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Hamilton Jewish News

THE JEWISH VOICE OF HAMILTON

SEPTEMBER 2012 VOL 27:1/ TISHREI 5773

AGREEMENT #40007180

It's We, not Me

LARRY SZPIRGLAS,
PRESIDENT, UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON

Since the last issue of the Hamilton Jewish News, momentous events have unfolded in our community. One has been the retirement of Gerry Fisher, Hamilton Jewish Federation's executive director for more than a decade. Over the years when we would discuss the nature of our community, Gerry would often emphasize the importance of our lay leadership embracing the concept of Federation as the communal tent under which all of us can come together, regardless of philosophical bent, organizational affiliation or political persuasion. Gerry always said that our community's long-term sustainability could only be ensured if more of us develop a communal consciousness that holds as much personal significance as our individual affiliations, that the WE should be as highly valued as the ME.

See page 2, **President's Report**

Family Jewels



How well do you know our community? We hope that Family Jewels, a series of family portraits inspired by the Israeli daily, Ha'aretz's Family Affairs series, will shine a light on the individuals and families whose diverse backgrounds and experiences contribute to the rich kaleidoscope that is Jewish Hamilton. We kick off the series by profiling the Wolman family of Dundas.

Read more on page 21

UJA CAMPAIGN 2013

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Imagine a community where families don't struggle to put food on the table. Imagine a community where every child receives a Jewish education. Imagine a community where each individual feels a connection to one another and a personal investment in its future. This is the community we imagine and we know is within our reach ... if every single one of us makes a meaningful contribution to the annual campaign. The theme of this year's UJA Campaign says it all: "Together, WE do extraordinary things."

On behalf of the Hamilton Jewish Federation staff
and board of governors, we wish you

L'Shana Tova Tikatevu



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LARRY SZPIRGLAS,
PRESIDENT,
UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON



Whether we are old or young, rich or poor, religious or not, political or not, organizationally involved or not – no matter what the circumstance, WE as Jews have to take responsibility for our community's welfare. WE cannot leave it to others to do the heavy lifting. WE all are our community stewards. WE each bear a responsibility for what our community is and what it will become; If we wish to have a sustainable future WE all need to be a part of it.

The most difficult meeting I attended this year was at a budget and allocation committee meeting when it was determined that, notwithstanding a slight increase in dollars raised from the previous year's UJA campaign and the committee's best efforts, we would not be able to satisfy our beneficiary agencies' base requirements. Nor were we able to meet our financial commitments to the Jewish Federations of Canada UIA or to the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Under Jacki Levin's chairmanship, the budget and allocations committee did an amazing job under very trying circumstances. They are to be commended for working hard on behalf of all of us, but in the end, tough choices had to be made. The end result was a significant increase to Hamilton Jewish Social Services to assist them in helping the increasing numbers of vulnerable members of our community – an issue that grows each year. Federation's other beneficiaries were allocated either slightly less or the same as the previous year.

When you remain the same, you fall behind. And the reality is that each of our beneficiaries deals with the vulnerable by providing scholarships, camperships or discounts to ensure that no person will be turned away from educational and social, recreational and cultural activities as a result of an inability to pay for these services.

Federation is blessed to have an extremely dedicated campaign cabinet, made up of extraordinary individuals who barely took a break between wrapping up last year's campaign and beginning to work on the current one. They are focusing their efforts on reaching out to both past donors and the as yet untapped giving potential of too many of us, in the enterprise of investing in our community's future.

We are asking every member of the Jewish community to invest in our collective future. We need everyone to take responsibility for our beneficiary agencies' ability to fulfil their mandates. We need every member of our community to give more than they did last year. We are asking each of you to step up, to take responsibility and to accept your role as a steward of your community.

We are at a critical point in our community's future and how it turns out is in your hands.

By the time you receive this issue of the paper, the High Holy Days will be close at hand. Let us take the opportunity to reflect on the significant impact of our actions on the future of our families and of our communal endeavors. Let us move forward in the most positive of ways to ensure our Jewish future. I wish each and every one of you a happy and healthy new year. L'Shana Tova Tikatevu.

Table of Contents

HJN SEPTEMBER 2012 IN THIS ISSUE:

- 10 UJA DOLLARS AT WORK
A teacher's story
- 16 LIVING ABROAD
Hamiltonians around the world
- 18 DOING US PROUD
Home-grown heroes
- 23 UNWITTING ACCESSORIES
New details about the 1972 Munich massacre



ED CARTER-EDWARDS MEETS THE QUEEN

Photo by Leanne Cunliffe, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Ed Carter-Edwards, one of the 26 Canadian airmen incarcerated at Buchenwald and a frequent speaker at Hamilton Holocaust Remembrance events, was among those representing Canada at a memorial for approximately 55,000 Bomber Command airmen who died during the Second World War. The event, which took place on June 28 in London's Green Park near Buckingham Palace, was attended by 6,000 veterans and families of the deceased. The ceremony included the unveiling of a nine-foot-high bronze sculpture depicting seven Bomber Command airmen by Queen Elizabeth and a flypast of a Lancaster bomber that dropped thousands of red poppies over the park as a symbol of remembrance. The ceremony was the culmination of a decades-long campaign by Bomber Command veterans to get acknowledgment for their losses and for the contribution they made to winning the war. Pictured above are Carter-Edwards with the Queen and Prince Phillip.

DEPARTMENTS

Community	4-7
Education	8,9
UJA Campaign	10,11
UJA Federation	12-13
JCC	14
Arts	15
Special Mentschen	16-19
Shalom Village	20
Profile	21
Feature	23

COMING UP

CHANUKAH ISSUE

- Deadline for booking ad space
Oct. 24, 2012
- Deadline for receiving editorial copy
Nov. 14, 2012
- Deadline for receiving ad copy
Dec. 3, 2012
- Estimated date of arrival
Dec. 29, 2012

Hamilton Jewish News

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HAMILTON JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

CAROL KRAMES

Since 1932 Hamilton Jewish Social Services has been meeting the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. Although small in size we provide a full range of services, including our workshop, now in its 40th year, that takes place on Monday through Thursday mornings. Participants from the former Soviet Union learn English, meet with friends and pack candy for a local business; the Chai Choir, which meets every Tuesday and performs once a month at different community functions. The choir is open to new members; our Yiddish Club, which meets once a month for conversation, lunch and a Yiddish video; our Chevre Club (see below), which meets once a month for outings, parties or holiday celebrations; the Job Club, a support group for people looking for employment; Bingo, on Monday afternoons; casework, information and resettlement; Theatre club with full-day outings to see the latest shows. For information about any of the above programs contact Carol Krames at 905-627-9922 ex21 or email carolkramesjss@hotmail.com.



JSS Purim party Photo by Carol Krames

Services endeavours to ensure that the more than 50 families who use our food bank on a regular basis have a sweet holiday. You can share in this important mitzvah through a donation of cash, food or toiletries. Please also consider participating in JSS's Chicken Club. Your monthly donation of \$25 will ensure a family receives two kosher chickens a month to make a Shabbat dinner. Please mail or drop off your donation to the Hamilton Kosher Food Bank, 30 King St. E. Suite 101, Dundas, On L9H 5G6. We also accept Visa and MasterCard. All donations are tax receiptable. Cheques can also be dropped off at Hamilton Kosher. For more information call 905-627-9922 ex 21 or email carolkramesjss@hotmail.com.

Hamilton Kosher Food Bank

As you find yourself busy preparing meals and making plans to be with family and friends this Rosh Hashana, please take time to think about the many families in our community who will struggle to cover the extra costs associated with observing the holiday. Jewish Social

HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY



Veteran teachers Marion Freeborn, Barbara Morton and Barbara Wassiljew. Photo courtesy of the HHA

Over the years, Hamilton Hebrew Academy graduates have nostalgically looked back with the fondest of memories at their formative years within the nurturing school walls. It was the focus on the "total child" that provided the environment for students to thrive and grow in multifaceted areas.

During last spring's commemoration of the legacy of Rivka Shaffir, a "h, three iconic teachers, who taught at the HHA from the '70s through the '90s, were inspired to collaborate on a project dear to their hearts. Marion Freeborn, Barbara Morton and Barbara Wassiljew have

volunteered to re-establishing the Grade 5 play along with their former colleague and friend and current Grade 5 teacher, Marlene Schertzer.

As any alumnus of the Grade 5 play era will attest, the play was a defining moment of their HHA experience. The return of these veteran teachers will give this year's Grade 5 students an opportunity to further develop their proficiency in language arts, oral communication and dramatic arts. From set design to props and costumes, singing, acting and dancing, our students will be running the show with the guidance of these incredible teachers.

HAMILTON JEWISH MIDDLE SCHOOL

While texting, YouTube, Facebook and apps can sometimes compete with the healthy development of children, when applied properly, use of technology has many positive applications that can be extremely beneficial in the classroom setting.

Digital technology allows quick access to information and multimedia, and makes communication instantaneous. In order to conquer the challenges and establish protocol for beneficial technology integration, a technology committee was established at the Hamilton Jewish Middle School comprised of general and Judaic studies staff as well as senior students.

In this collaborative spirit, the joint teacher/student committee established new technology protocols and guidelines for our technologically advanced

student body. Students in the HJMS are encouraged to bring a laptop or tablet that must be equipped with a filter specified by the school. School computers will be set up in each classroom as well. Students will be provided with a school email address and select classes will trial an electronic agenda. Because the use of computers tends to hamper socialization, electronics will not be allowed at recess times except for a specific purpose and under teacher supervision.

We live in exciting times and have so much information at our fingertips. With this excitement comes an increased responsibility to ensure safety, privacy and proper use within the school environment. The HJMS is committed to remaining current in this regard and we look forward to updating the community as progress is made on this journey.

CHABAD HAMILTON

After months of planning, Hamilton is finally on the map of premier Jewish learning. Beginning this fall, the Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) opens a new branch in Hamilton, which brings the total number of JLI locations to more than 350 worldwide.

JLI is the first international educational institution to present traditional Judaism in a professional, innovative, academically challenging yet accessible format. Authorities on each subject have organized the curriculum and teaching materials for each course.

"We're excited to be able to bring this open and interactive learning environment to our community," said Rabbi Chanoch Rosenfeld.

The program begins with The Kabbalah of You in November, continues with Living with Integrity in February and concludes with Curious Tales of the Talmud in April. This sequence is designed

to provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of Jewish thought, heritage, and tradition, and enables students to achieve basic Jewish literacy as well as an understanding of cardinal Jewish beliefs and observances.

Our new fall course, The Kabbalah of You, explores Kabbalistic insights about the soul and how to unleash human potential. The course will be held six consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning Oct. 30 at Beit Menachem Jewish Student Centre-Chabad Lubavitch Hamilton. The course fee is \$99 (10 per cent early bird discount and other discounts and scholarships available) and includes textbooks and light refreshments.

To obtain further information, please contact Rabbi Chanoch Rosenfeld rabbi@chabadhamilton.com or call 905-978-7458.

BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE

Beth Jacob Synagogue is pleased to announce that Milena Romalis and Jason Leizer, a married couple with three young sons who moved to Ancaster two years ago from Toronto, will join the dedicated team of professional staff led by Rabbi Dan Selsberg and including Cantor Eyal Bitton as the synagogue's new co-directors of its education program.



Milena Romalis and Jason Leizer Photo by Wendy Schneider

Romalis and Leizer have extensive experience in both formal and informal Jewish education. The couple met as teenagers through their involvement in the Hashomer Hatzair Zionist youth movement. Years later as a young married couple they co-founded the Keshet, an arts-based Jewish heritage program in the St. Clair West neighbourhood, servicing mainly unaffiliated Jewish families. During their tenure enrolment leaped from eight children to 60.

Romalis said that they chose to affiliate with Beth Jacob, "because we recognized immediately that it's a warm community and fundamentally interested in creating connection for young families ... We are working with an extremely good base, a community that's totally infused with warmth and caring," she said.

