



Jews in China

Visiting professor comes to Mac
P17

UJA magic

Sidney Friedman amazes P10

YAD Hamilton

The future looks bright P11



Hamilton Jewish News

THE JEWISH VOICE OF HAMILTON

DECEMBER 2010 VOL 25:2/ KISLEV 5771

AGREEMENT #40007180

Enriching our future by building a vision

Our Hamilton Jewish community is at a critical point, and the clock is ticking. Changing demographics, uncertainty about the future of our JCC, declining enrollment in our Jewish schools and many other issues all mandate the urgent

need to create a vision for Jewish life in Hamilton. In his President's Column on page 9, UJA Federation president Larry Levin describes how Federation's Young Adult Division (YAD), is taking a leadership role. Read more on page 9.



Becky Katz poses in front of a colourful mural she created in the MacNab Street underpass.

Choosing Hamilton

It's finally happening. In increasing numbers our best and brightest are choosing Hamilton as their city of choice. Among them are medical residents, artists, recent graduates and budding entrepreneurs. In this issue, the HJN shines a spotlight on recent arrivals to our community as well as on three young people who are part of Hamilton's burgeoning arts scene: Artist, Becky Katz, 26, art connoisseur, Melinda Richter, 28 and musician, Jeremy Greenspan, 31, whose belief in themselves and in our city offers the rest of us much about which to be optimistic. Details on page 14.

Women's philanthropy rules the day

INCREASE IN WOMEN'S GIFTS
LEADS TO PROMISING START FOR CAMPAIGN 2011



PICTURED ABOVE: Some of Hamilton's Lions of Judah at the UJA Campaign opening. Pictured above (from l to r) are Liz Tick, Bonnie Loewith, Sasha Weisz, Shirley Molot, Gayle Kepecs, Eva Morris, Michele Finkelstein, Danna Horwood and Lisa Morris.

The UJA 2011 campaign is off to a promising start. Beginning with its successful October 14 launch featuring mentalist Sidney Friedman, the campaign is currently keeping pace with its stated goal of an increase of 8 per cent over last year's total. At this pace the signs point to the community meeting its overall goal of \$1.15 million.

One of the real strengths of this year's campaign is the leadership role being played by women. UJA Federation Director of Women's Philanthropy **Chris Nusca** said that Hamilton may be the only UJA campaign in North America that is led by two women – **Lisa Morris** and **Danna Horwood**. "Our leadership situation may be unique in this regard, but it reflects both the strength and changing nature of our community."

According to Campaign Co-Chair Lisa Morris, giving among women in the community is averaging more than 10 per cent above last year's results. Even more

encouraging is an increase in the number of gifts coming in from women who have never given before.

"From my perspective, the growth in the overall number of donors is as important as the overall dollar amounts raised," Morris said.

UJA Co-Chair Danna Horwood shares Morris's enthusiasm.


"We are convinced that if we articulate a campaign message that is passionate and that speaks, not to our fears but to our hopes and

Please see **WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY** on page 2



Discovering Hamilton

New arrivals love their adopted home P16



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The letters on the dreidle stand for "ness gadol haya sham – a great miracle happened there," but those of us who are part of the Na'amat family are responsible for creating small miracles every day.

This holiday season, we ask you to play a part in fulfilling the wish of a child, teen, or woman in Israel who is desperate for their small miracle to come true. Please give with your heart and help better their lives.

Wishing you a joyous and warm Chanukah.

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WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY from page 1

dreams for the future, more people will reach Assisting Morris and Horwood in this challenge are **Liz Tick** and **Sandy Fuss**, Co-Chairs of Major Gifts and **Sasha Weisz** and **Cindy Kam**, Co-Chairs of UJA's "Lion of Judah" Division. The "Lion of Judah" Division is an affinity group for women who maintain an annual gift to UJA of at least \$5,000. According to Cindy Kam, today, there are 900 Lions in Canada; and more than 13,000 worldwide.

"Of those 900 Lions in Canada, we are extremely proud to say that 23 of them are in Hamilton, Ontario.... And I expect that number to grow. Sasha is in New Orleans right now, attending the International Lion of Judah Conference. I am hoping she will return with a long list of 'best practices' that we can employ in Hamilton to help our 'Lions group' grow further."

Others playing an active role in this year's UJA Campaign Cabinet include UJA Federation Vice President for Financial Recourse Development **Shirley Molot**, **Joel Yellin** who Co-Chairs the Medical Division with **Mark Levy**, **Jay State** who Co-Chairs the Legal Division with **Harvey Katz**, current UJA Federation President **Larry Levin**, Past President **David Somer** and special consultant **David Loewith**.

UJA Federation President Larry Levin is delighted to have such an active and creative leadership group driving the campaign.

"This year's UJA Campaign Cabinet has invested more time and energy into planning this campaign than in several previous years. I am so grateful for their talent and commitment.

"Their success will allow us to ensure lives of greater dignity for the vulnerable, greater access and better quality of Jewish Education, a stronger case for Israel and better Community Relations. By meeting our campaign goal we are assured that the Hamilton Jewish community sits at every national table with the dignity of having met all its national commitments."

UJA Federation Executive Director **Gerald Fisher** reminds the readership that "a strong UJA result not only allows us to strengthen the Jewish community in Hamilton, it also allows us to meet our obligations to Jews in need around the globe and in Israel.

In closing, Levin said that "in the end, we are all family. We have to be able to count on each other and I expect every person in our community to respond to our campaign message and help us reach our goal this year. I know that everyone shares these expectations with me."

Chris Nusca added the suggestion that community members need not wait for their phone call. Chris urges the community to go to the UJA Federation website at www.jewishhamilton.org to view the campaign video and pledge on line, or to just call the office at 905-648-0605.

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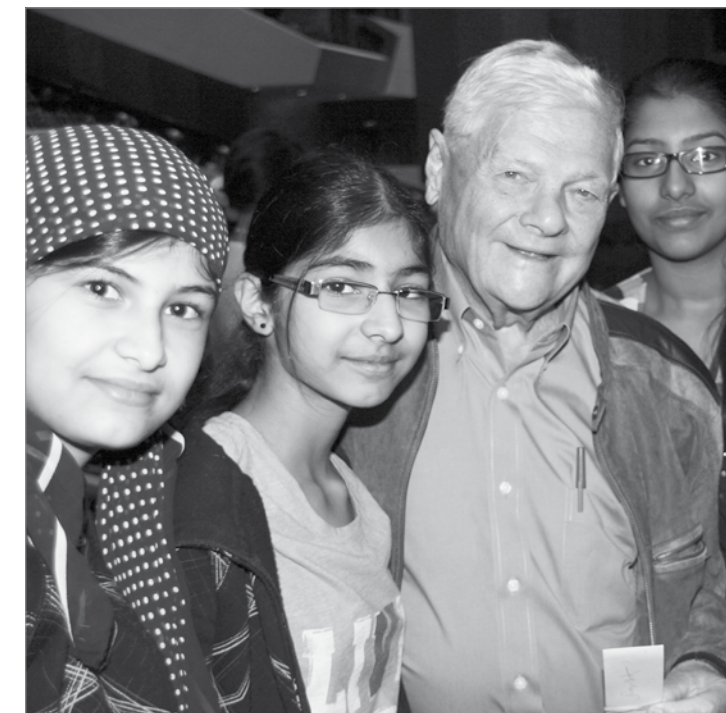
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COMING UP

MID-WINTER ISSUE

- Deadline for Booking Ad Space Jan. 12, 2011
- Deadline for receiving copy Jan. 21, 2011
- Deadline for receiving ad copy Jan. 31, 2011
- Estimated Date of Arrival Feb. 16, 2011



INSIDE HANA'S SUITCASE

Inside Hana's Suitcase, a program organized by UJA Federation in collaboration with Today's Family, was an unprecedented success. Approximately 4,000 students and 1,500 community members attended one of three screenings of the film and subsequent question and answer session with Hana's brother, George Brady (pictured above), his daughter Lara and director of the Tokyo Holocaust Center, Fumiko Ishioka. The wonderful support given to the project enabled the distribution of the Hana's Suitcase Educational Toolkit, that includes copies of the book, Hana's Suitcase, and related curriculum development materials to schools throughout Hamilton and Halton.

Hamilton Jewish News

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Shuls & Organizations

HAMILTON JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

It may have been rainy, damp and dark outside, but the sun was shining inside Hamilton's Jewish Social Services the day that 16 students from the Hamilton Jewish Middle School (HJMS) visited the Kasher Food Bank accompanied by their teachers and volunteers. The students arrived with an abundance of kosher food, which they helped sort and shelve. It was a wonderful learning opportunity in that Jewish Social Services had a chance to talk about the needs of our community and what all of us can do to help.

All in all, the day was filled with meaningful intergenerational interaction. Children experienced the joy of giving and getting to know our seniors with different backgrounds; and seniors got the opportunity to give back by entertaining the children and offering them gifts they had made through their own efforts.

The Hamilton Kasher Food Bank provides food vouchers and/or relief money for 45 families a month from our community, a staggering 3 per cent of the Jewish population of Hamilton. Lets follow the example of our children by donating kosher food or a monetary amount to the food bank. All donations of cash or cheque are tax receiptable and can be mailed to Hamilton Jewish Social Services, 30 King St. E., Dundas, Ontario L9H 5G6 or call us at 905-627-9922 ex 21 with your Visa number.



Grade 6 students from the Hamilton Jewish Middle School help stock the shelves at the Kasher Food Bank.

