

# Hamilton Jewish News

SERVING HAMILTON WENTWORTH & AREA

NOVEMBER 2004 VOL 19:2

KISLEV 5765

## Dates to Remember

### FIRST NIGHT CHANUKKAH

Tuesday, Dec 7



### UJA YOUTH TELETHON

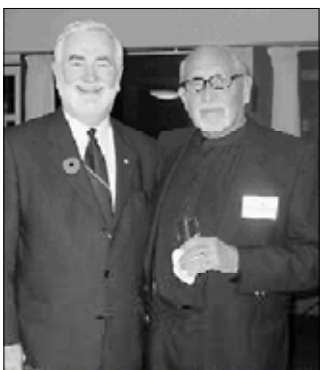
Sunday, Nov 28,  
5:00 pm at the JCC

### ADULT MARCH OF THE LIVING INFORMATION MEETING

Wednesday, Nov 24  
7:30 pm at the JCC.

(See page 2 for details)

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Jewish Studies at  
Mac gets a boost  
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Secret to Life  
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Domestic Abuse in Jewish  
Families  
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Remembering York Street  
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and more...

The 22 participants of UJA Federation of Hamilton's mission to Israel spent an unforgettable eight days in October, touring the country, visiting with beneficiaries of UJA dollars and listening to updates by journalists and politicians about Israel's political and economic situation. Pictured above (standing, l to r, are Paul Roth, Evelyn Ohayon, Wendy Schneider, Stuart Klein (Toronto), Lorne Finkelstein, Moleigh Wiesenthal, Sylvia Livingston, Michael Glogauer, Jason Ohayon, Natan Sharansky, Arnie Strub, Alain Wiesenthal, Sandi Seigel, Michael Taylor, Lila Strub, David Somer, Joel Yellin, Pamela Taylor and Ted Lax (Toronto). Seated (l to r) are Michele Finkelstein and Francie Klein (Toronto). To the right of Sharansky are Bonnie Lax and Allan Kopyto. The indisputable highlight of the mission was a private meeting between mission participants and Israeli Minister of the Diaspora, Natan Sharansky, pictured above. For details about the mission see page 6 and 7 of this issue or go to [www.jewishhamilton.org](http://www.jewishhamilton.org) and click on "Missions".

## UJA 2005 CAMPAIGN: Slow But Encouraging Progress

Early campaign results suggest that the message of "Securing our Jewish Future" through support for UJA is getting out, but returns are a little slower than expected.

According to Dr. Larry Levin, chair of the 2005 Men's Campaign,

"It is very early in the campaign to make any predictions on the outcome. At the moment, those donors who have made commitments to the 2005 campaign have done so with increases running from 10% - 14%. If we can keep up this level of increased giving we will have a real chance of reaching our \$1Million + goal."

Gerald Fisher, UJA Federation executive director, acknowledged the current levels of increased giving but noted that to date, less than 20% of potential donors have been contacted for the 2005 commitment.

"I am excited by the early results, but would feel more confident if volunteer canvassers would take the time - right now - to contact their donors and help us finish the campaign on time."

Building on the positive framework inherited from

immediate past chairs Lester Krames and Paul Roth, most canvassers in the Men's Campaign have only five donors to contact.

Fisher urged them to make the calls right away.

"It's the same two hours; whether you do it in November or do it in January. We need you to do it now. First of all, donors are entitled to the opportunity to make their commitments and pay them by December 31st so that they can have a tax receipt for the year. Secondly, many people are away for much of the winter. It's much easier to reach people now rather than later."

The 2005 Women's Campaign is, as usual, a little further ahead of the men. According to co-chairs Louise Klinghoffer and Jo-Ann Pomerantz, the women's campaign cards were distributed at the beginning of October and many of their canvassers have already completed their volunteer assignments.

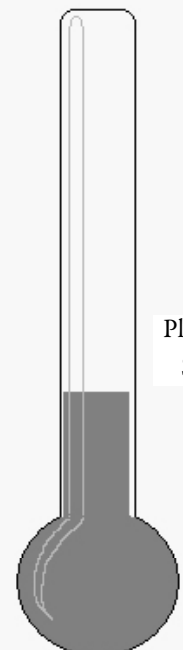
One new way being used to encourage a quick campaign close is the distribution of weekly campaign reports via email to every divisional captain and canvasser. According to Levin,

"It's a lot easier to see what you have left to do when you can see

what you have already completed. By sharing weekly campaign reports with our volunteer captains and canvassers, everyone will have up to date information on the state of the campaign."

In another innovation to encourage a quicker close to this year's campaign, the organizers have established a bit of an "incentive program" for canvassers to complete their assignments as quickly as possible. Canvassers finishing their cards before the end of November will be eligible for draws for various prizes including spa, golf and dinner vouchers. Winners will be announced at the time of the campaign closing.

The campaign is always looking for volunteers to help. If you have time to volunteer and make a few phone calls on behalf of the campaign, please contact Chris Nusca at the UJA Federation office at 905-648 0605, ext 306 or email [cnuscauja@on.aibn.com](mailto:cnuscauja@on.aibn.com).



Pledges to date  
\$185,000

## UJA Federation Programs

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### EDITORIAL POLICY

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

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE HJN IS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2005**

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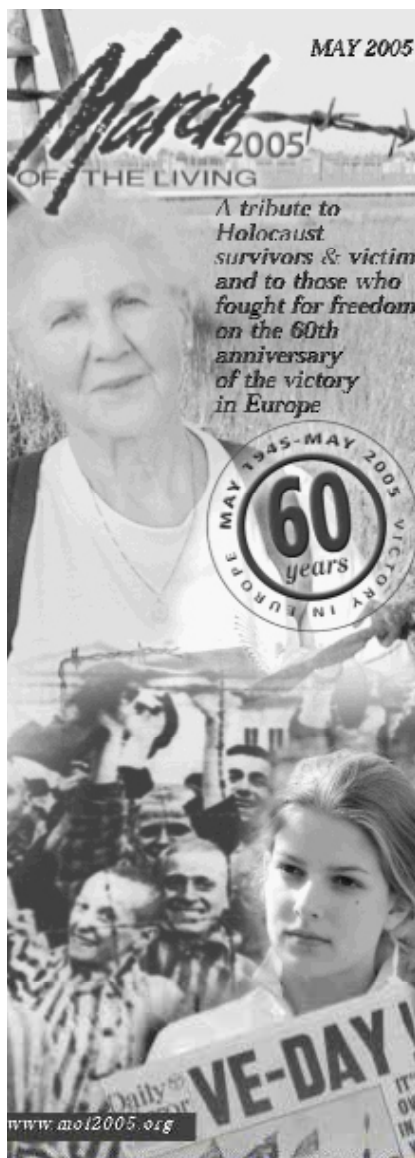
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## RALPH TRAVIS ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

The Ralph Travis Night at the Races, held recently at Flamborough Downs Racetrack, succeeded in raising \$9,000 for the Ralph Travis Israel Experience Fund. The annual event is organized by Mark Scholes, John Levy, Glen Watts, and Cuppy Katz, in memory of their good friend, the late Ralph Travis. Pictured above are Corrine Travis (2nd from left), with her son Neil, daughter-in-law, Rhonda, and grandchildren, Jaclyn and Alexandra.

## March of the Living 2005 *For All Ages*

In May 2005, 60 years after the end of World War II, 18,000 people from around the world will assemble at Auschwitz to observe Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, on May 5 and to honor those who lost their lives - and those who survived. **The unique mission of MOL 2005 is to inspire a community of people of all ages from different religions, different cultures and different countries, by stepping into history to mark two of the most significant events in the twentieth century - the Holocaust and the end of Nazi tyranny.** The participants will take part in a meaningful commemoration at Auschwitz-Birkenau and in a three to six day innovative touring program to former camps, past centers of Jewish life and other sites of interest. After the program in Poland, MOL Participants may



### Travel Dates

*MOL 2005 takes place in early May. For North American participants, the program in Poland will vary between three and six program days. North American departure dates: May 1 through 3, 2005. All participants will assemble and take part in a commemoration in Auschwitz-Birkenau on May 5, 2005 to observe Holocaust Remembrance Day and to pay tribute to the millions of victims of the Nazi-genocide and the Second World War, as well as to those who lost their lives fighting for freedom against the Nazis. An Israel option will be available.*

An information meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 24 at 7:30 pm in the JCC lounge. For more information contact Elaine Levine at 905-648-0605, ext 304 or email [elevineuja@on.aibn.com](mailto:elevineuja@on.aibn.com).

## WE WANT TO GET YOU TO ISRAEL THIS YEAR!

UJA Federation is pleased to announce the availability of ISRAEL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS for recognized high school and university level programs. These funds have been made available through The Ralph Travis Israel Experience Fund and UJA Federation. Scholarships are available up to a maximum of \$500 and are subject to a number of criteria, outlined on the application form.



- All candidates will be interviewed
- Applications will be considered only from families who have met their commitment for the 2005 UJA campaign. For application forms call 905-648-0605.

## Put Yourself In This Picture! The Asper Foundation Human Rights & Holocaust Studies Program



2003 Hamilton Participants in the Asper Program

As an expression of its ongoing commitment to Holocaust education and remembrance, UJA Federation announces its participation in The Asper Foundation Human Rights & Holocaust Studies program. Directed at high school students in grades 9, 10 and 11, the program includes three major components:

1. All chosen participants are required to take an 18-hour education program on the Holocaust and human rights.
2. After the educational component is completed, students will participate in a trip to Washington, D.C., spending several days at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and other important monuments relating to freedom and human rights.
3. Students are required to volunteer 16 hours in their communities on community projects of their choosing on their return.

Tentative dates for the Washington trip are May 15-18, 2005. The bulk of the costs of the experience will be borne by UJA Federation of Hamilton and The Asper Foundation. Student's share of the cost will be approximately \$350, depending on enrolment.

The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program is a national program for Canadian high school students, that is inclusive of all students across all denominations. Local program coordination is provided under the auspices of the UJA Federation of Hamilton Holocaust Education and Remembrance Committee, chaired by Michele Finkelstein.

All applicants will be required to submit an original essay as part of the application process. The application deadline is January 14, 2005. Program applications are available by contacting the Federation office at 905-648-0605, ext 304 or email [elevineuja@on.aibn.com](mailto:elevineuja@on.aibn.com).

## UJA Federation

### First CIJA National Conference Makes a Difference

by Gerry Fisher,  
Executive Director,  
UJA Federation

Just over one year ago, CIJA the Canadian Council on Israel and Jewish Advocacy, was launched in a national effort to strengthen the Jewish community's lobbying effort for Israel and Jewish causes. If the result of the November 1st "Democracy in Action Conference" is any indication, CIJA may be even more successful than first realized.

Delivered over the course of two days, the conference brought together close to 1,000 community leaders, activists and students from across Canada. They came to learn more about Israel, to learn more about effective techniques in dealing with media and elected officials and to apply that knowledge directly in meetings with MP's, government policy makers and the caucuses of the four major parties.

The Hamilton delegation (including four students from McMaster ) was led by Dr. Lawrence Hart. Hart is a member of the National Board of Directors of Canada Israel Committee and also serves as chair of CIJA activity in the Hamilton area. The delegation also included Dr. David Somer, Dr. Cheryl Greenbaum, Harold Pomerantz, Dr. Sharon Hart, Bernard Katz, Milt Lewis, Monte and Madeleine Levy, Brandon DeSilva, president of McMaster JSA and Avi Ben Zvi; president of Zionists@Mac. UJA Federation executive director, Gerald Fisher also attended.