Romalis and Leizer are convinced that experiential learning is the best learning. "All the research shows that both adults and children have to do more than see and hear. They have to touch and feel," said Leizer.

The couple said their first priority will be to unify the Hebrew school's Saturday, Wednesday and monthly Sunday family programs. "The fundamental piece," said Romalis, "is to use a thematic approach so that we have one, fluid program, with a variety of components." Shabbat morning programs will be focused on integrating children in the synagogue service and finding creative and meaningful ways to explore the themes emanating from the Torah portion. Wednesday afternoons from 4:30 to 6 p.m. will provide a combination of Hebrew language instruction, music, arts and multimedia. Monthly Sunday morning family programs will build on last year's most successful programs such as an animation workshop at the National Film Board, and the Working Families art project. Romalis noted, "This year we'll be celebrated Beth Jacob's 125th anniversary, so we'll have the opportunity to use this milestone to create some really exciting programming, including having the kids work on a documentary film project. For more information about Beth Jacob's Hebrew school and High Holiday programming please call 905-522-1351 or email school@bethjacobsynagogue.ca.

CHEVRA CLUB

MANNY FINE

Chevra Club, a seniors' club under the auspices of Hamilton Jewish Social Services is seeking new members, aged 55 and up. The club was created following the disbandment of the Saturday Nites, a club that served Hamilton seniors for many years.

The club, now entering its third year, meets at 30 King St. E. in Dundas on a monthly basis. Our members enjoy a wide variety of activities, ranging from our own delightful production of Fiddler On the Roof and vocal entertainment by our own Andrews Sisters; bus trips to different shows; Valentine, Purim, Chanukah and New Year's parties; picnics, casino

trips, guest speakers, entertainers, games afternoons, restaurant gatherings and interesting videos. Recently, we initiated interesting discussion programs with topics ranging from domestic to international news, other subjects affecting our age group or just a little bit of old fashioned fun.

So if you want to kibbitz, have a little nosh, meet people and enjoy a few happy hours, consider joining the Chevra Club. For more information call Lily Buchalter White at 905-679-2155, Ruth Fine at 905-679-1797 or Jack Leon at 905-527-6567.

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton and Area (JGSH) will be kicking off our eighth season with another superb list of events. On Sept. 12 we will welcome film director and Hamilton native Fern Levitt for a special screening of her award winning documentary, Seven Days of Remembrance ... and Hope. This one-hour film focuses on six Canadian university students during their visit to concentration camps in Poland. Through the voices of the survivors and the remnants of the camps, these students witness the harsh reality of bigotry and vow to change it.

On Oct. 17, Larry Cherns will relate the heart-breaking story of Hedwig Knoepfmacher. Drawn from his archive of her letters, Larry will tell the gripping tale of a young woman's futile attempts

to escape Vienna during the rise of the Nazis. On Nov. 11, we will host a special Sunday morning meeting in conjunction with Temple Anshe Sholom's breakfast club. In a touching Remembrance Day presentation, author Marc H. Stevens will relate the incredible story of his father Peter, a decorated RAF bomber pilot who was taken prisoner during the Second World War, and his own 18-year journey to discover his hidden Jewish roots. Marc will be signing copies of his book Escape, Evasion and Revenge following his talk.

JGSH meets at 7:30 p.m. monthly at Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Ave. N. Hamilton. Please check out www.jgsh.org or contact Hazel Boon at 905-524-3345 or jgshamilton@gmail.com for more information.

TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM



The Shabbat Jam Band, with Jonny Vaisberg, Paula Baruch, Laura Wolfson and Julie Dembe. Missing from the picture: David Earn. Photo courtesy of Temple Anshe Sholom. Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Over the past months our Vision Committee invited the members of our Temple family to dream about our future and what our ideal congregation would be. What has emerged is a sense of re-engagement within our community. This change and renewal brings to the Temple the new role of program director. We are pleased that Paula Baruch has accepted this position. Projects on her current 'to do' list include: developing our new seniors' committee, enrichment and growth in youth programming and the launch of an exciting new TAS's website. "I can't imagine a sweeter job than working with my Temple family which I care so deeply about and love," says Paula.

"Do Jewish, Be Jewish and Love Jewish" is the theme for this year at the TAS Religious School. We are delighted to welcome Laura Wolfson back as educator after a three year hiatus. Laura's enthusiasm is palpable: "I've got some great ideas for the Religious School and I can't wait to introduce them to the community!" We are offering new opportunities for families to learn together with quality Shabbat morning

programs celebrating the holidays and other topics related to Torah, Jewish values and Social Justice.

A joyful sound raises the ruach at TAS' Family Shabbat service on the third Friday of every month. "The Shabbat Jam Band is a delightful treat. It awakens the senses and deepens my worship experience. It gets me smiling no matter how trying a week has past; it sets a joyful mood for my entire Shabbat!" explains Temple member Laura Cattari. Guitars, piano, fiddles, drums, and even ukuleles accompany the wonderful harmonies of the Jam Band as we welcome Shabbat together. A Community Shabbat Dinner always follows the Family Shabbat Jam Band service where the vibrant celebrating and singing continue with Shabbat Z' mirot.

Temple Anshe Sholom may be Canada's oldest Reform congregation, yet we are moving forward with a strong vision of the future by introducing many exciting new innovations today. An inclusive and caring liberal Jewish community, we welcome all who wish to join us for worship, learning, social action and celebration.

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100 years strong.

In 1912, a handful of Polish immigrants began a minyan in a small home on Cannon Street in downtown Hamilton. Two decades later, this same house was torn down to erect a beautiful edifice on the original property called Adas Israel Anshei Polin (later changed to Adas Israel Anshei Sefard) and known to most as the Cannon Street Shul.

As time marched on, as the Jewish community began to emigrate from the downtown core, the goal was to relocate to the West End of Hamilton. Their vision was grand with the building of a magnificent synagogue in Westdale that would accommodate 400 families. For many, the dream seemed impossible but under the leadership of the Building Campaign Chairmen, Max Hoffman a'h & Sam Katz a'h, together with their new spiritual leader, Rabbi Mordechai Green, the initiative began. In October 1961, the dream became a reality. Dignitaries and distinguished Jewish leaders from across the world gathered as the new Adas Israel was inaugurated.

Now, 100 years since its inception, a Centennial Committee of 85 members is charting a new future. On October 28, 2012 at 1 p.m. this new history will be forged as we gather to honour our past and perpetuate the legacy of the Adas founders. Empowered with strong sense of history and an expanding vision for the future, a new chapter in the annals of Adas history is being born. The Hamilton Jewish community has been the beneficiary

of a magnificent and timeless landmark in which every detail was impeccably planned. In preparation for the Centennial Rededication, the congregation has nearly completed major renovations to the sanctuaries and restrooms and is commencing a restoration of the Waxman Social Hall.

The Centennial Rededication will highlight the various epochs of history within the congregation and will be inspired by the dedication ceremonies of the "New Adas" in 1961. At a recent Centennial Committee meeting, Joanne Raphael, daughter of David and Frances Hoffman, reminisced about being a child at the Adas Israel groundbreaking ceremony in 1960 and how she carried this significant moment with her throughout her life.

Like other Hamilton "expats," Joanne Raphael is joined by many others currently residing in Toronto and elsewhere who are engaged in the project.

"The shul is part of who I am," said Mitchell Cohen, son of the late Evelyn and Butch Cohen a'h, "when I enter those doors I reconnect with myself on so many different levels."

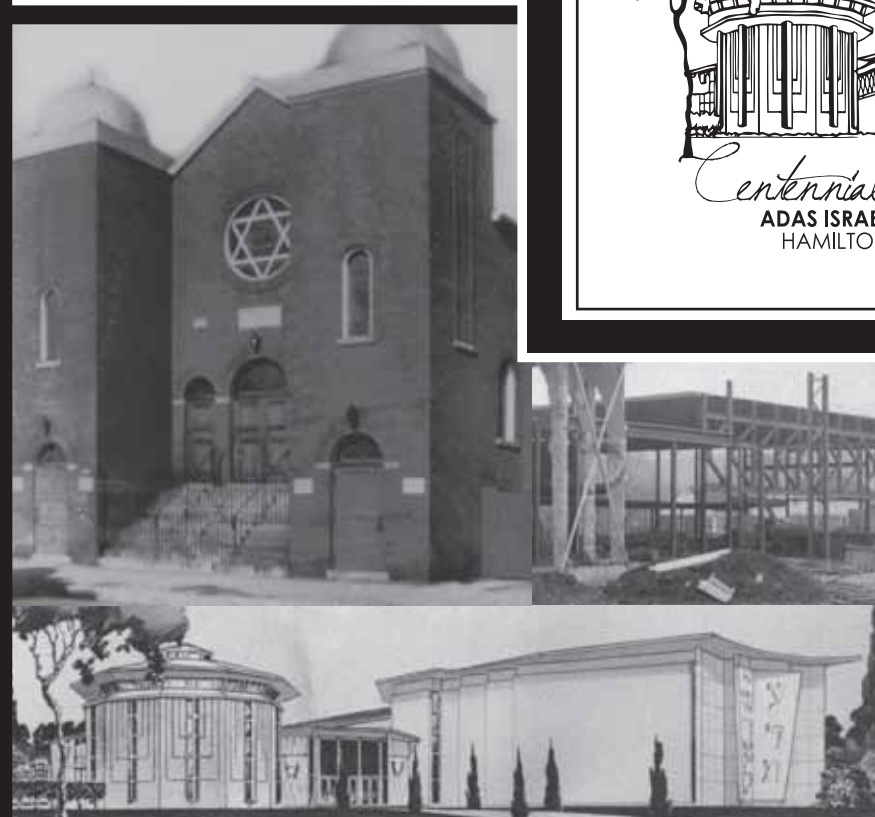
The Centennial Rededication Event in October will be designed to engage the maximum number of participants with a historical connection to the congregation. The event will be open to everyone with no covert for attending. Nonetheless, dedication opportunities are available for those wishing to include their name in this moment of history. Members of founding families, long time members and new members have joined sub-committees to make this event into a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Members of the Legacy Committee are compiling family histories and memorabilia. The Development Committee is working hard on raising funds for the current renovations. Pew ends dedications for \$1,800 are still available in memory of loved ones or in honour of someone special. A Centennial Dedication Plaque will be erected in the Synagogue foyer for significant contributions of \$5,000 or more.

A Centennial Legacy book will be published in honour of the dedication. In addition to a detailed historical sketch of the Adas Israel over the past 100 years including founding family histories & simchas celebrated over the years, the book will include the names of all current members, associate members & legacy members. RSVP to be included on the archive attendance scroll.

The entire community is invited to attend this historic event. To inquire about the event or to find out more about dedication opportunities, please call the Adas office at 905-528-0039 or e-mail office@adasisrael.ca.



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ADAS ISRAEL CENTENNIAL YEAR CELEBRATION
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(RSVP to be included on the archive attendance scroll)

No Cover Charge

Honouring 60 years of community leadership at the Negev Dinner

June 10, 2012 marked the 60th anniversary of the Negev Dinner in Hamilton. Beginning shortly after the founding of the State of Israel, Negev Dinners have paid tribute to many of Hamilton's leaders, a number of whom were present at this year's dinner, including Rabbi Bernard Baskin, Rabbi Mordechai Green, Bernie Katz, Cece Schreiber, Dr. Franklyn Shapiro, Stan and Liz Tick, Judge David Steinberg, Dr. Arthur Weisz, the Loewith Family, Cuppy and Elaine Katz, Tom and Sasha Weisz, Hilton and Shirley Silberg and Phil Rosenshein.



PICTURED ABOVE: Frank Wilson, national president of JNF Canada, Neil Silvert, president of JNF Hamilton, Rabbi Baskin and Frank Simkevitz, JNF regional director.



The Levin Family, from l to r: Daughter, Eliana, her husband Dustin, and their son Nicholas; daughter Laura and her husband Ren; Jacki and Larry Levin; son Joe and his wife Laura; son Ari and his wife Laura.