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The most interesting aspect of what we learn about our family history is frequently the stories of how our bubbes and zaydes lived in various eras. Inspired by Wendy Schneider and Billy Shaffir's Jewish Hamilton Project, the Jewish Genealogical Society - Hamilton and Area decided to pay tribute to the history of Hamilton's Jewish Community. Three of our meeting presenters this season are part of the Jewish Hamilton Project Speaker's Series. We've already had the pleasure of hearing Aaron Shiffman's

presentation. Upcoming presentations in this series will take place on April 13 and May 11 when we will welcome Cuppy Katz and Max Mintz respectively. Our goal is to find speakers who can engage us on a variety of levels. We are pleased to welcome back Peter Jassem as our speaker at the November 24th meeting. This time his topic will be "Unusual Resources for Genealogical Research in Western Galicia & Poland". Jassem is able to take any topic and make it fun and engaging. On January 5 we

will welcome member Barry Rosen whose topic will be "Jewish Family Storytelling". For more information on these meetings or any of this season's meetings please visit us at www.jgsh.org/events.php. We welcome members and non-members alike. If you are not already a member your first meeting is on us. For any subsequent meeting we ask for a \$5 fee to help offset our costs. Please contact Hazel Boon at jgshamilton@gmail.com or 905-524-3345 for more information.

Na'amat Hamilton

Na'amat Canada Hamilton is proud to join with their sister chapters across Canada to celebrate the 85th anniversary of Na'amat Canada. Nationally, the organization has members in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, with members spanning in ages from twenty-something to ninety-something.

At the local level Na'amat Hamilton's year of programming started with a talk from Dr. Lorne Finkelstein who told personal stories about dealing with the local media as well as recounting his experiences participating in a multi-faith dialogue.

Na'amat has many interesting meetings coming up this year, including the challenges of being a Jewish university student in Canada, and the exodus from Rwanda. Springtime will bring a cooking demonstration of inspiring new recipes and food ideas for Passover. The group will also hold an evening of Israeli dancing. Members of the community are invited to hear from Rabbi Bernard Baskin at the charity's next program on Nov. 15, 2010. Rabbi Baskin will present his lecture, Luminaries of Canadian Jewish Literature at 7:30 pm at Temple Anshe Sholom.

Hold the date for Jan. 23, 2011 and take part in an exciting evening featuring the jazz fusion band Zebrina, also at Temple Anshe Sholom. Any interested prospective members are encouraged to join in any and all of Na'amat's fun and educational programming. For more information, contact the local co-presidents at naamathamilton@gmail.com.

Chabad Hamilton

The new year of 5771 has brought with it new students and new programs at Chabad Lubavitch of Hamilton. In addition to regular, weekly Shabbat dinners, which are well attended by Jewish McMaster students, we've added some new activities. Simchat Torah saw 75 plush Torahs handed out to children who participated in the festivities. As Chabad offers Cafe Chabad - a snack corner with fresh, hot soup and cookies every evening for students to stop by or take some to go.

New this year, the last Shabbat in October is designated as "Pink Shabbat" as part of Breast Cancer Awareness month with decor and food and discussion in keeping with the colour and theme. We have begun a new, unique program, giving Challah baking a new "twist". Loaves of Love gives university students an opportunity to combine learning, fun and chessed together. Twice a month we have a Challah workshop, learning fun ways to braid and decorate challas, and then those loaves of challa are distributed to people in the community who can benefit from an extra dose of love before Shabbat.

Mon. Nov. 22 will be our annual Rabbi Zalman Itkin Memorial Lecture marking the 4th yartzeit of Rabbi Itkin with guest speaker Rabbi Lazer Gurkow of Congregation Beth Tefilla of London, Ontario.

Chabad will again be hosting community Chanuka Festivities with our annual Lego Menora building and lighting at Fortino's and more.



Jaffa Road will be performing at Temple Anshe Sholom on November 28.

TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

HOLLY GINSLER

Keep the afternoon of November 28th open this year for some pre-Chanukah entertainment. Temple Anshe Sholom and its religious school are presenting the JUNO-award nominated band Jaffa Road as part of its Chanukah fundraiser. Before the concert there will also be a Nuts and Bolts of Chanukah festivity which will include eating homemade latkes, sufganiyot (jelly donuts) and a chance to put together gift bags for the Out of the Cold program. The children will be able to create their own Chanukiyot out of nuts and Dreidels out of bolts.

Both adults and children will enjoy Toronto based world music group, Jaffa Road, whose music is a remarkable mix of Jewish, Classical Arabic and Indian, modern jazz, electronic, rock, pop, and dub. Sunplace, their debut CD, was a 2010 JUNO nominee for World Music Album of the year, they were the recipients of a Grand Prize and the Lennon Award at the John Lennon Song Writing Contest, and won the Best World Music

Artist award at the 2010 Toronto Independent Music Awards. The band's trailblazing musical odyssey is ignited by the ethereal vocals of multilingual lead singer Aviva Chernick, the evocative oud playing of Aaron Lightstone, the visionary grooves of bassist Chris Gartner, the entrancing exhilarating sounds of saxophonist/flutist Sundar Viswanathan and the driving beat of percussionist Jeff Wilson. Together, these stellar musicians challenge accepted notions of Jewish music while creating a new form of expression that breaks cultural boundaries.

The Nuts and Bolts of Chanukah party will begin at 1 p.m. on Nov. 28 at Temple Anshe Sholom and will be followed by the concert featuring Jaffa Road at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for both the concert and the party, \$10 for the party only and \$60 for a family of four. For tickets and an afternoon of fun please call the Temple Anshe Sholom Office at (905) 528-0121.

ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

The Adas Israel Congregation is pleased to announce the return of United Shabbat for a 3rd successful year. The program is a multi-generational gathering of diverse Jews from all segments and demographics of our community.

United Shabbat is a volunteer-driven project that engages individuals to give to their synagogue community and prepare a monthly-themed luncheon celebrating a unique Jewish culture from across the globe. Themes include countries of the world and, most recently, Zaidy's United Shabbat which featured kishke, schmaltz herring, and lots of other heimishe (non-low-fat) favourites.

Although United Shabbat may appear to onlookers as simply a complimentary luncheon, in reality it is more of a communal celebration. Andrea Levy, United Shabbat Coordinator, commented on how truly inspiring it is to participate in the preparation. "There is a camaraderie and teamwork that brings incredible meaning," she explained.

Planning typically starts as soon as the last United Shabbat ends. Research is done into the food associated with the theme and people are polled and asked to contribute their own recipes. The recipes are multiplied and the shopping lists are produced - you can imagine how much food needs to be prepared to feed 400 hundred people!

As the day comes closer, the kitchen hours are set and volunteers are recruited. Here is where United Shabbat gets really special. As you can imagine, there are massive quantities of food to prepare and tables to set and our volunteers do it enthusiastically!

Everyone knows their own limitations and everyone works hard to accomplish whatever they can in the time they have available to volunteer. If you can fold a napkin or cut a carrot volunteering for United Shabbat is definitely for you!

For more information please call Rebecca at rebecca@adasisrael.ca.

Shuls & Organizations

SHALOM COMMUNITY GARDEN

PAULA BARUCH

One of the loveliest features of Temple Anshe Sholom is that it is nestled beside the expanse of Churchill Park and the Royal Botanical Gardens' forest at Cootes Paradise. This summer the Temple's Social Action Committee decided to take advantage of this wonderful resource and created the Shalom Community Teaching Garden.

We partnered with George R. Allan Elementary School, the Kehila Community Day School and the Temple's Religious School to create a teaching garden. Our mission is to teach the precepts of caring for the Earth and feeding the hungry through hands-on experience in a garden. Councillor Brian McHattie was very helpful in guiding us through the process of permissions and leases.

In June we were finally able to set up the Hamilton's first community straw bale garden. We were blessed with donations of straw bales, soil, plants and seeds to get the project started. Students were able to assist with planting and tending the garden before school let out for the summer and a wonderful collection of volunteers kept the garden watered regularly throughout the hot summer.

The garden has been a resounding success and benefit to those who participated. Next spring we look forward to an early start and a harvest that we can donate to our local food bank. If you would like to get involved with our project, we welcome you! Contact us through the Shalom Garden Blog : <http://shalomcommunityteachinggarden.blogspot.com>.



Sam and Noah Baruch-Houpt help Carl Loewith load straw bales generously donated by the Loewith family.

Florence Melton Adult Mini-School

It's back! After taking our community by storm in 2009-10, the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School has launched its second year of classes throughout our community. This year's course curriculum includes: The Ethics of Jewish Living; exploring explosive topics such as: homosexuality, euthanasia, sexuality, and more; The Dramas of Jewish Living; surveying the most important dilemmas in Jewish history.

The Hamilton Melton school is proud to have all three Rabbis, from each synagogue, Rabbi Cohen, Rabbi Green and Rabbi Selsberg, participating in the groundbreaking program again this year: New additions to the staff include Andrea Zians and Laura Wolfson and we welcome back Karen Selsberg. More

than 50 people of diverse backgrounds have already enrolled and are studying the same curriculum for the next 28 weeks.

We invite anyone and everyone to sample these exciting classes in the coming weeks. No prior knowledge or experience is required. Our courses take place Mondays at the JCC 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays at the Adas Israel 7:30-9:30 p.m.; Wednesdays at the Temple Anshe Sholom/Fall, Beth Jacob/Spring 7-9 p.m.; Thursdays: "Foundations" at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy 9:15 a.m. For more information please contact Marty Strub at 905-523-5978 or e-mail meltoninhamilton@gmail.com.

