

Hamilton Jewish News

SERVING HAMILTON WENTWORTH AND AREA

SEPTEMBER 2006 VOL 21:1

TISHREI 5767

UJA Federation of Hamilton
wishes you a

*Healthy & Happy
New Year*



Dates To Remember

Participate In A
North American Wide

**SUPER
SUNDAY**

for the

**Israel
Emergency
Campaign**



Sunday, Sept 17

at

The Morris Law Group

125 Main St. E.

(Parking Next Door)

Call Elaine at

905-628-0998

to volunteer

**Lisa Morris
Honorary Chair**

Rosh Hashana

Saturday, Sept 23, 2006

Sunday, Sept 24, 2006

Yom Kippur

Monday, Oct 2, 2006

UJA Federation Emergency Campaign Now Underway

Effort combines Israel crisis and local needs

"The people of Israel have been thrust into a crisis it didn't anticipate, and so have we. Nevertheless, I have complete faith that both Israel and the Hamilton Jewish community will rise to the many challenges ahead." These words spoken by Leslie Lasky, president of UJA Federation of Hamilton, set the tone for the UJA Federation Solidarity rally with Israel held at the Adas Israel on July 27. The rally, which also served as the launch of the UJA 2007 Israel Emergency Campaign, attracted 600.

Explaining the strategy of combining the UJA Campaign launch with the crisis in Israel, Shirley Molot, UJA Federation Vice President for Financial Resources Development said,

"We normally launch the UJA Annual Campaign at the end of the High Holy Days. Because of the rocket attacks on Israel in July and Israel's request for immediate financial assistance, we needed to launch an 'emergency campaign' right away. However, it didn't make the best sense to conduct an 'emergency campaign' now and then launch a campaign for local needs eight weeks from



Members of the UJA Cabinet Women's Division: From left to right, Andrea Molot, Dana Horwood, Debbie Strub, Jo-Ann Pomerantz and Shirley Molot.

now. Instead, we decided to run the campaigns concurrently in order to maximize donor response and to minimize the

stress on volunteer canvassers."

Larry Levin and Jo-Ann Pomerantz, returning to co-chair the Men's and Women's UJA Campaigns, stressed the need for donors to remember that the campaign is not about Israel's emergency needs alone. Local needs cannot be ignored this year.

They said, "The truth is that we also have serious and ongoing needs right here in Hamilton. All of our schools, Jewish Social Services, the Community Center, Jewish Campus Life, Israel Experience, Community Relations, just to name a few local services, all depend on UJA support to operate every day. Our local needs are also very important. We do need to dig a little deeper to ensure we meet our obligations to both local and overseas needs."

So far, the overall community response has been very positive. Canvasser, Marlene Gelber, recently called the UJA Federation office to report, "It's been so positive and a real inspiration to work on this year's campaign. People know there's a need and are not hesitating about giving an extra 50% over last year's pledge, and paying it immediately."

Another measure of the community's response to the emergency situation is how

quickly a volunteer Emergency Campaign Cabinet was recruited.

"Our Campaign Cabinet came together very quickly. Everybody who was approached agreed to serve" explained UJA Federation Executive Director, Gerald Fisher, adding,

"This campaign cabinet is the strongest UJA leadership group I have worked with in my five years of service to the Hamilton Jewish community. Their leadership is the most valuable asset the campaign could possibly have."

Serving with Shirley Molot, the Campaign Cabinet includes: **Andrea Molot, Benjy Katz, Danna Horwood, David Horwood, David Somer, Debbie Strub, Harvey Katz, Jay State, Jo-Ann Pomerantz, Larry Levin, Michael Kam, Rick Black and Ron Kaplan.** In addition to their Cabinet responsibilities, Larry Levin and Michael Kam are co-chairing the UJA Men's Campaign. Jo-Ann Pomerantz and Debbie Strub are co-chairing the UJA Women's Campaign. **Rabbi Mordechai Green and Tom Weisz** have agreed to co-chair major gifts – strictly for the Israel Emergency Campaign.

The Campaign cabinet stresses several critical issues:

cont'd on page 16

UJA Campaign Team Crosses Generational Divide

When Shirley Molot describes the individuals serving on this year's UJA Campaign Cabinet, it is hard not to be caught up in her enthusiasm. Ms. Molot, who serves as Federation's Vice President for Financial Resources Development, cannot say enough about this year's campaign cabinet, whose members cross the generational divide.

She praised Dr. Larry Levin and Jo-Ann Pomerantz for heading up the Men's and Women's Division for the third consecutive year, calling their willingness to step up "incredible" and "beyond the call of duty." Most exciting is that both Ms. Pomerantz and Dr. Levin will be mentoring a number of younger people who have stepped up to leadership positions, a perfect formula for building succession planning and continuity in the community's lay leadership.

Partnering as co-chairs with Dr. Levin and Ms. Pomerantz are Michael Kam and Debbie Strub, whom Ms. Molot describes as "young, fresh and energetic."

The team itself, includes the four co-chairs, Ms Molot and Benjy Katz, Danna Horwood, David Horwood, Andrea Molot, David Somer, Harvey Katz, Jay State, Rick Black and Ron Kaplan.

Ms. Molot described cabinet meetings as "exciting", adding, "The beautiful part of it is that these people are committed by their dollars and their time. It's exciting to be at the table with them. They are setting an example for that kind of giving and they see the need in the community for UJA and Federation."

With the mentorship opportunities available from this year's cabinet make-up, Ms. Molot is optimistic that the groundwork is being laid for a team that will carry on from one year to the next as it continues to bring others in.

With the outstanding senior leadership modeled by Larry Levin, Jo-Ann Pomerantz and Shirley Molot, her optimism seems well-founded.

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Editorial

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

Deadline for submissions for the next edition of the HJN is **Nov. 15, 2006.**

UJA Federation of Hamilton

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Leslie Lasky

Past President
Bonnie Loewith

UJA Campaign Co-Chairs
Dr. Larry Levin
Michael Kam

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Co-Chairs**
Jo-Ann Pomerantz
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Weisz-Asa, Barry Yellin.

Hamilton community challenged to meet extraordinary needs at home and in Israel.

The people and State of Israel have been thrust into a war it did not seek, did not anticipate and did not start. The aftermath of this horrid conflict provides us all with a landscape we could not have imagined eight weeks ago. Smoldering ruins of towns, villages and farming communities, hundreds of thousands of Israeli refugees, the loss of innocent life, the thousands of wounded, the shell shocked faces, the terrified children, the broken economy, only scratch the surface of the reality we now encounter.

The areas of Israel most deeply affected are the very areas that Canadian Jewish Communities have been twinned with for many years. Through the United Israel Appeal "Coast to Coast" partnership, Canadian philanthropy has built dozens of schools, community centers and welcoming facilities for new immigrants. The communities hit the hardest... as seen on CNN – Nahariyah, Kiryat Sh'mona, Safed, Metullah and others are the very places that the Canadian Jewish Community has done so much to build. Now we are being asked to build them again.

As difficult as the situation now seems, we willingly accept our obligations to support the people of Israel with even greater passion and effectiveness than ever before. We already have the mechanisms to make an immediate difference. The question is whether we have the will to provide the financial and human resources required to do the job.

As you know, we annually raise and allocate money to support human services, educational programs and services for new immigrants in Israel. These programs and services are provided by our organizational partners in Israel; the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). From the moment the rockets first started to fall, JAFI and JDC have been right on the ground providing emergency services and assessing what needs to be done in the intermediate and longer term.

Their professionalism and capabilities are both proven and remarkable. The question they face... but only we can answer... is whether or not they will have the financial resources required to do the job.

Hamilton is not a large Jewish community, but it has the resources to make a real difference. It also has a wonderful group of UJA volunteers who have mobilized to help make our community response both swift and generous. Now it is up to each and every one of us to send a message to all Israelis... and to Sheik Nasrallah... that we are determined to ensure that normal life will return to northern Israel and most importantly....that Israel will never stand alone.

All that being said, the truth is that we also have serious and ongoing needs right here in Hamilton. All of our schools, Jewish Social Services, the Community Center, Jewish Campus Life, Israel Experience, just to name a few local services, all depend on UJA support to operate every day. We cannot sacrifice those needs because of the crisis in Israel. We need to dig a little deeper to ensure we meet our obligations to both local and overseas needs.

You can help right now... as a donor and as a volunteer. When you are asked, please demonstrate your generosity. If you want to help as a volunteer, please call us at 905-648-0605, extension 306.

Federation Appoints Vivienne Epstein as Vice President, Human Resources Division

UJA Federation is delighted to announce that Vivienne Epstein has agreed to serve as Vice President Human Resources Division, a portfolio that includes volunteer recruitment, board orientation and skill development. "My approach will be to put the greatest emphasis on board orientation and to nurture board members so that they will view their position as a meaningful contribution to the Jewish community", she said, adding that "sitting on a board should not be viewed as a burden of responsibility but should facilitate personal development and personal leadership development with each member being encouraged to contribute to the community in their own unique way." Ms. Epstein, herself, through years of involvement in a number of capacities at Federation, is a model for the values she hopes to impart. We wish her much success in this endeavour.



UJA FEDERATION TRIBUTE CARDS CALL 905-648-0605

JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

In Memory Of

ALBERT COHEN – Phil & Daphne Leon. **HARRY KWITCO** – Stan Dermer, Carol & Lester Krames, Christine Nusca. **ALAN RESLER** – Hilda & Moische Gold. **MADLYN CANTOR** – Madeleine, Monte & Deanna Levy. **Father of Anne Barrs** – Marlene Ziser. **CHARLES STEINBERG** – Phil & Daphne Leon. **MALIE PEREZ** – Heather & Len Ritter and family. **HARRY KOFFMAN** – Paul & Helen Hanover. **NELLI KOMISSAROV** – Carol & Lester Krames. **DORA ROSEN** – Dolly & Ralph Cohen, Ruth & Manny Fine, Carol & Lester Krames. **Son-in-law of Helen Schlotter** – Ruth & Manny Fine, Suzanne Goldflus and family, Carol & Lester Krames, JSS Workshop. **Brother of Mrs. Tzina Reich** – Carol & Lester Krames. **Son of Rabbi & Mrs. A. Yacobovitch** – Carol & Lester Krames. **ROSE COWITZ** – Dolly & Ralph Cohen, Carol & Lester Krames. **MAX NATHAN** – Louise & Oded Klinghoffer, Sam & Odette Brownstone. **HERB SCHREIBER** – Sam & Odette Brownstone. **ESTHER EISENSTEIN** – Sam & Odette Brownstone. **Mother of Joyce Muller** – Moische & Hilda Gold. **Husband of Mimi Bass** – Moische & Hilda Gold. **PHIL YANOVER** – Sam & Odette Brownstone

Special Occasion

LYNNE CZUTRIN – best wishes on your retirement – Heather & Len Ritter. **NANCY & BRIAN SOMER** – birth of grandchildren – Sam & Odette Brownstone. **RABBI & FAIGJI ITKIN** – birth of grandchildren – Sam & Odette Brownstone. **SAM & ANNA SZPIRGAS** – Sam & Odette Brownstone. **ODETTE BROWNSTONE** – Happy Birthday – Carol & Lester Krames. **SAM YANOVER** – 90th Birthday – Sol Cohen, Paul & Helen Hanover, Shirley & Irving Levine. **TORY METZGER** – Mazel Tov on your conversion – Laura & Stuart Mestelman. **HARRY & ELSA ROSENBERG** – 60th Wedding Anniversary – Paul & Helen Hanover. **MR. & MRS. BARRY KOFFMAN** – 60th Wedding Anniversary – Paul & Helen Hanover. **PAUL & SUSAN ROTH** – birth of grandson – Vender Family. **LABE MORRIS** – engagement of granddaughter – Dorothy Rosenthal. **MANNY FURMAN** – 80th Birthday – Ida Shuman, Lee Cohen, Dorothy Rosenthal. **PHILIP PERELGUT** – Happy Birthday – Gwen & Harvey Schwab. **NANCY & BRIAN SOMER** – birth of grandson – Francine & Moische Lindenberg and family. **PAUL & SUSAN ROTH** – engagement of daughter Leah to Aaron – Louise & Oded Klinghoffer and family. **RISE SEGALL & MURRAY SOICHER** – Happy Anniversary – Gordon & Ina Segall. **SALLY LAX** – Special Birthday – Nancy & Allen Greenspoon. **SID VAISLER** – 90th Birthday – Nancy & Allen Greenspoon

In Appreciation

MICHELE FINKELSTEIN – Leslie Selevan. **DALIA & PHILIP KRISZENFELD** – Carol & Lester Krames. **JOCELYN KATZ** – Andrea Zians. **RABBI EISENSTEIN** – in honour of all your accomplishments – Joy Foster. **RABBI DANIEL GREEN** – Sam & Odette Brownstone.

Speedy Recovery

ISABEL BURSTEIN – Shirley & Irving Levine. **VERA CHAIMOVITZ** – Ruth & Manny Fine. **REVA GEROFOSKY** – Ida Shuman. **DON GORDON** – Carol & Lester Krames. **RITA SHAPIRO** – Carol & Lester Krames. **AARON SHIFFMAN** – Carol & Lester Krames. **MOURA WOLPERT** – David & Sheila Burman. **CHUCK MATCHEN** – David & Sheila Burman, Sam & Odette Brownstone. **FANNIE DAVINE** – Sam & Odette Brownstone

RALPH TRAVIS ISRAEL EXPERIENCE FUND

In Memory Of

ESTHER EISENSTEIN – Corinne Travis

Mazel Tov

MR. & MRS. JOEL COHEN – birth of twin grand-daughters – Corinne Travis. **HARVEY & SHELLEY WAXMAN** – Jo-anna's marriage – Corinne Travis. **BARBARA LASKIN** – grandson's graduation – Corinne Travis. **CARL & RANDY LASKIN** – Mathew's graduation – Corinne Travis.

Get Well Wishes

EDYTHE ROCHIN – Corinne Travis

THE STRUGGLE HAS JUST BEGUN

TOGETHER WITH ISRAEL. TOGETHER AS ONE

The emergency facing Israel involves billions of dollars in recovery expenses and the incalculable cost of human suffering.

UJA Federation of Hamilton's Israel Emergency Campaign is providing desperately needed social services for Israelis on the firing line and, at the same time, maintaining our vital support for local needs here at home.

Here are some of the many short and long term Israeli needs that our community campaign is funding

For Children

- Trauma care and counselling
- Acquisition of mobile activity vans to keep kids busy in shelters when they're forced to seek refuge

For the Vulnerable

- Specialized emergency assistance for the elderly and for the physically or developmentally disabled
- Trauma counselling for new immigrants conducted in their mother tongue
- Temporary housing for the uprooted

For Everyone

- A dedicated fund for victims and their families
- Vocational training and small business loans for the newly unemployed
- Re-equipping damaged community services such as community centres, day cares and homes for the elderly
- Upgrading emergency vehicles such as fire trucks and ambulances



Participate In A North American Wide **Super Sunday** on **Sunday, Sept 17**
 The Morris Law Group, 125 Main St. E. Call Elaine at 905-628-0998 or Chris at 905-648-0605 to volunteer

To make your Israel Emergency Campaign contribution, please call 905-648-0605 or donate online at www.jewishhamilton.org

UJA FEDERATION
ISRAEL
 EMERGENCY
 CAMPAIGN 2007

Editorial

UJA Federation of Hamilton presents

Holocaust Education Week

UJA Federation of Hamilton will hold its first Annual Holocaust Education Week, **November 5 – 9th 2006**. The Holocaust Education Committee has planned three exciting programs for this internationally observed week of Holocaust education and commemoration. UJA Federation plays an instrumental role in educating our community on the meaning of the Holocaust and to apply the lessons of yesterday to prevent prejudice and racism today. With the support of these community partners, we will have the opportunity to outreach to the wider community and bring people together from across a broad spectrum of diverse religions and backgrounds to develop a further understanding of the horrors of the Holocaust. It is our goal to build and strengthen our community and our capacity for promoting mutual respect and fellowship in Hamilton.