This year's dinner paid tribute to Jacki and Larry Levin and was an expression of thanks for all that they have done for the Jewish community in Hamilton and for their unwavering support for Israel. In their acceptance comments both Jacki and Larry stressed the importance of volunteerism, a message that resonated with many in attendance.

Political pundit and broadcaster Rex Murphy enlightened the audience with his thoughts about the Jewish people and the position of Israel on the world stage. The combination of his wry humour, erudite articulation and powerful delivery had everyone spellbound.

Jacki and Larry were clearly moved by the experience – and having many members of their family present added to the warmth and emotion of the evening.



Rex Murphy gave a captivating keynote address.



David Sweet MP brought greetings from the federal government.

Photos by Lawrence Yanover, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

YISKOR – A TIME TO REMEMBER OUR LOVED ONES

CALL: 866.527.5516 [HTTP://ONTARIO.JNF.CA](http://ontario.jnf.ca)

2012 HIGH HOLIDAY APPEAL

TISHREI 5773

MEETING POINT PARK FOR SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE NEGEV

This park will accommodate over 200 families at one time and will extend over 5 acres with a shaded boulevard. It will include lawns, play structures and shaded seating areas. Most importantly, it will be accessible for people with special needs. This oasis will permit families to experience a less stressful visit in a "green space".

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Guest Voices Your shadow knows

A story is told of a young man who was searching for the best place and the most successful way to propose marriage to a woman whom he had been dating. He did online research to learn what others had done and he spoke to friends who had experience. Not gaining any clarity, he finally turned for advice to his father who told him, "Son, there is no best place and there is no method that provides a guarantee of success. There is only one way. Just do it."



Rabbi Elliot Feldman

There is likely a reason why this advice sounds like the tag line of the manufacturer of a popular line of athletic equipment. Practical life experience is the best tool for education. As was once observed, "Life is a great teacher. It gives you the test first and the lesson afterwards."

This concept is particularly true in the area of Jewish growth and development. Historically, those who sat in the Beit Midrash, the study halls of Jewish communities, were held in high esteem, and looked to for their leadership. The early immigrants to North America thought that to keep the flame of Jewish identity alive, they needed to offer some form of Jewish education, so they sent their children to a cheder, an afternoon experience that was so uninspiring that it was often the end of the Jewish commitment for those who attended. With hindsight, one can understand the failure. It may have been academic; it was almost certainly not experiential.

Later generations realized the shortcomings and created Jewish experiences centered upon ritual – the observances of Shabbat and Festivals, tefillah, prayer, and the rites associated with food. One felt "Jewish" when one was engaged in the formalities of Judaism. Life was seen in segregated areas – there was the secular scene and the Jewish one.

Missing in this framework was a perspective of engaging the whole person – mind, body and soul. Overlooked was the concept that in the ordinary routine of daily life there is the opportunity to experience Judaism and provide nourishment for Jewish growth. Delivering Meals on Wheels, tutoring someone who can benefit from sharing one's skills, canvassing for Federation or volunteering to staff a community event can also be a personal Jewish educational experience. Driving carpool can be an opportunity to model behaviour when one is frustrated. Shopping can be a lesson in distinguishing need from want. A dinner-time conversation about world events can be an opportunity to view current news through a Jewish lens. All of these activities should be seen as displaying Jewish behaviour. These actions do not replace rituals; however they are significant Jewish behaviours in their own right.

The formalities of the High Holy Days can be daunting and overwhelming. On some levels one can also feel a sense of inferiority at not being familiar with the intricacies of the prayerbook or the customs of Yom Tov observance. Yet, this lack of knowledge should not become a barrier to growing in one's Jewishness. We should remember that Being Jewish is Doing Jewish.

Joseph Telushkin and Dennis Prager in a book titled, *Nine Questions People Ask About Judaism*, provide an important barometer for Doing Jewish. "Imagine," they write, "that you have a shadow. At the end of each day, ask yourself, 'What did you do today to remind your shadow that you were Jewish?'"

When thinking about resolutions for the Jewish New Year ahead, remember the best way to proceed.

Just do it.
Your shadow will appreciate it.
Shana Tova.

Rabbi Eliot Feldman is Head of School of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy and Hamilton Jewish Middle School.



Paula Baruch, Rabbi Jordan Cohen and Laura Wolfson make up Temple Anshe Sholom's "dream team"

EXCITING CHANGES AT TAS ...

Stories and photos by Wendy Schneider, the Hamilton Jewish News

The future is looking bright for Temple Anshe Sholom (TAS). In response to staffing changes and recommendations by its visioning committee, the synagogue has put together a dream team of professional staff headed up by Rabbi Jordan Cohen. Joining him is Laura Wolfson, reprising her role as cantor-educator and cantorial soloist and Paula Baruch, who has been hired as the synagogue's program director and co-cantorial soloist.

Baruch and Wolfson will take turns leading Shabbat services but will work as a duo during High Holiday services and larger events such as the Temple's successful Shabbat family jam band on the third Friday of every month.

"We've been jamming together and singing together at the annual Purim spiel and we co-create a new musical every year," said Wolfson. "We are really excited to do this together."

Since Cohen and Baruch's arrival in Hamilton five and a half years ago, Baruch has been deeply involved in all things TAS. High energy and extremely creative, Baruch has created a community garden, worked

on theatrical productions, advising youth and ran B'Yachad, the Temple's high school program.

"Paula's been teaching the past two years," said Rabbi Cohen, "and this year we had a substantial increase of participation ... the students love to come."

Baruch said she will focus her energy on what the vision committee identified as priority issues: engaging youth and providing seniors with meaningful programming.

"It's nice to be able to throw yourself fully into something you really care about," she said.

Wolfson, widely-regarded as an outstanding Jewish educator, left the Temple three years ago because "the schedule was really difficult for my family." She went back to teachers college, received her degree and, for the last year has done supply teaching. "Coming back to the Temple on a part time basis works so well for me," she said.

"Laura's been in the community for 15 years," said Baruch. "We've been here five and a half years ... We're all comfortable with each other and we have a shared vision of where we want things to go."

... AND AT KEHILA JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

Peter Greenberg has come out of retirement to take over as Kehila Jewish Community Day School's new principal. Greenberg is an experienced educator and administrator, having held several positions within both public and private education. He has also held the positions of principal at Dundas District Public School, principal of special educational services for the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, religious school educator and teacher at Temple Anshe Sholom Hebrew School.

What drew Greenberg to Kehila, he said, was the challenge of integrating secular and Judaic studies and working alongside a dedicated group of parents, headed up by school chair, Karen Selsberg.

"We already had a workshop

with the Lola Stein Institute in Toronto, who are well ahead of us in integration but have brought us receive. "The staff knows all the students, which is a major benefit." Another strength that he sees in providing an opportunity for Jewish families in the community "who want their children to have a Jewish education but may not be affiliated with Orthodox Judaism." As a non-denominational school, Kehila makes a point of inviting rabbis from across the community spectrum to speak to students.

Asked about the long-term sustainability of two Jewish day schools, Greenberg acknowledges that, unlike Toronto, the population from which to draw potential students is limited. However, he denies that the two schools are competing for students, "because the philosophies are very different."



Peter Greenberg

Upcoming Events

Lubavitch scholar headlines 2012 Goldblatt lecture

CELIA ROTHENBERG
Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

The 2012 Lilian and Marvin Goldblatt Lecture at McMaster University will be given by Professor Samuel Heilman, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Holder of the Harold Proshansky Chair in Jewish Studies at Queens College of the City University of New York. Heilman's lecture is entitled, *Lubavitch, Messianism and the Denial of Death*, a topic that extends and deepens his research from his book *The Rebbe*, which won the 2010 National Jewish Book Award in American Jewish studies. The lecture will take place on Monday, Nov. 26, 7:30 p.m. in the CIBC Hall, 3rd floor in the McMaster University Student Centre.



Professor Samuel Heilman

Marshall Sklare Memorial Award for his lifetime of scholarship from the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry. He was also awarded the highest university rank of Distinguished Professor of Sociology by the City University of New York.

Heilman's research has received not only significant recognition but also substantial support. He has been the recipient of fellowships from the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, and the Mellon Foundation.

The Goldblatt lecture is free and welcomes all who are interested in attending. For questions, please contact Sheryl Dick at dickshe@mcmaster.ca.

Don't miss these other community events

Are we getting the truth through the prism of political correctness when it comes to the media's coverage of the Middle East?

An evening of discussion at Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Ave. N. on Thursday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m.

Guest speakers include: Michael Coren, Sun News Network; Raheel Raza, journalist, author *Their Jihad... Not my Jihad*; Paul Berton, editor-in-chief, *The Hamilton Spectator*; Dr Andy Bannister, PhD in Islamic Studies from Oxford; Paul Michaels, director of research and media relations for Centre of Israel and Jewish Affairs. For tickets (\$20) call 905-528-0121 or email jimdavis@

sinaipost.com. Net proceeds to benefit the United Jewish Appeal of Hamilton.

Working Family Stories and Treasures (WFST) of the Hamilton Jewish Community Upcoming Events

Sept. 5: Meet you at the Chicken Roost: WFST celebrates downtown business owners

Sept. 9: WFST celebrates Jewish farming families (more details soon)

Oct. 17: Exhibit reception at "You Me gallery" (330 James St. N.) Contact Melinda Richter for more information: 905 978 3630 or email workingfamilystories@gmail.com.

The Hamilton Chapter wishes all our donors, families and friends a very Healthy and Happy New Year

Shana Tova 5773

Let us pray for peace in our beloved Israel - Am Y'Israel Chai

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Hilda Rosen, Ambassador

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The 2012 Lillian and Marvin Goldblatt Lecture in Jewish Studies

The Department of Religious Studies
McMaster University

presents

Lubavitch, Messianism and the Denial of Death

by
Professor Samuel Heilman
City University of New York

Monday, November 26
7:30 p.m. CIBC Hall
McMaster University Student Centre
3rd Floor

For more information contact Sheryl Dick
dickshe@mcmaster.ca
905-525-9140 ext 24567

McMaster University
SOCIAL SCIENCES

BROTT 2012 MUSIC EDUCATION CONCERTS

Tuesday October 23rd & Wednesday October 24th, 2012

Boris Brott, Artistic Director
National Academy Orchestra of Canada

FEATURED CONCERTS

"Peter and the Wolf"
Meets the Orchestra!
JK to Grade 3
Wednesday, Oct. 24
Hamilton Place
9:30 am/11:15am/12:45pm

Blast off with Canadian Astronaut Robert Bondar
A multi-media concert celebrating the 20th anniversary of Canada's first woman in space
Grades 4 to 8
Tuesday, Oct. 23
Hamilton Place
9:30 am/11:15am/12:45pm

Book your tickets by calling 905.525.7664
www.brottmusic.com

\$6 per person (includes HST)

UJA DOLLARS AT WORK

Holocaust Education... A teacher's story

WENDY SCHNEIDER

Deb Brown can't pinpoint the exact moment when her interest in teaching the Holocaust turned into a passion, but one thing is clear: Her association with Federation's Holocaust education committee has been instrumental in providing the Sir Allan McNab world history teacher with many opportunities to nurture and deepen that passion. Brown has helped the committee organize its annual symposium on the Holocaust for high school students for several years and last year committee co-chair Madeleine Levy asked her to join the Asper Human Rights and Holocaust program team of educators.

Brown's expertise as a teacher of the Holocaust—for the last three years she has taught a course on genocide and crimes against humanity—got a huge boost this summer when she participated in an intensive three-week seminar at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. That she would choose to spend part of her summer vacation immersed in, according to the program's website, "a learning experience that will require a tremendous amount of physical, intellectual, and emotional stamina," is testament to Brown's extraordinary commitment to ensuring that the lessons of the Holocaust are not forgotten.