Magen David Adom



HILDA ROSEN

Kudos to the many donors who chose to purchase individual pieces of medical equipment to honour and remember their loved ones at Yom Tov.

Please remember that you can "save a life" by buying cards, certificates, or leaving a bequest in your will.

The goal for 2011 is to purchase a new Defibrillator which comes with a price tag of \$35,000. This is a real challenge but, as in the past, Hamilton Friends of CMDA will make it happen.

To make a tax-deductible donation, please call me: 905-529-4824. Perform the mitzvah to save a life.

"ISRAEL'S SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE DEPENDS ON YOU." Thank you all.

Beth Jacob Synagogue

Beth Jacob is delighted to announce the election of its new co-presidents, Ira Greenspoon and Cindy Richter, who have stepped up to the helm of a new leadership team at the synagogue.



Ira Greenspoon and Cindy Richter

The shul's renewal process continues with our monthly family programs led by Rabbi Selsberg and Cantor Bitton, which are both creative and educational. Through music, art, and study, learning has never been more fun. The fun continues on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30 to 6 p.m. and Shabbat mornings from 10 a.m. to noon at our Hebrew School and our Chai School for B'nai Mitzvah students, alternately led by Cantor Bitton and Rabbi Selsberg. Last but not least, all are welcome to join Glee, Beth Jacob's choir, open to all ages.

"The spirit of our new leadership team brings, and the love Cantor Bitton brings to each Shabbat are a perfect match for a refreshed building," said Rabbi Selsberg.

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Dec. 16 - 30
Dec. 19 - Jan. 2/11

MARCH BREAK 2011
Mar. 9 - Mar. 20

PASSOVER 2011
April 16 - April 30

SUMMER 2011
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June 17 - July 31
June 24 - August 7
June 31 - August 14
August 14 - August 28

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HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY

RYAN KRAFTCHEK, TEACHER

Needs and wants are powerful motivators! Grade 4 students at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy began their school community service with a mini-lesson on the 4 Rs.

It's no longer enough to just recycle, because as any Grade 4 will tell you, recycling takes a lot of energy! It's better than wasting resources, no doubt, but recycling still consumes energy resources, and creates air and noise pollution (as well as greenhouse gases – think of all those recycling trucks driving around to collect our blue box contents!)

So this year, the grade four class is set to couple their weekly collection of school recyclables with the challenging task of having students and families rethink how much paper, plastics and packaging we consume! With the artistic guidance of Chava Dena Glaser, HHA's new art teacher, students will begin by finding new and innovative uses for some of those materials that would otherwise be recycled away. Some recycled art and science projects can not only be aesthetically pleasing, but also be useful in creating food sources for wildlife (birdfeeders) and habitat (insect viewers) from reused glass and plastic materials.

One concrete way you can help out at home is by purchasing a sturdy, reusable and refillable water bottle to cut-back on the number of plastic bottles sent to school.

We could even add a fifth R – Refuse! When purchasing, refuse products with unnecessary packaging. Who really needs all that unpacking hassle anyways? Keep up the great work, Grade 4!



HHA Grade 4 class during their weekly collection of recycling from around the school.

KEHILA JCDS

One of the wonderful things about Kehila is that their 'community' extends outside the doors of the school, outside of the Hamilton community, and even outside of the Jewish community. The students participate in a number of volunteer programs at Shalom Village. They are involved with the Heart and Stroke Foundation in Jump Rope for Heart. The community of Kehila has organized bike drives, breast cancer fundraisers, and even participated in a mission for school supplies for children in Cuba.

Cesar Chavez once said, "We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community..."

We are fortunate to have a school that promotes caring for a broader community, and creates awareness and compassion for needs outside of our own. We should all be happy to be involved in a community that surpasses the borders of age, race and religion.

Kehila students are taught throughout the curriculum about the importance of Tikkun



Madelyn Waxman with her donated hair.

Olam. Providing an excellent example for all children, Kehila student Madelyn Waxman has cut 13 inches of her hair for a wig donation to someone with cancer. Madelyn plans to grow her hair again for another donation and challenges other local children to do the same.

Assisting the vulnerable is one of the four pillars of the Hamilton UJA Federation and Kehila students are supporting this pillar through many different ongoing activities. This is just one example of how one child can make a difference in our community. Stay tuned for additional examples of Tikkun Olam in coming months.

WINTER CAMP

December 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

K'TANIM

(Pre-School children)
9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
JCC Members: \$19/day
Non Members: \$25/day

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
JCC Members: \$32/day
Non Members: \$42/day

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN
(Grade 6)

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
JCC Members: \$28/day
Non Members: \$38/day

Register for all 8 days and receive a 10 per cent discount!
Family Discount: 5 per cent off for registering three or more children.

The JCC welcomes Eva Dolegowski, director of this year's Winter Camp. Eva, who has worked at both Camp Kadimah, Winter Camp and the JCC front desk for two years, is extremely creative, artistic and a great role model. Eva has made the JCC her second home and she can't wait to welcome your kids into her home. So be sure to call today to register your kids for two fun filled weeks!



Winter Camp director, Eva Dolegowski and Program Coordinator Laura Laengerer

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 15

Thea's Jewelry Box

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Thea's new fall and winter collection will be available for purchase

November 20

Games Night

8 p.m. Bring your cards & board games, cards, rummy, kub, poker, etc.

\$5 per family. If you would like to order pizza from Chews and Schmooze contact Andrea at 289-260-4490

December 4

Back by Popular Demand
David Cavan Fraser

a night of music starting at 8:30 p.m.; Members \$10; Non Members \$18

December 12

JCC Chanukah Party & Bingo

Includes Vendors Marketplace

Start time 5 p.m.

Pizza, salad and latkes will be served for a fee.

December 16

Mah Jongg & Cards Maven Day

1 p.m. start time

\$5/team Chews & Schmooze will be open for lunch

January 29

The Dunn Brothers Live

a night of music starting at 8:30 p.m.; Members \$10; Non Members \$18

HAMILTON JEWISH MIDDLE SCHOOL



HJMS first school-wide trip: Adventure Works, a two-day leadership program at Canterbury Hills

For many students, the first day of school is often accompanied by butterflies in the stomach. This past September 18 grade six students entered the Hamilton Jewish Middle School. The class consisted of 13 former Hamilton Hebrew Academy students and five former Kehila students. In grade seven, the HJMS class welcomed two new students as well. Despite being apart for many years in different environments, the students immediately bonded together as one unified class.

Lila Strub, a new teacher at the middle school, is thrilled to be a part of this new venture. As a former Hamilton Hebrew Academy parent and PTA president, Lila is enthusiastic about the two Jewish day schools coming together. "There is a real sense of unity and cohesiveness among the students and I feel it the most when the whole middle school gets

together for programs. There is a real energy there that is hard to describe but it is very inspiring."

Strub expressed how natural the HJMS feels as a stepping stone to high school for these children. She went on to elaborate how the HJMS is a wonderful academic atmosphere and how the kids are so enthusiastic to learn.

Ella G., an HJMS student, summed up it up best: "Before this year when the HHA & Kehila kids saw each other at community events it was awkward and they didn't know how to relate to each other. There was a major divide which was sad. Now that we are all together we can't remember being apart and we all love it. It's great to have a bigger circle of friends and we feel very natural together. It's a lot of fun."



Midrasha students make sushi during food and nutrition science lab.

MIDRASHA HAMILTON HEBREW HIGH

It's not easy capturing the hearts and minds of the modern teenager. Like the iPad and Twitter, you need to be contemporary and relevant.

With this philosophy, Midrasha is constantly striving to meet the needs of its students through innovative programs and events. In recent years, Midrasha has launched courses like Media Studies that engage young minds through media. This year, the school has launched a new Food and Nutrition Science course that allows students to attain a science credit while integrating integral aspects of Judaism and Jewish cuisine. Developed by Shira Morel, who earned her Nutrition degree from the University of Guelph, the course includes topics such as: Asher Yatzar – the Miracle of the Human Body – How culture influences our food choices. The course includes lab time in the kitchen

where students apply their knowledge. Students especially enjoy the hands on experience as they get to cook, schmooze and eat.

Jake Martin, Grade 11, joked how he's drawn to class by his hunger more than the credit or class content. On a more serious note, he added how Midrasha is one of his few outlets to connect to his Jewish friends, values and heritage as Hamilton lacks a full-time Jewish high school. Shari Levine found her first experience in class to be a great way to learn about the different approaches of various cultures' and religions' approaches to dietary habits.

For more information about all the classes and extracurricular activities offered through Midrasha, please contact Yaakov Morel at 905-512-1960 or e-mail yaakov@hhmidrasha.ca.

Living it up at the JCC

The JCC offers social, cultural, recreational and educational programs for the community. Social programs are on-going; we host brunches, live bands, games nights, bingo, comedy nights, youth casino, mah jongg and more. Our cultural programs include Channukah, Yom Haatzmaut, Yom Hashoah, Lag Ba'Omer and a Film Festival. Tennis instructed by Frances Critchley is our recreational focus at the JCC. We also offer after school programs for youth which include various sports led by Max Katz, Thursdays 4:30-5:30. When it comes to education our focus is on the youth of our community. We host the Morris Black Public Speaking Contest for students in grades 3-8 and the Max Rotman Humanitarian Awards for students in grades 11 and 12 from all the high schools in our neighbouring area. This year we are looking to introduce some new and exciting programs. Be sure to check in at the JCC for information on our upcoming programs and if you would like to volunteer please be sure to contact the JCC. The JCC is only 5 minutes away ok maybe 10 but it's worth your while to check it out and participate in our variety of activities. The JCC also offers memberships, come join and make the JCC your home away from home.