Sunday, November 5th

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Arnold Ages, Professor Emeritus of French Language and Literature, University of Waterloo. He will speak about the historic root of anti-Semitism that led to the Holocaust and how we can foster religious tolerance and understanding today. Question and answer period to follow. Program begins at 7:30 p.m., no admission fee.

Place: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1107 Main Street West, Hamilton; Co-sponsored by Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Tuesday, November 7th

Holocaust Survivor and award winning co-author "From Victims to Victors" Peter Silverman will speak about the Jewish/Russian Partisan Brigade and his participation in this armed resistance movement. He is the recipient of medals for bravery and heroism from seven different countries. Question and answer period to follow. Program begins at 7:30 p.m., no admission fee.

Place: Adas Israel Synagogue 125 Cline Avenue South, Hamilton; Co-sponsored by the Adas Israel Synagogue.

Thursday, November 9th

The Film *Fateless* - A screening to commemorate Kristallnacht. Based on the 2002 Nobel Prize-winning novel, a memoir by Imre Kertesz, this sweeping drama chronicles the attempts of Gyuri Koves, a 14-year-old Hungarian Jewish boy, to reconcile the unimaginable horror of having lived in a German concentration camp. A true testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Program begins at 7:10 p.m., \$10/adults \$8/seniors & students.

Place: Westdale Theatre, 1014 King Street West, Hamilton. Co-sponsored by the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair

MICHELE FINKELSTEIN

Committee Members

AARON ORKIN, ANNIE SHINEHOFT, ARCHIE LIEBERMAN, BEV LASKY, CINDY MARK, ELAINE LEVINE (Staff), FERN SZPIRGLAS, GILDA ENNIS, HEATHER RITTER, JUDY SCHWARTZ, MADELEINE LEVY (Chair - Asper Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program), NADIA ROSA, SUE SCHIFF, WILLIAM STEEN (Chair- Holocaust Education Week)

We are pleased to welcome our new members:

DENNIS NASH, DORIS SCHULMAN, SUZANNE GOLDFLUS

Westdale Delicatessen is pleased to announce

We now carry Gryfe's Bagels

assorted varieties, such as flax, whole wheat, stone ground cinamon raisin, poppyseed, sesame seed bagels & more (special - mini rolls \$2.50 per dozen)

Fresh baked daily or freshly baked on demand

or... buy them frozen (at a lower price) and bake them for 5 minutes

We also have a wide range of homemade soups and salads (parve), prepared without preservatives or additives (eat in or take home) such as cabbage soup, potato leek & yams, potato & broccoli, rice & lentils, bean & barley, vegetable & more

We want to wish our friends and the entire Jewish community

A Healthy & Happy New Year

Necha & Meir Kaidar

Westdale Delicatessen

893 King St. West in Hamilton 905-529-2605

Open Sunday to Friday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program

UJA Federation of Hamilton, through the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program for High School Students, plays an instrumental role in educating students on the meaning of the Holocaust ... as well as the importance of upholding human rights everywhere.

We are very excited to be expanding our program for May 2007 to include students from the Hamilton- Wentworth District School Board and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. This will be a collaborative initiative between UJA Federation and the two boards. Our goal is to have 54 students participate in the educational component of the program together and then to travel to Washington, D.C. The makeup of the 54 students will be drawn, not only from the Jewish community, but from across participating schools, as well as students from our Aboriginal and ethnic communities.

What an amazing journey this will be. The objectives of the Asper Program are to promote tolerance and sensitize Canadian high school students to the consequences of racism, including gaining an understanding of the vital role each person plays in the defense of human rights. In addition to bearing witness, participants will be capable of sharing their learning with others. This initiative takes a cross-cultural approach to addressing human rights issues. Educating our young peo-

ple is the first best step we can take to ensure a world of tolerance, diversity and respect for the human rights of everyone.

The program consists of: 16-18 hours of compulsory training sessions led by a project team of experienced educators.

- **A trip to Washington, D.C.** in the spring of 2007. A highlight of this trip is a visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- **Community Service:** Each student participant in the program is expected to undertake a volunteer project, consisting of at least 16 hours of community service. All projects must be approved by the project team coordinator. The work can be carried out at any time prior to the commencement of the following school year
- **Graduation:** The last component of the program is an evening graduation ceremony held to present a Memorandum for Personal Responsibility to each student.

Do not miss out on this outstanding opportunity of being part of a shared multi-cultural, school board wide supported collaboration of students, studying human rights and Holocaust education together available to our students in grades 9, 10 & 11. Watch for further details in October on our website: www.jewishhamilton.org

Who deserves the most from your estate... The government or your heirs?

With a little pre-planning
the choice can be yours.

Many people don't realize the tax liabilities hidden within their estate. Did you know that at death your property is assessed at fair market value and any capital gains are taxed? While your primary residence is exempt, the family cottage is not. The value of your RRSP or RRIF is also taken into income and fully taxed.*

The resulting taxes can be substantial, and to cover the costs your heirs may be forced to sell property or liquidate investments. But with a well-designed estate plan, you can preserve these assets and make sure they are distributed according to your wishes. If you'd like an assessment of the tax liabilities in your estate or want to learn about developing an estate plan to preserve your assets, please contact:

Murray R. Weaver

Senior Investment Advisor

Vice President

(905) 570-1782

Art A. Fairrie

Investment Advisor

Vice President

(905) 570-8622

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*Net death benefit equals insurance policy's death benefit plus cash value less the adjusted cost basis of the corporation's interest in the policy.

Editorial

HAMILTON HEBREW HIGH: Get The Credit You Deserve!

COURSE SELECTIONS

I. Hebrew Language

Grade 9 (LYIAD) - Tuesdays @ 3:45 - 6:15 pm

Grade 10 (LYIBO) - Thursdays @ 5:15 - 7:45 pm

If you don't use it... you loose it! Learn how to communicate in Hebrew. Develop a proficiency in both oral and written Hebrew.

II. Grade 10: Ethical Dilemmas (Religious Studies: HRE23)

Thursdays @ 5:15 - 7:45 pm

Be equipped to face the ethical challenges of modern life. Explore current ethical dilemmas in the realms of medicine, business and family dynamics from a uniquely Jewish perspective. This course is designed to probe the ethical foundations of Jewish belief and show their relevance for everyday life.

Open to Grade 9 & 10 students

III. Grade 11: Roots & History (Religious Studies: HRE33)

Tuesdays @ 5:15 - 7:45 pm

See how a story can change the world! Investigate the Bible through the eyes of classical commentaries and learn how to apply their teachings to everyday life. This course will enable students to appreciate the history, culture, and traditions of Judaism.

Open to Grade 10 & 11 students

IV. Grade 12 U: Philosophy (Course Code: HZT4U)

Thursdays @ 5:15 - 7:45 pm

Questions and Theories, Grade 12 University Preparations

Investigate the answers to some of life's most important & puzzling questions: What is a person? What is a meaningful life? What are good and evil? What is a just society? What is beauty? This course addresses the main areas of philosophy: metaphysics, logic, epistemology, and ethics. Students will learn critical-thinking skills and the main ideas expressed by philosophers from a variety of world traditions.

Teachers: Dr. Sam Ajzenstat, McMaster University, Dr. Alan Mendelson, McMaster University, Dr. Michael Kigel, PHD University of Toronto, Rabbi Dr. Phil Cohen; Prerequisites: Any university preparation course in social science or English.

FAQ's

What is Hamilton Hebrew High and what's in it for me?

Hebrew High is an after school for-credit Jewish Studies program for high school students in Grades 9-12. For the 2006/2007 school year, Hebrew High offers you a great way to learn and earn credit with five for credit courses, amazing topics, exciting events, retreats, and, yes, food. Our courses also use TV shows, movies, and multimedia to initiate discussions. Hebrew High has a warm and accepting environment and we approach everything with an open and honest mind.

Can I be a part of Hebrew High if I never attended a Jewish school?

Yes! Hebrew High is open to all Jewish public high school teens regardless of religious affiliation, background or previous Jewish education. Hebrew High has a warm and accepting environment and we approach everything with an open and honest mind.



Canadian Jewish Congress
Congrès juif canadien

Challenging CUPE Ontario on Divestment

In late May of this year, the Ontario division of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) held a convention, at which its members adopted Resolution 50 – a resolution supporting the “international campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel.” The resolution also accuses Israel of employing “apartheid-like practices” in its treatment of the Palestinian people. In response, Canadian Jewish Congress and its partners in advocacy have worked to expose the inherent unfairness and factual incorrectness of CUPE Ontario’s position, with much success.

The resolution, which, according to published reports of the convention, passed with “unanimous” approval by the membership in attendance, was deeply flawed. It demonstrated significant ignorance of the complex situation in the Middle East on a number of counts, but none more notably or more egregiously than in its characterization of Israel as an “apartheid state.” By describing Israel in this way, CUPE Ontario attempted to demonize Israel by making a direct comparison to racist South Africa.

This comparison is blatantly false and purposely inflammatory. As the only true democracy in the region, Israel accords more than 1.5 million Israeli Arab citizens full democratic rights – they vote in elections, serve in the Knesset (Israeli parliament), sit on the High Court, and are full-fledged members of trade unions. This is far more in the way of rights than is offered to citizens of numerous other Arab countries.

The text of Resolution 50 calls the security barrier erected by Israel an “Apartheid Wall,” but fails to note that the barrier was built as a response to a deadly campaign of Palestinian terror that has killed or wounded thousands of innocent Israeli men, women and children. Nor does it make note of the fact that the security barrier has provided unprecedented protection by significantly reducing Palestinian terror attacks in Israel.

In response to Resolution 50’s provocative stance, CJC worked diligently in partnership with colleagues at the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) and in coordination with the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA) to channel the concerns of the Jewish community and the broader Canadian community on this issue and mobilize public discourse. The media published scores of articles, letters to the editor and op-ed pieces representing the position of those who support Israel. The strength of Ontario Jewry’s conviction was clear, and was supported by the majority of fair-minded Canadians who understand that it is inappropriate to lay the blame at the feet of Israel for all the issues in the Middle East. This included a vast majority of the media, which was highly critical of CUPE Ontario’s position. Such consensus on an issue involving the Middle East is extremely rare. It was a clear indication of just how wrong-headed Resolution 50 truly was, and of the effectiveness of CJC in directing attention to its deficiencies.

CJC was also in direct contact with many representatives of CUPE Ontario locals who were uncomfortable with the resolution to help them educate fellow employees on the flaws in Resolution 50, and build new relationships within the labour movement. Building on previously developed relationships, we were also in contact with representatives of CUPE on a national level, who assured us they did not support the position of CUPE Ontario.

It is important to note that CJC’s concerns in this matter were neither with the labour movement in general nor with CUPE Ontario in particular. CJC and the Jewish community have a long history of good relations with the labour movement, and that has not changed. Our objection to the resolution was focused very specifically on its fundamental errors and the bias that was manifest in its text. Rather than engage in such vitriol, CUPE Ontario would have better served the cause of peace by looking to partner with Israeli and Palestinian unions to create programs that improve workers rights.

Going forward, the task of CJC is to strengthen our relationships with union leaders at both the national and regional levels, where possible. It is also the responsibility of individuals within the Ontario Jewish community to seek out opportunities to become more involved in their unions at a local level. It is through this grassroots involvement that we can encourage dialogue, engage in discussion, and craft future resolutions that have the potential to build peace rather than discord.

*Joel Richler, Chair
Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region*



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Volunteer Recognition

Honouring Our Community's Volunteers

Voluntarism is at the heart of what makes Hamilton's Jewish community so vibrant. Volunteers truly make a difference! They set an example for the rest of the community in how to LIVE Generously. Volunteers are the foundation of our community organizations and the glue that binds us together. It is because of all the time and energy selflessly donated by so many volunteers that we are dedicating this issue of the Hamilton Jewish News to the following outstanding volunteers who were nominated by their respective organizations. The following pages honour those who have gone beyond the expected. Transcending age, gender or profession these volunteers continue to personify the Jewish value of Tikun Olam, repairing the world.

The Adas Israel Congregation Honours Jack Katz



The strength of a community is built upon the dedication, passion, and commitment of its members. At the Adas Israel, Mr. Jack Katz is the true embodiment of these values. The Katz family has historically been the one the pillars of our congregation from its very inception. The late Mr. Samuel Katz a"h, Jack's beloved father, was one of the founding members of Adas Israel and one of its most influential presidents. With quiet determination and strength of character Jack has enabled the congregation to carry on in its illustrious traditions and history.

For 48 years, the Adas Israel Men's Club Brotherhood Social has been an annual hallmark event of the general Hamilton community. In most years, the Mayor of Hamilton as well as many other dignitaries have been in attendance. While many similar events have faded into history, the Adas Brotherhood Social has withstood the test of time. Due to the selfless efforts of Jack, the Brotherhood Social has not only continued but has achieved unprecedented success in recent years. None of this would be possible without the single handed efforts of this great man. It is an honour for the Adas Israel Congregation to name Mr. Jack Katz as our Volunteer of the Year. He truly is an exceptional man.

Beth Jacob Synagogue Honours Denise Levinson



Beth Jacob Synagogue is delighted to nominate Denise Levinson, an exceptional volunteer, for special recognition. Denise and her husband Randy have demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to the Beth Jacob community by continuing to come to daily minyan beyond the mourning period for their beloved son, Michael and Denise's late mother. Denise has played a pivotal role in Beth Jacob's renewal over the last year by overseeing and putting her special creative flair into every social function. Denise is involved in a number of additional Beth

Jacob projects, including Out of The Cold, Sisterhood baking, Chanukah dinners, Purim Carnival, Beth Jacob's Film Night, succah decorating, and High Holiday seating. In responding to this honour Denise said, "Sometimes, something good can come out of difficult times. The group of us who attend daily minyans have become friends and we know how grateful others are when we make ten", adding, "It's exciting to be part of the renewal at Beth Jacob and it feels really good to give back." Denise's constant presence, her warmth, good cheer and compassionate nature has warmed many a heart and we are blessed to have her in our midst. *John Levy & Wendy Schneider*

Beth Tikvah Honours Nadia Rosa



Nadia Rosa was born in Bratislava in 1938. This was, at the time, part of Czechoslovakia. During the war her family lived in the ghetto in Bratislava. In 1944 the family went into hiding. Someone betrayed them and they were sent to Terezin. They were liberated in May of 1945. Nadia went to Slovak schools: elementary, high school and Jan Komeenius University. She did her graduate work at the Slovak Academy of Sciences, where she received her PhD in 1967. She continued her work in the bio-chemistry of micro-organisms. In 1968 Nadia, her parents and husband immigrated to Canada. Nadia's volunteer work is impressive.

