



## Mitzvah project

Baking challah for the hungry P7

## One step at a time

Son inspires mother's challenge P7

## Leadership in action

Israelis and Turks learn together

P14



# Hamilton Jewish News

THE JEWISH VOICE OF HAMILTON

FEBRUARY 2014 VOL 27:3/ SHVAT/ADAR 5774

AGREEMENT #40007180

## Because you asked ... Where do my dollars go?

It's quite simple. As Jews, it is our responsibility to take care of one another—especially those less fortunate than ourselves.

One of the most significant ways Jewish Hamiltonians can make a difference is through Hamilton Jewish Federation's annual Community Campaign.

How are your dollars spent? Your gift goes towards local agencies, programs and overseas partners, providing a safety net of services to Jews in Hamilton, Israel and throughout the world.

Your gift covers all of Jewish Hamilton through improving the lives of the poor, unemployed, elderly, abused, immigrants in need and many others. It also provides for our community's day and supplementary schools, Camp

Kadimah, the JCC and other essential services. Last year, for example, your dollars enabled 116 students to receive day school bursaries, 75 seniors to receive monthly stipends and 110 people to receive regular financial assistance.

Your gift also helps us fulfill our national obligations to the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), Canadian Jewry's national advocacy organization and Jewish Federations of Canada - UIA. Last, but certainly not least, a portion of your dollars go to Israel, where they are directed towards the absorption and integration of new immigrants and transforming the lives of disadvantaged youth and other populations at risk living in Israel's peripheral communities.

### A gift to Federation builds a thriving community

In 2013/14 we allocated:

#### **\$361,415** towards **STRENGTHENING JEWISH IDENTITY**

- Jewish Day Schools
- Jewish Afternoon Schools
- Midrasha - Hamilton Hebrew High
- McMaster Hillel
- Hamilton to Toronto Jewish High School Shuttle
- Asper Foundation for Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program
- Hamilton Jewish Federation Programs

#### **\$301,536** towards **ASSISTING THE VULNERABLE**

- Beth Tikvah Foundation
- Jewish Social Services
- Camp Kadimah Scholarships
- Hamilton Jewish Federation Programs

#### **\$269,087** towards **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

- Hamilton Jewish News
- Holocaust Education
- Hamilton Kashrut Services
- Jewish Community Centre
- Hamilton Jewish Federation Programs

#### **\$180,352** towards **ISRAEL AND OVERSEAS**

- Canada Israel Experience
- Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)
- March of the Living
- Ralph Travis Israel bursaries
- Jewish Federations of Canada - UIA
- Hamilton Jewish Federation Programs

## The waiting game

WITH A NEW BABY IN THEIR LIVES ARIE AND JOY PEKAR HANG ON TO THE HOPE OF FINDING A KIDNEY DONOR



Family time: Joy Pekar keeps baby Benny amused, while staying close to Arie during his twice-weekly dialysis treatment.

Photo by Wendy Schneider

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

**M**uch has changed since Joy and Arie Pekar first went public a year ago about Arie's need to find a kidney donor. At that time the couple was hoping to avoid his going on dialysis in the face of deteriorating genetic kidney disease. A year later, blessed with a new baby, whose early arrival coincided with Arie's starting dialysis, the Pekars are doing their best to adjust to a vastly different reality.

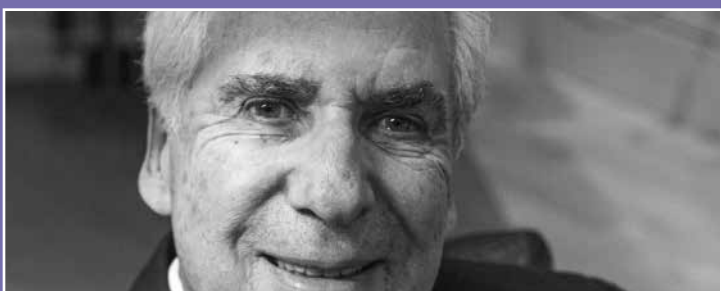
It's the Pekars' unfailing optimism that leaves the strongest impression on a visitor to their Dundas home. Laughter is ever-present as the couple explains the circumstances surrounding the birth of their son, Benny, just days after Arie's undergoing a surgical procedure to enable him to do at-home dialysis treatments. With Arie's doctor telling him that he could not afford to delay starting dialysis any longer than necessary, the Pekars decided to start the process well before Joy's expected due date.

"In theory they could have postponed it," said Joy, "but he would have gotten sicker."

But by the time Arie completed tests to determine if he was a candidate for a less invasive form of dialysis (he wasn't), his surgery ended up being booked only three weeks before the baby was due.

"I said to myself, 'That's ok. First babies are usually about a week late so we'll have about a month. And of course our baby shows up three weeks early.'" Benny's arrival by emergency caesarean section four days following Arie's surgery led to both Joy and Arie recuperating on different floors of the same hospital. Joy laughs as she recalls that particular scene and the days that followed.

Cont'd on page 16



## Telling their stories

Stan Tick shares why he gives

P9

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**YEAR IN REVIEW**

**BARB BABIJ,**  
CEO  
HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION

*"Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it and I can move the world."*  
Archimedes



This is one of my favourite quotes because it speaks to the possibilities of the future.

Now that I've been here for just over a year, I wanted to provide a bit of a review. While I could bore you with the facts and figures of how I spent my time, who I met with, how many meetings I attended, etc. I would rather share with you some of my thoughts about the things I've learned and the possibilities for the future of Jewish Hamilton. As you might imagine, there is some good news and some bad news.

**Community**

Jewish Hamilton is characterized by incredible and widespread goodwill and the desire for a strong, vibrant Jewish community. Volunteerism is thriving, as evidenced by participation on our committees, and in the greater Jewish community, with our Shem Tov awards.

While the number of Jews in the Hamilton area is growing (the most recent census data records the Jewish population at 5,115, (up from 4,680 in 2001), connection to and engagement with Federation is not keeping pace. In addition, the nature of volunteerism is changing with fewer folks interested in volunteering for the long haul, preferring instead to volunteer for time-limited projects.

Finally, we face the additional challenge of reconciling various opinions of what constitutes a vibrant Jewish community.

**Campaign**

Campaign is our core business; it is the means by which we support more than 25 agencies and programs within Jewish Hamilton.

We are fortunate to have a cadre of volunteers who work tirelessly on our behalf. Our thanks to the dedicated members of the campaign cabinet under the inspired leadership of Yves Apel this year and Jay State last year, and to our many canvassers.

While the campaign has not quite ended, we have reached just over \$1,030,000 in pledges (at the time of my writing), a bit ahead of where we were last year. And while we are still hopeful that we will reach our goal of \$1.2 million, thanks to your generosity, it is by no means a certainty.

In addition, we are facing challenges to core policies further fragmenting the strength of the Community Campaign.

A level campaign again this year will have serious repercussions for our beneficiary agencies. We need your help. Please step up and be counted; together we can do extraordinary things.

**Allocations**

We have an incredibly diverse infrastructure in Jewish Hamilton, including two day schools, two afternoon schools, a high school program, kashrut services, an inclusive Jewish community newspaper, world-class Holocaust education, a JCC, a JSS, a home for developmentally delayed adults, a Jewish long-term care facility, a JNF, a summer day camp, and a Hillel at McMaster. We directly support all but the JNF and Shalom Village.

Our allocations process is overseen by another group of very dedicated folks who spend an inordinate amount of time reviewing, analyzing and agonizing over the decisions as to which agency will receive what allocation. Our thanks to you all, we are grateful for your wisdom.

Last year's campaign (2012/2013) raised \$1,112,140 in net pledges. Of that, we allocated \$935,218 to our beneficiary agencies. With a campaign that's plateaued, we would be unable to increase our support to our beneficiaries and they in turn would be unable to address the growing needs of our community.