Lunch at the JCC
Chews and Schmooze

Open for lunch
Mondays to Thursdays
from 12 noon -2:00 pm



Camp Kadimah seeks director for the Summer of 2011

If you are interested in applying for this position please contact Laura at laurajcc@gmail.com or call 905-648-0605 ext. 308

4TH ANNUAL
HAMILTON JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Nov. 27 @ 7:30 p.m.



JEWS & BASEBALL AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY
narrated by Dustin Hoffman

The film explores the connection between Jewish Americans and baseball, our nation's most iconic institution. More than a film about sports, it is a story of immigration, assimilation, bigotry, heroism, the passing on of traditions, and the shattering of stereotypes.

Nov. 30 @ 7:00 p.m.
(double feature)

DISENGAGING DEMOCRACY

"Disengaging Democracy", from award winning documentary filmmaker Igal Hecht, takes a rare and provocative look at what happened to Israeli democracy before, during, and after the historical 2005 Gaza Disengagement.

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On the Eve of Israel's 60th birthday, Canadian-Israeli filmmaker Igal Hecht travels from one end of Israel to the other for six months, asking Israelis one simple question: "What does the Israeli flag mean to you?". This heartfelt, comedic documentary explores the crisis of identity that many in Israel now face and offers an insight into what the future holds for the nation.

Director Igal Hecht will be in attendance

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UJA Federation

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DR. LARRY LEVIN, PRESIDENT,
UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON



Enriching our Future by Building a Vision

Our Hamilton Jewish Community is at a critical point, and the clock is ticking.

Changing demographics, uncertainty about the future of our JCC, declining enrollment in our Jewish Schools and many other issues all mandate the urgent need to create a Vision for Jewish life in Hamilton.

Federation's Young Adult Division (YAD), is taking a leadership role.

Federation has held a number of sessions involving both board members and community agencies to discuss and plan for our future.

Most recently, Federation Board members together with members of YAD met for a three hour planning session at 8 a.m. on a recent Sunday morning, to continue the work on creating a three to five year plan.

YAD is a wonderful group of vibrant energetic dedicated people who have agreed to work with Federation and take on a leadership role in this project. Others will be added but currently on the committee are: **Danna Horwood, Joel Feldman, Mario Stolar, David Shore** and **Yves Apel**.

We talked about our community's aspirations.

We talked about our Vision for the future and what programs and services will be essential for a strong vibrant future that will allow Hamilton to be a wonderful place to raise a Jewish family.

As you might imagine, many of the issues raised were not new:

- support, enhancement and role of the JCC
- how to more effectively deliver outstanding Jewish education and increase enrollment
- a strong advocacy agenda to combat anti-Semitism and to support Israel
- how to finance our Vision
- the role of Federation

Federation's Mission Statement guides us in this work:

UJA Federation as our central communal organization is committed to building a strong, vibrant and enduring Jewish community in the greater Hamilton region, in Israel and throughout the world. The Federation is guided by the values of Tikkun Olam - Repair of the World and by Klal Yisrael The responsibility for each Jew for another.

We will continue to engage with all our partners, beneficiaries and associated agencies, and synagogues, to share with us, their hopes and dreams for our community's future.

Success depends on collaboration and cooperation to ensure a vibrant Jewish Community.

UJA Federation can and will provide the planning mechanism and opportunity for every interested voice to be heard. A meeting of the Leadership Forum will be held very soon.

I want to hear from you. Please send me your thoughts at larrylevin@jewishhamilton.org.

We are all very excited about this process, and YAD's leadership role.

We share with all of you a desire for a strong, vibrant, sustainable Jewish community.

The future is before us, our time to make a difference is now.



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UJA Campaign Opening

SIDNEY FRIEDMAN DELIGHTS AUDIENCE WITH THE POWER OF HIS MIND

This year's UJA Campaign Opening, held at Beth Jacob Synagogue on Oct. 14, was one of the most entertaining and unforgettable openings in recent memory. Mentalist Sidney Friedman charmed the audience with his ability to read minds and match individuals to objects chosen based on his highly developed intuition. Friedman made a special point of emphasizing the importance of giving to the UJA Campaign, a message to which audience members responded by lining up to make their pledges after the show. Thank you to everyone who attended!



"Is this the picture you drew?" Yes it was!!!!



Friedman correctly guesses who chose each object.



"You're thinking of this tune?"



UJA Campaign Co-Chairs Lisa Morris and Danna Horwood give a warm welcome to top donors at a dinner held prior to the big event.



Jennifer Howe and Ben Sauder loved the show.



Audience members were delighted with the performance.



UJA Staff were happy to take people's UJA pledges.



Lion of Judah Co-Chairs Cindy Kam (left) and Sasha Weisz (right) present Bonnie Loewith with her Lion of Judah (LOJ) pin. Gayle Kepecs and Judy Bennett, not pictured, also received LOJ pins.



Your gift touches us all.

When you give a gift to the UJA Annual Campaign you give a gift that touches every part of our community: the too many still struggling in this uneven economic recovery, the rising number of seniors living below the poverty line and the growing number of families having to choose between paying the rent and putting food on the table.

Your support matters now more than ever. Not only because it touches those in need in our community and abroad. But because somehow, some way, your gift helps feed someone you know, someone you care about. And it touches you too.

It touches you too.



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UJA Federation



PROVIDING LEADERSHIP FOR A NEW GENERATION



Above, some of the graduates of last year's Genesis Leadership Program, (from l to r) Yves Apel, Carl DeLeon, Sarah DeLeon and Julie Dembe.

YAD Hamilton, a young leadership initiative that first appeared on the Hamilton scene in 1999, was relaunched in the spring of 2008 with great success. YAD's goals are to reach out to the demographic representing 23 to 45 year olds, and provide them with opportunities to socialize, develop their leadership skills and engage in the critical questions that will determine our community's future.

Last year YAD celebrated the relaunch of Genesis, an outstanding leadership development program, that attracted 18 participants.

"I think that Genesis is one of the most important programs that we've created in our community," said YAD chair, Mario Stolar, "because it's creating the foundation for developing stronger leadership in the community and helping participants understand the relationship between UJA Federation and its beneficiary agencies." YAD's vision has evolved, continued Stolar, so that in addition to offering programs that provide opportunities for socializing and networking, it will place a greater emphasis on leadership.

"We're interested in helping develop the infrastructure to make it possible for our generation to step into leadership roles and help our agencies fulfill their goals," said Stolar. "UJA Federation and YAD share the same vision of ensuring that our community can not only survive, but prosper and thrive."

Another Genesis Leadership Program will be launched this winter according to UJA Federation director of programming, Elaine Levine. For more information about how you can get involved in YAD please call 905-627-9922, ext 24 or email elevine@jewishhamilton.org.

UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON'S ASPER FOUNDATION HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOLOCAUST STUDIES PROGRAM 2011

Up to 70 students ages 14-17 from Hamilton-Wentworth and area will join students from across Canada to participate in the program. The highlight of the trip will be a visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C., May 15-18, 2011. The four-day trip will include: transportation to Washington, D.C. all meals, accommodation, visits to other sites of importance in Washington and all admissions. There is a \$375 participation fee. Deadline to apply is Dec. 3, 2010.



Some of last year's Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies participants.

Visit www.jewishhamilton.org for an application, brochure and education session dates. Contact Elaine Levine at 905-627-9922 Ext. 24 or elevine@jewishhamilton.org if you have any questions.

As your family lights the Menorah and reflects on their faith and traditions, it is my sincere hope that the festivities will bring peace for today and brilliant hope for the future. May it also be a time of family love and community hope as you gather for the eight days of celebration of the Festival of Lights.

From our family to yours,
Happy Chanukah
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Shalom celebrates volunteers

More than 70 volunteers gathered at Goldie's Place on October 28 as Shalom Village paid tribute to the special people who help us honour our fathers and our mothers every day.

After being greeted with a gift of a hand-crafted glass leaf created by glass artist Kelly Lowe, guests were entertained by Flamenco dancer Emanuela Dussin, accompanied by Gary Santucci on the guitar. It was a dramatic and colourful performance that was received with enthusiastic applause from the audience. Guest speaker Marjorie Pauline Hesk was inspiring as she told the assembled group about her two 800-plus kilometre hikes from France to Spain along the legendary Camino de Santiago. What makes these journeys truly inspirational is the fact that she completed them at the ages of 73 and 75. She has a refreshing view of aging and life that resonated with the crowd. Former Shalom Village Board President Les Lasky also addressed the group, thanking people for their contributions and sharing a few inspirational words of his own.

New Award

A highlight of the evening came with the introduction of a new award for volunteers. A donor, who wishes to



Long-time volunteers Sarah Fleming, left, and Lotti Redner enjoyed themselves at the Shalom Village Volunteer Celebration.

remain anonymous, was inspired by the dedication and compassion demonstrated by volunteer Joey Cohen. As a result a new award was created in Joey's name to be presented annually to a deserving volunteer. It was a touching moment as Cohen was presented with the very first *Joey Cohen Award* by Shalom Village CEO Pat Morden.

Thank you

Volunteers are an important part of our team at Shalom Village. The evening was a heartfelt acknowledgement of their important contributions. Grateful thanks to all of them for everything they do!



