



Best of Jewish Hamilton

The dedicated volunteers of Out of the Cold **P12**

Immigrant stories

Journey from Honduras **P7**



Hamilton Jewish News

THE VOICE OF JEWISH HAMILTON

HAMILTONJEWISHNEWS.COM

APRIL 2017 VOL 31:3/ NISSAN 5777

AGREEMENT #40007180

Federation CEO will retire at end of contract

The Board of Trustees of the Hamilton Jewish Federation has announced that the organization's CEO, Barb Babij, will be retiring at the completion of her contract at the end of October, 2017. Babij will have served in the position for five years.

Babij was hired in October 2012 with a mandate for change. During her tenure, she spearheaded several cross-community initiatives including cross-community educational programming and the Special Needs Action Project. Federation's annual Community Campaign was restructured and various operational issues were addressed and resolved. Babij reached out to

Federation's beneficiary agencies, strengthening ties with many of them, both personally and professionally.

The Board of Trustees has constituted a search committee and is commencing the search process immediately with the full support of Jewish Federations of Canada - UIA. Babij has assured the board that she will assist in a smooth transition.

The Board of Trustees of the Hamilton Jewish Federation thanks Babij for her hard work and dedication on behalf of Federation and the Hamilton Jewish community and wishes her well in the future; we are pleased that she will be staying in Hamilton.



Photo credit: Kayla Esser

The impact of Birthright

Birthright Israel is a free, 10 day trip for young Jews between the ages of 18 and 26 who have never been to Israel on a peer-organized trip. The program's impact, says McMaster Hillel director Judith Moses Dworkin is unequivocally positive. "Birthright provided me with a community of like-minded, highly motivated Jewish individuals across Canada who I now consider family," Mac student Zachary Blatman told her. "I was surprised at how much I still had to gain from a trip with my peers, especially with the addition of eight Israeli soldiers who had radically different experiences than my own," said Kayla Esser, 4th year Arts and Science student, whose photograph appears above.

The return of the millennials

HOW THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IS MEETING THE NEEDS OF ITS POTENTIAL FUTURE LEADERS



Millennials – young adults born between the early 1980s and the late 1990s – are the largest generational group in Hamilton, according to the Hamilton Spectator. Among them are Jewish millennials, reversing a long-time trend that has seen young people from our community leave for university, never to return.

The young families profiled in this issue are a diverse sampling of what one assumes is a much larger demographic, but their responses to questions about what brought them to Hamilton (in many cases, *back* to Hamilton) and how they're engaging in Jewish life are revealing. While most are making good use of the Jewish services in our community, they also speak frankly about how they could be better served.

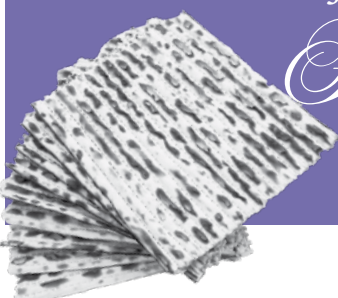
Of particular interest is that, with rare exception, synagogue and Jewish organization affiliation is not a priority for this generation. This reality presents a serious challenge to our communal organizations,

for if they're unable to recruit this generation to serve on boards and committees, and engage in Jewish charitable giving, the entire community will bear the consequences.

As our community's Jewish millennials stand on the threshold of determining the fate of our collective Jewish future, our communal leaders, synagogues and organizations must rise to the challenge of adapting to meet their needs. Our summer issue will tackle this issue more directly. For now, your opportunity to meet some of our community's millennials is on pages 16 and 17.

The Board and Staff at the Hamilton Jewish Federation wishes the community

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**FEDERATION
REPORT**

BARB BABIJ, CEO,
HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION



Since the end of October of 2012, I have been the CEO of the Hamilton Jewish Federation. My husband, Terry, and I moved to Hamilton as newcomers, choosing to make our home here. My introduction to the community was at the Community Campaign kickoff cabaret, in verse. After a great deal of soul-searching, I shared the following with the Board of Trustees of the Hamilton Jewish Federation at its February 15, 2017 meeting:

If I didn't have work, it would surely be nice,
All the things I could do, my life I could spice.

I could travel quite far with time on my hands,
I could cross a great ocean and see foreign lands.

I could play tennis, perhaps several sets,
Then go out on a boat with tackle and nets.

I could lounge in a tub, sipping wine from a cup,
When the bubbles all melted, only then I'd get up.

I could do a Van Winkle, and sleep for some years,
And when I'd awake, I'd drink many beers.

If I had no job, I'd be able to shirk,
I could laze all day long, I'd not have to work.

There are places and people and wonders galore,
All I'd need to do is walk out of the door.

But according to contract, I need to announce,
Six months in advance of when I will bounce.

So I'm giving notice, a bit early in fact,
To give you time for a search and to make a new pact.

The reasons are many, the reasons are none,
They really don't matter when all's said and done.

On the simplest level, I'd like to retire,
My best before date is about to expire.

There's no other job, it's not about wealth,
It's about balance and the state of my health.

We'll be staying in town, Hamilton's great,
I'll volunteer, and have less on my plate.

There's still time to October, I'm not leaving just yet,
That gives you some time, my replacement to get.


Just to be clear, I shan't care to renew.
When my contract is ended, I will be through.

So I'd like to say thanks for the best of five years.
It's been the capstone of all my careers.

This was not an easy decision. I believe I have worked hard for what will be five years by the time my contract ends. During this time, I have had the pleasure and honour of working with incredibly dedicated people: people who have been extraordinary in their commitment to this community and to Federation. That's what made this decision so difficult.



I have learned much during the past years, on many levels. I will take this knowledge with me as I move forward onto the next stage of my life. Terry and I plan to stay in Hamilton and I know there are many ways to contribute to the Jewish community.



Thank you to all those who made my role such a joy; Jewish Hamilton, you rock!




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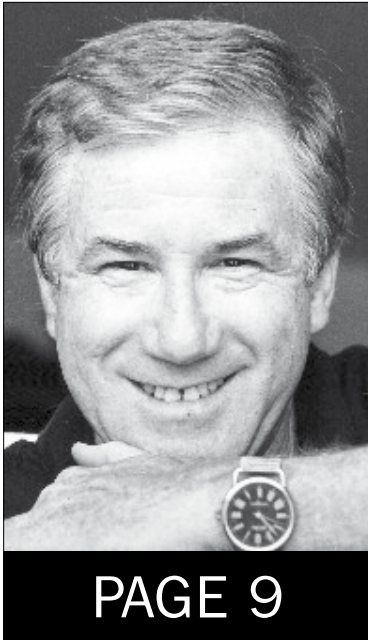




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Photo by Wendy Schneider

FLY AWAY HOME

Tucked away in the back corner of Tel Aviv's historic Trumpeldor Cemetery lies the grave of the iconic Israeli singer songwriter Arik Einstein, whose sudden death in 2013 at the age of 74 unleashed an outpouring of grief across the country. Among the words carved into the singer's tombstone is a lyric from "Oof Gozal," one of Einstein's most beloved songs about a parent's conflicted feelings as its chick gets ready to leave the nest. Read in the context of Einstein's untimely death, the words, "Fly, little bird/Slice the sky/Fly to wherever you want" are especially poignant.

