



## Ottawa Street Then and Now

A merchant remembers

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# Hamilton Jewish News

THE JEWISH VOICE OF HAMILTON

SEPTEMBER 2013 VOL 27:1/ TISHREI 5774

AGREEMENT #40007180

## Glory days for Hamilton athletes



Joel Dembe at Israel's 19th Maccabiah Games

Photo courtesy of Joel Dembe

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

Hamilton athletes brought home some serious medals from the 19th Maccabiah games, which took place in Israel this summer. With Max Balinson helping Canada's Junior Men's ice hockey team bring home a gold medal (see page 21) and Joel Dembe winning two silver medals in men's wheelchair tennis, it was a banner year.

Along with the thrill of being one of 600 athletes representing Canada, Dembe, who is ranked first in this country's wheelchair tennis classification, took special delight in having the opportunity to compete alongside able-bodied athletes, these games being the first to have combined paralympic and able-bodied competitions in the same two-week period.

While this was Dembe's first experience playing in the "Jewish Olympics," it was not his first time competing in Israel. Last summer, he played wheelchair tennis in the Israeli Open.

"(Last summer) was a very different experience because I was in the process of trying to qualify

for the Paralympics," he said. (He was successful, going on to represent Canada at the Paralympics in London, England), while this time he had an opportunity to visit family and tour the country.

One thing Dembe was unprepared for was to see the large number of participating athletes.

"With 9,000 athletes, there's this whole vibe you have of being there with Jews from all over the world, all showing their support for Israel ... It's amazing how many people there are from different spots that, in all honesty, you wouldn't expect."

Like Cuba, for instance.

"The fact that they're able to get to the Maccabiah Games and connect with other Jews from different places is amazing."

In addition to Dembe and Balinson, other Hamilton athletes participating in the Games included Alan Feldman (who ran the half-marathon and managed Canada's wheelchair tennis team) Stephen Raphael (basketball), and Mac student Akiva Jhirad (cricket).

## Double your impact!

FEDERATION LAUNCHES TWO-YEAR ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



Hamilton Jewish Federation's Community Campaign makes it possible for Camp Kadimah to provide scholarships to children whose families are unable to pay camp fees. Pictured above is camp counsellor Jeffrey Zalter with (seated l to r) Ben Neiterman and Asher Stolar, with Eaman Harty looking on. Photo by Wendy Schneider

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

**D**ouble your impact. That's the message driving the Community Campaign, Hamilton Jewish Federation's annual push to raise the funds that sustain Jewish communal life in our city. The thinking behind the "double your impact" strategy is Campaign chair, Yves Apel's belief that when people really connect to the value of something, they will be more likely to take responsibility for it and do whatever it takes to sustain it.

Apel need look no further than his own experience as an example of how the more deeply-involved one becomes, the greater the likelihood of one's assuming responsibility for the chosen cause's long-term viability.

Since his arrival in Hamilton 24 years ago as a young immigrant from Moldavia, Apel has been driven by a desire to give back to

the community that opened its arms to him and other families from the Former Soviet Union. In the early days, that desire fueled his involvement in YAD (the Canadian Jewish Federations' Young Adult Division) on both a local and national level. Later, Apel took on the critically important role of chairing Federation's Budget and Allocations committee,

Cont'd on page 4



## Na'amat honours Women of Inspiration

Fundraiser takes place Nov. 10

P5

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**CARL DE LEON**, PRESIDENT,  
HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION



It was mentioned in the last edition of the Hamilton Jewish News that I was neither born nor raised in Hamilton. A citizen of three different countries, I feel particularly grounded here in Hamilton. Why is that? Well, no small part has been due to our community and my involvement here. I have served in leadership capacities for the last 14 years, which has helped me to be more integrated. In those capacities I have been fortunate to be able to interact and work with a variety of people who have, over time, been mainstays of our community. So, I am honoured to have the opportunity to more directly serve the broader community in my current role.

Federation is currently on the path of significant transition towards helping our community evolve into one that is stronger, more vibrant and, most importantly, more sustainable. The most visible sign of transition can be seen in a new leadership team that includes fresh faces on both the board and executive, Yves Apel taking on the role of Campaign chair and CEO Barb Babij, beginning her first full year at the helm. We know we can rely on my predecessor, Larry Szpirglas, immediate past Campaign chair, Jay State, the Campaign Cabinet and long-time board and executive members for both guidance and support.

Jewish communities throughout North America are being challenged by the monumental task of keeping their communal infrastructure on solid footing during difficult economic times and changing priorities. In my role as Federation president, I will be spending time with representatives from our beneficiary agencies to both hear their concerns and gather information that will enable our board to set priorities as we move forward.

As we open this year's Community Campaign, please consider doubling your impact: Give generously so that our beneficiary agencies can continue to provide their essential services, and get involved in an activity that will be rewarding both to you and others. Being involved allows us to take part in our evolution as a Jewish community and maintain our connection. I look forward to seeing you as we continue our journey together.

**OUR VIEW**

**BARB BABIJ**, CEO  
HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION



An article that appeared in the last issue of the Hamilton Jewish News focused on the challenges faced by parents of special needs children and raised the question of whether these children deserve equal access to a Jewish education. The story generated a great deal of discussion within the community and precipitated a meeting by a small group of dedicated people that included both parents of special needs children, representatives from a number of Federation beneficiary agencies as well as non-local organizations.

As a group, we recognized the sensitivity around maintaining confidentiality and that with each special needs child being unique, parents have the right to define the best approach for their child.

Federation's vision is to create an innovative model in Hamilton that will meet the needs of special children and their families and enable them to "choose Jewish." We will move forward by taking small steps. Plans are currently under way to create a survey designed to understand the scope of needs in the community and to identify what kinds of services families are seeking. We are also planning a half day to day-long workshop to identify resources and provide information. There are a number of longer-term and on-going initiatives being examined, that include exploring existing models, creating an advocacy sub-group and partnering with our beneficiary agencies and reaching out to the community to expand the existing small group. While we are far from clear about what the final outcomes may be, we have taken the first steps on this journey and we are committed to moving forward.

Whether you are a parent of a special needs child, have an expertise in special needs education or simply an interest in this issue, we'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me at 905-648-0605, ext 305 or email bbabij@jewishhamilton.org.

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**COMING UP**

CHANUKAH ISSUE

- Deadline for booking ad space  
Oct. 1, 2013
- Deadline for receiving editorial copy  
Oct. 15, 2013
- Deadline for receiving ad copy  
Oct. 30, 2013
- Estimated date of arrival  
Nov. 21, 2013



**LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER**

Mother and daughter pairs, Gayle and Elana Kepecs (left) and Shirley and Andrea Molot were among the more than 60 women who came out on August 14 to view exquisite 24 karat gold-plated jewelry designed and created by students of Israel's Megemeria Jewelry School. The event, sponsored by Hamilton Jewish Federation's Lion of Judah division and hosted by Rita Richter, was both an opportunity to socialize, enjoy a delicious lunch catered by The Village Green and learn about a social enterprise that has changed the lives of countless Ethiopian immigrants to Israel. Megemeria, a school founded by philanthropists Orna & Isaac Levy in 2011, trains Ethiopian and other immigrants in the arts and crafts of jewelry design and production. Students earn a stipend while attending and achieve certification in the jewelry trade, as well as job placement upon graduation. The program is effectively changing lives for the better within the vulnerable Ethiopian immigrant community and is creating proud and productive citizens for the future Israeli economy. A percentage of the proceeds from the event will be donated back to a Federation project, as yet to be determined.

Photo by Wendy Schneider

**Hamilton Jewish News**

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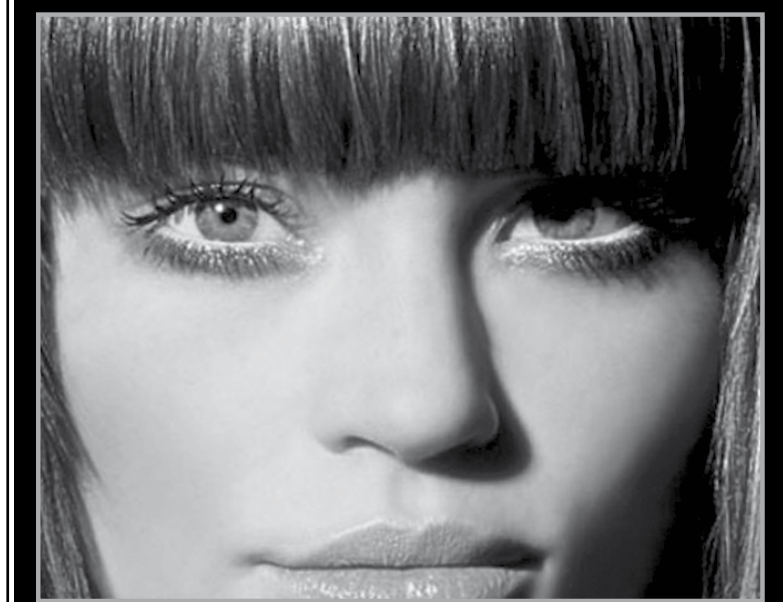
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The Hamilton Jewish Federation  
Holocaust Education Committee presents its 8th annual

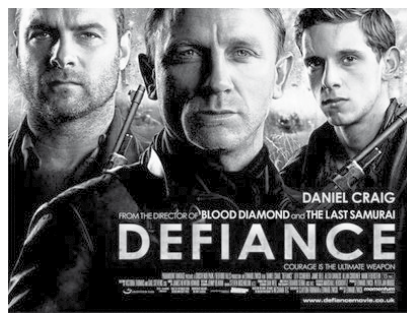
## HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK

**November 3-7, 2013**

**Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2 p.m.**

Hamilton Public Library, 35 York Boulevard, Hamilton

### Defiance



Defiance, a film starring Daniel Craig, tells the true story of Tuvia Bielski and his brothers who escaped in 1941 from Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe into the forests in Belarus during the Second World War. The Jews of Eastern Europe were being massacred by the thousands. Managing to escape certain death, the brothers take refuge in the dense surrounding woods they have known since childhood. There they begin their desperate battle against the Nazis. The Bielski brothers led a band of resistance fighters and created a safe haven that resulted in over 1,000 Jews being saved from persecution and death.

**Monday, Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m.**

Shalom Village, 70 Macklin St. N., Hamilton

### Steal A Pencil for Me



Oscar-nominated director Michèle Ohayon's Steal a Pencil For Me, documents the true story of a man in a failed marriage, his wife and the woman he has fallen deeply in love with, who find themselves at the same concentration camp, and housed in the same barracks of a World War II concentration camp. Jack and his newfound love communicated by penning love letters on scraps of paper. This documentary is a testament to the power of true love and the ability to rise above unimaginable suffering. (English and Dutch with subtitles, 94 minutes)

**Thursday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m.**

Adas Israel Synagogue 125 Cline Ave. S., Hamilton

## Kristallnacht Commemoration

Guest speaker David Halton will speak on the topic:

### The Holocaust and The Press: A Tragic Failure



David Halton, the former senior foreign correspondent for CBC Television and recipient of the Gordon Sinclair Award for Broadcast Journalism in 2005, will deliver the keynote address at the Kristallnacht program. Halton argues that the press in the 1930s was partly to blame for the appeasement policies that led to the Holocaust. His father, Matthew Halton, was a correspondent for the CBC and the Toronto Star before and during the Second World War and wrote extensive reports, warning about the growing threat of Hitler's Nazi Party. He documents how some major Canadian newspapers were hoodwinked by Hitler's propaganda machine.

A special thank you to our community partners: The Hamilton Spectator, Hamilton Public Library, Shalom Village, Adas Israel Congregation, Beth Jacob Synagogue, Temple Anshe Sholom, Erwin Jacobs Endowment Fund and Paratus Investors Corporation.

All programs are free of charge. Space is limited, arrive early. All welcome.



## Hamilton Public Library to host IsraAID photography exhibit

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

A year after the Hamilton Public Library hosted an exhibit of drawings, purportedly drawn by Palestinian children, that depicted Israeli soldiers and tanks attacking Palestinian villages, the Library agreed to host an exhibit that focuses on Israel's humanitarian work around the world.

