



## Exhibit opening

The universality of immigrant stories

P12

## Memories of a golden past

The Delaware Ave. JCC remembered

P13



# Hamilton Jewish News

THE VOICE OF JEWISH HAMILTON

DECEMBER 2017 VOL 32:2/TISHREI 5778

AGREEMENT #40007180

## Israeli singer/songwriter performing in Hamilton

One of Israel's most beloved and popular singers will be performing in Hamilton at a Chanukah community concert organized by the Hamilton Jewish Federation. Miki Gavriellov will perform at Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Ave. N. on **Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m.**



Gavriellov is best known for his compositions and collaborations with the late singer/songwriter Arik Einstein, whose blend of folk and rock helped shape a new Hebrew popular culture and whose ballads became modern Israeli anthems. Gavriellov's songs are vastly popular among audiences in Israel and across the globe.

*Miki Gavriellov remembers Arik Einstein* will be a nostalgic

evening filled with the music of the golden age of Israeli pop and rock. The evening will also feature performances by singers from the Jewish community and the Ani ve'Ata Hamilton Community Choir. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students and \$10 for children under 12. They can be purchased at [www.jewishhamilton.org](http://www.jewishhamilton.org).



## Time travel

A 1949 time capsule discovered at the former Ancaster JCC is shining a light on how much Jewish Hamilton has changed in 68 years

JCC president Lowell Richter with some of the contents of a time capsule discovered at the former Ancaster JCC.

Photo by Wendy Schneider

**W**e found something. It's got some stuff in it." The caller was Sam Berrih, the real estate agent who represented the purchasers of the Lower Lions Club Road JCC. On the other end of the line was real estate broker Larry Szpirglas, who had overseen its sale. Driving down to investigate Szpirglas had a hunch. "It must be the cornerstone," he thought. He was in for a surprise.

See **COVER STORY**, page 4, 5



Ben Levitt, Louis Stroud and Dora-Ann Cohen at the Doing Jewish in Hamilton gathering.

Photo by Wendy Schneider

## Making it real

Hamilton's Jewish under 40s came together in October for the second of two evenings dedicated to discussions about envisioning a vibrant Jewish community that serves the needs of young individuals and families.

Louis Stroud's story on page 6.



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**FEDERATION REPORT**

**JACKI LEVIN**, PRESIDENT, HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION

**GUSTAVO RYMBERG**, CEO, HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION



Dear fellow community members,

We would like to take this opportunity to **thank you for your continuous support of Hamilton Jewish Federation Community Campaign**. Your generous contribution funds vital programs that engage the next generation in Jewish life, serve the most vulnerable among us, and advocate for Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world.

Our beneficiary agencies are doing incredible work and they are facing new challenges every day and the role of the Federation has to be responsive.

- How is Federation going to welcome a newcomer family?
- How are we going to support our schools to give children and young families from all Jewish backgrounds a sense of belonging?
- How is Federation going to assist Jewish Social Services to serve struggling families in need of clean clothes, warm meals, and a safe place to live.
- What will the role of the Federation and the Holocaust and human rights education programs be in understanding our Jewish heritage.
- How are we going to engage a new generation of young Jewish families.
- How is the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs going to respond to the new acts of antisemitism?
- Interfaith couples and LGBTQ Jews, will learn that they are welcome in our global Jewish family?

To paraphrase Elie Wiesel, it is not words that kill, it's silence and indifference. With education, knowledge, engagement, your voice and your ongoing support we can overcome today's challenges.

- Holocaust survivors and isolated seniors enjoy companionship thanks to Jewish Social Services;
- Jewish students fight anti-Semitism and stand up to the growing BDS movement on campuses because of the strong presence of Hillel at McMaster University;
- Individuals with special needs find their place in our community thanks to Beth Tikvah Foundation and our Special Needs Action Project;
- Children of all backgrounds are able to attend summer camp thanks to the hard work done by the Jewish Community Centre, a Hamilton Jewish Federation beneficiary.

Your support is critical to our future. By supporting Hamilton Jewish Federation **YOU BREAK THE SILENCE AND THE INDIFFERENCE**. In fact, distances disappear and people come together; and together we can make an **IMPACT** and transform Jewish life in Hamilton.

We may live in different countries, speak different languages, and live different lives, but we are all one global community- where everyone counts, and we need to be there for each other. **TODAY MORE THAN EVER!**

We are asking for your support, so we can continue to transcend our many differences, and focus on lifting those who have fallen, nourishing those who are hungry - making sure not one person falls through the cracks.

We can assure you that your gift to our community will be used wisely to help and enrich the lives of many and to **TRANSFORM THE COMMUNITY** that we are going to leave to our children, grandchildren and generations to come.

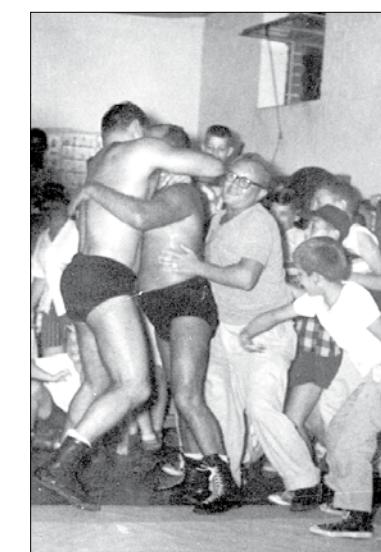
Last year, you generously contributed \$1,060,000 to our Community Campaign. Because the need is so great and we have plans to do much more in the year ahead, we hope you'll consider renewing your pledge with an increase of 18 per cent.

**The L'Chayim Community Campaign closes at the end of December. Our beneficiaries depend on us. Please, join us in giving to Federation before December 31, 2017.**

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**COMING UP**

**PASSOVER ISSUE**

- Deadline for booking ad space - Jan. 31, 2018
- Deadline for receiving editorial copy - Feb. 14, 2018
- Deadline for receiving ad copy - Feb. 26, 2018
- Estimated date of arrival - March 14, 2018



**KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION**

Canadian Polish Congress president, Wladyslaw Lizon and members of Hamilton's Polish community were special guests at the Hamilton Jewish Federation's Kristallnacht commemoration, held on Nov. 9 at the Hamilton Spectator auditorium. Keynote presenter Jeannie Smith, the daughter of Polish Righteous Among the Nations rescuer Irene Gut OpDyke, kept the audience riveted with the remarkable story of how her mother kept 12 Jews hidden in the home of a Nazi official during the Second World War. Smith's central message about the power of an individual to say no to hatred, persecution, and prejudice, struck a resonant chord with the audience, who responded to her remarks with an extended standing ovation. Also pictured above are Dr. Mark and Hinda Levine (second row) and Rabbis Jordan Cohen and Daniel Green. Photo by Wendy Schneider

**Hamilton Jewish News**

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Left: October, 1949 Canadian broadcasting executive Ken Soble looks on as Hamilton's chief rabbi, Rabbi Samuel Levine, recites a prayer before affixing a mezuzah to the Delaware Avenue JCC at a cornerstone laying ceremony. Photo courtesy of the Ontario Jewish Archives

Above: October, 2017 The rediscovered cornerstone's new home in the writer's backyard. Photo by Wendy Schneider

# A trip down memory lane

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

Like so many Jewish kids who grew up in Hamilton during the 1950s and '60s, Larry Szpriglas spent a good part of his waking hours at the Jewish Community Centre on 57 Delaware Ave. The building was a dynamic hub of Jewish life, offering Sunday afternoon programs for children, Saturday night dances for young adults, intercity events, concerts, sports tournaments, arts programs, and day programs for the elderly. Its legendary professional staff Sam Brownstone, Max Rotman and Bill Stern were mentors to countless young people, many of whom would go on to become this community's future communal leaders.

By the mid-'70s, with most of Hamilton's Jewish families having moved to the city's western suburbs, the Delaware Avenue JCC was no longer seen as

meeting the needs of a changing community. The building was sold, and 10 years later the community transformed a tennis club on Lower Lions Club Road in Ancaster into a new JCC. That building was sold in September 2015.

### A surprise discovery

A small group of construction workers noticed Szpriglas pull into the parking lot at 1030 Lower Lions Club Road. One walked over to a construction trailer, emerging moments later with a metal box.

The box had been discovered in the building's tool and maintenance room during renovations.

"It was just sitting there with the end of it open. I looked inside and saw there were letters inside," real estate broker Sam Berrih later told the JCN.

Taking the box, Szpriglas immediately understood that here was a time capsule

dating back to the construction of the Delaware Avenue JCC. Resisting the temptation to examine its contents — "I didn't want to touch anything inside of it because I didn't want it to evaporate in my hands" — Szpriglas placed a call to current JCC president Lowell Richter.