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COMING UP

SUMMER ISSUE

- Deadline for booking ad space - May 10, 2017
- Deadline for receiving editorial copy - May 24, 2017
- Deadline for receiving ad copy - June 6, 2017
- Estimated date of arrival - June 27, 2017

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Shaping the Jewish future

Federation movement at a crossroads as it faces the challenge of engaging Jewish millennials

by LINDA KISLOWICZ, president and CEO,
Jewish Federations of Canada - UIA
Courtesy of the Canadian Jewish News

Our current millennials will more than likely be grandparents by 2067. Will they be connected to our communities and occupying positions of leadership? Or will they be disillusioned, disengaged and unaffiliated?

It is interesting to speculate about whether their current millennial values, attitudes and behaviors will remain part of their long-term adult identity or whether they will evolve as they grow and develop their careers, families and community. As history often repeats itself, there are some insights to be gained in looking back to some previous generations.

Consider the beatniks and hippies of the 50s and 60s. Most of them grew up to join the traditional organizations of which they were highly critical in their youth. Many did so, however, as energetic change agents. Others remained on the fringe, contributing through creative avenues such as art and music. We continue to listen to The Beatles, Bob Dylan and, of course, Canadian icon Leonard Cohen, and each has had tremendous influence on the psychological and sociological environment all around us.

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM OUR OWN PAST

As a university activist of the '60s and '70s, I know how much I, and others of my generation, have changed from the days of marches in the streets and vigils for Soviet Jewry. While our values have stayed true, our tactics, dress, behaviors and attitudes have adapted over time.

Given this rate of adaptability and the pace of social change, what will the Jewish world look like in 2067? Will it have continued on the current path of increased political and religious polarization? Will the Israeli rabbinate maintain its current hold on life-cycle events and related decisions, rendering it frustrating if not impossible for there to be a truly pluralistic and inclusive Jewish people? Will women be counted or continue to be marginalized? Or will we be open, and respectful of different approaches, new customs that on the one hand are steeped in tradition, and on the other

evolve and respond to suit the times? Will we be able to build an inclusive community that is proud of all of its members?

Will poverty in our communities be eradicated? Or at the very least reduced? Will all those who want, have access to the Jewish education experience of their choice?

FEDERATIONS MUST RESPOND TO CHANGING REALITIES

These are big questions.

These questions resonate close to home in considering what our local Jewish communal structures and organizations will look like in 50 years. Will Jewish Federations still act as central fundraising bodies for community agencies and causes? How will priorities be determined – which causes will be supported, who shall receive funding and who shall not, who shall be encouraged to grow and develop and who shall not?

One scenario directly challenges the collective, central model that we have built and nurtured for the last 150 years. It is very possible that it will be replaced by a designated model, where donors, not organizations, decide which specific non profits and community organizations pique their interest and allow for a more direct, engaged relationship.

Perhaps a totally different model will emerge – one that offers creative ways of supporting innovation and social entrepreneurship aligned with a different definition of community affiliation, one that is more consistent with today's millennial mindset.

Irrespective of the model or structure, there must be clear agreement and commitment across the board as to the fundamental responsibilities, those that are sacred and non-negotiable, those that must be at the foundation of any healthy Jewish community.

That question brings us back to basic Jewish values – to the core, to the essence of why Jewish organizations exist in the first place.

As Jews, we are committed to caring for the vulnerable, the poor, the elderly, the marginalized and the disenfranchised; to educating our children and helping them develop strong, positive Jewish identities; And to connecting and supporting the people and the land of Israel.

We are committed to the safety and



Linda Kislowicz Photo by Ryan Blau

“If we want to be here in 50 years, irrespective of the community model of choice, it is crucial that we inspire and engage our millennials, the donors of the future, in ways that are meaningful to them.”

security of our Jewish people and to living in a democratic society that is tolerant and open, where racism and bigotry are not acceptable.

We are committed to repairing the world, doing our part to ensure that the rights of all human beings are protected and that we live in a socially just world.

Given that these core tenets of the Jewish people have stood the test of time, the concern then becomes whether the Federation structure of today will continue to be the best way to provide the financial and human resources for strategies and plans aligned with these values. Will it be technologically sophisticated, innovative and entrepreneurial enough to continue to be relevant and effective? Will it have the courage to take risks and to change?

We have seen the pendulum swing between centralized to decentralized models over the years, not just within our Jewish community sector but also within institutional and government sectors. We are all guilty of building institutions that fulfill a set of responsibilities and challenges and then falling prey to our natural tendency to be protective and loyal. That sense of ownership sometimes makes it difficult for us to see the need for change.

We must have the wisdom to know that what we invented for the last few decades may not be what we need going forward. That said, we must undertake change in a thoughtful way knowing when to be incremental and when to be transformative.

THE THINGS THAT NEVER CHANGE

This brings me back to our millennials.

If we want to be here in 50 years, irrespective of the community model of choice, it is crucial that we inspire and engage our millennials, the donors of the future, in ways that are meaningful to them – today. To do that, they need to be on the inside now, to feel empowered and excited about their Jewish futures, if they are to help shape the Jewish institutions of tomorrow.



And if our institutions are not places where they want to be today, we need to go where they are, listen to them and make the necessary changes.

Let's not wait for 50 years. We need to start now.

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Jewish professionals provide input for government's planned Canadians With Disabilities Act

by BARB BABIJ
CEO, Hamilton Jewish Federation

On February 22nd, I joined 18 Federation, CIJA and other professionals from Toronto, Calgary, Montreal, Ottawa, and Vancouver. We met in Ottawa on Parliament Hill and spoke with parliamentarians from across the political spectrum. We talked with them through a Jewish community lens, about Canadians with disabilities and the challenges they face in their daily lives.

The reason for the meetings? The Canadians with Disabilities Act is being rewritten and we were there to provide input and a Jewish voice and perspective. We spoke about the need to raise awareness and educate employers as well as employees about disabilities. We spoke about the need to change the dialogue as well as the prevailing values and attitudes that exist today. We talked about accessibility

and the need to broaden its definition to encompass not just the physical, but the rights we take for granted like employment, housing, immigration, education. We spoke about the need to develop creative solutions to old problems, and about ways to expand the impact of existing tax benefits for people with disabilities and their caregivers. We addressed service loss due to jurisdictional transition or aging out of support as well as changing the existing criteria for permanent residency so that people with disabilities and their families are not unfairly prevented from living in Canada.

This is a national conversation and an opportunity for the government to take a leadership role in writing the new legislation. We applaud and thank the MPs we met with for their initiative in meeting with the Jewish community.