The development comes as a result of many hours of discussion between library officials and members of Federation's Public Affairs Committee who objected to the library's hosting such a politically-charged exhibit that caused a large degree of angst and unease among members of the Jewish community. As a result of their discussions, the library revised their screening procedures to make it unlikely for similar exhibits to be shown in the future, and, as a further goodwill gesture, offered Federation the opportunity to submit an exhibit of their choosing for a two-week period.

After consulting with the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto, the

committee was referred to IsraAID, an NGO that provides urgent support to countries devastated by natural disasters. The committee is currently finalizing plans for an exhibit entitled Israel: Helping to Heal the World that includes photographs that show IsraAID volunteers in Kenya, South Sudan, Japan, Haiti and the U.S. The exhibit will also include photographs from the organization Save A Child's Heart, that portray Palestinian and other children from around the world who have received life-saving heart surgery by Israeli doctors.

Lorne Finkelstein, chair of the Public Relations Committee, said he is grateful to Paul Roth, who adapted the photographs into poster format, and to the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) for their financial support.

Once plans are finalized, an invitation will be sent out to members of the Jewish community with details about the exhibit's opening reception.

## Comfort for caregivers

by PAULA BARUCH and WENDY SCHNEIDER

This past spring Rabbi Jordan Cohen received an increased number of requests for help with the grieving process.

"I was providing pastoral counseling for individuals, but it occurred to me they might collectively benefit from a support group of people in similar circumstances," he said.

Hamilton offers a handful of bereavement counseling options, but nothing from a Jewish perspective. Rabbi Cohen contacted Jewish Social Services (JSS) and Dr. Lester Krames to speak about this community problem. Dr. Krames has an extensive background in psychological research, assessment and treatment. Together with Shalom Village and JSS, Cohen and Krames developed a new program to serve this important need.

Throughout the spring this new bereavement group has progressed, meeting initially at Temple Anshe Sholom and then continuing at Shalom Village. Following on its success, beginning in October, a new series will be introduced at Shalom Village, that will provide support for caregivers and those dealing with end of life issues.

Krames said the range of topics during the six-week course is designed to teach participants particular skills.

"There's a whole different set of skills we're not prepared for (when a loved one

becomes ill)," he said, "like understanding what doctors are telling you when you're getting critical information, how to care for yourself without feeling guilty, and maintaining close intimate relationships."

Another topic of discussion will relate to issues around adjusting to the sudden presence of professional caregivers.

"You're grateful that everyone's coming to help, but at the same time you've lost your house. Nurses are coming in at their schedule and not necessarily when you need, so there can be a serious clash between the needs of the professional caregiver and the personal caregiver."

The Care-Giver Support Group will run for six sessions. A special workshop called "Jewish Perspectives on Coping with Grief" will be offered this fall as well.

### Need to Know

**What:** Caregiver Support Group  
**Where:** Shalom Village  
**When:** Oct. 1, 15, Nov. 5, 19, Dec. 3, 17  
**Time:** 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$36  
**Contact:** JSS director, Carol Krames 905-627-9922, ext. 21.  
Email: carolkramesjss@hotmail.ca

## Double your impact

cont'd from page 1

a role that deepened his understanding of the essential services provided by our community's social service agencies and the fiscal challenges that they face.

"Our agencies are starving for ongoing funding," said Apel, "and we'd like to turn the tide on what have been somewhat stagnant campaigns by redoubling our efforts in reaching out to donors on a deeper level than we have in the past."

Recognizing that the key to a successful campaign is when those asking are both knowledgeable and committed, Apel said this year's canvasser training is aimed at educating and teaching volunteers how to reach out to donors from a place of authenticity. His

vision is that with canvassers engaging members of the community in a dialogue about issues that concern them, donors will be more likely to give a meaningful and responsible gift. Because conversations of that nature take time, this year's Campaign Cabinet has decided to embark on a two-year campaign that has a fundraising goal of \$2.6 million.

For more on the "Double your impact" campaign, read Yves Apel's campaign message on page 11. Hamilton Jewish Federation kicks off its campaign at a community barbecue on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at the JCC. The entire community is invited.

## Na'amat Hamilton's Women of Inspiration

Organization honours outstanding volunteers

by TORY METZGER, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Na'amat Hamilton is pleased to announce their upcoming Women Of Inspiration fundraising gala, taking place Sunday, November 10 at 7 p.m. at Beth Jacob Synagogue. This special event, including cocktails and a dessert reception, will honour four talented and inspiring local women, each of whom has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to enriching this community. Our honourees this year include Lorraine Cohen, Dr. Susan Denburg, Carol Krames and Wendy Schneider.

Volunteering has been a mainstay of Lorraine Cohen's life for as long as she can recall. She has been a member and past president of Hadassah WIZO, and a long time member of the Jewish National Fund, having served as its president and on the National Board.

Cohen has been an active force at Temple Anshe Sholom over the years, having taught at the religious school for more than 10 years, participating in the choir, being a member and one time president of the Deborah Sisterhood and serving as the current chair of its ritual committee. Cohen is especially proud of her work as a classroom volunteer in city schools, something she has carried on throughout her other involvements.



Na'amat Hamilton's women of inspiration. Clockwise, from top: Carol Krames, Lorraine Cohen, Wendy Schneider and Susan Denburg.

Dr. Susan Denburg has played an integral role in the Hamilton community for many years. In her varied roles at McMaster University, including vice-chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences; associate dean, Education and associate vice president, Academic, Faculty of Health Sciences; and member of the board of governors, Denburg has fostered initiatives that enhance innovative interdisciplinary health-related research and education across the University. Denburg helped guide the expansion of the undergraduate medical program into distributed community sites, launch the physician assistant program and establish the Aboriginal Students Health Sciences Office. Her work has led to enhanced professional development opportunities for faculty and has facilitated and fostered connections and mentorships among students, teachers, clinicians and researchers. Recently, serving as strategic adviser to the university president, she has helped to guide the implementation of the vision for the university. Denburg has also been a longstanding, valued and driving force at Shalom Village, serving for several years as president of its board of directors and currently as a member both of that group and of the Shalom Village Charitable Foundation board of directors. Denburg was instrumental in ensuring the continued success of Shalom Village during a significant leadership change and in its ongoing

strategic planning efforts to continue to meet the needs of older adults and the Jewish community.

For the last 36 years, Carol Krames has worked tirelessly as CEO of Hamilton Jewish Social Services (JSS). She has energetically and creatively expanded the agency to include a Kosher Food Bank, relief for Holocaust survivors and many counseling and program initiatives. In her role at JSS, Krames has initiated and guided resettlement services for Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada, including English as a Second Language programming, literacy programs and workshops for senior immigrants. Her work has served to welcome new community members from all over the world and facilitate their adjustment to their new home.

Wendy Schneider

has been a fundamental player in the Hamilton community for many years. Born and raised in the city and part of a family that has long played a key role in its Jewish fabric, Schneider devotes untold time and energy to building and maintaining this community. In partnership with co-president John Levy, she was largely responsible for the revitalization, in both spirit and space, of the Beth Jacob Synagogue over the last several years. Following their term as co-presidents, Schneider has remained closely involved with all aspects of the synagogue, from continuing to serve on the board of directors to

helping with the many intricacies involved in fund raising events. She was the driving force behind the recent and hugely successful 125th Anniversary celebration at Beth Jacob. Schneider, the editor of the Hamilton Jewish News for the last 20 years, has twice served as president of Na'amat Hamilton. In that role, she was the creative catalyst for several groundbreaking events such as a Jewish women's conference and "Building Bridges," an art exhibit co-sponsored with the Israeli consulate, that showcased the work of Israeli and Palestinian artists. Her dedication and passion have been a bedrock for the organizations with which she has been involved and a touchstone of knowledge and support for many individuals within the community.

While serving in a number of different capacities and with a variety of organizations then, these women have in common a deep commitment and dedication to enhancing the lives and structure of our community and to bringing together the diversity of people who live here. Please set aside the evening of November 10 and plan to join us in recognizing these wonderful women and their accomplishments. For more information and tickets, please contact Susan Roth at susan-roth@cogeco.ca or Gilda Ennis at gennis@enniscentre.com.

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WE'RE SOCIAL

**HHA welcomes new principal**

Joanne McIntosh hopes to integrate best practices from her experience in public education

by ELLEN S. JAFFE, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

"Are you interested in a challenge?" Joanne McIntosh recalls that Rabbi Daniel Green, Dean of Hamilton Hebrew Academy, asked her this question when he invited her to become the new principal.

"I'm always interested in a challenge," she said. McIntosh officially becomes principal on Sept. 1, 2013, but has been an educational consultant to the school during the summer. She retired in June from a long, distinguished career with the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, starting in 1975 as a teacher at Hess Street School. In addition to teaching at several schools at the elementary and secondary level and serving as a junior academic consultant, she held a position in staff development with the board. For the past eight years, she was principal of Queen Victoria School, at the helm during a major transition from the old school through two "holding schools" to a new, beautifully-designed, well-equipped school on Forest Avenue. Opened in 2009, it now has one of the highest academic ratings in the city and is an educational community where students, parents, and staff respect and encourage each other – McIntosh's core values.

"At the outset, we were looking to hire the best possible principal to implement protocols of best practice as well as mentor our future school leaders," commented Rabbi Green. "We have an exceptionally strong Judaic Studies team and I am confident we have the right recipe to achieve extraordinary results on both sides of the curriculum. Ms. McIntosh is highly regarded as a collaborative team leader and mentor par-excellence."

The new school administration also includes Rabbi David Teller, Head of Judaic Studies, Rabbi Yaakov Morel, Head of Jewish Experiential Programming, Mrs. Fajgi Itkin, Preschool Director, and Mrs. Mary-Martha Starkman, Director of Diverse Learning. "Under their leadership," Rabbi Green says, "the Hamilton Hebrew Academy strives to carry on their rich traditions and school culture while raising the calibre of education to new heights."

I asked McIntosh about this new challenge, at a time in life when many people want a rest. "I've retired from the board, but not from education," she said. She notes that one of her own strengths is recognizing and nurturing the strengths in people and organizations. This is what she most enjoys about teaching, whether students are age six or 65. So the opportunity to help Hamilton Hebrew Academy integrate the best practices and innovations from public education into its strong Jewish tradition appeals to her. Already, she says, she feels "warmly welcomed and supported" by the school and community.

McIntosh says she is "ever hopeful – if you believe it can happen, it will." She wants to make Hamilton Hebrew Academy "the best school it can be." Although she will be responsible for the secular curriculum, she sees learning possibilities throughout the school, including the Maccabiah Games, which involve problem-solving, teamwork, initiative, etc.

McIntosh believes that success in education comes from finding the best way to meet each person's needs, at the right time. For example, a child may sometimes need to attend the diverse learning centre, while sometimes the class teacher can provide help. Similarly, sometimes staff PD days are needed for teacher education; other times, individual teachers may learn from mentors outside the school setting.

One of her goals is to increase the use and understanding of technology, because "we are teaching children to be prepared for jobs we don't even know." She says one of the major changes she has seen in education is "the switch from chalk boards to white boards: the amazing possibilities for students with



Joanne McIntosh relaxing in her garden. Photo by Gayle MacDonald

McIntosh likes to help children find strategies that work: "Can you put your hands in your pockets or behind your back, instead of hitting? Can you walk away?"

technology and the Internet. Items such as Alpha Smarts, digital cameras, Front Row Sound, Smartboards, Mimos, Document Cameras (with microscopes), Live Scribes, iPhones, iPods, iPads, etc. have had an immense impact on student engagement and opportunities to explore the world in different ways." McIntosh also wants to expand the role of the arts, which help children express their feelings and improve their creativity across the curriculum. She will use her network of people and resources to help implement these goals.

She believes it is important to model behaviour for students and staff, in all aspects of school life: academic problem-solving, dealing with behaviour, even picking up garbage. Modeling can be simple: an adult picking up litter will motivate children to do the same. She likes to help children find strategies that work for them: "Can you put your hands in your pockets or behind your back, instead of hitting? Can you walk away?"

She emphasizes respect for all cultures. At Queen Victoria, in a neighbourhood where parents did not have much trust in the school system, she initiated multi-cultural pot-luck suppers and was honoured to be invited to a Ramadan ceremony by one family. Now she is looking forward to learning more about the Jewish community. She hopes people will "have faith that I am giving this my best shot," as she works in cooperation with Rabbi Green and staff, students, and parents.