What made this event different from other similar events was the much more sophisticated political focus the new CIJA format provided. The



Hamilton contingent in Ottawa

new format provided for direct interaction between delegates and their MP's and party leaders. It was in this new format that the value of CIJA became so readily apparent. After a year of intensive community education by CIJA, delegates were able to sit with MPs and in-party caucuses with a real knowledge base in hand. The politicians quickly realized that a photo op, a handshake and a banal soundbite just weren't going to be sufficient anymore. Nowhere was this more apparent than in the meeting with the NDP caucus.

Given the fragility of the current minority government, the role of the NDP in Ottawa matters to a degree that far outweighs their numbers. More than 40 of the conference delegates attended a meeting with the NDP caucus. Remarkably, almost half the caucus showed up to participate as well. The new format provided an opportunity for "a frank exchange of views" civilly delivered and not intended to put anyone on the defensive. The response from the politicians was different than in the past.

Unlike previous occasions where the exchanges are more or less patronizing to both sides,

this one had real substance. The MPs listened to our concerns regarding party policy and public statements made by party members. The responses from the MPs revealed existing tensions within the caucus on matters pertaining to Jewish community interest. This is information that will be of value to those who are represented by NDP members.

David Christoferson (NDP Hamilton Centre) was especially forthright in the caucus meeting. He acknowledged differences of opinion within the caucus but also pointed specifically to Hamilton as an area in which the party and the Jewish community have taken measurable steps to better understand each other. He was referring to a meeting held between community leaders and three NDP candidates during the federal election. Both sides reference this meeting as a positive turning point in the state of relations between the party and the community.

One of the interesting and bright spots for Hamiltonians attending was the accessibility of our local MPs. Both David Christoferson and Russ Powers (Lib. Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Westdale)

cont'd on p 14

### UJA Campaign Goes Digital

### Shirley Molot among 1400 women at International Lion of Judah Conference



Shirley Molot was among 1,400 Lions of Judah from the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, England, France, Israel and the former Soviet Union who attended the International Lion of Judah Conference, held in Washington D.C. from October 17-19. The purpose of the conference was to honour the world's 14,000 Lions of Judah, the name given to women who contribute a minimum of \$5000 to their communities' annual UJA campaigns.

"It was three days of information, inspiration and motivation – the most stimulating and exciting conference I've ever attended", she said, adding that 23% of the total UJA dollars raised in North America comes from women.

Among the many prominent speakers were Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, First Lady, Laura Bush, Theresa Heinz Kerry, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Dennis Ross, former U.S. ambassador and American negotiator in Middle East peace talks and Broadway actress Tovah Feldshuh.

For Molot, the most memorable moments included Teresa Heinz Kerry saying, "It's not the size of your pocketbook that matters. It's an open mind, an open heart and conviction"; Laura Bush reviewing the contributions that Jewish women have made to the United States and quoting Emma Lazarus, whose words are engraved on the Statue of Liberty; and Hillary Rodham Clinton stressing that it is not only that the assembled women stand against terrorism but that they also stand for humanitarianism, giving hope and heart to the cause of human rights and social justice.

Asked what motivated her to attend the conference, Molot answered, "I am a first generation Canadian. My parents came here as Russian and Polish immigrants. My father had four siblings. One by one, my mother and father scraped together enough money to provide them first with passage, and then with food and board even though they barely had enough for themselves. Unfortunately, they ran out of time and couldn't save my grandparents, who died in Auschwitz. I know how fortunate and privileged we are. I feel we have an obligation to the next generations and for those who aren't as lucky as we are."

Now that she has returned, Molot has a new mission: to bring a large contingent of Hamilton women to the next Lion of Judah conference, scheduled to take place in two years.



#### Our Apologies

The HJN apologizes for neglecting to mention in the September issue that Heather Ritter was a co-chair of UJA's women's division together with Louise Klinghoffer.

#### The UJA Federation of Hamilton Public Affairs Committee seeks to expand its membership

The Public Affairs Committee of UJA Federation of Hamilton is mandated to address issues in Israel Advocacy and Community Relations on behalf of the Hamilton Jewish Community.

If you have an interest in strengthening our Israel Advocacy work...

If you have an interest in building bridges between the Jewish community and other faith and cultural groups....

If you have an interest in media monitoring and response...

please contact Gerald Fisher at 905-648-0605 or email [gfisheruja@on.aibn.com](mailto:gfisheruja@on.aibn.com)

#### UJA Federation of Hamilton's HOLOCAUST & REMEMBRANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE is delighted to welcome

#### Michele Finkelstein as its new chair.

If you would like to take an active role in Holocaust education in our community, which includes overseeing seminars for high school students and teachers, the Asper Program for High School students and the bi-annual March of the Living program, contact Elaine Levine at 905-648-0605, ext 304.

## UJA Beneficiary Agencies

# Midrasha High School

## Excellence in Judaic Studies, Excellence in High School Studies

BY ANDREA ZIANS,  
DIRECTOR HAMILTON MIDRASHA

Midrasha Hebrew High School Program has developed its Hebrew curriculum for this academic year. Many hours have been put into developing a course that focuses upon Hebrew reading, Hebrew writing, Hebrew conversation, and Hebrew grammar.

In an effort to make these strands of the curriculum appealing to the average teenager, energy was spent on researching and purchasing new educational materials. Hebrew Newspapers geared to Olim Chadashim (new Israeli immigrants) with American content have been purchased for student use. Audio-visual materials, novels, grammar books, and language programs have been bought in order to create a dynamic, and stimulating learning environment.

Midrasha Hebrew High School would like to acknowledge the expert help of CHAT (Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto) and Professor Barry Walfish in this process. Both were available to us for consultation and provided us with some new resources for our program.

Through our partnership with the Hamilton Learning Center we take pride in continuously striving to meet the Ontario Ministry of Education's standards and expectations. The Hamilton Learning Center enables us to offer Ministry Inspected courses leading to High School accreditation. This means that Midrasha High School courses have the same course expectations as any other course within the public or private High School System.

Meeting these standards can be professionally demanding and we

have hired two new and highly competent teachers to help us with this task. Ur Barzel, and Elina Gurevich are a welcome addition to our Hebrew Program. Both teachers have appropriate teacher training and experience with the Ministry of Education's guidelines and criteria. Both teachers were highly recommended and bring with them a wealth of experience from Toronto's Jewish High School System.

In addition to the Hebrew program, we offer other accredited courses. These courses are: World Religions, Comparative Philosophy, Jewish History and Text (Ancient and Modern). This year we are offering Comparative Philosophy. This is a grade 12 course within the Academic Stream of the Ontario Ministry of Education's Secondary School Curriculum.

Midrasha Hebrew High School Students are committed and dedicated individuals who have made a tremendous commitment to their Jewish and secular education. They have taken on the extra work for the sake of knowledge and Jewish growth and our community should commend them for their high ideals. Students at Midrasha will certainly be the future leaders of the Jewish community both within our city and the world at large.

While it may seem that Midrasha is all work and no play, nothing could be farther from the truth. Midrasha students are given the opportunity to socialize with their Jewish friends and participate and develop their young leadership abilities. Students celebrate the Chagim together, participate in Jewish community events and establish and reaffirm their deep

ties and commitment to the State of Israel and the Jewish People. Don't mistake Midrasha as only a High School Program. It is essentially one of the strongest ways for Hamilton teenagers to remain hooked into our Jewish community and to grow as Jews.

Midrasha Hebrew High School wants all students of all abilities to partake of our strong educational programming. In order to accommodate students who are unable to handle the academic demands of a dual program we offer two options. One option is for students to audit any of our evening courses. The second option is our non-accredited Topics 4 Teens. Topics 4 Teens is a dynamic discussion group which draws upon multi-media to explore issues relevant to today's Jewish teenager. Both these options enable the student to be a part of Midrasha's programming and benefit socially and educationally as well.

Midrasha Hebrew High School is a jewel in the crown of Hamilton's Jewish community. We are pleased to provide our teens with upbeat, interactive, dynamic and challenging courses. We stress excellence in both Judaic Studies and High School Studies. We are looking forward to the success of this year and we invite anyone who is interested in being part of this educationally rewarding experience to join us.

# Report from McMaster University's Jewish Student Association

## The Israel within Judaism

by Brandon DeSilva, McMaster JSA President

The second Intifada brought an unprecedented amount of violence, terrorism and murder to Israel. Since then, the environment for Israel supporters and Jewish students on campuses across North America has become one of increasing hostility. At McMaster University, our student population has been confronted with anti-Israel campaigns such as "Israel's Apartheid Wall", "Zionism is Racism", "The Myth of Democratic Israel", and "The Palestinian Right of Return". These campaigns are perpetrated by our local campus anti-Israel club, a group unfortunately not dedicated to promoting Palestinian human rights but rather to systematically demonize Israel. Messages such as those offered by anti-Israel groups only serves to misinform the average student, reinforce the already negative images of Israel that exist in the popular media and inflame tensions on campus.

Canadian Jewish student bodies have most certainly been affected by these negative portrayals and malicious attacks against Israel. Events like the Concordia banning of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak from exercising his right to free speech, Waterloo University Professor Mohammed Elmasry's dehumanizing words and, most recently, the hate messages received by Hamilton's own Zionists@MAC (ZMAC) are all evidence of the poisoned atmosphere that Canadian Jewish University students are being forced to face on a regular basis.

The effects of these troubling incidents can be seen and felt throughout the Jewish communities in Canada. While a great amount of resources have been invested in helping students experience the "real" Israel through such trips as Birthright and to acquire the tools to bring Israel advocacy to campus on such trips as Hasbara Fellowships, Jewish students continue to have difficulty understanding the connection between Judaism and Israel. I have personally been approached by many Jewish students who believe that the McMaster Jewish Students Association (JSA) should not be involved in any activity that puts forth a stance of support for the State of Israel. I have also been greatly criticized for my involvement in ZMAC, McMaster's Pro-Israel club. Many have put forth the argument that the JSA president should not take part in such a club. It is my strongly held belief that a proud JSA President would surely be involved in a club that



Brandon de Silva

has so much relevance to Jews on campus.

Recently the JSA and ZMAC partnered together to educate the campus through a poster campaign, entitled "Faces", in which Israel's humanitarian efforts around the world were highlighted. I would never have expected this to be at all controversial, especially in light of the highly offensive, yet openly accepted, anti-Israel campaigns on campus. It seems my assumptions were wrong and that any promotion of Israel in a positive light seems to elicit a negative response. The JSA and ZMAC were attacked by Jewish and non-Jewish students for an attempt to detract away from what some have called, "the inexcusable treatment of Palestinians". As a Jew and a strong Zionist, this message is very hurtful as well as almost incomprehensible.

Israel and Jerusalem have been in our prayers for over 3000 years. Our synagogues are built facing Israel and is mentioned in our holiest prayers. Most importantly, and this is becoming more relevant with every passing day, Israel is the one country in the world where a Jew can be a Jew, without the constant problems being faced today in such countries as France and even in our own backyard with all the recent antisemitic hate crimes in Ontario. Once again, this was reiterated when an Antisemitic Nazi poster and e-mail was sent to ZMAC and not the JSA.