Guests at Shalom Village's Volunteer Celebration were entertained by Flamenco dancer Emanuela Dussin, accompanied by Gary Santucci on the guitar.



Joey Cohen was the inaugural recipient of the *Joey Cohen Award*. An anonymous donor who was impressed with Joey's efforts as a volunteer, established a fund to present the award annually to a deserving volunteer.

Do the Hustle!

The 9th annual *Hannukah Hustle* is set to run at 9:00 a.m. on Nov. 21, 2010 at Shalom Village. Hundreds of runners and walkers will be joined by family, friends and other spectators as they participate in walking and running events varying in distance from 1k to 10k. All funds raised go to support The Club Fitness Centre at Shalom Village. Participants range from serious runners to elderly Shalom Village residents, including many using walkers or wheelchairs. All races start at Shalom Village and follow Hamilton's scenic waterfront trail before looping back to finish at Shalom Village.

Mark Hebscher, co-host of Live @ 5:30 and Sportsline on CHCH television, has once again volunteered his services as Master of Ceremonies.

Shalom Village joins Telemedicine network

Shalom Village has joined the Ontario Telemedicine Network, giving us access to a whole new world of healthcare and educational resources. Thanks to a project funded by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care through our local LHIN office, an advanced video conferencing system is now operating in the Classic Theatre.

Similar Telemedicine sites are located in hundreds of hospitals, long term care homes and doctor's offices throughout Ontario. Our staff and residents can consult with specialists in real-time without having to worry about transportation to outside locations. There are also many educational presentations for staff to participate in, as well as opportunities to collaborate with other professionals.

"One of the first things we did was establish a province-wide LTC group that meets bi-monthly to share knowledge," said Shalom Village CEO Pat Morden. The high-quality images and sound are streamed through a special secure

The Club at Shalom Village is an innovative fitness centre for people over the age of 70. It grew from a successful research project performed in collaboration with McMaster University. The study demonstrated the dramatic effect an active lifestyle can have on the quality of life experienced by older adults. A marked reduction in the incidence of falls and improvements in mobility were both documented. Participants not only felt better but found everyday tasks such as getting in and out of a car or sitting and standing easier to accomplish. Participants and supporters can register or pledge on-line at shalomvillage.ca. Registration forms and pledge sheets are also available at Shalom Village. Visit our website at shalomvillage.ca for more information, or call Kathleen at (905) 529-1613 ext. 264.



network. Cameras can be rotated and zoomed to focus on detailed areas and diagnostic equipment such as stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs and magnifying cameras can be connected to the unit.

"We are excited about the possibilities this technology has brought to our residents and team," Morden said.

E-mail newsletter



You can get regular updates by e-mail about happenings at Shalom Village. Simply visit our website at shalomvillage.ca and submit your e-mail address to join our mailing list.

We will respect your privacy and your e-mail address will not be shared. Sign up now and stay informed!



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Israel Advocacy a balancing act

Federation committee seeks consensus
by WENDY SCHNEIDER, Hamilton Jewish News

Judah Denburg has a new appreciation for the challenges faced by Israeli prime ministers. The co-chair of UJA Federation's Public Affairs Committee (PAC) said it's a delicate balance "to lead and speak with a unified voice and to contextualize what you say in the right place and the right time."

The Committee, co-chaired by **Monte Levy** and **Judah Denburg**, and including **Fred Hoppe**, **David Shore**, **Hanna Schayer**, **Harold Pomerantz**, Federation president, **Larry Levin** and Federation executive director, **Gerard Fisher**, deals primarily with Israel Advocacy and community relations. PAC members are united by their love for Israel and their shared goal of ensuring that the Jewish State is portrayed in an accurate and unbiased light by the local media.

"I think our views are balanced, neither right wing nor left wing. We try to be very reasonable and accommodating to many points of view," said Denburg.

The Committee's behind-the-scenes work can be seen from time to time in the Letters to the Editor and Op Ed sections of The Hamilton Spectator, and recently Monte Levy, Larry Levin, Gerry Fisher, and Jordan Kerbel from Canadian Jewish Congress, met with the new Spectator Editor-In-Chief, Paul Berton, to discuss important issues.

A second, but no less important aspect of the Committee's mandate is community relations. Denburg said that last summer's decision not to join the so-called Hamilton Dialogue Group has strengthened the Committee's resolve to build bridges with ethnic communities and other groups for whom the demonization of Israel is not a central, defining issue.

The challenge of arriving at a consensus within the PAC group pales in comparison to the greater task of being in harmony with community members at large

when it comes to a unified stance on Israel.

"Throughout Jewish history, there were always Jews who disagreed with other Jews," he said, "and the degree to which they rose up and spoke in a unified way is the degree to which they succeeded."

To those who would say that it's important not to blindly support every official Israeli government position Denburg has an answer. "One has to be cognizant [when criticizing some of Israel's policies] of how people who have Israel's worst interests in their heart exploit that kind of material...I think this

"At the very least, there has to be a sense of 'basic trust' of one another within the Jewish community"

Judah Denburg

is a blind spot for a lot of Jews and Israelis." But Denburg is equally wary of those who consistently accuse the Federation of falling short when it comes to defending Israel's interests.

"The single biggest enemy we face is fighting among ourselves," he said, referring to a famous Talmudic quote attributing the destruction of the Temple to internecine warfare.

At the very least, said Denburg, there has to be a sense of "basic trust" of one another within the Jewish community, especially in such turbulent and difficult times. This is a measure of a vibrant, healthy community.

The Arctic Experience McNaught Gallery



We are pleased to welcome **Melinda Richter** to our staff as a sales associate and consultant. With experience in Museum Studies and work at the Toronto Jewish Archives, her multidisciplinary arts experience contributes a fresh perspective to the gallery.

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Shalom Village Tribute Cards

The following individuals have been honoured by family and friends with a donation to Shalom Village:

IN MEMORY: Frances Silver, David Redner, Erika Brodati, Gary Pyne, Sol Cohen, Harry Chelin, Robert Arnold, Lou Bain, Sam Brooks, Sol Jacobs, Labol Levy, Henry Saperia, Seymour Rosenfeld, Shirley Noseworthy, Sam Hebscher, Sheldon Shaul, Michael Seigel, Adele Grossman, Donald Schwartz, Mildred Jean Shadney, Rita Shapiro, Ada Stock, Ruth Possen, John Griffith, Rabbi Nachum Dunn, Larry Cappe, Hannah Binnach, Ruth Kaminer, Rosa Poretta, Evelyn Silver, Ruth Goldberg, Oscar Weitzman, Kay Pryslak, Morris Kerbel, Annie Kirshenbaum, Harry Brockman, Sharon Haas, Daniel Robinson.

THINKING OF YOU: Evelyn Silver, Norma Wright, Noreen McConnell, Ruth Possen, Ada Stock, Donald Johnson, Sondri Goldblatt, Lee Ginsberg.

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BIRTHDAY: Gail Wolfe, Yetta Krakower, Fay Schermerling, Helen Yellin, Ab Leon, Lorne Rochweg, Ralph Cohen, Ruth Rottman, Hynda Halpren, Betsy Sauder, Heather Munroe Blum, Gershon, Min Goodman, Marilyn Raphael, Linda Beres.

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& Diane Davis, Yetta Krakower, Arthur Weisz & Family, Bill Clarefield & Beverly Levin, Zack & Nadine Cooper, Josh Cooper, Mrs. Jean Wagner & Family, Dr. Joel & Sandy Fagan, Mr. & Mrs. Manny Leder, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ackerman, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Armstrong, Mr. & Mrs. Allan Swartz, Elaine & Bob Siegel.

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To send a card call Kathleen Thomas at (905) 529-1613 ext. 264 or send an e-mail to kathleen@shalomvillage.ca.


Funds raised by card sales help us make possibilities possible at Shalom Village. Many of the wonderful things that make being AT HOME at Shalom special would not be possible without your support.

Thank you

Grateful thanks to the families of Ruth Goldberg, Oscar Weitzman and Labol Levy for requesting donations to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers. Memorial donations are earmarked for palliative care at Shalom Village. This thoughtful gesture will help other families as they face many challenges at the end of life.

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Welcome Home: New arrivals

Our Jewish community is being enriched by a continuous influx of newcomers, who consistently express their delight at Below, recent arrivals to our community share their impressions.

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, Hamilton Jewish News

TRACEY KORNBLOM ARTIST



Tracey Kornblum, of Toronto and Jeff Pernica, not pictured, moved to Hamilton from Ottawa in 2009.

Tracey Kornblum and Jeff Pernica moved to Hamilton when Pernica was hired by McMaster to practise pediatrics with a specialty in infectious diseases. They live in Dundas with their daughter Avra, 4, and son Oren, 9 months old.

What's your impression of Hamilton and its Jewish community?

I can't believe how large it is. I had no idea. It's incredibly warm and friendly. When my son was born, Rabbi Green and Rabbi Cohen did the prayers together at the bris. I can't imagine that happening in any other community.

I also find that they're really open to community building... whenever I've put forward an idea to do with the Jewish community, it's yes to everything.

What contribution do you see yourself making to Hamilton's Jewish community?

What I can offer is community building through art projects with kids or adults, and dialogue around stuff that people are experiencing through art. Before I had children I was doing murals in people's homes, businesses and public spaces with kids. I would love to do that again.

ELISSA PRESS AND BENJAMIN KLEIN STUDENT AND PHYSICIAN



Elissa Press and Benjamin Klein outside their Westdale home with daughter, Leah and son, Adam.

