The image of the shoes was so powerful because of how many there were, both big and small, and the thought that for each shoe, a person had perished.

Other highlights of the trip included tours of the Lincoln, Jefferson, and Roosevelt Memorials among other memorials and monuments, in

addition to the White House and the Smithsonian museums.

The Asper Foundation trip to Washington was a life changing experience that will remain in the minds of all the participants forever. The visit to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum had a very personal and powerful impact on the students.

UJA staff member, Elaine Levine, added the following comments: During a visit to the Canadian embassy in Washington, 350 students and chaperones from seven provinces across Canada listened to Holocaust survivor Philip Weiss, survivor of five Nazi camps drive home the message that

Holocaust Education Gets a Boost

In response to concern from parents, UJA Federation recently offered its support to the faculty and administration of Hillfield Strathallan College in regard to Holocaust Studies. WWII and Holocaust Studies are reviewed within the grade nine history curriculum.

This spring, students had an opportunity to view the Steven Spielberg film "Schindler's List". According to parents who contacted the Federation office, some of the students had a hard time incorporating the material. This, in turn, led to some hurtful comments being directed at Jewish students. Parents brought this to the attention to both the school administration and to the UJA Federation office.

To their credit, both administration and faculty understood this to be a serious matter and took immediate steps to address it. In order to broaden their personal understanding of the topic, members of the school's history faculty attended the community Yom HaShoah observance. The following week, the school organized a grade nine assembly that was devoted to Holocaust education. Immediately following the assembly, the grade nines broke down into smaller groups and engaged in dialogue with local Holocaust survivors.

Later this spring, faculty members will attend the Holocaust Studies Teacher Seminar.

In the fall of 2005 the students will all be invited to participate

with 500 others in the annual Holocaust Studies Student Seminar. Both the teacher and student seminars are programs of UJA Federation of Hamilton.

Federation leadership expressed its gratitude to Headmaster Mathews for the school's immediate response to an unsettling event. Hopefully, this intervention will lead to greater sensitivity on the part of the student body. Also as a result of this intervention, the school administration and faculty are much more aware of the resources available to them through the UJA Federation office and its national network.

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CLU, ChFC, CFSB
Top of the Table MDRT



Ron Bukhman
B.A., M.Sc. (Econ.)
Member - MDRT

UJA Federation is delighted to introduce the community to its new website sponsors Marik and Ilya Pinassi, owners of Parkway and Upper James Toyota. Marik purchased Parkway Toyota in 1980 and built Upper James Toyota a few years later. Son, Ilya, 29, joined the company in September of 2004. One could say that the automotive industry is in their blood. Ilya's maternal grandfather operated a used car and salvage yard in California. His paternal grandfather was a mechanic with his own garage in Iran.



Marik's life story is riveting. He grew up in Iran, where his parents had fled to from central Russia in the wake of political upheaval and economic hardship. In the mid 1960s, at the age of 18, he moved to California, where he spent the heyday of the hippie era struggling to earn a living while attending UCLA. With a degree in Library Science under his belt, Marik met and married his wife, Cory. In 1974 Marik paid a visit to his parents, who were still living in Iran, now in the midst of an economic boom. Concerned about his mother's health, he and Cory, a clothing design student, moved back to Iran, where she found a job teaching and he was the sales manager for Toyota. Both their children were born in Iran. But despite their financial success, life in Iran was fraught with danger. Jews in Iran had to be very discreet about revealing their religion, particularly in the days leading up to and following the overthrow of the Shah. The family made their escape to England only one day before Ayatollah Khomeini took power.

"British airways had two little airplanes. We were walking on the tarmac, and right when we got to the steps they closed the doors on us. We had to wait another 8 - 10 hours. My wife and my dad went to get a passport for my daughter... It was a nightmare," he recalled. After a year in London, England, during which the family moved around several times, Marik brought his family to Canada in 1980, where they settled in the tranquility of Mississauga. During these years, Ilya and his sister, Nama, spent every summer staying at their paternal grandparents' moshav near Ashdod.

Not unlike many children of successful entrepreneurs, Ilya never dreamed he would end up in the family business. He has traveled extensively, worked as a mason's apprentice and a high school teacher. But last year he decided to join his father.