The JSA takes their stance from Hillel International; "Wherever we stand, we stand with Israel". I think Jewish students need to dig deeper than the mainstream media and educate themselves on what Israel is all about. Only then will they truly be proud of their eternal homeland and not be afraid or uncomfortable to show it.

## Midrasha Hebrew High School Wish List

- a CD and tape cassette player
- a DVD player

If you would like to donate a new or used piece of



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## Jewish Social Services

# Debunking Myths: Domestic Abuse in the Jewish Community

## You Can Turn To Us: A Case Study

When she walked into my office, you could see her pain and apprehension. She apologized for coming but said she had nowhere else to turn. She was in her mid-thirties, had three small children, was relatively new to Hamilton and recently separated from her husband. Her three young sons were showing every bit of the stress she was feeling.

Her ex-husband was very difficult to live with but her family could not understand why she would break up their beautiful home and leave him, a man who had come from such a good family.

As I looked at her, I could see she had all the signs of a woman who was fighting to keep her family together. We had to sort through the emergency support she needed before even considering all the long term help she was going to need. Court-ordered support was not being paid, and her disability pension was not covering all her expenses. Her cupboards were bare, the weekend was coming, and she and her children had nothing to eat.

Food was given, as were vouchers to get meat and dairy products. A lawyer was contacted, and an appointment was arranged to work on support issues. We found her a doctor to see immediately.

Slowly we began to help this family become a part of the Jewish community and manage their funds. We found an apartment in the Jewish area and they were able to move. We found furniture so that she could feel proud of her apartment when friends visited. The children could attend the day school; for the summer they were able to attend our Camp Kadimah. She and her children started to attend community events - Purim Carnivals, Chanukah parties, Simchat Torah celebrations.

Her ex-husband's wages were attached so that she had more security and knew how much money was available each month. We continued to help her with food and vouchers, further reducing her financial worries.

With counseling, Mrs. S started to come out of her depression and developed a new feeling of self worth. Before, when Mr. S would always tell her she was wrong, stupid and did nothing right, it had been impossible for her to feel good about herself. She had never learned how to handle money because he had never allowed her to have any.

Through time, Mrs. S enrolled in a program and was able to get a job. The pay is small but, with support and the help of Jewish Social Services, she is able to manage. She is reunited with her family-of-origin; they cannot afford to support her financially but they try to help as best they can. And they are beginning to understand why she and the children had to leave the marital home.

This is not a happy ending, but an ongoing story. While the S family exists, details have been changed to protect confidentiality. Unfortunately, we at JSS have many cases where women (and sometimes men) are abused and afraid to make a change. Abuse can take many forms. Most of us recognize physical violence as abuse. However, ongoing verbal intimidation and maligning, emotional demeaning and manipulative financial control can be just as, if not more, damaging.

We at JSS want everyone to know that no one need spend their life being abused. Times are different, woman can vote. They can also vote with their feet by walking away from a bad situation.

The Jewish community cannot keep silent about such abuse in its midst. It has, does and continues to exist. When someone tells you they are being abused, believe them. Abusers must be held accountable.

If you or anyone you know need help, give us a call at 905-648-0605 (325). Everything we discuss with you will be held as confidential.

by Carol Krames, director, Jewish Social Services

## Jewish Women International Addresses Violence Against Women

Did you know that October was National Domestic Violence Awareness Month? And what does this have to do with the Hamilton Jewish community? Well, in the last two weeks of October there were two local Jewish gatherings which focused on the intersection of these issues.

The first, on October 22-24 in Niagara Falls, was the 3-day Jewish Women International - Canada (JWI-C) national convention. Attended by women from across the country, the weekend was entitled "The Voice Of Women, Responding To Violence Against Women". Major presentations included an address by a high-level health professional who survived an emotionally and physically abusive marriage for 10 years, reports from various JWI-C members who had researched women-abuse in several non-home settings (on the job, in sports, in hospitals and on post-secondary campuses), and a detailed review of JWI's recently published "Needs Assessment, A Portrait of Domestic Abuse in the Jewish Community". This latter document, based on the findings from a major national (US) and Chicago-based study in 2003, highlighted six key findings regarding the impact of domestic abuse on Jewish homes and families, plus recommendations for action.

The second, on October 28th at the Dundas home of Laura and Stuart Mestelman, brought together a small but diverse group of women reflecting the broad range of the Hamilton Jewish scene. The stated aim of the evening was to begin to break the silence about domestic abuse in the Jewish community. Those in attendance had a chance to meet Penny Krowitz and Lorraine Bramson (respectively, the National Executive Director and Vice President of JWI-C) and to hear about JWI-C's "Needs Assessment" research and findings.

Some of the highlighted findings revealed that, despite the typical myth that this doesn't happen in Jewish families, the range and prevalence of abuse in

Jewish homes is no different than that of the general population (1 in 4 women and 1 in 14 men having been physically or sexually assaulted by an intimate partner). Further, there seems to be no difference between homes at different levels of socio-economic status or religious observance.

However, Jewish victims of abuse (predominantly women and children) appear to be much more likely to seriously delay (or totally avoid) seeking assistance. This results in much longer periods of entrenchment in abusive relationships, with the consequence of extended detrimental effects to those involved as well as their families and the community at large. In turn, this significant silencing further minimizes our community's awareness of these ills and serves to draw our attention well away from the creation and funding of appropriate supports.

While domestic violence (including actual or threatened physical or sexual violence, psychological, emotional or financial intimidation directed toward a spouse, ex-spouse, current or former partner, son

or daughter) is a rare topic of discussion at Jewish gatherings, the October 28th meeting stimulated a rich, thoughtful, open conversation about these well-hidden problems, either from the attendant's own experiences or those of women (and/or men) they knew. At the end, there seemed to be consensus regarding the need for further dialogue and work towards increased community awareness surrounding these issues.

Copies of JWI's Needs Assessment can be obtained by calling 1-800-343-2823. For those who may be interested, JWI's second International Conference on Domestic Abuse in the Jewish Community is scheduled for March 20 - 23, 2005 in Washington, DC. If you have any interest in exploring and taking action on these issues here in the Hamilton community, please call Laura Mestelman at 905-627-1849

## Attention Community

### Teens!

You are invited to participate in the

## UJA Youth Telethon

on

Sunday, November 28

5:00-5:30 pm

Dinner to be served

5:30 - 6:00 pm  
and training by

Orientation workshop

Lynne Czutrin and Vivienne

Epstein

6:30 - 8:00

Telethon

## Jewish Social Services Hamilton Kosher Food Bank Wish List

Winter coats in good condition  
Winter jackets (ladies small) for tall, slim woman  
Pentium 4 Computers  
Tuna Fish, Matza, Salmon instant coffee,  
peanut butter, oil

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CLU, ChFC, CFSB  
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*Lou Bukhman*  
B.A., M.Sc. (Econ.)  
Member - MDRT

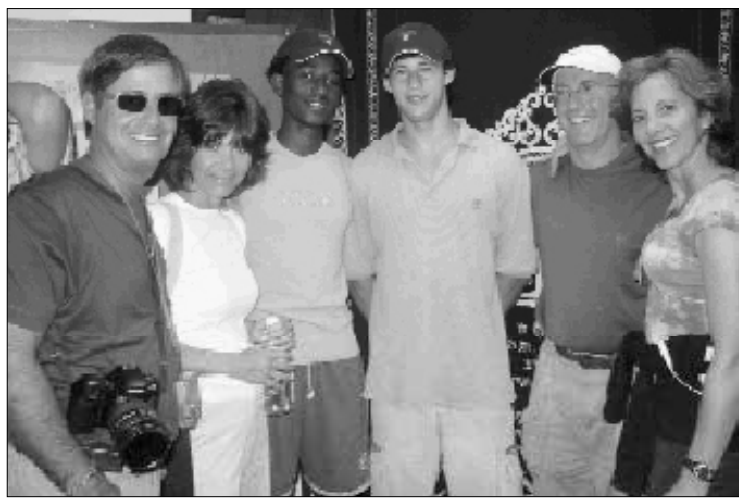
## 2004 Hamilton Mission To Israel: An Unqualified Success!

I have just returned from a life altering experience- The Hamilton Jewish Community Mission to Israel. Together with 20 other Hamiltonians from various corners of our Jewish community I saw Israel with the help of a truly amazing guide. During our trip we all strengthened our connection not only to Israel but also to our local Jewish community through the connections made with our fellow Hamiltonians. In 10 days he showed us the miracle that is Israel and the amazing spirit past and present of the people who have built her. But most importantly the message that was conveyed by the leaders, journalists and people we met was that Israel needs a strong Jewish community outside Israel. We discussed the unique times we are in - this may be the first time during the past 50 years that diaspora Jews face more danger than Israel. By supporting our local community and Israel through the UJA we accomplish our goal of supporting both our local and spiritual needs.

Michael Glogauer

While exposed to so many aspects of Israeli life today, and learning about so many of Israel's and our own community's needs, the major impact on us was the emotional trauma suffered by our guide, Ezra following the death of his son a few years ago. Moshale Eini was killed by sniper fire while on guard duty in Ramallah. His father carries on life as a tour guide, daily repeating the history of the trauma of the Intifada on Israelis to his visitors, despite the personal pain he and his family endure. Ezra made us aware that while we, in the comfort of the Diaspora, have our own diverse opinions about how we believe Israeli politicians should decide future actions, we all must step back from our emotional debates in Hamilton, think about Ezra and his family, and too many other Israelis, and what they have personally experienced, and respect that it is those who are living in Israel who are best able to decide the future of Israel's actions to protect the State of Israel.

Michele & Lorne Finkelstein



There were many peak moments during the recent Hamilton mission to Israel, but all participants would certainly agree that the highlight was a private 30-minute meeting, that took place between mission participants and Israel's Minister of Diaspora Affairs, Natan Sharansky. A respectful hush descended on the room as Sharansky, whose legendary status as the most prominent of Soviet Jewish 'refuseniks' of an earlier era, appeared in the doorway of a small boardroom in the Prime Minister's office.



Sharansky spoke about the disturbing trends he observed during his widely publicized visit to campuses across North America last year. He characterized most North American campuses as 'enemy territory' for affiliated Jews, and observed that only a minority openly stand up for Zionism. Most Jewish students, he said, are on the sidelines and afraid to speak up because to do so might damage their grades and their academic futures, as well as their social standing. Borrowing the famous phrase from the 1970s used to describe Soviet Jewry, Sharansky referred to the students who make up the overwhelming majority of young North American Jews, as this generation's "Jews of Silence".

Sharansky also spoke about the '3Ds', an expression he coined to distinguish between legitimate criticism of Israel's policies and antisemitism. These are: the demonization of Israel, double standards for governmental behavior and de-legitimization of Israel's very existence. When any one of these factors are at play, then, in his view, the criticism ceases to be legitimate.

During the short question period that followed his remarks, Sharansky pulled out of his breast pocket a small book of psalms - the same book, he revealed, that sustained him throughout 13 years of imprisonment. He has been carrying it with him ever since.