Education and raising awareness were key themes during the day. Through the Hamilton Jewish

Federation's SNAP Committee, not only are we raising awareness, we are providing concrete help to families in Jewish Hamilton who have children with special needs.

If you are a parent or caregiver (or simply interested), please join us on Sunday, April 23, 2017 in the Richter Chapel of Beth Jacob Synagogue at 9:30 a.m. for a practical workshop entitled, Helping Those With Anxiety Cope. Dr. Pam Strusma will be our keynote speaker.

Also through SNAP, we have subsidized the cost of assessments so that children with special needs can obtain an individualized educational plan without having to wait 12-18 months. Proper assessment helps to ensure that a child with special needs can reach his or her fullest potential.

If you have not done so, please make your pledge to the annual Community Campaign. It is your generosity that powers programs like these! Contact the Federation office at: 905-648-0605.

We have a new home!

Effective May 1, 2017, Beth Tikvah Foundation of Hamilton will be moving to 105 Main Street East in Hamilton, Suite 506, joining the Hamilton Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Centre offices, and down the hall from JNF. Please call Chris Barone at 905-523-0411 with any questions.



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EXECUTIVE CAREER OPPORTUNITY POSITION: Chief Executive Officer ORGANIZATION: Hamilton Jewish Federation

The Hamilton Jewish Federation is committed to building a strong, vibrant and enduring Jewish community in Hamilton, in Israel and throughout the Jewish world. The Chief Executive Officer must be a strong, strategic, energetic and visionary leader committed to all aspects of community development.

The CEO will:

- Develop and implement a strategic plan for growth, particularly around financial resource development, leadership development and campus development
- Develop and actualize plans to enhance donor relations; increase and diversify giving; inspire and engage volunteers
- Build and maintain effective working relationships with a complex array of stakeholders
- Supervise all programmatic initiatives
- Liaise with appropriate national organizations to maximize services and information

Qualifications:

- Minimum five years experience in a senior management position in not-for-profit and/or Jewish community organization
- Proven track record in effective staff management and fundraising
- Commitment to Israel and Jewish values

Application Deadline: April 25, 2017

Apply to Linda Kislowicz, CEO, Jewish Federations of Canada - UIA lkislowicz@jfcua.org

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Upcoming Events

Camilla Gibb headlines Na'amat luncheon



Photo by George Whiteside

DEENA SACKS

Na'amat Hamilton is pleased to announce that Camilla Gibb will be the guest speaker at its 32nd annual Celebrity Author Luncheon on Tuesday, May 2 at noon. Gibb will read from her recently published memoir, *This is Happy*, a personal story of both her family of origin and her unexpected family – from relationships of love and friendship.

The author of four internationally acclaimed novels, Gibb was the recipient of the Trillium Book Award (for best book in Ontario) the City of Toronto Book Award and the CBC Canadian Literary Award. She was also shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the 2016 RBC Taylor Prize.

Na'amat is a non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to enhance and safeguard the status of women, children and families in Israel and in Canada. Na'amat programs benefit all Israeli women by providing shelters for abused women and children, legal counselling, recreational and retraining programs, and a countrywide network of daycare centres.

The luncheon will take place at the Adas Israel Congregation. Tickets can be purchased at www.naamat.com/hamilton, at Bryan Prince Bookseller, 1060 King Street West, 905-528-4508 or by contacting authorluncheon@cogeco.ca.



Young child engaging in puppet therapy – a safe avenue of expression.

Photo courtesy of Herzog Medical Centre

JNF Negev Dinner in support of children's health in Israel

On June 25, the Jewish National Fund of Hamilton will be paying tribute to three of Hamilton's most distinguished research scientists and physicians. Long-time members of the Hamilton Jewish community Hertzal Gerstein, Mark Levine and Sandra Witelson will be honoured for their contributions to health, science, and tikkun olam.

Dr. Mark Levine, a world-renowned oncologist and cancer researcher, has been awarded the Order of Canada for his research and contributions to cancer treatment. Dr. Hertzal Gerstein received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Diabetes Association and is known the world over for his work and research as an endocrinologist. Dr. Sandra Witelson, McMaster University Professor of psychiatry and neurosciences, is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and is celebrated for her scientific work in the area of the brain basis of language, intelligence, dyslexia, sex differences and genius.

The proceeds of the 2017 JNF Hamilton Negev Dinner will support the creation of the Children's Clinic at the Dr. Max and Gianna Glassman PTSD and Health Centre at the Herzog Hospital in Jerusalem. Open to all, regardless of religious or ethnic background, Herzog is a cutting-edge leader in providing services to Israelis suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental health issues. Our honourees have spent their careers working for the betterment of humankind. Their support for this worthy project matches their passion for health-related tikkun olam. For further information about the project or dinner, or to purchase tickets and support this meaningful project, please call the JNF office at 905-527-5516.

Treasures of the Jewish Hamilton Project

The Rosenshein Museum at Beth Jacob presents the third of a four-part series offering the community a window onto the archive of Jewish Hamilton's oral history on Sunday, April 30, featuring an interview with the much-loved raconteur, Helen Yellin, of blessed memory.

Imagine a time when everyone you knew lived on Cannon or York Streets, a time when a fellow Jew would invite a family of jobless newcomers to stay with him—rent free—and the arrangement would continue for eight years, a time when live chickens and geese were sold at the Hamilton market, when couples got married in their relatives' homes above the stores on York Street, when Ziskind Boleslawsky's kosher deli was so popular that at night it was like a club, and when the Arbeiter Ring shule and its beloved teacher Chaver Brik were so popular that the Talmud Torah sought to pressure parents not to send their kids there.

Join us at the Rosenshein Museum to watch the Jewish Hamilton Project video interview and hear Helen Yellin's recollections of Jewish life in Hamilton during the 1930s and 1940s., and stories she heard from her grandparents about Jewish life in Lublin, encounters with Trotsky and Jabotinsky, and about the anti-Semitism that drove her grandparents to emigrate. Video footage will be followed by discussion.

Morning minyan at 9 a.m. Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Program from 10 - 11:30 a.m. \$8 cover for breakfast; RSVP 905.522.1351 or email office@bethjacobsynagogue.ca



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Immigrant *stories*

As a child, Alma Arguello's parents were forced to flee Honduras and leave their four children in the care of a grandparent. It would be two years before the children were reunited with their parents in Canada and discovered their Jewish heritage. Arguello's story and the stories of other Jewish immigrants to Hamilton will be featured in an upcoming exhibit at the Rose and Phil Rosenshein Museum at Beth Jacob Synagogue, scheduled to open in September, 2017.

ALMA'S STORY

by HOPE KAMIN, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Alma Arguello's voice cracks with emotion as she recalls how her family was forced to flee Honduras.

"The military police came to get my dad. ... (My mother) ... had 'disappearing' orders.' And when you get disappearing orders, it means you're going to die."