In 1971 she joined ORT and eventually became president of the local board and later president of Canadian ORT. In the late 1980s she joined the Holocaust Remembrance Committee and in 1991 she became very involved in Holocaust education and continues to be active until today. Nadia has served as treasurer of Beth Tikvah for many years and is now chair of its board.

Chabad Lubavitch Hamilton Honours Michael Sugar



What makes Michael so special is that he continually gave of himself and motivated others to participate in Jewish activities on campus. He especially took great pride in boosting the number of students who participated in Friday night Shabbat dinners at Chabad. Michael also played a vital role in the outstanding success of Shabbat 100 which saw over 100 students gather for the first time ever on the McMaster campus for a shabbat dinner. He did all of this in addition to being a hardworking student and being involved in other volunteer work such as the Children's Hospital at McMaster. When the question was posed to Michael about what motivates him, he answered, "To put it simply, it's the potential of what can be."

Rabbi Zalman Itkin

The Hamilton Hebrew Academy Honours Lila Strub



The Hamilton Hebrew Academy is delighted to nominate Lila Strub as our special volunteer. Over the years, Lila's instrumental leadership has helped to enhance the educational experience of our students. As our PTA president and as a past member of the education committee her involvement and dedication has been inspirational. She has generously donated her time, energy and her efforts enriching the school life and environment of all the students at the HHA. No task was ever too small or too big as Lila so efficiently organized, and coordinated a myriad of projects ranging from the almost weekly Academy lunches to Purim carnivals to Rosh

Chodesh breakfasts and silent auctions. We salute you and cannot thank you enough, Lila, for your outstanding devotion to the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. You have helped make each day at the Academy- a beautiful day!

Lila writes, "For fifteen years the Hamilton Hebrew Academy has lovingly nurtured and enriched the daily lives of my three children. My commitment to the school is a meaningful way for me to say Todah Rabah and help to ensure the continuity of this wonderful institution."

Rivka Shaffir

Hadassah WIZO Honours Sara Rochweg



My first involvement as a volunteer began when I was first married. Along with several other new brides, we formed the Nordau Chapter of Hadassah. I held several executive positions, including president. Later, when the Nordau Chapter evolved into the Chai Chapter, I again assumed the role of president. Along the way, I became a member of the Hadassah-WIZO Council and acted as chair of several committees, including Youth Aliyah, and have held the position of Executive Treasurer for several years. While my children attended public school, I was active in the Home and School Association and held several positions on that executive, as well

as president of the Parent-Teachers Association of the Talmud Torah. I have canvassed for almost every major fund raising organization, as well as for the Shalom Village Annual Tea. I have always believed it is important to give to the community you live in and the rewards of volunteering are returned many times over. It has been a pleasure working with people I wouldn't have come in contact with otherwise, especially outside the Jewish community. I want to thank Hadassah-WIZO for the honour of representing them in this publication.

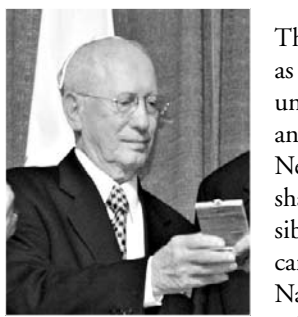
The Jewish Community Centre Honours Howard Katz



Howard Katz is that rare kind of person who through his innate goodness and selflessness has provided outstanding leadership and inspiration to others, in his many volunteer activities. He is the consummate role model who demonstrates a "cheerful dedication to serve the needs of his fellow man."

Howard writes, "Through the JCC I developed life long friendships. My late wife always told me I should have bought a camp because I enjoy working with kids on athletic and social events. I would like to see kids get the same thing out of the Centre that I got out of it."

The Jewish National Fund Honours Phil Rosenshein



The Jewish National Fund is proud to nominate Phil Rosenshein as its outstanding volunteer for this honour. Phil has been a volunteer for the JNF for more than 25 years. He has proven to be an unbeatable fund-raiser for JNF. Each year, he solicits ads for the Negev Dinner Tribute book and consistently takes on the lion's share of people and companies to contact. He takes his responsibilities seriously and not only tries to maximize each call but carefully reports his results. He is very committed to the Jewish National Fund and to Israel. In his own words, "I've always been a fundraiser and the State of Israel has always been important to

me." The JNF is fortunate to have volunteers like Phil Rosenshein.

Volunteer Recognition

Honouring Our Community's Volunteers

Jewish Social Services Honours Helen Schlotter



Helen began volunteering at Jewish Social Services 24 years ago, when, as a young widow with four teenaged children, she moved to Hamilton from Calgary. Since then, Helen has prepared weekly lunches and fancy coffee breaks for JSS programs at our Delaware Avenue, Fairview School, JCC and current location. She is organized and does everything with a smile and good humour. Even when Helen is under stress (she recently lost her son-in-law at a very young age) she still worries about preparing lunch for our choir and workshop. Helen has said that coming to prepare lunch at the JSS is the best part of the week. She loves being part of our organization and we love having her. *Carol Krames*

Kehila School Honours Julie Dembe



Julie Dembe has been volunteering at Kehila for the past three years. She does this not only as a mother of four children, three of whom attend the school, but also as an individual who is committed to Jewish life and Jewish education. She always goes above and beyond what is needed and expected. She eagerly supports other Jewish agencies with whom Kehila is involved, such as the JCC and Shalom Village. Julie says that volunteering in our community has given her the opportunity to meet many people and make new friends. Volunteering at Kehila gives her the chance to see her children grow and learn outside the home. We are

fortunate to have Julie's dedication and support. Without her assistance, we would not have made the progress that we have made. *Ariel Zaltzman*

McMaster JSA Honours Hanna Schayer

An extremely busy woman Hanna still found the time to lead a lay committee in preparing a proposal to the Latner Foundation to subsidize the cost of a house for the Jewish Student Association. She spent time bonding with the student executive, letting them know how important the JSA is on campus and expressing her total commitment to their endeavours. Hanna has also been a wonderful support to me as JSA director and is always available to listen, suggest and act on our behalf. On behalf of the JSA, thank you Hanna for all your hard work and concern for our needs. *Judy Schwartz.*

Hanna writes: My education really came from the political and social justice work I have engaged in most of my adult

life. I hope I put this to good use in my job at the Ontario Public Interest Research Group, McMaster, where I work with students on social justice, human rights and environmental issues. I am active in the Jewish community through my position as community liaison for the JSA to the Hamilton Jewish Federation board, of which I am a member, and my affiliation with the Beth Jacob and Temple Anshe Sholom synagogues. I am a champion of the Hamilton Jewish community and am, at times, amazed that we don't always see how lucky we are. I want that same community to champion our Jewish students at McMaster and recognize the front-line battles they face over Israel, over identity and belonging and all those other issues we face as Jews. Thank you to Judy Schwartz for thinking of me.

Na'amat Honours Rivka Shaffir



Na'amat Hamilton is honored to nominate Rivka Shaffir as our outstanding volunteer. Following her family tradition, in the early 1980s Rivka became one of the founding members of our Nitsan Chapter. She distinguished herself as an intelligent, enthusiastic, creative, hard working and dedicated volunteer. Her humanistic approach and delightful sense of humor make her an excellent leader and team member at the same time. She sets a standard for all of us to emulate. Rivka grew with our chapter and held various positions, becoming its President in the late 1980's. She proceeded to join the National Executive of Na'amat Canada, where she rose to the position of Vice President, soon to

become National President. At the same time she remains an active member of our chapter and continues her involvement in social action at the local community level.

Rivka writes: Who can fail to be impressed by Na'amat's record of social action as well as its achievements to better the lives of women and children in Israel as well as in Canada? Belonging to Na'amat gives me more than I can ever hope to return to it: meaningful involvement in Na'amat's mission and wonderful friendships with a fantastic group of women both locally and nationally.

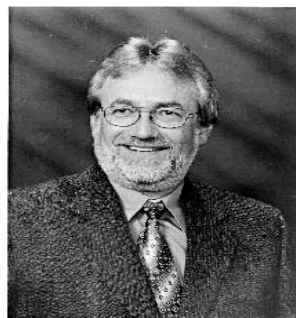
Shalom Village Honours Jo-Ann Pomerantz



It is with great pride and pleasure that the staff, residents and volunteers at Shalom Village nominate Jo-Ann Pomerantz as our special volunteer for this initiative. Jo-Ann's leadership at Shalom Village has truly been remarkable; hundreds of families and residents have felt more at home and comfortable as a result of her dedicated and caring attention both as a volunteer and her fundraising efforts. Jo-Ann is well known and respected by staff and has willingly become involved in a variety of volunteer roles. This includes bringing her warm smile and energy to every customer while serving in Bubbi Bessie's Café, joining in a weekly musical

program that now includes her own guitar playing and helping ensure each day program participant has a great day in Goldie's Place. Because of Jo-Ann's nursing and swimming background, she has provided invaluable support and expertise in our exercise programs and is instrumental in the initiation of our hospice care/palliative program. We are honoured that Jo-Ann chose to invest her time, talents and passion in the people of Shalom Village. She is truly one of those wonderful people on whom we can always call... and who will always answer yes. Jo-Ann credits her grandmother as the best role model and mentor for volunteering. "My grandmother was always there for her friends, taking care of them, just being, so I am happy to continue in her footsteps." We at Shalom Village cherish Jo-Ann's leadership as a volunteer and know that Jo-Ann too is leaving remarkable footsteps for others to foster and follow with passion, compassion and joy. *Pat Morden and Cathy O'Donnelly*

Temple Anshe Sholom Honours Norm Weddum



"When I was asked for the name of an outstanding Temple volunteer, Norm Weddum's name came immediately to mind. Norm does not do the 'glory work'. Norm is a ticket-buying guest at the glamorous functions. Norm chooses to work, steadily and quietly, in the Bingo Hall and taking care of our House. Norm has volunteered countless hours to the Temple, as Bingo Chair, as House Chair, as Education Committee Chair, as President, and as a continuing source of support for the Board and the Executive. In addition, Norm always has a smile and a cheerful greeting for everyone he meets. Sometimes we forget to thank

the people who work quietly in the background. We thank Norm Weddum for his dedicated service to Temple Anshe Sholom." *Janis Criger.*

Norm writes, "For the last 12 years I have run the bingo games at Delta Bingo Hall, 2 sessions per month. Each session takes 8 hours to complete. I probably have raised over one half million dollars for the Temple. I grew up in the Temple and continue to serve it. The synagogue is my second family. Some people join a synagogue and show up once a year. I choose to become involved. It's very gratifying to know that I have raised over \$40,000.00 this year alone. Then there's the position of house chair which adds more hours to my time at the Temple.

UJA Federation Honours Bronya Zarevich



UJA Federation of Hamilton is pleased to nominate Bronya Zarevich, a committed and valued volunteer for special recognition. Bronya has been an outstanding volunteer for several years. Volunteering 4-6 hours every week, she assists with whatever needs to be done; whether it is putting letters in envelopes for a community mailings, organizing books in the Holocaust Library or monitoring local media for stories about Israel and our community... a key element in our Israel advocacy function. Bronya was deeply honored to be recognized. She responded "I like to help out with whatever I can, as I enjoy working with and helping others." As well as her valued time spent with us, she volunteers with

the Jewish Social Services two mornings per week in the English as a Second Language class. Her kind disposition, warm smile and dedication year round are an asset to our organization and we are very grateful for her support.

UJA Federation Thanks Sandy Morris

for Coordinating the Material for This Tribute



Hamilton is a diverse community, as everyone is aware, and when our different organizations were asked for a volunteer who typified their aims and ideals, there was no lack of nominees. We are proud of all of these people who have given so much of themselves over the years, and with such dedicated representation, the future of volunteerism is, indeed, strong in our community. *Sandra Morris*

UJA Federation

UJA Federation Introduces Its 2006/07 Volunteer Youth Coordinators

In recognition of this special issue of the HJN dedicated to the contributions of our community's extraordinary cadre of volunteers. UJA Federation is delighted to introduce Josh Lerner and Samara Strub as youth volunteer coordinators for the coming year. Josh and Samara will be responsible for contacting their peers and soliciting their support for various community wide events. In this capacity, they will be role models for hundreds of their peers. Josh and Samara, we salute you!

Samara, 15, is entering Grade 10 at Highland Secondary School. Last year she accumulated 80 volunteer hours, including the UJA Walkathon, Newcomer BBQ, JNF Tu B'shvat telethon and children's program at the JCC, Hamilton Hebrew Academy and Adas Israel synagogue programs and Highland Secondary School's World Awareness Committee. Samara also works at the JCC during Sunday brunches in the kids program. Her hobbies include piano, singing, dancing, reading and playing the trumpet.



Josh, a Grade 10 student at Highland Secondary School, has attended Temple Anshe Sholom since moving to Dundas in 1999. At Temple he has been active in both after-school programs and its youth group. His interests include collecting classic rock records from the 60's and 70's, Tai Kwan Do, playing the tuba, chatting on MSN. Josh looks forward to working with Samara as they take on the opportunity of UJA Federation Youth Volunteer Coordinator.



Walkathon Volunteers Praised by Federation Staff

On a beautiful sunny day in May the community launched a fundraising initiative for Operation Promise, to help fund the immigration and absorption of Ethiopian immigrants to Israel. UJA Federation staff member, Elaine Levine, praised the record turnout of volunteers, whose dedicated efforts ensured the success of this year's program.

UJA Federation would like to thank every volunteer, walker, and donor/sponsor for supporting the UJA Walkathon 2006. Special thanks goes to this year's Walkathon chair, **Allyson Brown**, who stepped into the position for a second consecutive year, and went beyond the call of duty by not only organizing the event, but raising most of the donations from sponsors and donors. A special note of appreciation also to **Alma Arguello-Yellin** who assisted with the planning and donations, **Anita Granat**, who organized children's activities, **Howard Brown** for overseeing security and to **Denise Calman** for overseeing refreshments. Thank you to **Annie Shinehoft** and the rest of the JCC staff for their contributions and cooperation. We sincerely appreciate the support of **David Sweet**, MP who walked at our event and raised a significant amount of money.



Kol HaKavod to the following community members who volunteered their time at the Walk: **Ari Nisker, Barry Levitt, Benjamin Levitt, Bill Nisker, Brooke Cowitz, Cynthia Brown, Dafna Bener, Dalia Kriszenfeld, Dana Kriszenfeld, Daniel Nisker, Danielle Zur, Danna Brown, David Kravetsky, Debbie Avetesian, Eden Sehayek, Emily Schneider, Harold Pomerantz, Jo-Ann Pomerantz, Jacob Kriszenfeld, Josh Lerner, Joy Foster, Liat Algranti, Liora Malka, Lisa Friedland, Lowell Richter, Maggie Mariasin, Manny Fine, Mark Levitt, Melanie Vertlieb, Michael Avetesian, Michael Feldman, Michael Levine, Mike Malka, Nikki Goldberg, Philip Kriszenfeld, Ranen Dahan, Rhonda Dahan, Ruth Fine, Ryan Goldflus, Samara Strub, Sarah Kohanzadeh, Shanee Honig, Shari Levine, Sheila Levitt, Steve Arnold, Susan Waxman, Suzanne Goldflus, Tamar Klinghoffer, Tanya Schneider, Vivienne Epstein, Zach Levine.**

Congratulation to the following participants who raised the most funds in their age level. **Two yrs Old to SK:** First: **Tess Levy**; Second: **Megan Krieger**; Third: **Zoe Shore**. **Grades 1 - 3:** First: **Jennifer Waxman**; Second: **Benjamin Hara**; Third: **Misha Apel**; **Grades 4 - 8:** First: **Rafi Zians**; Second: **Sarah Kohanzadeh**; Third: **Jonah Leibtag**.