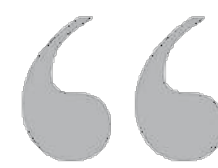
### The big reveal

My phone rings and it's Lowell Richter on the other end. Would I like to join him in opening a time capsule that had turned up at the old Lower Lions Club Road JCC? Weeks later, I'm standing in an Eastgate Ford office, camera in hand, watching as Richter, dressed in an elegant business suit, unconcernedly reaches his arm deep into the dust-filled metal box and proceeds to withdraw one folded parchment after another and hold it up for examination and a photograph. Each one

is inscribed with the name and membership list of a Jewish organization. Being third and fourth generation Hamiltonians, we recognize the names of our parents' and grandparents' contemporaries.

There's Marjorie Baskin and Pearl Barnett on the National Council of Jewish Women's list; Ben Sauder and Elmer Steinberg, members of the Lord Reading Club; Shirley Kritzer, president of the National Council of Jewish Juniors; Dr. Harry Paikin, ON the United Jewish People's Order list; one-time editor of Hamilton's Yiddish language newspaper, Henry Balinson, on the Workmen's Circle list; Irving Zucker and Norm Levitt, two among dozens and dozens of the list of Jewish veterans belonging to the Hamilton Maccabees Branch 343 of the Canadian Legion; Harold Minden, Nathan Adler and Leo

Continued on next page



A feature of the ceremony was the placing of a metal capsule containing parchments inscribed with the names of all the organizations and committees which had taken part in the project.

The Hamilton Spectator, October 26, 1949

### Continued on from previous page

Barnett, listed as chairs and honorary co-chairs of the United Jewish Welfare Fund; there's Ben Shekter and Dr. Ben Finkelstein, chairman and vice-chairman of Jewish Social Services; the Council of Jewish Organization's Sam Smurlick, Ken Soble, and Ben Shekter, executive members and Manuel Batshaw, executive director. There are three separate Hadasah lists corresponding to its Henrietta Szold, Chanita and Marietta chapters, a list dedicated to the Grand Order of Israel Ladies Auxilliary, to the Deborah Sisterhood of Temple Anshe Sholom and Beth Jacob's Sisterhood. Each document is another revelation and we marvel at the sheer number of Jewish organizations.

### A different time

"It was a different time," Richter says as we commiserate over the disappearance of so many of those organizations. He reminds me that the State of Israel had only been in existence for a year, the Second World War a not so distant memory.

"We did things for protection," he said. "We were sort of alone in the world and had to fend for ourselves."

It was true, I thought. With Canada's anti-Jewish immigration policies and Hamilton's restrictive covenants that prevented Jews from buying homes in Westdale, it's easy to imagine people finding a sense of belonging in their Jewish organizations. But the post-war decades were also, according to historian Lucy Davidowicz, something of a golden age in which a thriving communal environment "reflected the new affluence and the rapid

pace of social and cultural integration." Those forces, in time, would, ironically, lead to the very demise of those same organizations.

"Today it's different," said Richter, with the hint of a sigh.

### Postscript

A few days later a thought occurs to me. Somewhere in my archives I've seen photographs of the actual cornerstone laying ceremony. As my family's unofficial archivist, I have an extensive collection of all manner of documentation dating back four generations. My decades-long interest in Hamilton Jewish oral history has led me to acquire similar material relating to the community at large. Sometimes the two overlap, as they did in this particular instance, when my search turned up two original Hamilton Spectator clippings, a special edition of the C.J.O. News (the precursor to this newspaper) and a program brochure, all of them reporting on or relating to the cornerstone laying ceremony of the Jacob N. Goldblatt Jewish Community Centre, Jacob N. Goldblatt being my great-grandfather.

The Spectator article describes a scene in which "a number of distinguished guests as well as several hundred members of the Jewish community and the general public" are assembled in front of 57 Delaware. The mayor of Hamilton, Ontario's Minister of Health bring greetings. Rabbi Bernard Baskin chants the invocation. CHML and CHCH TV owner Ken Soble launches a \$115,000 fundraising campaign that will see the project through to completion.

A paragraph highlighted in bold catches my eye. "A feature of the ceremony was the placing of a metal capsule containing



Above: An October 1949 copy of the C.J.O. News, and parchments representing the socialist organization The Workmen's Circle and the Jewish veterans group, Maccabees, Branch 343 of the Canadian Legion are among the documents on display at the Dundas Museum and Archives until January 2018. Photo courtesy of the Dundas Museum and Archives

parchments inscribed with the names of all the organizations and committees which had taken part in the project," it reads.

The Spec story includes three photographs: One of my great aunt Mashe Levinson using a silver trowel to smooth over the mortar that encloses the time capsule inside the cornerstone; one of my grandfather, Frank Goldblatt and his siblings posing proudly in front of the stone inscribed with their father's name; a third shows a close up of the cornerstone itself, framed by Rabbi Samuel Levine, mezuzah in hand, as he recites a blessing into a CHML microphone, and a smiling

Ken Soble. I peer closely at this particular photo and think, "But where's the cornerstone?"

The next day, I found it at the old JCC, where helpful construction workers helped load it into my car. Today it sits among fallen autumn leaves in my backyard. A homecoming.

### Where you can see it

The time capsule, some of its contents, and other related artifacts are currently on display at the Dundas Museum and Archives until mid- January 2018. For museum hours visit <https://dundasmuseum.ca>.

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## Master of his craft offers free journalism workshop for budding HJN reporters

Former Spec reporter Wade Hemsworth skillfully guided participants in how to craft a riveting story

by STEVEN BROCK, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

"Hey honey. Have you seen this ..." Those words are what aspiring journalists should imagine their readers saying on reading the opening lines of a good story. So instructed award-winning journalist Wade Hemsworth to a class of 15 would-be reporters during a recent workshop on journalism basics.

Over three evenings this autumn the former reporter for The Hamilton Spec-tator detailed the basics of journalistic writing and covered topics ranging from effective interviewing and clear writing, to self-editing. Hemsworth skillfully guided the eager participants with a series of real-life examples and entertaining stories.

The workshop was the brain child of Hamilton Jewish News editor, Wendy Schneider. Always on the lookout for content and intriguing points of view, Schneider and Hemsworth teamed up to construct this brief introduction to newspaper reporting. Hemsworth, now a manager of media relations at McMaster University, taught the class pro-bono as a community service. The ultimate goal of the course was to encourage people and provide them with the necessary tools required to contribute to the paper.

In the HJN's July issue, Schneider placed a small ad soliciting participants for this free course. The response was overwhelming as community members of various ages scrambled to be part of this unique opportunity.



Wade Hemsworth Photo by Ben Hemsworth, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Hemsworth kicked off the course by breaking down the various components of a newspaper article and crafting it so that people will want to read it to the end. By the conclusion of the first class, he tasked the students to come up with a story idea and to interview two people who would support and expand that idea. By the final session, the writers had drafted a first cut for which Hemsworth and their peers provided constructive feedback. The early versions of the articles were of such high quality, that as they evolve, Schneider expects to publish many of them in upcoming issues of the HJN.

## Federation takes the lead on engaging under 40s

by LOUIS STROUD, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

I could hear the soft keys of a piano as I walked up the steps to the residence. Opening the door, the violinist joined in, as if timed for my entrance. The house was filled with guests mingling and sipping drinks. I immediately felt a sense of warmth and belonging, notwithstanding several faces unknown to me.

The evening was the second of two programs held under the auspices of the Hamilton Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Centre called Doing Jewish in Hamilton and facilitated by Lorry Schneider and Terry Bennett. The first, held last July at the home of Lowell and Cindy Richter, was an evening of envisioning a future Jewish Hamilton that offered the programs and activities they would like to see as part of the community fabric. This follow up evening, held at the home of Wendy and Lorry Schneider, was intended to be something of a passing of the torch, the goal being to have participants take their ideas into the realm of the tangible. But was this truly achieved?

There was a consensus among the three people I spoke with that the hospitality, the conversation, the open-minded facilitation, and just getting young people together to talk about community made the evening a success. Both Elana Moscoe and Geoff Zalter said they walked away from the program feeling empowered and energized. I asked Simon Granat whether he thought that the program succeeded in its goal of having participants volunteer to take on leadership roles.

Granat, who has volunteered to help organize a series of future social events responded to my question by sharing a maxim that circulates around his office: "Socialize, organize, mobilize," the saying goes, meaning that anyone who wants to see their ideas come to fruition, must keep the momentum going on by quick action. "It's as easy as picking a date for a follow-up meeting and saying we will be here at x time and y place," said Granat.

Hamilton Jewish Federation CEO Gustavo Rymberg has been equally proactive. Rymberg was instrumental in setting up a Doing Jewish Facebook group after the initial meeting, and has recently brought in a new staff member whose responsibilities will include programming for the under-40 demographic. David Fonseca-Quezada has already reached out to Granat and myself and set up a meeting to discuss how Federation can help support and implement our ideas.

"We have had four people come forward who are interested in being on a committee responsible for developing activities and programs," said Rymberg. "This is just the beginning," he added.