"The reason I came into the business", he said, "is because I wanted to work with my father. I'm fortunate that from the age of 14, I've been really good friends with both my parents. I feel a sense of responsibility as I've always felt that they've supported me."

Ilya also speaks with great love and pride about his mother, a potter, who he describes as having "moxie". "Could you imagine my mom, this fair skinned woman from San Bernadino, California, going to Iran to join my father? While working in Iran as a teacher she used to have to carry a ruler to prevent men from touching her."

Marik is clearly pleased to have his son working at his side.

"It is a very safe feeling having someone who you trust implicitly taking care of things," he said.

With their sponsorship of the Jewish Hamilton website, the Pinassis expect that their familiarity with the local Jewish community will grow. Asked about their willingness to invest in the local community, both father and son responded that their decision to sponsor the website is not about selling cars. For Marik, sponsoring the website is his personal contribution towards helping Hamilton Jews stay connected and maintain their Jewish identity. For Ilya, it's about supporting and being part of Hamilton's community.

Local Events

March: "A surprisingly rejuvenating experience"

by
Larry Kahn

I recently had the privilege of joining 80 members from across Canada as part of the Canadian Coast to Coast contingent of the March of the Living.

I had never had the desire to go to Poland, but felt that I would regret passing up this opportunity. We visited many sites (and remnants of sites) including Krakow, Lublin, Warsaw, Majdanek, Auschwitz, Birkenau and Treblinka.

About 20,000 people from around the world participated in the March, which ended with a moving tribute in the grounds of Birkenau, with speeches by the Prime Ministers of Israel and Poland, the Chief Rabbi of Israel, and the unforgettable Elie Wiesel.

The omnipresent feeling of loss and despair was somewhat counter-balanced by seeing sites reminding us of the incredibly rich and diverse Jewish life and culture which had existed until then.

The Poland part of the trip ended in Warsaw with a well conducted educational tour of what remained of the Warsaw Ghetto. A late evening gathering



Larry Kahn, with Lorne and Michele Finkelstein at Birkenau

was held at the Rappaport Memorial, commemorating the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. We were then whisked off to the airport for our 3:00 am flight to Israel.

There was a tangible elation upon arriving in Tel Aviv, in distinct contrast to Poland, which remained for the remainder of our stay. I had visited Israel many times before, but this time seemed so much more special. The week in Israel coincided with Yom Hazikaron, Yom Ha'atzmaut, and included visits to the Golan, the Kinneret, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. We had fascinating discussions with

several well informed speakers on a variety of topics.

I was fortunate to meet my father, who came up for a few days from Cape Town. The week ended with an afternoon at Yad Vashem, and culminated with a final gathering at the Rappaport Memorial at Yad Vashem, completing the circle from Poland to Israel. The March of the Living was a highly educational, emotional and surprisingly rejuvenating experience, made richer by the presence of survivors, who have made us witnesses to the unimaginable. May we never forget.

March of the Living cont'd from page 1

that we were leaving them."

Initially, Sylvie Steen did not want to go on the March.

"I don't have direct connections to the Holocaust and I thought it was going to be too hard emotionally on Willy." She reluctantly agreed to go, however, to support her husband whom she knew would not go without her.

The experience was transformative, and like so many other participants, Sylvie said that the imagination simply couldn't conceive of the enormity of what they witnessed. Some things will never be the same. Like the song, Am Yisrael Chai, for instance, which March

participants spontaneously began to sing when they were gathered at Auschwitz.

"When I came from Romania as a teenager it was just a song. There was a moment when the Israelis were singing and everyone joined in and all of a sudden the meaning was so clear."

Sylvie never imagined that she would be telling her children and friends that this is a trip that must be experienced. Nor did she imagine that after the trip, she'd be thanking her husband for taking her.