Finally we encourage you to support the following entertainers who donated their time to the Walkathon. Liven up your next party, picnic or promotion with BJ CLOWN, Betty Jane Simmonds at 905-545-5568 or Creative Clowning, Specializing in Children's Parties "Leave the fuss to us" Theresa Phair 905-545-4515.



Jewish Social Services

JSS To Run Joint Programs with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind

The Hamilton JSS together with the CNIB will be offering computer training to the visually impaired. This program will start in September 2006 at our new location 30 King St East in Dundas. The office is on three bus line, 5, 5E and 55.

When the CNIB shut their doors this past spring, they moved to office space, but now have no room for programs. Teaching computer literacy is one of their programs. They will adapt our computers with special devices for visual impairment. They use headsets, magnifiers, and now have a program to magnify that we will put on our Television.

If you or you know someone who would benefit from this program please contact Janis Giftopoulos at 905-528-8555 Ex 5309 of the CNIB or Carol Krames at 905-627-9922.

Attention to Hungarian Survivors and Victims Who Lost Parents and or Siblings

Go to www.claimscon.org to get an application for compensation. The deadline is Dec 31, 2006. All claims will have to be documented. If more information is needed call Ms. Bozsik at 1-202-362-6730 ex. 263 or email hungariansurvivors@huembwas.org.

Chai Choir

The Chai choir meets every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 am at 30 King St E in Dundas. Once a month, they perform at different locations in the community. Come out and enjoy the friendship and warmth of people who love to sing and share. For more information call Goldie Robbins 905-529-1787.

ESL Classes

Do you know someone who could use help reading, or speaking English? JSS offers ESL classes Monday through Thursday mornings at 30 King St E in Dundas. For more information please call Carol at 905-627-9922.

Pinchas Gerber Regional Director of Social Services for the Shomron Valley in Israel, came to Hamilton on August 9, 2006. This was Dr. Gerber's second visit to our city. He told us what life was like in the Shomron, the difficulties and daily problems when you live surrounded by terrorists. On a personal note he told us about his twenty-two year old son, a captain in the army, who is an instructor to other captains. His son has lost nine friends during this past war with Hezbollah. Imagine this young man who had to go to nine families and tell them their son was killed in the war. The horror of this war becomes more and more real as we hear of personal suffering. Twenty percent of Israel's population have been living in bomb shelters. (over one million people) These people have endured horrific conditions, heat, lack of food and water, children constantly crying. We wish Pinchas and his family a safe trip back to Israel, and pray the next visit will be peace in Israel.



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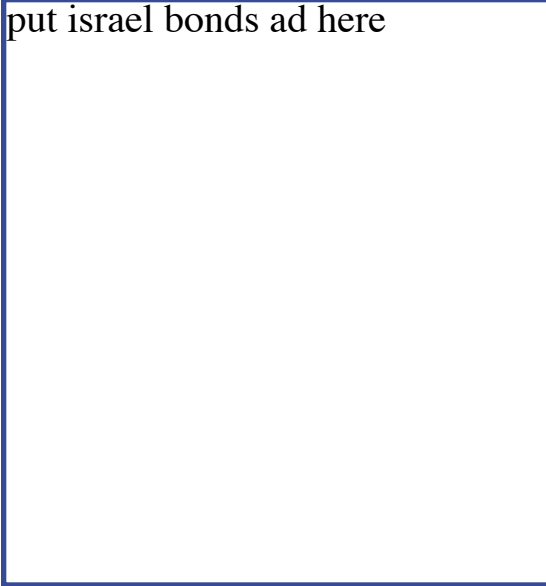
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Israel

Hamiltonians Enjoy Their Summer Israel Experiences Despite War

As hostilities raged between Hezbollah and Israel this summer many Hamilton families struggled with whether to bring home their children who were in Israel on summer programs or cancel their plans to visit. The following reports by Shira Gerstein, who together with Sam and Jonathan Yellin and Jared Mark, participated in a Biluim Israel program and Bess and Tom Martin, reflect on their positive experiences, despite the war.

Israelis Grateful To Canada For Its Support

BY
TOM & BESS MARTIN

I was in Israel with Amy, Bess, Jake and Molly. The trip was wonderful! We were able to visit Haifa and some tourist destinations in the North. The resilience of the Israeli population was something I was not able to fully appreciate until experiencing it first hand.

The people we met were very appreciative of the tourists who came in spite of the conflict with Hezbollah, although they were surprisingly understanding and empathetic of those who chose to cancel or delay their trips. This was in spite of the obvious negative financial implications for them.

The level of awareness of Canada's political position was astounding. While I thought some people may have known of Canada's strong support throughout the summer, it seemed everyone, upon learning we were Canadian, wanted to comment upon how thankful they were that Canada stood by Israel in this crisis, how happy they were about this change in Canadian foreign policy, etc. It was also referred to in the media much more than I had anticipated. Many individuals also referred to the help being provided by individuals and organizations in the diaspora. These outpourings of thanks made me proud to be Canadian. Thought you'd want to know as the work being done here is obviously recognized and appreciated there.

Bess Martin writes:

As only my mother and brother, Max, had ever visited Israel, we planned a family trip for two weeks this summer. My Uncle, Aunt, seven cousins, their spouses and children all live in and around Jerusalem. I was really looking forward to meeting them; my only connection for the past fifteen years being a song we used to sing to memorize their names.

Then the war broke out. My Buby and Aunt were planning to come with us, but both cancelled. My grandmother was constantly reminding us of the dangers facing us if we chose to go. Our friends worried, telling us it was simply not safe to travel to Israel under the circumstances. We considered



Amy Katz Martin, with her husband, Tom, and children Bess, Jake & Molly (Max chose to stay at Camp Ramah!) in Zichron Ya'acov

canceling our trip, wondering if it was worth the long journey only to be unable to tour the North. Although we had our doubts, we decided to take the risk and go. As soon as we touched down in Tel Aviv, we knew we had made the right decision. The Israelis we met were not only very friendly but also extremely appreciative that we had traveled there in spite of the ongoing conflict in Lebanon. As we drove east from Ben Gurion airport we viewed the memorials to the soldiers who fought in 1948 and were awed by the mountains, trees and city of Jerusalem rising up in front of us. We knew that the two weeks ahead of us would be unforgettable.

It was an experience like none other. No matter where in the country we were visiting, we always felt a profound sense of comfort, like we were meant to be there. It felt like home, even though everything could not have been more different. I cherished being able to walk down the street and eat kosher food in any restaurant I pleased, speaking Hebrew, and knowing that almost every person we looked at was Jewish. In Jerusalem, our 'home base', we couldn't have felt safer. Everything felt normal as people continued their daily routines. However, instead of being full with tourists, at least half the people at our hotel were staying there as they had fled their homes in the north. Rather than being afraid, depressed

or even angry, these remarkable and courageous people, many being mothers or grandparents with children, celebrated their time in Jerusalem as a vacation and actually thanked us for visiting Israel!

We visited the old city, Ben Yehuda Street, the Jerusalem mall, the Biblical Zoo, Meah Shearim, Machane Yehuda, a ceramics workshop and countless other sites. It was now time to see the Kotel. I went with my cousins by bus, as I had during the days before even though my parents rented a car. They were confident that it was safe, and as we walked through the Jaffa gate and hurried through the Arab shuk, I tried to imagine what was ahead of me. Nothing could have prepared me for the awe I felt when we stepped out of the market and immediately faced the Western wall. This, I felt, was what we came for, and my mother repeated many times that the look on our faces when we saw the Kotel made everything worthwhile. We couldn't believe that this wall in front of us was the same wall which Jews everywhere in the world face to pray. We were astounded by the emotions surrounding the wall. The hope as people prayed and sadness, as they cried to Hashem. The joy, as numerous couples celebrated their weddings. We couldn't have felt happier, and

cont'd on page 14

Biluim Israel – A Different Type of Summer

BY
SHIRA GERSTEIN

There were 144 campers piled into three buses waiting anxiously to tour Israel. The four Hamiltonians, Samuel and Jonathan Yellin, Jared Mark and I traveled together in bus number three. The original plan included visits to see Tel Aviv and Tzvat and some of the many parks and trails that move through the north of Israel. However our northern experience was quickly cut short on July 12th with Hezbollah's attack in the Golan. From then on most of our summer Israeli experience was spent traveling through Be'er Sheva, Eilat, and Jerusalem. Despite the ongoing war and several possible chances of being sent home our trip always felt safe and nervous parents were our only fear.

Around 80 campers first visited Poland for four days to experience the history of the Holocaust. We visited Auschwitz 1 and Birkenau hearing stories from survivors and visited the Warsaw Ghetto, several synagogues and centres of past and present Jewish life along the way. Three days later we were grateful to be in Israel waiting to meet up with the rest of the campers of Canadian Young Judaea. We planted trees with the JNF and gathered for the first time in Jerusalem for Shabbat at the Kotel. Standing at the Kotel, after Poland on an average Shabbat was the point at which many of us realized why Israel is so important for the Jewish people.

Over the summer, our staff was amazing; nothing concerning either our trip or the war was kept hidden. We first discovered what was going on during a lecture from a retired Israeli general while in the Golan Heights. He was speaking to us about the Golan, the Lebanese border and the relative calm surrounding the area. Ironically, that was when we first heard Israeli tanks and artillery firing into Lebanon, while a rocket was fired into Israel in plain view of our group. After this, we only spent one more day in the north before being evacuated to Jerusalem from Ti-



Shira Gerstein

berius in the middle of the night.

The rest of the trip was peaceful and carefully planned out so that we never ventured farther north than Jerusalem. We spent time at the Dead Sea Spa, slept one night out in the desert at a Bedouin hospitality tent, and climbed Masada during a beautiful sunrise. For four days we were to be split up. We were given a choice, Gadna with the Israeli military or a Desert Adventure. While at Gadna the roughly 80 campers learned what it really means to be in Tzahal. I chose Gadna and while there we experienced basic military training including how to fire an M16 firearm. Experiences like this one really made me appreciate what it really means to be Canadian and live in such a peaceful country.

We ended our Israeli experience with a week long stay at Kibbutz Ketura. Started in the '60s by Young Judaeans our parents' age the members of Ketura let us enjoy our last peaceful and relaxing days experiencing kibbutz life; everything from the date grove to communal living. And that was it. We soon were traveling home on our 22 hour flight plan and after a slight issue with 60 lost (but eventually found) bags at Pearson airport camp was officially over. The last Shabbat at camp really was our last as campers and we left our new friends to return to Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, the U.S. and of course Hamilton. We had an unforgettable trip and many of us will see YJ again as staff.

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Israel

Local Family Fulfills A Lifelong Dream In Moving To Israel

BY
WENDY SCHNEIDER

Last August 15, planes from Toronto, New York and Great Britain brought more than 500 people to live in Israel. Among them were Avri and Lorien Balofsky and their daughter. Avri, a recent graduate of software engineering at McMaster and Lorien, a teacher at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy and Beth Jacob Hebrew School, have been living in Hamilton since shortly after their marriage five years ago.

Nefesh B'Nefesh, an American organization that helps people deal with the challenges of aliyah to Israel, facilitated their immigration. By streamlining the bureaucracy, helping new olim find jobs, assisting them financially with grants from \$5,000 to \$20,000 and following through on their aliyah process, Nefesh B'Nefesh claims only a one percent failure rate among the 10,000 people who have been brought to Israel since the program's inception in 2002.

The Balofskys shared a life-



Lorien, Avri and Chana Balofsky

long dream of moving to Israel – Lorien, born and raised in London, Ontario, was only six years of age when she first declared her intent and Avri, a Torontonian whose family has made aliyah, has always supported his wife's vision.

"I've never been completely happy anywhere I've lived in Canada," Ms. Balofsky said in an interview with the HJN three weeks before their departure.

"My heart has always been in

Israel," she said, adding that the shift from a vague notion of an eventual move to a firm commitment coincided with a visit from Mr. Balofsky's sister-in-law from Israel last November. When she asked them if and when they were planning on making aliyah, both of them came to the instant realization that the time was now.

"It had always been, 'maybe, we'll go in a year, I'll get some experience,'" said Mr. Balofsky, but in that moment they decided to set things in motion.

When the war broke out on July 12, Ms. Balofsky said that her first thought was a hope that the airport wouldn't close. In the days and weeks that followed, people's reactions to their decision changed.

"Someone said, 'I'm so sorry.' And I said, 'No it's our choice. You shouldn't be sorry.'"

"My views are not fanatical. We're idealistic. I would never tell anyone to make aliyah unless I was sure that's what they wanted to do. Moving to Israel is a risk not just because there's a

war, but also socially, financially and emotionally. That doesn't mean we don't take risks in life."

She did, however, acknowledge moments of uncertainty.

"We've had moments where we've been scared out of our minds and moments of complete acceptance of the situation. The fact is we're moving there," she said.

"Israel's been at war for the last 60 years. They say you're not a citizen there unless you've lived through a matsav (literally, 'situation')," her husband added.

However, as a result of the war, they decided to reconsider a possible move to the northern part of the country. They will spend their first several months living with Mr. Balofsky's mother, who resides in Beit Shemesh, outside of Jerusalem. This will give them time to research job opportunities and communities that meet their needs.

Asked what she feared most about the move, Ms. Balofsky didn't hesitate: "Having to come back," she said.

As to what might precipitate a return to Canada, she replied, "Not being able to find viable work and absolutely exhausting every other possibility," pausing before adding, "or a nuclear war."

What makes the move easier is that they've both spent extended periods in Israel and have a large network of friends and family living there.

In an address to the 550 olim on their arrival at Ben Gurion Airport Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said,

"The last few weeks have not been easy... But there is... no stronger support than your decision to come to live in the State of Israel... I offer you partnerships, to share in our difficulties, our triumphs, and most of all the pride of being Israelis."

It's hard to imagine a more fitting culmination of a lifelong dream than to hear these words spoken directly to them by an Israeli prime minister.

Former Hamiltonian Living In Israel Reflects on War

Cheryl Gal (née Travis), the son of the late Ralph and Corinne Travis, has been living in Israel since 1975. She and her husband, Uri, have four sons: Adam, 20, currently serving in his second year in the IDF; Eyal, 24, who was among the reserve troops called up in the war; Matan, 27 and Yanai, 15. In this interview with the HJN she reflects on the aftermath of the war.

Where does Israel go from here?