McIntosh has her B.A. from McMaster, B. Ed from Ontario College of Teachers, and M.A. in Education from Niagara University. She enjoys gardening, reading, travelling, and scrap-booking.

**When war goes viral**

Mac lecture will examine how Israelis and Palestinians use new technology to promote their causes

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, The Hamilton Jewish News

How is social media changing the fabric of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? How is the ubiquitous use of digital technology by both Israelis and Palestinians changing the perception of Israel to itself and to the world? These are two of the questions that Professor Rebecca Stein will examine at this year's Marvin and Lillian Goldblatt lecture in Jewish Studies at McMaster University on Oct. 3, in what promises to be a cutting edge examination of how new kinds of social media are dramatically reshaping the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

Stein is a cultural anthropologist at Duke University. The author of several books on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, her current research examines the ways in which new technologies like digital cameras, cellphones and viral videos are changing the conflict.

In a recent telephone conversation with the Hamilton Jewish News, Stein said her talk will include a discussion of the Israel Defense Force's (IDF) first experimental use of social media during its military confrontation with Hamas in 2009. At that time, a young Israeli recruit and social media user who was working in the office of the military spokesman during Operation Cast Lead suggested the military use Youtube as a way to get its message across. This initial step led to the IDF's fully embracing the technology three and a half years later, when it announced the launch of Operation Pillar of Defense via Twitter.

So how is Israel faring in the world of public opinion through its use of information technologies?

"It depends on who you ask," said Stein. "Israel is very proud of its efforts in new media. Its high-tech sector is an important piece of the story it tells about itself, and, in a way, has taken the place of the story about pioneering that was important in early Zionism."

Stein said that the use of new media is seen by the government and the IDF as an "extremely important" way of reaching out to "an international public historically thought to be anti-Israeli."

But the extent to which it is working depends on the moment.

"There have been some embarrassing missteps and there also have been a lot of successes," she said.

The IDF considered it a "massive success" for instance, when, in 2009, its videos of the aerial assault on Gaza went viral on Youtube and were replayed on CNN.



Professor Rebecca Stein Photo courtesy of Duke University

But in 2012, when an image of an assassinated Hamas operative was posted on the IDF Facebook page with the word "eliminated" splashed across it, much of the feedback was negative.

Another area that Stein will touch on is how the widespread use of digital cameras and cellphone technology is making it harder for countries in conflict zones to control the message that gets out.

"One of the things that social media does is make things visible in real time and that's not something a state can control," she said. With the widespread use of this technology in hot spots like the Palestinian territories "it means there's going to be a lot of exposure of things the state doesn't want to have exposed." What further complicates things for the IDF is the fact that "most soldiers have a smart phone in their pocket and soldiers are on Facebook all the time." Developing an enforceable policy regarding the use of cameras is difficult.

Stein's lecture, titled "Digital Politics: How social media is changing the fabric of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" will take place on Thursday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m. at the CIBC Hall, 3rd floor in the McMaster University Student Centre.

Stein's lecture is free and open to the public. For questions, please contact Professor Celia Rothenberg (rothenb@mcmaster.ca) or Sheryl Dick (disckshe@mcmaster.ca)

The 2013 Lillian and Marvin Goldblatt Lecture in Jewish Studies

The Department of Religious Studies McMaster University

presents

**Digital Politics: How social media is changing the fabric of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

by

**Professor Rebecca Stein**  
Duke University



Thursday, Oct. 3  
7 p.m. CIBC Hall  
McMaster University Student Centre  
3rd Floor

For more information contact Sheryl Dick



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The Shalom Village Players

## Old conflicts surface at high school reunion



Shirley Levine, as Blanche, gives a piece of her mind to Senator Doofy, portrayed by Jim Kennelly

Original play takes a humorous look at high school relationships — 60 years later!

**Forgotten rivalries, romance, and scandals** bubble to the surface as the Class of '53 gathers for the first time in 60 years. They're all here — the debutantes, the nerd, the bully, the wallflower-turned-diva — to celebrate the anniversary of their high school graduation.

**Dramedy**  
Class of '53 is an original "dramedy" written by the Shalom Village Players. The Shalom Village Players are a troupe of residents supported by our Deeper Experience Fund. This fund was established to support activities that encourage creative expression. The programs are extremely popular with residents, who find the experiences very rewarding.

Call Kathleen at 905-529-1613 if you would like to learn more about supporting the Deeper Experience Fund.

**No two performances the same**  
The script was developed as a basic storyline with the dialogue left up to the actors themselves. As a result, no two performances are quite the same. This is a formula that has served the troupe well in past productions such as *After Hours*.

**Spontaneity**  
"It allows for greater creativity and spontaneity," says director Emanuela Hall. "The funniest parts are often the ones that are unplanned."

**Labyrinth**  
The plot revolves around an intriguing labyrinth of relationships. You see, Blanche and Belinda were the popular girls who Gail always felt looked down on her.

**Bullied**  
Herm was a nerd who is now a successful surgeon. He was bullied in high school by George, now a police officer who has a crush on Rosie.

**Love child**  
Rosie raised the illicit love child of Senator Mike Doofy as a single mother, while Blanche pocketed the senator's payoff money to keep quiet about the affair.

**Guilt**  
Lin, burdened by the guilt she felt over standing up Herm just before graduation, hoped to see him again to apologize, and perhaps rekindle the flame.

**Glee Club**  
Wallflower April, who nobody ever noticed, blossomed into international singing star Margarita Peron. Margarita was accompanied to the reunion by her backup singers, portrayed by our own Shalom Village Glee Club.

**Confused?**  
Confusing? Perhaps. Hilarious and entertaining? You bet!

## Shalom Village Memorial Garden now open

The Shalom Village Memorial Garden is now open adjacent to the synagogue at the back of the original building.

**Peaceful contemplation**  
The garden honours the memory of Harold Morden and Harold Rochweg and recognizes the donations made by their families and friends to create a space for peaceful contemplation. It is a beautifully landscaped oasis that is visible to those attending services in our synagogue.

Members of the Rochweg family were on hand to preview the garden.

**Stained glass**  
The stained glass window that once graced the Ohev Zedec Synagogue on Hess Street will be preserved in a special display in the garden.

"We are having a special enclosure made," says Kathleen Thomas, director of the Shalom Village Charitable Foundation.

**Infrastructure**  
Significant infrastructure upgrades have recently been completed in the surrounding area, including replacement of the retaining wall and construction of a new patio. Residents and visitors are finding these spaces to be an attractive place to spend time outdoors.



The stained glass window that once graced the Ohev Zedec Synagogue on Hess Street will be preserved in a special display in the garden



Members of the Rochweg family were on hand to preview the new garden

## Rosh Hashana Cards

Beautiful greeting cards feature resident art

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

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

We are offering three beautiful cards featuring original art created by our residents. You will be proud to have your friends receive these attractive and colourful cards.

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

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



## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ladies Auxiliary Tea

In the photo at left, Shalom Village's Shirley Weddum enjoys a nice "cuppa" at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ladies Auxiliary Tea.

The proceeds from this year's tea will help us renovate our beauty salon and spa. Did you know that more than half a million dollars has been raised at the tea over the years? That's a lot of sandwiches!

It's not too late to help us reach this year's \$50,000 goal. Call or email to donate today: Kathleen 905-529-1613 ext. 264; kathleen@shalomvillage.ca

## Get your Hustle on!



The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Hannukah Hustle is coming November 17<sup>th</sup> 2013. You can help support active living at Shalom Village. Visit shalomvillage.ca to learn more.

## Thank you

Grateful thanks to the families of **Myrna Goldberg, Doris Hastie, Benjamin Shekter, Norman Levitt, Doris MacDonald, Anne Palter and Faye Karon** 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.

### What they're saying about Shalom Village

"I just wanted to let you know that since my Mom has been in the care of Shalom she has improved dramatically. She has become calm, relaxed and focused on rehab and getting some pleasure from life again. This is due to the excellent care she receives from your staff.

In 40 years of nursing I have not seen such pleasant, caring, knowledgeable, and kind caregivers. All of them, from the cleaning staff to nursing, physicians, and allied health and everyone we have met since her admission.

Staff always greet us when we arrive AND know who we are! They are so kind and caring toward my Mother and I feel like I am visiting her home when we come there, not just her room.


I am sure this is, in no small part, to do with the leadership and living your mission, vision, and values. You should all be proud to be a part of Shalom. I am relieved that my mother is in your hands and confident she will thrive not just survive.


My whole family feels this way and we are grateful we were chosen to have Mom come to Shalom."

—Resident's daughter



**Shalom Village**  
shalomvillage.ca  
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Tom and Sasha Weisz present the Brott family with the citation for their project. Also pictured are Zeev Kedem (far left), Neil Silvert (third from left), Frank Wilson (fifth from left) and Franklin Simkevitz (far right).



The Brott Family from 1 to 7: Marijana and David Brott, Ardyth Webster Brott, Elizabeth Webster, Boris Brott, Alexandra Brott and Wes Dix.

# Negev Dinner a stand-out event!

"What an extraordinary evening!" These were Ardyth Webster Brott's opening words of acknowledgement to the hundreds of Hamiltonians who had gathered to honour her and her husband, Boris Brott at JNF's 2013 Negev Dinner on June 2. And indeed it was. This year's Negev Dinner stood out from past years in terms of the honourees putting their own personal stamp on the evening's entertainment. Replacing the usual keynote speaker was a performance by Boris Brott's National Academy Orchestra of Canada, conducted by the maestro himself, with music chosen especially for the occasion. Special guest performers were soprano Sharon Azrieli Perez and the 20-year-old Gurfinkel twins, virtuoso clarinetists who flew in from Israel for the event.

Saying how humbled they felt to be honoured by the Jewish community of the city in which they both live and work, the Brott family thanked their families and friends, dinner co-chairs Tom and Sasha Weisz and Cecile and Judge David Steinberg, the Jewish National Fund and dinner guests. They expressed deep appreciation to those who had contributed to their project: a recital hall in the Central Aravah Music Conservatory, that will afford young artists the opportunity to perform close to home without having to uproot themselves to other centres in Israel. This year's Negev Dinner was among the most memorable. The precedent has now been set to raise the bar even higher to make the JNF Negev Dinner the event of the year!



Soprano Sharon Azrieli Perez with maestro, Boris Brott



Boris and Ardyth Brott with Cele and David Steinberg

Photos by Lawrence Yanover

## It is not what one says, but rather what one does, that makes a difference.

Parkei Avot, 1:17



Top left: Enjoying wonderful food at a delicious barbeque. A great chance to share thoughts about the Negev Dinner. Pictured, 1 to 4, are Clara Halpern, Anna McCusker, David Vukmanich, Ardyth Brott, Neil Silvert, Mark Levitt and Hilton Silberg.



Top right: Dafna Bener and Louise Cowitz



Bottom right: Phil (Mr. JNF) Rosenshein, with Marvin Rosenshein, Carl Loewith and Batia Phillips.

Photos by Israel Vukmir

Volunteering is the most fundamental act of generosity and is an act that holds a great deal of importance in Judaism in the value of "tikun olam." To volunteer is to offer your time, energy and skills of your own free will. It is an extension of being a good neighbour, giving back to the community and indeed helping to build a community.

JNF could not function without volunteers, and we want our volunteers to know how much we value and appreciate their assistance. While a thank-you is appropriate, sometimes we try to do something a little extra.

This year, after our Negev Dinner, the JNF held a BBQ at the farm home of Bonnie and David Loewith to thank those who worked on Negev Dinner or who sat on our board throughout the year. It was a lovely evening of good food, music, great company, a couple of brief speeches and thanks, and yes ... a request for more volunteers for our upcoming events.

We extend our thanks to everyone who helped us this year. We look forward to working with you and others again in the future and to thanking each and every one of you over and over again.

"One who finds a faithful friend finds a treasure."  
(Unknown)

**Y**ou're the parent of a developmentally delayed child in his 20s and you're both looking for services and thinking ahead to the time when you can no longer care for him. What are your options?

Thankfully there's an organization in town working on finding solutions to exactly this dilemma. Beth Tikvah, located at 81 Arkell St. in Westdale, offers service to people with developmental disabilities within a Jewish context. The home is funded by the Ministries of Housing and Social Services and the Hamilton Jewish Federation, and administered by Toronto's Reena Foundation.

