

Hamilton Jewish News

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Vishniac Exhibit Comes to Hamilton

Historic moment for Holocaust education

GERALD FISHER



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In observance of the third annual United Nations mandated International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, McMaster University will host an exhibit of selected photos from Roman Vishniac's "A Vanished World." A series of specially hosted, related events will take place in coordination with the exhibit's presence in Hamilton beginning on January 27, the date on which the U.N. commemoration will be observed.

Between 1935 and 1939, as anti-Semitism was growing in Germany, Vishniac traveled to Eastern Europe and took his acclaimed photographs of the culture of poor Jews in mountainous villages and urban ghettos. At first commissioned by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee as part of a fundraising initiative, Vishniac was so affected by the project that he chose to continue it even after the commission was complete. He traveled to the ghettos of Russia, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia, and Lithuania for years after he worked for the Committee. Aware of

Hitler's mission to exterminate the Jews, Vishniac was intent on preserving the memory of the Jewish people. He also hoped to promote awareness of the atrocities that were occurring in Nazi territories. Vishniac's monumental accomplishment provided the world with its last, and in some cases, only record of people and communities that have truly vanished from the earth.

Since the adoption of the UN resolution in 2005, the U.N. Association - Hamilton Branch, with UJA Federation support, has organized the first two commemorations. In describing what these observances mean to her, event chair and organizer Madeleine Levy informed the HJN that "we want to continue these as annual events with broader educational opportunities. For as we approach the 63rd anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz - a symbol of the darkest moments in human history - it remains clear that in parts of the world, the lessons of the Holocaust have not been learned."

Please see VISHNIAC on page 19



PICTURED ABOVE: Some of Hamilton's Lions of Judah: (from l to r) Sasha Weisz, Rita Shapiro, Dana Horwood, Liz Tick, Cindy Kam, Cele Steinberg, Madeleine Levy, Batia Phillips, Sandy Seigel, Cheryl Greenbaum, Anna Taylor, Rhoda Katz and Shirley Molot.

UJA 2008 off to encouraging start

GERALD FISHER

Perhaps, it's the result of the wonderfully successful "UJA Idol" opening event. Perhaps it's the result of a truly new generation of leadership bringing new enthusiasm and ideas to the planning table. Perhaps it's a combination of both. Whatever the reason, this year's UJA 2008 Campaign has jumped out to one of the quickest starts in memory.

Assistant Campaign Director, Christine Nusca, informed HJN that the UJA 2008 Women's Campaign has really taken off. "The Women's Campaign is already more than 50% completed. Currently, the results indicate a card for card increase of 18% over the same cards in the previous campaign. We don't know if that rate of increase will continue through the end of the campaign, but everyone is working really hard to sustain this rate of success."

Everyone, in this case, refers to UJA 2008 Women's campaign co-chairs Debbie Strub and Lisa Morris, major gifts co-chairs Liz Tick and Sandy Fuss, Financial Resources, VP Shirley Molot and UJA Cabinet members Andrea Molot, Danna Horwood and Jo-ann Pomerantz.

Although the Men's Campaign typically takes a little longer to

get up to speed, the UJA 2008 Men's Campaign is showing equally impressive results on the donations received thus far. The card for card increase is now at 24%. This is, perhaps, the strongest rate of increase of any UJA campaign in Canada.

UJA Federation President, David Somer, attributes the strong Men's showing to several factors. "First of all, I am just delighted with the progress the campaign is making this year and I want to thank everyone who is volunteering to make the campaign so successful."

"I would like to think that our success is, in part, a result of the successful campaign programming taking place. I would also like to think that it is in response to a more effective approach to getting the campaign message out to the community - especially our UJA campaign video. However, none of this would be happening without the terrific campaign leadership team that has come together this year."

UJA Federation Executive Director Gerald Fisher agrees with Somer. "Men's Co-Chairs Michael Kam and David Horwood have brought much needed energy and leadership to the UJA Men's Campaign. Their involvement is real evidence of

a much needed shift in generational leadership. Several major donors have called to tell me how impressed they are with the co-chairs, and have backed that up with increased giving. We are all very grateful for Michael's and David's commitment. It makes all the difference.

The UJA 2006 campaign was the most successful peacetime campaign in Hamilton's history. HJN has learned that at mid-November 2005, the result of that campaign was approximately \$200,000 in pledges. At about the same point in the current UJA campaign, the pledges are over \$450,000. This is a remarkable indication of the progress made to date.

It's too early to predict the final result, but the campaign goal of \$1.2 million is within reach.

The other goal set by the UJA Campaign cabinet is to conclude the campaign by December 27th. Reaching that goal is strictly a function of campaign volunteers completing their calls on time. Canvassers are urged to "do it now!" Our community's future is a shared responsibility. If everybody continues to do their part, our future can be really bright.

Focus on
new board
members
See page 5

Roman
Vishniac
His grandson
remembers
See page 10

The Jewish
Hamilton
Project
See page 15

UJA Federation salutes its young leaders

Lisa Morris to co-chair Women's Division



Campaign co-chairs David Horwood, Michael Kam, and Debbie Strub are delighted to welcome aboard Lisa Morris who has stepped up to co-chair Women's Division along with Debbie Strub. Lisa is a paralegal with The Morris Law Group.



Hamilton's Latest Lion of Judah

UJA Federation is honoured to welcome Cindy Kam as the newest member of Hamilton's "Lions of Judah". Cindy, pictured here with Debbie Kimel of Toronto, was presented her pin at a Women's Top Division event that took place at the home of Liz Tick in October. Women who wear the Lion of Judah pin, a \$5,000 annual commitment to the UJA campaign, join over 15,000 women around the world who take part in the Lion of Judah program. The Lion of Judah pin is a dramatic reminder that each woman can make a significant difference in the lives, vitality and continuity of her community. For more information call Chris Nusca at 905-627.7722, ext 23



Marly Bromstein wins UJA Idol

Campaign opening a huge success

ELAINE LEVINE

The UJA 2008 Campaign opening event "UJA Idol" was an outstanding success with 400 in attendance. The event included the screening of the 2008 campaign video, produced by Jennifer Howe, which effectively communicated this year's campaign message: While Israel continues to need our support the focus this year is on local needs.

Over the course of the evening, the nine finalists sang and danced their hearts out with the hope of being chosen by audience members and celebrity judges, Boris Brott, Sunni Genesco and Lou Zamprogna, for the title of UJA Idol. In addition to performances by the finalists, audience members were treated to numbers by Amy Back, Sam Lewis and a charming duet by Cantors Laura Wolfson and Ben Sharpe. The evening culminated with the announcement of the winner: Marly Bromstein, 8, followed by runners up Julie Waxman and Pamela Marques.

UJA Federation thanks Shirley Molot, whose vision, energy, creativity made the evening such a success. We also thank the wonderful group of volunteers for their invaluable assistance: Denise Calman, Carolyn Molot, Spencer Levine, Flora Rosenblatt, Jordan Abraham, Amy Back, Boris Brott, Dolly Cohen, David Dayler, Ruth Fine, Sandy Fuss, Jill Gaffe, Sunni Genesco, Jeremy Goldstein, Daniel Hosiassohn, Norma Jack, Leon Karan, Bernie Katz, Howard Katz, Rhoda Katz, Molly Kumer, Arlene Leibtag, Mira Livingston, Denise Levinson, Blanche Levitt, Joshua Lerner, Teaghan Lerner, Zach Levine, Shari Levine, Sheila Levitt, Loren Lieberman, Cindy Mark, Andrea



Marly Bromstein's winning smile

Photograph by Lorne Lomer

Molot, Pauline Morris, Robert Murdock, Justin Nusca, Jo-Ann Pomerantz, Jessie Schoenberg, Dennis Schwartz, Debbie Strub, Shoshana Telner, Liz Tick, Ashlee Woolfson, Vicky Wylson-Sher, Samara Strub, Susan Vaisler, Aaron Yanover, Lawrence Yanover, Lou Zamprogna, and Robin Zilberg. Thank you to all those who auditioned for the event, to our lead sponsor, Saturn of Hamilton East, as well as The Bay Limeridge, Studio J, Westside Concert Theatre. We also thank The Village Green Bistro, Star-Lite Drive In, The Workshop by Shelley Paikin, Marcia Levy - Royal LePage, Maddison Avenue Salon and Spa, Soundbox Productions, The Bean Bar, Janet Blajchman and the Jewish National Fund for their donations.

Thank you to all that supported the campaign opening and remember, please give generously when called! If you have any suggestions for a campaign opening event or any other UJA Federation programs, please forward them to Elaine Levine, Director of Program Development at elevine@jewishhamilton.org.

Israel @ 60 Logo Winning Design

We love ISRAEL and we are going to celebrate Israel's 60th birthday in a BIG way!



UJA Federation and the Jewish National Fund congratulate **Misha Apel**, a grade 5 student at Kehila Jewish Day School for her winning design in the Israel @ 60 logo design contest. Misha's design will be featured on all emails and mailings for Israel @ 60 Events from November 29, 2007 to May 8, 2008. Misha wins a gift certificate for Kool Klay Kafé and a framed keepsake of her entry. Thanks to all those who entered the design contest. Runner up designs by Josh Shapiro, Rina Komissarov and Jacob Rashid can be found at jewishhamilton.org.

CALLING ALL JEWISH HAMILTONIANS!

You are invited to participate in

The Mosaic "Mitzvah in Motion" Project

WHAT: We are constructing a beautiful ceramic tile mosaic to send to the Shechafim School in Northern Israel.

HOW: The project will make its way through Jewish Hamilton, allowing every child and adult the opportunity to place a tile on the mosaic until it is complete. We will ship the piece to Israel in time for Yom Ha'atzmaut - Israel's Independence Day!

COST: \$5 per person goes directly to the purchase of specialized bedding and exercise equipment for the Shechafim School.

WHY: To celebrate Israel's 60th Birthday!

JOIN US AT ONE OF THESE LOCATIONS:

JCC: Sun, Dec 2nd at the Community Chanukah Brunch
 Kehila Day School: Wed, Dec 5 at the Chanukah Party
 Temple Anshe Sholom: Thurs, Dec 6 Chanukah Dinner
 Beth Jacob: Sun, Dec 9 at the Chanukah Dinner
 HHA/Adas Israel: Tues, Dec 11 at the Chanukah Dinner
 Shalom Village: Sun, Jan 20 at the JNF Community Tu Bi'Shvat Brunch OR Mon, Feb 11
 McMaster JSA: Thurs, Feb 7 during JSA lunch

The Mosaic Mitzvah in Motion Project

LAURA WOLFSON

It will come to your shul. It will come to your school. If you live at Shalom Village, it will come to your home.

What is it? The Mosaic "Mitzvah in Motion" Project is a ceramic tile mosaic that will be constructed by 1000 hands in Hamilton, in celebration of Israel's upcoming special birthday. The design will be constructed in two pieces that fit together but will be mounted separately. One piece will be presented as a gift from our community to the Shechafim School in Northern Israel, where it will be mounted permanently next to a photograph of the other piece. That second piece will be displayed permanently at Shalom Village, also next to a photograph of its other half. In this way the friendship between Jewish Hamilton and its own special beneficiary agency in Israel is permanently visible.

During the construction phase, the mosaic will be brought to seven different locations in the Hamilton Jewish community, so that every Jewish child and adult will have the opportunity to place a tile on the mosaic.

The idea for this project was conceived at a meeting of the Jewish Community Professionals last summer, during a brainstorming session on ideas for how we can all come together celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut in a bigger and more collaborative way this year. Laura Wolfson, who had recently taken a

weeklong course at the Haliburton School for the Arts and was still feeling "that creative glow", proposed a community art project that would involve the efforts of hundreds of people to put it together, as a way to unite our community in its love for Israel. Soon, the whole room was buzzing with suggestions and the Mosaic "Mitzvah in Motion" Project was born. Wolfson said "Mosaic is the perfect art form for a large group of people to work on together, because it involves hundreds of tiny little pieces that fit together to form a picture, and each piece can be placed on the project by a different person." Charles Kravetzky further concretized the project by finding a supplier to donate the ceramic tiles, and by offering to arrange shipment of the art piece to Israel upon completion. Elaine Levine came up with the terrific idea of combining the mosaic project with a fundraiser for a more concrete gift for the Shechafim school by charging a nominal amount of money to participants. Support is also still being sought for the minimal expenses in construction of the mosaic and for coverage of shipping costs.

It is hoped that the two pieces can be completed in time for each to be mounted by the date of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, this coming May.

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UJA Federation organized a series of breakfast meetings with candidates in the recent provincial election. Meetings were organized with all Conservative, Liberal and NDP candidates. Pictured here, left to right are Stan Tick, Milt Lewis, JSA president, Andrea Rowan, Leslie Lasky, Liberal candidate, Ted McMeekin, Ron Kaplan, Federation president, David Somer and Harold Pomerantz, Federation Board member and Co-Chair of the Public Affairs Committee. Liberal candidate Ted McMeekin committed himself to calling for an all-party committee to review the school funding issue after the election.