I'm very optimistic and hopeful that we'll see the kidnapped soldiers come home. I'm convinced that there are things going on behind the scenes. You hear hints of it but Syria and Iran are very frightening factors in the whole situation and I don't think anyone can have influence over them and that's the most frightening thing.

Do you think Israel was mistaken to go into Lebanon?

I don't believe it was a mistake what Israel did in Lebanon. Every place they bombed was a target of Hezbollah encased in civilians. Israel did warn civilians each time to evacuate. I completely justify what they did. I think they were even moderate in what they did.

Do you think Israel won this war?

I think everybody was a loser but Israel accomplished a lot of important things behind the scenes, like raiding underground bunkers where they retrieved all kinds of documents and information that can lead to very important achievements.

Do Israelis still feel that they have the moral high ground?

Moral certainty is still there. While people are more independent in their thinking then they were in the past, the bottom line is still united. I don't think that Olmert should resign or Dan Halutz. The problems that were exposed dated back and I don't think he alone should have to bare the brunt. There were many positive things done in this whole affair. I think he has to learn lessons but not resign.

How has this latest conflict affected your spirit?

Some people say we'll have to live with this forever. On the other hand you have to hope that democracy will win out over extremism. You have to strive for that. I don't think I could live here otherwise. Sometimes I feel that it's a privilege to be living in Israel, even in these times. I feel that it's making me a better person, living through all these things. It puts the small things in life in proper proportion and gives me perspective on the things that really matter.

Are you aware of the Israel Emergency Campaigns that are taking place all over the country?

I've heard from my mother about all the different functions that are being organized to raise funds to rehabilitate Israel and it's very encouraging and heartwarming to know that Israel has such strong support from Canadian Jewry.

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The Jewish Community Centre Pages

Upcoming Programs

SUNDAY FUNDAY & BRUNCHES

After a summer hiatus, our popular brunch program returns. Come and schmooze with your family and friends while your children will be entertained through a variety of supervised activities ranging from arts and crafts, and supervised sports.

Sundays, from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Weekly Brunches commence September 17

Please note: no brunches will be on the High Holidays

Sunday, September 17, 2006
Pre High Holiday Brunch

catered by Gwen & Alison Gordon of "THE VILLAGE GREEN"

SUNDAY FUNDAY FEES (for 8 weeks)

Fun for a flat rate!

Families with 1 child: \$15 member, \$25 non-member;
 2 children: \$20 member, \$35 non-member;
 3 children: \$25 member, \$40 non-member;
 4 children: \$30 member, \$50 non-member

OR attend one class/wk @ \$5 member
 or \$8 non-member.

Saturday, September 16
TEEN CHALLENGE NIGHT

Food, Sports and Fun!

Sunday, September 17
Ben Meyer Lecture

Dr. William Seidelman will be addressing

**"Can Good Come From Evil?
 The Ethical Legacy of Medicine
 during the 3rd Reich"**

Dinner at 6:00 pm, Lecture at 8:00 pm – at the JCC

Registration at the front desk
 All food prepared by Gwen and Allison Gordon of
 "The Village Green"

JCC RECEPTIONIST/CLERICAL ADMINISTRATOR

JCC is seeking a full time Receptionist/Clerical Administrator.

For more information please contact
 Larry Szpirglas at 905-648-0605.
 or fax resume to 905-648-8388 Attn: Larry Szpirglas.

Critchley Named Champion

The 2006 Senior Provincial Championships (July 9 – July 15, 2006) proved to be a great year for Frances Critchley, JCC Tennis Pro, as she successfully competed in two singles h categories, over 50 (O50) and over 55 (O55) during this summers first heat wave.

In Frances' first of the two divisions, she played a great match beating Anka Magus, an International player of Ottawa, 6-0, 6-4. Anka commented after the match that she had not seen a second serve until 2-1 in the second set.

In Ladies O50, later that day, Frances beat Rudi Loze, 6-1, 6-4 for. Rudi was the surprise winner over International player Michelle hall of London, Ont.

We are very happy to have Frances as the JCC Tennis Pro, and we encourage all to take advantage of her expertise by taking lessons.

The JCC Board of Directors and staff are very excited for Frances' accomplishments in both events and wish her good luck at Nationals to be held at Mt. Tremblant Aug. 21- Aug 26, 2006.

Were You There?

Lag Ba'Omer



Lowell & Cindy Richter, Lisa Zaitchik and
 Lag Ba'Omer Chair, Susan Bayla Waxman.

Over 130 people celebrated Lag Ba'Omer on the JCC grounds. Rainy weather would not keep the community away. All the children enjoyed the activities run by Howard Katz and Elaine Levine. The weather cooperated toward the end of the evening so everybody left the bubble's activities and BBQ and headed to the Fire pit to participate in singing and fabulous fireworks. Thank you to Susan-Bayla Waxman (Lag Ba'Omer Chair) and JCC Staff, Annie Shinehoft for their effort to make this a successful event.

Barry Foster Memorial Golf Tournament "An exciting new golf format..."



The winning team included Team Captain, Harvey Katz, Richard Charlton,
 Neil Schonfeld, and Steve Bernstein.

This annual event entered a whole new era in 2006, as it moved into the newly renovated clubhouse of the Beverly Golf and Country Club. Over 108 golfers participated on Thursday June 15, 2006 for the Jewish Community Centre, Beth Tikvah Foundation St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation for the Cardiac Care Unit and Inner City Youth Hockey. An exciting new format, sumptuous meals, and a great mix of players made this a fabulous day for everyone! CHTV's Mark Hebscher was a big hit as the Master of Ceremonies.

Max Rotman Humanitarian Youth Awards



The recipients of the 36th Annual Max Rotman Humanitarian Youth Awards were honoured on June 4, 2006 at Temple Anshe Sholom. Guest speaker, Darryl Skidmore, CEO United Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton addressed the theme, "the empowerment of youth and the importance of defining oneself as a member, not a user, of one's community."

The Jewish Community Centre Pages

The JCC Mourns The Loss Of Allen Harris



We are deeply saddened at the loss of Allan Harris. This pillar of the community personally organized and oversaw our table tennis program and our award-winning Youth Maccabi Games teams. Through his tireless leadership, our youth had the opportunity of meeting with other Jewish youth on international level. Our youth consistently brought home medals at every level of competition. But Allen's goal was always to develop our youth into thoughtful Jewish leaders and volunteers and this he always saw as his greatest success.

The Jewish Community Centre will be continuing the newly named, **Allen Harris Table Tennis Club** which will continue to operate on Tuesdays from 6:45pm – 8:45pm. As well an annual award in Allen's name, recognizing volunteerism will be presented at the Jewish Community Center Annual General Meeting. In addition, there has been discussion about hosting a city wide table tennis tournament in his name. Allen will always be remembered as a cherished coach, husband, and father who touched the lives of every member of this community. We are all thankful for the time he gave us and are dedicated to honoring his legacy.

The JCC Celebrates the Achievements of Howard Katz



This year's award ceremony featured the presentation of the first Max Rotman Humanitarian Youth Award to Howard Katz for 36 yrs of dedicated service as a volunteer and chairman of the awards committee.

The JCC Thanks The Following Contributors To The Barry Foster Memorial Golf Tournament

HOLE SPONSORS: AIC Limited, Active Scale Mfg Inc, Ark Tech Electrical, Award Windows Inc, Ben-Met Steel & Metal, Beth Tikvah Foundation Board of Directors, Beth Tikvah Participants & Staff, Burlington Paving Co Ltd, Castellano Real Estate, Corkery Inc. (Blackhawk Waste Disposal), The Effort Trust Company, Fellfab Products, Fowler & Associates Glow Metal Trading, Harvey Katz Law Office, Jadee Meats, Janbo Enterprises Inc., Jewish Community Centre Board of Directors, Judy Marsales Real Estate, K&K Recycling Services, Kathnan Investments Limited, Kenwal Canada, Mackesy Smye LLP, William Morris Law Offices, NCP National Computer Professionals, Namasco Limited, New Horizon Homes, Nova Steel Processing Centre Ltd., Omnisource Corporation, Parkdale International Ltd., Post Controlled Air, Sam Adelstein & Company, Scarfone Hawkins LLP, Stanley M Tick & Associates, St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation, Supersod, Teg's Tools, Thomson Metals Ltd., Titan Sales Highway Trailer Specialists, Triple M Metal, Trow Associates, Turksta Lumber, Vine & Partners LLP, and Wentworth Metal Recycling; **HOLE IN ONE SPONSORS:** McEdward's & Whitwell and Eastgate Ford; **DINNER SPONSORS:** Posner Metals, B'nai Brith Annual Sports and Celebrity Dinner, Lombard Canada, Dalton Timmis Insurance, and Les Mitchnick; **GOLF BALL SPONSOR:** Judy Marsales Real Estate; **CONTRIBUTORS:** Stoney Creek Dairy, Peepers, (Ralph Orman) **DONORS:** Albert Snow Hair Design, Attar Metals Inc., Jordan Benjamin, Michael Benjamin, Norman Bennett, Howie Budd, Sheldon Carr, John Clifford, Mark Cohen, Marvin Cohen, Robert Coolsaet, Lorne Finkelstein, Albert Foreman, Jack Foster, Joy Foster, Stephen Foster, Lorne Gaffe, Paul & Rosalie Gaffe, Ron Gaffe, Jerry & Elena Goldblatt, Ira Greenspoon, Thomas Gillan, Sheldon Gurevitz, Bill Halpren, Murray Halpren, Paul Hanover, Cuppy Katz, Angelika Laharnar, Les Lasky, Dr. Richard Levy, The Loewith Family, Deb McDonald, Gary Minden, Ralph Orman, Jeff Paikin, Stan Paikin, Ron Richter, Judy Rosen, Jay Rosenblatt, Mitchell Rosenblatt, Susan Rosenblatt, Charles & Michele Schneider, Gloria Silverman, Tribute Communities, Donna & Gary Waxman, Eddie Weisz, Ron Wexler, Bernice Wilson, and Westmount Garage Co. Limited.

Camp Kadimah Celebrates Another Awesome Summer

Spanning from a Bush Camp overnight at the Toronto Zoo to getting a chance to pet the world's largest breed of snake, the anaconda, Camp Kadimah has had an amazing summer, leaving its campers with memories to last a lifetime.

With the chill on its way, Camp Kadimah ends on an all time high with camper enrolment and incredible programming. This could only be possible with such strong programs like Science and Nature, Computers and Multimedia, Arts and Crafts and our themed bi-weekly overnights. These programs and more gave children from ages 2.5 and up a chance to make stop-motion movies, perform musical theatre, create lava lamps and oceans,

play a variety of sports, and even solve crimes in the Kadimah CSI Lab. We also worked closely with Woods Karate, Hamilton Gymnastics Academy and Frances Critchley, JCC Tennis Pro.

Camp Kadimah was also given the incredible opportunity to spend three days at two Ontario Jewish camps, Camp George and Camp Ramah. The campers experienced rope courses, water skiing, water tubing, canoeing, kayaking, and rock climbing. For the majority of the campers, this was their first experience at overnight camp. Those who participated in these trips were left with glowing smiles and new friends.

The camp has grown and matured as a centre of excellence which provides programs and services to enrich and enhance Jewish cultural experience and leadership development of campers and staff.

Camp Kadimah thrives because of the strength and commitment of our community members. We would like to thank everybody who contributed to the success of summer 2006. A special thank you is given to all Kadimah staff and parents who worked with us to ensure greatness.

Camp Kadimah creates and keeps creating experiences that last a lifetime.

Brandon Lablong, assistant camp director



JCC TRIBUTE CARDS

In Memory Of

HARRY ROTMAN: Barbara Laskin; **NELLI KOMISSAROV:** JCC Board and Staff, Camp Kadimah; **CHICKIE STEINBERG:** Harvey and Shelley Waxman; **Mazal Tov**

PAUL AND SUSAN ROTH: Charles and Michelle Schneider (*Birth of Granddaughter*)

Best Wishes

MARLENE SUGAR: Cheryl and Stephen Quitt; **LEO STRUB:** JCC Board of Directors; Larry and Fern Szpirglas

JCC Youth Maccabi Games Fund

Mazal Tov

ANNE KRIEGER: Lynda and Jerry Bromstein (*Special Birthday*); **ROD AND JOAN JEFFERESS:** Lynda and Jerry Bromstein (*Birth of Grandson*);

In Memory Of

ALLEN HARRIS: Jonathan Fleisch and Family; Frances Critchley; Claretta, Jacques, Jessie, Lauren, and Dana Schoenberg; Lynda and Jerry Bromstein, Howard Katz and Family; Sylvia Katz and Family; Alex, Susan, Jason, and Jennifer Gilbert; Judy and Daniel Berk and Family, Amiram Zur and Adele Wolpert-Zur and Family; Judy Mintz; Ron, Anne, and Alyssa Barrs; Stephen and Marcia Barrs; Leon and Vivian Price; The Loewith Family, Seymour Morris.



Editorial

Israel Trip "Unforgettable"

cont'd from p12

the Kotel seemed even more holy than in the pictures we had seen.

As we began to feel even more comfortable in our surroundings we decided to venture outside of Jerusalem. Aside from driving by ourselves to Masada, Tel Aviv, the Dead Sea, Betar and Efrat, we spent two days with a tour guide. We planted trees and visited the sites of many of the beautiful projects of the JNF. We toured the ruins in Caesaria, including the theatre, the amphitheatre, where chariot races and gladiatorial games occurred, and an ancient underground waterway from thousands of years ago. We visited Zichron Ya'akov and then, at the end of the day, Haifa.

We were surprised by the look of the city; it appeared beautiful and completely untouched by war, overlooking and hugging the Mediterranean, as we drove in. As we looked closer, however, we did see at least one destroyed building, a historic home in the Germany colony. As we stopped both here and at the Rambam Hospital, we noticed the holes from ball bear-

ing filled katyushes in windows, buildings, trees and even metal signs. We sat in silence for a moment, thinking about all the people that must have been affected by these horrible weapons that are clearly designed to kill, maim and cause fear in innocent civilians rather than harm military or strategic targets. It was hard to imagine that all this had occurred so recently.

In Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, there were no visible signs that a war had been going on, other than signs in some bus stops proclaiming "we will win". There was not a moment of our trip where we felt threatened, or in any form of danger. We behaved like the Israelis; we lived our lives without fear. We had the greatest time, and were not ready to return to Hamilton after two weeks. In the morning before we boarded our plane, we refused to say goodbye to our relatives or to Israel. We all agreed that we would be coming back soon.

Judea Pearl To Speak In Hamilton

Slain journalist's father to engage Muslim Scholar in public dialogue

"My father is Jewish, my mother is Jewish, I am Jewish"

None of us will ever truly overcome the horror and senseless death suffered by Wall St. Journal journalist, Daniel Pearl, at the hands of Islamic extremists while on assignment in Pakistan. Pearl's murder brought the world's attention to the murderous hatred that the Jihadists hold for Jews.

Mr. Pearl's murder challenged the Jewish and Islamic communities to begin to address the hatred, mistrust and misunderstanding that often characterizes one community's view of the other. In response to this terrible tragedy Daniel Pearl's family and friends formed the Daniel Pearl Foundation to continue their son's principles of tolerance and re-



Professors Akbar S. Ahmed and Judea Pearl

spect for people of all cultures.