The seminar, specifically designed for teachers of the Holocaust from around the world, included 140 hours of lectures by pre-eminent scholars on a multitude of topics and workshops on how to translate academic content into pedagogical materials. Equal emphasis was placed on the experiential, through encounters with survivors and field trips.

Asked what aspects of the program had the most impact, Brown said she appreciated learning ways to approach "some very difficult topics," through the use of story telling, adolescent diaries and art and music. Brown said she found the encounters with Holocaust survivors particularly moving. "They were nine very



Deb Brown at Yad Vashem Photo courtesy of Deb Brown, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

different stories, backgrounds, and the way that they all came together and how they were placed in the program ... was just incredible because it gave the whole history that we hear of all the time heart and soul."

Brown said she feels a personal responsibility to bear witness to survivors' experiences. "There's no denying the fact that ... this is an aging population and we're losing them, so it's going to be up to us as educators and individuals who have borne witness that that these stories don't go silent ... It's our moral and ethical obligation to keep listening while they're still able to speak ... and to pass it on to our students."

Over and above everything that Brown learned about the Holocaust, was a deep appreciation of Israel and its people.

"I went to Israel to learn more about the Shoah ... but I came out of it with a new sense of these welcoming, intense and warm people ... of what Israel is and why they face issues that they do today ... It's an absolutely beautiful country. They have done an amazing job creating what they have."

last year we raised \$1,116,119...

to assist the vulnerable (\$298,050)

to strengthen Jewish identity and education (\$396,213)

for community planning and priorities (\$213,700)

for Israel (\$208,156)

Why *this year* we can and must DO BETTER

"This year was the most difficult year that I can remember," said Jacki Levin, immediate past chair of Federation's Budget and Allocations committee. "The UJA Campaign received virtually the same amount as we did last year, but the needs were so much greater and we were forced to make cuts to our agencies."

Jewish Social Services, at the front lines of rising poverty rates in our community, was the only agency that actually received an increase.

The biggest cut was to the Jewish Agency for Israel, said Levin, "because that was less painful than cutting our local agencies which are already operating at bare bones."

Levin, a long-time Federation board member dating back to the 1980s, said that the million dollars raised over the last few years, while not insignificant, is really not different from what was raised 40 years ago. "This community was raising close to a million dollars back in the '70s," she said, "but look what's happened to housing prices and salaries since then. If we want to have a thriving Jewish community we can't have a stagnant campaign."

UJA Campaign chair Jay State shares Levin's concern but is optimistic that the dedicated members of the campaign cabinet and a strong core of canvassers can reach out to donors. The key to raising more funds is twofold, the first being to reach out to the 800 community members who have never made a gift to the UJA campaign. "This year we're making a deliberate effort to reach those individuals," said State, "who are probably knowledgeable about the needs but are waiting to be asked. If we can get more canvassers helping in this endeavour, I know we can increase the amount raised significantly."

State praised campaign cabinet members Lisa Morris, David Loewith and Sasha Weisz who are heading up efforts to build a bigger canvasser team to reach those in the



community who have not been canvassed personally in the past.

A second, equally critical factor in increasing the overall campaign total, said State, is "asking past contributors to stretch a little further."

State, who is now in his second year of chairing the campaign, says he is constantly amazed by the "staggering statistics" that indicate the poverty level in Hamilton's Jewish community surpassing national levels.

"One in five children in our community live below the poverty level," he said. "This is serious. Members of our family are in great need. I'm very proud of what our community has raised in the past, but the needs are so great, we just have to do more."

To contribute to the UJA Campaign by making a gift or by volunteering your time as a canvasser, we would love to hear from you. Please call Chris Nusca at the Federation office at 905-648-0605, ext 306 to find out more about how you really can make a difference. We would love to hear from you.

The Hamilton Jewish Federation Holocaust Education Committee presents the 7th annual **HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK** November 1-8, 2012

Documentary Film Screening



Thursday, Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m.

Westdale Theatre 1014 King Street West, Hamilton
Directed by Andrew Shea 2011 - 90 min. - USA

This fascinating documentary traces the ownership of the famous painting—from Schiele's gesture of affection toward his young lover; to the theft of the painting from Lea Bondi, a Jewish art dealer fleeing Vienna for her life; to the post-war confusion and subterfuge that evoke *The Third Man*; to the surprise resurfacing of "Wally" at the MOMA. Filmmaker Andrew Shea follows the 13-year battle that ensues as the family attempts to restore "Wally" to its rightful owner.

Monday, Nov. 5, 4:15 p.m.

Special Guest Speaker Event

Karen Polak, Educator

International Education Department Anne Frank House
Amsterdam, Netherlands

St. Jean de Brébeuf Secondary School 200 Acadia Drive, Hamilton

Challenges educators face in teaching the Holocaust will be discussed and concrete examples how we can involve our students to work creatively and critically in learning about the Holocaust will be presented.

North American Traveling Exhibitions from the Anne Frank Centre

Anne Frank: A History for Today

Art and Propaganda in Nazi-Occupied Holland

On display in Hamilton for school and public viewings October 22–November 30, 2012
For details contact ellevine@jewishhamilton.org

The Children of Chabannes



Thursday, Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m.

Adas Israel Synagogue Kristallnacht Commemoration

125 Cline Ave. S., Hamilton

Directed by Lisa Gossels, Dean Wetherell
1999 - 93 min - USA

A magical World War II tale of resilience and love. "The Children of Chabannes" reveals the previously untold story of how the people in a tiny village in unoccupied France chose action over indifference to save the lives of 400 Jewish refugee children. Through accounts by the extraordinary teachers who taught and loved these children, this lyrical and moving film shows the remarkable efforts made by the citizens of Chabannes, who risked their lives and livelihoods to protect those children, simply because they felt it was the right thing to do.

Local Holocaust Survivors (hidden children) will share their experiences following the film.

A special thank you to our community partners: Ontario Trillium Foundation, The Hamilton Spector, The Ganz Family Foundation, The Art Gallery of Hamilton, Erwin Jacobs Endowment Fund and Paratus Investor's Corporation.



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Participate in this year's **ASPER FOUNDATION HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOLOCAUST STUDIES PROGRAM**

If you're entering grade 9, 10 or 11, don't miss a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to join high school students from across Greater Hamilton on this year's Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program, now in its 12th year. This may be the last time the program includes a trip to Washington before moving to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg.

The program includes:

- a series of 8 preparatory education session
- a four-day trip to Washington D.C.
- 16 hours of community service
- participation in the graduation ceremony

An application and 500 word essay on why you wish to expand your knowledge of the Holocaust are required. Watch for a personal invitation in your mailbox this October. For further details contact Elaine at ellevine@jewishhamilton.org or call 905-627-9922, ext. 24.



GENESIS

Hamilton Jewish Federation's LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

A journey towards excellence in personal development beginning this fall.

- Learn from experienced and enlightened leaders
- Express your creativity
- Familiarize yourself with Hamilton's Jewish agencies and volunteer opportunities
- Gain confidence and find your personal leadership style
- Interact with a small group in a trusting, nurturing atmosphere
- Gain skills for lifelong learning

The goal of the Genesis program is to foster future leadership in Hamilton's Jewish community. Participants will be encouraged to take on leadership roles not only in the volunteer sector, but in their own workplaces and personal realms. Participants meet monthly for six sessions that will inform and develop their leadership skills.

To register contact Elaine Levine at elevine@jewishhamilton.org or call 905-627-9922, ext. 24; Cost \$100. Limited space available.

GRADUATES: Watch for details regarding Genesis - The Next Stage, beginning early 2013!

CANVASSERS EVENT



Henry and Bella Muller
Photo by Wendy Schneider

On a hot early July evening the Hamilton UJA held a canvasser recruitment evening at the beautiful home of Bella and Henry Muller. It was quite the challenge to concentrate on the topic given the magnificent home and the Mullers' unmatched collection of rare Judaica that adorn their home.

The evening's objective was to recruit new canvassers to assist the UJA in its community fundraising. Speakers included UJA Campaign chair, Jay State, Federation president Larry Szpirglas, and Perry Romberg, director for financial resource development for Jewish Federations of Canada UJA.

"The foundation of any fundraising organization is its volunteer canvassers," Romberg told the audience. "When a volunteer canvasser meets with a donor," he said, "the experience is not only more personal but an honest and frank discussion about the community, its needs, its challenges occurs."

If you are interested in strengthening the community please call the Federation office at 648-0605.



Hamilton's Lions of Judah: Top row, l to r: Judy Bennett, Liz Tick, Danna Horwood, Rhoda Katz, Gayle Kepecs, Lisa Morris, Sasha Weisz, Sandi Seigel, Michele Finkelstein, Shirley Molot. Front Row, l to r: Rita Richter, Micki Mizrahi, Cece Schreiber, Batia Phillips and Gloria Wasserman. Photo by Elaine Levine

THE POWER OF WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

Last spring, Lion of Judah co-chairs Gayle Kepecs and Michele Finkelstein hosted a gathering of their peers to hear Micki Mizrahi, a former Toronto Lion of Judah co-chair, speak about women's philanthropy. Mizrahi spoke passionately about her volunteer role with UJA and encouraged her audience to get involved with their

community both through volunteering and giving to the UJA. UJA Federation "address the whispers before they become screams," she said, emphasizing that nothing is more powerful than women working together towards the common goal of making our community here at home and in Israel a better place.

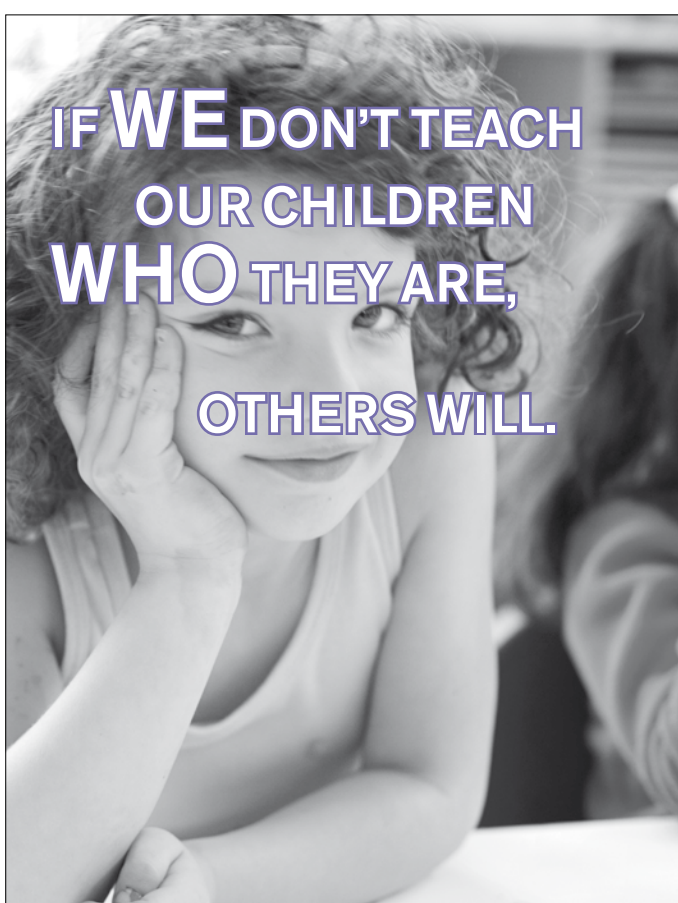
Federation executive director retires

On July 26, Hamilton Jewish Federation held a party in honour of retiring executive director Gerry Fisher, to thank him for 11 years of outstanding service. Fisher was lauded both for his work at building bridges with many other community groups as well as managing Federation. The event, organized by Jacki and Larry Levin, was held at Shalom Village with more than 100 in attendance. Among those who paid tribute to Fisher's contributions were Rabbis Selsberg, Green, and Cohen; Allen Reitzes, a retired community professional from Toronto who worked with Fisher over many years; Sandra Wilson from the Hamilton Police Services; Pastor David Cummings, of the Hamilton Christian Fellowship; and Christine Williams from Christian Crossroads. Hamilton Federation president Larry Szpirglas expressed



Larry Szpirglas, Gerry Fisher and Larry Levin.
Photo courtesy of Larry Levin, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

the thanks of the community and presented Fisher with a certificate. David Christopherson, MP Hamilton Centre, presented him with a certificate from the Government of Canada.