I just returned from the recent Hamilton UJA mission. I found the experience truly inspirational and transformative. What I will take with me are the personal interactions that we had with people that we met. These experiences included meeting teenagers on the Mechina program (a preparatory program for Russian and Jewish immigrants before the army) to meeting soldiers on an army base and hearing the thoughtful comments of the students at Har Vagay school at Kibbutz Dafna and so much more. It included being guided by a truly remarkable guide, Ezra, who we all felt deeply attached to by the end of the trip. It included great discussions on the bus and over meals where our group got to know each other better. It is truly remarkable to see the programs supported by our UJA dollars and really brought home how essential it is to support programs both in Israel and at home so that the entire Jewish community both in the diaspora and in Israel can continue to be strengthened. It was impressed on me that the welfare of diaspora Jewry and Israeli Jewry are deeply interwoven. I don't think words can fully convey how amazing this mission was and all I can say is that if anyone has the opportunity to go on future Hamilton missions, they should jump at the chance.

Sandi Seigel

1. Reference books for Jewish Studies, Jewish History, Israel: History, Archaeology, Sites and Stories
2. Quality novels, biographies and other inspiring texts that will encourage our students to read Hebrew in their free time.
3. A good, general encyclopedia
4. A video library of educational films - both for activities and for 'down time'.



## Local Events

## IDF Rabbinate Choir at the Adas

Hamilton's Jewish community gave a warm welcome to the IDF Rabbinate Choir, which performed at the Adas Israel in October.

## "We're winning": Israeli Journalist

by  
Wendy Schneider

"After 30 years we are left with neither Greater Israel nor Peace Now. That is the tragedy of Israeli society today and no one embodies that more than Ariel Sharon." The above words were spoken during a sobering address given to Hamilton Mission participants last month by journalist, Yossi Klein Halevi, who went on to label I Sharon Israel's "most tragic and most admirable prime minister". Since the outbreak of the first intifada in 1989, he said, Israeli society has gone through a "wrenching process" that has ultimately led to the Left's recognition of "the truth of the Right - "that there is no partner on the other side", and the Right realizing that the Left was correct in its ideas about the occupation.

Israel's most urgent need, he continued, is to free itself from 3 million Palestinians and unilateral withdrawal from Gaza is only the beginning. He believes that the security fence, currently a psychological border, will eventually become a political border, with Israel unilaterally withdrawing from most of the West Bank "without peace or negotiations."

"We are looking at our situation", he said, "with a clarity that is leading us to a long-term solution of sobriety and a country that recognizes what the limits of reality impose."

Despite his grim prognosis, Klein Halevi said that Israel has won two victories over the last four years - the victory of political sobriety and the victory



Yossi Klein Halevi

of perseverance and what he calls moral sobriety. The first, he describes as the defeat of both the ideological Left and Right and emergence of a pragmatic center embodied by Sharon. The second can be found in the fact that Israelis feel more secure today than they have over the course of the current "terror war".

"We were the first country in the west to be subjected to an experiment to see how much terrorist pressure needs to be applied before a society begins to crack. It took us four years but we figured out how to counter attack and we figured out how to make the other side crack first", he said.

Asked by one of the participants to comment on the anti-Semitic and anti-Israel propaganda widely found in the Palestinian media and textbooks, he replied that no one should underestimate the extent to which the Arab world is immersed in a culture of denial - denial of a Jewish Temple, of the Holocaust and of

cont'd on p12

## Joshua Nelson Delivers Stunning Performance

by Gerry Fisher,  
executive director,  
UJA Federation

Both musically and culturally, the walls came tumbling down during performances delivered by African American Jewish gospel singer, Joshua Nelson, last month. Nelson came to Hamilton under the auspices of Temple Anshe Sholom and the Stewart Memorial Church in a joint fundraiser to assist in repairs to the Temple's Torah scrolls and to provide greater accessibility at the church.

On Sunday, October 24th, Nelson conducted a very well attended workshop on the origins of gospel music at the Centenary Baptist Church. On Monday, October 25th Nelson delivered a musical and spiritual performance at Anshe Sholom that may never be equaled. The events were the brainchild of Temple members, Barry Bender and Madeleine Levy.

The Monday evening performance was preceded by a VIP reception that included words of welcome from Lincoln Alexander and Rabbi Bernard Baskin, Mayor DiAnni, Rabbi Phil Cohen and Reverend George Horton. Each speaker acknowledged the remarkable level of inter-faith and intercultural cooperation that the success of this program represented. Barry Bender emceed the entire event. Madeleine Levy spoke very passionately at the reception.

Barry and Madeleine began planning for the program months ago. Recognizing both the need and the value of bringing the Black and Jewish communities together, they approached UJA Federation of Hamilton for consultation and support. UJA Federation, which represents the Jewish community at several Community Relations committees across the city, welcomed their initiative. When approached for financial support, UJA Federation



Joshua Nelson (second from right), with organizers Madeleine Levy, Barry Bender, and Reverend George Horton

Photo by Aaron Manishen

responded by agreeing to serve as one of the lead sponsors. The Weisz Family Foundation was also publicly acknowledged for their generosity in making the program happen.

The performances themselves were nothing short of electric. Along with being remarkably informative, the Sunday workshop set a wonderful tone for the entire weekend of activity - upbeat, spiritual and bridge-building. The Monday evening concert went even further. Accompanied by the Jerico Victory Choir, Nelson entertained a standing-room-only crowd with a repertoire that ranged from traditional and familiar gospel tunes to unique gospel versions of Hebrew liturgy such as Eli Eli and Adon Olam.

His energy moved most of the audience out of their seats to dance what may have been the one and only Black-Jewish Horah ever danced in Hamilton. His gospel rendition of Hatikvah deeply moved the entire audience.

Before the program concluded, Nelson had the entire audience hold hands and sing a gospel rendition of "We Shall Overcome". For many in both the Black and Jewish

communities this was a moment of near catharsis, not only for the noble expression of the lyrics but also for its recreation of that sense of partnership shared by the Black and Jewish communities during the height of the civil rights movement. The moment captured something special - not just the sentiment over a glorious time now past - it captured a true sense of what it can feel like to come out of our respective isolation and hold each other's hand in an expression of shared hope for a better future for all of us.

In a directly related development, UJA Federation has been asked to sit on the planning committee for the 2005 Martin Luther King Day observances. Federation leadership immediately accepted. This is the first time that the organized Jewish community has been asked to serve in this capacity. It clearly represents a significant step forward in building bridges between two significant communities in Hamilton.

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MARCH BREAK  
& PASSOVER '05

MAR. 10-22  
MAR 17-29

APRIL 21- MAY 4  
(PASSOVER)

## SUMMER '05

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JULY 10-24

JULY 31-AUG 14  
AUG 18 - SEPT 1

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JULY 5-17 '05

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## Arts &amp; Travel

## Destination Sepharad: A Journey to Jewish Spain

Prof. Emeritus Irwin A. Feuerstein and Rabbi Philip M. Cohen

From the 9th to the 13th century, ninety percent of world Jewry lived in Muslim lands. The Muslim world extended from India in the east to Iberia, Spain, in the west. Adherents to the Bible, Jews and Christians, were given a special status in return for compliance to certain regulations. Amongst these regulations were a restriction against marrying Muslim women and the imposition of a special tax. On balance, the status offered these Jews provided several important concessions that they lacked in contemporary Christian Europe: 1) they could freely practice their religion, 2) they could move around and live everywhere in the Muslim world with the exception of the Arabian peninsula and 3) they could work in a wide variety of professions provided that they were not in a position of authority over Muslims. In Muslim Spain, as a result of this special status and the insight of local Muslim rulers, there was a unique political order and cultural flourishing that is referred to by one author as "The Ornament of the World". Today, this period is often called "The Golden Age of Spain". For much of this period, Jews, Christians

and Muslims lived side by side and nurtured a complex culture of tolerance.

The Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492 and the Muslims several years later. But today, Spain is a modern democracy and Jews and Muslims are living there again in significant numbers. There is a distinct mark that the Golden Age has left in the form of Arabic (Mudejar), architecture, language, literature and cuisine. Hebrew became a secular language in poetry, using new forms from Arabic verse, and in scientific documents. Pyutim, liturgical poems, were added to the Jewish liturgy. Also, 2004 is the 800th anniversary of the death of Moses Maimonides (1135-1204), Rabbi, philosopher and physician, who was born in Cordoba and spent his early life in Spain. So, it is a propitious time for us to visit Spain and get a feeling for what life was like there during the Golden Age and during later times.

We have designed a tour called "Destination Sepharad: A Journey to Jewish Spain", February 7-20/05, which will focus on places where Jews, Christians and Muslims lived in harmony. The

region in south, central Spain where the Golden Age flourished is called al-Andalus, in Arabic, and Andalucia, in modern Spanish. A taste of some places we shall visit there is: Cordoba, the seat of Muslim rule for almost 400 years and home of Moses Maimonides; Granada, the home of Shmuel ibn Nagrella, a Vizier to the King of Granada and General in his army, poet and Nagid to the Jewish community; and Seville, center for trade as an inland port on the Guadalquivir River, home of the Alcazar of Seville, an outstanding palace decorated in the Muslim fashion for Spanish Royalty and in the Cathedral the resting place of Christopher Columbus. Further north we shall visit Toledo featuring two medieval synagogues in a picturesque walled medieval city located at a sharp turn in the Tagus River. Madrid with its Prado Museum is also on the itinerary along with side trips to Avila and Segovia. Visits to fascinating historical sites will be complemented by lectures on Sephardic history, culture and great personalities such as Solomon ibn Gabirol, Yehudah Halevi, and Moses Maimonides. There will also be time for tapas (bite sized snacks) bars, restaurants, shopping and feeling the local colour. Silver jewelry, leather goods and ceramics, including pitchers, decorative plates and tiles, are available.

The tour is called Destination Sepharad: A Journey to Jewish Spain, Feb.7-20, 2005,

(14 Days), \$3495(CAN) Includes: Return airfare from Toronto, daily breakfast and dinner, services of an experienced Pauwels Travel Bureau tour escort and more.

You may contact for information and a complete itinerary: Irwin Feuerstein: 905-528-9308, e-mail [feuerst@mcmaster.ca](mailto:feuerst@mcmaster.ca). Pauwels Travel Bureau: 519-753-2695, e-mail [tours@pauwelstravel.com](mailto:tours@pauwelstravel.com). Website: [pauwelstravel.com](http://pauwelstravel.com)

## Book Release

**The Naked Island** by Bryna Wasserman  
Published by Key Porter Books

In 1787, on the morning of the new moon in July, the Dutch in Java murdered an Indonesian priest. One hundred years later, the Armenian Sarkies brothers open the Raffles Hotel in Singapore; a farmhouse is built on Evans Point at the shore of Lake Erie; and in Java, a descendant of the slain priest suddenly dies when a curse he had set turns against him. His soul is set to wander in search of revenge.

So begins the mystical tale of Rachel Lynn Gold, a young Jewish woman in small-town Ontario, who, betrayed by her lover and older sister, sets out on an odyssey to India, Nepal, Singapore and Australia in search of her lost self. Far from home and armed with nothing but a broken heart and a restless soul, Rachel is left open and vulnerable to the ghosts that haunts her. It is in Singapore at The Raffles Hotel that she meets

Kifli Talib, a Malaysian Muslim, and the two fall into a forbidden affair, an intense love that both protects and threatens them with complete annihilation.

A haunting story of love and betrayal, danger and survival, *The Naked Island* is a powerful first novel, a lyrical and poetic work that delves into the shifting nature of identity and the hypnotic pull of good and evil.