It was 1988 and it would be two years before Arguello and her three siblings saw them again.

Arguello's father was Catholic and her mother was raised in a Conversos Jewish family, where Judaism was practiced in secret. Before their parents' arrest, Arguello and her siblings had enjoyed an affluent lifestyle, living at various times in Italy, Brazil and Portugal, wherever their father, Miguel, a Honduran diplomat, happened to be posted. Their mother Norah was a physician with Doctors Without Borders, and spent long periods of time away from the family. The turning point came with a change in government that saw their father called back to Honduras. It was not long after that that their father was arrested and their mother apprehended. "She was ... accused of promoting communist and socialist propaganda. So she also got arrested."

Arguello's parents' escape from Honduras was orchestrated by an uncle of Arguello's mother, with connections to the military, who persuaded the authorities to place the couple in his charge.

"He drove them to the airport, put them in a plane, and told (the authorities) 'I don't know where they are.'" The escapee landed Arguello's uncle in jail, but he was subsequently released. Arguello's parents would end up in Toronto, where they claimed refugee status.

Back in Honduras, Arguello and her siblings, aged 2 to 12, were being looked after by their

paternal great grandmother. Their parents' arrest, however, had made them vulnerable, and one day, Arguello's older sister, Carmen, went missing. In desperation, Arguello's great grandmother turned to "someone from my mom's side, the Jewish side," to help. Once again, her uncle used his connections to find the young girl.

"She was being held and (my uncle's family) were able to negotiate a bribe."

It was after that incident that Arguello's uncle wrote to her parents in Canada saying, "you have to get your kids out of here."

Two more years would pass before the children were admitted into Canada under an emergency family reunification provision. On the day of their arrival in Canada in 1992, Carmen was 14, Alma 11, Miguel 6, and Esther 4. What followed was a difficult adjustment period for the children. Not only had they been separated from their parents for several years, but their standard of living was considerably lower than it had been in Honduras.

"We had a beautiful life in Honduras ... a nice, privileged life," Arguello remembers. "We went to private schools, we still had a nanny."

Like so many immigrants, her parents found themselves in the position of not being able to pursue the careers for which they'd been trained. Her father now worked in construction; her mother, whose lack of English made it impossible for her to find a job in the medical profession, also ended up in the construction business. Eventually, the family opened up its own cleaning business.

The children, in the meantime, were enrolled in Catholic school, and had no notion of their Jewish backgrounds. Arguello recalls vividly the way her



Alma Arguello in her Dundas home.

Photo by Wendy Schneider

"In Hamilton, I had to do a lot of explaining how I'm a Jew."

Alma Arguello

mother cringed the day the children came home from school asking why they couldn't have a Christmas tree. "It's because we're Jewish," she told them.

"I was devastated," Arguello recalls, convinced her classmates would stone them for not being Christian. Their father tried to reassure her that here in Canada, there was nothing to fear, but when her mother tried to give her sister a Star of David to wear, her sister refused.

With the help of a Chabad rabbi whom the family had befriended, and who gave the children Jewish books translated into Spanish, the family began to learn about and embrace their Judaism.

"To me ... it sunk in and made sense ... because even at the Catholic school, I was not like those kids."

By the time she was in Grade 8, Alma was proud that she was Jewish. By then the family was living in Mississauga, where they were taken under the wing of Rabbi Lawrence Englander of Congregation Solel. Rabbi Englander instilled in Arguello "a sense of belonging, something that I hadn't really felt in a very long time," she recalls. "He was amazing." It was Rabbi Englander's influence that led to Arguello's father taking conversion classes at Temple Anshe Sholom with Rabbi Irwin Zeplovitz.

"My dad would say, 'come with me, help me translate and you can help me study.'"

Years later, her husband, Hamilton native Barry Yellin, would tell her she was meant to be in Hamilton. The two met at the University of Windsor, where both were active in the Jewish Student Association. The couple eventually married and settled in Hamilton.

But the experience of becoming part of a Jewish community that has an overwhelmingly European bent has not been easy, says Arguello, who is executive director of Sexual Assault Violence Intervention Services (SAVIS) based in Oakville. As a Sephardic Jew from Honduras, where people are discouraged from practicing their Judaism openly, she has felt the sting of being an outsider.

On Friday nights in Honduras, Arguello would listen as her grandmother hummed her blessing over the candles. Years later she would recognize that same tune – this time with its accompanying Hebrew words – at the Adas Israel. For Arguello, the moment provided confirmation of the authenticity of her Jewish heritage.

"In Hamilton, I had to do a lot of explaining how I'm a Jew ... So when people say to me 'when did you convert?' I say, 'Never.' I'm a Jew from the top of my head to the bottom of my toes."



Sam Taylor Music Therapy Program: Enhancing Quality of Life

Healing with music therapy at Shalom Village

When she hears, You Are My Sunshine, a familiar song from her youth, Ann Silverman's eyes shine brightly and a big smile comes across her face.

"The music therapy program gives me a better outlook on life and helps me to roll away the clouds. When I was in times of darkness, the music helped me to turn it into light," said Silverman. "The program enriches my life. Getting a chance to sing and listen to beautiful music is very precious to me."

For residents at Shalom Village, the Sam Taylor Music Therapy Program sessions are positive, beneficial and valuable. The one-on-one sessions trigger renewed meaning and connection to their lives, evoking warm memories and lifting spirits.

What is music therapy?

Music therapy is much more than simply listening to music. During sessions, residents have opportunities to engage in a variety of music experiences including singing, instrument-playing, improvisation, songwriting,

lyric analysis, music-listening, song discussion, and reminiscing.

Oftentimes, familiar songs can evoke feelings of nostalgia, happiness, and a lightness. Songs can take residents back to their childhood, which can be an incredibly uplifting and healing experience.

"Music reaches beyond illness, cognitive impairment, or emotional difficulties," said Sara Klinck, accredited music therapist and developer of Shalom Village's music therapy program. "Music therapy helps residents work through difficulties and gives them a safe therapeutic outlet to express themselves."

Medicine for the heart and soul

Not only is music uplifting and a great way for people to connect, it also helps those residents suffering from memory loss and social isolation. Music promotes a greater ease of life, it engages in ways that perhaps some residents are not capable of or achieving otherwise. Studies have shown that music therapy can improve balance, coordination, unlock memories, and improve



Shalom Village resident, Ann Silverman, right, participating in the Sam Taylor Music Therapy Program.

Photo by Deanna Levy

communication.

Increasingly, research studies show music is helpful in a wide range of ailments, as it can lessen the perception of pain, ease anxiety, and promote relaxation and sleep.

At Shalom Village, the music therapy program has a profound impact. In one instance, a resident who consistently refused programs and visitors accepted music therapy and has gone outside after being indoors for a year and a half. It is clear from this and from many other resident stories, that the music therapy program has a transformative impact on their lives.