While most of Beth Tikvah's clientele are well into middle age or beyond, the organization is very aware that there is a segment of the developmentally delayed population whose needs are not currently being met.

"There are a number of young families in our community who have children with special needs — and that can be anything falling within the autism spectrum to kids that have serious developmental issues," said Beth Tikvah chair, Frank Simkevitz. "Most parents of children with disabilities try to deal with it on their own. If it's not too severe, they'll try to put them through the normal system and try to achieve as much as possible with a normal life style. But it's not always possible."

Beth Tikvah's long-term goals include acquiring a second residence to service a younger population and provide respite for families in stress.

**P**overty has a new face in our community, a painful truth that Jewish Social Services (JSS) staff and volunteers feel it's important people should know.

"We're seeing more middle class poverty," said JSS director, Carol Krames. "Companies are restructuring and letting people go who are in their 50s and 60s and it's really hard to find something when you're that age. It's a very new and difficult situation."

Recent census data about Jewish communities in Canada reveals that one in six Hamilton Jews is currently living in poverty, the highest in the country.

"In addition, many of our clients are living on disability pensions, which, at \$1,200 a month, is hardly enough to make ends meet," said Krames.

The agency does its best to help, through cash supplements and its Kosher food bank, but when both the United Way and Federation didn't reach their fundraising goals last year, JSS's allocation was cut.

Beyond sheer physical needs is a psychological dimension, said JSS chair, Susan Roth, "Jewish tradition tells us that we are supposed to try to help people live according to the standard that they're used to. We are not capable of doing that as an agency because we don't have the money. But we do have a moral obligation to help people survive."

**W**hen an individual or family needs help, they can turn to Federation or one of our agencies. Through food banks, cash grants and crisis intervention, we give a hand to anyone who needs it—including many who never imagined they'd need help, until they faced unemployment, illness or aging.

Your support of the Community Campaign will make it possible for us to continue to provide the funds to support these and many other essential services.

When one of us  
is in trouble,

all of us

FEEL THE PAIN.



Hamilton  
JEWISH FEDERATION

# CAMPAIGN MESSAGE

**YVES APEL, CHAIR**  
COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN



Twenty-four years ago my family came to Hamilton from Kishinev, on a direct Moscow-Montreal flight. Upon arrival, we found here a welcoming community, rich in tradition, abundant in opportunity, generous and safe. You were all ready for us, as if you knew we were coming!

It is no accident that being a Jew in Hamilton today is easier than living in the Kishinev of my parents, grandparents, or even of my youth. Through the foresight and selfless contributions of the many individuals who built an impressive infrastructure of Jewish institutions, Hamilton is indeed an incredible place in which to live a Jewish life. Our community has established and nurtured Jewish institutions, raised Jewish children, reached out to others less fortunate and helped to build the State of Israel.

I agreed to lead the Community Campaign because I was energized by the opportunity to continue to build and celebrate Jewish life in Hamilton. Our Community Campaign is about to start! It is the one act that brings together all of our organizations and raises funds for our communal benefit; we support Jewish schools, Jewish Social Services, Holocaust education, public relations, Kashrut Services, Hamilton Jewish News, and National/Overseas services, to name a few. These organizations weave together the rich and colourful tapestry that is Jewish Hamilton.

We estimate that the aggregate need in our community is more than \$2 million per year ... but last year we received \$75,000 less than our goal.

Over the next couple of years we hope to introduce ourselves to more people, to have more meaningful conversations about your Community Campaign involvement — to double your impact through contributions and through volunteering. My team, the Campaign Cabinet, is a group of dedicated and experienced volunteers who are preparing a new kind of Campaign. We have a two year goal: first, we want to raise \$1,200,000 for the campaign year starting in September, 2013. Then, through outreach, we plan to encourage more volunteers to help us with the Campaign starting September, 2014. Our goal is to raise \$1,400,000, for a total of \$2,600,000 over the two years. We even have a name for this two-year campaign — Double Your Impact.

We estimate that the aggregate need in our community is over \$2,000,000 per year. Last year we received pledges totaling about \$1,125,000, approximately \$75,000 less than our stated 2012-13 campaign goal. As a result, all of our beneficiary agencies received less than they require to carry out their work.

Our community, all of us, deserves to have the best kind of Jewish Hamilton: A great place to grow up, to study, to create a career, to raise a family, and to grow old. With everyone pitching in we can continue to grow from strength to strength.

## Federation adopts new logo

Rebranding puts Hamilton in synch with wider movement

Hamilton Jewish Federation has joined a growing number of Federations across North America in adopting a new logo.

"Our Federation has joined 70 Jewish Federations across North America who have taken part in this re-branding initiative to help build greater awareness locally and better synchronize with the wider Jewish Federation movement," said Federation CEO, Barb Babji.

The new Hamilton Jewish Federation logo features a circular design and menorah topped by a rainbow-like arch. The umbrella arcs symbolize the safety net; the flame symbolizes

our history and heritage, guiding our eye upwards and providing a sense of aspiration, hope and optimism; and the menorah anchors our visual identity in Jewish tradition.



"We are proud to be an active partner in the Jewish Federations of North America's branding initiative," said Federation president, Carl De Leon.

"Organizations need to continue to grow and evolve

in order to be effective in a changing environment and the new logo reflects Federation's desires to adapt to new realities." At the same time, "the new logo reminds us that we are part of a larger movement that seeks to enhance Jewish life in Hamilton, in Israel and around the world."

More than 70 of the 157 Jewish federations in North America already have taken part in the re-branding initiative.

Watch for our new logo and brand identity, which will be prominently featured on all communications, announcements, letterhead and the Jewish Hamilton website.

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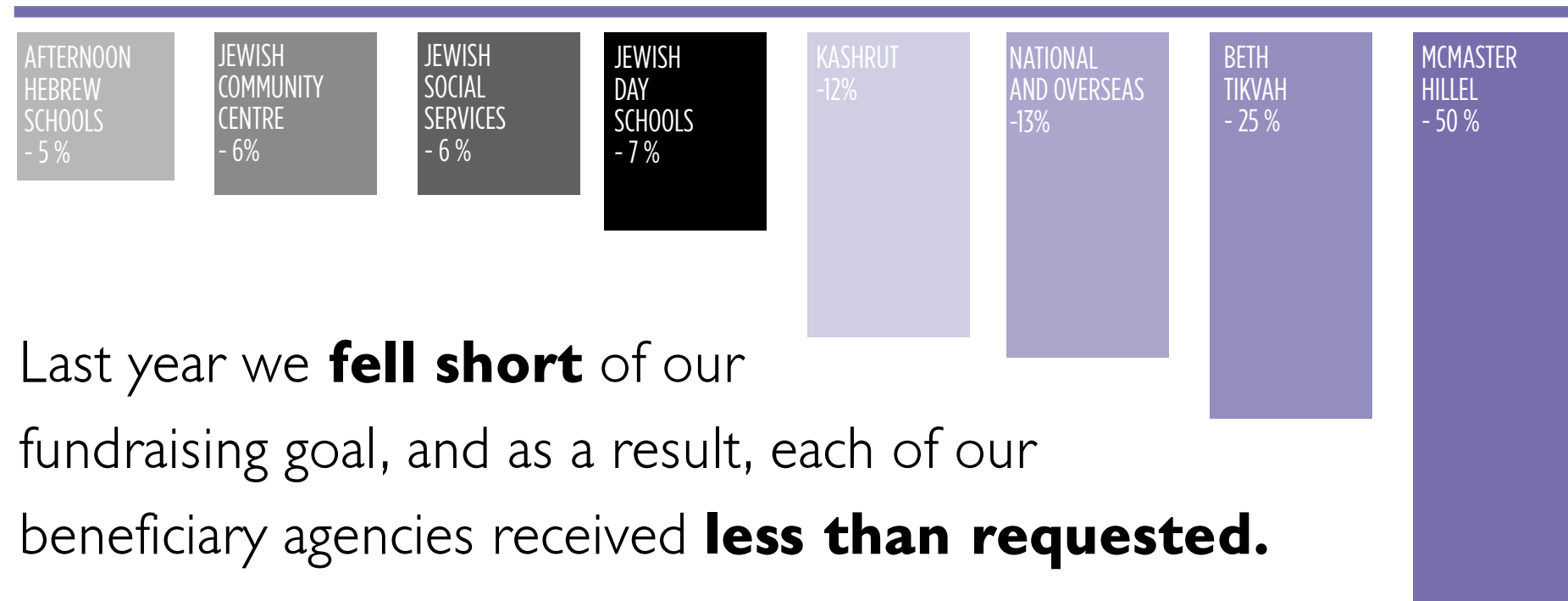
*Greetings at Rosh Hashanah*

*Best wishes for a blessed Rosh Hashanah.*  
*May you enjoy this time of joyful celebration, reflection, hope and anticipation.*

*L'shanah tovah.*

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# The hard facts about last year's Community Campaign:



Last year we **fell short** of our fundraising goal, and as a result, each of our beneficiary agencies received **less than requested**.

After careful consideration we allocated **\$1,112,390** towards:

- assisting the vulnerable \$279,250  
(Beth Tikvah, JSS, Camp Kadimah)
- strengthening Jewish identity \$465,420  
(Day Schools, Afternoon Schools, Midrasha, McMaster Hillel, Camp Kadimah, Kashrut services, Holocaust Education)
- community programs \$213,800  
(Toronto Jewish High School shuttle, Jewish Community Centre, Hamilton Jewish News, Young Adult Division)
- supporting Israel \$153,920

## We must do better.

This fall, please give generously to the Community Campaign, because no single gift changes more Jewish lives.



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.  
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

IF YOU WENT TO JEWISH SUMMER CAMP, **FEDERATION WAS THERE.**

IF YOU ATTENDED JEWISH DAY SCHOOL, **FEDERATION WAS THERE.**

IF YOU OR YOUR CHILDREN TOOK PART IN A JCC PROGRAM, **FEDERATION WAS THERE.**

IF A JEWISH COMMUNITY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WAS IN CRISIS, **FEDERATION WAS THERE.**

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW **HAS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE** FROM ONE OF THE MANY **PARTNER AGENCIES SERVING OUR COMMUNITY,** **FEDERATION WAS THERE.**

Federation is the thread that weaves together the rich and colourful tapestry that is Jewish Hamilton and reaches out to Jews in need wherever they may be.



A GIFT TO FEDERATION CHANGES THE JEWISH WORLD.  
TOGETHER **WE** DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS.

# The healing power of art

## Israeli-born art therapist's rapport with refugees brings healing

by BEN SHRAGGE, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

In 2000, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 20 to be World Refugee Day. To help raise awareness about the challenges faced by refugees in Hamilton, Israeli-born art therapist Hana Pinthus presented her work at the Central Library's Gallery 4 last June.

In 2003, Pinthus came to Canada as an immigrant, not a refugee, but her art reflects the uprooted feeling that immigrants, refugees and indeed all people at one time or another share. "The sense that you're not alone, that there's someone else who shares the same experience, is strengthening for the viewer," she says. Pinthus recalls a woman who viewed her art commenting that "my daughter is in Israel now, and I'm sure she's feeling like this."

Working for SISO (Settlement and Integration Services Organization) Hamilton and the Community Child Abuse Council, Pinthus encouraged refugees to express themselves artistically. "When people want to talk about their trauma and their perception of self, often they don't have the words," she says, but "art can help with the expression of feelings



Artist and art therapist Hana Pinthus  
Courtesy of the artist

and thoughts that are blocked." In the art of refugees, Pinthus observed symbols of dislocation and longing similar to those found in her own work. For example, she says, "The palm tree was a strong symbol for many people who, like myself, have come from the Middle East," and are adjusting not just to a new culture, but to a new climate.