The evening may not have completely succeeded in passing the torch of leadership to a new generation, but it definitely lit a spark. While it may not be realistic to recreate the past, Granat believes it's definitely possible to create something of a renaissance for Jewish Hamilton.

"It doesn't have to be the same," he said, "but it will ours."



Union of Reform Judaism Camp George campers learn to give back by weaving milk bag mats on our Temple's looms.

## MITZVAH MAT MAKING

Story and photo by PAULA BARUCH, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

It turns out that our Canadian outer milk bags can be upcycled as emergency surgical or sleeping mats. It all started when one of our students pointed this out during a Bat Mitzvah lesson. "We should do this at Temple", Madeleine Tarride enthused, handing me an instruction pamphlet on how to build a loom, cut and assemble the milk bags and weave them into durable and colourful sleeping mats. Temple Anshe Sholom embraced this worthy cause and we began collecting milk bags 18 months ago. The response was overwhelming, and our front lobby collection basket continues to be filled to overflowing every week. Temple member Kevin Sampson volunteered to build our four weaving looms from sturdy wood and nails and we began to gather monthly to weave mats. The group has a core of eight dedicated members who meet monthly and others who join when they can. Some take bags home and process them as a family activity. All over Ontario groups collect and weave these useful mats and pass them on to the various charities who distribute them. Recycling those milk bags keeps them out of our landfill sites, which is a good thing since the bags are manufactured to resist UV rays and microbes and take more than 25 years to degrade. Moreover, these bags produce comfortable mattresses to sleep on for people in more than 39 countries, including the homeless right here in Ontario. Anyone can join our group when we meet on a Thursday evening monthly. Contact the Temple at 905-528-0121 for more details.

## Stan Tick honoured by Beth Tikvah

The Friends of Beth Tikvah honoured Stan Tick on Sept. 10 for his role in establishing a Jewish home for developmentally challenged adults. Beth Tikvah opened its doors in August 1991, providing a warm and supportive home for six individuals, including Tick's brothers Ted and Bernie.

"Within the Hamilton-Niagara Region, Beth Tikvah continues to be the only agency that provides services to individuals with a focus on Jewish culture, religion, and history as a context for service delivery," said Beth Tikvah board member, Mel Enkin, before a gathering of 100 guests at the Art Gallery of Hamilton. Enkin went on to highlight the many times Tick has been recognized for his outstanding leadership and community service.

"Although Stan found fulfillment and purpose in all his charitable undertakings," said Enkin, "none gave him more satisfaction than to see the smiling faces of our Beth Tikvah residents enjoying their lives to the fullest in a safe, secure and friendly environment."



Stan Tick and Mel Enkin Photo by Terry Babji

## Hamilton honours Tom and Sasha Weisz

Tom and Sasha Weisz were among the seven outstanding citizens who were named to this year's Hamilton's Gallery of Distinction. As volunteers, philanthropists and community builders, the Weiszs have devoted themselves to making the world a better place. Philanthropy is a priority for the couple, both personally and through the Weisz Family Foundation which supports dozens of organizations, continuing the community-building tradition of Tom's parents, Margaret and Arthur Weisz.

The Weiszs have dedicated themselves to preserving and enhancing Jewish life and culture is important to the couple. Among their honours, Tom is an Honorary Governor of McMaster University, has received the Bloomfield Medal for Meritorious Service to the Jewish Community and Sasha has received the Golda Meir Award for her work with State of Israel Bonds. They are both past Negev Dinner honourees.



## FIND YOUR LIGHT

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As we celebrate the 100th Birthday of CHW, we thank you for your continuing generosity, and we look forward to spreading the light of Chanukah at CHW's projects for Children, Healthcare, and Women in Israel and Canada for many years to come.

Debbie Eisenberg  
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Happy Chanukah!



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#### Introduction to Modern Jewish Philosophy (REL2JP3)

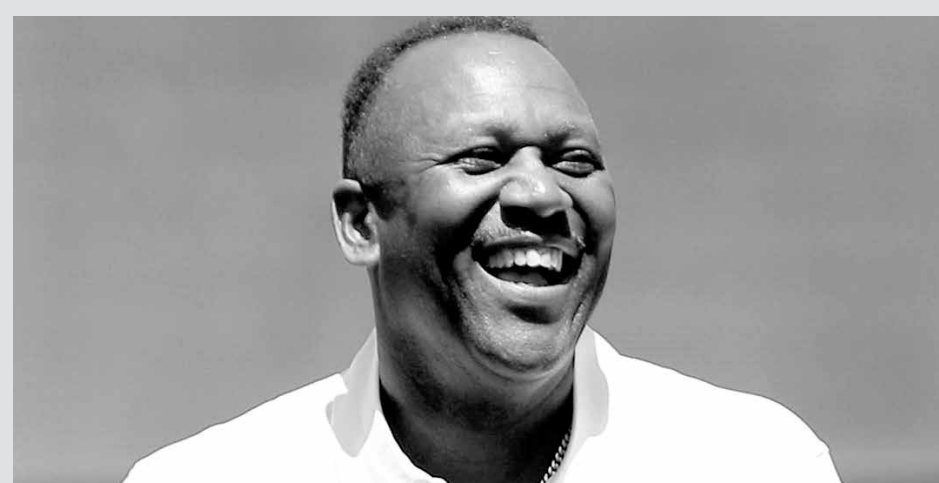
What is the relationship of Judaism, as a religious tradition, to morality, or ethics? We will be studying works by 20th century philosophers, including Jean-Paul Sartre, Jean Améry, Martin Buber, Yeshayahu Leibowitz, and Emmanuel Levinas. No prior knowledge of Judaism, or prior study in religion or philosophy, is needed in order to do well in this course – only an interest in the above questions, and a willingness to read attentively and engage with the texts. Any questions – please contact Dana Hollander, danahol@mcmaster.ca *Tu, Wed, Frid, 12:30-1:20 p.m. in BSB 117*

#### Apocalypse Then and Now (REL2AP3)

This course will focus on apocalyptic literature written by ancient Jews and Christians who were wrestling with being faithful to their God in times of persecution. The course will also examine how such ancient literature differs from and/or informs modern end-times movements and thinking. Professor Matt Thiessen *Mon, Thur 1:30-2:20 p.m. CNH 103*

#### Judaism in the Modern World (REL3ZZ3)

This course will examine a series of recent controversies in the Jewish world, including Israel's proposed conversion bill, the creation of an egalitarian prayer space at the Western Wall, and the rising tide of European anti-Semitism. We will examine the historical and religious roots of these issues so we can better understand their current depths and potential implications for the future. Professor Celia Rothenberg *Wed and Thur 1:30-2:20 p.m. T13 Rm127*



## JOE CARTER HEADLINES B'NAI BRITH SPORTS DINNER

It's a home run! Joe Carter, best known for his walk-off home run to win the 1993 World Series with the Toronto Blue Jays, is coming to Hamilton for the 67th annual B'nai Brith Hamilton Sports Celebrity Dinner, presented by Investors Group on **Monday, Jan. 29, 2018** at the Hamilton Convention Centre. Also joining the all-star line-up are Bill Walton, one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history, and Lauren McKay, 2017 USA Snowboard Association national champion and Hamilton native. Returning as emcee to lead the evening is Jim Ralph of Toronto Maple Leafs radio. Representatives from the Toronto Maple Leafs and Hamilton Tiger Cats will also be in attendance. "It was 25 years ago that the Toronto Blue Jays won the World Series. What a great opportunity to reflect and commemorate a baseball legend while we also celebrate and hear from an NBA all-star and Canadian snowboarder. It's definitely a Hamilton event not to be missed," said committee co-chair Jeff Paikin. "The dinner represents so much to the community and the response has always been one of support and excitement around our celebrity guests as well as our local athletes. What makes it even greater is that proceeds from the event help support many vital local charities," said Brent Clifford, committee co-chair. The B'nai Brith Sports Celebrity Dinner will also recognize the 2016-2017 male and female athletes-of-the-year from Hamilton area high schools. The evening begins with a reception at 5 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets can be ordered at [bbsportsdinner.com](http://bbsportsdinner.com).

### TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

#### Academy for Adult Jewish Learning

Monday evenings, Jan. 15 to March 12, 2018

- Conversational Hebrew at 7 p.m.
- How to Lead Services with Paula Baruch 7 p.m.
- Parallel History: Significant Jewish Events in a Global Context with Rabbi Jordan Cohen 8 p.m.

### Culture

#### ISRAELI FOLK DANCING

Thursdays 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Wendy's Yoga Studio at 14 Crawford Court in Dundas. \$10; [www.wendysyogastudio.ca](http://www.wendysyogastudio.ca).

### TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

#### Mitzvah Mat Making and Movie

Thursday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. Come and enjoy a great movie as we use milk bags to create mats for those in need.

#### Eldor V'dor Concert

featuring Paula Baruch and guests on Thursday, March 22. Details to follow.