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Coming Up...

Mid-Winter Issue
Focus on Financial Services

Deadline for booking ad space Jan 8, 2008
Deadline for receiving editorial copy Jan 21, 2008
Deadline for receiving ad copy Jan 31, 2008
Estimated Date of Arrival Feb 15, 2008

BETH TIKVAH FOUNDATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on
MONDAY DECEMBER 3, 2007
7:00 p.m.

at
ADAS ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE
125 CLINE ST. SOUTH, HAMILTON, ONTARIO

Election of Directors

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On-line donations: www.cmdai.org

Hamilton Ambassador:
Hilda Rosen
Tel: 905-529-4824

Kehila Jewish Community Day School is pleased to announce
– we now welcome donations of bonds, stocks, and mutual
funds. We provide a charitable tax receipt for the full value of
investments.

Why donate investments? In most cases, if appreciated
investments are donated
directly to a charity instead
of being sold first, this leads
to significant tax savings
when compared to gifts of
cash.



Please invest in Jewish
education – we are
growing, and your gift
allows us to continue to offer bursaries. Thank you!

To discuss your gift, please reach us at 905-529-7725
or office@kehilaschool.ca

Your Life... Your Legacy



UJA LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND OF HAMILTON

Recent Federal charitable tax legislation has ushered in a period of gifting opportunities unlike anything the charitable sector has enjoyed before. One of the most enlightened of these opportunities is the gift of appreciated securities.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities

Making a gift of appreciated securities to the Hamilton Legacy Endowment Fund would have many tax and financial benefits. Under the new Federal Budget released May 2, 2006, capital gains tax has been eliminated. This benefit is only available for gifts of publicly traded securities to public foundations such as the Hamilton Legacy Endowment Fund and is not available for gifts to private foundations.

You may use appreciated securities to establish a Donor Advised Fund with the Hamilton Legacy Endowment Fund. Establishing a Donor Advised Fund is a wonderful way to receive a tax deduction for the total value of your stock this year, while retaining the right to recommend distributions to charities of your choice in the future. The Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto takes care of all the administration of your philanthropy saving you time and simplifying your charitable giving.

How it Works *

In these cases, we assume a gift of 100 shares of stock which had a cost basis of \$10 a share but which are now worth \$50. Thus the gift is worth \$5,000.

Example 1:

The gift was made to a public charity after May 2.
There will be no capital gain.

Capital gain:	nil
Taxable capital gain:	nil
Tax on gain at 45%:	nil
Value of tax credit (45% of \$5,000):	\$2,250

So on this gift of \$5,000 the donor gets net tax relief of \$2,250.

Example 2:

If you decided to sell the stock on the market and donate the after-tax proceeds, the difference is dramatic.

Capital gain:	\$4,000
Taxable capital gain:	\$2,000
Tax on gain at 45%:	\$ 900
Donation of cash after tax:	\$4,100
Tax credit on cash donation:	\$1,845

Thus, the charity gets only \$4,100 and the net tax benefits of the gift to the donor is \$945.

Example 3:

This gift of 100 shares goes to a private foundation and thus does not benefit from the special rules.

Capital gain:	\$4,000
Taxable capital gain:	\$2,000
Tax on gain at 45%:	\$ 900
Value of tax credit (45% of \$5,000):	\$2,250

So on this gift of \$5,000 the donor gets net tax relief of \$1,350.

*reprinted by permission of Arthur Drache, CM, QC, Arthur Drache is an Ottawa-based lawyer with Drache LLP and is associate counsel to Miller Thomson LLP.

A gift today to the UJA Legacy Endowment Fund of Hamilton, under the management of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, will allow you to be there for your family, your community, and the Jewish people whenever help is needed.



Willy Steen to Chair Legacy Endowment Fund

UJA Federation President Dr. David Somer is pleased to announce that veteran volunteer leader, Willy Steen, C.A., has accepted the appointment to chair a renewed Legacy Endowment Fund initiative for the Hamilton Jewish community.

Steen told HJN that "after four very interesting years as treasurer of the UJA Federation Board, I decided that it was time to pass the baton and devote my energies to what I believe is the single greatest challenge to our future as a community, the re-establishment of a vigorous and successful endowment fund."

As agency treasurer and member of both the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Steen has learned and gained perspectives on many issues, especially the financial condition of our local and national organizations and beneficiary agencies such as our Jewish schools, JSS and JCC and Israel.

"United Jewish Appeal is the Federation's fundraising arm," Steen said. "Through its annual campaign, UJA raises the dollars from which allocations to the agencies are made. I once arranged a meeting with our bankers, and the account manager brought along a loan and an investment officer. Les Lasky, then our president, explained tongue-in-cheek that 'You have to understand, we do not have these needs - we are in the business of giving away money.' It is true, but we have to be very careful that the projected UJA campaign will meet the obligation of the allocations to our agencies made in advance. The better the campaign, obviously, the more will be available to allocate. Last year our campaign dipped and difficult cuts were made to all agencies."

Steen brings a special passion to his new role in the Endowment Fund. He noted that the Legacy Endowment Fund seems to be an enigma that our community has avoided. "Simply put, this fund is critical to ensure the continuity and sustainability of our Jewish community."

"Winnipeg for example, with a Jewish community of about three times our size, has a Legacy Fund of one hundred times what we have. At present our Legacy Fund contributes approximately 2.5% of the amount available for annual allocation, which is absolutely insignificant. We are facing ever increasing needs from our agencies, which will continue, and we hope that our campaigns will be able to continue to support those demands. But we know that we have already fallen behind. What I am saying, is that with a target of a \$5 million Legacy, which is realistic, that alone will contribute, at 5%, \$ 250,000 in perpetuity, compared to the approximately \$30,000 at present."

Studies across North America have shown that while annual campaigns may be increasing, the actual number of donors is decreasing. The danger lies in that when key donors pass on, the annual campaigns will no longer be sustainable.

"This is why it is critical that we have a healthy Legacy Fund, and I can not say it any other way. Almost two years ago the Hamilton Federation Board wisely decided to transfer the Legacy Fund to be professionally managed by the Toronto Federation. I am pleased to report in the last fiscal year the return was about 10%. Over time, this will prove to be critical to our future.

"I will continue to be a volunteer, and devote time and best efforts in growing our Legacy Fund - this is our challenge. We will organize a committee with the objective of a \$5 million Legacy Fund. If you can help, please call me. I look forward to your advice and support."



Willy Steen

Paying your UJA pledge with
gifts of appreciated stock
has enormous tax advantages.

Call Chris Nusca at 905.648.0605 ext 305 for more information



Focus on new Board members

UJA Federation invites its new board members to share their perspectives and their vision



David Horwood
David Horwood, 35, has stepped up to community leadership in a big way. Not only is he, along with Michael Kam, a co-chair of this year's UJA Campaign, he has also joined the Federation board.

I joined the Federation board because I felt that it was time that our generation begin to direct and influence where our community is headed. Over the next six months I'd like to see Federation manage its allocation process in a more assertive way by ensuring our beneficiary agencies are operating within a framework that is consistent with Federation goals and objectives. I would also hope that within that time frame, a plan be in place that can be implemented over the next 12 months that will reposition and redefine the role played in our community by the JCC. Education is another area that I believe can be improved with collaboration, planning and strong direction from Federation. I'm committed to Hamilton and what was started long before me. People who don't have a voice deserve to be represented by the Board. I'd much rather participate and see what we can accomplish rather than just sit on the sidelines.



Sandra Katz
An educator/artist/scholar, Sandi moved back to the Hamilton area last summer and is still in the process of transitioning from an "urban existence" to a rural lifestyle in Lynden. She has enjoyed reconnecting with old friends and colleagues and feels very welcomed. Sandra will be working on human resources and board development.

The focus of the board is on the whole idea of unity and collaboration with all the different beneficiaries. Everybody is committed to building and growing Hamilton. As someone who is new to the community and whose views haven't been shaded by different conflicts, I feel that I can bring a fresh perspective.



Cindy Mark
Cindy Mark, originally from London, Ontario, has lived in Hamilton for 23 years. Cindy's role on the board will be to restart the GroHamilton initiative. Her previous volunteer commitments were with the JCC, Hadassah-WIZO and Temple Anshe Sholom.

I see the biggest challenges facing Federation over the next few months are deciding the future of the JCC, growing our Hamilton community and affiliating the Jewish community at large to Federation. I've been asked to restart the GroHamilton program and my intention is to form a committee that will work towards promoting the Hamilton Jewish community to the medical community at McMaster and the greater Hamilton community at large so that they discover just how much the Jewish community has to offer.



Jacki Levin
This year brings Jacki Levin back to Federation (she previously served as vice president in charge of budget allocations and fiscal control) as she takes on the role of treasurer from Willy Steen. She recently completed a three year term as president of Shalom Village.

I am really excited to be back working on the Federation as it engages in the process of identifying our community's needs on both a short and long term basis and asking how we can mobilize our efforts to meet those needs in a sustainable way. At the same time we are strengthening our ties to Israel by supporting a project in northern Israel which is very exciting. I see the biggest challenge facing Federation over the next six months being the decision regarding the future of the JCC. Federation and the JCC are doing the background work necessary to make big decisions. We need to identify what our community needs from a JCC and what form the JCC should take that can be sustained as a community.



Mario Stolar
Mario Stolar, originally from Mexico City, chairs the UJA Young Leadership initiative, whose mandate is to cultivate our community's next generation of leaders.

I think that Federation needs to define its role in the community more clearly and nurture a much closer relationship with all the beneficiary agencies. I believe that with a closer relationship the campaign can become more successful and all the agencies will benefit. Given that I live in Burlington and that I'm relatively new to the community, I believe I can bring a fresh perspective and promote our community in the Burlington, Oakville and St. Catharines areas.

UJA Campaign Events

Women's Division events create momentum



PICTURED LEFT: Debbie Kimel of Toronto (left), accompanied by her mother Yetta Freeman and daughter, Laura Kimel, at a Women's Division Top Gifts event at the home of Liz Tick.

PICTURED TOP RIGHT: This year's UJA Women's Division Cabinet (from l to r), Liz Tick, Dana Horwood, Debbie Strub, Andrea Molot, Shirley Molot, Sandi Fuss and Jo-Ann Pomerantz.

PICTURED BOTTOM LEFT: Debbie Strub (far left), Dana Horwood and Andrea Molot with Fran Sonshine at the "Girlfriends" event.



The Importance of a Woman's Gift

UJA Campaign 2008 Women's Division held an event for its top gifts category at the home of Liz and Stan Tick on Tuesday, October 9. The keynote speaker was former Hamiltonian, Debbie Kimel, who has held a number of leadership positions in Toronto's UJA Federation and who currently holds the position of chair of Birthright Canada. Kimel, who was accompanied by her mother, Yetta Freeman and her eldest daughter, Lauren Kimel, spoke about the importance of a woman's gift and of how her family upbringing was instrumental in her own philanthropic journey. Kimel's mother, Yetta Freeman, was delighted by the large turnout of younger women, a phenomenon she said was not the case during her years in Hamilton.



Young Women's Leadership

The opening program for the newly established "Girlfriends" division of the UJA Women's Campaign was recently held at the home of Dana Horwood. Girlfriend Co-Chairs Andrea Molot and Dana Horwood are certainly passionate about engaging the young women of this community. "We can have such an impact on the future of this community. What we do today directly affects our children and our children's children." Guest speaker for the evening was Fran Sonshine, past chair of UJA Toronto Federation Women's Campaign. Fran conveyed to the young women that as individuals we may have a voice, but brought together as one powerful entity, we have a roar. She stressed that "It is our responsibility as Jewish women to educate our families and our children. Our involvement in the UJA Campaign is one of the most important commitments we can make to ensure a meaningful Jewish future."



PICTURED ABOVE, from l to r, Gerald Fisher, Rabbi Jordan Cohen, Carol Krames, Shelley Waxman, Rabbi Dan Selsberg, Laura Wolfson, Chris Nusca, Laura Laengerer, Len Rudner, Inbal Chaimovitz, Pat Morden, Leia Ger Rogers and Elaine Levine.

Community professionals discuss security Intent to apply for Federal grants to faith based institutions

Brought together under the auspices of UJA Federation of Hamilton, Jewish community professionals have been meeting on a monthly basis to share information, brainstorm to solve community problems and look for ways to strengthen our community through stronger inter-agency relationships.

One example of this was the agenda of the November meeting that took place at the Shalom Village Board room. Along with choosing the winning logo for our "Israel@60" contest, planning a community fundraising event for our recently adopted school in Israel and reviewing

volunteer recruitment needs, the agenda was devoted primarily to matters of community security.

The federal government has recently announced the establishment of a grant program designed to assist faith based institutions in enhancing their security protocols. The program was the result of a major communications effort led by the Canadian Institute for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA) and the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC). Len Rudner, CJC's National Director of Community Relations attended the November meeting to walk our agencies through

the application process and to answer questions from agency directors.