Public Forum on Darfur Attracts 400

by
Wendy Schneider

Approximately 400 people, from among the local Jewish, Muslim and Sudanese communities came together last April 28 at the Hamilton Convention Centre to participate in Action For Darfur, a public forum organized by the Hamilton Jewish Federation and the Hamilton Muslim Association. The public forum was spearheaded by community activist, Dr. Lorne Finkelstein and Hamilton Muslim association president, Javid Mirza, who worked together on the widely-publicized fundraising campaign on behalf of the Afghan boy who was treated at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children last year. Its goal was to enlighten the public about the horrors taking place in Darfur and encourage people to put pressure on Canadian politicians to have Canada play a stronger role in peacekeeping efforts. Among the panel of speakers were Dr. Norman Epstein, founder and co-chair of CASTS (Canadians Against Slavery and Torture), Tragi Mustafa, founder of 'Save Women-Sudan' and Senator Mobina Jaffer, the first East Indian and Muslim woman to be appointed to the Canadian Senate. Each impassioned speaker encouraged audience members to engage in letter writing campaigns and activism on behalf of the victims of genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Finkelstein, who believes that it is incumbent upon Jews everywhere to take action to



Javid Mirza (left) and Lorne F Finkelstein spearheaded the event

prevent atrocities and genocide from occurring anywhere in the world, was very pleased with the program, although he was somewhat disappointed that the local Jewish community didn't turn up in larger numbers.

"If we as Jews expect fair treatment about our concerns in the media, than the Jewish community has to show interest in other people's problems within the community and beyond", he said.

On the other hand he is gratified that extensive media coverage both before and after the event brought the atrocities to public attention, as well as demonstrating that Hamilton's Jewish and Muslim communities can work together on humanitarian issues.

"This relationship [between Jews and Muslims] is very unique," he said, a fact that was brought home to him when a female rabbi from Kansas City who he met on the March of the Living, expressed amazement that Jews and Muslims could work together.

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For more information contact: Kyla Szymczyk, at (905) 522-1155 ext. 3549

YOM HA'SHOAH



Candle lighting by six members of the local survivor community and Gabi Ronen, representing fallen Israeli soldiers.

Temple Anshe Sholom was filled to capacity for this year's Yom HaShoah commemoration. The evening featured dramatic readings, songs, testimonials and candle lighting in memory of the six million martyrs and fallen Israeli soldiers. The JCC thanks the Yom HaShoah committee for the long hours and diligent planning that made this event a huge success.



Members of the Chai Choir at the Yom HaShoah commemoration

CHECK OUT THESE SCENES

FROM

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

&

Over 420 community members came together at the JCC on May 12 for the annual Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations. Praise for the program's new format was overwhelmingly positive: The evening began with a procession of Hamilton Jewish day and afternoon school children carrying Israeli flags started off the program, followed by individual presentations by each school. The JCC bubble was set up to include a marketplace of booths that either represented srael-based organizations or sold Israeli products. Dee jays from Mandell World got the crowd boogeying with a varied selection of Israeli folk dance, Israeli rock and American pop music. Last but not least was the buffet serving traditional Israeli food. The JCC thanks Racheli and Moishe Chaimovitz and their committee for all their diligent efforts in organizing this wonderful event. A special thanks to Dora Ann Cohen and the Jewish National Fund for organizing wonderful children's activities. Thanks also to the dozens of community volunteers who lent a hand. We couldn't have done it without you and we hope that the excited smiles of the over 200 children in attendance made it all worthwhile. Last but not least, our thanks to everyone who came out for the event.



JCC president, Howard Eisenberg, Moishe and Racheli Chaimovitz present Cheryl Greenbaum with the winning prize for the JCC Lottery's Dinner For Two anywhere in the World.



The Jewish Community Centre Pages

Passover Camp at the JCC



Special Mentschen

Honourable Mention

The HJN congratulates the following community members: Paul Perell, son of Ettie and the late Harry Perell, who was recently appointed to the Ontario Superior Court. Perell received both his LL.M('89) and Ph.D ('98) from Osgoode. Justice Perell has been teaching the Real Estate Transactions course at the Law School since 1991 and is widely recognized as an outstanding professor who is highly sought after by our students.

Ariel Zaltzman, principal of the Kehila Jewish Community Day School, who has been selected as one of just 18 participants from across North America for Project SuLaM: Study, Leadership and Mentoring, a unique professional development program funded by The AVI CHAI Foundation. Zaltzman, according to organizers, "brings a special combination of strong leadership skills, a proven track record of success, and a desire to learn."