### Women only

#### NA'AMAT HAMILTON

#### Monday, Dec. 4

#### Chanukah party

#### Tuesday, Jan. 16

How we got here - members' stories of how they came to Hamilton

#### Monday, Feb. 12

The benefits of meditation (including a guided meditation session)

#### Tuesday, March 6

Women entrepreneurs: their encore careers

For more information about locations, email [bamilton.info@naamat.com](mailto:bamilton.info@naamat.com).

#### ADAS ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.

# EVENTS & CLASSES WINTER 2017/18

Paint Night with instructor Maggie Norris; \$18 includes all supplies  
RSVP to [office@adasisrael.ca](mailto:office@adasisrael.ca) or call 905-528-0039

## For Parents & Tots

### TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

#### Shabbat Live

A monthly Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:15 p.m. featuring a variety of musicians, the Temple singers, congregational Shabbat dinner and Israeli dancing. Please reserve a spot Dec. 15, Jan. 19, Feb. 16.

#### YoFi Shabbat

Shabbat for young families Jan 12, Feb 2, Mar 2 at 5:15 p.m.

#### Tot Shabbat Drop in and YoFi Tunes

Saturdays 11am - 12:15 p.m.

#### Purim Shpiel & Party

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 4:30 - 6:15 p.m.

## For Kids & Families

### BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE

#### Sunday, Dec. 17, 6 p.m.

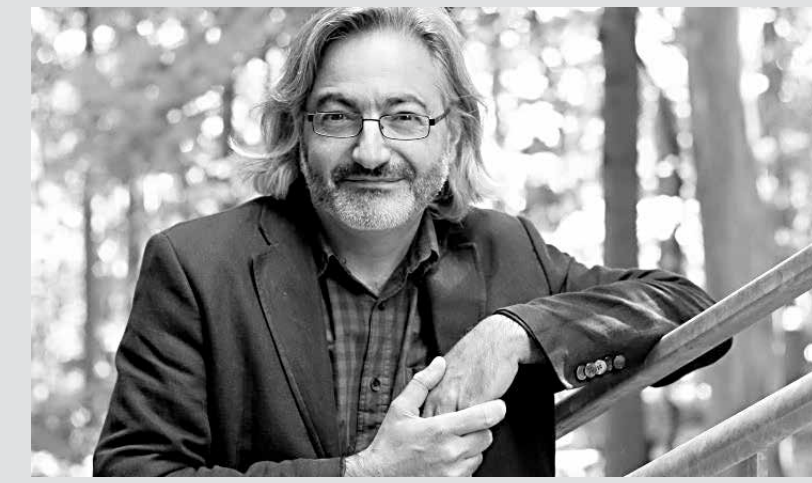
Beth Jacob's Chanukah Dinner 6:00 p.m. Cost: Adults 13 years and up - \$25; Children ages 5-12 years - \$12; children under 4 free. Nuclear families - \$72

#### Saturday, Jan. 13, 6 - 8 p.m.

Family friendly havdallah service featuring David Gershon. RSVP to [tova@bethjacobsynagogue.ca](mailto:tova@bethjacobsynagogue.ca)

#### Saturday, Jan. 20, 10:30 a.m.

Family Shabbat honouring Marvin Caplan commemorating Mr Caplan's first yarhzeit. Bring a lollipop for a friend



## NA'AMAT AUTHOR LUNCHEON MONDAY, APRIL 23

Na'amat Hamilton's 33rd Celebrity Annual Luncheon featuring Gary Barwin, award winning author of Yiddish for Pirates Adas Israel Congregation. Details in next HJN

#### Wednesday, Feb. 28

Hebrew School Purim focused learning from 4:30-6:15 p.m. followed by Megillah reading and Purim activities. For more information email [school@bethjacobsynagogue.ca](mailto:school@bethjacobsynagogue.ca).

### TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

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#### Religious School JK-Grade 7

Wednesdays from 4 - 6:10 p.m. and Saturday from 9:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

#### B'yachad Grade 8-10

Study and community volunteering. Wednesdays 4 - 6:10 p.m.

#### Junior Youth Group (Grades 5-8):

Chanukiah Challenge Dec. 3 from 2 - 4 p.m.

#### TASTY Senior Youth Group

(Grades 9-12) Monthly social activities; Please contact [melanie.wasser@yahoo.com](mailto:melanie.wasser@yahoo.com)

### HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY

#### Wednesday, Dec. 13, 6 p.m.

Community Chanukah dinner Email [info@hamiltonhebrewacademy.ca](mailto:info@hamiltonhebrewacademy.ca) to make reservations

## For Seniors

### TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

Lunch & learn and so much more Mondays at 11:30 a.m.

#### Ruach Coffee House

Paula Baruch performs at Shalom Village; Dec. 8, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 9 at 2 p.m.

### CHEVRA CLUB

Sunday, Dec. 10, Pre-Chanukah Luncheon 1 p.m. at Jewish Social Services, 30 King St. E. in Dundas. Guest Speaker: Leslie Selevan speaking on issues of interest to seniors

## For Everyone

### B'NAI BRITH MIXED BOWLING LEAGUE

Monday evenings at Burlington Bowling Lanes on Harvester Road. We welcome new members. Skill level is not important. Everyone wins. Call Moishe Chaimovitz at 905-516-5599.

#### CHAI CHOIR

Tuesday mornings at Jewish Social Services, 30 King St. E. in Dundas; 10 a.m. - noon. Lunch served.

### JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF HAMILTON

#### Wednesday Jan. 10, 2018

Discovering Your Jewish Past, Hamilton Public Library with Tracey Krause

#### Wednesday Feb. 7, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

From Lithuania to South Africa - the Jewish Emigration with Maureen Price

#### Wednesday March 14, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Where should I store my family tree? but mostly about legacy and my heritage with Hazel Boon

#### Wednesday April 11, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Understanding your autosomal DNA test results with Howard Goldstein All meetings at Temple Anshe Sholom See [www.jgsb.org](http://www.jgsb.org) for more information.

### ADAS ISRAEL

#### Saturday, Jan. 27, 8:30 p.m.

The Big Night to benefit the Hamilton mikvah; cocktails, tapas, art show, live music, silent auction. Contact info: [mikvah@adasisrael.ca](mailto:mikvah@adasisrael.ca).

May your hearts and home be filled with light and joy.

## Happy Chanukah!



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## L'CHAYIM CAMPAIGN IMPACT 18

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For more than 80 years, the **Hamilton Jewish Federation** has nurtured a strong, supportive and vibrant community for generations of Jewish Hamiltonians. Our role is to bring together the financial and human resources that enable a network of non-profit agencies and programs to care for the vulnerable, invest in youth and deepen Jewish life efficiently and effectively.

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**Don't forget that any donations you make before December 31st are tax-deductible this year.**

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## L'CHAYIM CAMPAIGN IMPACT 18

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR IMPACT

**As of November 22, 2017; \$368,598**

We are proud to share with you that our donations are reflecting a **12 per cent increase** over pledges received at this time last year.

was raised by our community to support local, national, international partner agencies and to transform Jewish life in Hamilton!

### We are pleased to announce the following staff promotions and new appointments



Hamilton Jewish Federation is pleased to announce that **Elaine Levine** has assumed the role of campaign director. Elaine joined the Hamilton Jewish Federation 15 years ago, advancing through progressively more responsible positions in both programming and campaign development, where she has played a key role.

Elaine brings a wealth of experience, community knowledge, professionalism, and a strong sense of purpose and commitment to the organization.



Hamilton Jewish Federation is pleased to welcome **David Fonseca - Quezada** to its team as program coordinator of the under 40 annual community campaign. David has more than nine years of experience as a community organizer and lawyer. He has collaborated with diverse communities, committees, and organizations in South America, United States and Canada. He also has extensive experience in delivering programs that promote community development, social justice and human dignity.

### INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION

January 27 is designated by the United Nations General Assembly as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Since 2005, the UN and its member states have held commemoration ceremonies to mark the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and to honour the victims and the survivors of the Holocaust.

### SAVE THE DATE | SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018

For more information please contact David at [dfonsecaquezada@jewishhamilton.org](mailto:dfonsecaquezada@jewishhamilton.org) | 905.648.0605 ext.301

### The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program

The Hamilton Jewish Federation invites students in Grades 9 through 11 to participate in the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program, taking place in May, 2018. This will be the first opportunity for Hamilton area students to visit the recently-opened Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This program promises to be a life-changing experience. Space is limited, so it's important to apply before the deadline of Dec. 20, 2017.

For more information and to register, please contact David at [dfonsecaquezada@jewishhamilton.org](mailto:dfonsecaquezada@jewishhamilton.org) | 905.648.0605.



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www.sarelcanada.org

Programs start approximately every 3 weeks

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# Memories of a golden past

Camp Kadimah, Talmud Torah and the Hadassah bazaar figure prominently in former Hamiltonian Patrick Welkovic's memories of the Delaware Avenue JCC

by PATRICK WELKOVICS, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

An article I came across recently on the benefits of play and laughter took me back to a time when I did a great deal of playing and laughing at the Delaware Avenue JCC.