Rudner appreciated the invitation.

"Jewish institutions across the country have an important statement to make to the federal government. Through the applications for these grants, the government will become much more acutely aware of our community's legitimate concerns about the security of our schools, synagogues and centers."

The invitation to Rudner was extended by UJA Federation Executive Director Gerald Fisher. Fisher commented that "security is an important concern to everyone in our community. As the community's central organizing body, it is Federation's clear responsibility to facilitate and support every grant application coming from a Hamilton Jewish organization."

In that regard, UJA Federation is supporting each grant application by providing disseminating information, providing supporting documentation, putting agencies in touch with local security professionals and by soliciting the support of Hamilton Police Services. In addition, the grants to individual agencies will be made on a dollar matching basis. UJA Federation is now exploring methods of identifying matching dollar support wherever needed.

UJA Federation Scores Israel Advocacy Coup

Briefing of MP's sets new standard in Canada



PICTURED ABOVE: From left to right, Wayne Marston, David Christopherson and Chris Charlton, local MP's, with Richard Marceau, CIC Director of Government Relations at the September 11th CIC briefing on the Middle East.

UJA Federation of Hamilton, in partnership with Canada Israel Committee (CIC), has created a new format for engaging federal parliamentarians.

Government Relations, as they relate to the Canada-Israel bilateral relationship is a core responsibility of CIC. It is CIC's mandate to engage, inform and cultivate MP's in terms of their understanding of Middle East issues. It is Federation's responsibility to establish and maintain good relationships with locally elected representatives of every party and level of government. In this case, the confluence of mandates and competencies came together in a dramatic manner.

Among other strategies, CIC staff works hard at gaining access to MP's in Ottawa. Like every interest group, they compete for time with the milk lobby, the oil lobby, hardware manufacturers association, seniors groups and every other imaginable interest that seeks government attention. Getting twenty minutes of an MP's time is never easy.

Taking advantage of the good relationships that have been cultivated between the Jewish community and our federal members, UJA Federation was able to organize a two-hour briefing on the Middle East. CIC Director of Government Relations Richard Marceau came down from Ottawa to conduct the briefing. All three federal members from the NDP attended.

Federation Executive Director Gerald Fisher explained that "the idea of the briefing came out of a discussion with Hamilton East/Stoney Creek member Wayne Marston. Wayne mentioned that he, as well as other MP's, felt they needed more information to maintain a balanced view of

the issues. Knowing how hard it is to meet with MP's while the House is sitting, it just seemed a natural suggestion to bring them all together when they were home in Hamilton."

UJA Federation made arrangements with all parties. All three MP's were happy to participate. CIC was delighted with the opportunity to engage the members in an in-depth discussion. One element that greatly contributed to the briefing's success was the fact that CIC's Marceau had served in Parliament with Hamilton MP's for seven years as a member of the "Bloc." According to Fisher, "their pre-existing personal relationship made a tremendous difference in terms of access, credibility and appreciation for the kinds of pressures that MP's face on this issue every day."

The briefing touched a myriad of issues, from Canadian interests, to peace prospects, to bilateral trade agreements. In response to a follow-up evaluation, each MP praised the initiative and thanked both Federation and CIC for making it happen. Hamilton Center MP David Christopherson was especially grateful for the opportunity. According to Christopherson, the material in the briefing had value beyond the political dimension. He suggested that the briefing be made available to MPP's and other interested parties as well.

The final evaluation was sent by CIC itself, in the form of a memo to every Federation in Canada, praising what we had done and suggesting that every federation employ its good relationships with MP's to engage them in a similar manner, and asking them to call Hamilton for suggestions on how to do it right.

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The Board of Directors of Jewish Social Services recently held a telethon for the 2008 UJA Campaign. Taking part were Ruth Fine and Gary Spencer, (pictured above) Lillian Hinkley, Bea Matchen, Carol Krames, Jo-Ann Pomerantz, Susan and Paul Roth. UJA Federation thanks the JSS Board for their leadership and ongoing support to the Annual Campaign.

Jewish Social Services

Volunteers Needed

There are many people in our community, who find themselves alone and without any friends. The JSS is looking for volunteers to visit, go shopping, play games and befriend these community members. We currently need volunteers to visit a shut-in gentleman in Burlington with mobility problems; to visit a lady in a retirement home, who does not know many people in the community; who likes to shop and are able to find rock bottom prices on food for our food bank; with a truck to be available to help people pick up furniture, move, take things to the dump, pick up food after a food drive to take a blind man on outings. If you have an extra two or three hours a week or every other week and enjoy being with people call 905-627-9922 or email Carolkramesjss@hotmail.com

Yiddish Club

Do you speak Yiddish and never have the opportunity to use it? Do you speak or understand a little and would like to be in a Yiddish environment? The JSS Program Committee has started a Yiddish Club that meets one Sunday a month for Brunch, Yiddish conversation, nostalgic videos, singing and entertainment. (Almost all videos will have English subtitles) All meetings take place at the Hamilton Jewish Social Services 30 King St E, Dundas.

Theatre Club

Sunday February 10, 2008 - Music and Vaudeville Review at the Drury Lane Theatre in Burlington. Cost is \$44. Bus leaves Adas Israel Synagogue at 11:00 am and returns at 4:30 pm.

Wednesday, March 5, 2008 - The Clean House at the Bluma Appel Theatre in Toronto A Pulitzer Prize winning comedy about a housekeeper named Matilda who loves to laugh and hates to clean. Cost is \$57 for transportation and show. Bus Leaves Adas Israel at 10:30 am and returns approximately 6:00 pm.

Wednesday, May 28, 2008 - Dirty Dancing at the Royal Alex- in Toronto, a remake of the famous movie. Bus leaves Adas Israel at 10:30 am. Cost is \$92 for the bus and the show.

Sunday February 3, 2008 - Rain: The Beatles Experience. 2:00 pm at The Hummingbird Centre in Toronto. Cost is \$68 (including the bus and show - we have excellent orchestral seats!) Critics say, "They perform the full range of the Beatles live on stage. From the early days of Sergeant Peppers to Abbey Road, this group captures it all flawlessly." Bus will leave the Adas Israel at 10:30 AM. We will stop for lunch and shopping at the beautiful Sherway Gardens. This is a wonderful show to bring your children and or grandchildren to as a special treat.

To register for any of the above programs or to put your name on our mailing list call 905-627-9922 Lillian ex 25 or email Carolkramesjss@hotmail.com.

McMaster Jewish Student Association



PICTURED ABOVE: McMaster JSA students with Dr. Ra'anah Gissin during his recent visit to Hamilton.



PICTURED ABOVE: McMaster JSA students host two Cuban Jewish students who came to visit Hamilton a "Good Will" tour of Canada.

MICHAEL HERMAN

If there's one thing that Jews are known for, it's community. Whether it's Shabbat dinners, Tzedaka projects, or just a group of friends kvetching about current events over a coffee and bagel in their favorite café, Hamilton's Jewish population is alive and thriving with community spirit. It is under this spirit that the McMaster Jewish Students Association (JSA) has always operated, and the spirit it brings to each and every one of its events. This year so far, the JSA has been involved in numerous events that incorporate not only the Hamilton Jewish community, but the McMaster community as a whole.

The year got off to a smashing start with the very successful JSA Meet-And-Greet Barbeque. With over 70 people in attendance, it was a great way for Jewish students to see new and familiar faces. This great beginning was coupled with the opening of our newly renovated office. Through the support of community members, we were able to completely redecorate our office, including painting, reupholstering the couches and redecorating the wall-space. These renovations make the office an even better place for the students on campus to hang out, grab a two dollar Kosher lunch, study, schmooze, and take that much needed nap in between classes on our new comfy couch. Representatives from the newly formed UJA Federation Campus Service committee were among the 40 people in attendance at the grand re-opening of our office.

The JSA is building on the momentum of these events, and has many more events planned for the students and the community. On November fifth, the JSA brought in

Cuban Jewish students to talk about Jewish life in Cuba. Additionally, the JSA teamed up with the community to run a series of Holocaust Education Week events. Andrea Rowan, the current JSA President, noted how Holocaust Education Week has always been an important and well-known event at McMaster and we are pleased to join forces with the community in their efforts in educating the wider Hamilton community along with McMaster's student population.

As a student organization, the JSA is constantly relying on the generosity of others to help them promote Jewish life on campus. It is through the contributions of the community that they are able to keep doing these events and establish a functioning Jewish community at McMaster. On that note, I am currently sitting in the JSA's office, typing away on a computer that was created sometime shortly before Moses received the commandments. If anyone is interested in donating any computers in working condition to the JSA, please contact the main office at 905-522-7215 or e-mail Andrea at jsapres@gmail.com. It is both greatly appreciated and needed.

Jewish community is a funny thing sometimes. Jews in just about every town seem to be able to exist as a cohesive, cooperative community in spite of their individual differences. As my grandfather was fond of saying, "Put four Jews in a room, and you'll get seven opinions". Well, it's this Jewish boy's opinion that the JSA is a successful and important organization that works together with the Hamilton Jewish community to strengthen Jewish identity and unity, and is a valuable asset to both students and community members alike.

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Holocaust Education Week

UJA Federation's Holocaust Education Committee presented its 2nd annual Holocaust Education Week from November 4th – 8th with three moving educational programs that reached more than 800 people from a broad spectrum of diverse and religious backgrounds.

Keynote speakers Esther Bem and Sibylle Niemoller von Sell gave deeply moving presentations, while the screening of "I have Never Forgotten You – The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal" provided a fitting closing program that coincided with the community's Kristallnacht Commemoration. The Holocaust Education committee thanks Temple Anshe Sholom, Christ's Church Cathedral and Beth Jacob Synagogue for hosting the events, as well as Mayor Fred Eisenberger, MP David Sweet, and MPP Ted McMeekin, for speaking at the events.

In addition to Holocaust Education Week, the Holocaust Education Committee is responsible for the Student and Teacher Seminars on Holocaust Education, The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program, March of the Living, screening of the film Paperclips to area high schools, survivor visits to high schools and a Bar/Bat Mitzvah twinning project (see box this page).

Special thanks to Willy Steen and Madeleine Levy for chairing this initiative and to members of the Holocaust Education Committee – Chair, Nadia Rosa, and Archie Lieberman, Bev Lasky, Dennis Nash, Doris Schulman, Gilda Ennis, Ira Rosen, Judy Schwartz, Karen Saperson, Lila Strub, Lore Jacobs, Madeleine Levy, Sharon Woolfson, Shelly Sender, Suzanne Goldflus, William Steen and Elaine Levine (Staff)



Sibylle Niemoller von Sell



Esther Bem

Melissa's Bat Mitzvah of Remembrance

In the months leading up to her daughter, Melissa's bat mitzvah, Sharon Woolfson was looking for a way to make the occasion especially meaningful. She found it in the Bar or Bat Mitzvah of Remembrance, a project of the UJA Federation Holocaust Centre of Toronto. The project, conceived as a way of remembering the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust, involves twinning local Bar and Bat mitzvah children with a child that was lost in the Holocaust.



Melissa Woolfson with Nadia Rosa

When the Woolfsons were unable to discover enough information about a lost child in their own extended family, they decided to look for a survivor in Hamilton who had lost a family member with whom Melissa could twin. That search brought them to Nadia Rosa, who was only too delighted to cooperate. Nadia, herself a child survivor, suggested that Melissa twin with her first cousin, Erika Blumenfeld, who died in 1942 at the age of 8.

Once a twin was found, Melissa and her family began attending programs at Toronto's Holocaust Centre.

"Everyone went", said Woolfson, referring to Melissa's siblings and grandparents, as she explained that the Twinning Program encouraged participation from the entire family. As part of her research, Melissa interviewed Rosa about Erika's life, read every book she could about the Holocaust and gathered information about the place where Erika was raised and where she perished. In addition the Woolfsons traveled to Washington, D.C. to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

"The trip to Washington really solidified the knowledge and made Melissa very aware of how lucky she is and how terrible life was then," Woolfson recalled, adding, "My wish for her is that she can channel all her energy into doing something good for the community and for the world."

If you would like more information about Hamilton's Holocaust twinning program, now in its early stages, contact Elaine Levine at 905-627-9922, ext 24.



PICTURED ABOVE: From left to right, Dean Peter Wall, Reverend Sue Ann Ward, Madeleine Levy, Sibylle Niemoller von Sell, MP David Sweet and Willy Steen.



PICTURED ABOVE: From left to right, JSA President, Andrea Rowan, Julia Rowan of Toronto and Holocaust Education committee member, Doris Schulman.



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Italian Heroism during the Holocaust

“The whole country was helping the Jews”

WILF GEROFKY

Here's an amazing statistic: 80% of the entire Jewish population of Italy survived the holocaust.

The story of Esther Bem sheds light on the amazing history of how Italians, from priests to peasants, risked their own lives to shelter and protect Jewish families. She told her story, told to a captivated audience at Temple Anshe Sholom during Holocaust Education Week.