Naomi Loewith, who gave an eloquent introduction to keynote speaker when she introduced Alan Dershowitz at this year's Negev Dinner. Naomi, who recently graduated from Harvard Law School, will be working under Supreme Court Justice Morris Fish in Ottawa for the next 12 months. Despite a standing offer of employment from a New York law firm, Naomi, who has an interest in international law and foreign policy, said that she will most likely stay in Canada.

Drs. William Goldberg and Joseph Minden, for being recognized by the St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation for their

distinguished service in healthcare at St. Joseph's Hospital and within the City of Hamilton. Dr. Goldberg served as Chief of the Department of Medicine at St. Joseph's Healthcare from 1962 to 1982. Dr. Minden worked as a General Surgeon at St. Joseph's Healthcare from 1949 to 1997.

Nikki Goldberg, 17, for winning the Youth Volunteer of the Year Award by the Town of Ancaster. Nikki's list of volunteer activities leaves one breathless. They include volunteering with Beth Jacob Synagogue in Out of the Cold, swimming one on one with disabled children at the Ancaster Aquatic Centre, volunteer coaching of children's sports teams, volunteering in the maternity ward at McMaster Hospital, playing an active role in the Ancaster youth activity council, and serving as president of the Girl's Athletic Association at Ancaster High, just to name a few.

Sari Richter, 17, whose design for Joel Starkman's Artistic Production Company's The Door Project, has been chosen by the Sheraton Hamilton as company's door. Sari's "door" will be displayed at the Canada Marine Discovery Centre on Thanksgiving weekend and subsequently auctioned off for the benefit of a charity of the Sheraton's choice.

Hanna Strub, 17, who was one of six North American USY participants in the annual AIPAC conference in Washington, D.C.

Lives Remembered

MARJORIE BASKIN

Born in Denver Colorado on Jan 5, 1927; died in Hamilton on April 26, 2005.

Marjorie Shatz Baskin was a child of the Western United States and I believe many of her wonderful qualities were forged in the pioneer atmosphere of Denver, Colorado where she was born in 1927. She grew up in difficult circumstances without a father and was expected to assume significant family responsibilities at an early age. Yet, she exemplified the forthrightness and optimism of the open plains and high mountains; she had a self-reliant can-do attitude and she was convinced that human beings could and must effect positive social changes. My mother was utterly without malice or pettiness of any kind and was always prepared to meet people with interest and enthusiasm. However, she had no patience or respect for complainers or for those who, in her view, did not take their responsibilities seriously. To call someone "irresponsible" was one of her harshest rebukes. And to invoke another of her dichotomies, she was always a giver and never a taker.

In her Colorado youth, my mother attended Temple Emanuel, a classical Reform synagogue with a largely German-Jewish congregation, where she was confirmed. Her admirable mother, my later grandmother, Elfrieda Bronstein, who had also grown up in Denver and was also confirmed at Temple Emanuel, empowered my mother to find her own path. Despite my grandmother's widowhood and marginal financial situation, she told my mother that she could attend any college or university of her choosing. My mother went to the public library and poured over college catalogs until she found her perfect match at Antioch College with its work study plan and progressive social attitudes. At eighteen, my mother boarded the train in Denver with her trunk and set out on her own for Yellow Springs, Ohio. Through Antioch's coop job program, she worked in New York City and in Chicago; alone in big cities while still a teenager she found friends and community and made memories that stayed with her throughout her life. This flexibility and experience of coping in different environments made my mother into an intrepid person who welcomed new encounters, new people, and new undertakings. She was not afraid to take risks and admired others who were willing to take a chance with change. A math major in college, my mother originally planned to attend medical school before love and marriage turned her energies in another direction. It was highly fitting that so much of her later career was devoted to McMaster University Medical School and hospital.

Upon graduation from Antioch, my newly married parents moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where my father became Rabbi at the reform temple. Growing up in Denver, a largely white and racially uniform city, Marjorie was appalled by the casual and brutal racism she saw in the segregated Louisiana of the late 1940's. This was the final formative experience, I think, that made her the woman she became.