The JCC was first and foremost a safe place. Our parents dropped us off there with the peace of mind that comes from knowing that our wellbeing was the primary concern of the adults who worked there. These men and women knew who we were and where we came from. Max Rotman, Sam Brownstone, and Bill Stern were exceptional people, and nothing got by them — good or bad. They were our spiritual and surrogate parents.

Most of my recollections of the JCC date back to the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s, when my family lived on Delaware Avenue. It was a wonderful neighbourhood full of beautiful streets, lush trees and gardens, wide boulevards, and a cadre of young Jewish boys and girls. Our hood went from Sherman Avenue to Wentworth, King Street to Cumberland. Our names were Eber, Levy, Szpirglas, Smurlick, Freeman, Perlmutter, Seidenfeld, Moscovitch, Welkovic, Lindenberg, Lieberman, Goldstein, Silber, and Minich. We were inextricably bound together both by age and by the fact that most of our parents were immigrants or Holocaust survivors.

### Camp Kadimah

We would have first encountered each other at Camp Kadimah. There were basketball, volleyball, baseball, football, and dodge ball games on rainy days. Any game with a ball was worth a try. There were field trips to Port Dalhousie, Webster's Falls, the Dundas Driving Park, La Salle Park and the SS Lady Hamilton, and overnight outings to Beverley Township. I can't forget the feeling of sitting by the campfire listening to spooky stories eating barbecued hot dogs and roasted marshmallows.

Who can forget Mrs. Charlotte Rosenfeld's great lunches that included trays of egg, tuna, peanut butter and jam sandwiches served on large cardboard trays with bug juice in stainless steel jugs. It goes without saying that the gauntlet was thrown to the ground as to who could eat the most sandwiches. One had to be very scrupulous and meticulous in the count here, as some claimed to have eaten 10 sandwiches, when they were really only 10 half sandwiches. Who can forget the occasional lunchtime entertainment of Earl Waxman getting up on a table to belt out his rendition of Elvis Presley's "You Ain't Nothing but

then it just felt good to be joining hands and reaffirming our friendship with each other at the end of every day.

### Talmud Torah

The community Talmud Torah, or "terrible torture" as many of us called it, occupied the second floor of the JCC. It, too, was staffed with special people, including Rabbi Katz, Rabbi Altshuler, Rabbi Seidenfeld, and the diminutive Miss Kroch. Small in stature she may have been, but Miss Kroch was a powerhouse, her operatic voice belting out the holiday tunes she taught us. No matter how hard we tried to weasel out of singing along, she allowed no exceptions — you



Graduating class of the Hamilton Talmud Torah, circa 1960. Top row, l to r: Teddy Nelson, Howard Katz, Max Sherman, Stanley Udel, Paul Yellin, Howard Goldstein, Stephen Yanover. Middle row, l to r: Sheldon Katz, Larry Woloshyn, Chuck Shulman, Barry Smurlick, Michael Levy, David Feldman, Michael Ellensweig, Larry Levine; Front row, l to r: (unidentified), Rachel Tchorz, Rabbi Joshua Katz, Rabbi Lichtiger, Sylvia Kroach and Mr. Seidenfeld. Photo courtesy of the Ontario Jewish Archives

a Hound Dog", always met with thunderous applause?

It occurs to me that one of the reasons we were such a close knit group is that we started every camp day by singing Hatikvah by the basketball court and ending our day, hands interlocked singing Day is Done. As an adult, I recognize these rituals as effective team building exercises, but back

either participated or she was in your face.

For that matter, non-participation was never tolerated in any of our classes, be it Hebrew reading, grammar, prayer, Chumash, or learning about the Jewish holidays. Yelling was the norm for both teachers and students. We spent our class time passing notes, mocking the teachers and



Legendary JCC physical education director Max Rotman with one of his campers. Courtesy of the Ontario Jewish Archives

"We spent our time passing notes, mocking the teachers and each other and decorating the ceiling with spitballs."

each other, and decorating the ceiling with spitballs — anything to disrupt the class. It was not unheard of for teachers to respond to our disruptive behaviour with corporal punishment, that included the occasional chalkboard eraser launched at us from the front of the room. It was a badge of honour to be kicked out of class and stand in the hall. Of course, that lasted all of 30 seconds because we ended up wandering downstairs to some ongoing activity. We usually got caught by someone — more often than not by Sam Brownstone, whose office was also on the second floor — and sent back upstairs. Notwithstanding our taking every opportunity to test the limits of our teachers, Talmud Torah gave us the gift of a Jewish education, something we didn't appreciate at the time.

### Hadassah Bazaar

The annual Hadassah bazaar, held in the JCC's big gymnasium, was one of the year's

most-anticipated events. Crowds would begin lining up in the early morning, waiting for the doors to open. Each of the many Hadassah chapters participated. One collected and sold high-end second-hand clothing; Another ran bingo and games of chance.

My mother's chapter, Hannah Szenes, worked for days in the JCC kitchen preparing all sorts of baked goods to sell. My mother would invariably return home with stories of how their goodies sold out in a matter of minutes, leaving her colleagues who had hoped to take some treats home to their families out of luck. Eventually a solution was found by squirreling away some choice items so that the Bazaar ladies had something to purchase at the end of the day. The added bonus for my friends and I was that we too got to share in the goodies. My mother's chapter was particularly proud of the fact that, despite their small numbers, they managed to raise more money than any other chapter.

One year I remember playing a game of chance at one of the booths and subsequently winning quite a bit of money. I proudly went over to show my mother at the cake kiosk. She immediately took off her apron, marched me back to the booth, and had me make a "volunteer donation." It was a lesson I never forgot.

Born and raised in Hamilton, Patrick Welkovic currently resides in Vancouver.



Clareta Schoenberg and her mother, Agy Ferdinand, at the interactive map feature at the Jewish immigrant stories exhibit. Photo by Wendy Schneider

## Jewish immigrant exhibit resonates in today's world

by JEFF MANISHEN, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

"This is what inclusivity looks and even sounds like."

That could well have been in the minds of those in attendance at the opening of the exhibition Jewish Immigrant Stories of Hamilton at the Rose and Phil Rosenshein Museum at Beth Jacob on Oct. 22.

Members of Jewish families from Turkey, Poland, Iraqi Kurdistan, South Africa, France, Honduras and Israel told their compelling stories in video interviews, of how and why they came to Canada. Their accounts were supplemented by several of the families who were in attendance.

Their experiences involved such deeply personal challenges as the refusal to leave when given the opportunity to do so without an elderly father being included. We were told of the isolation experienced when settling in a country where there were neither friends nor even acquaintances to help in

the adjustment process. We heard about just what it feels like to be able to worship in the way someone always wished to after years of hiding one's faith.

We then had the chance to read and see more about their stories in the gallery of posters in the museum, supplemented by details told with the utmost sincerity by those who became Canadians by choice, not by birth. A Conversos from Honduras, whose parents had received the dreaded "disappearing order" before being arrested, came as a refugee. A Kurd from Iraq was faced with the choice of joining the ruling political party or be expelled from school. A Pole raised as a hidden Jew arrived in Canada with nothing more than a suitcase, a violin and \$10 in his pocket. An Israeli experienced life in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Saskatchewan before settling in Ontario.

We live in a time where democratic societies, whether

in North America or elsewhere in the world, are being challenged to examine how welcoming they are to those fleeing from persecution or even death. We're asked to evaluate how comfortable we really are with the religious practices of others and to what length we're prepared to go to protect those freedoms when governments might seek to restrict them.

This exhibition gives visitors a compelling way to answer those questions for themselves. They may very well be inspired to support and enrich the lives of those who wish to live here. And Canada will be a stronger, better place to live when they do.

Welcome to Canada: Jewish Immigrant Stories of Hamilton is on display at the Rose and Phil Rosenshein Museum at Beth Jacob during synagogue hours. For more information visit [www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca](http://www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca)



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Happy Chanukah to you and your family!

From our family to yours.



## So this is Christmas



Ben Shragge

Human beings are conformists by nature. If everyone else is caroling, we feel we should be caroling too.

In the 1950s, psychologist Solomon Asch did an experiment in which a group of nine was asked to match lines of varying lengths. Eight of the nine were told in advance to make the wrong match. Even though the correct answer was obvious, that ninth person, the subject, went along with the crowd (seven others answered first) 12 out of 18 times; and even denied being influenced by the others' answers.

Back to Christmas. It's the most wonderful time of the year, we are told, by society, media, friends, family; or at least the first three. I grew up surrounded by the Christmas spirit everywhere but home. I went

to public school in Hamilton, where I was typically the only Jewish kid in class. I enjoyed singing along to the "Batman smells" rendition of "Jingle Bells," because it was non-denominational. Otherwise, I'd maintain a sullen silence during the Christ-heavy carols, though I admit that I did and do find the "Little Drummer Boy" melody to be soul-stirring.