Esther and her parents and two older sisters had escaped to northern Italy after the Germans had invaded their home in Croatia. They made their way to a town near Venice where several Jewish families from various countries had gathered. There they lived a precarious existence, forced to report to authorities every morning, not allowed to work or attend school.

The children were not supposed to interact with the local kids “but of course we did.” Eleven year old Esther would meet other children outside the schoolyard, and soon became fluent in Italian, an accomplishment that would turn out later to save her life and those of her parents. Her older sisters were sent off, one to Bosnia where she

was executed; the other joined the partisan underground and still lives in Croatia.

One night they were tipped off that the Gestapo was set to pick up all Jews at 6 in the morning. They set out for the mountains with only the clothes they had on their backs. They came upon a simple hut-no water, no electricity, just some good-hearted people who disregarded their own safety by welcoming them in.

“Primo, Secondo, Terzo”, the sharecropper called to his sons. “Clean out the room, we have guests.” They remained under the protection of these simple people until the day, armed German soldiers came to the door. Esther and her family hid in the haystack and escaped detection, one of a series of narrow escapes that she characterizes as ‘incredible luck.’

That luck was to follow them, aided in no small part by the willingness of the Italian people to risk their own lives to help them.

“You should know that there were groups producing false identity cards and ration cards for Jews, and there was also an organization that gave financial help to the Jews in hiding. The

whole country was helping the Jews.”

One of their hosts' sons had connections with the partisans, and the day after the Germans came, a man came to them with a plan to give them new names and identity cards. They were to pretend to be Italian Catholics. Because her parents were not fluent in Italian, a story was created for them. They were to pose as survivors of a train bombing, as a result of which Esther's mother had become deaf, and her father had lost the ability to speak. And so, with her schoolyard Italian, at twelve years old, Esther became the family spokesperson.

They walked all night to

rendezvous with a priest, who placed them with a family who never doubted the story she put forward. He had dresses made for Esther to replace her tattered rags, “long, so that I looked as if I just came out of a convent.” But they lacked ration cards, and had to exist on the small food handouts that the priest and the family could spare. So the priest told them they would have to go to the City Hall and register for the cards.

“When I opened the door of the city hall, there were swastikas and pictures of Adolf Hitler everywhere-the town was under German occupation.” She was terrified, and her father was white as a ghost. They were

shown into a room where a Gestapo officer was seated on a throne in front of a huge picture of der Fuhrer. He bombarded her with questions.

“I felt my head was swimming from the questions, but I had time to consider my answers because they had to be translated from German into Italian, and although I didn't let on, I knew German because my maternal grandmother spoke to us only in German.”

Once again her ‘incredible luck’ held. They walked out of the building with ration cards. If she had faltered, she, her parents the priest and the family who aided them would have been hung in the town square.

‘Paperclips’ shown to thousands of local students

GERALD FISHER

In confluence with Holocaust Education Week, literally thousands of students from across the Hamilton area had an opportunity to view Paperclips, the award winning documentary about a group of teens in Tennessee, whose creative approach to learning about the Holocaust became a global phenomenon.

Educators and administrators from both the Hamilton Wentworth District Public and Separate School Boards were fully supportive of this unique initiative. In the public schools, close to 4,000 students, from every grade level, watched the documentary and learned its important lessons. In the Separate Schools, the documentary was shown to every seventh grade student attending their annual Leadership camp. This initiative may represent the largest number of students to have ever watched this film anywhere.

Barry Smith, Special Assignment Teacher for Character

Education, Programs of Choice and Student Leadership served as point person for The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

Smith described the initiative as having a “profound impact” on student's perceptions of the world and of themselves. According to Smith, the lesson most affecting the students was “that kids just like them can turn a simple gesture into an exciting initiative, having massive national impact.”

Madeleine Levy, a driving force in Human Rights and Holocaust Education and a member of the UJA Federation Holocaust Education Committee was the catalyst behind this wonderful initiative.

During the past few years, Levy has accomplished a great deal through her organization of the Asper Program and the U.N. Commemoration of Victims of the Holocaust. However, in terms of lasting impact into the future, this may be her most stunning achievement.

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When Avi arrived in Canada three years ago, he was surprised by what he saw available in silver jewelry and immediately saw the potential for expansion.

“We saw that there was nothing like it, nothing unique and different,” explained Avi, who opened the first Canadian location at Mapleview Mall two years ago and since then another two in Hillcrest Mall Richmond Hill and Fairview Park Kitchener. “While some Israeli silver is available in Canada, it is much more expensive than what we offer and does not include Magnolia's one year extended warranty that we include on everything we sell.”

Magnolia's product line of 3000 items one of each includes necklaces, earrings, bracelets, rings and more. They can order almost any item at the actual size the customer need. Rest assured if you lose the stone in your necklace or earring – Magnolia will send the item back to the designer in Israel for repair.

“We stand behind our products,” said Avi.

With three stores now open in Canada Avi only sees more expansion in the future.

“Everywhere we have opened, we have had a very enthusiastic response – people really like the jewelry. It's a very affordable product made by the best 20 designers in Israel and 4 in Italy—all the Israelis are familiar with the brand and the quality,” explained Avi.

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Roman Vishniac remembered

Ethan Vishniac recalls his grandfather's adventurous spirit

WENDY SCHNEIDER

Ethan Vishniac enjoys telling stories. A professor of physics and astronomy at McMaster, Vishniac is the grandson of Roman Vishniac, the renowned Russian-American photojournalist who documented the daily life of Jews in the shtetls of Central and Eastern Europe in the 1930's.

Last August, Professor Vishniac moved to Hamilton, with his wife, Ilene Busch-Vishniac, the new McMaster University provost. Asked to recount some details of his grandfather's life, Vishniac told a mesmerizing tale that outlines a series of fortuitous events that ultimately brought the Vishniac family to a safe haven in the United States in the midst of a war that spelled doom for six million others.

"My grandfather," recalled Vishniac "was a very intellectually ambitious person." The young Roman Vishniac was born in 1897 to a well-to-do Russian Jewish family who, despite restrictions prohibiting Jews from living outside the Pale of Settlement, was able to acquire honorary citizenship and take up residence in Moscow. Roman's earliest ambitions were to become a professor and a scholar, much to the disapproval of his father, Solomon, who had other plans for his son.

When the Russian Revolution broke out in 1917, the Vishniacs, together with the family of Roman's fiancé Luta Alexandroff, fled to Latvia. The Alexandroffs were diamond traders and one of the many stories passed on to Vishniac was that Luta's father crossed the border with a stack of Alexandroff diamonds hidden inside his wooden leg. After the dust had settled, the two families traveled to Berlin, along with hundreds of other Eastern European Jews who fled to Germany in the wake of the Russian Revolution.

In Germany, Solomon tried to set up his newly married son in a number of businesses, but Roman was completely uninterested. According to his grandson, "Roman seemed to have treated them all with a kind of passive aggression. He must have made his father crazy." Eventually, however, Roman agreed to manage the family-owned apartment building where he was living, an arrangement that left him ample time to pursue his passion – photography.

According to Vishniac, his grandfather's trips to shtetls in Eastern Europe grew out of a combination of things. "After the fact, he would say that he thought that the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe were in terrible danger, and that this was a way of preserving their memories. But I don't think it fully captures what was going on. Roman didn't know that the Holocaust was coming any more than anyone else did.

They were scary times and he thought it would be important to document the way of life in the shtetls. I think that for my grandfather, it was the first really unique endeavour that was interesting and creative and gave him an outlet."

In the ensuing years, Roman took long and frequent trips to Eastern Europe, carrying a concealed camera. Upon his return, he would regale his family with stories about his travels – some of them, according to his grandson, that were a little hard to swallow. He claimed, for instance, to have been arrested no less than eleven times.

"Roman loved a good story. He often thought that stories have a higher truth to them, and that sometimes, details had to be changed. It was very charming to listen to him but after, you would wonder how it could have really happened that way.

"Roman loved a good story. He often thought that stories have a higher truth to them, and that sometimes, details had to be changed."

"There's a story he told that I never knew whether to believe," said Vishniac. "He said that during Kristallnacht, he went out in an SS uniform and took pictures. Even when I was very young, it seemed like a weird story. Roman had a thick Russian accent all his life and if someone had stopped him and asked who he was, what would he have done?"

But his grandfather insisted that this was how he was able to photograph the horrific events that took place that night.

Years later, after Roman's death, his daughter, Mara was cleaning out his apartment in Manhattan – a task that took months to complete – when she made a discovery. "My Aunt Mara found an old SS party uniform in a closet," he said, and instantly, the collective doubt in the minds of his family was turned upside down. Maybe the story was true after all.

After Kristallnacht, it became clear to the Vishniacs that it was no longer safe to remain in Germany. On his next trip to Eastern Europe, Roman slipped into France, with the intention of waiting there for his family to join him. Luta and her daughter, Mara fled to Sweden, where Luta's sister resided. But Vishniac's father, Wolf, being of military age, was unable to join them and escaped to Latvia, where he spent his time desperately trying to get a Swedish visa. A fortuitous

meeting on a Stockholm street between Luta's sister and an old school friend who had connections in the Swedish state department led to a sudden change of attitude at the Swedish consulate. "My father got out of Latvia a month before the Red Army came across. After that, no one got out."

Back in France, Roman had been arrested as an enemy alien and sent to a detention camp. When France fell to Germany in the summer of 1940, Roman escaped and fled to the Spanish border. From there he made his way to Portugal, the destination of thousands of other refugees seeking a passage to England or the United States.

Around the same time, Luta had decided that Sweden was no longer safe. "The Swedes were hedging their bets," said Vishniac. "Sweden was shooting down British planes during the Battle of Norway, and letting German ones go and Luta thought the Swedes would end up on the German side."

She decided that she and Mara would try crossing occupied Europe, passing themselves off either as Soviet citizens or Latvian refugees, and meet Wolf, whom she had instructed to travel separately, in Lisbon. None of them had any idea that Roman was also in Lisbon.

Having reached Lisbon, Luta and her children took up residence in one of the many hotels used by the refugee community. What happened next was like a scene from a Hollywood movie.

"Lisbon hotels had open air elevators, which were essentially just cages. My father told the story of getting up one morning and taking the elevator with Luta and Mara. Looking over into the elevator going in the opposite direction, he saw his father. They had a big reunion and hugged and cried in the hotel lobby."

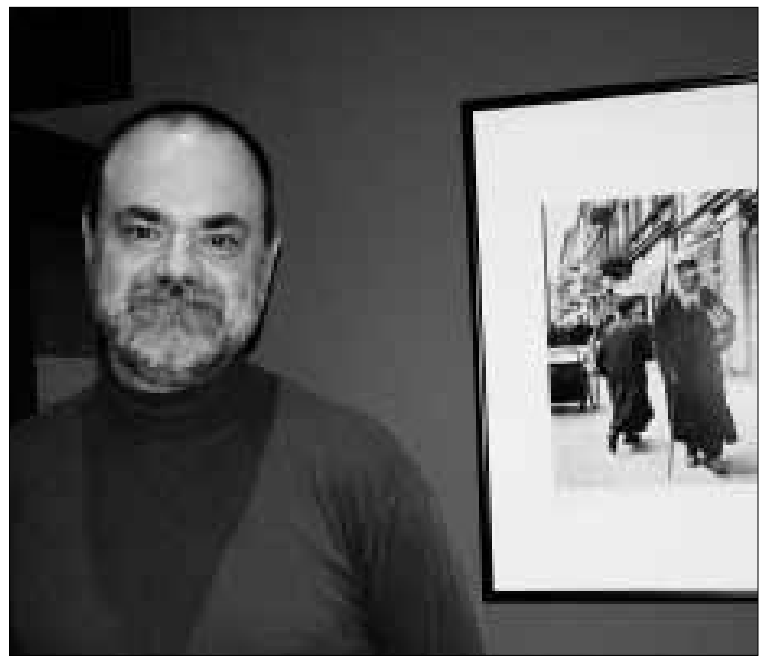
The Vishniacs, who had the incredible good fortune of making it safely to Lisbon, once again found themselves in the enviable position of securing visas for the United States. They were sponsored by family members who were American citizens and arrived in New York in January of 1942.

A new chapter of their lives was about to begin, with Roman now seeking work as a portrait photographer.

"But it was very difficult to make a living because Roman was Roman," said his grandson. "He would take photographs that he thought were interesting yet they were not necessarily the photographs that made people happy."

His grandfather told the story of a client who had asked Roman to photograph his young son. Roman, anxious to please, set about the task.

"He tried to take the most



Ethan Vishniac in his home next to a photograph taken by his grandfather

interesting, revealing kind of picture. But when he showed the proofs to the father, the father was very upset and said he'd made his son look like some kind of freak. It turned out that the child was autistic. Roman had noticed this and his photograph accentuated that. For my grandfather, the point of the story was that his camera's eye had not failed him. It had seen a critical detail and brought it to the surface."