Elissa Press, from London and Benjamin Klein, of Toronto, moved to Hamilton in August 2007. Benjamin practices pediatric medicine while doing a fellowship at McMaster in rehabilitative medicine. Elissa is pursuing a Masters degree in Health Research Methodology.

What's your impression of Hamilton and its Jewish community?

Hamilton is great. We hope to stay here. It has everything we want. The quality of life is amazing. You can walk and bike everywhere. You can drive for eight minutes

and be surrounded by beautiful rural surroundings. From a Jewish perspective, I find that options are limited here. In Toronto I belonged to an Orthodox egalitarian shul that had such a vibrancy and a lot of young people very involved. The only thing I do wish is that there was more choice in the Jewish community and more engagement from people.

What contribution do you see yourself making to Hamilton's Jewish community?

We want to make Hamilton work. We'd like to help Beth Jacob build a more vibrant community.

URI AND IFAT GOLDBREICH SOFTWARE DEVELOPER AND ADMINISTRATOR



The Gottreich family came to Hamilton in October 2010 from their home in Elkanah, Israel.

Uri Gottreich's hope of finding international experience bore fruit when a former supervisor helped arrange for a position at Research in Motion in Waterloo. Ifat, a dental administrator, hopes to find administrative work once her children are settled in their new home.

What's your impression of Hamilton and its Jewish community?

The first week was great. The children were afraid, but they received a lovely reception at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. Our first Shabbat was amazing,

from the perspective of both the beautiful weather and the synagogue experience. All in all it was a very important week and we feel it went very well and that this was the right place to choose.

What contribution do you see yourself making to Hamilton's Jewish community?

We hope to bring an Israeli perspective – love of Israel, the Israeli way of giving and helping. It's here too because they wouldn't have embraced us with such warmth if they didn't have it but we hope to bring some too.

ZAVI AND DEBORAH WOLMAN PROPERTY MANAGER AND ENGINEER



Zavi and Deborah Wolman with their children, Israel, 10, and Mitzi, 15 months at their home in Dundas.

Zavi and Deborah Wolman of Montreal and Innisfil, Ontario, respectively, moved to Hamilton in December 2009. Deborah, an engineer, is employed at Cara Airlines Solutions in Mississauga. Zavi is a property manager.

What's your impression of Hamilton and its Jewish community?

When we had just moved here we went to a Chanukkah event at Fortinos. There were kids from the Reform temple, the Conservative and the Orthodox shuls and Chabad all participating in the same activity. I had never

experienced that before because coming from Montreal, every shul had its own events and there was really no mixing. In Hamilton it seems like everybody is welcome to participate regardless of how they observe their religion and that to me was very cool. Having a son who's adopted it was very important to be part of a strong Jewish community, important for me that he love the community. Our son had no Hebrew experience other than with his Sunday school in Montreal. Rabbi Green was very accomodating, and arranged for remedial Hebrew classes that brought him up to speed.

love living in Hamilton

discovering Southern Ontario's "best-kept secret".

JANETTE AND KEVIN MAILO RESIDENTS IN FAMILY MEDICINE



Janette and Kevin Mailo arrived in June 2010, with twins Leyli and Alexander and one on the way.

Janette, a native of Czechoslovakia and Kevin, Edmonton born and bred, met at the University of Alberta Medical School. Their joint interest in training in family medicine brought them to McMaster and Hamilton. The Mailos work anywhere between 50 and 70 hours a week and are delighted that their Westdale home is so close to their work and children's school. While both have expressed delight at what they have found here, Kevin's interest in more training in emergency medicine makes their long-term plans unclear.

What's your impression of Hamilton and its Jewish community?

Very warm and welcoming. Rabbi Selsberg and I had e-mailed for a couple of months before we moved. He had a lot of practical advice and since moving here, he's been great. Rabbi Green was very instrumental in our bringing the kids to the HHA. I had worries about sending them to school but they really love it. The community is quite cohesive which is something I like. Moving to Hamilton was a good choice for us.

ILANA BAYER AND ALLAN FEIN PROFESSOR AND CONSULTANT



Formerly of Toronto, Ilana Bayer and Allan Fein enjoy family time with their children, Noah and Thea.

Ilana Bayer and Allan Fein's move to Hamilton was precipitated by Ilana's being hired as an assistant professor in learning technologies at McMaster's Faculty of Health Sciences. Allan runs his own consulting business and has worked extensively with Hamilton's JCC.

What's your impression of Hamilton and its Jewish community?

(Allan) I probably feel more connected to Jewish community here in Hamilton than I have at any other point in my life. From the moment we became involved with the JCC, it's been like an open-

ing of the floodgates. Everywhere we've gone there's been a warm, welcoming feeling. (Ilana) When we were dating, neither of us thought we would ever be sending our children to a Jewish day school. But Kehila piqued our interest through our experiences with Paula Baruch and the Melton program.

What contribution do you see yourself making to Hamilton's Jewish community?

We've both gotten involved at different levels in different organizations and hope to continue getting more involved.

KARI ISAACSON GRADUATE STUDENT



McMaster's Occupational Therapy program brought Kari Isaacson to Hamilton from Toronto.

Kari Isaacson had been working for a number of years as a Feldenkrais therapist, when she learned about McMaster University's occupational therapy program. "I was drawn to McMaster because of the way they run the health sciences program. It's a unique design, with problem-based learning and small group tutorials."

What's your impression of Hamilton and its Jewish community?

I met many lovely people one Shabbos (at the Adas Israel) last spring so that I have connections with a number of particularly warm and welcoming people. People here are so unassuming and have welcomed me in right away. I think it's a small-town phenomenon. I was walking around last week and noticed a succah at the Reform shul and met lovely people there as well. I'm very happy here in the Jewish community. It's a built-in family.

Do you see yourself staying here?

I have no idea. I'm used to a big city but I'm very much appreciating the simplicity of my life. It's a 20-minute walk to school and a five-minute walk to shul. I have this gorgeous view of the Niagara escarpment from my apartment which is turning colours in front of my eyes. I can see why people would choose to live here. It's commutable and you don't have to deal with the city.

New to Hamilton?

The Shalom Hamilton committee wants to welcome you to our great city. Please forward your contact information to elvine@jewishhamilton.org or call Elaine Levine at 905-627-9922, ext 23.

Are you the parent of an infant or a toddler?

The Shalom Baby committee would like to welcome your child to the community. Please send the name and date of birth of your child to elvine@jewishhamilton.org

Honourable Mention

Dundas resident Norman Rain has been invited to host a one-man exhibit of 50 of his works of art at St. James Anglican Church at 137 Melville St. in downtown Dundas from November 7 to Dec. 8, Mon. to Fri. from 9 a.m. to noon. "Divine Intervention,"

has been exhibited as a one-man show at several places, including the Chautauqua Institution.



Norman Rain

For the past 60 years Rain has vacationed at the Chautauqua Institution in upstate Western New York, where he is well known for traversing many miles searching for the colors and textures of the hundreds of items he needs for his medium.

Sonia Halpern, a 40-something Hamilton native, and a professor of Art History at the University of Western Ontario, has recently had a book of musical compositions, entitled Klezmer Kitty, published by Jewish music publisher Tara Publications.



Sonia Halpern

Halpern was studying and playing Klezmer music when her teacher gave her an assignment, asking her to write her own Klezmer tune. To her great surprise, she found that she had a knack for it. Halpern's teacher then jokingly said that if she composed 12 of them, she could create her own music book for C-and B-flat instruments. "I thought it was a pretty neat idea, so I wrote a song every week for the next 11 weeks, got the scores put on a computer program, designed a cover, put together a mock book, and sent it to a music publisher. I knew it was a long-shot, but they liked it!"

Klezmer Kitty is designed so both beginner and advanced musicians will have satisfying playing experiences. All of the songs are written in the relatively less-familiar and multifaceted rhythmic style of Klezmer that caters to advanced musicians, but features uncomplicated musical characteristics reasonable for beginners. The result is a variety of distinctive and appealing tunes that are mostly joyous, and sometimes solemn, but always gratifying for everyone to play and hear.

In addition to Halpern's strong connection to the Hamilton Jewish community (her mother Clara still lives here), Tara Publications is linked to Jewish Hamilton; Velvel Pasternak, owner of Tara Publications of Cedarhurst, New York, is a long-time friend of Rabbi Morton Green.

Halpern says that her Hamilton Hebrew Academy days "where academics and creativity were both encouraged" were a significant factor in her drive to succeed.

To order Klezmer Kitty, visit the Tara Publications website at www.jewishmusic.com.

Choosing Hamilton

YOUTHFUL OPTIMISM BRINGS VIBRANCY TO CITY CORE

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, Hamilton Jewish News

Melinda Richter never could have imagined that at the age of 28, she would be moving back to Hamilton and actually be excited about it. Her story, up to this point, was not atypical: Suburban (she grew up in Ancaster) high school graduate attends out of town university followed by a move to one of Canada's major urban centres. Richter received her undergraduate degree at Wilfrid Laurier University, a Masters in Religious Studies at the University of Toronto, and a postgraduate degree in Museum Studies at Fleming College in Peterborough. Last year she was living in Toronto and working a variety of part-time jobs at some of the city's arts institutions, when she started hearing about the vibrant arts and music scene back in Hamilton. Music and art were areas in which she had a strong interest, but Toronto is a place where you had to know the right people to get a break and Richter could never figure out who the right people were.



Becky Katz teaches art at James Street North's Print Studio.



Jeremy Greenspan and his band tour for much of the year, but Hamilton is still home.