IF WE DON'T TEACH
OUR CHILDREN
WHO THEY ARE,
OTHERS WILL.

As they grow up, young Jews will face challenges to their beliefs and identity. We believe the best way to protect our children against ignorance and hate is to educate them. From the pride of a preschooler learning her first Hebrew words to the confidence of a college student prepared to grapple with anti-Israel sentiment on campus we're strengthening Jewish identity and inspiring a life-long connection to Jewish values. But we need your help.

Please, give generously to the UJA Campaign. Call 905-648-0605 or visit www.jewishhamilton.org



100 children and growing!

ELAINE LEVINE

PJ Library is a Jewish literary program that delivers books and music with Jewish content to your doorstep. It's a wonderful way to transmit Jewish culture, values and tradition through the closeness of parents and children reading together.

Last spring I was among six Canadians who attended a PJ Library conference designed to increase the program's effectiveness in reaching and engaging Jewish families in Jewish life in communities across the continent. The conference took place in Baltimore.

Participants were given the opportunity to learn from seasoned professionals from in working sessions that focused on outreach, marketing, administration and programming. Ample time was also given to network with the 150 plus delegates from across North America.

With more than 100,000 books currently being mailed on a monthly basis to Jewish families across North America, PJ Library is an unqualified success. In Israel, its "sister" program, Sifriyat Pijama, which is a partnership with Israel's Ministry of Education has also experienced dramatic growth.

Here in Hamilton, feedback from families who have registered with the program has been wonderful. "The program is great; we love the books," and "our son is so excited when the book comes in the mail," are comments I have received. We hope to reach even more families with young children who have not yet heard about this great program.

PJ Library in Hamilton was made possible through the generosity of the Shirley and Morris Waxman family and the UJA Hamilton Lion of Judah division. We are also extremely grateful to the Harold Grinspoon Foundation for this outstanding initiative. To register your child, aged 6 months through five years, visit jewishhamilton.org, pjlibrary.org or call Elaine Levine at 905-627-9922, ext. 24 or email elevine@jewishhamilton.org.

Together WE do extraordinary things

2013 UJA Campaign Opening

UJA CABARET



The buzz has been building for months. Take a trip down memory lane as we present UJA Cabaret, our musical extravaganza to kick off our best campaign ever! Join us in celebrating the talent in our community, from 3 years old to 80 years young as we entertain with singing and dancing highlights from earlier community productions; Joseph, Annie, Grease, Fiddler, Noah, Shul Biz and some original scores.

Thursday, October 18, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.
Beth Jacob Synagogue

Dessert Reception following the show
Babysitting available on request

Tickets:

Adults - \$20

Children 5 - 18 yrs - \$10

Children under 5 yrs - Free

Tickets available at UJA Federation, Shul offices, JCC, Hamilton Kosher and Shalom Village

You will have the opportunity to make your 2013 Campaign pledge at the opening event.

For more details contact:

Elaine Levine, 905-627-9922 Ext. 24
elevine@jewishhamilton.org

Amy Back, 905-541-5362
amybackwords@gmail.com



Camp Kadimah



Camp Kadimah summer 2012 has been one of the best summers yet!

We have seen so many brand new faces as well as many returning smiles! This summer featured another diverse staff team who helped orchestrate one of the most innovative programs ever. Programs consisted of: The Avengers, Baseball Week, Cycle-Mania Bike Safety, The Reptile Guy, Crock-a-doodle and much more! Special day trips included the Ontario Science Centre, Laser Mania, SPCA, Hamilton Fire Department, Bingemans, and Splitsville. Overnight adventures to Camp George and Camp Shalom are always a great taste of overnight camp and we are grateful for the opportunity to go there. Camp Kadimah provides a warm, inclusive atmosphere where every camper, staff and parent feels at home. If you haven't been to Kadimah yet, consider sending your child. If you want to have a voice in the future of the camp, consider joining the camp parent committee.

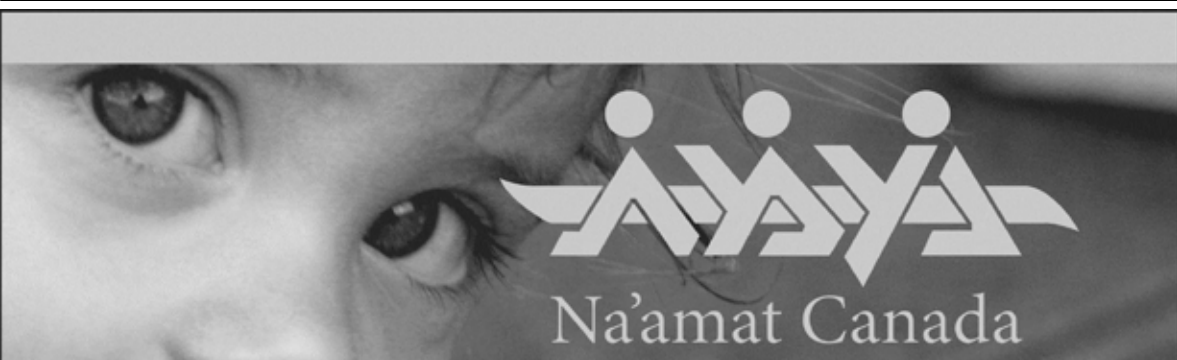
BARRY FOSTER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The tournament was a huge success! A special thanks to the following:

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Hole In One Sponsor: Michelle Foster - Dalton Timmis Insurance Group, Eastgate Ford - The Richter Family; Hole Sponsor: Ark-Tech Electrical, Burlington Paving Co., Ltd., The Effort Trust Company, Eisenberg & Young LLP, FELLFAB®, Fraser Financial Consultants, H. Williams Jewellery, Hamilton Minor Hockey, Harvey Katz Law Office, Henderson Structured Settlements, JCC board of directors, Joel Feldman, Chartered Accountant, Judy Marsales Real Estate Ltd. - Nelson Kolenski, Mackesy Smye LLP, Miller Shoes, Scarfone Hawkins LLP, Stanley M. Tick and Associates, TD Waterhouse, Fowler and Associates, Rob & Michelle Tick, Tom Mildren Contracting, Triple M Metal LP, Wentworth Metal Recycling
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Congratulations to the winning teams:

Men: Howard Eisenberg, Joel Feldman, Aubrey Friedman, Ken Berkнопf.
Women: Ann Brunner, Carola Brunner, Patricia Cole, Twila Smith



Tirza's daughter, Sarina, is a lucky girl; she is part of two families. She has a mother and grandmother in Jerusalem, and thanks to Na'amat, she has an adoptive family in Hamilton.

When you spiritually adopt a child through Na'amat Canada, you are sending an underprivileged child, like Sarina, to a world-renowned daycare centre. Your gift could make an immeasurable difference to a disadvantaged family.

Please choose to spiritually adopt a needy child for a \$1.80 a day during the new year.

Shana Tova from Na'amat Canada

Enhancing the lives of women, children and families since 1925.

Na'amat Canada 1.888.278.0792 E-Mail: naamat@naamatcanada.org Web: www.naamat.com

Upcoming Programs

Mah Jongg: Tuesdays from 10 a.m. - noon; Members free; Non-members \$5/week or \$15/month
Babysitting Course: Sept. 23, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Youth Casino: Grades 7-9: Oct. 21, 7-9 p.m.
Youth Casino: Grades 3-5: Nov. 25, 3-5 p.m.
JCC Annual General Meeting: Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m.
Music Series Number 1: Nov. 3
Family Maccabiah Day: Nov. 11, 2-5 p.m.
Morris Black Public Speaking Contest: Dec. 2 @ 2 p.m.
Winter Camp: Dec. 24, 27, 28, 31, Jan. 2, 3, 4.

JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Dec. 1 - 6, 2012



Saturday, Dec. 1

RADIO DAYS

Beth Jacob Synagogue @8 p.m.

Directed and written by Woody Allen, this film takes a nostalgic look at radio's golden age and focuses on one ordinary family.

Tuesday, Dec. 4

FOLLOW ME

Adas Israel Congregation @8 p.m.

The Yonatan Netanyahu story is an intimate journey of the young hero's mind.

Thursday, Dec. 6

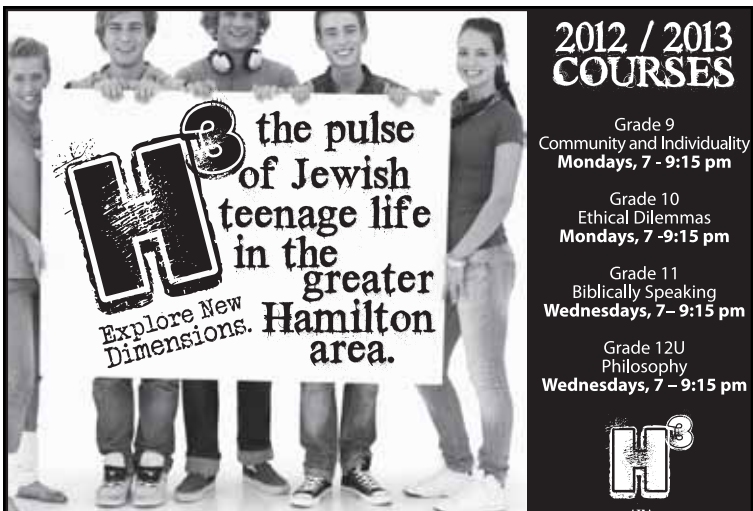
DOC POMUS

Temple Anshe Sholom @8 p.m.

Paralyzed with Polio as a child and confined to crutches and a wheelchair, Jerome Felder was the most unlikely of Rock and Roll icons but he reinvented himself as a singer/songwriter and renamed himself Doc Pomus.

ADVERTISE IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

The Jewish community telephone directory is releasing a new edition this fall and is accepting advertisers for its pages. For many years the directory has been a cornerstone of reference for our community, allowing our families and businesses to keep in touch and reach out to one another. To take part in this year's edition please contact Samantha Richter at 905-648-8030 or email samrichter1@gmail.com.



2012 / 2013 COURSES

Grade 9 Community and Individuality Mondays, 7 - 9:15 pm

Grade 10 Ethical Dilemmas Mondays, 7 - 9:15 pm

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Grade 12U Philosophy Wednesdays, 7 - 9:15 pm



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Poetry Corner

Ellen S. Jaffe

Meditation on Selichot and Rosh Hashanah

(adapted from "Rosh Hashanah 2009," in Living Legacies vol. II, edited by Liz Pearl. PK Press, Toronto, 2010)

Still summer (barely) on the secular calendar,
 the Shofar sounds the New Year
 (new moon of the seventh month)
 and the leaves, turning, turning, burning red and gold,
 tell us it's fall.

We clean out clutter, moving on,
 our memories sweetened with apples and honey.

It's not hard to throw out stuff,

harder to grieve and let go —

Listen — hear the Shofar's call,

Yearning

Turning

Returning

us to life.

Don't miss these upcoming appearances by two renowned Canadian authors



Photo by Wendy Schneider, the Hamilton Jewish News

Who: Noah Richler

When: Monday, Sept. 17, 7 - 9 p.m.

Where: Burlington Central Library 2331 New St., Burlington.

Speaking on: What We Talk About When We Talk About War

Cost: \$10

Sponsored by:

A Different Drummer Books and Burlington Public Library

Contact:

diffrum@mac.com



Photo by Barbara Stoneham, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Who: Vincent Lamm

When: Monday, Apr. 22, 2013

Where: Adas Israel

Speaking on: The Headmaster's Wager

Cost: \$25

Students and seniors \$18

Sponsored by: Na'amat Hamilton

Contact:

dcreachman@cogeco.ca

Meet The New Israeli Consul General

Please join us in welcoming the newly appointed Consul General of Israel.
Mr. DJ Schneeweiss
 The new Consul General will meet the Hamilton community at 7:30 pm on *Thursday, September 13, at Beth Jacob Synagogue 375 Aberdeen Ave. Hamilton*

Refreshments will be served. As there is no cost for this event, please consider making a donation to JNF as a gesture of support.