"A strange and beguiling tale that showcases considerable ambition and emerging talent... Writing in a nimble style that approaches prose poetry allows Wasserman to move fluidly between continents, centuries, the worlds of the living and the dead, and the realms of the magical and the real." – Quill & Quire

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## JCC Pages

## Winter Programs for Kids...and for Teens

Come and join the JCC for our celebration of

### HANUKKAH

Sunday, December 12

12:30- 3:00 pm at the JCC

A circus-themed celebration including games, face-painting, petting zoo, crafts, story-telling, refreshments, a clown, bouncy castle and a few surprises! JCC Members \$3 \$8 per family  
NON JCC Members \$5/\$10 per family

Bring an item for the Kosher Food Bank

\*\*\*

### Chocolate Making for Hanukkah

Sunday, December 5

2:00-4:00 pm Ages 6-12

Make and decorate your own chocolate gift to keep or give for Tzedakah  
Instructor : Lainie Tessier

JCC Members \$20 Non Members \$30

Pre-Registration required Call 905-648-0605

### Become a Certified Babysitter

Reserve your space for the Canadian Red Cross Society course  
Call now as space is limited  
JCC members \$35.00  
Non members \$55.00

### COOKING COURSE

Sundays, 2:00- 4:00pm Age:11-14

Do you want to have fun in the kitchen and learn some basic cooking and baking skills? Learn how to make some healthy and tasty dishes and some "slightly less healthy ones". Familiarize yourself about whole foods and organic foods. Your own suggestions and recipes welcome!

\$60/members \$80 non-members

### Table Tennis

January 8 – March 8, 2005 10 weeks

Member \$45 Non-member \$70

### Tennis Lessons

for youth ages 6-16

Begins week of January 3rd

### Basketball League

Age 16 yrs and up

Wednesday evening – Call to sign up!

October to May 11, 2005 \$107.00

### JCC YOUTH/JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

\$45.00(10-15yrs)

Full Time Student \$150.00 (16-23)

Jan 3, 2005

### Jewish Teen Council Inaugural program "You Can Change Your World"

Guest Speaker: Sara Cuneo

Light supper, 6:00 p.m.

### Summer Day Camp Director

The Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton & Area is hiring a director for its Kadimah and Gadna Summer Day Camps for children ages 3 – 15 yrs during the months of July and August with availability to pre-plan beginning April 15, 2004

Applicants should possess the following:

- Experience in camp management and programming
- Ability to work closely with peers, campers and community
- Leadership potential, outgoing and fun personality
- Knowledge of Jewish holidays, traditions and Israel based programming
- Safety oriented

Please send your resume by Jan 15th, 2005 to JCC Program Coordinator Lainie Tessier at the Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton & Area, P.O. Box 7258, Ancaster, Ontario L9G 3N6  
905-648-0605 (Fax) 905-648-8388 email: receptionjcc@on.aibn.com

### FUN-RAISING with YOUR FRIENDS at

### WINTER CAMP Camp Horef at JCC

December 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

December 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

Counsellors provide a funtime through Crafts, Play rooms and Outdoor Fun

For Ages 3 (toilet-trained) to 10 years

Bring a dairy lunch, suitable snow apparel

### SUPERVISED SPORTS IN THE BUBBLE

Crafts and more

Ages 11-15 years

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PRE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

905-648-0605

Call Lainie at JCC to inquire if counsellor positions still available. Email receptionjcc@on.aibn.com or call Laura or Lainie at 905-648-0605

Member: \$15.00/day; \$70/WEEK (5 days)

Non-members \$25/day; \$125/week (5 days)

### ABBA, SABBA, IMA, SAVTA, ZAYDE, BUBBIE and ME!

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Special time to share...led by Rebecca Shapiro.

Enjoy arts and crafts, music, story time, snack, holiday themes and free play in the JCC Activity and and

Gymboree room \$5 member/\$10 nonmember – 7

sessions January 9, 19, 23, 30 and February 6, 13, 20

Register your Family for

JCC/Beth Tikvah Skiathon to be held on March 6, 2004. The JCC and Beth Tikvah Foundation Golf Classic. Mark Your calendars June 23 2005

The JCC Board Salutes the Committee; a true partnership! Sheldon Frank, Stan Tick, Larry Szpirglas, Aubrey Friedman, Ernie Mason, David Walman, Carolyn Molot, Shirley Wexler, Fern Szpirglas,

Wendy Frank Special thanks to Larry and Doreen Goldblatt and Wendy Schneider for their promotional material designs.

### Programs For Adults

### JOSH - Jewish Opportunities for Singles in Hamilton

January 16 – Watch for Mailing

February 26 Games Night at JCC!

Register your game preference

This group was formed to present new opportunities to meet and socialize with familiar & new acquaintances and friends, in this and surrounding communities. During this past year, we have gone to theatre, enjoyed socials and interesting speakers.

All welcome to enhance this dynamic group; include this group in your 2005 plans.

Jewish Book Month

Thank you to Rabbi Baskin for his informative discussion on recent Jewish books of interest.

Call 648-0605, ext 300 to register

## JCC President's Message

by  
Howard Eisenberg

It is my privilege as well as my responsibility to be given the task of leading the JCC for the next couple of years. These are challenging times for our community, and I took this position with the hope, desire and expectation that we would be up to the challenge.

In my view the JCC is much more than a tennis club. It is the heart of the community. It is the only place where our community meets irrespective of economic circumstances or synagogue affiliation. It is the only facility in our community that offers its facilities to the entire community, irrespective of race, religion, gender or colour. We offer an array of programs and activities that are second to none.

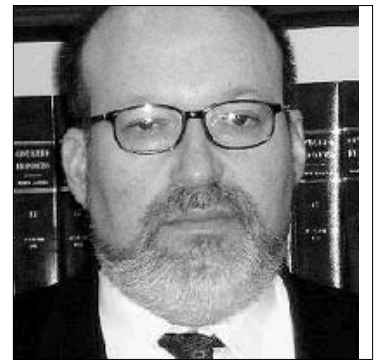
Why then is it that we are in such challenging times? We have difficulty maintaining our membership, our building is in need of repair, and our programs need to get a better response.

In my view there are several reasons for this. First we do not get the respect in this community we deserve. For sure we are partially to blame for this, as we have never been very good at blowing our own horn. I often hear from people how surprised they are to learn what goes on at our place. We must do a better part of publicizing our selves.

However, there is a lot of apathy in our community. Some people just simply don't understand the importance of this institution in their lives.

There is a user pay mentality in this community. Many people come to the Centre for some of the outstanding community wide programs we host. Yom Ha'atzmaut is but one example. But then when the program ends, we don't hear or see them until the next such program. We must get people to understand why membership is a must for us to be successful. At the same time, we have to demonstrate that membership is an important community responsibility, and that membership offers benefits which will make people want to join.

Our community is very fragmented. Every institution



Howard Eisenberg

wants to protect its own turf. What happens is that these institutions compete with each other, often at cross purposes. It seems to me that we'd all be a lot happier if there were some effort, perhaps at the Federation level, to coordinate programs among the different institutions?

Our resources are limited, and it is imperative that our different institutions support each other in a new era of cooperation. I think it is appropriate that the JCC Board support the Federation, and support the Campaign. We have met that commitment in the past, and will continue to in the future. We look forward to the Federation sending a clear signal that it supports the JCC. There are ongoing discussions between the agencies that we hope shall bear fruit. Because of the way our community is structured, it is in everyone's interest for the institutions not to be competing with each other for funds. The JCC is committed to its vital role in this community, but we need the community's support through memberships and the allocation process.

I believe in the infancy of my term, there are some promising signs. I have been assured by a number of prominent people in our community that the interests of the Federation and the Centre are in concert. I am urging all leaders of this community to come together and act in the best interests of this community. We need a community plan that involves all of our institutions. We are not big enough for us not to all be on the same page. I am convinced that if all the institutions can work together, there will be great benefits for all our constituents.

## JCC TRIBUTE CARDS

In Memory Of

MELDULBERG: Rochelle Waxman. NANCY KATZ: Rochelle Waxman, JCC Board of Directors & Staff. BOB MADOW: Rochelle Waxman. AL OSSEA: Rochelle Waxman. Brother of SYLVIA KRITZER: Barbara Laskin. AL OSSEA: Barbara Laskin.

Mazal Tov

DANA AND DAVID HORWOOD (birth of daughter): JCC Board of Directors & Staff. MARK AND SHEILA LEVITT (son's Bar Mitzvah): JCC Board of Directors & Staff. JIM AND STEPHANIE MCLEAN (birth of grandchild): JCC Board of Directors & Staff. RINA & MATTHEW OGUS (birth of son): JCC Board of Directors & Staff. FLORA & JAY ROSENBLATT (new grandson): Steve & Sandra Silver. STEVE & SANDRA SILVER (birth of grandchild): JCC Board of Directors & Staff. PHIL & BONNIE USPRECH (new grandson): Steve & Sandra Silver

Best Wishes

MOLLY BEUBE (speedy recovery): Joy Foster & staff. JACK ROSENFELD: Rochelle Waxman. Bonnie & MARVIN SIEGEL: Rochelle Waxman ANNA SZPIRGAS: JCC Board of Directors & Staff

### Barry Foster Memorial Fund

Mazal Tov to Flora & Jay Rosenblatt (birth of grandson): Joy Foster

### JCC Youth Maccabi Games Fund

In Memory Of

NANCY KATZ: David, Melanie, Justin & Marly Bromstein

## Special Mentschen

## Rabbi Baskin's Secret to a Happy Life

by  
Wendy Schneider

When Rabbi Bernard Baskin walked to the bimah to address the congregants on the second day of Rosh Hashana, none of them could have known that the sermon they were about to hear would be among the most memorable the Rabbi Emeritus had ever delivered. The occasion, he said later, was an opportunity to publicly express gratitude for life's blessings and reflect on the things that have brought meaning to his life. The Rabbi spoke about several things that morning, but what may have resonated the most was his message that in a world where man is "a bewildered and frightened creature, unsure of his survival, fearful of death by the creation of his own hands", Rosh Hashana teaches us to recognize that "everything that is important—really important—is right here. You, your loved ones, your personal integrity, friendship, tradition, a place in the community, your hopes for the future."

Among those moved to tears by the Rabbi's remarks, was his wife, Marjorie, who, by her own admission is not a sentimental person. "It prompted me to consider my own sense of the spiritual", she reflected, adding that at this stage of her life, she has come to realize that "without a sense of belonging and being part of a community, one really has nothing."

While spending time with the Baskins, one is immediately struck by their deep commitment to living a life based on a code of ethics and their desire to make a contribution to society. Their individual contributions to their synagogue, the Jewish community and the community at large are vast and widely known. But the acquired wisdom that accompanies graceful ageing has



Rabbi Bernard and Marjorie Baskin, with children, David and Judith.

given them a different perspective on their accomplishments than what one might expect. As a young man, Rabbi Baskin acknowledged that he had certain ambitions, among them, having a large congregation, a large sphere of influence and a comfortable standard of living. But looking back, he's not sure that any of those things have made much of a difference in the greater scheme of things. Inevitably, he said, "you lose your significance... and you have to have a sense of humility about your contribution." Furthermore, one shouldn't regard one's life and achievements as anything more "than small stuff in terms of the larger picture." What's ultimately important, he said, is that "you have been able to do your best to give meaning to what life has presented to you."

Perhaps the key to understanding both the Rabbi and Marjorie's sense of equanimity is that their lives as are full in retirement as they had

been at the height of their careers. In addition to enjoying a wide variety of interests and friends, each is involved in intellectually stimulating pursuits: Marjorie manages a book cataloguing company called Ibis, The Book Arts, while the Rabbi continues to write three book reviews a month for the Canadian Jewish News, as well as the occasional review for The Hamilton Spectator. And, after 40 years, he's still presenting book reviews in the community every spring and fall.