Wolf and Mara had their own struggles. Wolf, with a high school correspondence certificate and letters of recommendation from a couple of Swedish professors, was having a hard time convincing admissions officers to accept him into Brooklyn College. Once again, fate intervened. Luta had another sister who had immigrated to the United States many years earlier. This sister, who was an anthropologist, contacted

"For my grandfather, the point of the story was that his camera's eye had not failed him. It had seen a critical detail and brought it to the surface."

an old friend at the American Museum of Natural History on Wolf's behalf. This time, Wolf's hidden saviour was famed anthropologist, Margaret Meade, whose glowing letter gained him immediate admission. He studied for many years and became an acclaimed microbiologist.

Mara was spending all of her time memorizing English phrases.

"She'd memorize how to order a corned beef and mustard in English so she could go to the corner deli and be mistaken for an American. Evidently, he looked at her and asked her what kind of bread she wanted. Either way he broke the script. She was helpless. She burst into tears and ran home."

In America, Roman and Luta struggled in their marriage and they finally broke up. After the war, Roman went to Las Vegas for a divorce and then traveled

to Berlin to bring his mistress, Edith Ernst back to New York. The two were married and lived together until his death in 1991.

It was during this period that the name Roman Vishniac became associated in the public mind with the haunting photographs of Eastern European Jewish life. Of his 16,000 photographs, only 2,000 were recovered. After his death, Mara Vishniac Kohn became the guardian of her father's legacy.

The great luck that pursued Wolf in his early years finally ran out. In 1973, he was working in Antarctica on behalf of the American space program. He had a tragic accident while traveling in foggy weather and fell to his death from a high ridge. The Vishniac crater on Mars is named in his honour.

Roman survived his son by almost 20 years, and passed away in 1991 when Ethan Vishniac was 35 years old.

"He was a 'larger than life' character", Vishniac said, whose resemblance to his grandfather increases as he gets older. Commenting on the relationship between his own father and Roman, Vishniac acknowledges that Wolf consciously strove to distance himself from his father's tendency to embellish.

"My father was a scrupulously honest man. He didn't adorn, didn't exaggerate. He felt that was wrong."

At the same time, "They were both intellectually ambitious and imaginative people... I like to think I take more after my father in my approach to telling stories. I try to be as honest and as exact as he would be. But I like telling stories and in that I am like Roman."

For both Vishniac and his wife, it was a complete surprise when they found out that McMaster University was planning to host an exhibit of selected photos from Roman Vishniac's "A Vanished World" this coming January. (see story, page 1) That Hamilton, Ontario should find itself the new home of a descendant of Roman Vishniac at the same moment in time as its university hosts an exhibit of the famous photographer seems like just another instance of fate playing its hand.



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The Jewish Community Centre

Upcoming Programs

SHOOTIN HOOPS



JCC youth Basketball program for ages 4-8

Session begins January 16, 2008

\$55.00/child Registration Required

This successful program teaches children about teamwork and the importance of daily practice in a fun and non-competitive environment. Coaches help improve the children's skills through drills, exercises and games. Kosher snacks and drinks are provided.



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the Beverly Golf and Country Club

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JCC members: adult \$5 children \$3

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TU BI'SHVAT PROGRAM

Sunday, January 20, 2008 at Shalom Village

More information to follow



For more information about any of these programs call 905.648.0605

Living it up at the JCC

On August 23rd, 2007 the JCC hosted its annual BBQ. With over 200 people in attendance the evening was a great success. At the BBQ we showcased all the Jewish institutions of Hamilton. It was a great way to meet and greet. Our annual lottery took place and our warmest congratulations go out to our winners.



At a Community Wide JCC Brunch

August came and went so quickly, and, before I knew it Rosh Hashanah was

right around the corner. What better way then to begin the New Year with a community wide brunch. 86 members of our community joined together to celebrate at our Apples 'n Honey Brunch. It was a sweet celebration with great food, great friends and great fun.

On September 16, 2007 pre-teens joined together at Laser Mania on Upper James for an afternoon of fun.

When Sukkot arrived so did the sukkah mobile to our Pizza in the Hut Preteen Program. The pre-teens made their own pita pizzas and created their own sukkot out of cookies, candies and icing.

October was a very busy month at the JCC. Biddy Basketball began on October 10th, with all 13 participants shooting hoops and having fun with our great coaches Rebecca Cherniak and Michael Wexler.

In October we hosted three birthday parties that were a ton of fun and unique in their own ways. On October 14, 2007 our Fall Fever Brunch took place. There were 80 people in attendance and thanks to So-Low Sales the lounge looked warm, cozy and inviting. The Village Green's Gwen Gordon prepared a delicious meal and tasty desserts.

The fun did not stop there. Girls Just Wanna Have Fun and so they did on October 28, when 33 girls from grades 4-8 joined together for a fantastic evening. Darlene Shapiro from Relax esthetics and cosmetics joined in the fun. She taught the girls how to file and paint their nails. The girls even got to take home a nail polish. They gathered around the karaoke machine and sang tunes from High School Musical, ate pizza, made ice cream sundaes, watched Princess Diaries 2, ate popcorn and had a blast. A special thank you to Andrea Rowan and to the high school students who helped out at this event.

The JCC is now offering a supervised after-school program Friday afternoons from 2:45-4:00 pm. By the end of the day on Fridays the kids are anxious to just have some fun in the bubble.

On the first day of November the Herb and CeCe Schreiber Family Foundation presented the Ben Meyer educational lecture at McMaster University's Faculty Club. Guest speaker, Professor Carl Ehrlich, spoke to over 150 attendees on Biblical Myths of Creation. A special thanks to Professor Alan Mendelson for this successful evening. Stay tuned for the next lecture date.

Who knew the first week of November would fly by so quickly? Sunday, November 4 was another brunch, the theme being, "A Taste of Jewish Food". 70 members of our community joined together for some tasty home cooked food, made by Eva Raphael, Inbal Chaimovitz, Charles Kravetsky and myself. It was very yummy if I do say so myself!!! The choir from Kehila Jewish Community Day School performed three songs and entertained our guests. The girls joined in the fun with some hip hop dancing taught by two McMaster students Tanya and Robyn who did an incredible job!!! Of course the bubble was full of kids who bounced in the bouncing castle, ran around and had a great afternoon.

So far the past few months at the JCC have been jam packed with great programs. Look forward to some new adult programs this coming winter which will hopefully include: A Wine and Dine evening, A One Woman Show, an evening of Jazz and The Big Party.

I am looking forward to meeting many new faces here at the JCC so I hope to see you all soon.

Laura Laengerer
JCC Interim Programmer



Rabbi Selsberg and Annie Shinehoft at the Ben Meyer Lecture

The Jewish Community Centre


JCC Winter Camp



**December 27, 28, 31 2007
& January 2, 3, & 4 2008 at the JCC**

Bring a dairy lunch, snowsuit, boots, hat and gloves and be prepared to have lots of fun! There is also swimming at Dalewood Recreation Centre on December 27, 31, and January 3 so bring a bathing suit and towel as well! Other activities include tennis with Frances Critchley, gymnastics, computers, arts and crafts, outdoor play (weather permitting) and much much more. Kabbalat Shabbat program includes hot dog lunch. There is limited space, Please register early to avoid disappointment!

UNITS: K'tanim: ages 2.5 years to 3.5
Option 1: 9:00 am - 1:30 p.m.
Option 2: (full day) 9:00 am - 3:30 p.m.



Binonim: Junior/Senior Kindergarten
Gadolim: Grades 1 and 2
Gadna: Grade 3 - 6

Binonim, Gadolim, Gadna: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
LIT/CIT program available for students in grades 7-9

K'tanim program (9:00 - 1:30) for JCC Members \$17.00
K'tanim program (9:00 - 1:30) for Non-Members \$20.00

Fee Schedule for JCC Members \$25.00/day
or \$130.00/6 days
Fee Schedule for Non-Members \$30.00/day
3or \$160.00/6 days

LIT/CIT Fee Schedule (ages 11-14)
\$12/day (members); \$16/day (non-members)

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We are now taking applications for counselors so please apply within. Contact the JCC Reception at 905-648-0605 for further information

A Message From The President

I feel the JCC Board and staff have a lot to be proud of. Over the past several months I feel the JCC has made progress in achieving its goals and I hope the community starts to take notice. Laura has fit into the role as Interim Programmer extremely well and with input from Annie, Laura has brought excitement and energy that anyone who has been to the JCC can't help but notice. I am thrilled that Inbal Chaimovitz has agreed to join the JCC family as a volunteer programmer, specializing in Israeli and cultural programming. She also brings with her a tremendous amount of knowledge and enthusiasm.



Joel Feldman

The JCC has been active with programming for all ages. Camp was a tremendous success again. Young children are active at the JCC, playing organized sports, participating in cultural activities and attending birthday parties. Laura has also been actively programming with Pre-Teens and Teens. The next couple of months will be busy with the Ben Meyer Lecture series, Hamilton Jewish Film Festival, the Chanukah Party and Artist Marketplace and Winter Camp.

We have also made exciting progress on the redevelopment plans. We have received the plans back from the architect and they are at the JCC for review. Although we are still in the planning stage and not ready to take the complete plans to the community, it is very exciting to see a vision of what the JCC could look like for the future. With the proposed additions to the physical structure and the surrounding landscape, the JCC will enable us to meet the needs of the current and future Jewish community.

It has also been heartening to receive support and positive feedback from many in our Community. It is exciting to talk to members of our community, who share the same excitement and determination as we have at the JCC. I thank David Somers and the Federation Board, for the support that they have been extending to the JCC over the past several months. I can confidently say that we share the overall desire to develop a strong Jewish community for all of us.

It is apparent to me that the hardest job that we still have at the JCC, is to change the hearts and minds of the Community. We need to change the reality in our Community from one where the overwhelming majority of the Jewish Community has a desire for a physical JCC, to one where the overwhelming majority of the Jewish Community are Members of the JCC.

I ask that all of you reading this article, please open your hearts and minds and truly look at the progress the JCC is making. Investigate the plans that are being developed and the programs that are being planned and please take out a membership at the JCC and become an active member.

Our goal at the JCC is to make it a center where our community can meet and spend time with family and friends. Your membership and support will enable the JCC to be the centre of the Jewish community and help grow and sustain our community for generations to come.

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**Pat
Chat**

Please Sir ... I want More

Patricia Gordon is a past, present and future resident of Shalom Village. She writes about her life in the village and offers advice to its residents. Her columns are published in the Shalom Village News and are available on the website at www.shalomvillage.ca.

The new Shalom Village residents have been helping many of the old residents with their needs. The new residents are helping the old residents with their needs. The new residents are helping the old residents with their needs. The new residents are helping the old residents with their needs.

Patricia Gordon is a past, present and future resident of Shalom Village. She writes about her life in the village and offers advice to its residents. Her columns are published in the Shalom Village News and are available on the website at www.shalomvillage.ca.

For more information on the possibilities of Shalom Village - please call us!

Pat Gordon

Shalom Village Tribute Cards

Thank you to the following people for sending Shalom Village Tribute Cards to acknowledge life milestones:

<p>REBECCA Rebecca Gordon is a past, present and future resident of Shalom Village. She writes about her life in the village and offers advice to its residents. Her columns are published in the Shalom Village News and are available on the website at www.shalomvillage.ca.</p>	<p>JOHN & JANE John and Jane Gordon are past, present and future residents of Shalom Village. They write about their life in the village and offer advice to its residents. Their columns are published in the Shalom Village News and are available on the website at www.shalomvillage.ca.</p>	<p>JOHN & JANE John and Jane Gordon are past, present and future residents of Shalom Village. They write about their life in the village and offer advice to its residents. Their columns are published in the Shalom Village News and are available on the website at www.shalomvillage.ca.</p>
<p>JOHN & JANE John and Jane Gordon are past, present and future residents of Shalom Village. They write about their life in the village and offer advice to its residents. Their columns are published in the Shalom Village News and are available on the website at www.shalomvillage.ca.</p>	<p>JOHN & JANE John and Jane Gordon are past, present and future residents of Shalom Village. They write about their life in the village and offer advice to its residents. Their columns are published in the Shalom Village News and are available on the website at www.shalomvillage.ca.</p>	<p>Shalom Village will send a beautiful tribute card with your personal message to acknowledge life's milestones and special occasions. Your card is sent directly to the recipient and includes recognition of your donation, your personal message and your return address.</p> <p>When a loved one dies you may wish to consider requesting that Shalom Village memorial cards be sent in lieu of flowers. This is a wonderful way to honour a person's memory in a way that helps others. All memorial donations serve to endorse the Hospice Care Program at Shalom Village.</p> <p>Cards are available in a variety of . All it takes is a phone call to Jean Ulrich at (905) 529-1613 ext. 221 or by e-mail to cards@shalomvillage.ca.</p> <p>Funds raised by card sales support life and living at Shalom Village. Many of the wonderful things that make living AT HOME at Shalom special would not be possible without your support. Please give Jean a call. She would love to hear from you!</p> <p>For other donation possibilities please see our on-line gift registry.</p>

Honouring our Fathers and our Mothers through days well lived AT HOME at Shalom

The Jewish Hamilton Project

'The Way We Were' documents Jewish life in Hamilton

WILF GEROFISKY

Someone ought to write a book.'