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THIS MONTH: A CONVERSATION WITH SHANGHAI-BASED ANNA GREENSPAN

WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News



Transporting your child to school Shanghai-style: Anna Greenspan with son Max.

Photo courtesy of Louis Greenspan. Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Anna Greenspan has embraced her inner wandering Jew. Since 2002 the Hamilton native has been living in Shanghai with her husband and their two children.

Greenspan, who was in Hamilton this summer visiting with parents Louis and Sheila Greenspan, told the HJN that the decision to move to Shanghai occurred somewhat serendipitously. Her British-born husband had been looking for employment opportunities in Canada and waiting for his residency papers for eight long months when the couple, acting on the advice of a Taiwanese friend, decided to look online for job opportunities in Shanghai.

"Stories about Shanghai's rise were starting to emerge and it seemed like an interesting place to check out," said Greenspan. Astonishing, it took less than a minute for him to find a job. Today he edits an English language daily and Greenspan teaches urbanization and philosophy at NYU Shanghai, a semester program for American students.

The plan was to go for a year, but 10 years and two children later, Greenspan says life is too good to consider moving any time soon.

With a population of 25 million people – almost equal to the entire population of Canada – Shanghai is a world-class city that is unlike any other place in China.

"I had expected that it would be extremely dense and very intense like Hong Kong, but it's much more relaxed, even though it's an incredibly exciting, forefront of the future, place."

"I have a life in China but I don't feel rooted to the place ... but I like that."

Anna Greenspan

The city has a fascinating Jewish history. Much of Shanghai's architectural heritage, said Greenspan, was built by Sephardic Jews who arrived on its shores during the 1800s. Early in the 19th century, waves of Russian Jews seeking refuge from pogroms settled in Harbin, on China's northern border, many of whom migrated south to Shanghai. During the Second World War, Shanghai provided a port of last resort to thousands of Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi onslaught. Today, with an expatriate Jewish population of approximately 2,000, it's the Lubavitch movement that dominates Jewish cultural life. "It's astounding how much they do," said Greenspan. And while her father likes to frequent Chabad Friday night services during her parents' extended stays, Greenspan is more likely to seek out smaller Jewish activities spearheaded by a growing grassroots liberal Jewish community.

Greenspan and her husband, unlike many other expats who live in Shanghai's suburbs, live

downtown in what was the former French Concession, a neighbourhood populated with interesting boutiques and coffee houses. Their children, Max, 7, and Zoe, 5, attend Chinese schools and speak fluent Mandarin. Greenspan says she gets by with no difficulty but "can't have interesting conversations."

"There's a lot of work that goes into learning Chinese. It's idiom based, and there's no alphabet. You have to memorize every character. Every word is brand new."

There are several factors keeping Greenspan in Shanghai indefinitely. One has to do with her children.

"If my kids left now they wouldn't have the language. I'm pretty committed for them to become fluent in Mandarin ... that's a good 10 years away."

Another is her family's quality of life. While the couple's combined salaries would not be considered high by North American standards, in Shanghai they manage very well.

"I have a good life. I think it would very hard to replicate my life anywhere else."

Ironically, it was in Israel, while attending an American high school on kibbutz, where Greenspan realized that "the world is open to you" and it was possible to live a fulfilling life anywhere in the world. Even then it was clear that for her, the diasporic, rather than the Zionist narrative that prevailed.

"I have a life in China but I don't feel rooted to the place," she said. "It's a foreign place ... but I like that."

The most vital thing

Connecting with audiences is still Boris Brott's number 1 priority

Story and photo by WENDY SCHNEIDER, The Hamilton Jewish News

"Shepel es nochamol; s'hot nisht kein tam." Boris Brott's grandmother's insistence that her talented young grandson replay his violin pieces until she felt the emotion in the music is embedded in the local maestro's DNA.

"We lived in one room in my grandparents' apartment on Maplewood Avenue in Outremont," Brott said in a recent interview. While his parents, both musicians, were in rehearsal, his grandmother would supervise his practicing. "When I played something that didn't affect her emotionally, she'd say 'It has no taste. It doesn't move me.'"

Given Brott's international success, his ability to move an audience no longer appears to be a concern. Since leaving the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra (HPO), where he was artistic director and conductor from 1969 to 1990, Brott has established an impressive freelance career, with regular appearances in Italy where he is principal guest conductor of the historic Petruzzelli Theatre in Bari, in Los Angeles, where he is conductor laureate of the New West Symphony, in Montreal where he succeeded his later father as conductor of the McGill Chamber Orchestra or in Ottawa, where he holds the position of principal youth and family conductor with the National Arts Centre Orchestra. A consummate over-achiever, he also holds a law degree from the University of Western Ontario and gives motivational seminars to Fortune 500 companies using symphonic music as a metaphor.

Despite his international success, Hamilton will always be home. An iconic photograph taken in the early days of Brott's tenure with the HPO, sums up the relationship between the maestro and his adopted home. In a publicity shot for the orchestra, Brott – donning a hard hat – is shown conducting his orchestra in the middle of a steel blast furnace at what was then Dofasco. The photograph captures a moment in time in the steel town's cultural renaissance, when it was basking in the glow of having attracted a sophisticated and charismatic 25-year-old superstar straight from New York City. But Hamilton can't take all the credit. Even before



Showing no signs of slowing down: Boris Brott holding his late father's memoir.

When I played something that didn't affect her emotionally... she'd say, "It has no taste."

moving here, Brott had made the acquaintance of the lovely Ardyth Webster, daughter of then HPO executive director, Betty Webster, and it can be assumed that their courtship was another factor in the city's appeal.

"Hamilton is a wonderful place to live," said Brott. "We've loved living here our whole married life. There are wonderful places to eat, to shop, to be. We have great friends here. We have a beautiful home here, and we have Muskoka, which is two and a half hours north of here where we have a beautiful home as well."

He also has the Brott Music Festival, which has grown from its modest beginnings in 1988 as a summer festival to become, according to the festival's website, Canada's largest orchestral music festival. Included in the festival's repertoire are musical education concerts, inspired by Leonard Bernstein's celebrated Young People's Concerts, with whom Brott apprenticed during his time in New York. This fall's two featured concerts will include one, for middle school-aged children, based on astronaut Roberta Bondar and a second, geared towards elementary-aged children, an introduction to the orchestra using the story of Peter

and the Wolf.

The Roberta Bondar concert is in honour of the 20th anniversary of the astronaut's mission in space. "Roberta's a very renaissance person," said Brott. "She's a significant photographer, a naturalist, a doctor of medicine and loves music. And so we're doing a program really celebrating her voyage in space and talking about the world as it looks like from space and the inspiration from music that she listened to while she was on her voyage."

Brott's entire career has been based on a conviction that music belongs to everyone, a belief nurtured by warm childhood memories of his grandmother sitting with her knitting while intently listening to her grandson's violin playing and his grandfather's passion for opera.

"Here were these people from very humble circumstances ... with no pretensions, societal or otherwise, but yet they were the embodiment of music."

A musician's ability to consistently make the connection between the deepest part of himself and his audience "defies explaining" said Brott, but he'll never stop trying. "It's the most vital thing. Without that you have nothing ... but a bunch of sounds."

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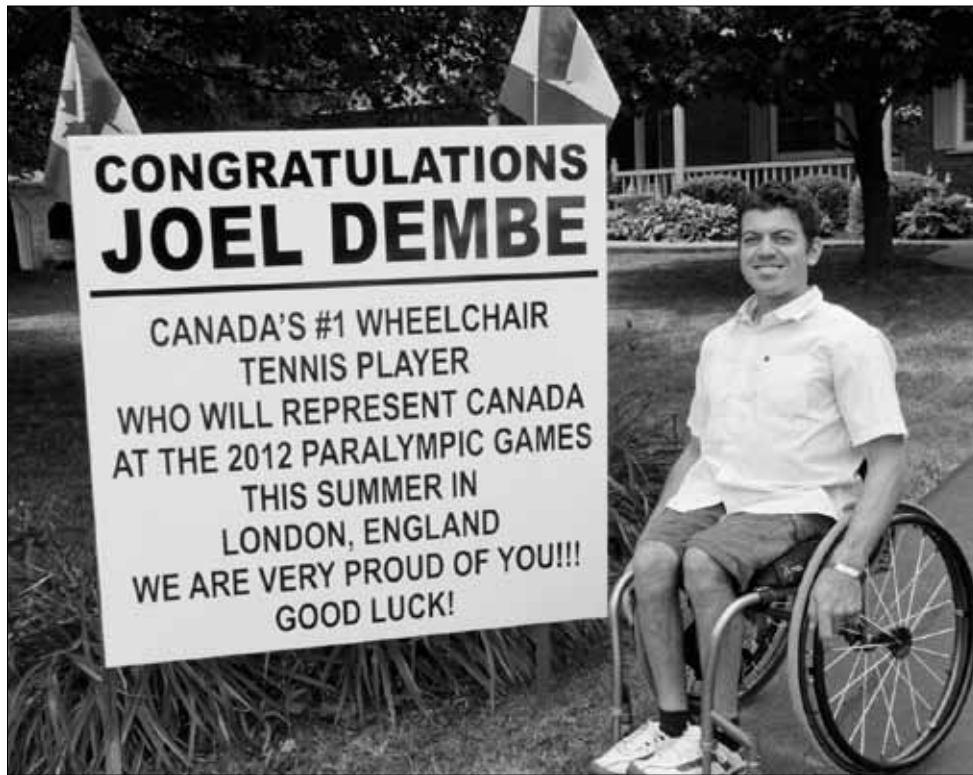
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Doing us proud

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News



Joel Dembe, ranked Canada's number one wheelchair tennis player, poses outside his parents' Lynden home. Photo by Wendy Schneider, the Hamilton Jewish News

JOEL DEMBE RANKED FIRST IN CANADA IN WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

Joel Dembe is representing Canada in wheelchair tennis at the London 2012 Paralympic Games in late August. It's an incredible accomplishment, and one the 28-year-old athlete has been working towards with unwavering focus since March 2011 when he took a leave from his job at a major financial institution in Toronto to pursue his dream of qualifying for the Games. Dembe was born with a benign tumour on his spine, that upon removal, left him partially paralyzed. Dembe began playing competitive wheelchair tennis at the age of 14. Since he made the decision to pursue tennis full time he moved from number four in Canada to number one and is now ranked 39th in the world. The HJN caught up with Dembe last July at an open house celebrating his accomplishments held at the Lynden home of his parents, Steve and Cheryl Dembe.

QUICK FACTS

- Dembe's rigorous training routine over the last 18 months included daily practice sessions and regular appointments with a support team of professional

body workers, coaches and a sports psychologist. The combined cost of training and travelling reached \$30,000, an amount covered by both non-profit and individual sponsors.

- The London paralympics will be the first time the games have sold out. A crowd of 50,000 people, including the Queen, will be in attendance at the opening ceremonies.
- Seven Dembe family members will be attending the games, including Dembe's parents, brothers and an aunt and uncle.
- It's not easy to get tickets for the Games. Each athlete is entitled to purchase two tickets for the opening ceremonies; PetroCanada sponsors the cost of two tickets for family members to attend an event; athletes' family members must scramble to acquire the remaining tickets on their own.

ON THE MENTAL GAME

"I think tennis really is a mental game. I mean you're on your own most of the time on the court. It's a very lonely sport. You travel alone. You don't have a coach, normally ... that travels with you, especially in wheelchair tennis, and you have to usually find a way, on your own, to win matches, and especially when a match is close, the only thing that really separates you and another opponent is the mental aspect."