Moishe and Mark Morgenstern say the James Street art crawls have been great for business.

As things turned out, Arctic Experience owners Marvin Cohen and Janet McNaught provided her with the best reason to return – a job offer, involving promotions, sales and appraisals, and a special assignment to help them expand their gallery's appeal to a younger clientele. Richter returned to Hamilton last summer and rented a house in Westdale, a neighbourhood from which she can walk, bike or bus to work. In September, she curated her first show at the gallery, showcasing the art of Sari Richter, a fellow Hamiltonian and Melinda's first cousin. "She's one of the first artists we've brought in who's doing something that's really a departure for the gallery," said Richter, describing her cousin's work as "youthful, energetic and vibrant."

Richter could have included herself in that same category as well as two other young people whose lives are inextricably linked to the revitalization of James Street North.

A graduate of McMaster University, Becky Katz, 26, teaches art classes at James Street North's innovative Print Studio and waits tables at The Brain, a popular nightspot across the street. Katz's art graces the pages of *H Magazine*, an album cover that was commissioned for Supercrawl and the subterranean walls of the MacNab Street tunnel.

Unlike Richter, Katz, 26, never found a reason to leave the city. "I'd always thought about living in Toronto because that's the natural progression, but I never wanted to that badly," she told



Melinda Richter (right) with her cousin, artist Sari Richter at Sari's show.

"People who are doing art here are doing it for all the best reasons"

Jeremy Greenspan

the HJN during a conversation at the Mulberry Street Café, on the corner of Mulberry and James. "I've been living here all my life so it's easy to know everything. The rent is cheaper and people are friendly."

As for James Street North, it feels like a second home. "There's a real community feel to it... It's an arts hub but it's also little Portugal... Every single place on this street is packed during ArtCrawl."

Musician Jeremy Greenspan, 31, is on tour for much of the year with his successful indie electronic pop band, Junior Boys, but he still calls Hamilton home. His interview with the HJN took place at The Brain, one of James Street's hottest night spots. Greenspan started this business when he purchased the building

that was the former site of a Drivers' Education School and, before that, a Portuguese-run clothing store.

"I live here for the obvious reasons," he told the HJN. "It's where my friends and family are. But beyond that, I think Hamilton's an exciting place to be. Because when you're involved in the arts, there's a lot of attention paid to people in terms of being seen, who they are, who their friends are, what kind of clothes they wear. In Hamilton all of that stuff becomes absurd... so people who are doing art here are doing it for all the best reasons... because they have a compulsion to make art, not because they want success or to improve their social life."

Whatever the motivation, success is in the air – not only for local artists and musicians, but for the James Street merchants, who are reaping the benefits of the neighbourhood's revival. An unexpected encounter with the owners of Morgenstern's, one of the street's landmark institutions, made that clear.

"Since the artists have moved in, it has been very good for the neighbourhood," Mark Morgenstern told the HJN. "They've come in and made some changes. We think it's fantastic and hope that this continues."

An exhibit in the making

Researchers seeking stories about Jewish labour

by LYN CENTER, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Many stories have been told of the lives of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents in "the old country" and their travels to North America in search of a brighter future. Some of these stories have been documented in books and photos and archives. But you may wonder, how did these people survive when they came here? How did they support their families? What contributions did their communities make? And how did their circumstances change over time?

Some efforts have been undertaken to make these stories available to the Jewish and wider community. But little has been seen of the history of Jewish families in mid-size and small communities in southern Ontario. We know many Jewish men and women worked in the clothing business, but what do we know of the produce merchants, the scrap metal dealers, the horse-and-buggy peddlers, the rubber industry workers? Jews encountered plenty of anti-Semitism in Canada, so they organized community support, from synagogues to cemeteries to mutual benefit societies. And they took part in the broader community too, becoming union activists, aldermen, mayors, Members of Parliament.

Interested in preserving these stories and inspired by a recent exhibit on Jewish garment workers in Toronto, Gloria Geller, Kathryn Petersen and Lyn Center are working in Hamilton to create an exhibit of stories, photos and other artefacts to illustrate the lives of Jews in southern Ontario between 1900 and 1950. The exhibit will begin at the Workers' Arts and Heritage



Courtesy of the Latner Family

Centre and may travel to other centres. We would like to hear from any readers who have stories, photos, diaries, memorabilia, or other artefacts. We would also be happy to visit your organization to talk about the exhibit. You can contact us at ggeller@teksavvy.com.

This history is important to us and to future generations of Jews and all Canadians to help us better understand the processes of immigration and integration and their impact on our nation.

China and the Jewish connection

Professor Xu Xin illuminates little known topic

by LOUIS GREENSPAN, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

One of the most unusual guests who enjoyed the hospitality of my parents home in Halifax, Nova Scotia in the years after the Second World War was a fundraiser from the Lubavitch Yeshiva in Montreal. All our guests had memorable stories but few matched his. He told us that he had spent the war in a yeshiva in Shanghai. How did he get there? He and his companions had crossed Siberia into Asia and finally arrived at a Jewish colony in Shanghai. Truly a memorable story but I forgot it soon after he left.

Years later I made friends with the late Alan Rose, then executive secretary of the Canadian Jewish Congress and his wife Joyce, an artist whose maiden name was Sassoon. She told me she had actually been raised in Shanghai, and that during the war she and her family, who had been in Shanghai for many generations, had been under house arrest. Another astonishing story but like the first one it quickly slipped out of my mind.

Finally when I came to teach at McMaster University I met Professor Litvak from the business school who told me he had spent the first decades of his life in a Chinese city called Harbin, across the Russian border, in a Jewish community that was awaiting the fall of the Bolshevik regime. Ehud Olmert's father is buried there. In spite of these stories the phrase Jewish Shanghai and even Jewish China never came onto my radar screen.

Years later my daughter went to live in Shanghai and she



Professor Xu Xin

Mark your calendar

The Jewish Presence in China: Past and Present
A lecture by Professor Xu Xin
Mon. Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m.
McMaster University,
Chester New Hall Room 106
Admission is free.

encouraged me to seek more information on Jews in China. One day I stumbled on a notice in the Canadian Jewish News that a Professor Xu Xin was going to deliver a lecture at York University on this very topic. I attended, hoping there would be at least a minyan and was delighted to find myself in an audience of about 500 people; Jews who had adopted Chinese babies, Jews who had lived in China, Jews who were doing business in China and even one Jew from Toronto, Mr. Ian Leventhal, who was organizing an art show that included local Jewish and Chinese artists, which I later

saw in the Shanghai synagogue. China is finally being brought into the orbit of Jewish history.

No one has done more to bring this about than Professor Xu Xin. His lecture that day was engaging, lucid and for most of us, revelatory. I am pleased to announce that he will be coming to McMaster on Nov. 29 as a guest of the Department of Religious Studies to deliver a lecture titled The Jewish Presence in China: Past and Present.

Prof. Xu Xin is president of the China Judaic Studies Association and Editor-In-Chief of and a major contributor to the Chinese edition of Encyclopedia Judaica (Shanghai: Shanghai People's Publishing House, 1993). He is also the author of Legends of the Chinese Jews of Kaifeng and Anti-Semitism: How and Why. In addition, he has authored numerous articles on Judaic topics and surveys of Jewish communities in Shanghai, Tianjin, Harbin, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The Professor also directs the Institute for Jewish Studies, Nanjing University, and has organized many exhibits in China on topics related to Jewish issues including the First International Conference on Jewish Studies in China in 1996 in Nanjing, co-sponsored by Tel Aviv University. In 1995 he served as a fellow at Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion and as a visiting scholar at the Center for Jewish Studies of Harvard University in 1996 and 1998.

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You can read more of Israeli novelist David Grossman's conversation with Noah Richler at www.hamiltonjewishnews.com

Welcome TO OUR NEW Home

The grand opening of Beth Jacob's new "shul within a shul" will take place on: **Sunday, January 9, between 2-5 pm**
Everyone in the community is invited to celebrate with us.

Beth Jacob  Synagogue

Your values. Your tradition. Your shul.

On life and politics

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, Hamilton Jewish News

There was a period in the writing career of David Grossman when he consciously chose not to write about the "matzav", the Hebrew word meaning "situation" that refers to the ongoing conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. This acknowledgement, made in the opening minutes of an interview between the renowned Israeli novelist and Canadian writer Noah Richler at the opening event of the 34th annual Toronto Jewish Book Fair, was just one of many revelations that unfolded before a packed house at Toronto's Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue on October 23.

But Grossman, best known to international audiences for his soul-searching work of non-fiction, *The Yellow Wind*, a book published in 1987 that documents his encounters with West Bank Palestinians, felt compelled to return to the subject in his latest novel, *To The End of the Land*. Rather than taking a more direct approach, Grossman chose to explore the subject as it affects an Israeli family.

"I think the family is the greatest drama of humanity," Grossman told Richler. "I tried to show how the Middle East conflict projects its brutality in the tender bubble of family and how it changes its innermost textures."

The novel tells the story of Ora, an Israeli mother who leaves her home and embarks on an extended hike through the Galilee, as a desperate attempt to avoid what she fears will be notification of her son's death in a military operation. Ora's act is described in the novel as a protest, a way of fighting back against the helplessness felt by mothers everywhere who are forced to surrender their sons to the battlefield. What has given Grossman's novel particular poignancy is that his own son, Uri, was tragically killed at the age of 20 in the final days of the Second Lebanon War in 2006 just as his father was putting the finishing touches on the first draft.