Buoyed by a stubborn nature and stiff-necked heritage, I didn't conform. (Although you could say that I did conform, just to my religious upbringing instead of society at large; we always conform to something.)

But society at large looms, well, large. A Hindu friend had a Christmas tree growing up and got presents, because there isn't necessarily anything religious about pretty lights and action figures in red-and-green wrapping paper. And, in fact, the tradition of giving gifts on Chanukah only emerged in response to Christmas as a way to ease Jewish kids' jealousy. If Christmas was a search engine, it would be Google. If it was an online retailer, it would be Amazon. Outraged Fox News

pundits speak out against a "War on Christmas," but from the perspective of a Jewish kid in Hamilton public school, a war on Christmas is equivalent to a Canadian invasion of the US. Christmas could throw a victory party about two seconds after the war started.

As a little contrarian, I related to Scrooge's "bah, humbug," attitude to Christmas, and felt a smug satisfaction at having never believed the Santa lie. But nowadays, being older and wiser, or at least wearier, I accept "Peace on earth and good will toward men" as a generally noble aim, and hold no strong opinions about Santa. "Little Drummer Boy" and "Happy Xmas (War is Over)" tug the heart-strings. A Christmas Carol holds lessons for us all. Well-lit trees are objectively attractive. So why not learn to stop worrying and love Christmas?

For one thing, buying the right gifts for the right people sounds stressful and expensive, and I'm happy to have an excuse not to join the shopping scramble. Perhaps more importantly, I don't believe

in "the reason for the season," and I'd be "taking the Christ out of Christmas" by only celebrating on a superficial level. Nominal Christians do celebrate Christmas only on a superficial level, of course, but they have warm memories of Christmases past to provide emotional depth, or at least experience some guilt about it. I have no emotional investment in Christmas, and my guilt is of the Jewish variety.

Finally, while it's true that nonconformists are just conforming to their minority conformity, a variety of minority conformities makes for a more interesting whole. Chanukah is the story of Judeans resisting assimilation into the dominant monoculture of the time and place, Hellenism. In that vein, if Christmas is the Anheuser-Busch of the holiday market, Chanukah is a microbrewery. It's not for everyone, and not intended to be, but I prefer a world with multiple holiday spirits on tap.

*Ben Shragge is the digital editor of the Hamilton Jewish News. He currently resides in Boston.*



Photos by Wendy Schneider

## The Hamilton Hebrew Academy celebrates 150 years of Canadian history at Westfield Heritage Village

by GOLDIE WEISER, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

## My quest to find out if God sings



Bill Shugar

So I spoke with Him. He was a bit grumpy. He was dealing with a multitude of issues, from floods and hurricanes and wildfires, to bumbling fools heading up a couple of countries. Precious little time to consider the common man such as myself. I went straight to the question, without beating around the (burning) bush.

"Can you sing?" God immediately became quite pensive, with one hand stroking his long white beard and a look of tranquility on his face. He seemed to be relieved that here was a question of great significance, but without the urgency of an environmental catastrophe or an inane tweet that would have required an immediate response.

"Can I sing?" God wondered why He was being asked such a profound question that couldn't be answered with a simple yes or no. "I need a bit more information, if you don't mind," said God. "Is there a particular song that you had in mind? I have written literally millions of songs over the millennia. You can find them all on iTunes."

I replied that no, I was more interested in singing in the general sense. God looked down at the sky and asked if He could get back to me, that it would only take a moment. Boy, can God ever work fast. In less than a moment, He replied in that booming voice that he is famous for, "Yes I can sing. In that ever so brief moment, I consulted with three people of stature in the community. The first was a retired minister in the United Church of Canada, Reverend John Ambrose of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, North America. "I don't know if You can sing," said the reverend. "You implanted song in us long before religious bodies were formed. We have always put feelings and thoughts into song. In fact, You have never been as prolific as You are now. I

think it is Your response to everything the world is facing these days."

God thought that was a very good answer, very deep, very profound. "I guess the reverend has never actually heard me sing, but he still feels that I had an influence very early on." God wanted to thank him, but the reverend had gone to prepare his sermon for this Sunday's service. "I have always said, don't disturb someone writing about me."

God continued: "Next, I spoke with musical director Ellen Asherman, of a Reform congregation in Ottawa, Canada's capital city."

Ellen asked God that if the man upstairs didn't sing, then where would music have come from? Music is so special that it must be heaven sent. The musical liturgy is how we pray. Music is God's gift to mankind. "What a beautiful quote!" God said, as He danced around with joy. "I wish I had said it!"

Lastly, God spoke with a cantorial soloist from a beautiful Reform synagogue in Hamilton. "Cantor Paula Baruch said that most definitely I could sing. Very flattering. She had some really good one-liners such as, "Musicians are drawn to their craft

because they hear You singing." "Good accompanists know how to pray through their playing." "Tie a kite string to a musical piece that will elevate the congregant." Paula said that there is a mantra across all religions that says, "When we sing, we pray twice." "I had set that beauty to song a few years ago, along with my buddy, Michael Ochs. I gave him all the credit though, down on earth".

God had presented a rather convincing case. It allowed me to put all of His wisdom together, to answer my original question, as to whether or not He can sing. The obvious conclusion is that not only can God sing, but God likes to sing. He wouldn't have invented music if He didn't like it. And what kind of singing makes God the happiest? It is when the congregation sings right along with Him. The world is a better place because of it. Maybe those despots should sing their tweets.

*Bill Shugar is a retired teacher and music therapist. He and his wife, Fortunee, moved from Ottawa to Dundas a little over a year ago.*



The clocks turned back and time stood still for three hours on Nov. 16 when Hamilton Hebrew Academy students stepped off their school buses at Westfield Heritage Village in period dress and traveled through time.

With our school's recent adoption of inquiry learning, HHA students are exploring their own interests within the curriculum guidelines. Students are also given the choice as to how they would like to share their findings, which provides them with the opportunity to explore their own unique learning styles.

Each grade worked for months formulating questions and conducting research about a historical event. The result was a timeline of our country's history woven together and connected to form a masterpiece of information.

On the day of their visit to Westfield Village, each grade was paired with an historical house that best connected with their inquiry topics. Grade 1 students, working on identifying roles and responsibilities, recreated the historical Westfield Inn, with each student acting out a unique role. Grade 2 students shared their artistic creations and

period postcards at the railway station, after researching the role the railway played in fostering communication. Grade 3 students, based in the schoolhouse, re-enacted an authentic classroom experience and shared their research on what daily life was like for early settler children. Grades 4 and 5 students presented their research on indigenous tribes at the Trading Post and the Hill House,

where they showcased a 3D diorama of a First Nations village. Grade 6 made their presentation of immigrant stories and various ethnic groups at the Bamberger House, a home that was inhabited by a German immigrant family. Grade 7 presented the history of New France and its impact on our Canadian identities at the Westbrook House. Grade 8 was stationed at the Misener House, where they made a presentation about the critical role played by the Fathers of Confederation in the creation of our country.

Finally, the village's Ironwood café was set up with multi media presentations for students who wanted to present their findings using technology. Our guests were able to view the presentations while warming up with hot refreshments.

At the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, our goal is to provide our students with the learning community they need to become passionate life-long learners. Our Westfield event testified to how we are achieving that goal each and every day.

The Hamilton Hebrew Academy is a beneficiary agency of Hamilton Jewish Federation's EChayim Annual Campaign.

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## Jewish Social Services helps volunteers and job seekers find their perfect match

CHRISTINE NUSCA

Finding the perfect “match” in your career or volunteer choices is not always easy, but Hamilton Jewish Social Services can help.

We are pleased to announce that in conjunction with a grant from the provincial government, Jewish Social Services is offering a new service to the community. This new service is two-fold: The first part concerns volunteer engagement, while the second will assist in career counselling.

A grant received from the Ministry of Seniors Affairs will enable our agency to engage older adults, whether retired or in a career/life transition, stay connected to the community through volunteering. Our goal is to assist individuals find meaningful, productive and positive volunteer experiences. Through these experiences volunteers can make meaningful contributions, learn new skills, make new connections and continue being as asset to the community.

Our volunteer coordinator for this project, Dina Honig, is currently meeting with local organizations both in the Jewish community and the community at large to discuss volunteer needs. A database of volunteer positions will be maintained at Jewish Social Services. What is unique about our service is that interested individuals will be able to meet with our volunteer coordinator to gauge their interests and skills by using the new Career Cruising program used in our Career Counselling service.

JSS had always offered a job search program, but with the addition of a career counsellor on staff and the



Dina Honig will help people match their interests with the right volunteer opportunity.