Let me list only some of the things she did: Elected eight times to the Hamilton Public School Board, which she served as Chairman; Chairman of the Committee on Aging of the Hamilton District Social Planning and Research Council; Co-founder and first President of Hamilton's transit system for the aged and disabled; Board Member of the Hamilton Wentworth Children's Aid Society; Board Member of St. Peter's Geriatric Centre; Organizer of the Hamilton School's Board elementary lunch program; Her activities on behalf of the Jewish community were equally wide-ranging and impressive. They included a stint as Chair of the Women's Division of the Hamilton United Jewish Appeal, the organization of a women's study program which served all of Hamilton's congregations, and in her earlier years, the organization of the Temple Anshe Sholom nursery school and Youth Group.

In addition to these volunteer activities, Marjorie worked at McMaster for twenty-one years in various roles. She started as a research assistant in the Department of Metallurgy and her name appeared on 15 published scholarly papers. When the Medical School opened, Marjorie moved there and spent many happy years in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Later she became Director of Public Affairs for the Faculty of Health Sciences, and was serving in that role when she retired.

My parents were married for 57 years. Theirs was a harmonious relationship, characterized by comradeship, mutual respect and admiration. Marjorie more than succeeded in the demanding role of being a Rabbi's wife. From the time she and my father first arrived in Hamilton in 1949, she stood by his side and gave so much of herself in so many ways during the many years he served this congregation.

Marjorie made more of her time than most of us. I recall once, when I was about ten or eleven, waking up in the morning and feeling unwell. I told my mother, who responded characteristically: I don't have time to be sick, and neither do you! She didn't have time, because she was busy being a devoted wife and mother of three, and holding down a series of increasingly important jobs.

Marjorie adored her children and grandchildren. She told me recently how proud she is of everyone. She loved family gatherings, and went to great lengths to make sure they happened regularly. She encouraged everyone in his or her interests and pursuits. A grandchild only had to make mere mention of a topic of interest, or a sport, and the child would soon be engulfed in a plethora of books, toys and videos relating to the subject.

Marj made lifelong relationships and touched the lives of many people with her generosity of time and spirit, and with her straightforward, honest manner. Marj knew how to be there for her friends when they needed her most. She loved the people she knew and really enjoyed being a part of the many groups she participated in throughout her life: through the Temple and extended affiliations in the wider Jewish community; through her work at McMaster and in community social service; and through her book groups, bridge and Mahjong groups; theatre groups, gourmet get-togethers; the people she and my father met many years of travel with ElderHostel; and countless other affiliations.. My father told me recently that she had developed yet another network of friends, through the Antiquarian book business they've run together for the past 15 years. She especially enjoyed finding rare, out-of-print books for people, and made many new friends in cyber-space.

Majorie lived her life the way she wanted. 'I Did It My Way' could have been her theme song. She was realistic about her life and her death. In her final days she was able to say that she felt grateful to have had a life of meaning and fulfillment, in her family, her friends, her work, her service to others, and in her many activities. It is my and my siblings' privilege today to praise our mother and her works. For us, she will never be excelled. May her memory be for a blessing.

by Judith, David and Susan Baskin



Marjorie Baskin



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Survivors remembered for keeping memory of the Holocaust alive

I would like to speak of and remember two of the survivors who in spite of their horrendous experience, came to this country, made a life, established loving families and also were very active in keeping the memory of all those who perished alive, working hard on their behalf.

I am speaking of Gary Frydman and Jack Rosen. They came from different countries and backgrounds but were brought together by their experience in the Holocaust and their desire to do their utmost in the Hamilton Holocaust Remembrance Committee. They were active also in the Grand Order of Israel and the Hamilton Supporters of Israel.

Gary Frydman was 20 years old when Poland was occupied. He lived in Warsaw with his family, worked for his father in a men's wear factory. Even before the ghetto was officially established, life for Jews was unbearable. Men had to work clearing the rubble after bombardments, digging ditches and so on. Food was starting to be scarce. Gary left with two friends heading east, really not knowing where to go, only to get away from Warsaw, where life was unbearable. He left behind his family, parents and siblings.

Gary and his friends were captured by Russian soldiers, accused of being spies and almost executed. By a strange twist of fate they escaped and later were transferred to Ural, where they worked. After Stalingrad, they formed with other Poles a battalion, which fought with the Red Army. They helped liberate Poland and discovered what happened in Sobibor, Opole, Majdanek, Treblinka and Auschwitz. Until then they did not even know about camps. Of course, Gary found out that none of his family survived. After the end of the war he came to Canada.