Sam Taylor Music Therapy Program

The music therapy program at Shalom Village began as a service for palliative residents. Thanks to the generous support of the Sam Taylor Music Therapy Fund, Anna Taylor and her family's philanthropy has enabled this transformative program at Shalom Village to expand.

Music played an integral part in Sam Taylor's life. It was a major influence and it

assisted in giving him direction. It was his solace. It is hoped that the music therapy fund that bears his name will offer the same comfort to the residents of Shalom Village. The support from the Sam Taylor Music Therapy Fund helps Sara and her team to serve more residents, enhancing their quality of life. Further, Shalom Village has daily sessions in our Namaste Care Program four days a week.

"Everyone involved sees the value and importance of the music therapy program for the residents," said Sara. "We are so grateful to the Sam Taylor Music Therapy Fund that enabled us to expand the program to reach more residents throughout the home at Shalom."

Keep the music alive

For more information on how you can support the Sam Taylor Music Therapy Fund at Shalom Village, please contact our Foundation Office at 905-529-1613 ext 264 or foundation@shalomvillage.ca.



The Sam Taylor Music Therapy Program is an integral component of Namaste Care at Shalom Village. The program has Music Therapy sessions four times a week.

Photo by Deanna Levy

Chag Pesach Sameach from Shalom Village

Wishing you a Happy Passover

As we come together to celebrate Passover, Shalom Village extends our warmest wishes for a joyous and reflective holiday. Passover marks a uniquely special time in the Jewish calendar, commemorating Judaism's foremost traditions of freedom, faith, and family. In celebrating the Israelites' liberation from enslavement and their Exodus from Egypt, Passover reminds Jews of their sacred tradition. It is a time for families to share together in long-established rituals and to offer prayers that celebrate the renewal of hope in the blessings of freedom.

Passover is also a celebration of spring, of birth and rebirth, and of taking responsibility for yourself, the community, and the world. The Haggadah points out that, in every generation, it is our duty to regard ourselves as if we had personally left Egypt. We recognize that each one of us is privileged to benefit from our freedom, which comes with a responsibility to make a truly positive impact on the world around us.

In this season of renewal, we celebrate that spirit; we honour our fathers and our mothers; and commit ourselves to the work of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world for ourselves and for generations to come.

From all of us at Shalom Village, Chag Pesach Kasher V'Sameach!

Shalom Village Seders

Monday, April 10 and Tuesday, April 11.

Residents: No Charge, Adult Guests: \$36 Children:\$18
RSVP for Guests by **April 3, 2017** (to avoid disappointment) please call 905-529-1613 to make your reservation!



Thank You

Grateful thanks to the families of **Harold Kudlats, Keith Button, Joyce Kafka, Harry Kay, Phyllis Jakin, Albert Foreman, Eleanor Rubins, Aranka Varadi, Sheridan Lax, and Dorothy Muzicka.**

For requesting donations to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers.

Memorial donations support the *Possibilities Fund*

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Visit www.shalomvillage.ca to order a card today! You can also contact our Foundation Office at 905-529-1613 ext 264 or email foundation@shalomvillage.ca.



Support Shalom Village residents by sending your friends and family one of our Tribute Cards this Passover.

Proceeds from our Tribute Cards support the Resident Possibilities Fund at Shalom Village.

This card features the art of Gloria Greenspan-Glayt.



Shalom Village

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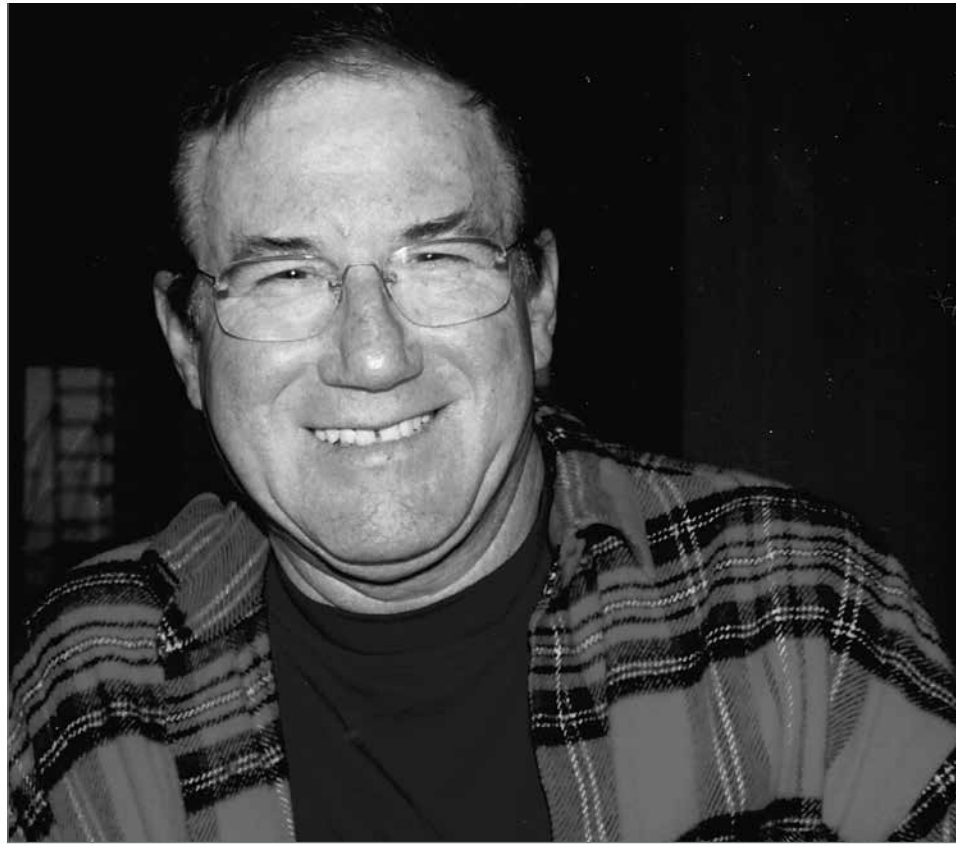
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FROM OUR ARCHIVES: a conversation
with Israel's most beloved songwriter

EHUD MANOR



Until his death of a heart attack in 2015, Ehud Manor was Israel's most prolific songwriter, whose songs of love, loss and belonging made up the contemporary Israeli songbook. In this 1999 interview, Manor spoke with the HJN about how he came to become the country's foremost translator of Broadway hits, his affinity for American music and his love affair with American Jews.

Story and photo by WENDY SCHNEIDER, The Hamilton Jewish News

On how he came to perform for North American Jewish audiences.