To paraphrase the Rabbi's closing remarks on Rosh Hashana, the Baskins' secret to a happy life can be stated in these words: The meaning of life is about simple things that are "as small as the human heart and as big as the world."

Lives Remembered  
NANCY KATZ

Born, January 28, 1951 in Hamilton, Ontario. Died on September 2, 2004 at home in Hamilton of breast cancer, aged 53.

"Unbelievable" is what my unassuming sister would have said to the fact that so many friends and associates attended her funeral. Laugh, is what she would have done as Rabbi Green recounted her snake skinning story. Understanding is how she would have felt about the necessity of her girls to speak at her funeral of all of life's lessons she had taught them. Awestruck, is how I felt about the final reminder of how Nancy had provided balance to the many people whose lives she touched.

Nancy was the third daughter born to Sam and Helen Lennard. She was raised by her father after her mother's untimely death when Nancy was ten. The essence of Nancy Katz can be traced back to her father's love of nature and the joy that he took in his three daughters. Her grounding was family, animals, nature and the great outdoors. She liked to be alone in nature because it was where she felt most comfortable and rejuvenated - but she also was enthusiastic to share her love with many family members and friends.

From an early age, Nancy was always the daring one - climbing the highest in our apple tree in the backyard, riding the family pony Donny bareback. Even a broken arm after falling off at a wild gallop did not deter her from more adventures. She walked the 3 kilometres to school on stilts. She was the one who always volunteered to feed the family animals from chickens to ferrets. She was constantly challenging friends and family to do more, push further and try harder. I don't think she was afraid of anything. She sometimes acted on impulse. One weekend, at the age of 14 she decided to paint the family kitchen - orange and yellow! When our Dad returned he thought it was on fire!

Nancy's interests were far-reaching, from learning the mechanics of cars, boats and pumps to classical music and fishing trips in the far north. Above all Nancy loved her family. Being the mother of six girls was truly natural to her...and many of her children's friends were treated as part of the family as well. She was truly a giving person to her family, friends and community.

It didn't take long for Nancy to get involved in community activities when she was older. She acted upon the basic philosophy: if it needs fixing let's do it! For example, when the girls were attending the Hamilton Hebrew academy, Nancy spent several hot summer days scrubbing and cleaning to tidy up the classrooms. When there was a lack of teen programs at the J.C.C., she joined a core group that instituted a giant bonfire party, a casino night and a winter carnival. She remained active at the J.C.C. and eventually became vice president.

When one of the girls needed care at McMaster's neonatal unit, Nancy joined the executive of a new support group for parents. Nancy also served as the president of the Adas Israel Sisterhood and the Hamilton chapter of ORT.

As the girls moved through the Dundas school system, she served on their school councils, often as chairperson, and was recognized as volunteer of the year at Dundas District in 2001. She was instrumental in introducing new programs to assist students in need. She was most active at Highland School and touched all who attended the Breast Cancer awareness assembly when she spoke about her illness and removed her wig in front of the students.

Although she served in numerous leadership roles, Nancy usually described herself as the "shlepper" and preferred to be scrubbing and sweeping rather than being at the forefront. No chore was beneath her. She never pictured herself as a leader but Nancy obviously underestimated herself immensely in this regard because she led by example and always gave 110% to anything in which she participated. Nancy gave just as much effort in her social activities as well by always taking steps to liven the party. She was well known for her practical jokes on her friends.

Her cheerfulness and enthusiasm were contagious and impacted on others more than she imagined. Her passion was felt by a wide variety of associates and many would form close friendships with her. Her determination broke barriers and she was a true educator in what is important in life. She taught us also much about courage and grace by never complaining about her misfortune but only expressing appreciation for the support she received from her family and friends.

At the recent gospel concert her loud whistle would have been heard loud and clear when Joshua Nelson implored the audience to "do something for those in need." She was once given a pin that said "Perform a random act of kindness". Nancy wore that pin proudly and acted accordingly. This was her motto and her legacy and it will continue to inspire us.

by Martha Larsen and the Katz Family



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## Special Mentschen

## Local Family Proud as Son Sworn in as IDF Paratrooper

by  
Barry Bender

Just before Rosh Hashana, in the middle of Nancy Katz's shiva, I left Hamilton for Israel to visit my daughter, Leah, a Haifa University student, and my son, Adam, who was to be sworn into the Israel Defence Forces Paratroopers Brigade at the Kotel in Jerusalem.

On the day of the swearing-in ceremony, called a "Tekes Hashba'ah", Leah and I had just returned to our hotel from the Israel Museum. Earlier than anticipated, Adam called to tell us he was already assembling in the square. We hired a cab, but couldn't get close because of the throng and the security, so we jumped out and ran through the Arab suk to the Jewish Quarter, and descended to the square before the Western Wall. It was quite dark already and, though the night was warm, there were strong gusts of wind.

We couldn't find Adam. We

tried his cell, but it was turned off. Parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins, school mates began to fill the plaza, some were carrying posters announcing a family's love and pride for their son. Eventually Leah and I found a spot to stand along a raised railing. Families and friends were everywhere, on the grassy slope next to the police station, balancing on the hand-washing fountains, crowded along the ramp and against the railing where we perched.

A young man came out of the crowd in our direction calling "Bender", and in Hebrew, "Anyone here named Bender?", and he told me that my son was standing not ten metres away.

When I saw Adam for the first time in five months – five months of army life, five months of challenges he was often too weak to describe – and then seeing those boots, those high proud red boots – well, I could barely recognize him. He was larger, taller, stronger ... braver. When

I went to snap a photograph, all his army buddies called out in Hebrew, "Adam's dad. Adam's dad." And they all jumped into the picture frame, grinning.

Then they were ordered to line up and prepare to enter the square.

The soldiers marched in, platoon by platoon. The ceremonial flame was lit in memory of a fallen comrade. We heard speeches from commanders and rabbis. The soldiers were reminded of the traditions of the Paratrooper Brigade, its sacrifices – made more poignant by the eerily-illuminated Kotel. These commanders more than once alluded to Jews having their backs against the wall. "We cannot be defeated. We have no other place to go." The paratroopers are a family, they were reminded.

Then their oath was read: remember Israel is a democratic country, serve the IDF and obey orders, and, above all, obey the law. Defend Israel and defeat



Adam Bender (centre) with sister, Leah, and father, Barry

her enemies. And all together, echoing off the Western Wall, "Ani nishbah." I swear!

Next, one by one, in a hurried pace, the soldiers picked up their weapon, picked up their tanach, and ran to their commander, saluting, shaking hands, accepting congratulations. I could barely see Adam. This activity was happening everywhere throughout the square in every platoon and the video lights were blinding. I tried to photograph him picking up his weapon, grasping his tanach, saluting.

I can only be sure I saw him after he returned to stand in formation with the rest of his platoon. For just then he turned his face back over his shoulder, then tilted it up a bit toward us -- and I saw the same glow that I saw in him when he was a young carefree child: open, happy, confident, belonging. I'd say he was proud, too – because Adam, after all, has a great deal to be proud of – but in that moment my pride was too overflowing to be able to discern it in him.

A hush and then Hatikva. The soldiers marched out of the square to the sound of the

Paratroopers' Anthem.

After the ceremony, Adam and I took a moment to lean against the Kotel and I inserted two pieces of paper into its ancient crevices: one bearing Adam's name, the other Nancy's.

I barely remember the flurry of Adam's friends and fellow soldiers, greeting, hugging, exchanging phone numbers. I spoke briefly with Adam's commanding officer and saw in his eyes gentleness, courage, intelligence and resoluteness. And, to our surprise, just as Adam was about to climb aboard his bus to return to base, he was excused from service, one night early, so that he could spend an extra day with his sister and dad who had flown in from Canada and the next morning we drove down to the Dead Sea by way of Jericho.

## Jewish Studies at McMaster Gets a Boost

The future of Jewish Studies at McMaster University received a significant boost earlier this month when Marvin Goldblatt pledged \$100,000 in support of McMaster's Jewish Studies Lecture Series.

The gift will endow the series and ensure it will continue in perpetuity as the Lillian and Marvin Goldblatt Lecture Series. The series, now in its third year, brings an outstanding scholar in Jewish studies to the campus each fall for a public lecture for the students of McMaster and the broader Hamilton community. This year's lecture was delivered on November 4 by Judith Baskin, daughter of Rabbi Bernard and Marjorie Baskin, on the topic, 'Dying for God: Piety and Gender in Jewish Medieval Martyrdom Narratives'.

"Marvin's generosity will make it possible for us to continue to bring outstanding scholars in Jewish Studies to Hamilton," McMaster President Peter George announced following Dr. Baskin's presentation.

"It will allow us to increase the profile of the lecture series and



Pictured above at the recent Jewish Studies Lecture Series held at McMaster are (l to r) Wendy Schneider, McMaster University president, Peter George, Marvin Goldblatt, Michaela-Sue Goldblatt, Bev Creed and son, Jonah.

of McMaster's Jewish Studies program. It will expand our knowledge and give us all insight into important and timely issues of concern to the students of McMaster and to the faith communities of Hamilton."

During a dinner preceding the lecture, Marvin Goldblatt was joined by three of his daughters, Michaela-Sue Goldblatt, Bev Creed and Wendy Schneider (Janet Goldblatt Holmes was unable to attend) and grandson, Jonah Creed. Also present were

Rabbi Bernard and Marjorie Baskin, with daughter Judith and son, David, Arthur and Margaret Weisz, Tom and Sasha Weisz, and longtime supporters of Jewish Studies at Mac, Herb and CeCe Schreiber with their daughter, Karen.

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Mazel Tov

MICHAEL & RHONDA KEMENY - Anniversary: Sam & Geri Shapiro. LES & BEVLASKY - Birth of Grandchild: Harold & Jo-Ann Pomerantz; Michael & Pam Taylor; Doug, Pat, Kitson & Alexa Morden. EMMA ZAHZ - Bat Mitzvah: Sam & Gerri Shapiro. MR. & MRS. D. SNAJDMAN - Son's Marriage: Barbara Abraham. MR. & MRS. BERNIE GELBER: Grandson's Bar Mitzvah: Shirley Weddum. HOWARD & SHELELY BROWN: Saturn of Hamilton East. KATHLEEN & SHAWN THOMAS - Birth of Twin Girls: Michael & Pam Taylor. JEANETTE O'LEARY - Birth of Baby Girl: Michael & Pam Taylor. HAROLD & JO-ANN POMERANTZ - Birth of Grandson: Edie Rochkin; Doug & Pat Morden; Edie Feldman. MARY & REUBEN LEVY - 67th Anniversary: Bonnie Scholes & Marvin Siegel. STEPHEN & DARLENE VARADI - Jennifer's Wedding: Jo-Ann & Howard Pomerantz. LORISCHINDEL MARTIN - Doctorate: Michael & Pam Taylor; Carl Loewith. LES & BEVLASKY - Birth of Twin Grandchildren: Pat & Doug Morden; Carl Loewith. SHARON & LARRY ENKIN - 50th Anniversary: Minna Loewith; Ruth & Yaacov Goldberg; Anna, Robin, Michael & Pam Taylor. SIMCHA WALFISH - Bar Mitzvah: Neil & Lynda Morris. PHIL CHOW: Michael & Pam Taylor Certificate. MR. & MRS. G. COHEN - Birth of Grandson: Chana & Harold Segalowitz. DR. & MRS. K. AARON - Birth of Grandson: Chana & Harold Segalowitz. BONNIE & MARVIN SEIGEL - Marriage: Mary & Reuben Levy; Alan Levy. MARY & MORLEY KATZ - Andrew's Wedding: Bessie Goldblatt. JACK & BARBARA KATZ - Birth of Granddaughter: Edie Rochkin; Edie Feldman. MORT & GERIKREIGER - Bar Mitzvah of Grandson: Bert Frankel. JOE & ANNE VINEGAR - Anniversary: Anna Taylor. Marcelyn Vener; Terri & Milton Lewis. ARTHUR WEISZ - Gallery of Distinction: Anna, Robin, Pam & Michael Taylor. RAYE COHEN - Grandson's Bar Mitzvah: Bertha Ortmann; IDA & BENSUSSMAN - New Home: Yetta Levy; David & Lotti Redner; Mr. & Mrs. Larry Rosenberg; Lotti & Dave Redner; Ben & Evelyn Mandell; Sheila & David Burman and Family.