Jack Rosen went another way. He had the "European Tour" of concentration camps. He was only 14 years old when deported from Rumania to Auschwitz with his family. He was one of those who saw his family go to side of

the ones sentenced to go to the gas chambers and crematoria. Jack was also told the truth by one of the inmates. He was then shipped to a labour camp in Reinsdorf, Germany, later Bergen-Belsen, Theresienstadt. It is hard to imagine what all Jack saw as a young boy and what it did to him. But he came to Canada and started his life again, as well.

The two men were different in some ways. Gary never spoke about his experiences, but was instrumental in starting the Hamilton Holocaust Remembrance Committee (HHRC) He and some of his friends who were also survivors started to commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in the old Jewish Community Centre. This date was later chosen as the Yom Hashoah by Israel. Under his leadership the HHRC became an important and indelible part of Jewish life in Hamilton and the Yom Hashoah attendance and profile became one of the highest in the community. Gary was the one who was ready to go to friends and collect money for projects like the statue in the cemetery of the Grand Order and the one in the Jewish Community centre, both in memory of the 6 million victims of the Shoah.

Jack, on the other hand, was one of the most frequent speakers in the schools all over Hamilton. He spoke about his experiences and influenced young people forever. The schools would send glowing letters about his visits.

In 1999 the Government of Canada honoured him with a Special Civic Citation. This honour was one of only 50 handed out and it was for his outstanding work and contributions to the community in Holocaust education.

These two gentlemen will always be remembered for their tireless work on behalf of the Shoah victims and we will miss both them and their contribution to the Holocaust Education.

"Shul Business" a walk back in time

by
Wendy Schneider

They say that history repeats itself, and for those Hamilton Jewish community members who have been around since the 1960s, Amy Back's upcoming show "There's no business like shul business" is a perfect opportunity to indulge in a little nostalgia. Amy's mother, Muriel Back, was something of a legend in her time, when she would write shows and revues as fundraisers for the Beth Jacob Synagogue and the Beverley Golf club. Brooklyn born, Muriel moved to Hamilton in 1954 as a newly wed with her husband, Torontonian, Harold Back. Muriel, who had a gift for penning clever lyrics, would take Broadway songs and rewrite the lyrics to reflect Jewish life in Hamilton. She would cast her shows using local talent and her shows were always sellouts.

"She was a lover of words and she was very funny," said Amy.

One of Muriel's most popular shows was "Westdale Story", the story of the daughter of the gabbai of one of the synagogues who falls in love with the son of the rabbi of another synagogue. The late Helen Greenbaum played the role of Maria "Dubinsky" and the male lead, played by Hy Caplan, serenaded her with the words, "Dubinsky, I just met a girl named Dubinsky". An unforgettable song from another of Muriel's shows was sung by Max Mintz, to the tune of Aveenu Malkenu. Others who played memorable feature roles in Muriel's shows included the late Lillian Goldblatt and Helen Levy.

About a year ago, Amy, who takes classes in creative writing and poetry, was approached by David Steinberg, Larry Rosenberg and Rabbi Biller and asked if she would consider doing a show along the same lines as her mother's as a fundraiser for Beth Jacob. As a full fledged dramatic production appeared daunting, Amy at first thought she might do an evening of song parodies.

"I had some ideas and I started writing, but very quickly I realized there had to be some kind of a story to pull it all together."

She came up with a plot about a brother and sister who are twins and who live on a planet named "Ekvelt", meaning the tail end of the world.

"They are destined to rule their planet but they fight all the time and are driving the king and queen crazy." The king and queen consult with their wizard, (played by Barry Walfish) who tells them that he will look around the galaxy to see if he can find a group of people who fight all the time but can be constructive. "Of course he finds the Jews", Amy reveals.

There's No Business Like Shul Business has evolved into a full musical production that includes a total of 24 songs. Included in the show are "Four Jews in a Room Bitching", a parody of a song from the hit show, Falsettos, "When You're a Jew", sung to the tune of "When you're a Jet", from Westside Story, and "The Shul that I Join", sung to the tune of "On the Street Where You Live, from My Fair Lady. A special highlight of the show will be the return of Max Mintz, singing Muriel Back's version of Aveenu Malkenu, this time with additional two verses, penned by her daughter.