How often people who have lived through interesting, emotional or funny times have expressed this yearning for them to be recorded for future generations. Memory fades, details are forgotten, and those who held these memories dear eventually die off.

The genesis for the creation of just such a record occurred when Wendy Schneider was interviewing Aaron Shiffman for an article in the HJN. Her friend Billy Shaffir had a digital camcorder and she asked him if he would like to record the interview as a keepsake for Aaron's family.

The idea of recording an oral history of Jewish Hamilton emerged from that collaboration of Schneider and Shaffir. It was to become a series of recollections of older members of our community about 'The Way We Were', Jewish life in Hamilton in the early years of the last century. Shaffir, a McMaster Professor of Sociology, had come to Hamilton in the early 70's and raised his family here. He had a strong connection to the community and shared Schneider's enthusiasm for local Jewish history. Together they developed the idea of recording this history, not in a book, but on a professionally produced DVD.

The first part of the project deals with the original centre of Hamilton's Jewish settlement, roughly York Street to Barton, and John Street to Bay. It was a vibrant neighbourhood, the centre of community, commerce, education and religious observance for around 2500 Jews who made up the community at that time.

Boleslawsky's Delicatessen was the acknowledged centre of Jewish Social life. As Edie Rochkin recalls

"Everyone who came to

Hamilton came to Boleslawsky's. It was like a club at night. People would buy a bottle of pop, and sit and kibitz for hours."

And the story still is told about the guy who came in and bought a coke for a nickel and gave a \$100. bill to Ziskind Boleslawsky in payment. No comment from Ziskind. He just went upstairs and returned with \$99.95 change.

Not that "Boles" was the only deli. As Shannon Shapiro recalls there were delis run by Mrs. Platt, Mrs. Zucker, Cohen & Sax, and Mrs. Lax, among others. Butchers like Gelber's and Scott's, several fruit companies like Wright's and Netkin's thrived in the area. Chuck Matchen recalled Mrs. Rosenberg's grocery store at York near Caroline was another great gathering place.

Fond memories of the JCC in its several incarnations on Vine Street, John Street and Delaware Avenue were recalled by Paul Hanover, Cuppy Katz, Abe Lebow, Frank Shapiro and Norm Bennett.

"I was only there five and a half days a week" says Cuppy.

"It was closed for Shabbat on the other day and a half." It was the real centre of Jewish life for the teens who went there to meet each other, dance, play organized sports, do arts and crafts, act in plays and go to summer camp. Inspirational leaders like Bill Stern and Max Rotman gave top rate leadership. As Norm Bennett puts it "All our days and evenings were spent there. Wrestlers like Martin Hutzler and Jack Laskin trained there and Pinky Lewis was trainer for the Ticat football players. It was really a great spot. I have no regrets growing up in Hamilton and having the JCC there."

As part of his keen recall of the religious life of the time, Aaron Shiffman remembers

Rabbi Levine, whom he calls 'the Rov of Hamilton'. Rabbi Levine, brought here around 1906 by the Hess St. congregation, was a unifying force in the community, visiting different Shuls each week. He established the Talmud Torah in 1911. Rabbi Morton Green came to the Adas Israel in 1958, and was advised that his scholarly sermons given in English were not relevant to the lives of the Yiddish speaking peddlers who made up the bulk of the 'Paelisha Shul' membership, and he soon made them more so. The Ferguson Avenue shul was known as the "broigasa shul" because anyone who was angry with one of the other religious institutions would go there. Anshe Sholom, established in the 1850's was the oldest Liberal congregation in Canada, presided over by Rabbi Arthur Feldman.

Helen Yellin's many warm recollections included the custom of giving nicknames, like Mr. How Much, constantly wanting to know the price of things, or Shakespeare Bornstein, always full of stories.

Jewish education took place at the Talmud Torah, a spartan red brick building at 58 Vine St. Sophie Kroch and Joshua Katz were two of the teachers. Aaron Shiffman recalls that the kids took advantage of the teachers mercilessly, and on one occasion a teacher picked up Aaron's cousin by the scruff of the neck sending desks and chairs flying. Aaron ran home and told his mother that he was never going



Pictured above: (circa 1950) Abraham and Bella Freeman with their niece, Ruth Charney (centre) and their son, Jerry standing in front of their deli on 58 York Street.

to Talmud Torah again.

These stories and many others have been very professionally organized onto a demo disc which will be part of an expanded DVD that will incorporate memories of the commercial development of Jewish stores and businesses on King St and Ottawa St. as well as residential development of Jewish neighbourhoods in the east end and other parts of the city. When complete it will be available to purchase and if the finished DVD is anywhere near as interesting as the demo, it should be a sellout.

The interview and camera work continues to be done 'for the love of it' by Wendy Schneider and Billy Shaffir, who make personal house calls to the

narrators' homes on their own time to gather the raw footage of the tales they have to tell. This has to be professionally edited and organized and put together on DVD format complete with music, titles, sound effects and graphics.

The total cost of the project will be about \$30,000. Those who saw the preview of the demo disc at the Beth Jacob last month were very enthusiastic, and \$12,000 has been raised so far. Schneider and Shaffir continue to contribute their time gratis, but donations of all sizes are needed to complete this most exciting project. For more information or to make a tax-receiptable donation call 905-628-4842 or 905-628-0058.

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Goldblatt Lecture at McMaster



This year's Lillian and Marvin Goldblatt Lecture at McMaster University that featured guest lecturer, Susannah Heschel, was both well attended and well received. Speaking at length about her father, Abraham Joshua Heschel and his legacy, Dr. Heschel found a warm and receptive audience, many of whom have been long time admirers of her father. Pictured above, left to right, are Michaele-Sue Goldblatt, Marvin Goldblatt, Susannah Heschel, Janet Goldblatt and Wendy Schneider.

MP Sweet travels to Israel Sees opportunity for increased trade



M.P. David Sweet (left) with Canada Israel Committee's David Cooper in Israel

WENDY SCHNEIDER

Member of Parliament (Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough and Westdale) David Sweet traveled to Israel last August on a week-long Young Leadership Parliamentary Mission. The purpose of the annual mission, which is jointly sponsored by the Canada Israel Committee, the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee and the United Israel Appeal, is to encourage young Jewish professionals to get involved in the political sector. Sweet was joined by fellow parliamentarians Yvon Godin (NDP), Borys Wrzesnewsky (Liberal), Rick Dykstra (Tory), Martha Hall Findlay (Liberal candidate for Willowdale) and Raymond Simard (Liberal). The itinerary included a tightly packed schedule of political meetings, strategic briefings and visits to various parts of the country.

During an interview with the HJN, Sweet spoke enthusiastically about the trip. "I enjoyed it and it was very full. We started at 7:00 am with lectures and many days we didn't finish until 9:00 or 10:00 pm."

Among the strongest impressions was realizing "just how many people in Israel are squeezed into a very small territory, as well as the diversity of industry from agricultural to high tech." He and his fellow

parliamentarians were particularly intrigued to see the Canada Centre in Metulla. (Established in 1990 by UIA Federations Canada (UIAFC), the Canada Centre has the only Olympic-size ice skating rink in the Middle East). The Parliamentarians also appreciated the opportunity to become acquainted with social, political and economic aspects of Israeli life.

Sweet said his own personal focus was on finding opportunities to increase trade between the two countries.

"There is a lot more business and commerce we could be doing with each other," he said, a topic he explored during a meeting with Yehuda Raveh, chair of the Canada Israel Chamber of Commerce and head of one of Israel's leading law firms. Sweet said he is currently following up on an initiative called, "Shake Hands with Israeli Industry" hoping to set the wheels in motion that will see more trade between the two countries, particularly in the field of high technology.

"We have a good relationship with Israel, a democratic country," he said, adding that he hopes that the positive reciprocal relationship between Canada and Israel can be enhanced with more trade between the two countries.

Honourable Mention

Ellen S. Jaffe's young-adult novel *Feast of Lights* (Sumach Press, 2006) has received the Gold Medal for Multi-Cultural Fiction in the First Annual Moonbeam Children's Book Awards, presented in the U.S. and open to books from the U.S., Canada, and around the world. The Moonbeam Awards are designed to honor the year's best children's books, authors and illustrators, and to bring increased recognition to exemplary children's books and their creators. "Our ambition

is to support children's book publishing and to promote childhood literacy and life-long reading." Publishers in the U.S., Canada, and internationally were eligible to submit books, and several Canadian authors are among the recipients. An awards presentation took place on Saturday, November 3rd, in conjunction with the 2007 Children's Humanities Festival in Chicago. Ellen's book is available at Bryan Prince Bookseller, 1080 King Street West, Hamilton.



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Happy Hanukkah

On behalf of my wife Almut, our children and my entire staff, may this Hanukkah season bring you joy, peace and love with family and friends.

David



David Sweet MP
905-627 9169
Ancaster - Dundas
Flamborough - Westdale
#3-59 Kirby Avenue
Greensville, Ontario
L9H 6P3

Federation Leaders to visit Shechafim School in Israel



PICTURED ABOVE: Tanya, Emily and Becca Schneider with UIA Federations Canada's representative, Nurit Biderman at the Shechafim School near Kiryat Shmona last summer.

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UJA Federation of Hamilton President, David Somer, and Executive Director, Gerald Fisher, have been invited to attend the "Coast to Coast" consultations of United Israel Appeal of Canada. This is the first time that the Hamilton Jewish Community will participate in these important discussions.

The "Coast to Coast" initiative reflects a strategy developed by UIA Canada to maximize the impact of dollars raised and allocated to Israel from smaller Canadian communities. By pooling the overseas dollars of communities such as Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, the Maritimes and Hamilton, those resources can be directed to specific Israeli institutions. Working together, these communities have accomplished far more than any of them could do alone.

For a number of years, resources from "Coast to Coast" have been distributed to communities and institutions in Upper Galilee and the northern panhandle. These areas were the hardest hit during last summer's hezbollah rocket attacks. Because of this extensive damage, Canadian support has taken on an even greater urgency.

According to Somer "this invitation is the direct result of our successful Israel Emergency Campaign conducted during last year's conflict. At

that time, we were invited to join with other Canadian communities for the purposes of allocating the Emergency Campaign resources. Now, UIA is considering extending an invitation to Hamilton to become permanent members of the "Coast to Coast" initiative."

Fisher referenced the February Federation Board of Directors meeting at which the leadership voted to accept an invitation from "Coast to Coast" for the purposes of distributing Emergency Campaign dollars. "One of the results of that decision was the creation of a linkage between the Hamilton Jewish community and the Shechafim School in Kiryat Shmona. The bulk of our Emergency Campaign resources have been directed to this facility. Perhaps this relationship will now evolve into a growing and mutually shared endeavor between our community and the Israelis involved in the school."

Shechafim School is a small facility for Israeli children with extreme physical and developmental challenges. The school population comes from Kiryat Shmona, surrounding agricultural communities and from several Druze villages in the Upper Galilee and Golan Heights. Somer and Fisher will meet with the school leadership, parents and children to discuss future directions for this new partnership.

VISHNIAC from page 1

She went on to say that "It is our hope that Hamilton would be the model for all cities to follow; as a city committed to issues of human rights – a united community that respects diversity, practices equity, and speaks out against discrimination. It means an unqualified commitment to human rights and human dignity. It means educating children to love and not hate. It means embarking on a mutual quest for tolerance, and understanding. It means repairing our shattered world, together, as only a global community, united by common values can."

The impact of the exhibit's presence in Hamilton is taking on extraordinary proportions.

In an unprecedented expression of support, the Hamilton Teachers Credit Union, in cooperation with both the Hamilton – Wentworth District Public and Catholic School Boards, has committed to assuming the costs of providing buses to transport literally thousands of students to attend the exhibit. At this writing, over one hundred area elementary schools and twenty one secondary schools intend to participate.

As an expression of its commitment to Human Rights and Holocaust Education, McMaster University has committed itself to adding

additional staff and curators for the duration of the exhibit. They do so in order to properly maximize the learning potential for every student.

In a very unique development, Levy also announced that Roman Vishniac's daughter Mara Vishniac Cohn intends to be present for the U.N. commemoration on January 27th. Vishniac Cohn has described how as a nine year old child, she stood beside her father and rocked the developer trays in which her father's images first appeared.

In her own work, she wrote "Now, more than sixty years later, we want to remember the children Roman loved, the children of a vanished world." We want to look into their eyes and see there, the wonder, the hope and the trust in a future that they would not experience. We think of them, we assure them of our love and we cherish their memory."

Arrangements are being made for Mara Vishniac Kohn to meet with small groups in the Jewish community while she is in Hamilton.

In what may be a monumental coincidence, the Vishniac exhibit officially opens on January 17th. In 1995, under the stewardship of Sheila Copps, the Federal government proclaimed January 17th as Raoul Wallenberg Day in Canada.