It started about four years ago when my friend Chanan Yovel suggested that we go together for Keren Hayesod to do a tour in Western Europe of my songs and I said, okay, why not? What I realized there was that our show would be different from other shows of a Zionist nature because I could only speak from my own experience. I never came with slogans, you know, about immigrating to Israel and making aliyah and how great your help is and that you need to contribute and all the rest. I only spoke about how I always felt an attachment to American Jews because as a kid I admired American culture and how in my heart I've always been writing American songs. Many of the people I've admired most were Jews and I didn't realize it. People like George Gershwin and Irving Berlin, Richard Rogers and Lawrence Hart. And so what I realized were two things. One, that when I'm very personal, I appeal to more people. The less I represent Israel, I represent it more, because I am Israeli through and through and all my experiences good and bad are so Israeli.

On discovering how he owes his successful career as a translator of Broadway hits to his younger brother.

A few years ago I realized that I owe my entire career in the theatre to my dead brother who was killed in the (1968) War of Attrition when he was 19. In 1969 the owners of the rights to the American rock musical Hair came here to work on an Israeli production. They came to this wonderful poet Hilit Yeshurun and asked her who should translate the show. And she said to them, "Listen, I don't know who wrote the song, 'My kid brother Yehudah,' but I believe that whoever wrote that song is capable of

doing it.' For about a year I worked like a maniac on this Hebrew version. It was almost impossible actually, but it was an amazing school for both translating and rhyming and everyone in Israel at the time said that it was never going to do well in Israel because it's too American. But they were all wrong, because the musical got rave reviews. I've since translated almost 200 plays. And she told me that story only five years ago. Can you imagine only after 25 years in the theatre I found out that I owe my entire career in the theatre to my dead brother. And since I found out, I'm not the same person anymore because when I work, it's like I'm close to him when I translate now, because this is something that happened only entirely thanks to him and it's an unbelievable feeling.

On 'raising children with fears' and why he could never live anywhere else.

I wrote My Kid Brother Yehuda in 1969 and my son was only born in 1974. I'm very grateful to my wife for agreeing to call him by my brother's name, but the truth is that I've never been able to call him by his name. I call him Yady. There's this business of raising your children with fears. You thought that it would end with my parents' generation, and then it moved on to ours. And now my children have children of their own and this fear doesn't disappear. On the other hand there's no other place I could live in. You know I used to think when I was much younger that the best thing in the world would be to be of no nationality, that all men are brothers and that it doesn't matter where you live and if you live with people that you love then that's all that matters. And then I studied at NYU in the '60s and later on in life I spent three years in Cambridge University in England and I realized both times that I could not stay where I was,

"All the images that I see in my mind, no matter what the subject is, are from the first 10 years of my life."

that I had to go back. That in spite of myself, I wanted to be part of something. I wanted to belong. And I realized that all the images that I see in my mind, no matter what the subject is, are from the first 10 years of my life.

On the impact of participating on a North American young leadership mission to the former Soviet Union.

I was invited to join a group of young American Jewish leaders to Lithuania and it was the most amazing experience for me because my parents never wanted to go back. When we arrived in Vilnius it was several degrees below zero and really snowing hard. We went to the Ponary forest where tens of thousands of Jews from Vilnius were massacred. And it was very very cold. We walked around the forest in the snow. All you

could hear in your mind was the screaming of the people that were killed there. I was freezing, and I said to myself how odd is it that I stand there in this place in Eastern Europe, wearing my son's long johns that keep me warm, whose name is Yehudah, who's named after my younger brother Yehudah, who died in the War of Attrition in the Suez Canal, who was named after my grandfather Yehudah, who was killed by locals in his home during the war. It was like coming full circle. And something else happened to me there. I fell in love for the second time with North American Jews because the group that I was with, they were all great Zionists, but it didn't end there. They came stuffed with food and medicine and money and they went in groups of three and four to visit old Jews who lived on the seventh story somewhere in Minsk, who couldn't get out of their apartment. It was just unbelievable, this physical thing of embracing them, of giving them \$100 and \$200 that could keep them for a long time there. I was moved to tears so many times and the amazing thing was I, with my sabra Yiddish, made the connection between those American Jews and those old Russian Jews. That was three years ago and it made also another change in me and this is why I became involved in the Israeli spirit.

Israeli philanthropy

The Israeli spirit is like the UJA but the idea is that you don't ask Jews abroad to support Israeli causes. You ask Israelis to contribute, because even I took it for granted that we should be supported by Jews from the world. That's how I was raised. And only in recent years did I realize how wrong this is because first of all we are able to help ourselves. It all happened because of this trip I made with those young American Jewish leaders. That was the beginning for me.

Let my People **P**LAY! PASSOVER FAMILY FUN

by Yoni Glatt
Difficulty Level: Manageable

Across

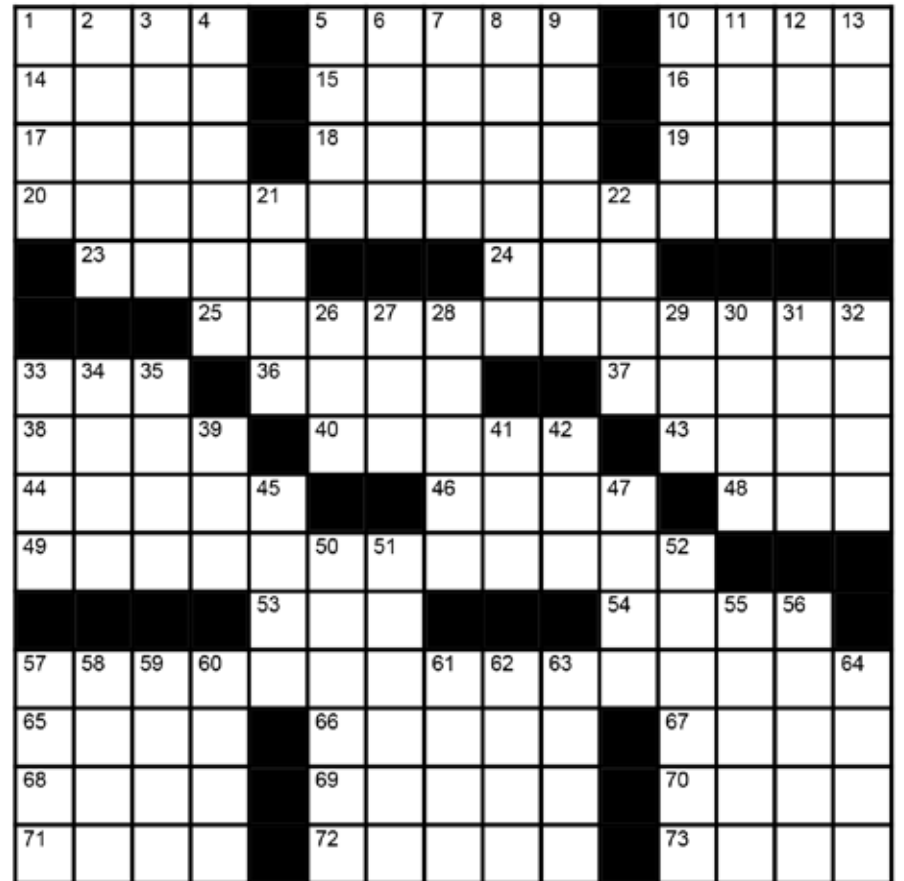
- 1. Corn leftover
- 5. Instrument for Kermit the Frog
- 10. Q-Tip
- 14. Voting “no”
- 15. Clooney’s casino robber
- 16. Stitch’s animated pal
- 17. Healthful retreats
- 18. Hold responsible
- 19. Israel’s continent
- 20. Prepare for Pesach... “legally”
- 23. Elation
- 24. Insurance co. that was bailed out in 2008
- 25. Prepare for Pesach... in a vehicle
- 33. Kiss blaster?
- 36. Pitch
- 37. Bayit
- 38. Harness part
- 40. Rabbi or Doctor
- 43. Pitt who helped 15-Across rob casinos
- 44. Caper
- 46. Goes bad
- 48. Starts of Motzi Matzah?
- 49. Prepare for Pesach...with an important purchase
- 53. “Give ___ rest!”
- 54. Elul, on the calendar
- 57. Prepare for Pesach... regarding the plates
- 65. Ear part
- 66. “___ Lucy”
- 67. Ivory, e.g.
- 68. Microwave, e.g.
- 69. Eyelashes, medically
- 70. Get rid of
- 71. Talmud, e.g.