By the way, in the 2012/2013 fiscal year, approximately 2 per cent of net pledges was spent for campaign programs including the campaign opener and approximately 14 per cent was spent on what might be termed "overhead". We are operating a very lean organization.

**So what about the promise for the future?**

A number of years ago, the Hamilton Jewish Federation sponsored an initiative for community planning. This initiative focused heavily on education as well as a number of other aspects of community life in Hamilton. We need to build on the work that has gone before in order to continue mapping the future. Federation is committed to building the strong, vibrant and enduring Jewish community envisioned in that study.

Using this article as a springboard, I hope to open the door to revisiting some of these issues as well as others. Over the next four months, I will be reaching out to you, in person, by telephone, and via email with the intent to engage in dialogue, to learn about your vision for our future, and how we might get there.

Together we can move the world.

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**WOMEN OF INSPIRATION**

Na'amat Hamilton's Women of Inspiration evening held on November 10, 2013 at Beth Jacob Synagogue honoured Susan Denburg, Carol Krames, Lorraine Cohen and Wendy Schneider (pictured above) for their contributions to the Hamilton Jewish community. "All of them have been exceptional in making our community a better place to live and enhancing others' lives," said Na'amat member, Sandi Seigel, who introduced the evening. Pictured below (l to r), Bea Matchen, Sylvia Jacobs and past honouree, Ahuva Soifer.

Photos by Lawrence Yanover

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**COMING UP**

**PASSOVER ISSUE**

- Deadline for booking ad space Feb. 20, 2014
- Deadline for receiving editorial copy Feb. 27, 2014
- Deadline for receiving ad copy March 15, 2014
- Estimated date of arrival March 31, 2014

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**HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS** is published five times a year by Hamilton Jewish News Inc. and Wendy Schneider  
Circulation 2,000

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The HJN invites members of the community to contribute letters, articles or guest editorials. Written submissions 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.

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 Apr. 9 - 24

**SUMMER** Jun. 29 - July 10 or 13  
 July 27 - Aug 7 or 10  
 Aug 3 - 14 or 17  
 Aug 17 - 28 or 31

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## Special needs action project

Conference geared to parents of children with special needs

Parents of children with special needs will be interested in a special forum taking place this spring. On March 23, the Hamilton Jewish Federation, in conjunction with Beth Tikvah and other beneficiary agencies are sponsoring a forum intended to be the first step of the Hamilton Jewish community's Special Needs Action Project (SNAP). The event will take place at 2 p.m. at Beth Jacob Synagogue.

The purpose of the forum is to provide information on relevant topics and identify the scope of issues relating to special needs in the community.

"It is our hope that this project will become a sustainable initiative providing a helping hand

to parents with special needs children," said Federation CEO Barb Babij.

Among the topics addressed are: How to create social support networks; Government Services; Your rights – a legal perspective; Long-range financial planning.

Please join us to find the answers to many of your questions. We will also be asking you to complete a confidential survey to identify the scope of the needs in Jewish Hamilton and to seek your guidance on the best way to help.

For registration information please contact Federation CEO Barb Babij at 905-648-0605, ext 305 or email [bbabij@jewishhamilton.org](mailto:bbabij@jewishhamilton.org).

### THIS AD WILL BE SEEN

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**Our community has pledged 30 units of blood for 2014**

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### PJ Library Update



Gitty Weiser visits the PJ Library booth at last year's Yom Ha'atzmaut event. Photo by Elaine Levine

Since PJ Library was launched in our community in April of 2012, 2,140 books have been delivered. PJ Library is a program that delivers Jewish books to eligible families with children between the ages of six months and six years. PJ has been so successful, we've had to initiate a waiting list.

Whether your family is already subscribed or on our waiting list, everyone can benefit from the Resources for Families link on the PJ Library. There you'll find Jewish values-based activity suggestions, as well as tips

and resources on Jewish parenting. Thank you to our local program sponsors, The Shirley and Morris Waxman Family and Hamilton Lion of Judah Division. For more information contact [elvine@jewishhamilton.org](mailto:elvine@jewishhamilton.org) or 905-627-9922 ext. 24.

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## Na'amat celebrity author lunch to feature Nancy Richler

DEENA SACKS

Na'amat is pleased to announce that Nancy Richler will be the guest speaker for the 29th Annual Celebrity Author Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2014.

Richler's first novel, *Throwaway Angels*, that focuses on the disappearance of a group of women from an area of Vancouver known for its high incidence of drug use and sex trade, was shortlisted for the Arthur Ellis Award for Best First Crime Novel.

Her second book, *Your Mouth is Lovely*, is a historical novel set in Russia between 1890 and 1912. It won the 2003 Canadian Jewish Book Award for fiction and Italy's 2004 Adei-Wizo Prize.

Richler's third novel, *The Imposter Bride*, was short-listed for the 2012 Scotiabank Giller Prize. In 2013, Richler received the Canadian Jewish Book Award. *The Imposter Bride* is a story about a Holocaust survivor who travels to Montreal to marry a man she has never met. *The Imposter Bride* is listed on *The Globe and Mail's* best books of the year list. Richler's short stories have been published in *The Journey Prize Anthology*, *The New Quarterly*, *Room of One's Own*, *Fireweed*, and *Fiddlehead*.

Richler has recently joined the department of English of the University of Ottawa in the prestigious position of writer-in-residence.

Since its inception 29 years ago, Na'amat Hamilton has been privileged to bring to the Hamilton community esteemed authors including Margaret Atwood, Mordecai Richler, Timothy Findley, Jane Urquhart, Pierre Berton, Robertson Davies, Barbara Gowdy, M.G. Vassanji, Nino Ricci, Eleanor Wachtel, Anne Michaels, Elizabeth Hay, David Suzuki, Lawrence Hill, Miriam Toews and Vincent Lam.



Nancy Richler

Photo courtesy of Michael Beaulieu

Na'amat programs benefit all Israeli women by providing shelters for abused women and children, legal counselling, recreational and retraining programs, and a countrywide network of daycare centres.

The luncheon will take place at the Adas Israel Congregation at noon. Tickets can be purchased at Bryan Prince Bookseller, 1060 King St. W., 905-528-4508 or by contacting [authorluncheon@cego.ca](mailto:authorluncheon@cego.ca). If you'd like information about our organization, please contact Judy Mendelson at 905-572-6679.

### Hold the Date COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tuesday, February 4 at 7:30 p.m.  
**Mikvah Benefit Concert** with Shoshana Telner, Peter Shackleton & Kirk Starkey  
[mikvah@adasisrael.ca](mailto:mikvah@adasisrael.ca) or 905-528-0039

Saturday & Sunday, March 1 & 2  
**Beth Jacob's Israeli Film Festival**  
 featuring *The Gatekeepers* (Saturday night)  
*Strangers No More* (Sunday morning)  
*Rainbow* (Sunday morning)  
[www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca](http://www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca)

Tuesday, March 4  
**Meyer-Schreiber Lecture**  
**Modern Myths of Muslim Antisemitism**  
 by Mark R. Cohen  
 CIBC Centre, McMaster University Student Centre

Sunday March 30 at 2 p.m.  
**Women's Renewal Seder**  
 Temple Anshe Sholom

Sunday, May 11  
**Beth Jacob Speakeasy**  
 featuring rising star **Ben Caplan**  
[www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca](http://www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca)

Thursday, May 8  
**A Taste of Anshe Sholom**  
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Wednesday, May 28 at 7 p.m.  
**Hamilton Hebrew Academy Gala Dinner**  
[www.hamiltonhebrewacademy.ca/tribute](http://www.hamiltonhebrewacademy.ca/tribute)

Sunday, June 1 at 7 p.m.  
**Asper Foundation Human Right & Holocaust Studies Program Student Graduation**  
 Temple Anshe Sholom

### Calling all epicures!



### Jewish Social Services 5th Annual Wine Tasting Event hosted by Simcha Wines

**When:** Sunday, February 23, 2014  
**Time:** 7:30 pm  
**At:** 30 King Street East, Dundas  
**Cost:** \$20

#### Event Sponsorship Opportunities:

Gold \$500 Silver \$250 Bronze \$100

Enjoy an evening sampling fine wines and tasting delicious treats created by our community's professional caterers.