For Amy, the process of writing and producing this show has been a personal growth experience as well as a labour of love.

"It's exciting to have an idea, and turn it into a song that tells a story", she said, "Every song I wrote would be my favourite and then I would come up with another and that would become my favourite."

Describing the first rehearsal, when her cast of 30 stood up on the stage singing her songs, accompanied by Jordan Abraham on the piano, Amy was overwhelmed with emotion.

"To see and hear people



Amy Back

singing the songs that I wrote the words to - I don't know even how to begin to describe that feeling."

Given that she has always been a big fan of the Broadway musical and that Stephen Sondheim is one of her heroes (it's her goal to see every show he's written), it seems logical that Amy would be able to have pulled this huge project together. But she knows she couldn't have done it alone.

"Important as it is to have a dream and do it yourself, it's equally important to get people to come along with you and help."

What is especially pleasing to Amy is that the cast is made up of a cross section of people whose paths would not normally cross. Cast members have been recruited from all three synagogues as well as from the non-Jewish community.

"That, in a way, is my message from the show. It doesn't really matter what kind of a Jew or a person you are. The only way that we are going to survive this next period of history is by being together and not letting our differences between us keep us apart."

There's no Business like Shul Business will be performed on Wednesday, June 17, at 7:30 pm at the Beth Jacob Synagogue. Tickets can be purchased by calling 905-522-1351.



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Storyteller Impresses Temple Crowd

by
Barry Rosen

Temple Anshe Sholom hosted Peninnah Schram, the premier Jewish storyteller in North America, as our Scholar in Residence during the weekend of May 13 to 15. She is not only a storyteller, but also an author, recording artist and Associate Professor of Speech and Drama at Yeshiva University. She is the founding director of the Jewish Storytelling Center in New York City and has won numerous awards.

It quickly became obvious that Peninnah Schram is a woman of great knowledge, considerable energy, and wonderful enthusiasm toward her subject.

There were a total of five performances: Shabbat storytelling; a storytelling concert for children and parents; a Saturday evening storytelling cabaret (also starring Hamilton's Charly Chiarelli and Dan Yashinsky from Toronto); a workshop on family storytelling; and storytelling at Shalom Village.

I had the opportunity to attend each of the five events,

all of which were not only educational but also supremely entertaining. I especially appreciated the workshop on family storytelling, which involved considerable audience participation and where I learnt a lot about the stories behind the first names of some well-known members of our community.

One woman who attended the Saturday night cabaret informed me that she was so enthralled by the storytelling that she walked home after the cabaret ended, forgetting that she had actually driven to the Temple! Our weekend with Peninnah Schram was a wondrous experience, and one that we will long remember. If you haven't heard this superb storyteller, I encourage you to do so if you ever have the opportunity in the future.

If you are interested in learning more about storytelling, you are cordially invited to attend the storytelling group that meets monthly at Temple Anshe Sholom. For more information, please e-mail Barry Rosen at brosen@primus.ca, with "storytelling" as the subject.

Hadassah Medical Organization Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

"An example to the world that hatred and suspicion can be overcome by people of goodwill" - this is how a nominating petition characterized Hadassah Hospital, the mainstay of the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) in Jerusalem.

In recognition of the Hospital's work in promoting Jewish-Arab cooperation and human values, the HMO has been nominated for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize.

Hadassah Hospital delivers the highest standard of medical care through the expertise of its renowned staff and using state-of-the-art technology. Over 600,000 patients of all races, religions and nationalities are treated annually. A terror

attack victim might be lying in bed next an injured terrorist. Jews, Muslims, Christians, Druze, Israelis and Palestinians are all treated with equal care. The Hospital has also trained Palestinian medical specialists in the most up-to-date techniques.

The Nobel Prize winner is chosen by a committee of five, appointed by the Norwegian Parliament. Nominators lauded HMO for operating according to humanitarian values that require giving a high level of health care to people of all ages, religions and ethnic origins. HMO has worked flawlessly, they noted, to implement these values throughout the raging terrorist violence these past four-and-a-half years.