Several months ago, Dr. Lorne Finkelstein read about the joint lectures given throughout North America by Dr. Judea Pearl (Daniel Pearl's father), and Professor Akbar Ahmed, Chair of Islamic Studies at the American University in Washington D.C. Both men, with diverging political views, have supported the benefits of dialogue and mutual respect between Jews and Muslims regardless of Middle East events and political beliefs. Dr. Finkelstein contacted the Pearl family and suggested that Drs. Pearl and Ahmed come to Hamilton to discuss their views at a city-wide meeting. Both men agreed.

Dr. Finkelstein then brought this concept to the Dialogue Committee, and all members and their respective organizations agreed to co-sponsor a special event to include these two esteemed speakers.

Dr. Finkelstein was able to obtain pledges of financial support for this event from local businesses and private individuals, including the Hamilton Spectator, whose support included a substantial financial donation, publicity and the securing of Hamilton Place as a venue. Free publicity has also been offered by CHML and

CH TV, demonstrating the local media's support of the Dialogue Committee's activities.

At a recent meeting of the Dialogue Committee all confirmed their commitment to



The late Daniel Pearl

this project, regardless of obvious strains resulting from the recent Middle East conflict.

Dr. Pearl and Dr. Ahmed promise to be fascinating speakers about the need for respect and dialogue between Muslim and Jews despite diverging political beliefs. It is hoped that Hamilton's Jewish, Arab, and Muslim communities demonstrate support for the evening with a strong attendance.

The event will take place on Sunday November 12, 2006, 7:30 pm at Hamilton Place

More details will be publicized as the date approaches.

On July 20th, a Katyusha missile fell outside a Na'amat Daycare Centre in Carmiel, Israel, causing catastrophic destruction. Your donations to Na'amat Canada's Emergency Campaign have helped keep Israeli daycare children safe. Thank you, Canada! Rebuilding has now begun but funds are still urgently needed...

Think Israel Think Na'amat and make your pledge today. Wishing you peace and joy this Rosh Hashanah.

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Local News

Joint JCC - Federation Collaboration Resumes

“The much anticipated JCC – Federation collaboration is now going forward again” says UJA Federation President Leslie Lasky. Launched in February, the collaboration is a central component of a broader community planning initiative launched by Federation last spring.

The initiative is designed as a broad based community consultative process to identify the range of programs and services the community really wants and will support and the kind of communal organizational structure required to most effectively deliver those programs and services. Another key matter under review is the future of the Lower Lions Club Rd. site and the JCC facility.

The collaboration is employing several strategies to elicit information to guide the decision making process. One of the most important components is the conducting of a number of “focus groups” with key community stakeholders. Along with written surveys and public meetings, focus groups with philanthropists, community leaders, users and non users of existing facilities may well steer the direction for

far reaching policy decisions.

JCC consultant Larry Szpirglas has announced that Professor Bill Shaffir has agreed to lead several of the focus group discussions. Szpirglas commented that “Professor Shaffir brings a lifetime of experience in social research to our collaboration table. His involvement brings credibility to the process and will ensure a result that can serve as the reliable basis for the kinds of decisions the community is now facing.”

JCC President Howard Eisenberg shared Szpirglas’ enthusiasm over Shaffir’s involvement. “We have been fortunate in being able to call on the expertise of professional consultants from the Jewish Community Center Association (JCCA) and United Jewish Communities (UJC). However, having a resource with Professor Shaffir’s competence so close at hand will ensure a better and a more timely result.”

Focus groups and one on one interviews with key community leaders will take place in mid September. The collaboration group expects to be able to meet the original completion deadline set for early December.

Community Mobilizes To Support Israel

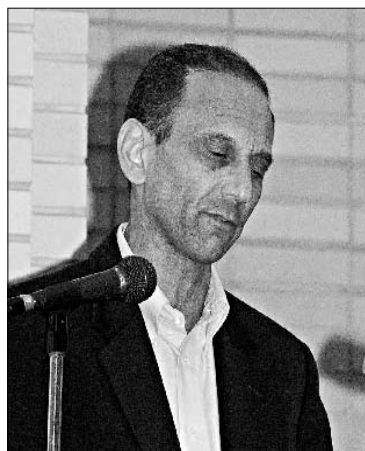


As war rages between Israel and Hezbollah 600 community members attend the solidarity rally

UJA Federation’s Israel Solidarity Rally on July 27 brought out a crowd of close to 600 people to hear Israel Consul General Cobie Brosh, Hamilton West MP David Sweet, CIC National Chair of Community Relations Dr. Lawrence Hart and Rabbi Bernard Baskin. Serving as the launch of the UJA Federation UJA 2007 Israel Emergency Campaign, speaker after speaker stressed that Israel had no hostile intentions toward Lebanon and that the conflict had been thrust upon both Israel and Lebanon by Islamic fanatics whose only goal was the destruction of both Israel and Lebanon and replacing them with an Islamic state. David Sweet received strong support for the position taken by the Canadian government.



Rabbi Bernard Baskin



Lawrence Hart

Dr. Hart’s analysis articulated the community’s concern over civilian casualties, but ascribed that responsibility to those that hid behind civilian populations. Consul General Brosh swore to the audience that Hezbollah’s stated intention of destroying Israel will “never ever happen.” Rabbi Baskin closed the evening with impassioned and beautiful remarks that captured the essence of Israel’s struggle in the midst of such hatred and violence. He closed by connecting Israel’s struggle to the need for our community to step up and demonstrate its love of Israel by supporting the UJA Federation UJA 2007 Israel Emergency Campaign to the very best of our ability. Rabbi Daniel Green emceed the event with grace, thoughtfulness and humor. The event demonstrated our community’s profound love and support for Israel in this crisis and did so in an atmosphere of unity that will long linger in our hearts.

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Special Mentschen

Julia Kollek to Run For City Council

Julia Kollek will be seeking the Dundas seat (Ward 13) on city council in Hamilton's municipal election scheduled for Monday, November 13. One of her goals is to bring more integrity and accountability to city hall. She also wants to protect Dundas values, including the environment.

Ms Kollek is a community activist who works for Environment Hamilton, a grass-roots organization that helps citizens protect and enhance their environment. In this capacity, e Julia ran the highly successful Tonnes for Trees climate change program and formed the city's first Climate Change Action Group, which recently persuaded city council to hold a full session devoted to preparing our region for the effects of changing climate.

She has worked hard to stop many of the environmental problems Dundas has faced, including a campaign to halt paving a parking lot on Cootes Paradise.

Ms Kollek was part of the team that successfully lobbied for a Dundas by-law to halt pesticide spraying. Recently, she helped co-ordinate volunteers for tree planting in Dundas

In an interview with the HJN, Ms. Kollek emphasized three areas that she proposes to focus on. The first is her intention to implement the principles outlined in Ontario's Planning Act, which provides for cooperative decision making in urban communities. "There are a lot of things that have happened in Dundas over the last year that could have had more community input," she said. "Once the school board announced a school was going to be built we could have had a broader look on how we were going to approach this situation and laid out ground rules for how land uses can be controlled, who controls them and encourage cooperation among various interests", she added.

"Dundas is the best place in the world to live and bring up a family," said Ms Kollek, "I want to protect this special town and its values – and make it an even better community," she said, adding that she'd like to bring in youth representation to the Dundas Community Council.

A second priority for Ms. Kollek is to bring more integrity to City Hall by increasing transparency and making sure



that decisions are not driven by special interest groups.

The preservation and enhancement of the local environment will be another major focus for Ms. Kollek, who will put a process in place whereby neighbourhoods can have a say in how previously occupied land might be preserved as green space

rather than sold to developers. "The most important thing is to let young people, seniors and those who live in neighbourhoods have a say in how recently vacated schools, for instance, are utilized."

Ms. Kollek was a professional writer and film-maker for 20 years. She holds a degree in anthropology and economic history, and a Certificate in Journalism. Julia has worked for national and international media including the Globe & Mail, the BBC, the UK's Independent newspaper, CBC Television, TVOntario, CTV, and McMaster's CFMU Radio. She also ran an independent video production company producing films for medical and non-profit groups.

Julia's husband Daniel is an emergency physician and their two children are students at Dundas Central and Parkside schools.

Manny Fine Honoured

Last May 240 members of the Canadian Geotechnical Society, Southern Ontario Section, attended their annual dinner at the Pearson Convention Centre in Brampton, Ont. At the dinner, Manny Fine was presented with the 2006 Southern Ontario Award presented in recognition for his contribution to the Canadian Geotechnical Society and to geotechnical engineering in Southern Ontario. Manny Fine is the second person ever to receive the award that recognizes lifetime achievements in the Geotechnical field.

The award recognizes Manny's devotion to the profession which did not stop at his "retirement", but has continued to this time by his service as Executive



Manny & Ruth Fine

Director of the Ontario Association of Foundation Specialists, Executive Director of The Heavy Construction Association of Toronto and Managing Editor of Deep Foundations magazine.

Emergency Campaign Underway

campaign cabinet stresses several critical issues:

1. The campaign needs to be completed quickly. Canvassers are urged to contact their donors without delay.
2. Donors need to respond quickly and generously.
3. Israel needs the money now! Emergency Campaign gifts need

cont'd from page 1

4. Donations can be made on-line at www.jewishhamilton.org.
5. Donations and offers to volunteer can be made by calling the UJA Federation office at 905-648-0605.

Lives Remembered

ALLEN HARRIS

Born July 23, 1935 in Hull, England.

Died on May 28, 2006 in Hamilton.

Allen Harris was born in Hull, England on July 23rd, 1935. It was in 1958 that he met Maureen and they instantly fell in love. On June 1, 1960 Allen left England to come to Canada after accepting a job offer. He knew the moment he arrived that Canada was where he wanted to live. Every year he would return to England to visit Maureen. It was a visit with Maureen in 1963 prior to their marriage, when they both realized that they still missed each other so very much. Maureen asked Allen if he would stay in England a few days longer before flying back to Canada, He agreed and decided to extend his time with Maureen. The flight that Allen had originally been scheduled to fly on crashed with no survivors. If Allen did not already know it, he knew then that his life was meant for Maureen. They were not only best friends but each other's soul mates. On July 7, 1963 they were married at the Temple Anshe Shalom. Then in 1967 they had their first daughter Julie. In 1973 along came Suzanne a sister for Julie. The girls brought much joy to his life. It was in November of 2005 that his first grandchild, Emma was born which brought him the kind of joy that only other Grandparents can understand.

In 1967 Allen started his own business in partnership with Irwin Kotzer and after many successful years, retired in 1998. Maureen and daughters, Julie and Suzanne were so pleased to see him enjoy this new found time, called retirement. As Allen said he did not know how he ever had time to work. Allen enjoyed traveling, the casino, being a handy man, who could fix practically anything and most of all spending time with his family.

For many years Allen was a dedicated member of the Board of Temple Anshe Shalom, holding various positions. Another role that Allen took much pride in was being an usher at the Temple. He always shared a smile and a friendly word with those entering the sanctuary.

For many years Allen was a team member of the Hamilton Jewish Mens Baseball League. From the time he could play sports he did. Many people within the community knew Allen as a dedicated volunteer and organizer of the Hamilton delegation of the Maccabi Games. It was something true to his heart. He competed as a teenager in the Maccabi Games, and was always dedicated to providing youth with the wonderful experiences of Maccabi. For many years Allen not only organized the Hamilton delegation, he also coached the very successful table tennis team. When his youngest daughter Suzanne participated in the games in swimming he coached her, as he was also a very accomplished swimmer. Every year he would get prepared for the games making sure that he took his jacket with him that had a collection of pins from other delegations. The pins were a collection dating from over 20 years of the North American Maccabi games which he attended. Even though he would be up in time to attend 5am meetings and on the go chaperoning kids till after 11pm it was an exhaustion that he thrived on.

Allen was fortunate in that he fulfilled most of his goals and ambitions in life. However, there were two things that he never did get the opportunity to do. One was to go to Israel and the other was to go on an African Safari. If only all of us left this world so content.

Allen's family was the world to him and to them he was their world. He was their hero and they want to make sure that they continue to make him proud. It was very important to Allen that Hamilton continued to send a delegation to Maccabi each year. With the dedication of some of those who have been involved with him over the years along with his family his wish will be fulfilled.

He is greatly missed and will never be forgotten



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The "Ma'j Set", Shalom Village's Dragon Boat Team, taken at Bayfront Park on July 8th.



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In Memory Of

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Send Shalom Village Tribute Cards for acknowledging life cycles and milestones ~ birthday, anniversary, bar and bat mitzvah, get well, special occasion and memorial cards are available. When a loved one passes away, honour their memory by having memorial donations made to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers. Passover Cards on Sale - \$5.00. Just send your list to Kathleen@shalomvillage.on.ca or call (905) 529-1513 ext. 265

Summer At Shalom

There's plenty to talk about as summer at Shalom Village winds down. July and August were very busy with Dragonboat races, Bistros, and barbecues. Many of you visited us at the Dundas Cactus Festival where Shalom Village's Jim Kennelly launched his "Valley Town Memories" notecards. Jim has generously donated his original artwork to Shalom Village in support of our fundraising efforts. These beautiful cards feature 10 original drawings of historic Dundas buildings, including the town hall, the Deluxe Restaurant and the Carnegie Library. Sets of Valley Town Memories cards are available at The Corner Store and Bubbi Bessie's Café at Shalom Village, along with Jim's popular Barns and Bridges cards. They can also be ordered by e-mailing info@shalomvillage.on.ca.

Speaking of The Corner Store, be sure to stop by and check out their beautiful new location on York Street in Shalom Village. Along with snacks and drinks they carry a wonderful array of unique gift items at very reasonable prices. The Corner Store is operated entirely by volunteers with all proceeds going to support staff education at Shalom Village.

Why not let Shalom Village help with your Rosh Hashanah greetings? Just give us your mailing list and we will send beautiful full colour art cards on your behalf. It is a lovely way to acknowledge your friends and family on this important holiday while helping to support life and living at Shalom Village. The cost is only \$5.00 per card, including postage. Please call Kathleen at (905) 529-1613 ext. 265 for more information.

Next up on the Shalom Village calendar is our celebration of volunteers on September 7th in Goldie's Place. We rely on more than 100 volunteers to help us Honour our Fathers and our Mothers, and this is our opportunity to recognize their important contributions. This year's event is entitled "Hats off to Volunteers" and is built around a theme of positive change and growth. Our guest speaker is Julia Gluck, a champion of change who has developed learning programs for clients such as Xerox, Hewlett-Packard and CIBC. Entertainment will be provided by A Touch of Klez, the popular nine piece klezmer band known for their lively performances.

The 5th annual Hannukah Hustle is set to run on November 12th. This popular 5k / 10k run and 1k walk has grown every year. More than 400 runners and walkers took part in 2005. This year we are fortunate to have ESPN sportscaster Dan Shulman on hand. Mr. Shulman has generously donated his services as guest race announcer. Shalom Village is grateful for his support.

Runners, walkers, sponsors and spectators are all welcome at the Hannukah Hustle. The action starts at 9:30 a.m. After the race join us for a barbecue and Hannukah party including latkes and cider.