#### All proceeds support the Jewish Social Services Kosher Food Bank.

An opportunity to order wine for Passover.

For additional information on event sponsorship call Carol Krames 905-627-9922 x21 or email [carolkramesjss@hotmail.com](mailto:carolkramesjss@hotmail.com)

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## Cold weather presents some frosty challenges

The record cold temperatures we have been enduring this winter have had a major impact on life at Shalom Village.

### Dangerous

When temperatures reach dangerous levels, or icy sidewalks make for unsafe walking conditions, it is sometimes necessary for us to cancel resident outings. Our staff will run errands for residents to make sure that they have the groceries or medications they need, but residents look forward to getting out and they miss these excursions.

### Burst pipe

In the early hours of Dec. 16 a frozen hot water pipe burst, causing a

significant amount of water and steam damage in Bubbi Bessie's Café and our synagogue.

### Quick actions

The quick actions of our team members helped to mitigate the damage, but the water and steam took their toll.

### Professional restoration

A professional restoration company has been contracted to repair the damage. The scope of the work is extensive. Wall panels, plumbing, carpets and fixtures need replacing and special equipment was needed to safely dry out the rooms and their salvageable contents.



Bubbi Bessie's Café resembled the set of a science fiction movie as crews worked to restore it to its former glory.

### Air Quality

One important aspect of the restoration process is ensuring that the air quality in the affected areas has not been compromised. The area was sealed off and special equipment was brought in to test for the presence of mould, asbestos, or other contaminants. It is important not only to have attractive surroundings for our residents, but also to ensure a safe and healthy environment.

### Good as new

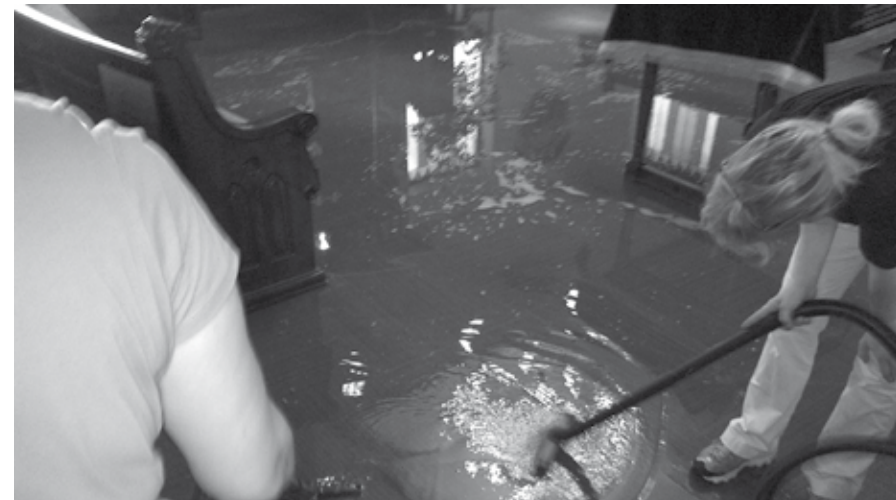
When it is complete, Bubbi Bessie's Café and our synagogue will be as good as new. Meanwhile, the café has relocated to temporary quarters in Samuel's, just down

the hall. All religious services will proceed as scheduled.

It is unfortunate that this incident occurred almost a year to the day that Bubbi Bessie's Café opened in its new location. The beautiful expanded coffee shop was made possible by the generosity of donors who contributed to a fundraising campaign for the project.

### Social centre

Insurance is expected to cover most of the costs to repair the damage. Meanwhile, Noreen and her team are taking it all in stride. Even in its temporary location, Bubbi Bessie's continues to be the social centre of Shalom Village!



Shalom Village team members vacuumed up gallons of water from the floor of our synagogue before the restoration crew arrived

## No time for goodbyes

The last time Lore Jacobs saw her father and mother was at the Frankfurt Railway Station when she was 15 years old. They were not allowed to accompany her to the platform to see her off, and they barely had time to say goodbye. Much later she learned that her parents perished in the Lodz Ghetto in 1942.

Lore, who now resides at Shalom Village, recently spoke to our residents, staff, and volunteers, sharing her experiences as a young girl living in Germany in the days leading up to the Second World War.

Lore (pronounced Lori) went to public school until the Nazis banned Jews from attending. "Jews not Allowed" signs went up in many public places, and long, red swastika flags flew from apartment windows all around where she lived.

### Kristallnacht

In November of 1938 came the infamous Kristallnacht when Nazi gangs looted, stole and destroyed thousands of Jewish homes, synagogues and businesses. Three men stormed into Lore's home, smashing and stealing her family's belongings. They took her father away to the Dachau concentration camp while Lore and her mother huddled in the apartment in fear. When he returned a few weeks later her father was in bad health, and never fully recovered.

### Crossing the English Channel

Lore's parents managed to get her accepted in the Kindertransport, a program initiated by Jews, Quakers, and other groups in the UK to rescue Jewish children. On July 7, 1939 she left Frankfurt, eventually crossing the English Channel to live with an English family in Northampton. Lore spoke little English and the family spoke no German, and she was



Lore Jacobs in her home at Shalom Village.

very lonely.

When war was declared in September of that year she was considered an enemy alien. Northampton was militarized and Lore was sent to live with another family in the tiny village of Alderton.

When she was 16, Lore went to work as a seamstress in a factory, but she wanted to do something more interesting with her life. She enrolled in an Early Childhood Education program in Birmingham, where Lore met her future husband Erwin at a social club for refugees. Erwin was also a

Jew from Germany. They were married in 1944, when Lore was 20.

Lore and Erwin came to Hamilton in the mid-1950s where they raised two children, Peter and Gale.

### Kindness of strangers

Lore speaks of how luck and the kindness of strangers allowed her to survive. "History, and the beliefs and actions of others changed my life in ways beyond my control," she says. "In the end, good people prevailed."

## Thank you

Grateful thanks to the families of **Frances Leuchter, Ruth Stein, Carol Freeman, and Brenda White** for requesting donations to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers.

Memorial donations support the *Possibilities Fund* at Shalom Village, making many special programs and services possible for our residents.

## Possibility Report

Watch for news from the Shalom Village Charitable Foundation, including an update on the *Chai Club*, in the upcoming issue of our *Possibility Report*.



The *Possibility Report* will be distributed with 2013 tax receipts and will also be available by email, on our website, or at Shalom Village.



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## One step at a time

Inspired by her son, Andrea Levy takes on her own challenge

by ANDREA LEVY, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

How did a 45-year-old, extremely overweight local woman become a participant in the Miami Marathon?

My name is Andrea Levy, and my husband, Marc Schwartz and I decided to participate in the Miami Marathon this February on Team Yachad. Yachad, the National Jewish Council for Disabilities is a thriving 6,500 global organization dedicated to addressing the needs of all Jewish individuals with disabilities and ensuring their inclusion in every aspect of Jewish life. We became aware of Yachad through our 15-year-old (at the time) son, Max, who has an autism spectrum disorder. Max was considering participating in an Israel summer program which teams high school-aged students with older people with disabilities on a tour of Israel. Even though he decided to go on another trip, our relationship with Yachad was born. Since then, both Max, now 17 and his sister Ariel, 14, participate in Yachad outings, concerts, cultural events and Shabbatonim. They receive volunteer hours for their participation at events, and this year Max was appointed to the Yachad high school leadership board.