Asked by Richler whether Grossman saw his novel as being a tool of the author's own political activism, Grossman responded in the negative. In fact, he was surprised to see how *To The End of the Land* has struck a resonant chord has been embraced by Israelis from



Israeli novelist, David Grossman

all sides of the political spectrum, recalling how Gideon Levy, an Israeli journalist known for his far-left views and right-leaning politician Effie Eitan both described the book's effect by telling him "this is my book."

"Mass media tells us only what we want to know."

David Grossman

"One of the advantages of Ora is that she is in contact with everything around her. Even when she tries to suppress reality she cannot. She is also not entrenched in one political position and she allows us to be in contact with the complexity of this situation," he told Richler.

Most Israelis, said Grossman, in contrast to Ora, feel the need to demonstrate certainty when it comes to their political affiliations. He blamed the media for encouraging that kind of simplistic affiliation with one position or another.

"Mass media turns people into masses... We were born into this media. We inhale it but it is a media that tells us only what we already know and what we want to know, and protects us from what we don't want to be exposed to. It does not tell us about our reality."

That's why Grossman finds fiction, with all its nuances, a liberating force in the world. Those searching for an honest depiction of life in the Middle East will indeed find reading this novel a liberating experience.

Feature Story

The rebirth of a shul

BETH JACOB RECREATES ITSELF FOR A NEW ERA

by STEVE ARNOLD, special to The Hamilton Jewish News

Five years ago, the outlook was clear and grim. Beth Jacob Synagogue, former co-president John Levy concluded, "was on the path to being gone, and that upset me very much."

The Aberdeen Avenue shul showed all the signs of a dying congregation: membership had plunged, debt was climbing, the existing rabbi's tenure was in question and parts of the 50-year-old building were literally crumbling.

Jump ahead now to 2010: membership has stabilized around 400 families, debt has been dramatically reduced, aggressive leadership has brought a sense of life back to the 127-year-old congregation, a new rabbi has won the hearts of the entire community and new life has been breathed into the building.

Those accomplishments will be celebrated in January with the official opening of Beth Jacob's new "shul within a shul," a \$1.3 million project that turned a decaying and seldom-used social hall into a new worship space and opened the entire building to handicapped and elderly members.

Beth Jacob's turn-around started in 2005 when cousins Wendy Schneider and John Levy took over as co-presidents with a mission to revive the synagogue their family had helped to found.

The first job was finding a new spiritual leader.

"We went rabbi-hunting in New York City and were fortunate enough to find Rabbi Dan Selsberg. People were absolutely thrilled with him from the get-go," said Schneider.

Levy agrees: "We've ended up with someone beyond our wildest dreams, with the arrival of Rabbi Dan and his family."

Once Rabbi Selsberg had settled in, Beth Jacob's new lay and spiritual leaders quickly identified the need for a physical renewal of the congregation.

"The building had a real tired feel to it," Schneider said. "We needed a tangible symbol of what was happening at the spiritual level."

Rabbi Selsberg also saw several areas where a building designed in 1954 and opened in 1956 simply wasn't meeting the needs of people in 2010, especially

those with limitations.

"The only level access to this building was down an incline along a gravel path, and once people were inside the entire second floor was inaccessible," he said. "We needed an entrance that treats everyone with equal dignity and is accommodating to young families with strollers."

The new entrance is complemented with an inside ramp to the second floor and an elevator connecting all levels of the building.

"The old design might have been fine for its time, but it wasn't beautiful and we come from a

either too crowded in the chapel or lost in the cavernous sanctuary," Rabbi Selsberg said. "There had been talk about doing something about that for a couple of decades so we finally decided, if not now, when?"

Toronto-based Quadrangle Architects Limited, a firm specializing in retrofits of historical buildings, was commissioned to study the problem. A first estimate, which involved the downsizing of the main sanctuary was impractical and too ambitious. Then architect Les Klein called Levy near midnight one day with a brainstorm—build a new worship



Artist's rendition of Beth Jacob's new "shul within the shul."

Quadrangle Architects Limited

tradition that sees beauty and architecture as important," he added. "Now we have something that's current and not falling apart."

As important as the entrances to the shul were, the more pressing issue was its worship spaces. The main sanctuary seating 660 was an impressive room for the high holidays or a community-wide Yom HaShoah event, but hopelessly huge for the average Shabbat.

"We were lucky to fill the sanctuary two or three times a year," Levy said. "The physical space we had just wasn't in line with our requirements any more."

A smaller chapel, seating about 60, and containing the aron kodesh and pews from Beth Jacob's original Hunter Street location, has, over the last several years, been used for most Shabbat and the daily minyan.

"We had a situation where, for the average holiday, we were



The new shul entrance made of Jerusalem stone on Cottage Avenue.

"It's a space that reminds us of our connection to Jews around the world. It creates an atmosphere that is unforgettable"

Rabbi Dan Selsberg

in this project and we're proud to say that the response has been overwhelmingly positive," Levy said.

"Right from the outset we committed that this project would be self funding, and we made it clear we wouldn't spend any more than we could raise," he continued.

The result of all that effort is a new 160-seat chapel of movable seats, with the prayer leader in the centre of the room rather than at one end on a raised bimah, looking down on the congregation.

"The new space is going to be a lot less formal," Rabbi Selsberg said.

The entire space is finished in Jerusalem stone, quarried in Israel and shipped to Hamilton for this project.

"It's a space that reminds us of our connection to Jews around the world," he said. "It creates an atmosphere that is unforgettable."

Beth Jacob's renewal, Levy hopes, will also be a boon to the broader Jewish community in

Mark your calendar

The grand opening of Beth Jacob's new "shul within a shul" will take place on Sun. Jan. 9 from 2 to 5 p.m. Everyone in the community is invited to celebrate with us. On Sun. Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. the festivities will continue with the Hamilton premiere of *Journey to Jerusalem*. This powerful oratorio, with music, lyrics and script by Beth Jacob's Cantor Eyal Bitton, recounts the epic 5,000 year journey of the Jewish people. Please RSVP to both events by calling the shul office at 905-522-1351 or e-mailing office@bethjacobsynagogue.ca.

Hamilton, by ensuring the city has a place to accommodate the needs of Jewish families of all persuasions expected to arrive as the local economy transitions.

"There's something at the core of this that felt right from the very beginning," he said, "and we know that our new 'shul within the shul' will serve the needs of the Beth Jacob community for generations to come."



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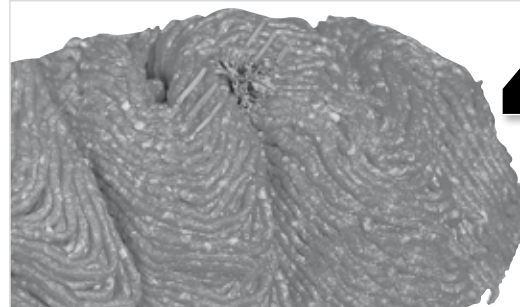
Happy Chanukah

save on your favourites



2⁷⁹ lb **save**
6.15/kg **.45** lb

Kosher chicken cut up



4⁹⁹ lb **save**
11.00/kg **\$1.50** lb

Kosher lean ground beef



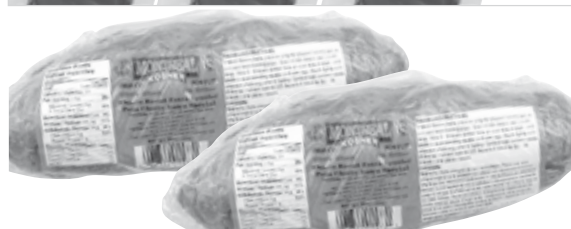
9⁹⁹ **save**
750 g **\$3**

Baldwin St. Kosher salami



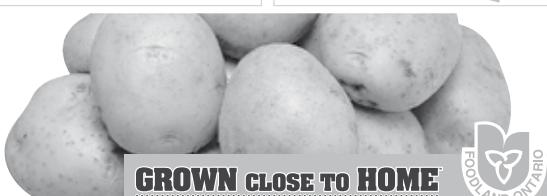
6⁹⁹ **save**
300 g **\$3**

Central smoked fish sliced steelhead salmon



save **1⁹⁹**
.50 567 g

Montreal Kosher challah bread unbaked, frozen



GROWN CLOSE TO HOME



10 lb. bag

1⁹⁹ each

yellow potatoes fresh product of Ontario Canada no. 1 grade



save **1⁹⁹**
\$1.50 20-25 bags

Wissotzky tea selected varieties



1⁷⁹
398 mL

Mehoudar hearts of palm whole or cut



save **1⁴⁹**
.30 200 g

Manamim chocolate flavoured wafer cubes



save **2⁹⁹**
\$2 272 g

Manischewitz tam tam crackers selected varieties



save **3⁹⁹**
\$2 1.89 L

Nature's Own 100% grape juice



save **1⁹⁹**
.60 140/155 g

Paskesz rice cake squares selected varieties



save **5⁹⁹**
\$2 454 g

Amnon's Kosher pizza 4 slices



save **.99**
.40 70 g

Tradition instant noodle soup cups selected varieties

PRICES EFFECTIVE FROM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2010

All references to any savings claims (ie. "Save", "was", "1/2 price", etc.) Is in comparison to our regular retail. We reserve the right to limit quantities. Some franchise and independent stores may have sold or will sell for less. Product selection may vary and may not be available at all stores. **Image prevails when text does not correspond to the description of advertised product.** ©/TM trademarks of Loblaw's Inc. © 2010 Loblaw's Inc.

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