Corporate sponsorships are still available for this event. The funds raised are crucial to our active living programs such as the Shalom Village Olympic Club and The Club Fitness Centre, as well as health promotion initiatives including in-home physiotherapy and research projects in rehabilitation. Please call Mandy at (905) 529-1613 ext. 220 for more information.

Shalom Village is excited to announce the launch of a new membership opportunity known as The Chai Club. Members of The Chai Club will help us go beyond the minimum care standards and provide the home that our loved ones so deserve. Membership donations are made through convenient automatic monthly payments and support increased staffing levels, fine kosher dining and many other special programs and activities.

Membership in the Chai Club is tax deductible and comes with benefits including a beautiful lapel pin, an invitation to special "Chai Club" events and a club newsletter. Watch for more information coming soon.

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Community

Lillian and Marvin Goldblatt Jewish Lecture Series

How is God imagined in Jewish mysticism? Did the medieval Kabbalists envision a Divine Body? What are mystical diagrams all about? On October 30, Professor Elliot R. Wolfson will explore the answers to these and other questions in the Lillian and Marvin Goldblatt Lecture for 2006. The lecture, "Picturing God: Representations of the Divine Body in Medieval Kabbalah," will be held at 8:00 pm in the CIBC room of McMaster University Student Centre and is open to the public.

Prof. Wolfson, the Abraham Lieberman Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University, is an internationally renowned scholar of Jewish mysticism. His many books include *Through the Speculum that Shines: Vision and Imagination in Medieval Jewish Mysticism* (1994), which won the American Academy of Religion's Award for Excellence in the Study of

Religion and the National Jewish Book Award for Excellence in Scholarship, and *Language, Eros, and Being: Kabbalistic Hermeneutics and the Poetic Imagination* (2005) which won the National Jewish Book Award for Excellence in Scholarship.

McMaster University's annual lecture in Jewish Studies was initiated in 2002, largely through the initiative and support of the late Herb Schreiber. In 2004, the lecture series was renamed in honour of the Goldblatt family, whose generous contributions will support the lecture series in perpetuity. Past speakers have included Reuven Firestone, Michael Marrus, Judith Baskin and David Biale.

Further information about this year's lecture can be obtained from the Department of Religious Studies, McMaster University, 905 525 9140 #24567, dickshe@mcmaster.ca.

Chabad House Gearing Up For A New School Year

Chabad Jewish Student Center is looking forward to an even more exciting new school year after a very successful year in 2005/6. For the first time ever in McMaster's history over 100 Jewish students enjoyed a Shabbat dinner on Campus in February 2006. Enthusiasm for a repeat dinner on campus is very strong and this year our goal is to be able to host even more students for this special event. For the closing Friday night dinner Chabad House was filled to capacity as sixty Jewish students joined together and enjoyed delicious home-made food, great spirit, a sense of belonging and a feeling of family. Fajgi Itkin, co-director of Chabad, guarantees "This year we will continue having family Shabbat dinners for students."

Chabad will also be offering classes once again on various Jewish topics of interest. The classes

will include; a three part mini series titled "Women in Judaism", Women in Text, Torah, Talmud and Kaballah. Rabbi Zalman Itkin, director of Chabad-Hamilton, explains, "Our success is due to a growing interest from the increased number of Jewish students from all backgrounds in discovering more about their heritage".

Chabad will continue to offer community programs such as the Shofar factory, Sukkah mobile, and holiday services for shut-ins. The Monday night women's group returns for the 25th consecutive year.

The Chabad House is located at 177 Sterling St. - three houses from McMaster University.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one a happy, healthy and sweet new year. May we all experience true peace with the coming of Mashiach.

Exploring Jewish Life of Catalonia and Provence

BY
IRWIN FEUERSTEIN

My third annual exploration of Jewish history and culture will focus on northern Spain and southern France. Jews have lived there from the time when the Muslims controlled the Iberian Peninsula in the 8th century. With the Christian reconquest of Spain, starting in the 12th century, more Jews moved north into this area. At the same time, as a result of the crusades, other Jews migrated south from German lands. The three provinces we shall visit are Catalonia, in Spain, and Languedoc and Provence, in France. This entire area was a centre for Torah study and commentary and it also witnessed the development of mystical thought, kabbalism. Jews were also involved in science and technology here, especially in mathematics, as-

tronomy, ocean navigation and instrument and map making.

The first movement to be called Kabbalah (tradition) arose primarily in northern Spain and southern France in the second half of the 12th century. The leading thinkers of this group included Abraham ben David of Posquieres and his son, Issac the Blind. The mystics of Provence and Girona are thought to have produced *Sefer Ha-Bahir* (The Book of Enlightenment), which represented a major shift from earlier mystical texts. Earlier the goal of mysticism had been to physically try to ascend to heaven; now it reflected a desire to understand sacred texts, to see meaning behind their words and to explore the nature of God. The Zohar, written by Moshe de Leon, followed later and introduced yet another phase of mystical thought. After the expulsion in 1492, the development of Jewish mysticism continued at Safed in Palestine.

Among the local contemporaries of the early Kabbalists were the Cathars of Languedoc and Catalonia, a Christian heretical group or 'sect'. They were Gnostics whose dualistic belief differentiated between an earthly material world, which was evil, and a spiritual world, which was good. This bordered on polytheism and was therefore not acceptable to the Kabbalists. However, the Gnostic idea of aeons, special powers and emanations, characteristics of God, was an area of great interest to the Kabbalists. It is inter-

esting to ask if there was contact between the two groups, based on their proximity and similarities between sacred texts. The Catholic Church launched the Albigensian Crusade against the Cathars and thus eradicated the heresy. However the legacy of Languedoc Catherism is conjured up by the ruins of the numerous fortresses where they defended themselves, Masada-like, until the bitter end.

We have designed a tour which starts in Catalonia, continues to Languedoc, and finishes in Provence. Among the highlights will be Barcelona, where we will celebrate Purim with a local community and visit ancient Jewish sites; the picturesque Catalan town of Girona with its refurbished medieval Talmudical Academy and nearby Figueras, home of the Dali Theatre-Museum; Albi and Carcassone, former Cathar strongholds; Montpellier, featuring a medieval university and a Sephardic Jewish Community; Avignon with its Papal Palace and Jewish Community; and the Provençal towns of Carpentras and Cavaillon, which have historical synagogues. The tour is called 'The Jews of Catalonia and Provence,' and it is scheduled for the 12-day period of February 28 to March 11, 2007. There is a possible extension to Aix-en-Provence and Marseilles, with a return on March 14, 2007. For more information, contact Dr. Irwin Feuerstein, e-mail feuerst@mcmaster.ca, or call 905-528-9308.

Magen David Adom

BY
HILDA ROSEN

My sincerest thanks to the many people who so rapidly and generously responded to my "call for help". The life-saving equipment, medical aid and training of MDA volunteers has been vital. Your dollars have made this possible. Donations to Canadian Magen David Adom are always welcome by mailing your cheque payable to CMDA, c/o Hilda Rosen, 27 Haddon Avenue S., Hamilton, On L8S 1X5. For New Year's greeting cards and all occasion cards please call me at 905-529-4824. All monies received will buy more life-saving equipment. On behalf of the national board of CMDA we wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year and SHALOM in the world. A full detailed report will follow in the next issue of the Hamilton Jewish News. Donation receipts will follow.

McMaster University, Department of Religious Studies, is pleased to present

The Lillian and Marvin Goldblatt Lecture for 2006

Prof. Elliot R. Wolfson

Abraham Lieberman Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies,
New York University

Picturing God ~ Representations of the Divine Body in Medieval Kabbalah

Date and Time – 8 pm on 30 October 2006

Location – CIBC room, 3rd floor, McMaster Student Centre

For more information, contact Sheryl Dick at 905-525-9140 ext. 24567



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Community

Beth Jacob Synagogue

With its new rabbinical leadership in place, Beth Jacob Synagogue is gearing up for a new year of exciting programming for all ages. Rabbi Dan Selsberg is bringing youthful energy, enthusiasm and creativity to the Beth Jacob community, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

Everyone in the community is welcome to attend our weekly Shabbat services, which include a participatory Carlebach-style service on Friday nights at 6:00 pm (ending by 7!), Shabbat morning services, beginning at 9:15 am, and late afternoon Seudah Shlishit programs, which include Mincha, a short Torah study session, light snack, followed by Ma'ariv and Havdalah. Rabbi Selsberg will also lead a pre-High Holiday series of three programs:

- Saturday, September 2: "A Lifetime of Second Chances" (Mincha at 7:00 pm; Seudah Shlishit and study at 7:30 pm)

- Sunday, September 10 at 10:00 am for a breakfast/study session entitled "Tipping the Scales of Justice on Rosh Hashanah"

- A special Selichot program on Saturday, September 16, including Ma'ariv services at 7:30 pm, followed by the screening of the acclaimed Woody Allen film, Crimes and Misdemeanors at 8:15 pm. The film, which received Oscar nominations for best director and best screenplay, stars Alan Alda. Its plot revolves around the



Rabbi Dan Selsberg

theme of judgment, making it ideal viewing during the High Holiday season. The entire community is welcome to attend. The film will be followed by a brief discussion and Slichot service, the traditional late-night kick-off to the week preceding Rosh Hashanah.

Beth Jacob is also pleased to announce that High Holiday children's programming, designed and coordinated by Karen Selsberg, will be in place this year. If you have not yet made arrangements to attend High Holiday services please call the synagogue office at 905-522-1351. On Friday September 15, the synagogue will host a festive welcome dinner for the Selsberg family. Entertainment will accompany dinner, families are welcome, and community members are also encouraged to reserve a place, as Beth Jacob enters into what promises to be an exciting period of growth and renewal.

The Adas Israel is pleased to announce the launching of its Speakers Corner. This program will bring influential, charismatic, and inspiring speakers to our community each month.

Please note the following dates:

Scholar in Residence Jonathan Rosenblum
Shabbat, September 9
11:00 am: The Religious and Secular Divide in Israel
7:00 pm: Jewish Parenting

Jonathan Rosenblum is a columnist for the Jerusalem Post and Israeli director of Am Echad.

Scholar in Residence Dr. Hindy Najman
Special High Holiday Breakout Sessions on Jewish Prayer

September 23 (First Day Rosh Hashana)
Approaching the Throne

September 24 (Second Day Rosh Hashana)
Transforming Ourselves

Dr. Najman is a faculty member at the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilization at the University of Toronto. She received her doctorate from Harvard University and is a noted author and scholar.

Scholar in Residence Dr. Yossi Olmert
Shabbat Sukkot, October 7
The Future of the Jewish State: A Middle East Analysis

Dr. Olmert is a journalist and Middle Eastern scholar specializing in terrorism and Islamic militants. He has held several senior positions in the Israeli government and is the brother of the current Prime Minister of Israel.

Na'amat Honours Women of Inspiration

The events of the past few weeks in Israel demonstrated the need for Jewish people around the world to support each other. Na'amat represents the opportunity for women around the world to come together in support of Israel and promote the well being of women, children and families in Israel.

A lot of rebuilding will need to take place in northern Israel in the coming months. To raise additional funds for children and families that were displaced by Hezbollah rockets, we will be starting our fundraising season in November with a special event. The **Women of Inspiration** evening will honour four special women in our community who distinguished themselves in their commitment to social action. The event will take place on Sunday, December 3 (location to be announced). The honorees will be **Mary Blum Devor, May Cohen, Sharon Hart, and Gloria Silverman**. Tickets are \$25 each. The evening will include a reception and presentations by the honorees. For tickets, to reserve a table, or to add your greetings to the Tribute Book, call Helen Metz at (905)



Honoree Gloria Silverman and granddaughter Rina Goldberg at last year's Na'amat Author Luncheon

627-9424. Please join us in honouring these outstanding women.

Other major events planned for the coming year include the Annual Celebrity Author Luncheon and a third Passover Seder.

Our fundraising efforts will be augmented by exciting monthly meetings featuring an array of speakers. The opening meeting on Tuesday, September 11th, will feature a presentation by Hanna Pintos, entitled Women in Transition. Other programming highlights include presentations about the genetics of cancer in Ashkenazi population, geriatric psychiatry,

and the arts. We are also planning a trip to the newly renovated Art Gallery of Hamilton, a Chanukkah evening of mind games, and a very special cooking demonstration.

Although our mission is to raise funds for women and children in Israel, we pride ourselves on the sense of fun, the intellectual stimulation, and the supportive spirit that exists among our members. Guests and prospective members are always welcome. If you would like to join us for any of our meetings or functions, feel free to call Helen (905) 627-9424 or Barbara (905) 627-5531.

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Community

Kehila Jewish Community Day School

Kehila Jewish Community Day School, board, staff, teachers and students would like to express our sorrow and condolences to the Kommissarov and Apel families, on the passing of Nellie Kommissarov. Nellie will be missed by all of us. Her love of the school, her passion of helping and her contribution to our art program will stay with us forever.

Kehila will open its eighth year with our traditional opening Ceremony on September 5th. All are welcome to join us for this and all our activities throughout the year.

The school has been growing. We have increased our numbers by 30%. This is one of the largest percentage increases for a Jewish School in North America. We are also proud of the 100% retention of students we continue to keep. There are many reasons for this success. One of them is the opening of our new JK "Central Based Education" program. The program, created by Kehila staff, will be part of our successful curriculum for the youngest of our students.

In the coming year, we will continue leading our students to excel and succeed in both general, Hebrew and Judaica studies. Our enrichment program will include Kabbalat Shab-

bat with rabbis and educators, Torah reading studies, chess, choir, Israeli dance and more.

We hope to again represent the Hamilton community in many events in Toronto at the Zimryia and Rikudyia.

Kehila would like to welcome Rabbi Selsberg and his family to town. We hope that we will be able to form close bonds with him as we have done with all the rabbis in our community.

It is a pleasure for us to honour Julie Dembe, a mother for four children, three of whom are at Kehila. Julie has been volunteering at Kehila for the past three years. Her contribution to the school and community is surely a reason for our progress in the past year. Thank you also to all our volunteers and donors for their support. Without all of you, Kehila would not be the same.

We would like to send our prayers for peace in Israel. Our condolences to the families that have lost loved ones. We wish health and a speedy recovery to all the victims of this most recent conflict and hope that the kidnapped soldiers are returned safely.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact our principal Ariel Zaltzman by phone 905-529-7725 or by email: principal@kehilaschool.ca

Jewish Genealogical Society

JGSH (Jewish Genealogical Society - Hamilton & Area) is planning for their future with some different types of programming experiences for this season. The 1st program of the 2006 - 07 season will take place on Wednesday, September 13th. The speaker for this meeting will be local photographer Lynda Morris. Lynda is a fine art photographer whose work is currently showing at Textures on Locke St. in Hamilton, Carnegie Gallery in Dundas and the Harbour Gift Gallery at the Hamilton Marine Discovery Centre on Guise St. in Hamilton. Her presentation is entitled "An Emotional Pictorial Response to Jewish Italy". Lynda Morris, assisted by JGSH member Joyce Dain, will use photographs she took on Irwin Feuerstein's tour to Jewish Italy last March to show us the emotional connection to the people, architecture and rare old manuscripts she saw while there. Some of Ms Morris' work will also be on display for those interested.