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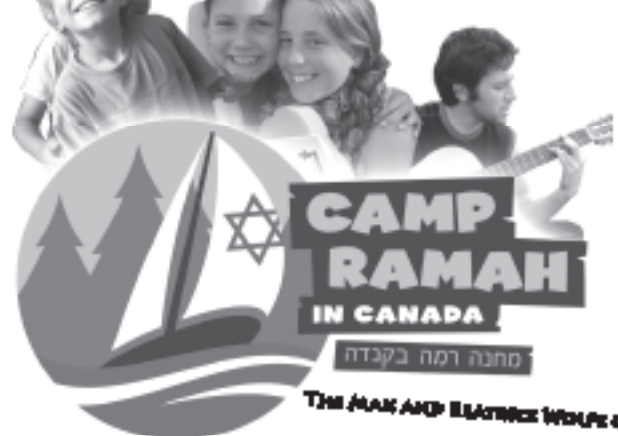
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Jewish Roots tour to Lithuania

14-day tour travels to Northern Poland, Lithuania and Latvia

MAUREEN AND PHILIP PRICE

In April 2006, we set out to discover our Lithuanian roots. Our parents on both sides were of Litvak origin, and stories of Lithuania played a central role in our families' mythologies. Grandmother Sarah ran away to England to escape the poverty and boredom of her shtetl, Shavlan. Uncle Berchik fled to South Africa to avoid being drafted into the Czar's army, and Cousin Chemush had to smuggle himself out because he was a communist. When Grandfather Gershon left Serey before World War II, he left his house and property in the care of Itzhak Garbarsky. How come they never heard from Garbarsky again? He was such a good chaver.

We were fortunate to have as our guide, Simon Davidovitch, the curator of the Sugihara Museum in Kaunas (Kovno). Simon devoted himself to us for the whole week of our visit and did all in his power to ensure that we had an emotionally fulfilling and intellectually stimulating experience. We were able to visit the half dozen villages and towns that are part of our family folklore and to walk the streets that our ancestors had walked more than 80

years before. Time seemed to have stood still, except there were no Jews living there any more. With Simon as translator we talked to old residents who remembered when Jews had lived in their village, and the terrible days in the fall of 1941 when the Jews were taken away. Lighting a yahrzeit candle and saying Kaddish at the Holocaust memorial in mother's village of Serey is a vivid memory I will always cherish.

We toured the ghettos and museums in Vilnius (Vilna) and Kaunas and went to the Ponar Forest near Vilna and the Ninth Fort outside Kaunas, which are the sites of mass murders of the Nazi occupation. We went to the Central archives in Vilna, where most of the genealogical records for Lithuania are kept. Many records have been lost over the centuries in fire and flood and war, but one of the researchers was able to find a few family names and dates, which filled in branches in our family trees. That was a thrill.

Before World War II there were Jews living in over 200 hamlets, villages, and towns all over Lithuania, today there are Jewish communities only in the three main centres of Vilnius,



Philip and Maureen Price pose with an old resident of Shavlan

Kaunas and Siauliai (Shavli). We attended synagogue services in Kaunas and Vilnius where we met members of the local Jewish community. We undertook this tour to find the history of our immediate families, what we found and learned about was a chapter in the history of our people.

Lithuania holds a special place in Jewish collective consciousness. For centuries until the eve of the Holocaust, Vilnius, "the Jerusalem of Lithuania," was recognized as one of

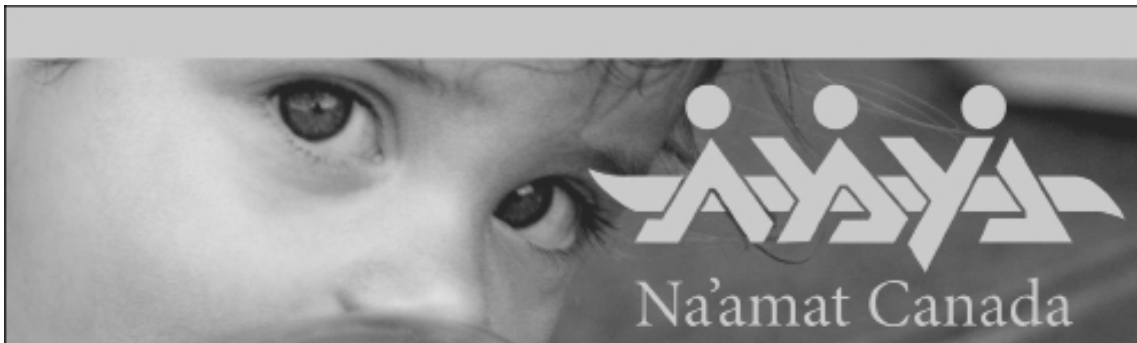
the major Jewish centres in the world, home not just to learned rabbis, but also to important social, political and cultural movements. Historically Lithuania extended much farther than it does today, encompassing much of today's Belarus and the Ukraine. Through a union with Poland, the two countries were linked for more than four centuries, and the Litvak sphere of cultural influence extended also into Northern Poland. Major Jewish settlement dates back to the 14th century when Jews were granted extensive rights and privileges. Later times were less hospitable. Jews were expelled briefly from Lithuania in the 15th century, suffered badly from the Cossack uprising of Bogdan Chmielnicki in 1648-49 and also faced various restrictions on trade and residency. Nevertheless, this period was generally a time of steady development and by the 1790's about 250,000 Jews lived in Lithuanian lands. Great yeshivahs grew up and Lithuania became a centre of Rabbinical Judaism and Talmudic study. In the 18th century the Vilna Gaon and his followers, known as the Mitnagdim, followed a studious, intellectual approach to Judaism and were antagonistic to the emotional appeal of Hasidism. The 19th and early 20th centuries were a time of emigration as families looked for a better life in South Africa, South and North America. By 1939 the Jewish

population was almost a quarter million, about the same as it had been two hundred years earlier. And then in a few short months the events of the Holocaust destroyed this rich, centuries old tradition.

Overall, what we found on our tour was fascinating, but what we did not find was equally revealing.

On returning home we realized that we were not alone in wanting to try and retrace our ancestral Jewish roots. Many friends told us how fortunate we had been to be able to experience what we had. With the invaluable help and advice of Irwin Feuerstein, who has led a number of successful tours to Jewish Spain and Italy, we were able to connect with Pauwels Travel in Brantford, a company that specializes in educational tours to Europe and all four corners of the globe.

Under the auspices of Pauwels Travel we have designed a tour called "In Search of Jewish Roots in Northern Poland, Lithuania and Latvia." This 14-day exploration of the Litvak heartland will take participants from Warsaw, to Kaunas, Memel, Vilnius, Siauliai and Riga. They will learn about the rich historical and cultural traditions of the area and visit local sites associated with the Jewish presence in these areas prior to World War II and the Holocaust. They will visit the key Holocaust sites such as Treblinka, the Ponar Forest and the Ninth Fort in Kaunas, the Warsaw, Kaunas and Vilna Ghettos and also get to meet members of the local Jewish communities which are slowly re-emerging after 60 years. There will be the opportunity to arrange a one or two day personal visit to participants' own ancestral "shtetlach." You will find a detailed itinerary of the tour at: www.pauwelstravel.com under 'Cultural Tours -2008 - In Search of Jewish Roots in Northern Poland Lithuania and Latvia.' For more information contact: Maureen Price at mpprice@cogeco.ca (phone: 905-523-8067) or Irwin Feuerstein at: feuerst@mcmaster.ca (phone: 905-528-9308).



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Yaakov Morel

Amid its most successful years in recent times, Midrasha: Hamilton Hebrew High invites all high school students to a

Chanukah Beach Volleyball Party

on December 8 @ 8:00 pm

at Mainway Sports, 3141 Mainway Drive in Burlington. The event follows on the heels of an increased enrolment in for-credit classes and a highly successful New York Retreat with twenty local high school students. This past year, Midrasha has launched innovative courses in Film & Media, Jewish Leadership, Ethical Dilemmas atop of the Hebrew courses already offered.

For more information about all activities and future events please contact yaakov.morel@gmail.com.

Hamilton Hebrew Academy



Salsa Babies at Hamilton Hebrew Academy

Between 1935 and 1938, celebrated Russian photographer Roman Vishniac explored the cities and villages of Eastern Europe, capturing life in the Jewish shtetlakh (villages) of Poland, Romania, Russia and Hungary; he took more than 16,000 photographs.

On Wednesday, January 30 at 7:30 pm, Vishniac's haunting images will be brought to life in Hamilton in the musical dramatization *Children of a Vanished World*, inspired by the 1999 book of the same name, edited by Vishniac's daughter Mara Vishniac Kohn. The event is hosted by the Hamilton Hebrew Academy and will take place in the sanctuary of the Adas Israel Congregation at 125 Cline Avenue South.

Vishniac Kohn's book, *Children of a Vanished World*, pairs her father's photographs of children with Yiddish folk songs and nursery rhymes. In the staged dramatization by Toronto-based director Judy Kopelow, Vishniac's photographs are projected onto a 10x14-foot screen on stage while original arrangements of Yiddish folk songs are performed by an ensemble of two singers and four instrumentalists (soprano, tenor, violin, cello, clarinet and piano). The music and images are intertwined with a tapestry of narratives: Vishniac's account of his photographic journeys, Vishniac Kohn's memories of her father, and historical portraits of the communities depicted in the photographs.

To capture his images, Roman Vishniac worked with a hidden camera and available light. He hid the camera to evade the suspicion of the Nazis (who might have assumed a Jew with a camera was a spy) and to evade notice by members of the communities he visited, who were generally suspicious of outsiders and would have likely preferred not to be photographed. Vishniac and his family

ultimately fled to safety in the United States, but he estimates that only 2,000 of the photographs made it out with him. His thousands of subjects fared far worse: only a handful survived. Today, Vishniac's images are among the only surviving documentation of the once-vibrant "shtetl" (village) culture that was destroyed by the Nazis.

In the fall of 2001, Toronto director Judy Kopelow came across Mara Vishniac Kohn's book (shortly after having staged a production of Elie Wiesel's musical cantata *Ani Maamim* for Toronto's Holocaust Education Week). Kopelow, a former critical care nurse in the Intensive Care Unit of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto who has a parallel life as a theatrical director, was immediately struck by the images. "This sounds very dramatic," Kopelow told the *Canadian National Post*, "but it's true: I just decided right there I was going to stage this book." She says, "These photographs and the memory of these children needed to have a life bigger than that book. In the performance, we try to imagine the potential of who these children might have become, and to celebrate and remember their lives." To achieve that end, she asked conductor/composer Sabatino Vacca to arrange the Yiddish songs and melodies for operatic voices and a small ensemble of instruments. "The melodies are so beautiful and full of life," she says, "but I also wanted the music to reflect the enormity of the loss — not only of so many children, but of a whole culture. These children died with their communities, so there is no one left to remember their faces. To me, it feels like singing to their souls."

Tickets are \$36 and are available at 905.528.0330.

Maimonides College

MICHAEL GLOGAUER

On January 21, 2008, Maimonides College will be launching a full range of evening classes for adult learners interested in earning a Masters Degree in Jewish Studies or expanding their Judaic knowledge.

Inspired by Hebrew College in Boston and Spertus College in Chicago, the program is designed to build a bridge between the Jewish community and the academic world of Jewish studies.

The initiative is predicated upon the concept that even the best intentioned individuals need incentives. Upon completion of ten courses and fulfilling other requisite requirements students will earn a Master of Jewish General Studies (MJGS) or a Master of Arts in Jewish Studies (MAJS). The College welcomes learners from all backgrounds and seeks to accommodate the competing commitments of adult students. Each course will consist of ten weekly sessions.

The program was developed by Maimonides' Deans, Dr. Paul Franks and Dr. Hindy Najman, both of whom received their doctorates at Harvard University and are currently faculty members at the University of Toronto.

Maimonides College was established and chartered as a university by an Act of the Legislative Assembly of the Province

of Ontario in 1969. The college is fully empowered to issue Masters Degrees in Jewish Studies, but the program is not yet certified by the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies (OCGS). As such, Maimonides cannot guarantee that the degree will be recognized by all doctoral programs.

Maimonides' boasts of a distinguished faculty of fifteen members. In Hamilton, Maimodes will be offering the following courses:

- The History & Philosophy of the Jews of Alexandria with Alan Mendelson (PhD., University of Chicago) on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm commencing on Jan. 22.

- The Talmudic Mind: The Philosophy of Jewish Law with Rabbi Benjamin Hecht (LIB., Osgoode Hall, MBA, Schulich Business School) on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm commencing Jan. 21.

- Modern Jewish Philosophy with Dr. Samuel Aizenstat, details to be announced.

For more information or to register visit www.maimonidescollege.com or contact Dr. Norman Smith at registrar@maimonidescollege.com or 416-633-6224 ext. 132.