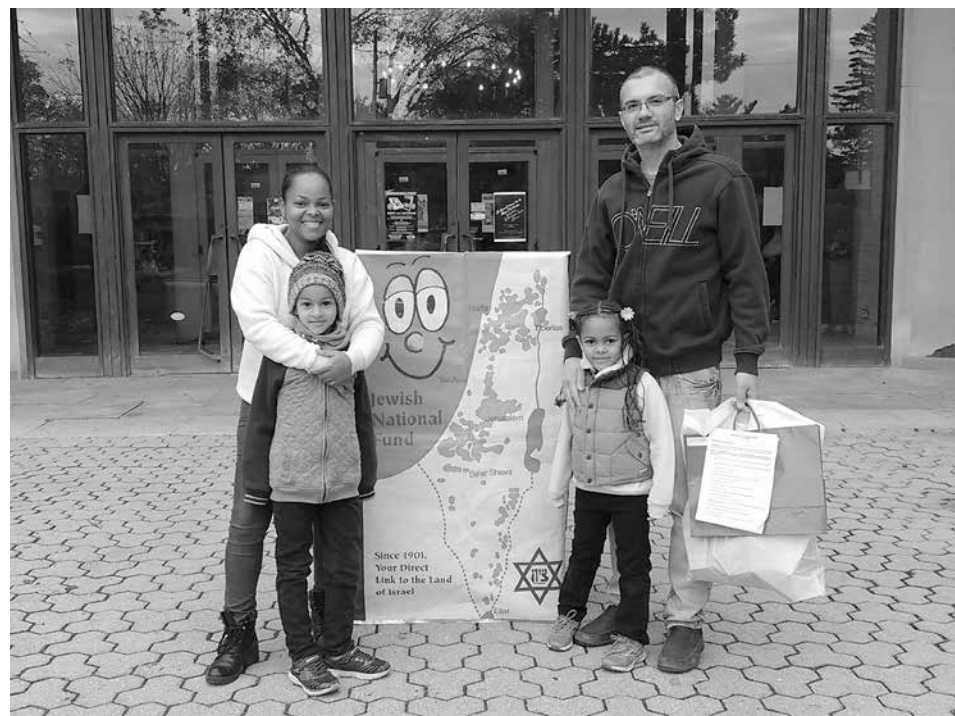
use of the computer program, Career Cruising, we are now able to assist individuals with a more comprehensive job/career development plan of action.

Career counselling is open to all ages from students deciding on a career path, to individuals looking for a career change or retirees looking to volunteer. By working with our career counselor, Dina Honig, individuals will have access to the latest online career resource program.

Through integrated assessments, the Career Cruising program identifies the careers that match people's skills and interests. From there, individuals can explore in-depth information on hundreds of occupations, have use of the resume builder and search for jobs using the world's leading job search aggregator—Indeed.com.

We encourage anyone who is interested in the above services to contact Dina Honig at 905-627-9922 ext. 24 or

## JEWISH NATIONAL FUND



The Pochaev family – excited to be participating in the blue box scavenger hunt. Photo by Geraldine Katz-Rose

GERALDINE KATZ-ROSE

JNF Hamilton staged its 4th annual blue box collection and scavenger hunt on Oct. 29 to great acclaim. Ten teams followed their assigned routes to collect blue boxes, while meeting exciting and fun challenges along the way.

Activities such as helping a stranger fold her laundry at a public laundromat and playing leap frog in a parking lot got everyone giggling. Other fun challenges included finding a red convertible and taking a video of the whole team singing Hatikvah. New Hamiltonians Orna and Alan Richter were surprised that their children Jordana and Zac, HHA students, knew all the words!

Beatrice and Ruth Paling, daughters of Claudia and Robert Paling, said they were so excited to participate, that they gave up their skating and volleyball lessons to come this year. Raz Amsily, son of Michal and Amnon, observed that it was a great opportunity for family bonding and to do a mitzvah at the same time.

Thank you to judges Elaine Levine and Lisa Morris for scrutinizing all the team results and calculating the winners of the

scavenger hunt. The first prize gift card went to the Tsaidi family team, the second prize to the Paling family team, and the third prize was won by the Cohen-Ellison family. Three baskets filled with valuable goodies were awarded to the Naftalis, the Tsaidis, and the Richters.

This year, the Jewish National Fund celebrates 113 years of the iconic little JNF Blue Box. Every coin and bill placed in the box still helps to develop the Land of Israel. Today, donations also help build hospital wings, shelters for domestic abuse victims, and facilities for people with disabilities.

A tremendous thank you to all who participated: scavenger hunt participants, blue box collectors, our dedicated volunteers, and to all who keep filling their blue boxes! If your blue box was not collected this year, you can drop it off at any of the three synagogues, or call the JNF office at 905-527-5516, ext 1, to arrange pick-up and to receive a new one. Boxes returned before Dec. 31 are eligible for a 2017 tax receipt, if there is a name and address on the box.

## ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION



LILA STRUB

Photo by Rebecca Shapiro

More than 100 women from across the community spectrum gathered at the Adas Israel on October 23 to take part in the Shabbat Project Challah Bake. The dynamic Gail Michalowitz was the evening's guest instructor and speaker. She began by teaching us about the Mitzvah of taking challah and learning the meaning behind each of the ingredients. Everyone prepared their own dough, and recited a special blessing as they separated and set aside a small portion of the raw dough. The evening was highlighted with Israeli dancing and various demonstrations of challah shaping and braiding techniques. All who attended had a wonderful and moving time. Yasher Koach and thank you to the members of the Adas Israel Sisterhood who organized this memorable event. Pictured above, l to r, are Laura Laengerer, Nicole Feldman, Merle Brown, Eva Raphael, Karen Beer and Jean Verteib.

## HAMILTON HEBREW HIGH



"Hangin' happily at Hamilton Hebrew High. Pictured l to r are: Noya Kooper, Megan Kreiger, Orna Richter, Dana Schoenberg, and HHA principal Sam Weisbrod. Photo credit: Liat Moskovitch

The year continues with much enthusiasm and excitement as HHH students explore Jewish concepts and ideals in meaningful, relevant and engaging ways, while earning OSSD credits. Over the weekend of Nov 3, HHH students attended an exploratory education Shabbaton retreat in Niagara Falls in conjunction with NCSY Canada. More than 200 Jewish teenagers from Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal joined together to make the event a spectacular success. Our students have also enjoyed supplementary programming including the much anticipated Latte and Learn at Second Cup in Westdale to discuss personal and existential Jewish quandaries. Special thanks to store-owner Robert and his welcoming staff for hosting this great event.

Principal Sam Weisbrod is enthusiastic about the current program. "We've achieved so much in such a short span of time," he said. "We've procured a staff of tremendous Jewish educators, we're aggressively growing our client base, and we're providing a variety of avenues in which Jewish teenagers from all over Hamilton can interact with each other both socially and academically, regardless of their Jewish affiliations. Also, we get to have a lot of fun."

Weisbrod invites parents and teens to in the greater Hamilton area to reach out if they've an idea or program they'd like to see happen. For more information, please visit the Hamilton Hebrew High website at [www.hcubed.ca](http://www.hcubed.ca).

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THANK YOU!

On November 12th, 2017, Shalom Village held its annual Hustle 4 Health walk/run event.

We want to thank all the participants and volunteers who came out to make 2017 a record breaking turn-out.

The Hustle 4 Health is moving to May 27th in 2018. We hope to see you all again, as we work to Support Seniors & Celebrate Family!

## Happy Chanukah from Shalom Village

Give the gift of a Warm Hug on a cold winter's day this holiday season, by making a donation to the Shalom Village Snowflake campaign.

YOU can join the Shalom Village family in making Chanukah happy for everyone. Your gift can help us spread love and laughter by making a donation to our 2nd Annual Snowflake Appeal.

For every \$25 donated, Shalom Village will display a snowflake throughout the residences—to celebrate your generous gift and spread kindness throughout Shalom Village.

Remember Shalom Village for your year-end giving. When you give by December 31st, 2017, your gift may also be tax deductible.



## Chag Sameach

May the lights of Chanukah shine brightly on you and your family. Wishing you a healthy, happy and joyous holiday!

## Celebrate Chanukah with Tribute Cards from Shalom Village

Let Shalom Village brighten your Chanukah. Send greetings & support Shalom Village at the same time. Contact Julia Mantle for more information: 905-529-1613 X231



**TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM**

RABBI JORDAN COHEN

Chanukah is always a time of great joy and celebration. The Hasmonean's victorious battle for religious freedom in 165 BCE still resonates with Jews today. We celebrate Chanukah with our children to impress upon them the enduring importance of maintaining our Jewish heritage and traditions. The name of the holiday comes from the Hebrew word for "dedication" and refers to the rededication of the Second Temple after the Seleucids invaded Jerusalem, outlawed Judaism, and desecrated the Temple by using it for Hellenistic idol worship. The First Book of Maccabees, which is not found in the Jewish Bible, tells us: "And they celebrated the dedication of the altar for eight days, and they brought sacrifices with joy in their hearts."