Andrea Levy at Hamilton Road to Hope half-marathon  
Photo courtesy of Andrea Levy

Max learned to navigate the TTC and was at work by 8 a.m. daily for morning prayers. The experience of living on his own, shopping on his own and working in a great job with the safety net of having a vocational counselor gave him new-found confidence.

### How Yachad helped Max

Last summer, Max participated in a vocational program run by Yachad at Camp Moshava Ba'ir, a day camp in Toronto. For seven weeks Max and other participants underwent vocational training, learning the skills necessary to work in a professional environment and make the most of their natural abilities.

To avoid a two hour commute, Max rented a room in Toronto that was a 10-minute walk from the Bathurst bus. He learned to navigate the TTC and was at work by 8 a.m. daily for morning prayers. The experience of living on his own, shopping on his own and working in a great job with the safety net of having a vocational counselor gave him new-found confidence and "the best summer ever."

When he returned to Ancaster Secondary, he accepted a job picking up children after school and keeping them safe and happy until their mothers came home. He is responsible for planning their time together and all aspects of their safety and supervision.

My husband and I are grateful to Yachad for enabling both our children to volunteer and be of service to others. Thanks to



Max Schwartz (left) helps out another camper.  
Photo courtesy of Camp Moshava Ba'ir

Yachad's vocational training, we believe that Max will have many more employment opportunities in the years ahead.

### Training for the Miami Half-Marathon

Walking long distances has always been difficult for me. Running was out of the question. But inspired by Max and wanting to show my gratitude to Yachad, I decided to take on the challenge of walking the Miami Half Marathon this February.

My goals were to raise Yachad's profile so that other families in need could benefit from its programs and to give back to Yachad by helping them help others.

I started training with a friend who loves endurance walking and it was incredible, because I enjoyed myself from the first day! She taught me about posture and the basics of training. There have been many hard walks since then, and through it all, I have discovered that getting out the door is the hardest and best thing to do. We hike local trails all around Hamilton and recently we went to Las Vegas, where we hiked in the Red Rock Canyon and at the Hoover Dam and Lake Mead. In November, Marc and I both completed the Hamilton Road to Hope Half Marathon, and it's a good thing we did because our training schedule is pretty messed up with this crazy weather. Thankfully we know we can do it.

If you are interested in reading my training blog, you can find it here: <http://team-yachad-i-must-be-insane.blogspot.ca/>

If you, or anyone you know would like to participate in Yachad events, check out their web site at [www.njcd.org](http://www.njcd.org).

### TIKKUN OLAM IN THE COMMUNITY

## For today's B'nai Mitzvah it's about much more than the party

WENDY SCHNEIDER

Rena Schweitzer, 12, wanted her Bat Mitzvah party to include an actual mitzvah. The Grade 7 student from Toronto's Netivot HaTorah, attended the Hamilton Hebrew Academy (HHA) from Nursery through Grade 6, and celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at the Adas Israel last December.

"Rena felt it was important that her Bat Mitzvah celebration include participation in an actual 'mitzvah' activity," said her mother, Adalia. "Our family have been long-time supporters of Carol Krames and the work she does with the Kosher Food Bank, so it seemed fitting that this was the mitzvah we chose for her party."

During Schweitzer's party, her classmates (both from her former HHA class and current Netivot class) shaped challahs which were then baked and donated to the Hamilton Kosher Food Bank. Each girl then signed a personal tag for the anonymous recipient. Local caterer Andrea Levy led the girls in the recitation of the blessing on separating challah dough after explaining the custom's significance, and Jewish Social Services director, Carol Krames, spoke to the girls about the importance of a Kosher food bank.

Asked what inspired her to perform the mitzvah of giving to the Kosher food bank, Schweitzer referred to a variety of mitzvah projects organized by former HHA classmates for their simchas. "I really wanted to do a mitzvah. Not just a party," she said.



Rena Schweitzer organized a challah baking activity for the Hamilton Kosher Food Bank.  
Photo courtesy of Adalia Schweitzer

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AEROBICS with Joanne Tower

Tuesdays, from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

**Cost:** \$10 per person. Women only  
For more information please contact Laura @ ext 308

KICK BOXING with Carolyn Molot

Tuesdays, from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

**Cost:** \$10 per person. For more information please contact Laura @ ext 308

join in the fun



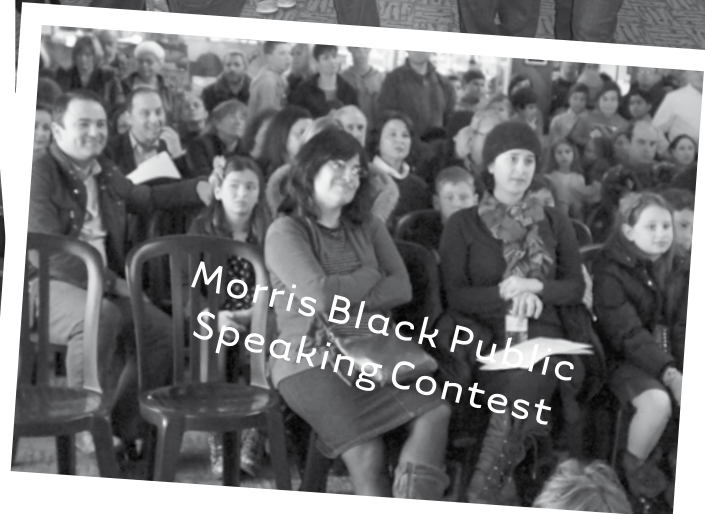
JCC Jewish Film Festival



MMYO Matzah Ball Making!



Mahjong!



Morris Black Public Speaking Contest

camp kadimah



A WARM WELCOME TO  
**GEOFF ZALTER**  
2014 CAMP DIRECTOR

Camp Kadimah welcomes Geoff Zalter as its new camp director for the summer of 2014. Zalter began his experience with Camp Kadimah as a counselor in training in the summer of 2005. Zalter holds Camp Kadimah close to his heart. He has been a counselor, sports specialist and unit head. Zalter also has experience teaching kids sports through programs that the JCC has run. Currently, Zalter is leading our Mitzvah Mission Youth Organization at the JCC. He is looking forward to bringing new and exciting ideas to Camp Kadimah this summer and he can't wait to see you all.

morris black winners

**Grade 3**  
First: Ido Rosenberg, Rachel Arnold  
Second: Rhyon Laengerer, Asher Stolar  
Third: Jarred Brown, Emma Waxman

**Grade 4**  
First: Samuel Selsberg  
Second: Boris Kaperman  
Third: Yonina Kleiman

**Grade 5**  
First: Tal Rosenberg  
Second: Madelyn Waxman  
Third: Gaya Shakked

**Grade 6**  
First: Ethan Feldman  
Second: Daniel Brown  
Third: Daniel Laengerer

**Grade 7**  
First: Mitchell Horwood  
Second: Moshe Izvi Shapiro  
Third: Michaela Woolf

**Grade 8**  
First: Ela Levogoren  
Second: Rivky Zians  
Third: Celia Ohayon, Dorothy Paling

There was nowhere in our community for developmentally-challenged adults to live, until Stan Tick did something about it.