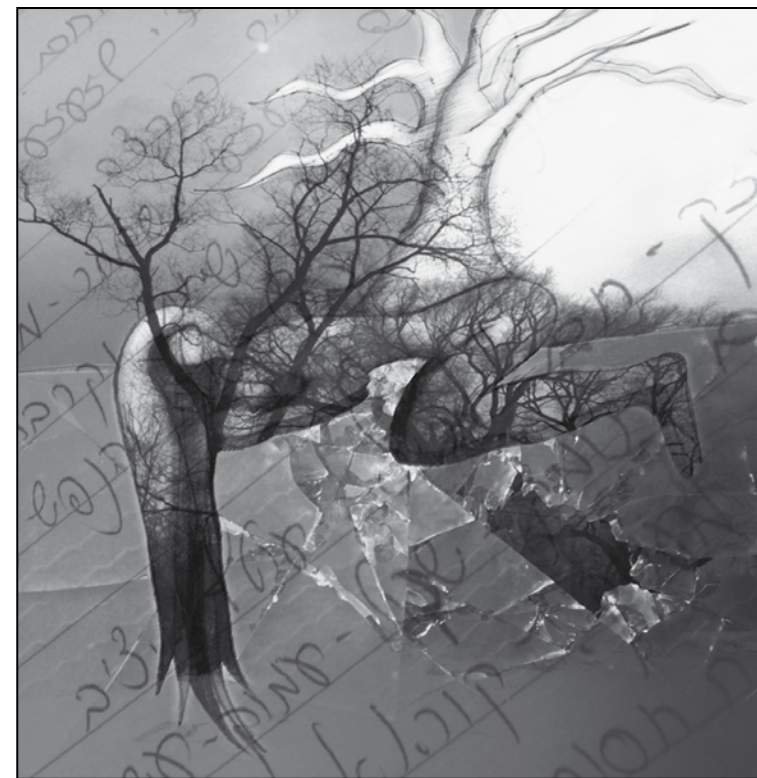
As a native Israeli, Pinthus shared similar symbols and memories with Middle Eastern refugees, but also had to confront divisive prejudices. "Many of the

refugees from Iraq would look at me and say, 'Oh, you look like us, you understand us, where are you from?' Pinthus recalls. "They would change colours" when she told them "I'm from Israel, and I'm here to help you." She was often the first Israeli and the first Jew they had met.

Yet ultimately, Pinthus says, "I established wonderful relationships with them. It was a wonderful opportunity to bridge the gap. No matter where people come from, they are people. This is how I approached them, and this is how they approached me. I never had any difficulty doing my work because of that (being Israeli)."

Part of Pinthus's desire to work with refugees stems from her Jewish heritage. "We have a history of being refugees, and I think we have a duty to assist other refugees, because we've been there, we know how difficult it is to be rejected and to have no home. And we know how refugees can change their lives."

Pinthus has contributed her artistic talents to the local Jewish community, facilitating an art activity at a women's Seder fundraiser, designing a mosaic for



Hana Pinthus's "Shattered"

Temple Anshe Sholom, designing the logo for Beth Jacob Synagogue, and participating in the Working Family Stories and Treasures of the Hamilton Jewish Community project. She is currently part of the O-Ma-Noot committee, which manages the art gallery at Beth Jacob.

Pinthus's history of service shows that Jewish volunteerism

and broader community activism are not mutually exclusive, but rather complementary. She says "it's absurd to reach out to other communities when you don't reach out to your own first." Her vision is that "the Jewish community in Hamilton will do more things together, and then together, reach out to different communities."

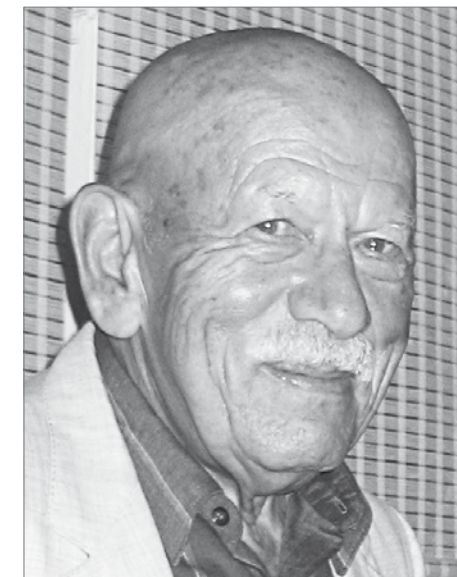
# Lives Remembered

## Joe Singer

Born in Kracow, Poland on March 5, 1924;  
Died at the Hamilton General Hospital on April 1, 2013.

Joseph Baronislaw Singer was born in Kracow, Poland on March 5, 1924. His relatively genteel family life was overturned in the fall of 1939 when Poland was invaded from the west by Nazi Germany and from the east by the Soviet Union. As an officer in the Polish army, Joseph's father, Carol Singer, was sent to the eastern front, and the family followed. Carol was taken prisoner, while the rest of the family became refugees behind Soviet lines in the city of Lvov. Carol Singer would be amongst the thousands of Polish officers murdered in the Katyn Forest. It is one of the minor ironies of history that were he to have been captured by the Nazis, he would have been spared (as the Nazis more or less upheld the Geneva conventions concerning captured officers), while his two sons and wife, as Jews, would have perished in the Holocaust, as happened, almost without exception, to the extended family that remained in Poland. Instead the father was killed, while the immediate family would be spared – at least once (another irony) they were rounded up as refugees and transported east. The family found themselves near the town of Sosva in the Severdlovsk oblast, Siberia; and my father, as the elder male had to work cutting hay, unloading barges, pulling logs – and in the winter, as a fireman.

With the Germans advancing, the Polish government-in-exile in England was able to reach an agreement with the Soviet government that all Polish citizens be released and given "internal passports." With this passport in hand, Joseph decided to move to Jizzak, Uzbekistan, though once he arrived, he discovered that, as a railway town dependent on food from further west, there was considerable starvation. And so he moved deeper into the interior, which grew its own food, settling in a village called Farish. As a non-Russian, he was able to win the trust of the local Uzbeks, and find work and a place to stay. The plan had been that his mother and younger brother, Jerzyk, were to join him, but because of a misspelling in the address, they moved into Uzbekistan without knowing where he was. Several seasons later, he was to discover that they were in the fabled city of Samarkand, and he joined them, though not for long. Having heard that the Polish government-in-exile was recruiting Poles in the Soviet Union for the Anders Army, he volunteered, and was transported to British-occupied Iran, and then stationed for several months in Iraq, where the Polish army was to keep the lid on a restive population. It was here that he volunteered for the air force, and because of his mathematical skills, it was decided that he should be a navigator.



Joe Singer

After traveling to Basra, into India and across the Cape of Good Hope, he received the first leg of his training in England, and the second, more important leg, in Malton, Ontario. It would be his first taste of Canada. For the last few years of the war he flew 21 missions over Germany in a Lancaster bomber as a member of the Polish squadron of the RAF, and was awarded a Polish Cross of Valour.

My father received a leave of absence from the air force to study at the University of Glasgow, where he was able to graduate with a Bachelor of Sciences and a diploma in architecture. It was only in 1948 that he heard word from his mother and brother. She had caught typhus, during which time Jerzyk had been placed in an orphanage, and then smuggled into Israel. She had survived, and briefly returned to Poland after the war, before she too went to Israel.

It was on a boat trip to meet his family in 1950 that he met the woman who would become his wife of 63 years. With the publication of his book, *Plastics in Building*, he was able to get a job in England with the Herfordshire County Architects Department, a prestigious firm pioneering in innovative techniques and designs. He, however, wanted to be on his own, and in 1954 moved his wife and first-born to Canada, where two more sons would be born. For the next 50 years he designed many buildings in the Hamilton area, including the Adas Israel Synagogue and Shalom Village Nursing Home. In the years prior to his retirement, he also worked as the head of the buildings and maintenance department for the Hamilton Board of Education, which was then housed in a building of his design. Joseph Singer died at the Hamilton General Hospital on April 1, 2013. He is sorely missed by his wife, Emmy, his three sons, Brian, Danny and Alex, their spouses, Constance, Sandra and Jody, as well as his seven grandchildren, Ben, Nathan, Jacob, Zachary, Hannah, Kayleen and Isla.

Brian Singer is Joe Singer's son.

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# A legacy of tolerance

For retired principal, Ian Jones, Holocaust education was a passion

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, The Hamilton Jewish News

For 12 years recently retired Milton District High School principal Ian Jones was a man with a mission. A recipient of the Halton District School Board Award of Excellence, the city of Milton's Citizen of the Year Award and voted one of Canada's 30 outstanding principals, Jones took provincial recommendations regarding anti-bullying programming to a level no one could have imagined five years ago by establishing One School, One Voice, One World, a bold initiative that used the study of the Holocaust as a jumping off point to teach tolerance.

To say that Jones's working style was "hands-on" does not begin to describe the lengths to which he went to implement his vision. He personally supervising the writing of two separate curricula on the Holocaust (which have been adopted by other schools), took staff and students to numerous Holocaust museums in North America, organized a Holocaust conference at his school (attended by 1800 people) and led no less than five student trips to Auschwitz and Eastern Europe.

There is no apparent link between Jones's evolving interest in Jewish history and the Holocaust and his background. Born in Wales 65 years ago, Jones's family came to Toronto when he was 11. He attended university, married and moved to the Campbellville

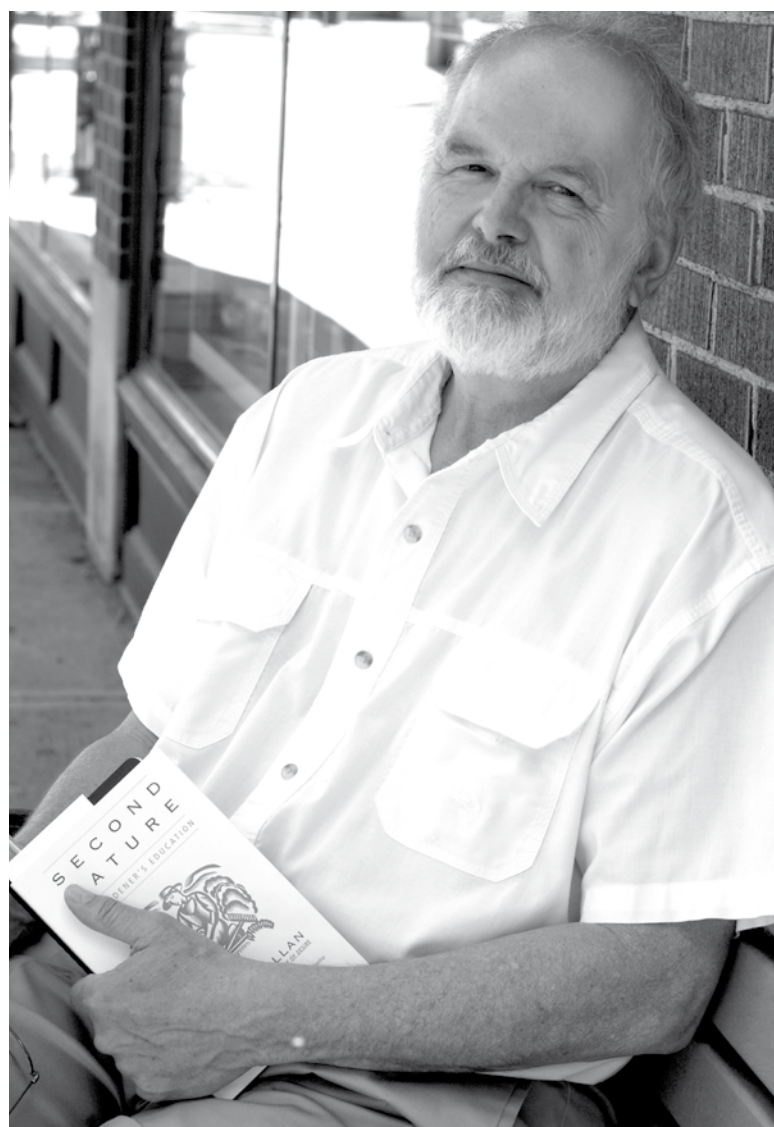
area. Jones attends the Hamilton Christian Fellowship Church.

"I always had a heart for Israel and for the Jews," he said. But a closer look at the Jones family does reveal why issues of tolerance and diversity are also close to his heart. He and his wife, Annie, raised six children, three of whom are adopted.

"When Elizabeth and John went to grade school, there were 500 kids in that school and the visible minority was them," he said. Since then (today, his children range in age from 21 to 36) the visible minority population in the same school today is close to 50 per cent.

"I've tried to get a very simple message across to the kids, that when difference leads to hate it's wrong." That difference can take any number of forms, he said, like a child getting teased in the playground for wearing glasses. Jones teaches his staff and students that the difference between that kind of seemingly innocent teasing and what happened to the Jews in the Second World War is not one of kind, but of intensity.