New Year

GILDA & DAVID HELMEN: Dorothy Adler. MR. & MRS. WEISZ: Steve & Olga Lichtblau. POLLY LEVI: Dorothy Adler. DAVE & LOTTI REDNER: Debbie, Benjamin, Sarah & Daniel

Thank You

LILYBUCHALTER: Saturday Nitters. ALAN WHITE: Saturday Nitters. ANNA TAYLOR: Pat Morden; Shalom Village Staff & Residents. LEN RITTER: Doug, Pat, Kitson Morden. MICHAEL SHERMAN: Les Roefe. DR. MICHAEL TAYLOR: Robin Taylor. SALLY LAX: Sheila Miller & Fran Simms. DALE COHEN: Mathew Buchalter

Birthday Wishes

MICHAEL KEMENY: Geri & Sam Shapiro. DR. FRANK SEGER: Hanna Popper. DAVID WASSERMAN: Geri & Sam Shapiro. DARLENE SHAPIRO: Geri & Sam Shapiro. NATE SHERMAN: Sasha & Tom Weisz and Family; Pat & Stan Dermer; Anna Taylor and Family. RHONAROTMAN: Neil, Marlene and Family. SYDSHUMACHER: Sol & Sylvia Jacobs. MOLLY LEWIS: Honey & Gary Chertkoff. HARRY KELMAN: Ann & Joe Vinegar; Gerri Quitt; Les & Gloria Roefe; Margaret & Arthur Weisz; Joe & Joy Rochweg; Harry & Sara Gorman. MERLE GORDON: Sam & Charlotte Price. BEV SOBEL: Jack & Rose Rotstein; Joe & Joy Rochweg. LARRY LEVIN: Pam & Michael Taylor. RONALD GOLDSTEIN: Sam & Mary Zaltz. FRANK SEGER: Richard & Doris Popper; Manna Faulkner.

Get Well

DR. DAIN: Sylvia Cohen & Mark Cohen. SYDKUDLATS: Rose & Phil Rosenshein; Ernie & Dotti Mason; Margaret & Arthur Weisz. SOL JACOBS: David & Lotti Redner. HANNA FAULKNER: Minna Loewith and Family. DORIS POPPER: Minna Loewith. RAY GREENSPON: Ernie & Dotti Mason. MARGARET WEISZ: Ruth & Sam Rosenblatt; Anna, Robin, Michael & Pam Taylor. EVELYN COHEN: Ruth & Sam Rosenblatt; Les & Gloria Roefe; Natalie Strub; Len & Ann Gooblar. MOE WRIGHT: Lotti & Dave Redner. AL FOREMAN: Ernie & Dotti Mason; Gerri Quitt; Lotti & David Redner; Syd Kudlats; Len & Ann Goodblar; Lois & David Wright; Anna Taylor; Bert Frankel; Jack & Barbara Katz. SIGMUND GOLDBERG: Harry & Terry Cohen; Gloria & Les Roefe. IRVING KATZ: Lil Cohen. ELAINE YAFFE: Cookie & Pete Rosenblatt. BEBE KATZ: Minna Loewith. MOLLY BEUBE SCHWEID: Merle Cwitco; Cookie & Pete

Pat Morden

## "Israel is Winning"

cont'd from p 7

the historical Jewish presence in Israel. But although he believes that Israelis and Palestinians are unable to coexist at the present time, he does not believe that this situation will last forever.

"You can't raise a family in this country and believe that it's going to be like this for another 100 years. " A modern and consumerist Israel will not survive another 100 years of war, he said, nor can the Arab world. "Sooner or later I believe the Middle East will come to a crossroads. Will it bring peace like in the Oslo years? No. But I think we can reach certain arrangements in the long term."

Some of Klein Halevi's views on other issues are quoted below.

### The Security Fence

"The fence is establishing a limit to the Arab world's reach into Israeli society and the moment that they realize that we have devised all kinds of ways to stymie their war I think it's going to have a shattering affect on Palestinian society. Sooner or later I think we're going to hear more and more voices on the Palestinian side saying, 'why did we do this?' They've ended up losing what they could have

gained in negotiations - There will not be a Palestinian capital in Jerusalem and they'll end up losing 10% of the West Bank by the fence being built."

### The Role of Diaspora Jewry

"One of my frustrations with the Diaspora is that it looks towards Israel to lead the way in the hasbara (public relations) effort. War. We need to hear a much more assertive Diaspora, because Israel is fighting the physical war on the ground and is not capable of fighting the information war. The Diaspora is very capable of fighting the international war and you have to start taking the lead because Israel's international image has repercussions for all of us. We have to stop feeling on the defensive. We were the first country in history to offer shared sovereignty on its capital city. After that it gives us a certain credibility. We're winning and that's really important. "

## Looking Back

## Remembering York Street

By  
Shannon Shapiro

After spending fourteen years on the "street" I met many Jewish merchants, businessmen and just plain characters. At the market there were many Jewish market gardens, in those days they were called hucksters such as Mr. Raphael the chicken dealer, Mr. Stiglick, Max Yanover the potato king, Mr. Landman, Mr. Joe Cohen and Jerry Syke's also a potato dealer.

Walking west on York Street and McNab there was Borovoy's Drug Store, Harry Carr's tire shops, Mr. Zuckers Jewellery store, Mr. Lamberg second hand store, Gord and Manny Zacks Power House of tools, Gary Frydman's tailor shop, Seaman's Fish Market, later Murray Dresslers' Fish Market, Charlie Shapiro's Used Furniture. Archie and Wilf Levines National Auto Supply, Mr. Bravermans Second hand store and of course Bolesowsky's Delicatessen and next door Gordon Zwickers Auto Parts.

Crossing Park Street on the corner was Murray Rosenblooms Auto parts, Platts Deli, Benny Rosenshein Tailor Shop, Blausteins Deli, Mr. Levy's tailor shop, Syd & Sam Kudlats Auto Parts. Tisnowar & Leif Butcher Shop.

Corner York and Bay Tom Kriegers Services Station opposite corner Harry Adler's Furniture Store and Mantel Manufacturing. Harry Rube and Sam Levy's Acme Battery, Abe Chertkoff Dominion Bag, Mrs. Rosenberg's grocery store, Mr. Kaimans Corner variety store.

Corner York and Caroline Mr. Sam Caplans house, next door Yaffe's Grocery Store, Sarah Rosenhead Antique Shop, Mr. Matchens Second hand store, Mrs. Spector's grocery store, The Peretz Hebrew day school, Abe Chertkoff Bag & Burlap shop, Joe & Ida Foreman's Lunch counter, Mr. Lee's Cap Manufacturing, Bloom Brother's Dry goods store, Dovid the Harness maker, George Rosenblood's Tire Shop

and Auto parts store.

Corner York and Locke streets Jerry Goren's Pollock's Grocery store.

On the opposite side of the street going east there were many residents such as Ben Coller, Mr. Mandel, Shirly Yakobwitz (Hy Jaques) Nathan Gelber and Sons butchers, Dadsh, Gotlieb Milgrom family, Greenfeld, Hebscher, Bornstein, Simmons, Brown, Strachman, Yanover, Beckerman, Boxinbaum, Goldberg, Poulter..

How could I not mention Mrs. Scott's corner Deli at York and Caroline Streets. Next door butchers Scott, Ginsberg & Gelber, Mrs. Lax Deli Goldberg's Deli and Bill Cohen and Al Sack's deli.

York & Park streets Jack Mandell and Sam Katz Hamilton Auto Parts, Mr. Perelguts Wallpaper & paint store, Harold Bornsteins Hapco Hardware, Shmit the Barber (Smith) Percy Wright's Fruit Co, Abe Golden Butcher Shop, Market Square Mr. Goldberg's King George Hotel, Leo Barnett's Cut Rate Shoe store, Morris Barrs Luggage Store, Mrs. Lewis Tula Gift shop and many others just off York Street. Joe Kuttas Welding Shop on Market, Mr. Sobel second hand store, the Levy Family affectionately called the Spanish Levy's. There was Art Rosenblooms Standard Auto Parts, Sam Netkins & Cy Freedman Fruit & Vegetables, Mr. Richter's Blacksmith Shop, Rubenstein Brothers Fruit & Vegetables, Mr. Steins Dominion Auto Supply. Also in the neighborhood the Talmud Torah in Vine, Joe Waxman's Tiger Auto Parts on the corner.

All the Shuls were named after the streets they were on in the neighborhood such as the Cannon Street Shul, Hess Street Shul, Ferguson Avenue Shul, Hunter Street Shul and the Hughson Street Shul.

That was my York Street.

## Whom Do You Recognize?



The above photograph, taken on the steps of the Delaware Avenue JCC contains many familiar faces? Can you name the year in which it was taken? How many faces can you name? Send your answers by email to [wendy.schneider@sympatico.ca](mailto:wendy.schneider@sympatico.ca)

## Answer to Last Issue's Mystery Photograph

### wanted: Archival photographs of the Hamilton's Jewish Community

If you are in possession of photographs of the Delaware Ave. JCC, York Street, or anything else of archival interest Please call Wendy at 905-628.0058.

Thanks to all those who responded to the challenge!




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## Organizations

## Award-Winning Author Richard Wright, Artisans featured at Na'amat Evening Event

Na'amat, Hamilton is most pleased to present a very special evening featuring award-winning author Richard B. Wright. This event will take place on Sunday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the Anshe Shalom Synagogue, 215 Cline Avenue North, Hamilton. Mr. Wright will be speaking about and reading from his latest book, *Adultery*. The evening also includes music and an arts and crafts sale featuring some of our local artists. Jewellery, judaica and art will be offered for sale. Refreshments will be served featuring delicious home baked desserts.

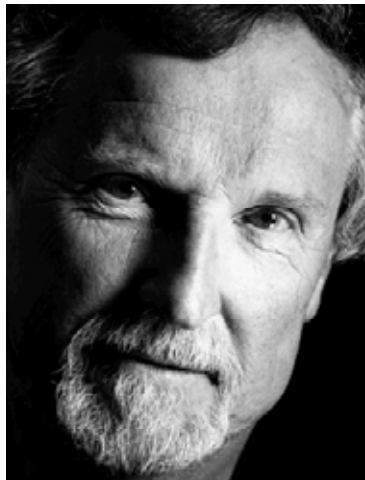
Richard B. Wright is the author of ten novels, including *The Age of Longing*, which was nominated for both the Giller Prize, and the Governor General's Award for Fiction. Clara Callan, his last novel, was awarded the Giller Prize, the Governor General's Award for Fiction and the Trillium Book Award. His latest novel, *Adultery*, has been released with much acclaim.