The spirit of Chanukah still inspires dedication today in our ritual life. In the Reform movement we mark the beginning of our young people's formal Jewish education with a consecration ceremony, often referred to in Hebrew as Chanukat Torah. At Anshe Sholom, the ceremony is held as part of our Chanukah celebration, when we invite our youngest students to lead us in the declaration of the Sh'ma, share some holiday songs, receive special blessings from their parents and the rabbi, and a certificate and gift from the congregation. This is a beautiful and meaningful ceremony for the students and their families alike and a wonderful way to begin a child's Jewish education with sweetness and celebration. Through lovingly dedicating our children to study of Torah, we continue to share in the victory of the Maccabees. This year the consecration ceremony will take place on Dec. 16 at 11:45 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us in celebration of our students and in celebration of Chanukah.



Ethan Sand and James E welcome a Passow Family goat at Shabbat Noach. Photo by Carrie Posner Sniderman

**TAS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

DORA-ANN COHEN ELLISON

On October 21, our religious school families gathered for a most unusual Shabbat. We gathered our furry friends (even some goats!) in our Shalom Teaching Garden and celebrated Shabbat and Parasha Noach with songs, stories and the occasional "woof". Together we explored the values of caring for animals, caring for the earth and our responsibility to care for each other. It is a responsibility that extends far past the walls of our Temple and into our greater community, our country and our world. With Chanukah on the horizon, we also take time to celebrate our freedom to learn, and to live, as a free Jewish people. It is also an important time to come together as a community and model for our children that we can learn together, we can pray together and we can help others together. On Friday, Dec. 1, Temple Anshe Sholom and Kehila students will come together

to welcome Shabbat and get ready for Chanukah with song and celebration. We invite you to join us at 5:15pm for a joyous Shabbat experience, at this service geared towards young families. Temple Anshe Sholom and Beth Jacob students will come together at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 13 to entertain the residents of Shalom Village with Chanukah songs. It is so important that our students learn through doing; that we provide them the opportunity to engage with all generations of our community; that we set up activities that encourage socialization and friendships with students of other congregations and schools. At Temple Anshe Sholom, our students are learning how to help others, and how to make a difference; and they are learning that they need not do this alone. There is a large Hamilton Jewish community to explore, to help, and to engage.

**BJ HEBREW SCHOOL**



Ben Sass teaches Beth Jacob students about how Jews live in Chile. Photo by Elana Moscoe

RINA RODAK

Uniquely Hamilton, a joint Beth Jacob Hebrew School/Temple Anshe Sholom Religious school project is in its second year. Through craft, song, dance, cooking and baking and special guest speakers, this year's students are learning about South America, Asia and Israel. Providing a perfect fit with this curricular piece is the current Rosenshein Museum exhibit on Jewish immigrant stories of Hamilton. Our family program held on the day of the exhibit opening had children engaged in activities around the theme of leaving home and discovering a new home.

On Sunday, Dec. 17, Beth Jacob Synagogue invites the community to attend its annual Chanukah dinner. In addition to celebrating the miracle of Chanukah that night, we will celebrate the miracle of family and friendship. Wherever we come from, near or far, we bring with us customs and traditions that make the holidays that much more fun. If you have a fun Chanukah tradition that we can share at the congregational dinner, please contact Rina at school@bethjacobsynagogue.ca.

**KEHILA JCDS**



Kehila students play in "Noah's ark." Photo by Michele Schneider

ANNA LILLMAN

How to describe everything Kehila JCDS is doing to teach our children in 300 words is truly a challenge. Kehila does so much! Kids are definitely learning, from French to Hebrew – at least if the incessant songs they keep singing in both languages are any indication! Some kids may say "nothing" when asked about school – but Kehila students often have a lot to say, and even more to show.

The children practice at home frequently and enthusiastically. One night, I supported my daughter in coming up with speech ideas, reviewed the Ten Commandments, and practiced multiplication facts. They are proud of their learning – they come home glowing about leading prayers, excited about art projects which encompass holidays, happy that science and gym include kites and dioramas. They want to do well because doing well is fun and interesting.

It's not just trilingual, small class, project based learning that's

keeping our kids engaged – Kehila JCDS runs so many cool supporting programs as well. Kids love Coach Ross from Kids in Motion coming to the school and preparing them for the big race with other schools. The new music program is excellent, helping our students express themselves creatively and gain an appreciation for how professionals perform.

My favourite Kehila activity right now is the preparation for the Morris Black public speaking contest. I was the kid that didn't excel at sports but speeches – that's different. So, seeing my child go from "can't speak in front of anyone" to "I'm doing a speech on a thing I think..." to a full, well-written speech? That was magic.

I haven't mentioned all the High Holiday activities, and the excellent Hanukah PA Day Camp or the Hanukah play they'll be doing! Limits are so unfair for a top-caliber school like Kehila JCDS. Kehila JCDS doesn't impose limits – it creates opportunities.

**MCMMASTER HILLEL**



Neil Lazarus addresses Hillel students. Photo by Ayinadis Darbow, JAFI Israel Fellow

JUDITH DWORIN, DIRECTOR MCMMASTER HILLEL

Our Hillel Lounge was packed with students on Oct. 17 to hear Neil Lazarus, a popular lecturer speak on Israeli politics. Lazarus is an internationally acclaimed expert in the fields of Middle East politics, public diplomacy and effective communication training. He is fast emerging as one of Israel's leading key note speakers. Neil speaks to more than 30,000 people a year and McMaster Hillel was fortunate to have him with us.

His presentation was motivating, informative and challenging and many students remembered him as a frequent speaker on their Birthright Israel trip. His lecture provided an in-depth analysis of the week's news in Israel and the Middle East as well as a discussion on how the Middle East is changing. Students came for pizza and discussion and to learn more about Israeli politics.

**BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE**

RABBI HILLEL LAVERY-YISRAELI

Save the date Sunday Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m. in Beth Jacob's main sanctuary. We're going to rock the house! Beth Jacob's social justice committee in collaboration with the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton is organizing the Marvin Caplan Memorial Benefit Concert for Tastebuds, Hamilton's student nutrition collaborative. Tastebuds works with community partners to provide a portion of the funding necessary for breakfast, lunch or snack programs in schools. Tastebuds believes that nutrition is a fundamental determinant of healthy child development and good nutrition enhances a child's ability to learn. The organization feeds more than 34,440 children at 117 schools in the Hamilton area, every single school day.

Marvin Caplan was an integral part of the Beth Jacob community. He had a passion for and commitment to social justice. He chaired our social justice committee until



Marvin Caplan at his son Aaron's wedding. Photo courtesy of the Caplan family

his sudden passing, and was instrumental in helping us bring the Ramadan family from Syria to Canada. He is sorely missed, but his legacy will live on through this project.

The concert will feature music by Rabbi Hillel Lavery-Yisraeli,

Peter Tigchelaar, Jordan Abraham and friends. This event will kickoff a year of Beth Jacob activity on Tastebuds' behalf. We hope you'll join us. For more information contact office@bethjacobsynagogue.ca.



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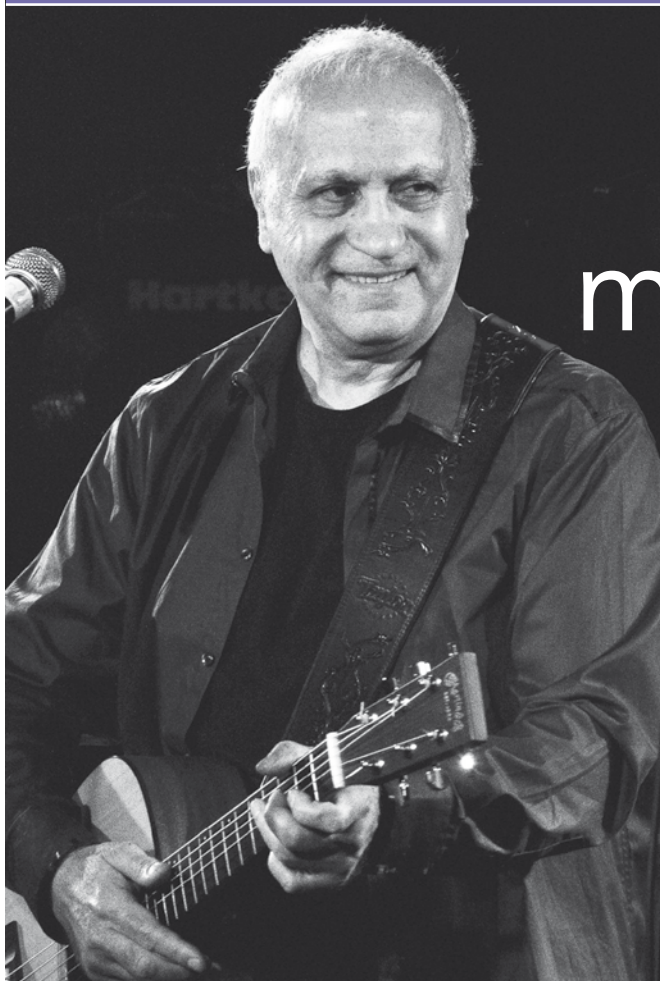
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