"The message that's behind schoolyard bullying is the same message that's behind you can't have a bicycle in Berlin if you're Jewish in 1934," he said. "Eventually you can't be a doctor if you live in Vienna in 1938. Eventually you can't even live where you now have lived for generations and eventually you can end up in



Ian Jones

Photo by Wendy Schneider

"I've worked with many wonderful and dedicated teachers of the Holocaust but none as outstanding as Ian Jones," she said. "I saw from the sidelines his wonderful rapport with the students and his gift of pedagogy. Taking students to the places where the actual atrocities occurred is leaving a lasting impression on young people who will have to fight against the rising tide of Holocaust deniers."

Last October Jones was back in Auschwitz with yet another group of students, on a trip that included stops in Berlin, Krakow, Budapest and Prague. After visiting Schindler's factory in Krakow he was leading his students through a debrief at the hotel dining room when an elderly man approached him.

"He put his arms out and started to weep openly." The gentleman proceeded to tell Jones and his students about how he was arrested at the age of 17 by the Gestapo for handing out anti-Nazi pamphlets at his high school, sent to Sachsenhausen, then Auschwitz and never saw his family again.

"What you're doing with these kids is so important because one day someone will say 'this never happened'.

Just before retiring a year ago, Jones, 65, published a beautiful coffee table book that juxtaposes iconic images of Jews at the infamous death camp with his own photographs of MDHS students coming face-to-face with unspeakable evil.

Treblinka or Auschwitz."

Most people who have visited a death camp will probably tell you that once is enough. Jones has led five trips.

"I can't explain why there's a draw for me to go to these camps," he said. "It's a terrible place to go but there's just something about

the connection you make with people who experienced it. I have some very dear friends who are survivors and I have an enormous respect for them."

One of those friends is local survivor and former co-chair of Federation's Holocaust Education Committee, Nadia Rosa.

# Community Portraits: The Waxman Family

"The future is in your hands," is a well-worn cliché perhaps, but one that resonates deeply with those concerned about the sustainability of Jewish communal life in Hamilton. The need for resource sharing, infrastructure downsizing, reaching out to the unaffiliated and promoting volunteerism have been among the many suggestions offered as solutions to an issue that is of concern to Jewish communities throughout North America. Above all, the future of our community very much depends on a new generation stepping up to leadership positions and making tough choices about adapting to new realities. Below the HJN kicks off a series of portraits of young families in our community with an interview with Eric and Jodie Waxman.

Story and photo by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

**The cast:** Eric (39), Jodie (40), Madelyn (10), Emma (8) and Olivia (5).

**The Home:** an attractive home on a quiet street in Dundas.

**In Hamilton:** Both Eric and Jodi grew up in the Hamilton area. They met through mutual friends while studying at different universities and dated for nine years before getting married in 2001. They've been together for 20 years.

**Occupations:** Eric is in a partnership in a mergers and acquisition consultancy business. Jodie is a dental hygienist.

**Children's Education:** The girls are enrolled at Kehila Jewish Community Day School. There were two reasons that Eric pushed that choice. "I wanted them to have exposure to other Jewish kids their age... The other reason is that I absolutely hated going to Hebrew school after school and on weekends."

"I'm thrilled with it," said Jodie. "For me, I love the Jewish education... I'm knowledgeable but I don't live and breathe it because I didn't grow up Jewish. For me, it was important for them to learn as much as possible things that I couldn't provide."

**Community wish list:**

Eric: "A well-functioning JCC. The JCC is important because it is a place where Jews regardless of affiliation can gather for community events... If the JCC didn't exist I would say that's a shame and this community is missing something."

Jodie: "While the JCC isn't really part of our lives, I think it's important because it brings members of the individual shuls closer together to create the feeling of a Jewish community as opposed to an Adas Israel, Beth Jacob, or Temple community... I think that having a central, separate entity like the JCC brings the community into one central place where everybody is just Jewish."

**The cost of living a Jewish life:**

Eric: "It's expensive to send your kids to Kehila day school, it's expensive to pay your dues at the synagogues, it's expensive to give to the UJA and buy your JCC lottery ticket, play in the golf tournament but is it worth it? Yes. I think it is."



The Waxman Family from l to r: Emma, Eric, Madelyne, Jodi and Olivia.

**Volunteer commitment:**

Jodie: "I recently chaired a big Kehila fundraiser. I enjoyed it and I learned a lot. Hard work does not scare me... They say if you want something accomplished always give it to someone who is busy because they're just more organized. I've never had an issue donating my time. I would absolutely do it again. I think it is important for my daughters to see that I'm contributing. Even if I only raised \$100 that would be \$100 that the school didn't have before. It's not only going to directly benefit my children, but all the kids who attend, so in that sense it was rewarding to me, that my efforts meant they can purchase a new computer, or that it's not as stressful as paying teachers' salaries that month."

**Demographic challenges:**

Eric: "Our community just faces a challenge in a lack of people in our demographic. Most of the people I grew up with are living in Toronto, either because of opportunity, who they married, life and work opportunities.

When I see them during the High Holidays, all of them speak fondly of growing up in Hamilton and some are seriously considering coming back... A lot of the people at Kehila are people who did not grow up in Hamilton but came here for opportunities, and those are the people starting families now."

**How can we promote more involvement in the community in order to ensure its future?**

Eric: "I don't know if there's a set answer. One of the challenges is that a lot of the people who were major supporters (of the UJA Campaign) in the past had amassed a certain wealth. Is wealth being amassed in this generation? To me that remains to be seen. I think people today have lots of stuff, more than they need, but we also have more debt, whereas my grandfather's generation started with nothing and built wealth. We're achieving what we're achieving by borrowing the money and not creating wealth.

Another challenge is in how to reach out

to those who have no affiliation with the Jewish community. I don't see any outreach to the (unaffiliated) doctors, teachers and the educators in the university, for instance. Finally, there are more demands on people today than in the past. There's just information and time overload. I look at my schedule and I just don't have the time to dedicate to community."

Jodie: "I'm consumed with work, family and my kids' school, but once my kids are in high school, maybe that passion would continue and even though my children don't go there maybe you'd still play a role but not actively and maybe mentor the new parents that now have that commitment because their kids are participating there."

Eric: "It might be time to make some tough decisions with respect to downsizing our infrastructure. When businesses are in trouble the first thing you ask is, 'Does the way you're running your business right now make sense or is it time to scale back?' And even if you look at renting out some of your space, it doesn't solve your problem if your core activity isn't sustainable."

**Where do you see yourselves 10 years from now in terms of community involvement?**

Eric: "If all goes according to the master plan and we have a lot more financial resources at our disposal, then we will have more resources that we can donate to the community. At that point our kids will probably be at the point when that they are starting to leave the home and we'll have more time and capacity to participate. Hopefully we'll find something that is meaningful and important to us in the Jewish community that we can participate in."

Jodie: "But it doesn't necessarily have to cost anything to participate. You can donate your time, which is also extremely valuable. Writing a cheque is fantastic but it is a different contribution than getting your hands into something. I think it is important for our girls to see that this is what you do and it is my pleasure doing it and we're doing it for a good reason."

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Every purchase at one of our dealerships puts funds back into our community. This year alone Parkway Motor Group, along with your support, has been able to fund a number of key cultural and social organizations and initiatives including: JewishHamilton.org, Hamilton Arts Council, Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, United Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton, Art Gallery of Hamilton, Hamilton/Burlington SPCA and more.

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### KEHILA JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

The mission of Kehila JCDS is to ensure that a liberal Jewish education is provided to any student for whom it is pursued. This includes students with special needs. Whether requiring academic support or enrichment, occasionally or consistently, the students of Kehila will now have the expertise of Special Education professionals at their disposal.

Resource teachers will be available for both Hebrew language/Judaica and Secular studies; this will involve both, in and out of class subject-specific one-on-one support. Kehila also has a full time Educational Assistant joining the teaching team. Our EA will work with the classroom teachers, our families, and of course, our students who require shadowing or more in-depth support.

The resource staff will also help our teachers to further enrich the curriculum for those students who require more of a challenge.

### BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE

Beth Jacob's Keshet Family Education Program is hitting the ground running! This year we are pleased to offer expanded programming for the whole family.

Our weekly programs take place on Shabbat mornings and Wednesday afternoons. On Shabbat, join us at 10:15 am for an intimate, interactive and child-friendly family service led by Cantor Eyal Bitton. Immediately following our family service is a Tot Shabbat program for little ones between the ages of infant and six-year-olds, led by Sharon Markowski, a talented and dynamic teacher. For school-aged children we offer a weekly "Chug", featuring a different guest speaker each week. Over the course of the year children will get to explore a wide range of relevant and fascinating topics.

Our Wednesday religious school is bigger

### MIDRASHA: HAMILTON HEBREW HIGH

Another great year is coming. Hamilton Hebrew High is looking forward to seeing its students come and join our inspiring classes from Hebrew language, to Bible studies and ethics and philosophy. Our classes are accredited and very jam packed. This year we will be integrating into our classes more project-based learning where students

### JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

What do Ontario's Jewish farmers, the immigrant ships your ancestors arrived on and the legendary origins of a small Jewish community on the German / Swiss border all have in common? They are among the topics that will keep you on the edge of your seat during this year's speaker's series from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton and Area (JGSH).

As we begin our 10th season on Sept. 11, it is already shaping up to be our best ever. From our humble beginnings back in 2004, we have supported dozens of people in their quests to discover their own personal family histories. Whether you are a seasoned genealogist, a beginner or if you just want to want to come out and hear our amazing speakers present on fascinating topics, we have something for everyone.

Meetings are held monthly between September and June at Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Avenue N., Hamilton. All are welcome. Please check our web site, [www.jgsh.org](http://www.jgsh.org) or contact Hazel Boon at 905-524-3345/jgshamilton@gmail.com for more information.

This enrichment is intended to enhance learning as they move forward through the curriculum.

Our principal, Peter Greenberg has a background in Special Education; He was, at one time, the Principal of Special Education for the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. The development and growth of Special Education at Kehila, will benefit greatly from his mentorship.

The definition of the Hebrew word "kehila" is community. As featured in the last edition of the HJN, there are children in our community who have special needs and for whom Jewish programming is being sought. With the introduction of these resource opportunities, Kehila is now being truer to its name; we are a Jewish school for Jewish kids from all over the Hamilton and surrounding area, of varying denominations, and of varying abilities.

and better than ever! A new kindergarten class and weekly dinner round out our weekly classes.

Your family is not going to want to miss these two wonderful upcoming programs. On the second day of Rosh Hashana on Friday Sept. 6 at 10:45 a.m. we are thrilled to welcome back David Gershon for his fabulous family service. Tickets are \$36/family or \$12 per person. Call 905-522-1351 soon to reserve.

Join us on Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 5 p.m. for Pizza in the Hut, a Sukkah decorating program that includes dinner.

For more information about any of our programs, contact director of education, Milena Romalis at [school@bethjacobsynagogue.ca](mailto:school@bethjacobsynagogue.ca) or 289-339-9076.

### MAGEN DAVID ADOM

The Hamilton chapter of Magen David Adom (MDA) in Israel recently sent a letter of appreciation to our community. Below is an excerpt from the letter.

*"Dear Friends, I am delighted to inform you that the motorbike you generously donated to Magen David Adom has joined our fleet and is now stationed in the MDA Jerusalem Region. We are most grateful to you for your support of our mutually sacred cause, namely the saving of lives in Israel."*

Signed: Yonatan Yagodovsky, director, Fundraising Department.

The campaign to purchase Hamilton's fourth scooter is already in action. Please make a donation in honour of your loved one for this scooter by calling 905-529-4824 or 1-800-731-2848. Best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy new year.



## Camp Kadimah

**A MESSAGE FROM CAMP DIRECTOR JOSH LERNER**  
Bigger, better and a whole bunch of fun. This year at Camp Kadimah we saw some old faces, new changes and one of the most amazing summers in memory. Whether we were at the water park, ice skating at top speeds or seeing some cool reptiles, Camp Kadimah provided a wonderful summer that has created memories that will last a lifetime. For the first time in years, there was a waiting list, make sure to sign up your kids early next year!

**SPONSOR SOME SUNSHINE**  
Camp Kadimah would like to extend its appreciation for all the generous donations that were made to our sponsor some sunshine fundraiser. The funds raised this year allowed us to give more children in our community the opportunity to attend and experience a Jewish day camp.