JGSH's 2nd program takes place on Wednesday, October 18th. We will be hosting a joint meeting with the British Isles Group (sponsored by The Ontario Genealogy Society-Hamilton Branch) featuring as our speaker Hamilton Spectator columnist Wade Hemsworth. His topic will be "Suggestions & Tips to Help You Get the Most from Your Interviews". Mr. Hemsworth has been both a reporter and editor for the Hamilton Spectator since 1987. He is the author of "Killing Time", "Both My Legs" as well as the serial story about "The Life and Death of Morris Lax" that ran in the Spec. His own experiences in inter-

viewing for his published works will surely make this an interesting and helpful presentation.

On Sunday, November 12th, in conjunction with the Sunday Morning Breakfast Club at Temple Anshe Sholom, we present author Peter Cullman whose presentation is entitled "Writing My Book: Why & How". Mr. Cullman was born in Berlin and survived the Nazi years with his family. He has pursued his family history since early 1980 and has written many articles for AVOTAYNU and other publications. Peter will speak about his recently published book, "History of the Jewish Community of Schneidemuehl: 1641 to the Holocaust", a Yizkor book in the broader sense of the word since it examines a vanished Jewish community against the background of European history of the past 500 years. Even if your family comes from another neck of the woods this presentation should be fascinating.

Our December meeting is a members only hands on computer research clinic.

All meetings are held at Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Ave. N., Hamilton. For more information about day, date and time please check our website at www.jgsh.org. Admission is free for members. The fee for Non-members wishing to attend is \$5.

Additional Information about JGSH and our meetings can be found on our website at www.jgsh.org and/or contact Hazel at president@jgsh.org or phone 905-524-3345. Research questions or information about joining can also be directed to Hazel.

HHA Nominated as Best Private School in Area

What has been widely known to the parents of children at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy in recent years has now been recognized by the broader community. The HHA has recently been nominated as best private school in Hamilton by the Hamilton Spectator Readers Choice Awards!

Few private schools in the Hamilton region can boast of the scholastic achievements and variety of resources available to our students. In our primary grades our dual curriculum program employs the most innovative of materials.

The HHA Resource Centre, under the direction of Margaret Secord, is well respected as one of the best programs of its kind in the region. As a community, we should be proud of our ability to meet the needs of all of Hamilton's Jewish children.

Our preschool program features one of the few Montessori programs that integrates both Hebrew language and general disciplines within the context of a Montessori learning philosophy. As a testimonial to the academic excellence of our preschool program, over 50 children have enrolled for the upcoming year.

The HHA is also one of the only Hamilton private schools to compete in the Hamilton-Wentworth Public School sports league. Under the direction of Mr. Albie Ohanian, our athletics program has developed into one of the premier programs in the region producing more championships than almost any other school.

Yet with all the achievements, the hallmark of the HHA is our nurturing environment that inculcates Jewish values.

We are eagerly looking forward to another outstanding



Hamilton Wentworth Senior Boys Volleyball Champions 2005-06

school year. There are many new and innovative programming ideas that we will be implementing even as we continue to build upon our past achievements. Last year saw the very successful launch of an integrated school wide program designed to encourage and enhance our students' relationships with their peers, their teachers, their families and friends. Every month featured a new theme (Pitgam) based on the teachings of our Sages. Each grade incorporated the monthly saying into its daily curriculum and routine in its own unique way. Students together with their teachers had the opportunity to explore the many facets of each pitgam and to decorate our main bulletin board and the classrooms based on the monthly theme. September's Pitgam, "Give people the benefit of the doubt", gave our students the opportunity to reframe how they reacted to others in their environment. In October our theme was "Helping other brings peace". Once again the theme went hand in hand with the high holidays - a time when we traditionally reach out to others and make amends for past mistakes. In November our theme was, "Give respect-

Get respect!". December saw us encourage our students to, "Say little. Do more!" In January, our theme was, "One good deed leads to another". February 2006 coincided with the Winter Olympics. Here at the Academy we championed another form of "athletics". Our theme was "A true champion has self control". During the festive time of Purim our March theme was "Smile!" This of course fit in so well with our school motto: It's always a beautiful day at the HHA! In April, we encouraged our students to look beyond superficial appearances with "Don't judge a book by its cover" and May's theme was "Love your fellow as you love yourself". We rounded off the school year in June with "A wise person learns something from everyone".

We are going to continue our Pitgamim for the coming year as we build upon these wise and wonderful sayings. The HHA has developed a reputation as a leader in education within the general community. The preschool and elementary school is for children ages 18 months through grade eight. For more information please contact the Principal Mrs. Rivka Shaffir at 905-528-0330.

**THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE DAYNIGHT...
THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE DAYNIGHT...**

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WE PROVIDE OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Jewish National Fund

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND 2006 HAMILTON NEGEV DINNER

The Jewish National Fund 2006 Negev Dinner, which took place at the Hamilton Convention Centre in June, paid tribute to Anne and Mark Mandell for their long-standing involvement in local causes and various Israel based organizations. Also, the Ot Sherut Mitsuyan award was presented to Israel Vukmir for his volunteer commitment and dedication to the Hamilton Jewish community and to Israel.

The proceeds from the Dinner will be used to develop a specially equipped sports and recreational area for the residents of the Tlalim Home for developmentally challenged adolescents and adults. The home is located in Dimona, a development town in the Negev, adjacent to the Ben Gurion Forest, which was planted by JNF. The recreational area will also be available for the children in the community of Dimona.

Greetings were delivered by all levels of government and expressed strong support for the Jewish community and for Israel. The keynote speaker was Ambassador Daniel C. Kurtzer, former Ambassador to Egypt and Israel. His comments focused on and addressed Israel's need for secure borders and vigilance with regard to the nuclear threat from Iran.




Lorraine Cohen, President JNF Hamilton, Honourees Anne & Mark Mandell receiving the Negev Dinner Citation and Dr. Sharon Marcovitz Hart, National President JNF



Frank Simkevitz, Executive Director of JNF, Hilton Silberg, past President JNF Hamilton, Israel Vukmir receiving special award, Ot Sherut Mitsuyan, Dr. Sharon Marcovitz Hart, National President JNF



Dr. Frank and Rita Shapiro, Joanna Turbach and Shannon Shapiro



The Jewish National Fund of Canada

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE BOOK LAUNCH AND PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT OF:

THE 4000 YEAR JOURNEY IN SEARCH OF PEACE

BY DANNY TARAN

This book, a photographic history of the Jewish People, captures the spirit, the determination and the achievements of a people who have struggled for survival and have succeeded.

All proceeds from the book sale will be directed to the Jewish National Fund. A tax receipt for the allowable amount will be issued.


THE EXHIBIT OF PHOTOS AND THE SALE OF BOOKS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FOLLOWING CITIES:


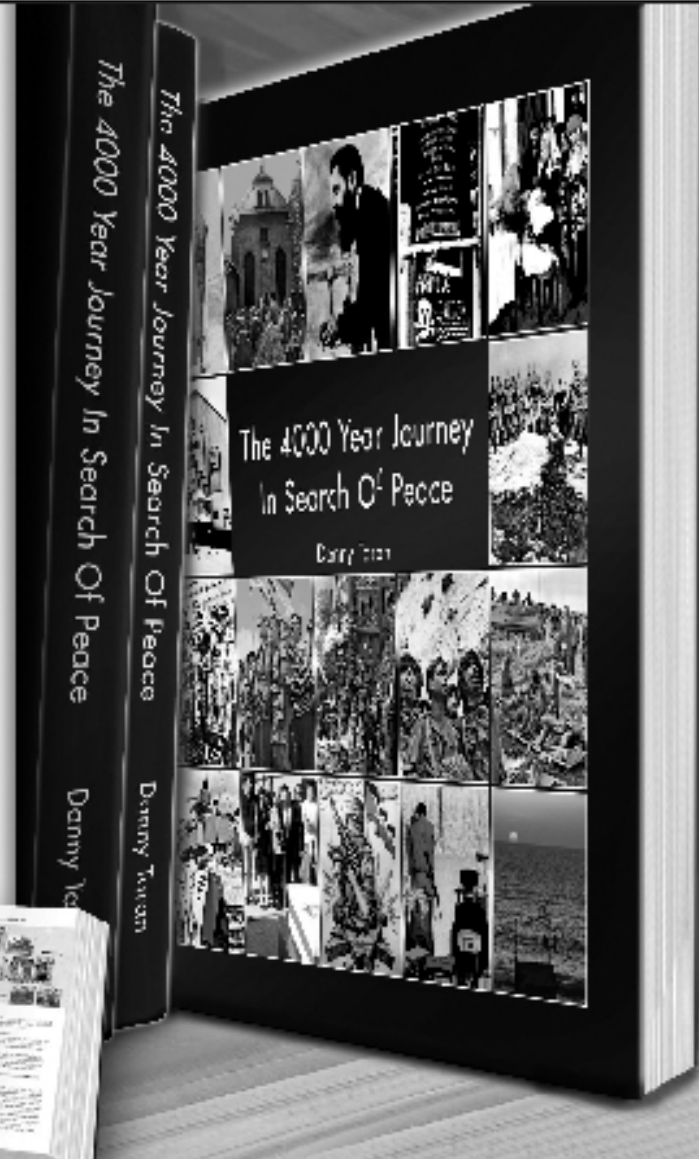
Toronto: Reception and book signing: Sunday, September 10, 2006 from 1 to 9 p.m. at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre in the "Loggia Room", 4598 Bathurst St.; Sale of Books and Exhibit of Photographs on display until September 29th, 2006. (416) 603-1060

Hamilton: Reception & Book signing: Thursday, October 5, 2006 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the "Ruth Freeman Centre" at the Sheldon Village, 70 Mackin St. N.; Sale of Books and Exhibit of Photographs on display until October 12, 2006. (905) 528-0377

Windsor: Reception & Book signing: Monday, October 16, 2006 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Windsor Jewish Community Centre in the "Mary Zakelman A & B Rooms", 1641 Qualate Ave.; Sale of books and Exhibit of Photographs on display until October 19, 2006. (519) 973-1772

London: Reception & Book signing: Sunday, October 22, 2006 from 6 to 9 a.m. at the London Jewish Community Centre in the "Herb's Room", 535 Huron St.; Sale of Books and Exhibit of Photographs on display until October 26, 2006. (519) 873-3110



Jewish National Fund

**The Jewish National Fund
Helping to Rebuild Israel's North**



Dr. Sharon Marcovitz Hart
National President
Jewish National Fund

Aforestation, sustainable development, desertification and water resource management should be among the critical issues and challenges that face us in Israel today. Participating in international environmental conferences, where we have the opportunity to brainstorm and share our expertise and cutting edge technology, should be our only focus in providing solutions to Israel's pressing ecologic needs.

Instead, what we are faced with today in northern Israel are over one million people, including hundreds of thousands of children, who have been surviving in bomb shelters for over five weeks.

We have also seen the devastation of Israel's natural resources on an unprecedented scale. The loss of crops, farmland and forests has been immense and the industrial and agricultural heartland of Israel has been dealt a severe blow.

For over 105 years, the Jewish National Fund has been able to adapt to Israel's changing needs, and the current crisis is no exception. Through our **Operation Security Blanket**, we have provided for **all** people in need. We have helped restore a sense of normalcy and calm for as many children as possible by sending them to summer camps and field schools out of range of katyusha rockets. The JNF has **directly** operated these camps and paid for all transportation, activities, food and security needs for these evacuees from the Galilee.

The rockets have also caused extensive and devastating fires in northern Israel. From the beginning of the war, 12 JNF firefighting teams have dealt with more than 600 forest fires – more fires than would be ordinarily experienced in a five-year period. More than 12,000 dunams (3,000 acres) of planted forests and natural woodland containing almost 1,000,000 trees of various types have been destroyed. The JNF has provided fire trucks, personal safety equipment for the firefighters, and fire retardant chemicals to combat the fires and contain the damage. It will take many years to rehabilitate the forests and restore the trees and farmlands.

In responding to the urgent situation in Israel, the JNF has consistently been active on the ground. **Operation Security Blanket** will continue to provide real and tangible benefits for all the citizens of Israel. Support thus far from JNF communities around the world has been extraordinarily generous. However, the need to rebuild, replenish, replant and re-develop is ongoing and we are being called upon to continue the effort for at least another six months. This is clearly the time to demonstrate our solidarity for the people of Israel – and JNF has led the way.

As we prepare to celebrate the High Holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your family and friends health, happiness, and prosperity for 5767. But let us also offer our condolences to the families of Israel's fallen soldiers and the many civilians who have lost their lives in recent weeks; let us wish a speedy recovery to the thousands who have been injured; and let us hope and pray for the safe return of Israel's captured soldiers.

Let us all hope and pray for peace for Am Yisrael.
Le'shana tova tikatevu ve'tichatemu.



You can do something TODAY to help



JNF Operation Security Blanket

Even with a ceasefire, Israelis must continue to cope with the crisis.

Heavy damage to JNF Forests – Huge swaths of forests and fields across Northern Israel have been scorched by thousands of Hezbollah rocket strikes, and experts say it will take at least 50 years to recover. It appears that rockets have destroyed 16,500 acres of forest and grazing fields. Nearly one million trees have been destroyed. What was once green is now black and grey. It will take decades to restore balance to the ecosystem.

Your support will help JNF:

- Provide camping opportunities for children who have been traumatized during the Hezbollah Rocket bombardment. A special year-long camp program has been established.
- Purchase emergency response vehicles/fire trucks, helmets for firefighters and emergency response personnel.
- Revive smoldering black forests - make the Galilee Green Again – bring back the tourists and revive the economy.

Jewish National Fund is on the ground with action, not words. The proceeds from this year's Yiskor Campaign will be allocated to rebuilding and repairing damages caused by Hezbollah Katyusha Rockets, to Israel's agricultural lands and forests and to the children who have been traumatized by war. We are continuing to be a security blanket for Israel's families and the land of Israel.

**JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
Start Filling Your JNF Blue Boxes**



Don't Have A Blue Box?

Please call the JNF office at 905-527-5516. We will be happy to drop off a Blue Box to you.

If You Have A Full Blue Box

You can drop it off at the JCC, Temple Anshe Sholom, Beth Jacob, Adas Israel, Shalom Village, Kehila Day School or Hamilton Hebrew Academy or call the office and we will arrange to have it picked up and we'll give you a new empty box.

Fact: The Blue Box has been around since 1904

Fact: Funds from the Blue Box this year will support Operation Security Blanket

Fact: The Blue Box is a great way to teach children the concept of Tzedakah



On the occasion of **YISKOR**

it is tradition to make a charitable contribution in memory of a loved one or friend.

Yiskor is observed on Yom Kippur, Shemini Atzeret, Passover and Shavuot. It is a time to remember.

יִזְכוֹר

For they offered charity for the memory of their souls
בעד הזכרת נשמתם
בעבור שנדבו לצדקה

The mitzvah of "tzedakah" translates into action, the promises we make during Yiskor prayers.

"May the words of our mouths become the deeds of our hands."

Let the memory of our loved ones guarantee the future of the Jewish people and all of Israel.

In Hamilton, call 905-527-5516

Proceeds from this year's YISKOR Campaign will go to rebuilding and repairing the damage caused by Hezbollah Katyusha rockets to Israel's agricultural lands and forests.



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