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Community

Kehila Jewish Community School

What an exciting Spring at Kehila! We prepared for Pesach by visiting Rabbi Itkin's Matzah Factory. Thanks Rabbi, for a great experience which the kids (and parents) enjoyed!

Immediately before our model Seder, the students experienced the miracle of leaving Egypt and being freed from slavery. Our staff made this a truly unforgettable experience for the children. After leaving Egypt, we celebrated our freedom at our model seder. Each child presented what they had learned about Pesach. As a special honour, grandparents, who are devoted volunteers, played special roles at the seder. Proud parents, grandparents, friends and residents from Shalom Village, attended our seder and helped us make the celebration of our freedom even more joyous.

Our PTA, as well as many friends and supporters in the community, helped us reach our goal in the Spring flower fundraiser event. For a lot of families in our community, it was the first time they had an opportunity to hear about



Ariel Earn and Sari Horwood make charoset for the Kehila model seder

Kehila.

In the past two weeks, Kehila students have participated in school activities commemorating Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzmaut. Our children also participated in the JCC Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration together with all the community schools.

On May 15th, Kehila's 3rd Annual Film Night, another successful program organized by our parent body, was a smash

hit. Through the generosity of director, Anita Doran, and producer, Jonathan Orson, Kehila showed the films 'Elliott Smelliot' and 'Not a Fish Story.' Guests enjoyed the highly entertaining films, and a gala atmosphere that included a dessert buffet, glamorous decor, and an enormously successful silent auction. We have already had requests for tickets to next year's event!

The Jewish Genealogical Society

The Jewish Genealogical Society - Hamilton & Area is looking forward to a bright new year. In their first year they have held 10 regular meetings offering a variety of speakers and topics plus a special session at the Hamilton Family History Centre. In addition they launched a website in January at www.jgsh.org which has already enjoyed over 1300 visitors. They hope that they are moving in a direction which will attract additional members in the coming year. The new membership year began on May 1st so they'll be working hard to top the total of 32 members they attracted last season.

The Society will hold its Annual General Meeting at 7:30 on June 22nd at Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Avenue North, Hamilton. At this meeting the membership will approve their first By-Laws and a vote will be held for the first duly elected Board of Directors under this document. This is a true milestone for them. Following the AGM they have a special presentation planned which should prove both interesting and amusing.

The plan is for another visit to the Hamilton Family History Centre over the summer months. Last summer's visit proved very popular with the existing membership who found it was just what they needed to begin their journeys into their family's history. Of course next season's speakers are already being discussed in the hope of finding many diversified topics which will interest their membership. New members are, of course, encouraged to contribute their ideas for next season.

The Jewish Genealogical Society - Hamilton & Area

(JGS - H&A) is a non-profit organization that is run by members for members. One of our goals is to encourage genealogical research by offering guest speakers, workshops and help with individual research which we hope will stimulate us all to search our Jewish roots. A secondary goal is that of promoting and preserving access to Jewish records and resources. Recently genealogical information from Eastern Europe has become more accessible. Yet sometimes knowing how to find the right resources can be confusing and frustrating.

We offer:

- The ability to find and network with others pursuing the same types of research from around the world as well as within JGS - H&A;
- Meetings throughout the year, some with guest speakers to help your research skills and others with speakers to add depth to your knowledge base;
- Guidance, support and encouragement as you search for ancestors. This includes promoting awareness of internet resources, local resources available to trace Jewish ancestry, as well as those resources which require a bit of travel to access;
- The opportunity to share research techniques as well as those success stories which really do happen!

Membership in JGS - H&A is open to all regardless of religious affiliation or level of experience. We have members who are just beginning their journeys as well as some who are published genealogists.

For more information contact Hazel at HamiltonJewishGen@canada.com or phone 905-524-3345.

Hamilton Hebrew Academy

Join Us in Building a Caring Community



The Hamilton Hebrew Academy is an inclusive Jewish day school providing excellence in both general and Judaic studies for students in play school through grade 8. The HHA strives to instill in its students a love for Jewish knowledge and values, as well as a strong identification with the Jewish people and the land of Israel.

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