LIVING

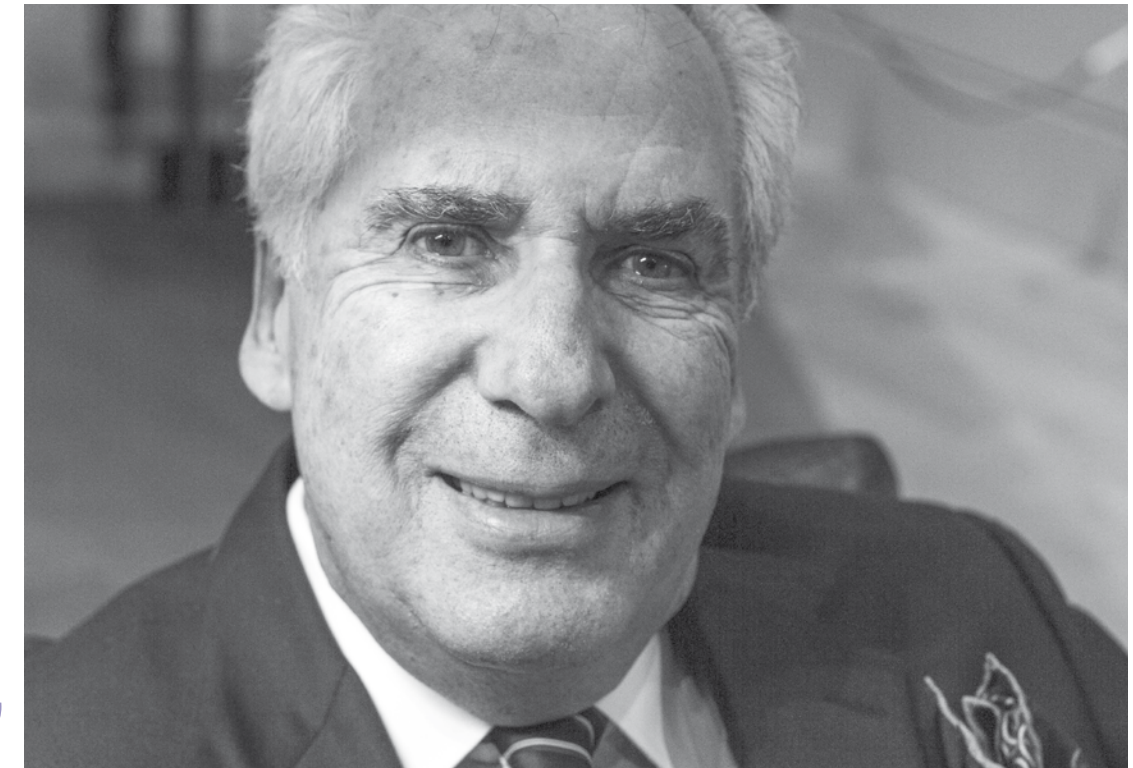


Photo by Wendy Schneider, the Hamilton Jewish News

**GENEROUSLY**

portraits in giving

A new series that offers a glimpse into the generous habits of Jewish Hamiltonians, who, in their own words, explain why they give of their time and resources. In doing so they open our eyes wide to what people and organizations in our community might become. To what we might become. Below, Hamilton lawyer Stan Tick, 75, kicks off the series by sharing his philosophy of giving.

Early influences

I had two siblings who had special needs. I came along later and I saw the love that my folks gave to them and to me, how important community was to them and the importance of being thankful for all the things we had. It gave me the perspective that what's important is family, being part of a community and being a Jew.

How Beth Tikvah came into being

My dad had passed away. My mother was incapacitated and my responsibility was to look after my two brothers. I tried to keep them in the family home, but that didn't work because I couldn't find anyone to look after them on an ongoing basis, keeping them safe and active and making their life happy, enjoyable and relevant. They ended up in a second level lodging home which was very unsatisfactory. They were unhappy, and because they were unhappy, I was unhappy and I wanted better for them. I approached Shalom Village but I was told that they couldn't be accommodated there because of their special needs. My choices were either to place them with the Reena Foundation in Toronto or start a place in Hamilton. There was no darn way that I was going to move my brothers to Toronto when their whole life was in Hamilton, so I took it on myself to figure out how we could start a home for developmentally challenged adults in the Jewish community and that led to Beth Tikvah. This was a terrible void in our community because we didn't have it. It wasn't enough to have social events at the Jewish Community Centre; it wasn't enough to have places where you could go and throw a basketball around and meet;

generosity:

the habit of giving without expecting anything in return

"We have to make sure that everyone in the community, whether they're elderly, infirm or mentally challenged, have an opportunity to have the same life we have."

Stan Tick

you needed something so that everyone had an opportunity to have a quality of life.

Why he gives

We're a very small community and if someone gives a \$20 donation to the Community Campaign then he or she doesn't appreciate the importance of our having a healthy, self sustaining community. I see professionals who are blessed because they're living at a time when there are no quotas on going to school, or being on staff in a hospital. That just didn't happen. It happened because of the people that went before us and if we don't recognize that, shame on us. When you get a professional making a gift of \$300 to the Community Campaign then they just don't understand. The fact that our Community Campaign has stagnated for the last number of years at a plateau that, no matter how we struggle, is difficult to get over. It really makes you wonder what it takes to make people understand how important our community is, and how little help we have outside our own community.

The Jewish value that resonates the most

I suppose it would be, "If we don't look after ourselves who's going to look after us?" The easiest thing is to say, "it'll get done and no one's going to let our community go by the wayside." But I'll tell you something; if no one steps up to the plate, there's not going to be a plate to step up to. There won't be a plate to eat from. There won't be food to put on the plate because quite frankly, letting someone else do it doesn't work in our community. We all have our own private personal issues and we're all absorbed in our own lives which is important but if you don't make part of the values of your own life looking after others, what legacy are you giving your children?

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## TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM



One hundred and thirty-one menorahs glowing brightly at Temple Anshe Sholom's Chanukah party.

Temple Anshe Sholom hosted an open Chanukah party on the final night of the Festival of Lights. The opportunity to ignite all the candles of a Chanukah was taken by more than 130 people. Some had entered originally designed menorahs just for the event. Each one, lovely and unique, made a display of light that well exceeded our call for One Hundred Menorahs.

Program director, Paula Baruch, contacted the Guinness World Book of Records and learned that world's largest display of lit menorahs consisted of 1,000 menorahs and was achieved by NCSY (USA), in Stamford, Connecticut on Dec. 8, 2012. Although 130 lit menorahs do not come close to that world record, it is a step in the right direction.

"Imagine if we combined our efforts as a whole Jewish community," said Baruch. "I'm sure we could beat that world record!"

So the word is out. Start picturing yourself bringing your menorah joining Jews from all over the Hamilton area and lighting them in the world's largest display of menorot. This year at Temple was just a practice. Next year's goal is 1,800.

## BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE

Beth Jacob announces the return of its much-anticipated annual Israeli Film Festival on Saturday and Sunday, March 1 and 2. This year's festival will feature three outstanding documentaries: Academy Award nominee The Gatekeepers on Saturday night at 8 p.m., Academy Award winner Strangers No More at 10 a.m. on Sunday and Keshet B'Anan (Rainbow) at 11:30 a.m. A delicious Israeli brunch will be served between the two Sunday morning films.

This year's festival coincides with an art exhibit showcasing the work of Israeli illustrator Yaara Eshet. Born in kibbutz Degania

Bet, Eshet is a graduate of The School of Visual Communication in Bezalel, The Academy for Art and Design in Jerusalem. Her illustrations appear in newspapers, magazines, multiple children and adult books and projects for design and advertising offices.

Her show, Holiday of the Week, is inspired by the multi-cultural world she discovered since moving to Toronto. Tickets for the film festival are \$30 (for the entire weekend, including Sunday brunch) or \$20 for one day only. The opening of the exhibit begins at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 2 and includes a reception.

## TAS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

One of the most valued features of Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School's program is the series of Jewish Family Education programs that we run each year. Each grade or class has one to three family programs, during which parents and grandparents are invited to spend a whole morning learning alongside their children, on a topic related to what their children have been learning in the classroom. Experiential and hands-on activities are particularly enjoyed by the children, who often take the lead with their parents when it comes to creative, musical, and/or messy tasks. On the other hand parents may take the lead when it comes to discussion groups grappling with the meaning of traditional texts.