The evening begins at 6:30 with an amazing display of artisans including Razzle Dazzle Jewels, a Toronto group of

jewellery makers, Pteri Waxman's Pteri - Semi Precious Jewels and Arlene Strohl's Simply Elegant Jewellery, funky mixed media collages and jewellery created by Tzvia Devor, silks and ceramics by Gloria Mostyn, Chana's Judaica and original paintings by Sima Krames Goldreich. Lois Freeman and Douglas Collins will be entertaining us with harp and flute musical pieces. After Richard B. Wright Book talk, refreshments will be served. Coffee and tea will be accompanied with deliciously prepared desserts and fruit. We are looking forward to you joining us for this wonderful evening.

Tickets are \$18 and may be purchased at Bryan Prince Bookseller, 1060 King Street West, Hamilton, Tel: 905-528-4508, at Kool Klay Kafe, 36 King Street East, Dundas, Tel: 905-628-6062 or by calling Ellen Resnick at 905-628-4804.

Funds raised will be directed towards Na'amat's ongoing work towards the advancement of the rights of all of Israel's women and children. Na'amat, whose name is an acronym meaning "working women and volunteers" is an international



Author, Richard Wright

women's organization rooted in the concepts of Labour Zionism, feminism and egalitarianism. Na'amat Canada works with Na'amat worldwide in providing legal counselling, homes for abused women and children, recreational and retraining programs, vocational and agricultural schools and a country-wide network of day-care centers that service the entire spectrum of Israeli society, including Jews, Moslems, Christians and Druze.

### CIJA Conference

cont'd from p3

attended their caucus meetings and then joined the Hamilton delegation for dinner. They each made a genuine effort to reach out to our delegation and their messages to us were heard and fed back into the communications loop.

The conference ended with a formal dinner, featuring keynote speaker Rex Murphy, who was brilliant, entertaining and totally on side. The dinner was addressed by the Prime Minister of Canada, who made a short but powerful statement on Canada-Israel relations. Opposition leader Steven Harper also spoke.

By the time the conference concluded, it was obvious that CIJA had already helped to change the political landscape for the Jewish community in very positive directions. However, unlike previous conferences, there is now a real expectation that local communities - including our own - will continue the work of relationship building with allies, do our best to get a consistent and positive message out through the media and continue to engage our elected officials. CIJA leadership will be there to help us do a better job every step of the way.

## 'THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHUL BUSINESS'

Following in the footsteps of her mother, Muriel Back, Amy Back is putting together a cabaret show, described as "an evening of Song, Dance & Laughter" which will be performed at Beth Jacob Synagogue on May 28, 2005. Highlights will also be performed at Shalom Village.

"This show is a community-wide production and we hope members of all our synagogues, organizations will come out and get involved", said Amy Back.

Long time Jewish community members will remember Amy's late mother, Muriel, as a creative and talented woman who wrote and directed elaborate theatrical productions for the Beth Jacob Synagogue and the Beverley Golf Club during the 1950s and 60s.

"She would take popular songs and change the words. They were always funny and the cast had a wonderful time at rehearsals", said Amy.

"My mom always told me she liked to cast players from large families so they would sell lots of tickets, and I hope to create the same excitement and involvement. It will be terrific if family members of the original performers participate. I intend to use some of my mom's material, such as a song she wrote for a Beth Jacob fundraiser to the tune of Aveenu Malkaynu. Max Mintz will sing it in the

show as he did in her original production", she added.

Amy has been very busy over the last several months, rewriting the songs which will be sung in the show. Other numbers will include, 'Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah' and Four Jews In A Room' a song from a play by the name of Falsettos.

Amy encourages those who love to sing Broadway tunes to come out for an audition that will be held at Beth Jacob Synagogue on Sunday November 28 at 7:30 pm.

Amy is delighted that Charlotte Price has agreed to be the play's musical director, in addition to Clareta Schoenberg, who will help with choreography. Members of Hamilton's klezmer group, A Touch of Klez will also lend a hand.

"Everyone I have spoken with about the show is very excited," said Amy. "We haven't done anything like this at the Beth Jacob in years and lots of people are ready and willing to help off-stage." She also made a point of emphasizing that everyone who auditions for the show will be included in the production.

### Jewish Genealogical Society

Fall has been a busy time for members of the Jewish Genealogical Society - Hamilton & Area. In addition to receiving help with their individual research, members and friends who attended the October meeting heard about the recent convention of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) that was held in Jerusalem last July from attendee and lecturer Henry Wellisch. "The best part for me", said Ina Levitt-Yanover, "was when Henry told us about going to Yad Vashem and, with a little help from the staff, tracing a cousin he thought had perished in the Holocaust." "Finding someone this way is a miracle." The next IAJGS Conference will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada July 10 - 15, 2005 and promises to have its own special moments.

Our November meeting featured Michelle Gold whose talk entitled "Budapest, Vienna & Prague: A Jewish Tour" truly captured the heart and soul of Jewish culture and presence in that area of the world both currently and in the days of our ancestors. Her pictures helped to tell her story and she was able to make us feel as if we had travelled with her.

Our next meeting is on December 1st and features as speaker, Dr. Anthony MacFarlane. It will again be held at Temple

Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Avenue North, Hamilton. The start time is 7:30 for our Meet & Greet followed by Dr. MacFarlane at 8PM, after which we offer the opportunity for members to "ask our experts" about their own specific research problems. Dr. MacFarlane is no stranger to the Hamilton Jewish Community. He is a noted bibliophile of Caribbean history and literature and an authority on the Marranos of Spanish-Portuguese origin who first settled in Jamaica in 1655. During the 18th century, when New York City had 300 Jews, Jamaica's Jewish community numbered 2,000.

Meetings into the New Year will be held on Wednesdays January 12th and February 9th, 2005 at Temple Anshe Sholom. Membership in the JGS - H & A is open to all regardless of religious affiliation or level of experience. Our members range from those at the beginning of their journeys to long-time family researchers. We offer assistance locally as well as through a vast network of sources available through the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

Please contact us at HamiltonJewishGen@canada.com should you wish to be added to our email list or if you have questions.

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## Organizations

## Hadassah Bazaar Returns With A Bang!

The return of the Hadassah Bazaar was a huge success, thanks to co-chairs, Debbie Sheinbaum and Jill Gaffe (pictured inset). Debbie and Jill thank all the many volunteers and supporters of the event, including Marilyn Foreman, Rosalie Gaffe and Esther Levy, pictured above.

## Hamilton Hebrew Academy Students collect clothing for Israel

HHA students recently collected hundreds of items for Hamilton mission participants to take to Israel. Pictured above (l to r), are student council members, Samara Strub, Tova Lavin, Hava Starkman and Melissa Woolfson. Also pictured is Sylvia Livingston, a mission participant.

## Kehila Jewish Community Day School

by  
Ariel Zaltzman

Kehila students opened the new school year with an exciting ceremony that welcomed new students and their families. The school has grown, and has doubled both the student and staff population.

We started our celebration of the Jewish holidays by celebrating Rosh Hashana and invited the parents to raise a L'chaim for a happy New Year. The students went to Princess Point to perform the ritual of Tashlich and they continued to learn about Yom Kippur and the importance to ask forgiveness from G-d and from each other. We celebrated Sukkot in our sukkah and it was a pleasure for us to be the guests of the Chabhad Sukkahmobile. We were thrilled to have guests from all streams of Judaism during the holidays, and we are looking forward to celebrating the coming holidays with them.

This year we have made a few changes in our curriculum. We have built an exciting French curriculum that integrates

vocabulary linked to the Jewish holidays. We will strengthen our connection to Israel with a number of events: an Israeli street opening, and a project about the Negev with cooperation of the JNF. We have also integrated the art curriculum and the students will be making creative art projects linked to the art program during the holidays.

In the Hebrew and Judaica program, it is amazing to see how eager the students come to prayers. Our prayers include tunes that represent all the streams of Judaism, and includes a special program for the Torah portion and the Sefer Torah itself.

We have expanded our gym program this year. As a Jewish community school, we believe that we should cooperate with the other Jewish agencies in town. We feel that the JCC is one of them and it is the centre of our community. We have decided to have our gym program once a week at the JCC gym. Our program follows ministry guidelines and is age appropriate.

We also participated in Torah

restoration project at Temple Anshe Sholom. We linked this project to our studies about the Torah on Simchat Torah. The students made an art project titled "This is the torah that Moses gave to the children of Israel" and also each student had the opportunity to write what the Torah means to them. Kehila School is looking forward to participating in other community events.

As the new principal at Kehila, I am thrilled to see how excited the students are to come to school every morning and how much progress they have made in such a short period of time. I am proud to be part of the Hamilton Jewish Community and invite you all to visit our school. Please call Kehila at 905-529-7725 and we would be thrilled to have you visit with us.



### Kehila Jewish Community Day School

cordially invites you to join us at our

### Chanukah Family Party & Performance

Monday, December 13, 2004

in the Frank Auditorium of Temple Anshe Sholom  
from 6:15-7:30 pm.

Family, friends and siblings are welcome!

R.S.V.P. 905-529-7725 by December 3, 2004

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Helping the Hamilton Hebrew Academy is now as easy as going shopping. The HBC Rewards Community Program helps you to turn everyday shopping at the HBC family of stores - the Bay, Zellers and Home Outfitters, online at DealsOutlet.ca, and HBC Rewards Partners, into a variety of great merchandise rewards that help meet the needs of the school. You can either sign up online <http://www.hbc.com/hbc rewards/?langid=EN> or leave your name and HBC card number at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy office. You can sign up to donate all or any percentage of your points.

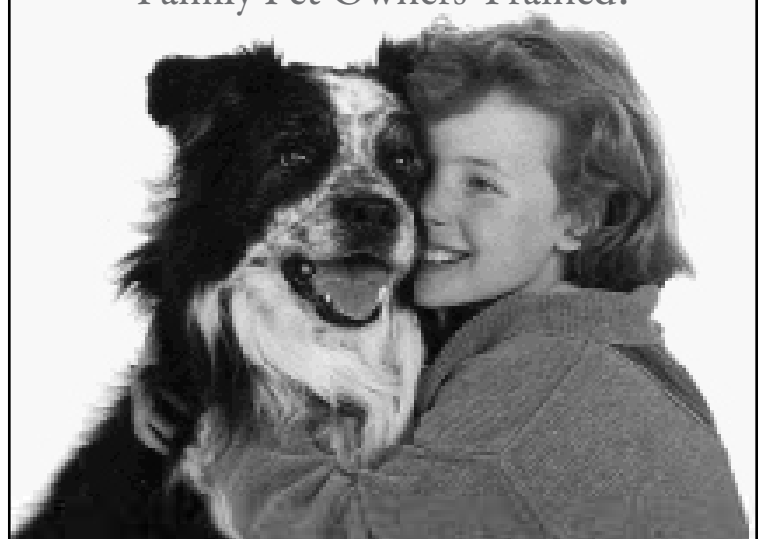
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