**Gold Sponsor:** Effort Trust  
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### Upcoming JCC Programs

- Oct. 6: Canadian Red Cross Babysitting Course, 9 a.m. -5 p.m.
- Oct. 8: Your Story Matters (Educational Adult program) 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 16: Annual General Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 5: ABC of Jewish Genealogy 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 20: L'dor V'dor Educational program for Grades 6 & 7
- Nov. 30: JCC Chanukah party and Havdallah service
- Dec. 15: Morris Black Public Speaking Contest 2 p.m.

### Sunday Group Youth Tennis Lessons with Frances Critchley

Get a youth variety package membership for only \$65 plus HST and pay only \$5 indoor court fees!

Grade One: Noon -12:45 p.m.  
Grade Two: 12:45-1:30 p.m.  
Grade Three: 1:30-2:15 p.m.  
Each four week session costs \$55

### Hamilton Jewish Film Festival

**Saturday, Nov. 16**  
The JCC and Temple Anshe Sholom present  
**Hava Nagila & Touch of Klez**  
7:30 p.m. at Temple Anshe Sholom  
Cost: \$15

**Sunday, Nov. 17**  
**The Other Son**  
Brunch 12:30 p.m.  
Film 1:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$15

### Barry Foster Memorial Golf Tournament

The Barry Foster Memorial Golf Tournament was held on June 20 at the Beverly Golf and Country Club. We could not have asked for a better day. Thank you to all the volunteers and the committee for helping to make the day a success. Thank you to all those who donated to our silent auction and a special thanks to all of our donors and sponsors for their continued support and dedication. **Hole Sponsors:** Burlington Paving, Eisenberg and Young LLP, Fellfab, H. Williams Jewellery, Harvey Katz Law Office, Henderson Structured Settlements, Joel Feldman, Hamilton Minor Hockey, Mackesy Smye LLP, Miller Shoes, Scarfone Hawkins LLP, Rob and Michelle Tick, Stanley M. Tick & Associates, Dwight Fowler, Weisz Rocchi and Scholes, Effort Trust, Sheldon & Wendy Frank, Accident Benefit Consultants, William Morris Law Offices, Fraser Financial Consultants, Kathman Investments Limited, Your Story Matters, Howard Katz and TD Waterhouse Yves Apel. **Bronze Sponsors:** Dalton Timmis Insurance Group, Judy Marsales Real Estate LTD Larry Szpizglas, Northbridge Insurance and Posner Metals. **Silver Sponsor:** Taylor Leibow Les Mitchnick & Lax Financial **Hole in one contests:** Eastgate Ford and Michelle Foster

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Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) wishes our members and friends a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!

Thank you for your continued support of CHW's projects for Children, Healthcare and Women in Israel and Canada.

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### Visual T'filah

by RABBI JORDAN COHEN

This past spring the members of Temple Anshe Sholom took the next step in the process of liturgical evolution through the introduction of "Visual T'filah," a digital display system for prayer. Prayer books are, essentially, just containers that we use to store some of our sacred texts. Just as the book supplanted the altar as the locus of worship for a people wandering in exile, Judaism has regularly adopted new technologies for use as sacred text containers, each offering benefits over the previously used medium. Prayer moved from the oral tradition to costly and rare handwritten and illuminated manuscripts. The advent of the printing press allowed each member of the community to have their own siddur, radically transforming synagogue services. That kind of transformation is happening again. In this age of e-books and tablets, Kindles and iPads, the era of the book as the sole container of the printed word seems to have decisively come to an end. At Temple Anshe Sholom we have congregants who regularly attend services with their iPads, dutifully following the service with the Mishkan T'filah app. While this may seem almost sacrilege to some, this format provides many benefits and improvements over the traditional book. It is lighter in the hands than the print edition, with backlighting and adjustable fonts that make it easier to read, especially for those who are visually impaired. This "iT'filah" is actually easier to navigate than a traditional prayerbook while including the exact same content, formatted and presented in exactly the same way. In the end, whether or not this digital device enhances or disrupts the kavanah of the worshipper depends completely on the preferences of the individual. It is not the device that is in our hands that influences our prayer experience but rather that which is within ourselves. With the implementation of Visual T'filah, our hands have been freed up completely. Utilizing the latest technology to display



Cantorial soloist Paula Baruch demonstrating "Visual T'filah".

It is very engaging and has already proven wonderfully popular with children, adults and especially seniors

the liturgy, intermingled with art and other visual imagery, Visual T'filah has been introduced in our Chapel for Kabbalat Shabbat and Religious School services as an enhancement to our worship experience. A large flat screen monitor has been installed next to our Ark, which is controlled wirelessly from an iPad on the

podium. This beautiful and well presented complement to our conventional siddurim allows congregants to pray with their heads up, connecting with one another, rather than burying their faces in the book. It is very engaging, and has already proven itself wonderfully popular with children, adults and especially seniors, who often find our siddur uncomfortable to hold and read. In addition to the prayers, the Visual T'filah system allows for the inclusion of new songs and creative readings, the display of names for Yahrzeits and healing prayers, and announcements. Visual T'filah is only the beginning of Anshe Sholom's evolution into the realm of digital prayer. Beginning this fall selected services will be streamed live online through our Temple web site, allowing the home bound and others unable to make it to the Temple to be a part of the worship experience at Temple Anshe Sholom, in real time, wherever they are in the world.

### Gotta get back to George

by LAURA WOLFSON

How many times have I heard one of our Temple kids say that? How many times have I thought it myself? URJ Camp George, near Parry Sound, is an amazing place where Jewish friends are found, Jewish memories are made, and where kids have fun in the sun in a strongly identified Reform Jewish setting. At Temple Anshe Sholom, we consider Camp George to be "our camp". We have always had

donate to the Camp George Scholarship Fund so that any Temple family who wishes to send their child to Camp George will be able to get financial assistance if they need it. Camp George Scholarships are the Temple's largest single disbursement. Why all this effort? Too often, when kids come to Hebrew school they learn about Jewish ways of living. Even when we use experiential learning methodology, it is



First Session 2013 TAS campers and counsellors enjoying Camp George

a valued partnership with Camp George: long before Camp George opened, our rabbi and educator were on the steering committee that dreamed big, and made the dream of a Canadian Reform Jewish summer camp a reality. Every summer we have been part of the camp's faculty, a group of rabbis, cantors and educators who go to camp to teach, inspire, support, and be part of everything that happens there. Every fall and winter we encourage all our Temple parents to send their kids there, and we have been very successful: Camp George tells us that we consistently send a proportionately higher number of kids to be campers and staff than any other Canadian Reform congregation. All year long, our congregants

done in a class setting, and is therefore removed at least one step from their reality. At camp, the kids live it. They live their Judaism while they water-ski, while they clean up their cabins, and while they do their camp cheers, just as much as they live it while they are in tefillah or shiur. At camp, their friends and counsellors become their own Jewish community – a community that belongs just to them, not their parents or relatives. As a result, our Camp George kids come back to Hamilton and to the Temple excited to share what they know and how they feel about being Jewish in today's world. And each year in September, I hear the same refrain: "Gotta get back to George!"

### The Maccabiah experience

Max Balinson helps his team win gold

by SCOTT BALINSON, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

On July 31 two EL Al jets landed in Toronto, many of its passengers members of the 19th Maccabiah Games' Canadian delegation. Among the athletes, coaches and family members who sleepily poured into Pearson Airport's Terminal Three Arrivals Lounge were Max Balinson and fellow members of the Team Canada's junior ice hockey team. As they exited the sliding doors, proudly sporting their gold medals and lugging Maccabi Canada kit bags, bright red hockey bags and bundled sticks, the boys' faces lit up with broad smiles as they spotted their families and friends in the crowd.

Balinson and his teammates' eagerly-anticipated three-week adventure, seemed to have passed in the blink of an eye. But their long, hard road of intense training paid off with a gold-medal win. That training included a three-day on-ice intensive at York University that honed their skills and helped them gel as a team.

The team's first week in Israel was spent in the Jerusalem area, where they enjoyed a myriad of cultural experiences that included tours of Jerusalem's Old City, the powerful experience of visiting the Western Wall, and a day trip to Masada and the Dead Sea.

The following week they journeyed north to Metula, home of the Canada Centre, a community centre and ice-rink built with funds donated by Canadian Jewish Federations and the site of a recent TSN documentary on ice hockey in Israel. Billeted at one of the area's kibbutz hotels along with Canada's open and senior ice hockey teams, Balinson and his teammates spent a few days acclimatizing to the rink before traveling back to Jerusalem for the opening ceremonies at Teddy Stadium in front of 30,000 cheering sports fans and family members.

Then it was back to Metula for a second set of opening ceremonies that opened the round-robin tournament between Team Canada, Team USA and Israel.

Despite the fact that many of the Canadian players were unaccustomed to competing for three full 20-minute periods, they nevertheless beat a less experienced Israeli team 8-1.

The team also enjoyed a 4-0 victory against Team USA in their second game. The third match was another lopsided affair with a 12-1 defeat of Israel. The fourth match featured a hard-fought contest between Team USA and Team Canada, with the Americans edging out the Canadian team at 4-3, setting up an eagerly anticipated gold-medal match.

The championship game had Team USA leading 1-0, going into the second period. Balinson scored with a slapshot from the point to tie the game. Team USA came back and immediately scored to once again take the lead. Then Team Canada scored the equalizer and, with only a few minutes left to go, scored the winning goal.

Balinson thanks team manager, Gary Kalk, coaches Mario Cicchillo, Adam Shell and Robert Smith, physiotherapist Jason Izraeli and the staff at Maccabi Canada and Maccabiah Israel without whose efforts the Games could not have taken place. He would also like to thank all the family and community members who made generous donations to assist covering the costs of this undertaking.

Scott Balinson is Max's father



Max Balinson shows off his gold medal.

Photo by Eden Gabay

### Rabbinic heaven at the Hartman Institute

by RABBI JORDAN COHEN, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

This past February the Jewish world lost one of the Gedolim haDor – one of greats of the generation – when Rabbi David Hartman passed away at the age of 81 in Jerusalem. Rabbi Hartman, a leading thinker among philosophers of contemporary Judaism and an internationally renowned Jewish author, probably had more direct influence on more rabbis I know than any other single figure in contemporary Judaism. Personally, I never had the chance to study directly with Rabbi Hartman, but most of my key rabbinic influences did study with him. His students are my teachers.

Hartman was born in Brooklyn and was educated in traditional yeshivot. He was ordained as an Orthodox rabbi in 1953, having studied under the great sage of Modern Orthodoxy, Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik at Yeshiva University while pursuing a graduate degree in philosophy at Fordham University.

Hartman's primary experience as a congregational rabbi was in Montreal, where he also taught and studied at McGill University. In 1971, Rabbi Hartman made aliyah to Israel with his family.

The Hartman Institute stands as a landmark of Jewish scholarship and, perhaps more importantly, the sole beacon of a pluralistic Judaism in Israel and, perhaps, throughout the Jewish world.

One of the pioneering programs of the Shalom Hartman Institute is the annual Rabbinic Torah Seminar (RTS). For two weeks every summer rabbis gather at the Institute in Jerusalem to study together.

In late June I travelled to Jerusalem with great expectations and they were all exceeded. With me were more than

170 rabbinic colleagues from around the world, rabbis of many different denominations and ideological and spiritual paths, from the newly ordained to retirees, men and women, studying together without barriers. The theme for this summer's study was "A Living Covenant" and featured some of Israel's most outstanding scholars and presenters. The study was intense. The day began at 8:30 in the morning with five hours of shiurim (seminars) and havruta (small group text study) in the beautiful cavernous Beit Midrash or in the courtyard under the clear blue Jerusalem sky. Afternoons included elective classes on such topics as "Covenantal Theology" and "Mystical Insights in the Tishrei Holidays". After dinner, evening programs featured leading Israeli thinkers on matters of contemporary social and political concern.

What inspired me the most was not just the creativity of thought that was presented by the teachers, but the true spirit of love of Torah that was shared amongst the students who came from such varied backgrounds and perspectives. This was not just Orthodox scholars debating law and philosophy. Rather there are secular, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Conservative, and Reform men and women probing together the depths of our tradition with no one presuming that they had the "correct" answer. Convincing arguments and imaginative thinking ruled supreme as we were encouraged to dig deeper and deeper into the text and into the breadth of our tradition, firmly from within the context of the world in which we live. This was living Judaism of the highest order, a pure rabbinic paradise.