The B'nai Mitzvah class has more family programs than any other class. The first program, How To Write a D'var Torah, gives parents and children a grounding in how to study a Torah portion, and how to research and write about what our sages have taught about its meaning. Soon after, the Grade 7 families meet to learn 613 Fun Facts About Mitzvot and how wearing a tallit reminds us of the mitzvot. Then they get to practice tying tzitzit as they contemplate wearing a tallit for the first time on the Shabbat morning of their Bar or Bat Mitzvah. This winter, the B'nai Mitzvah class and their parents will gather to learn about what our tradition teaches us about the value and significance of names, before they each create a hand-made, personalized wimple to wrap around the Sefer Torah that they will chant from on the day of their simcha. Each wimple will have inscribed upon it the name of the Bar or Bat



Children and parents learn about Hachnasat Orchim (welcoming strangers).

Photo courtesy of Laura Wolfson

Mitzvah and the date that they were called to the Torah for the first time, as well as a Hebrew blessing.

Towards the spring, our Grades 3 and 4 classes and their parents will be conducting a Jewish community fair. Our whole school will be able to visit booths from each agency "staffed" by the students and parents in pairs, and participate in activities that will help us learn about what role the agency plays in our Jewish community.

Jewish Educators know that values-based learning is best accomplished when children learn from, and with, their parents. Our Jewish Family Education program provides fun ways to facilitate that learning!

## KEHILA JCDS



Louis Leizer (fourth from left) and his Kehila classmates perform at a Chanukah pageant.

Photo courtesy of Jason Leizer

MILENA ROMALIS

This past September, our youngest son, Louis, began junior kindergarten at Kehila Jewish Community Day School. This was not the original plan.

Our philosophy was to keep our children in the local public school unless there was some reason not to. My husband and I had both been public school students and teachers. We attended Jewish supplementary school and overnight camps, and we're affiliated to a fault. We had no concerns about our children's development of a strong Jewish identity and even felt that being the only Jewish kids in their classes strengthened their sense of self. Jewish day school was completely off our radar. We dismissed it as a ghettoized, cloistered environment.

Two years ago, with some anguish, we opted to move our oldest son to an academically rigorous private school when it became apparent that he was under-stimulated. And last spring, with even more anguish, we determined that our special needs son was no longer being served by the public school system. We looked at every academic option within a 30-minute drive from our house in Ancaster, and finally settled on Kehila.

This brings us to our youngest son — a boy who appears to be smack-dab average academically, and who would likely be served by the public school across from our house. So we decided that two private school tuitions were all that this family could manage and our little one would be perfectly fine with the provincial mandate — especially for

kindergarten! The picture changed when Kehila principal, Peter Greenberg, informed us that the school was offering free kindergarten tuition. We decided that enrolling both our younger sons at Kehila would be the least complicated setup for the family.

We are one term in, and we feel blessed that our four-year-old's school foundation is so nurturing, creative and community-oriented. Kehila has offered him a rich program of music, arts, physical education and French that had become a pipe dream at our public school. But the biggest surprise of all has been the excitement of having our child schooled within the Jewish community. The environment feels much more like an extended family than an institution. Other parents stop to pick up dropped gloves and inquire about his day, the older children mentor and care for the little ones, and teachers are happy to share milestones at the end of the day.

There is also a tangible comfort in not living on the margins; never having to explain, defend or pretend. While there are many aspects of Christmas I enjoy, it concerned me deeply when the celebration of this holiday became the centre of the public school curriculum for weeks and trees appeared in the classrooms. Once 'the season' was upon us my shoulders were more relaxed than they had ever been; my son was through the roof excited to welcome Chanukah and we didn't have to worry that he would 'out' Santa to his classmates.

## HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY



HHA's Boker Tov breakfast program students with their food donations for Hamilton Jewish Social Services K kosher Food Bank.

Photo by Wendy Schneider, the Hamilton Jewish News

KATHY JACKSON

When was the last time a child you know said "I want to go to school early today?" Every morning for the past three years more than 40 students at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy have rushed their parents out the door to attend the Boker Tov breakfast program. The program began as an attempt to meet the needs of students attending early morning prayers and learning programs as well as providing support for potentially hungry students. Since its inception, Boker Tov has grown and stretched in many different directions. For the past two years, Tastebuds, Hamilton's Student Nutrition Collaborative has partially subsidized the Boker Tov thereby providing a cost-free program open to all students from senior kindergarten to Grade 8. Every morning the breakfast room comes alive for 45 minutes while students enjoy a nutritious breakfast and participate in arts and craft activities, games and reading books on the computer before the school day

begins. This year, in honour of International Mitzvah day, the Boker Tov students implemented the Take a Bite Out of Hunger food drive. Students coloured and distributed flyers around the school urging all students to participate by bringing breakfast food items to be donated to the Hamilton K kosher Food Bank. Their enthusiasm resulted in students generously filling two large boxes that were donated to the food bank. With the help of volunteers, the Boker Tov program has redefined school mornings. More and more students are finding their way to school early to become a part of the morning community, heading to class with a good breakfast and a great start to the day!

The Boker Tov program has created a unique space for students to learn new concepts, have a positive transition into school, build a community with friends, and constructively contribute both inside and outside of school.

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## Tree Planting in Adamit Park



Me'arat Hakeshet (Rainbow Cave) Photo courtesy of Gabi Bron

Tree planting has been part of JNF's mandate for the past 100 years. Since Tu Bi'Shevat is Rosh Hashanah Ilanot, the New Year of Trees this Tu Bi'Shevat, JNF of Canada focused its efforts on planting trees at Adamit Park, located in the Western Upper Galilee along the Lebanese border.

The project will see the planting of many new trees as well as the replanting of magnificent, mature trees that will be uprooted and relocated as a result of new road construction in the area.

Uprooting these trees is a costly and difficult process, however, as the chief forester in the northern region pointed out, "it would have been a sacrilege to tear down these trees and let them die. By doing this we will be able to save these trees from being destroyed and at the same time plant mature trees as well as new saplings along the border."

The plan for 2014 encompasses approximately 100 dunams (25 acres) of tree planting as well as replanting 600 natural coppice trees. These trees are mature Kermes Oak, Israeli Pistachio and Judah Trees. Part of the project will also include bringing in water to irrigate the trees from the nearby KKL Adamit Reservoir.

Adamit Park has significant meaning to JNF Canada because of its close proximity to the location where Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser were abducted and which led to the onset of the Second Lebanese War. In 2008 a monument was erected here by JNF of Canada to honour the memory of Regev and Goldwasser and all those who were killed during this war.

# Assisted suicide in Jewish thought

## Life considered sacrosanct but tradition allows for alleviation of suffering

by MARK AND HINDA LEVINE Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Assisted Suicide in Jewish Thought was the topic of the seminar Rabbi Dan Selsberg led on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013, as part of Beth Jacob Synagogue's Soul, Body and Mind series.

This subject is particularly topical due to the attention given recently to Dr. Donald Low's impassioned plea for "dying with dignity." Dr. Low was a prominent Infectious disease specialist at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, who came to public attention when he led the management of the S.A.R.S. epidemic. He died recently of a brain stem tumour and endured terrible pain and suffering before dying. His plea in favour of assisted suicide was broadcast nationally.

### What Classical Jewish Sources say

Rabbi Selsberg distributed handouts to the group of approximately 30 participants, and began the seminar by referring to classical Jewish sources. First, he referred to Deuteronomy 30:19: "Life and death I set before you, the blessing and the curse, and you shall choose life so that you may live, you and your seed." It seems clear here that life is sacrosanct.

Other references that were provided supported this same view. However, a passage from Talmud Bavli, Ketubot 104a introduced the possibility that the issue may not be so cut and dried.

When suffering is present, the issue becomes more complex. When Rabbi Yehudah HaNasi was dying, the other rabbis were fasting and praying, and this was keeping him alive. When the slave girl who was attending to Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi saw how much he was suffering,

great suffering may be acceptable. Rabbi Hanina ben Teradion was found teaching Torah, which was forbidden by the Roman government of Palestine. Therefore, he was wrapped in the scroll of the Torah, surrounded with bundles of branches and these were set

rapidly departed. The executioner then leapt into the flames. A divine voice came forth and said, "Rabbi Hanina ben Teradion and the executioner are selected for the life of the world to come."