ON HOW HE GOT THIS FAR

"There's the end goal of making the paralympics, but the way I've approached it ... is match by match, tournament by tournament ... and that's how it worked."

ON THIS YEAR'S GAMES

"I don't think the Paralympics have seen something on this scale before so I think it's going to be really amazing to wheel out in front of that many people ... It's going to be an honour to wear the red and white and go out there."

FAMILY SUPPORT

From his mother, Cheryl Dembe: "What started out as just a fun, recreational thing turned into something so important to him ... He's met wonderful people. He's traveled the world. He's taken a year off his job, all for the paralympics. It's the pinnacle, and he deserves this."

Two former Hamiltonians make a name for themselves in the international arena.

WILLIAM "GRIT" LASKIN INVESTED IN THE ORDER OF CANADA

Social activist, singer-songwriter, author and world-renowned guitar maker, Grit Laskin, was among the most recent recipients of an Order of Canada. Laskin, who was born and raised in Hamilton, modestly refers to himself as a "problem solver," whose life experience has taught him that "one person can change things." Laskin's advocacy work is primarily but not exclusively directed to the realm of Canadian folk music. Laskin is a game changer whose frequent response to what he sees as a problem is to create an organization that addresses it. In 1996, he co-founded the Canadian folk music label Borealis, in response to Canadian artists being forced to record their music in the United States. In 2005, frustrated by the Junos awarding a mere two awards under the folk umbrella, Laskin founded the Canadian Folk Music Awards, now in its eighth successful year. Laskin's professional success has come about as a result of his hand-crafted, custom-built guitars, that are famous for both their ergonomic innovations and beautiful inlay work.



Photo courtesy of Grit Laskin, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

QUICK FACTS:

- William Laskin was born in 1953 on the Hamilton mountain to Morris and Laila Laskin. From the age of 9, Laskin attended Camp Ramah, where he got the nickname "Grit" and learned that he loved to sing.
- The Laskin family were long-time members of Beth Jacob Synagogue.
- Laskin left home age the age of 17 to pursue a career in folk music and acoustic guitar making.

- Laskin is one of the coordinators of Muskoka's Woods Music And Dance Camp, Canada's longest-running adult folk music camp.
- Laskin originated two cutting edge guitar innovations: the built-in "Armrest" and "Ribrest" edge beveling, which have been copied around the world.
- Among the many artists who play a William Laskin guitar are k.d.jang, Jesse Cook, and the late Stan Rogers. The Museum Of Civilization has four Laskin guitars in its permanent collection.

ON WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

The Laskin family, both when I was young and when my father remarried ... was always a positive experience ... We all love each others' company ... My father Morris who had Career Girl women's wear in downtown Hamilton for years and years ... was a gentle man. He wouldn't even kill a bug if it got in the house."

A BAR MITZVAH MEMORY

One memory I have of my bar mitzvah was that I started singing my haftarah at too high a pitch and I stayed with it but out of the corner of my eye I saw the cantor look over at the rabbi and roll his eyes ... but I plowed on at a pitch that could have broken glass."

ON WHAT MAKES HIM TICK

"You just don't say, 'Oh that's terrible or how will we ever fix that or that's too difficult to change ... I love a righteous battle.'"

ON HIS CRAFT

"I always do original art on each guitar, drawing on a theme of import to the customer - it not only creates another personal layer to this instrument that's being tailored to them, it becomes a vehicle for their creativity ..."

ON GRATITUDE

"I feel lucky every day to have stumbled into a field that still makes me happy."



HONOURABLE MENTSCHEN

ABOVE: Ted Nisker at the Dundas Valley School of Art auction. Photo by Lawrence Yanover, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

RIGHT: RAHB President Cameron Nolan with Larry Szpirglas. Photo courtesy RAHB, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

BOTTOM RIGHT: Faydra Shapiro. Photo courtesy Faydra Shapiro, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Budding artist, Ted Nisker, is enjoying the acclaim his paintings have received at venues such as the Dundas Valley School of Art, Toronto's King Edward Hotel and Burlington's JBN Medical Diagnostic Services Inc. While the majority of Nisker's art can be categorized as abstract surrealism, he intends to incorporate Jewish themes in future work, inspired by his recent Birthright trip to Israel.

Congratulations to Larry Szpirglas for receiving the 2011 Outstanding Community Service Award by the REALTORS® Association of Hamilton-Burlington (RAHB), in recognition of his volunteer work in the Jewish community, for the Canadian Diabetes Association and on behalf of the new home industry.

Mazel Tov to former Hamilton resident, Faydra Shapiro, former associate professor at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, for her recent appointment as director for the Center for Studies in Jewish-Christian Relations at Yezreel Valley College in Israel.

Congratulations to Arthur Weisz, who is among 29 well-known Hamiltonians who have been presented with the medal celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth. The medal serves to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians in their communities.



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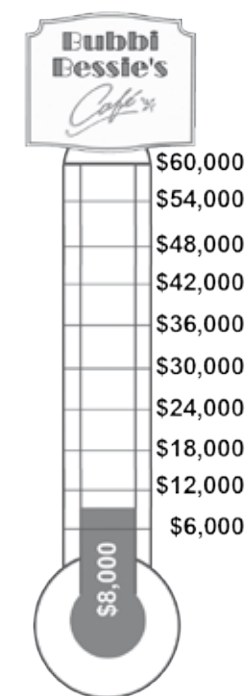
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Bubbi Bessie's is on the move, and you can help!



The heart of the Shalom Village community is also the busiest spot on our York Street corridor. Since it first opened seven years ago, *Bubbi Bessie's Café* has become the go-to place for food, fun and friendship. More than a place for a quick lunch or cup of coffee, it is where our residents meet to share a laugh or catch up with friends.

New Quarters
Bubbi Bessie's has become so popular that we are running out of space. New quarters nearby will give us more room and help us provide our residents and their guests with a better experience. But first, extensive renovations are required and we are looking to our community for help. We are introducing the *Bubbi's on the Move* campaign with a goal of raising \$60,000 to create the new Bubbi Bessie's Café.

We're on our way - you can help
People are so excited about this project that more than \$8,000 has already been raised! You can help us achieve our goal by making your donation today!

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Shana Tova from Shalom Village



Hello everyone!
On behalf of those who live and work at Shalom Village, I want to send our greetings to the Hamilton Jewish Community in honour of the High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Our residents will be experiencing and participating in all of the rituals and observances of these holidays including services, a festive meal, hearing the blowing of the shofar, and enjoying sweet reminders of our wish for a happy and sweet New Year. We are so grateful to our dedicated volunteers from the Hamilton Jewish community who help Rabbi Selevan and our teams to ensure our residents remain connected to their community and can fulfil the traditions that are so important to them during these holidays.

One of these important traditions is an individual's reflection and contemplation of not only the past year but also for the year ahead. I am drawn to the theme of looking back and looking forward as a point of reflection when thinking about Shalom Village and our core value of Honouring our Fathers and our Mothers. Certainly, as individuals who live and work at Shalom Village, we would have our own personal thoughts and reflections as this New Year approaches.

In addition to reflection at an individual level, there is also an opportunity to reflect upon Shalom Village as part of a larger community of health care providers and community agencies for seniors. When thinking about the past, our commitment to honouring our fathers and mothers has resulted in Shalom Village having a reputation for excellence far beyond the borders of this community. When contemplating the new year and years ahead, what lessons have we learned that can sustain and grow this

pattern of excellence in care and services for the seniors of our community? This is our challenge and opportunity at Shalom Village.

It is a particularly unique time we find ourselves in. Our Local Health Integration Network and the Province of Ontario have recognized that we need to plan now for the needs of the seniors of the future. Current trends and usage of our health care system must shift in order to be able to provide for the needs of all who will require care and services in the future. Current economic conditions in our province are creating challenges for health care providers to find that balance between fiscal responsibility and increasing needs of our clients. Shalom Village is no exception and is deeply embedded in these debates and concerns—and the potential solutions. The famous line by Dickens "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times" comes to mind when reflecting on the current state.

In true Shalom Village fashion, we are blazing ahead with the "best of times" frame of mind. With the care of seniors moving to the forefront of the public and the government's agenda, there are so many potential opportunities that we are planning to explore. Our leadership and strong relationships with all of our community and health provider partners will ensure that Shalom Village is at the leading edge of new services and care for our seniors. No matter what changes or opportunities we find ourselves contemplating, our mission and values will continue to be our anchor in our reflection on the lessons of our past and the possibilities for our future.

Shana Tovah!

Jeanette
Jeanette O'Leary
CEO, Shalom Village

What they're saying about Shalom Village

"My Mother was my greatest treasure, and the staff's ability to consistently envelop her with care and warmth in the final stage of her life is a true gift."
~Resident's daughter

"That she was able to live out the last part of her earthly journey, treated with dignity, gentleness and with superb care was for her a great gift, and also for all of us who loved her."
~Family friend of resident

"Words cannot convey enough our thanks to you for all you have done for our mom, and all you have supported us too. We hope to keep working together for the future."
~Resident's children

Rosh Hashanah Cards

Beautiful new cards feature resident art

You can send Rosh Hashanah greetings to your family and friends and help support Shalom Village resident possibilities at the same time!

Just send us your list and we will take care of the rest for only \$10 per card.

This year we are introducing three beautiful new cards featuring art created by our residents. You will be proud to have your friends receive these attractive and colourful cards.

All proceeds from card donations support the Resident Possibilities Fund at Shalom Village.

Just send us your list and we'll take care of the rest!

Pennies for Possibilities

Your stash of pennies can help support possibilities at Shalom Village

Our goal is to collect \$10,000 in pennies by September 28, 2012, and you can help! Why not donate that stash of pennies that is just taking up space in your home?

Drop your pennies (and other change!) in any of our Penny Jars to support our Resident Possibilities Fund.

- Penny Jar Locations:**
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 - Bubbi Bessie's Café
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Making possibilities possible

Profile

FAMILY JEWELS: Meet the Wolman family from Dundas

Story and photo by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

The cast: Zavi (36), Deborah (39), Israel (12), Mitzi (3) and Honey (3 months), Farfel-Kugel, a miniature Schnauzer and Lulu the cat.

The Home: an attractive ranch-style home on a quiet street in Dundas.

In Hamilton: Since Dec. 2009. "We spent about six months in Toronto in 2009 (after moving there from Montreal) and it didn't suit us. We wanted to move closer to where Deborah and I were both working, which at the time was Mississauga and Oakville, so we decided to look for a nice Jewish community that was going to welcome us and our diverse family."

Occupations: Deborah works at a major global company in supply chain and purchasing; Zavi is an independent real estate broker.

Deborah's bio: Deborah was born and raised in Innisfil, Ontario. She received an undergraduate degree in earth and oceanic studies and her masters in material science. While on sabbatical at the age of 27, Deborah found herself in Ecuador working as a white water rafting guide. She went on to work in sales and development in the flower industry. When an opportunity arose to adopt a newborn Ecuadorian baby boy, "in a true bashert moment," she took it, and Israel (Issy) came into her life. They returned to Canada when Issy was four-and-a-half years old because "I wanted a father for him and a husband for myself."

Zavi's bio: Zavi was born and raised in Montreal. He attended Florida Atlantic University, where he studied international business. He worked in property management and has a real estate brokers license in Quebec and Ontario.



The Wolman Family: Mitzi, Zavi, Israel, Deborah and Honey in front of their Dundas home.

The Meeting: The year was 2004. At work one day Deborah noticed her assistant chatting online with "a nice looking Jewish man." Deborah: "I asked, 'is he single' and he said 'yes.' I said hook me up."

Zavi: "It was nice to get a phone call asking me out and on our first date she made me dinner at her place. We hit it off right away."