72. Fishhook line

73. Managed, with “out”

Down

- 1. Kind of avocado
- 2. Open, in a way
- 3. Play for time
- 4. Light month?
- 5. Famous clown
- 6. US Bill of Rights protection grp.
- 7. In the vicinity
- 8. Traffic reporter image provider
- 9. Like some music wonders
- 10. Hit hard
- 11. Like Solomon
- 12. Landed (on)
- 13. He married Ruth
- 21. Yup
- 22. Turkish leader
- 26. Film director’s cry
- 27. Mentalist Geller
- 28. ___ Orthodox (very frum)
- 29. Decline
- 30. Apple leftover
- 31. One who raised Cain
- 32. 1990 World Series champs
- 33. Kuwaiti, e.g.
- 34. Remote control button
- 35. Compassion
- 39. It may be picked
- 41. Nephew of Abraham
- 42. ___ Chaim (many a synagogue name)
- 45. All the rage
- 47. The Baba ___ (great Sefardi rabbi)
- 50. ___ of the Fathers (Pirkei Avot)



Answers on page 18

- 51. Marlee who won an Oscar
- 52. Bother
- 55. Correctly made a martini for Bond
- 56. Josh
- 57. Opening
- 58. Didn’t go straight
- 59. Wild goat you might see in Israel
- 60. Camping gear
- 61. Joseph was thrown into one, essentially
- 62. Like Haman
- 63. “Agreed!”
- 64. Hightailed it

The lawyers and staff at Ross & McBride LLP wish the entire community a

Happy Passover.



No other law firm in the city offers as many practice areas or services to its clients. If you have any questions about what we can provide you, feel free to contact us.



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Lawyers in your Corner

HUMOUR CORNER



Jesse Herman

A Passover screenplay for the ages

Mort and Riva, an elderly Jewish couple, putter around their kitchen and dining room in preparation for their family Passover Seder. Several place-settings have been carefully positioned along either side of the expansive dining room table.

Riva: Morty, I think we're almost done.

Mort: Really? So, what are we going to do for the next five days before the big dinner?

Riva: Better early than never. Besides, it's going to take five days for my clawed hands to unfurl after that matzoh ball blitz. 193 balls this year. A record.

Mort: It's shaping up to be another great Passover.

Riva: Did you remember to drag out that fakakta seder plate?

Mort: Oy – I'll get it out of the crawlspace tomorrow. Either that, or you'll find me trapped down there when you're searching for the Afikomen.

Riva: Very funny. So, can you even name the ingredients that go on the plate?

Mort: Let's see ... you've got the Matzah. About as bland and tasteless as your uncle Lou's sense of humour.

Riva: Go on.

Mort: Hmm. The shankbone? Whatever that is. The bitter herb.

Riva: I bet your brother, Herb, is extra bitter this year – after Sheila left him for her yoga instructor. I'll put him at the kids' table.

Mort: What a delightful idea. I can't recall the rest. I've usually been in bed for two hours before we get to the part where we actually start to eat anything. "Dayenu, Dayenu" - I'm gonna "Daye" if I don't get any of your roast beef in my belly by 9 p.m.

Riva: Egg, Charoset and Vegetable. Thanks for playing.

Mort: I'm more of a 10 plagues man, myself.

Riva: Dam!

Mort: Tzvardea!

Riva: Keeneem!

Mort: Hmm. I guess I'm not as brushed up as I thought.

Riva: Not your fault, dear. God lacked a certain imagination if you ask me. Frogs, Flies, Lice, Locusts - we get it already!

Mort: And that turning water into blood? I'd still rather take a dip in that toxic Red Sea over the Hamilton Harbour any day of the week. Feh.

Riva: Killing of the first born? A shunda! Now, had God made it the killing of the first husband, I dare say no one's door would have been adorned with lamb's blood that evening!

Mort: You should be so lucky. Anyways, the whole story of the Exodus isn't for me. Schleppling in the desert for 40 years? If you think for one second anyone bothered to offer to help Moses carry his luggage, you're dreaming.

Riva: Alright. This has been swell, but I need to call Feige and confirm whether or not Marvin is coming this year.

Mort: It's the same thing every year - he's not coming, dear. In fact, he's probably buying and freezing all the real loaves of bread in the city just to hoard in case Passover accidentally lasts 8 months instead of eight days.

Riva: Well, you never know how many more High Holidays we're going to get together. So, let's just enjoy them while we can. "Next Year in Jerusalem," as they say.

Mort: They do? Have you relocated our burial plots?

Riva: Morton!

Jesse Herman has been practicing law since 2011 in Hamilton, where he lives with his wife and two young children. Outside of work, Jesse is an avid movie-goer, television-watcher, tennis and softball player and dispenser of comedy. In 2014, Jesse and his sister, Samantha, successfully co-wrote and produced the feature film Let's Rap, which was screened during Toronto's Independent Film Festival, as well as the Washington D.C. Independent Film Festival.