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"I knew your father"



Rabbi Bernard Baskin and Dr. Susannah Heschel share a moment at the Goldblatt lecture at McMaster University last month. Rabbi Dan and Karen Selsberg examine a book belonging to Rabbi Baskin, with a personal inscription by the late Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Dr. Heschel subsequently added her own message beneath that of her late father's.

Na'amat Hamilton

TORY METZGER

Na'amat Hamilton, a.k.a Na'amat Nitsan, is looking ahead to another exciting year of programming and events. Things are already in full swing with monthly meetings featuring a variety of speakers on a broad range of issues including health care, politics, the media, and the make up of Canadian society. This fall we have already had an inspirational group retreat and a National Board meeting and we are in the midst of planning for this year's fundraisers including a Beatles Tribute evening in February, a chamber music concert in March, and the group's signature event, a Celebrity Author's Luncheon (this time featuring Nino Ricci) in May. Na'amat Hamilton is pleased and proud to be approaching the 25th anniversary of its formation and especially excited that, coincident with that occasion, one of the group's founding members, Rivka Shaffir will be installed in Israel this summer as the new National President.

Na'amat Canada is a registered

Canadian charity and a part of a worldwide progressive women's organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for women, children and families in Israel and more locally. Our chapter collects donations for local shelters and causes and works closely with the Na'amat Canada organization more broadly to improve conditions for vulnerable people in Israel. Na'amat helps to build and sometimes reconstruct daycares and shelters there, to provide services and alternative specialized education/internship programs for immigrants and secondary school students, and to advocate for equality in women's rights.

Na'amat Hamilton is always happy to welcome new members. Women interested in joining the group, attending a meeting, or simply finding out more about it are encouraged to contact one of the co-presidents, Deena Sacks (905-777-9961) or Tory Metzger (905-627-8212).

Kehila and Berlin Schools

Kehila Jewish Community Day School and Berlin School of Excellence announce the launch of their combined efforts to teach our students about developing a Global Community.

Why are we teaching our students about how they fit into the Global framework? We teach our students to respect, value and celebrate other cultures and have a keen understanding how our culture fits with others. We want our students to understand about developing countries and their issues in a positive way. It is our hope that students become socially and environmentally responsible by learning about their interdependence with other peoples and species. Our students will gain a positive outlook on their role in making the world a more peaceful

and just place. Our Global education programs will enrich our curriculums by clarifying our students and their family's connections to real life - building character, integrity and compassion.

All of these global objectives fit beautifully into our schools' mitzvah projects but takes it one step further by opening up the world's needs and gifts to our students. We were thrilled to have our guest - Lorne Young, B.Sc., B.Ed. Director of Creativity, Action and Service at Upper Canada College launch our joint program goals to our students and teachers on November 9th at Kehila Jewish Day School. If you are interested in more information about this wonderful education initiative, please contact us at 905-529-7725.

Beth Jacob Synagogue

NATALIE JUDITH SOBEL

Beth Jacob is reJEWvenating into a shul that meets the spiritual needs of Jews at all stages of the life cycle. On Shabbat Mishpacha, children, adolescents, and young adults are finding their own way into the shul.

Although every Shabbat service is for Jews of all ages, the monthly "Shabbat Mishpacha" programs have an added children's component. Children ages two to five participate in Torah for Tots - a service modelled after one in a thriving Conservative synagogue in New Jersey that engages young children in tefilla and Torah through the playful techniques of song, dance, movement, and storytelling within a traditional framework. Children in grades one through six participate enthusiastically in the Junior Congregation, where they study the meanings of the prayers they sing and engage actively with the parsha of the week. The leaders of the youth services are dynamic teenagers who participate in monthly training sessions and who serve as positive Jewish role models. The power these young adults display in captivating their younger counterparts with Torah is awesome!

Simultaneously, the parents and the other adults listen to, learn from, and engage with Rabbi Dan Selsberg's at once scholarly, sensitive, and provocative D'ivrei Torah. Chazzan Ben Sharpe's

beautiful baritone voice and soulful melodies inspire the congregation to raise their voices in devotion as the traditional prayers are chanted. The words of the Torah may be chanted with an Indian-Sephardic trope by Victor Abraham or his children; or, in an Ashkenazic trope by the Chazzan or any post Bar or Bat Mitzvah age congregant who has arranged with Philip Price in advance to do some leynung.

The older and cherished generation of congregants kvells upon seeing the children come forward and take over the Bima for Adon Olam. Many of these youth participate in the reJEWvenated Beth Jacob She'arim Enrichment Program which educates children through their Bar/Bat Mitzvah year.

Whether you come alone or with your Mishpacha, you can be part of the Beth Jacob Shabbat community any Shabbat morning (info at www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca). Children's Shabbat services will be held on November 24, December 15, and the 4th Shabbat of each month from 10:45 a.m. until noon.

Beyond the spiritual, intellectually stimulating, thought-provoking, participatory, Jewishly and socially enriching, egalitarian Shabbat experience waiting for yourself or your children, come to Beth Jacob for the kiddush. You will want to pray for those mint brownies!

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Temple Anshe Sholom

JAMIE ABRAM

Mitzvah Corps is the name of the Grade 8 program at Temple Anshe Sholom. The focus of Mitzvah Corps is for our students to learn in greater depth about the Jewish emphasis on Tikkun Olam or "repair of the world". Students study examples from history when Jewish communities and individuals have taken action in order to bring about equality and justice in the world. The topics that the class tackles include poverty, homelessness, and racism. The students also explore individual versus community responsibility.

Additionally, the students spend the second term in volunteer placements in the community. Past placements have included volunteering at Shalom Village, assisting at Hamilton's north end Beasley Community Centre, serving food at the Out of the Cold program, volunteering with developmentally handicapped children, weekly visits to elderly members of the congregation, and preparing living spaces at Ronald McDonald House.

This year, Temple students will join forces on a project with Kehila Jewish Community Day School. Laura Wolfson, Educator at Anshe Sholom said, "When Leia Ger-Rogers approached me about our two schools engaging in this project together I knew it was a perfect way for our students to reach out to the community, doing an important mitzvah and sharing in a meaningful experience together." Also playing a key role in this project is the McMaster Student Outreach Clinic (SOC), an organization that conducts outreach on the streets of Hamilton to feed people who are hungry, bring clothes to those in need and offer health education, advocacy, and assistance for those who are homeless, poor and socially marginalized. Together, these three organizations will share the

warmth with Hamilton's homeless this winter.

Leia Ger-Rogers, Principal of Kehila said that "Kehila chose this project as part of our global education/tikkun olam program where we reach out to the greater community and help those who are less fortunate. Due to our harsh Canadian winter, the students felt that this was the best way that we could help the homeless. This act of kindness allows our students to give of themselves, be grateful for all that we have, and share some of our blessings with others." Laura Wolfson commented that "It's one thing to learn in a classroom about our ethical tradition, but it's another to learn it by doing it. Together, the Kehila students and Temple's Mitzvah Corps students are having the experience of a lifetime – directly helping people in need, feeling the satisfaction of knowing they can make a difference, and understanding that this is the fulfilment of a Jewish obligation."

For their part, Mitzvah Corps students will make 150 sandwiches each week to be served to the homeless on Wednesday evenings from 8:00pm to 1:00am. They will deliver the items collected by Kehila along with the sandwiches to St. John's Evangelical Church. SOC will get all of the items into the hands of those that need it most. This worthwhile program will begin in November and run through February.

Kehila is calling upon families from within the entire community to donate gently used blankets, sleeping bags, and adult sized coats, gloves, scarves and hats which will be distributed to the homeless. If you can help, please drop off your items to Kehila Jewish Day School at the bottom floor of Temple Anshe Sholom or call 905-529-7725.

Jewish Genealogical Society

HAZEL BOON

At the October meeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton and Area (JGSH) we heard 2 amazing stories from those in attendance, both proving that one must never lose faith that family connections will be found as we continue to research our family histories. In the 3+ years that JGSH has been in existence I have heard a number of stories of how previously unknown family has been found or "brick walls" broken down in the search for information about our various families. In making these discoveries we almost always discover stories about our families and it is these stories that bring our family histories to life for us and for future generations. We have another wonderful story available on our website at <http://www.jgsh.org/Newsletter.php?iITEM=13>

I think that we are all searching for these stories about our families, and this is why so many of us are anxious to make trips to the shtetls where our families once lived. I'm looking forward to making such a trip myself once my cousin sells her business and is able to go with me. In the meantime I was able to live vicariously through Merle Kastner's journey to Lithuania & Northern Poland as she described it through her PowerPoint presentation and commentary for a large gathering of our members and non-members at the October meeting.

Paul McGrath of Ancestors in the Attic fame was the speaker at our November meeting. He brought new meaning to

the use of death certificates in tracing family information. Of course the information gleaned from the certificate is only the start of possible information that we can gather, and we always hope that this information will fill in details of the story of our families.

Our December meeting, as usual, will be for members only. The first meeting of 2009 will be held on Wednesday, January 23rd at Temple Anshe Sholom. We are very pleased to welcome Rabbi Jordan D. Cohen whose topic will be "The Lion Meets the Dragon – Jewish Life in China, Past & Present". We begin with a Meet & Greet at 7:30 followed by the meeting and speaker at 8PM. At our February 27th meeting Esther and Ralph Bloch will deal with research questions submitted by our members. By use of a PowerPoint presentation they will show how they researched these questions and developed solutions. This will be the ultimate "How To" presentation.

There is no charge for members to attend these meetings; non-members are asked for a \$5 fee to help us cover our costs for the evening. That fee will be applied to the membership fee for anyone joining JGSH in the current membership year. We welcome anyone who is interested in searching his or her Jewish Family History. For additional information please visit our website <http://www.jgsh.org>, email jgsh@cogeco.ca or phone 905-524-3345.

our community's **FUTURE** is in your hands

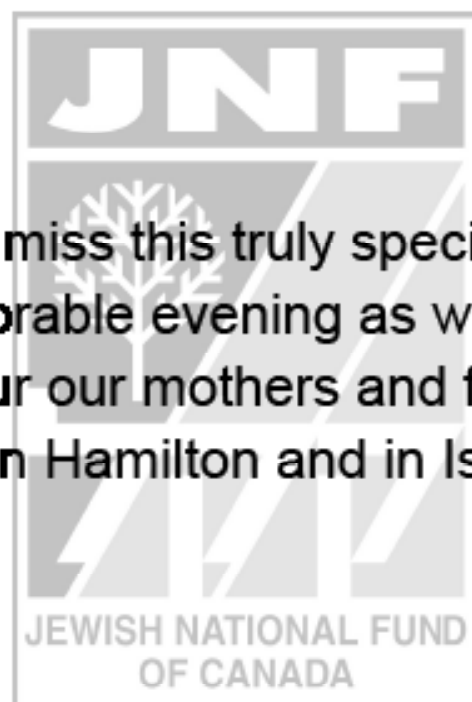
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Your Supermarket with a Twist!

50 Dundurn St., Hamilton
 1579 Main St., West, Hamilton
 Prices effective Sunday, November 25
 through Friday, December 14, 2007
 We reserve the right to limit quantities.

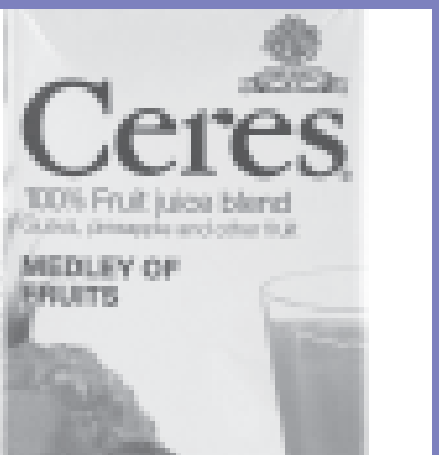
Celebrates Chanukah!

WHOLE KOSHER CHICKEN
 fresh Marvid Poultry



4.38/kg
1.99
 lb.

CERES JUICES
 selected varieties




1.99
 1L

PALMER MILK CHOCOLATE COINS



17.7g
4/\$1

10 LB. COOKING ONIONS
 product of Canada,
 Canada no. 1



1.99

BRITISH COLUMBIA SMOKED SALMON
 Norwegian Style, 5 lb. pack, frozen



1000g
6.99

KEDEM SPARKLING GRAPE JUICE
 selected varieties



750 ml
2.99

CENTRAL EPICURE GEFILTE FISH
 fresh



800 g
5.99

MONTREAL KOSHER POTATO LATKES
 pkg. of 8 medium size



800 g
3.99

MINSKY'S ALL BEEF TORPEDO SALAMI
 Glatt Kosher



700 g
6.99

CROWN CHOCOLATE ROGALACH



400 g
3.99

MY HANUKKAH SHORTBREAD COOKIES



87 g
3/\$2

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO BALL MIX
 or Matzo Ball Soup Mix



128-130g
1.99

WESTERN SOUR CREAM
 regular or light



250 ml
1.49

WE WILL NOT BE LOWERED IN CHANGING COUNTRIES OR CHOCOLATE COIN