### A modern perspective

Modern sources were also introduced into the discussion. Rabbi Selsberg referred to an article written by Rabbi Phil Cohen (formerly of Temple Anshe Sholom, Hamilton) for Reform Judaism Magazine. The article suggested that it would have been more humane for a congregant of his, who was suffering from advanced ALS, to have been allowed to end her life quickly with her physician's assistance. In these dire circumstances, it is not right to force a human being to suffer against his/her will. Oregon passed the Death With Dignity Act (DWDA) 15 years ago, allowing physician-assisted suicide. Since then, only 935 people have applied for DWDA prescriptions, and, of these, just 596 patients used them to end their lives - evidence that physician-assisted suicide happens rarely, judiciously, and only in the most dire of circumstances. He submits that it is time to legalize physician-assisted suicide for all patients who are needlessly suffering.

The perspective of the Conservative Movement was also brought in with an entry from Responsa 1991-2000, written by Rabbi Elliot Dorff

"Assisted Suicide". The position taken is based upon the understanding that our bodies belong to God. God has granted us the normal use of our bodies during our lifetimes. Since we do not own our bodies, we do not have the right to expose ourselves to injury or death, beyond the requirements of normal living. There are only three times when a Jew is supposed to prefer death to violating the law - where the choice is between death and being forced to commit murder, idolatry, or adultery/incest. These are all choices of death for the sake of God, not for oneself. If, however, one is faced with a patient who has a terminal illness and is suffering greatly, one is permitted to administer to the patient's need for pain medication, even if by doing so the patient's demise is hastened, as long as the intention is to alleviate pain. It is also acceptable to withhold or withdraw life-support systems, including artificial nutrition and hydration, thus enabling nature to take its course. The tradition bids us to maintain a firm line separating permissible withholding and withdrawal of medical efforts, on the one hand, and illegitimately helping a person actively to take his or her own life, on the other.

This thought-provoking presentation generated considerable discussion as well as thoughtful reflection and introspection.

she distracted the other rabbis from praying for a moment by tossing a small dish from the roof. At that moment, the rabbi's soul found its rest. Thus, the idea of compassion to relieve suffering was introduced into the conversation.

### A story from the Talmud

Another passage from Talmud Bavli, Avodah Zara, 18a presented a scenario that raised the possibility that facilitating death in the face of

on fire. In order that he not die quickly, tufts of wool, which had been soaked in water, were put on his chest. His executioner offered to make the flames stronger and remove the tufts of wool from his chest, in order to hasten his death, if the rabbi would take an oath to bring him along into the life of the world to come. When the rabbi agreed, the flames were increased and the tufts of wool were removed. The rabbi's soul

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# Leadership in action

For a group of 25 aspiring leaders the dream of peace between Israel and the Muslim world is more than just a utopian fantasy

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News  
Photographs by Monical Shosh



Israeli, Turkish and other international participants of the first-ever Israel-based CTI Co-Active Leadership Program gather for a group shot at the beach in Caesaria.

It sounds like a cliché. Twenty-five people spend six days together at a retreat and emerge feeling that their lives have been profoundly changed. But every aspect of this particular gathering - who organized it, how it came to be located, against all odds, in Israel, its unique mix of Israeli, Turkish and a handful of other international participants and the implications it may have for peace between Israel and her neighbours - made it quite extraordinary. The following story, as uniquely Israeli as it is universal, testifies to the infinite possibilities that can unfold from authentic human interactions and inspirational leadership.

Israeli chutzpah, tenacity and charm appeared, at first, not to be working. For the better part of five years, Dori Ben Chanoch, Abi Shilon and Ran Menashe had been trying to persuade their mentor, Karen Kimsey-House, co-founder and CEO of a global coaching organization called CTI, to bring its leadership program to Israel. CTI, "the oldest and largest in-person coach training school and one of the most innovative leadership training organizations in the world," according to its website, is based on a philosophy and vision that calls for global transformational change. While CTI's coach-training workshops are widely regarded as an effective vehicle through which individuals and organizations can be encouraged to grow and change, it's the organization's Co-Active Leadership Program, an experiential year-long training over four residential retreats, that proponents recommend as having the greatest potential to evoke radical transformation in individuals, and by extension, in the societies they inhabit.

Of the three Israelis CTI-trained coaches, only Ben Chanoch and Shilon were graduates of its leadership program. Menashe

had noticed how his colleagues benefited from the program and badly wanted it for himself, but with Leadership (as it's known in CTI circles) being offered only in the United States, Spain and Japan, the cost of airfare on top of tuition was prohibitive. That, in Menashe's mind, left only one solution. Leadership simply had to come to Israel.

Kimsey-House, at first, had a number of concerns. It was no small thing to bring Leadership, a logistically-heavy program that requires both a retreat centre that can accommodate up to 22 participants, two assistants and two co-leaders, as well as a separate ropes course facility, to yet another foreign country. She was also not sure that an Israel-based program would be able to attract Muslim participants, something she felt strongly needed to happen. While the Israelis worked hard at addressing each of her concerns, it wasn't until Ben Chanoch was selected among a new cohort of Leadership leaders, that finally persuaded her to take a leap of faith. She and Ben Chanoch would co-lead a Leadership retreat. There was, however, a caveat.

"I was very clear in my conversation with Dori, Abi and Ran that we were doing a retreat stand alone only and that (participants interested in continuing the program) could join other leadership programs ... I said it around 10 times," recalled Kimsey-House. Knowing them as she did, however, she anticipated that there would be pressure to continue the program in Israel. She remembers asking her husband and CTI co-founder, Henry Kimsey-House, "Who do you think would be a good co-leader for Dori because I'm certainly not going to be taking three more trips to Israel. It's not the best use of me."

On October 2013, the first-ever

It touched my heart to see people let go of, "I'm Turkish, I'm Israeli, I'm this." Because basically, we are all people

DANA BERENZON  
Co-Active Leadership Program assistant

Israel-based Co-Active Leadership Program was launched at Beit Daniel, a retreat centre located in central Israel. It was the largest leadership tribe in CTI history.

Asked about the interactions between the Israelis and Turks, Kimsey-House affectionately described the retreat's tentative beginnings.

"For the first day or two I sensed an odd formality and trying hard. The Israelis were concerned about the Turks getting enough attention and translation. The Turkish Muslims were wanting to be respectful of the Israeli culture." But soon, she said, "everybody just got over it." What was absolutely evident, she said was "their immense longing" and that "it's not somebody else that's going to fix things." Bringing peace to the region was going to be up to them.

Kimsey-House's evaluation is echoed by the participants themselves. For Fulya Tanrikulu, from Istanbul, Turkey, the week felt like one big love-fest. "We were not Jews. We were not Muslims. We were not Turkish," she said. "There was no separation of identity. We were just together and one ... That was the beautiful experience of ... experiencing that for six days in a row. Day and night we were together. We didn't know each other. We never asked personal questions and we were not hungry for personal details. We were just loving and hugging and it was an incredible human experience. We all wished that for the entire world, to be united by love, regardless of nation, religion, race."

Moran Danin, of Yokneam, Israel, was profoundly affected by the "very high level of intimacy and connecting." There was almost no need for words, he said. "You could not talk to a person for two days, but still know that he knows that you know and that you both are dancing around an

emptiness that's full of love and caring."

Monica Shosh, a Transylvanian participant, couldn't get over the irony of a 500-year history of Transylvanian-Turkish animosity becoming completely irrelevant. "Here we were in the leadership course, loving each other more than Transylvanians and Turks ever loved each other."

Ali Tumay, from Istanbul, Turkey, remembers being in tears on the retreat's last day, as he told everyone it was a good thing his wife had taken Leadership because "she would understand perfectly that I'm in love with 20-plus people of different ages, sexes and nationalities."