### The JCC is pleased to announce the birth of MMYO Mitzvah Mission Youth Organization

This educational, active and fun program is geared to all Jewish students in the community in Grades 6 through 8. MMYO will bring our children together under one roof to get to know one another, to learn together and to perform Mitzvot together. The program will take place on Monday evenings from 6 - 7:30pm beginning on Oct. 7, location TBA. A light dinner will be served.

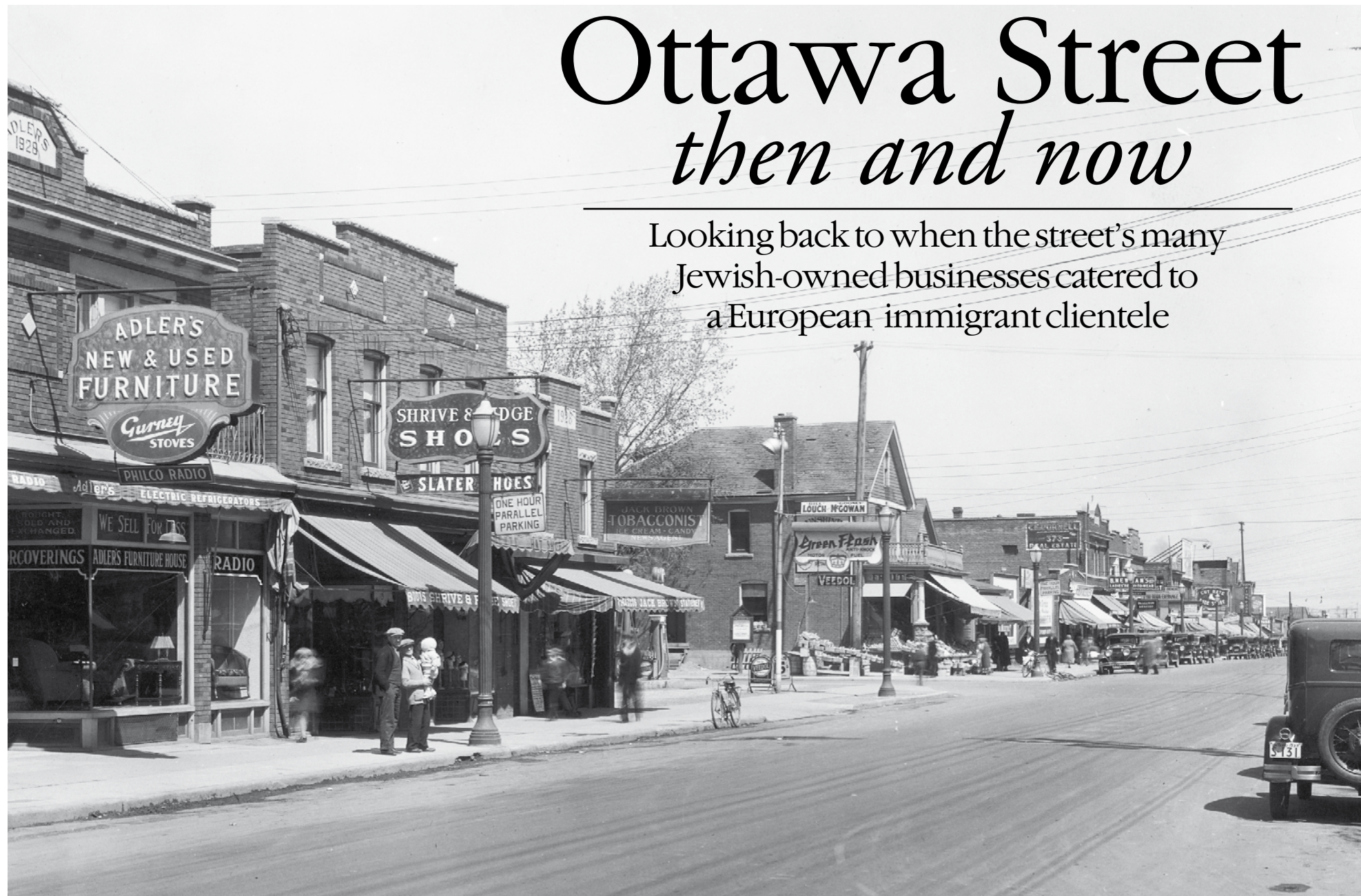
Cost: \$200 for JCC members; \$250 for non-members. For more information please contact Danna Horwood at dannah1@live.ca or Laura Laengerer, JCC coordinator at 905-648-0605 ext 308.

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Ottawa Street, circa mid 1950s.

Photo courtesy of The Hamilton Spectator

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

They're selling perfume and chocolate in Saul Eisenberg's former store on Ottawa Street. The one-time proprietor of Liberty House Furniture still enjoys an occasional stroll through the neighbourhood that launched him into a successful entrepreneur back in 1950s Hamilton.

The story of how New York city native Eisenberg came to Hamilton and ended up in the furniture business begins in 1950, when the US airforce vet came up to Canada to visit a friend in Montreal. But his plans got sidetracked when he met Hamilton girl, Molly Wright at a party in Toronto, who he proceeded to marry six months later. At first they lived with Eisenberg's parents in New York, apartments being hard to come by, but moved to Hamilton within the year, when an apartment on Connaught Avenue became available. The year was 1951 and Eisenberg, who had sold cameras and sporting goods back in New York, was confident about finding a job.

His hopes were dashed time and again, however, when he found himself coming up against subtle antisemitism.

"In those days when you went to apply for a job it was name, address, and religion. Of course they all said, 'you don't have to fill in the religion part,'" recalled Eisenberg, but it wasn't in his nature to conceal his identity and a full six weeks went by before he was finally offered a job – by a fellow Jew, as it would turn out.

He was down at Netkin's fruit stand at the Hamilton market with his father-in-law, Solomon Wright, Eisenberg recalls, when someone told them that Sam Smurlick,

owner of Dominion Furniture, was looking for a furniture salesman. "Why don't you go over there?" asked his father-in-law, and Eisenberg, who figured he knew a thing or two about sales, went to see Smurlick.

"You came at a bad time. January," Smurlick told him initially. But Eisenberg refused to be deterred.



Saul Eisenberg on Ottawa Street today. Photo by Wendy Schneider

"So I said to him, you know everybody says either 'business is slow' or 'we don't hire Jews.' I think I'm going to go back to New York."

Those were attention-grabbing words for Smurlick, who just happened to be the head of the Anti-Defamation League. Eisenberg told him a few stories and then made him an offer.

"I'll tell you what. You hire me for Friday night and Saturday. If I can't do as well as your best man, you don't pay me."

Smurlick agreed and Eisenberg

headed straight over to Lou Davidson's to buy a new suit.

"It was a Wednesday and I told Lou I had to have it for Friday." He got the suit, kept the job, and ended up working there for two and a half years.

Eisenberg first came to Ottawa Street in 1956 when he began working for Murray Yolles ("one of the nicest guys I ever worked for") at another furniture store called Home Outfitting.

To this day, Eisenberg credits Yolles for helping him open his own store on the street two years later.

"He received everything for me, had his men bring it up here."

When Eisenberg offered to pay him, Yolles would take nothing for himself, instructing Eisenberg just to give the delivery men \$50.

"What competitor does that?," he asked, but that's the way it was on Ottawa Street, where furniture stores like Adlers, Abe Cohen and Son's and Pete Rosenblatt's Ottawa Furniture co-existed by carrying different lines that appealed to different levels of consumers.

More than half of Liberty House's clientele were from the Italian community.

"They were great people to do business with."

Furniture stores were just one category of Jewish-owned businesses that lined Ottawa Street. Others included Nadel Furs and Barne's furrier, Lou Latner's Canadian Floor-Text, Sternberg's tile store, Syd and Marian Bennett's Dressmakers Supply, Frank Rubenstein's menswear store, Alec Shure's ladies wear shop, fruit stores owned by the Ritts and Polan families, David Levy's dental

office, Eva Levy's The Yardstick, one of Ottawa Street's first fabric stores, Manny Kimel's Fabricland, opened on the site of the former Adler's Furniture and Harry and Ann Cohen's Elaine's Millinery.



Saul Eisenberg at Liberty House Furniture. Photo courtesy of Saul Eisenberg

"It was such a vibrant street," said Dundas resident Elaine Miller, for whom the latter store was named. "Saturday night, people would come up to my Bubby's place and play poker."

Hershey Latner has vivid memories of the five-year period starting from 1966 when he was running Canadian Floor Tex on his own.

"We were a do-it-yourself store," he said, with a mostly European clientele (Italians, Portuguese, Polish, Hungarian, "all of Europe if you will") who would do their own installations.

Latner's days were long, and not terribly nutritious. The day started at 8 o'clock when he would meet his installers, at nine he'd open the store "and at one minute to six I would always go across the road and buy three bags of A & P Jane

Parker chocolate chip cookies for 99 cents and two tins of fruit cocktail." The cookies would sustain him over the next three to four hours, while he was on the road doing estimates and the fruit cocktail would serve as supper when he finally arrived home.

With the revitalization that's taken place on Ottawa Street over the last few years, Eisenberg is delighted to see that the street has, once again, become a destination for Hamiltonians of all backgrounds, drawn by its eclectic mix of furniture and fabric stores, boutiques, collectibles, restaurants and art galleries. It brings to mind something that Nate Adler, then recently retired, told him when he first opened Liberty House. "I want to welcome you to Ottawa Street," he said, letting him know how good the street had been to him. It's a sentiment Eisenberg is more than willing to pass on to the younger versions of himself about a street and a neighbourhood with a heart.

## THE MILLIONAIRE'S DAUGHTER

*Fabulous furniture on consignment*

**THE MILLIONAIRE'S DAUGHTER** has historic ties to Hamilton and has tremendous pride and optimism for the future of this city. Maureen Barnes, owner of THE MILLIONAIRE'S DAUGHTER, opened her consignment store on trendy Ottawa Street North in 2009 and has since opened locations in Oakville and Aurora. Named after her father's business, THE MILLIONAIRE DRIVE-IN, whose giant 40-foot high sign of the chef with a burger was a landmark in Hamilton throughout the 60s and 70s.



Consignment is the act of consigning, which is placing material in the hand of another, but retaining ownership until the goods are sold. With our ever growing commitment to recycling and reuse of our possessions, consignment makes good sense. Maureen has a favourite saying in her stores, "Everything here has its own little story gathered over the years". With consignment, the stories will continually change and grow into the future.

People consign for various reasons. Some people are downsizing or moving while others have inherited possessions from a loved one. People shop at consignment stores for various reasons. They may be changing their decorating style or colours. They may need larger or smaller furniture. They may be looking for a specific piece by a specific manufacturer. Whatever the reason for consigning or shopping, the friendly and helpful staff at each location can be of assistance and pickup and delivery can be arranged with our movers who will quote their fee.

To consign, there are a few simple steps to follow:

- Email photos of furniture pieces or larger items with information about the items, or bring smaller boxed items (glassware, vases etc.) to a location
- Receive confirmation of acceptance of items and pricing (based on age, condition, quality etc.)
- Complete a contract and receive information about tracking of items through our website
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At each location, items are placed on the floor in vignettes to allow customers to visualize pieces in a room or decorative setting. All of our locations offer the same pricing model and the same quality of items. Our displays are changed constantly due to inventory and volume of sales – we sell through about 7 homes per week! Our great website offers information on how everything works, with lots of photos.

If you are looking for that "signature" piece to finish a room, a dresser or sideboard to paint for a new baby's room, a seasonal piece, china or glassware for your everyday table or a special occasion, you can find it at THE MILLIONAIRE'S DAUGHTER.

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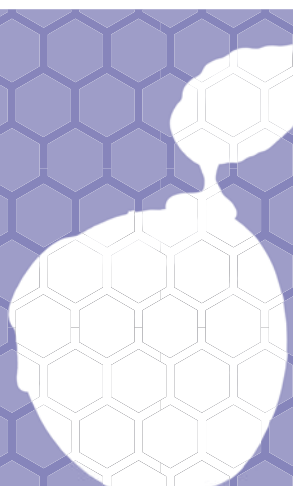
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