The Children: Israel enjoys attending the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. Each morning he wakes up at 6:30 a.m. and on good weather days, rides his bike along 10 km of the rail trail to school so that he can get there

in time for morning minyan and his school breakfast club. "He's very social," said Zavi. This fall, Mitzi, who was born in Toronto, will enter the Junior Kindergarten program. Honey, born at McMaster Children's Hospital, is "a very calm and gentle baby," according to Deborah. What's it like for Israel to have two little sisters? "He probably would have preferred to have two little brothers," said Zavi, "but he's very caring so he loves his sisters."

Daily routine: Before her maternity leave, Deborah's job required her to travel overseas

on a regular basis, "so Zavi's the morning guy." Zavi gets the kids out of bed at 6:30 a.m. prepares breakfast and lunch and gets the kids off to school. He picks them up at around 3:45 p.m. and either takes them home or to their extra-curricular activities. Then it's home, where he prepares dinner and puts them to bed. While Deborah will sometimes make a special recipe she learned in South America, Zavi is generally in charge of meal preparation. "I like food and I know how I like it prepared so I take my time with the kids' lunches..." The parents at school are all enthralled on how precise and elaborate I make the kids' lunches."

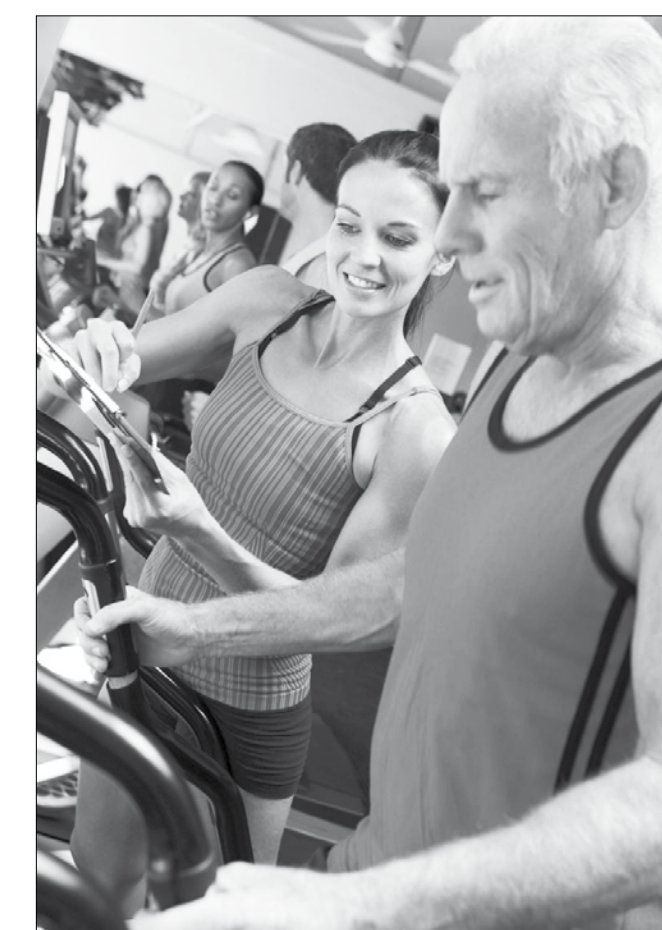
Community: The Wolmans, who consider themselves "traditional," are members of the Adas Israel. They try to get to synagogue as often as possible, about once a month and on Jewish holidays. While Zavi himself attended Jewish day school, Deborah is self-taught. "Everything I know about Judaism I learned basically in the last seven to nine years. When I adopted Issy I started to delve more into religion." Enrolling Issy in Jewish day school was a commitment they made to the Beit Din (rabbinical court) in Montreal, which is supervising Issy's conversion. Issy will take on his own religious commitments at the age of 13 when his conversion is complete.

Dreams: "A much slower pace of life," said Deborah, "To have a family business that we'll be able to pass on to our children."

God: Asked if they believe in a supreme being, "absolutely," said Deborah. "Yes," said Zavi.

Happiness quotient: (scale of 1-10): Zavi - 5; "I'd say we're about halfway." Deborah, agreeing, "I believe you make your own happiness. If you're waiting for someone to make you happy, it's not going to happen."

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Feature

Unwitting accessories

How Hamilton Olympians unintentionally helped terrorists at 1972 Munich Games

by STEVEN BROCK, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

This September marks the 40th anniversary of the murder of eleven Israeli athletes at the 1972 summer Olympic Games in Munich. In what was arguably the most brazen act of terrorism in history, eight Black September extremists gained entry into the Olympic village compound to carry out their horrific deed. Until recently, no one realized that it was four Canadian athletes from Hamilton that unwittingly helped the gunmen over the fence. Four decades later, the story is still as unbelievable as it is tragic.

The games were already well into their second week. The West German government went to great lengths to promote these as the "Happy Games" in an effort to help erase the world's memory of the Nazi regime and more specifically the 1936 Berlin Olympics, where Hitler exploited the games in an attempt to demonstrate the superiority of the German people and Aryan race. Security at the Munich games was almost non-existent, lest the overt presence of police and military bring back disturbing images of the war.

At about 4:30 in the morning of Tuesday, September 5, eight heavily-armed Arab terrorists climbed the two-metre high chain link fence surrounding the Olympic village and attacked the Israeli athletes while they slept in their dormitory. Killing two members of the team during the initial attack, the terrorists held nine hostages while demanding the release of more than 200 prisoners from Israeli prisons. For the next 18 hours, the hostages were held in their room, tied to the beds as the games continued and negotiations ensued. In their attempt to maintain a sense of normalcy, the Olympic committee did not even evacuate the village complex. Athletes from other countries sat on their balconies watching the events unfold. Through the windows of the Israeli apartment, they were easily able to see the terrorists brandishing their machine guns.

The Israeli government held to their long-standing policy of

non-negotiation with terrorists and flatly refused to concede to any of the demands. As the day wore on and evening began to fall, the terrorists issued a new demand. They wanted a plane to transport them and the hostages to Egypt. The German authorities agreed. The terrorists and the hostages were taken to a military airbase where a jet was waiting. In works at the airbase was an ill-conceived plan to capture the terrorists and free the hostages. Five sharpshooters were deployed around the plane, and armed German police officers dressed as flight crew were waiting in the cockpit. However, as two helicopters carrying the Israelis and their captors arrived at the airport, the officers stationed aboard the plane decided to abandon the mission and literally ran away. The ambush was doomed even before it started. The remaining nine Israelis, five of the eight terrorists and a German police officer were killed in the ensuing battle. The three surviving Arab terrorists were taken into German custody.

Seven weeks later on October 29, Lufthansa flight 615 was hijacked with demands for the release of the three surviving gunmen who were now awaiting trial in Germany. In what has been largely speculated to have been a set-up, the German government released the terrorists without blinking an eye. They were flown to Libya and treated to a hero's welcome.

Although never admitted to by authorities, it is widely believed that Israeli agents eventually hunted down and murdered the planners of the Munich hostage-taking and two of the three remaining gunmen. The lone survivor, Jamal Al-Gashey, is still in hiding somewhere in North Africa.

In 1999, while filming his award winning documentary One Day in September, Scottish-born director Kevin MacDonald tracked down and interviewed Al-Gashey. In the film, Al-Gashey sneeringly stated that the terrorists were unwittingly helped over the Olympic village fence by "a group of American athletes who were sneaking in after a night out." He went on to claim,

"... the Canadians had gotten into the habit of scaling the fence closest to their rooms, just opposite from where the Israelis were quartered ... As they got ready for bed, they heard gunshots which at the time, they had mistaken for firecrackers."

"The funny thing is we actually helped each other to climb over." It was never determined who these American athletes were.

In April 2012, veteran Toronto Star sports columnist Cathal Kelly filed an article and interview with Robert Thompson, a member of the 1972 Canadian Olympic men's water polo team. In it Thompson revealed that it was actually Canadian athletes and not Americans who helped the gunmen over the Olympic village fence in the early hours of that fateful morning.

The 1960s and early '70s saw the development of a competitive Canadian men's water polo team. Although water polo had been an Olympic sport since the second modern summer games in 1900, a Canadian team had never qualified. In 1972, they missed entry into the games after placing just behind the 16 competing teams. However, just before the start of the games, the Brazilian team dropped out, leaving place for one additional country in the roster. Canada got the call, and quickly put together a team to compete in Munich. Five members of the Canadian squad hailed from the venerable Hamilton Aquatic Club.

Canada made its Olympic water polo debut during the first week of competition. Losing all five of its games to more prepared teams from Yugoslavia, Mexico, USA, Romania and Cuba, they were officially eliminated from medal contention by August 31st. After their competition was done, the team stayed on to enjoy the balance of the games and celebrations.

While the eyes of the world were focused on the summer games, a different sports scenario was capturing the attention of Canadian and Soviet sport fans. Concurrent with the Olympics was the 1972 Canada-Soviet Hockey Summit Series. On September 4th, the Canadian hockey team avenged their opening game loss to the Russians by beating them 4 to 1. A group of Canadians had watched the game from the CBC Media Centre in the Olympic Park. The night of celebration ended

with four Hamilton members of the water polo team, Thompson, Rick Pugliese, David Hart and Jack Gaudie were among a larger group walking back to their Olympic Village dormitories at about 4:20 a.m. Because their dorms were located at the rear of the village, rather than walking all the way around to the front gate the Canadians had gotten into the habit of scaling the fence closest to their rooms, just opposite from where the Israelis were quartered. This was common amid the lax security and anyone who looked like they belonged was never challenged for ID or other credentials. Over the fence went the four Hamiltonians, along with a number of others, including eight Palestinians dressed in tracksuits carrying sport-style duffel bags.

As the Canadians got ready for bed, they heard gunshots which at the time, they had mistaken for firecrackers. In the Star article, Hart recalled "We thought someone had won a medal and was celebrating." When they awoke the next morning, the full impact of what was unfolding became apparent, although the atmosphere all around the Olympic site remained business as usual. After the botched attempt to free the hostages, the games were suspended for one day before resuming to completion.

It would appear that Thompson and his teammates never spoke about what happened at the fence before this year. That the terrorists were helped over by English-speaking athletes only became known in 1999, during the Al-Gashey interview for the film. The fact that it was the Hamilton water polo players who helped them was only revealed through Thompson's interview to the Star.

There was no way that they could have known whom they were helping into the village and no one could fault them. The question that remains is, "Why haven't they spoken up before now?" Hart summed it up best, "I may have blocked it out at the time ... It was a dream to go the Olympic Games and someone destroyed that dream."



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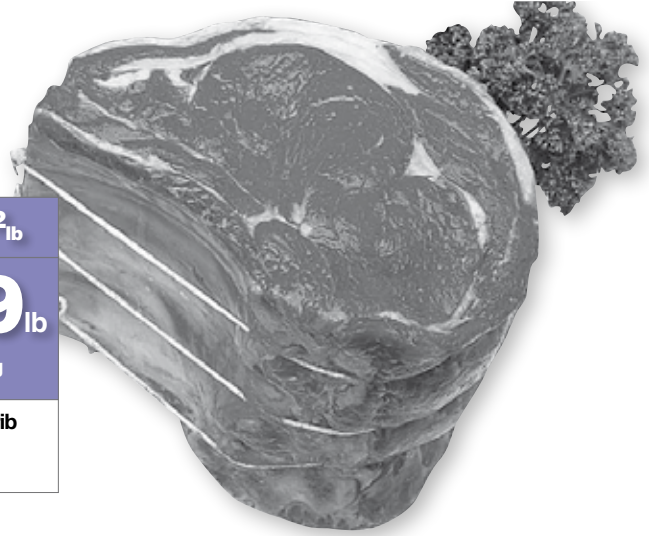




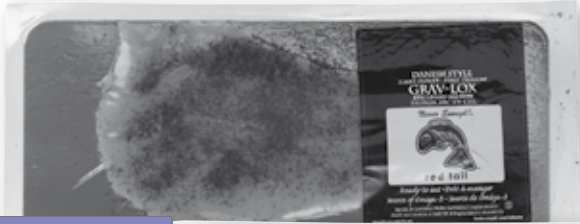
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