Ayelet Sivan, from Beit Herut, Israel, simply said that the retreat "was like being in heaven ... People coming with open hearts, loving and letting themselves be loved."

Esti Rabinovitch, from Hod HaSharon, Israel, said that Leadership shook her to the core of her being, "because it was so strong, so gentle and strong at the same time so in the heart, really completely in the heart ... It was amazing."

As back-of-the-room assistants, Dana Berenzon and Abi Shilon were witnesses to it all.

Berenzon: "It touched my heart to see people let go of, 'I'm Turkish, I'm Israeli, I'm this.' Because basically, we are all people." During the retreat's first hours, she recalled, "you could see that there was a lot of, I won't say tension, but things weren't sure ... but the minute that they all connected through their hearts ... it was amazing. Suddenly there were no differences ... only hope and we're all the same." Berenzon admitted she wasn't sure it would work out as well. The fact that it did, she said, "brought me a lot of hope that



Above: Co-leaders Dori Ben Chanoch and Karen Kimsey-House

Below: Ran Menashe, the driving force behind bringing the leadership program to Israel



## Need to know

**What:**  
CTI Co-Active Leadership Program

**Details:**  
The experiential leadership training program encompasses four all-inclusive residential retreats held over a 10-month period, as well as in-between projects. It is designed to foster leadership skills and potential through the development of an international community of peers and leaders (approximately 24 participants per group) who grow and learn together through a variety of shared experiences.

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tribe has the potential to irrigate this part of the world to grow out of its arid, stuck and hopeless situation." It was the perfect metaphor.

Since Dori Ben Chanoch completed Leadership over a decade ago, he committed himself to bringing CTI coaching to Israel, a goal that he fulfilled. His bigger dream of a Middle East transformed by people who embraced a philosophy of mutual respect and collaboration, felt much more distant. In the aftermath of this retreat, however, he has been filled with a renewed sense of hope.

"I look at (this Leadership tribe) and I'm inspired," he told the HJN. "I look at them and I feel they're saying, yes you had a dream and this is something we're wanting. Let us partner together with you and make it real."

If there was ever living proof of the relevancy of father of political Zionism, Theodore Herzl's words, "if you will it, it's not a dream," it is in the experience of Ran Menashe, who, over lunch with Karen Kimsey-House halfway through the retreat, told her about his dream.

"I told Karen it's not exactly a dream," he said, "but what's going to happen."

"I looked at her and told her, 'I don't know if you know it, Karen, but all four retreats are going to be with you, in Israel.'"

Whether it was just another example of Israeli chutzpah or Menashe's ability to see into Kimsey-House's heart, his words proved prophetic.

"I just fell completely, totally in love with them," she said, "and I couldn't imagine them going on without me ... What I got really clear on in this leadership program is that it's unstoppable. Something really important is going to come out of this and I want to be there for the rest of the journey." 15

# The waiting game

Cont'd from page 1

"During the first two months of dialysis, Arie was getting his treatment at hospital until he stabilized and we understood what to do. The two of us would go with the baby to learn how to use the machine and how to dialyse him at home. Looking back it's almost comical that we were there with a newborn and trying to hook up the machine."

Thankfully the couple was receiving tremendous support from their families, including Arie's mother, Ilana, who has been on dialysis for 20 years and is also waiting for a kidney transplant.

But Arie hopes to avoid a life on dialysis, like his mother. At 35, with a new baby and his whole life ahead of him, he remains optimistic that a donor will be found.

In the meantime, he and his wife have made the best of a routine that includes twice-weekly dialysis treatments, each of which takes five and a half hours (including set-up and take-down.) This, in addition to adjusting to a new member of the family, has resulted in some profound changes in both Joy and Arie.

"We're not the same people that we were," said Joy. "You're not putting yourself first anymore. You're not working on your own timeline anymore. We've learned to roll with the punches."

"I've had to learn to stop working so much," said Arie, a self-confessed former workaholic who owns a video surveillance company. "I used to stay at work until two or three in the morning working on a project ... It's been a big thing to just let it go. To still care about it but to trust other people to do the jobs I used to do."

More than anything, the Pekars are grateful for the outpouring of support they've received over the last year, from neighbours who have brought food, shovelled their driveway and helped with their garbage and recycling to Arie's business clients who have maintained their loyalty. They're also grateful to the Oakville synagogue where Arie's mother is a member, for hosting a program on the mitzvah of organ donation, whose featured guest was John Anhang, who heads the Toronto branch of Renewal, a Jewish organization that tries to hook up people in need of a kidney with potential donors.

In 2009 an ad in a New York-based Jewish newspaper caught Anhang's eye.

"It was someone looking for a kidney through Renewal," he said. Anhang contacted the organization and ended up flying to New York to donate his kidney to someone who lives in Jerusalem.

An observant Jew, the father of seven said he was motivated by his desire to fulfill the commandment of saving a life.

"I wanted to look for a way to thank the Almighty with my good health and to share it in a very tangible way and meaningful way," he said. "One of the ultimate mitzvot is saving a person's life ... and I thought this was a way to actually fulfill that commandment."

Toronto Renewal currently has a list of 16 people in need of a kidney, a list that includes Arie Pekar. Anhang said six transplants have been arranged over the last four years, with two additional donors in the process of finishing their testing.

**"For most people it's a deeply meaningful experience"**

John Anhang  
Kidney donor

"For most people it's a deeply meaningful experience and for me too it was a phenomenal thing, realizing ... I made an impact on someone's life which they'll have forever. It feels great."

But Anhang also tells people that it's not for everyone. "The testing is a bit of a nuisance. There's an operation and pain involved and so on. I stress this. We each have our strengths and our weaknesses and preferences in life. If it is, fantastic but if not, just be supportive of someone who wants to donate."

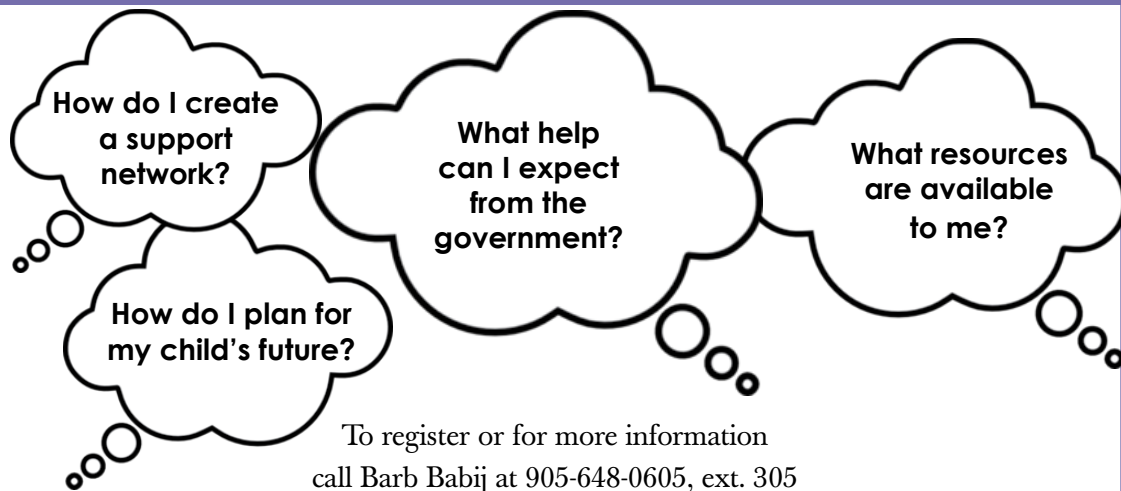
Until then, Arie Pekar is determined not to indulge in anything resembling self pity.

"I'm in no position to complain. This has been my mother's life, but this will not be my life. I will get a transplant. There's no question in my mind that this is temporary."

Hamilton Jewish Federation and the SNAP Committee invites the community to participate in the kick-off of the

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