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- The Hamilton Jewish News brings local, national and international news of interest to the Jewish community and emphasizes details about area programs and events.
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Feeding the hungry, clothing those in need, and providing shelter for the homeless are acts of loving kindness that are central to Judaism. That's why we think that the Tuesday night Out of the Cold volunteers, who are living their Jewish values in the most meaningful of ways, represent ...

the best of JEWISH HAMILTON



Story and photos by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

It's Tuesday morning and the kitchen at St. Mary's Church in downtown Hamilton is filled with the sounds of cheerful volunteers engaged in lively conversation while they prepare a beautiful feast for an expected 160 dinner guests. At 4 p.m. the first guests start to trickle in and make their way towards a favoured spot at one of the room's round tables. No sooner have they taken their seats before being offered a generous portion of buttered bread and a hot bowl of soup by another team of volunteers. By 5 p.m. every chair in the room is occupied by men, women and the occasional child, who catch up with each other while waiting patiently to be served by an army of volunteers. The latter bustle back and forth between the serving station at the centre of the room and their dinner guests, serving up a delicious home-cooked meal with a smile. The dinner-party atmosphere is informal and relaxed, just like Cindy Richter likes it. Welcome to Tuesday night Out of the Cold.

History

Eighteen years ago the late Gloria Silverman, rebbetzin of Beth Jacob Synagogue, spearheaded an initiative to involve her congregants, and the Jewish community at large, in Hamilton's newly formed Out of the Cold (OOTC) program. A passionate advocate for social justice, Silverman inspired dozens of men, women and young people to dedicate their Tuesdays to feeding Hamilton's hungry. Many of those who answered Silverman's call are still Out of the Cold regulars after all these years. Among them is Cindy Richter, Silverman's handpicked successor and

Tuesday night OOTC coordinator for the last 10 years. Its location is a story in itself and best told by Richter.

"For 13 years, James Street Baptist was 'our' church. After its demolition, MacNab Presbyterian hosted us for a few years, followed by St Mary's Catholic Church." When St. Mary's became temporarily unavailable due to renovations in February, Christ's Church Anglican Cathedral graciously offered their parish hall for the rest of the season. "Talk about the wandering Jew," said Richter.

The Volunteers

The Jewish community OOTC roster includes 70 volunteers, divided among the Tuesday morning crew who prepare and cook the meal, the set up crew who set up the church with tables and chairs and everything else necessary in order to eat and drink, and the serving and clean up crew who work the late afternoon/early evening shift. In years past, when Tuesday night OOTC provided overnight shelter, there was also a breakfast crew who came in on Wednesday mornings to prepare a nutritious breakfast for the dozens of guests who stayed the night. Not all Tuesday OOTC volunteers are Jewish. Among them are Muslims, Christians, and McMaster students of various affiliations. Presiding over every shift is the ever-calm, ever-smiling, epitome of grace under pressure, Cindy Richter, who ensures that everyone has a task and no one is standing around without something to do.

The Guests

OOTC guests include single mothers, the elderly, the unemployed, the working poor, the homeless. Some may have a physical or mental disability; others may be battling a drug or alcohol addiction. Some are simply lonely. Collectively, they are the face of Hamilton's poor. On Tuesday nights between November and March, however, they are welcomed warmly and treated with the utmost respect. Here, they can enjoy an hour or two of good food, camaraderie and relaxation.

The Yiddishkeit

Tuesday night guests of OOTC especially look forward to the nights that coincide with the Jewish holidays of Chanukah or Purim, and who can blame them? For the former, there's Susan Walman's brisket on the menu, along with latkes and Chanukah cookies, not to mention dreidels on the table and the collective lighting of the Chanukah. On Purim, every guest receives a generous package of mishloach manot (gifts of food or drink that are sent to family, friends and others on Purim day), with instructions not to open it until they pass it to their neighbour to one side and receive another from the neighbour on their opposite side. That particular custom, wrote Richter in an email to her volunteers, "always solicits giddy laughter and, they LOVE hamantashen and Jewish food in general!" Hebrew school students are often included in the planning and delivery of holiday giftbags of toiletries. The Chanukah candle-lighting ceremony itself has, on more than



TUESDAY NIGHT OUT OF THE COLD



I feel like I get more than I give.

Rhona Rottman, volunteer

I can't say enough about the food.
You can taste the love that went into it.

Ralph, guest

I was dealt a good deck of cards in life,
so it just feels good to help.

Oded Klinghoffer, volunteer

It's pretty much the best meal of the week.

John, guest

one occasion, encouraged Jewish guests to identify themselves. "As our volunteers began to sing the blessings, a guest quickly joined us at the Chanukah, and, with joy, he belted out the blessings," wrote Richter in this year's Chanukah missive. That same night another guest who was dining with her 10-year-old granddaughter took Richter aside, and revealed to her that she, too, was Jewish, and that all three of her children had become b'nai mitzvah. Each is married to a non-Jewish partner and no longer practices Judaism. She asked for a box of candles.

Funding

Hamilton OOTC includes 11 sites operating out of churches in the downtown core, Hamilton Mountain, and the east end. As well, OOTC puts on a breakfast program six mornings a week from one single location. Each site receives funding from a single source, replenished each year from fundraising initiatives. The exception is Tuesday OOTC, which funds itself through the Jewish community's generosity, in-kind donations and careful management. "People give because Judaism puts such a great value on caring, not just for our own, but for 'the other,'" she said. Funds are put to immediate use towards food purchase. There are no paid staff members, including OOTC security, who are volunteers from the Hamilton Police Service. "Just like the quantity of food for unknown numbers of guests who come through our

doors miraculously appear," said Richter, "funds miraculously are just enough to get us through each season."

Cindy'sisms

"Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important."

"By creating an atmosphere of community, OOTC is finding the light. Last night, I saw many examples. Volunteers calling guests by their names, or finding a moment to chat, or re-acquainting with a guest who has not been seen in a little while, welcoming new ones, going the extra mile when someone is struggling with bags or walker. You are all doing such a wonderful job."

"When we shield ourselves from seeing the fundamental humanness of every other person, we actually become less human."

"Worries go down better with soup."

How you can help

Monetary donations to Tuesday OOTC can be made through Beth Jacob Synagogue by calling 905-522-1351. Non-perishable food items and toiletries, warm gloves, hats and scarves can be dropped there as well. To follow updates about Tuesday Out of the Cold, visit their blog at <http://tuesdaynightoutofthecold.blogspot.ca>. To volunteer, email norma.jack.mail@gmail.com.

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A Jewish response to Islamophobia

Some believe they have a duty to speak out, while others question the very term

by RON CSILLAG, Reprinted courtesy of the Canadian Jewish News, cjnews.com

Anti-Semitism, according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, is “hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group.”

Islamophobia, meanwhile, is defined as an “irrational fear of, aversion to, or discrimination against Islam or people who practice Islam.”

Fear and aversion. Few Muslims in Canada would disagree that they face these on a daily basis.

Islamophobia took its deadliest turn in Canadian history on Jan. 29 when 27-year-old Alexandre Bissonnette allegedly opened fire in a Quebec City mosque, killing six worshippers and injuring 19 more, six critically.

Muslim leaders noted that the shootings, coupled with U.S. President Donald Trump’s 90-day ban on immigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries, should lay to rest any doubts that Islamophobia is real.

Hate by numbers

The number of police-reported hate crimes against Muslims more than doubled over a three-year period (2012 to 2014), according to figures released by Statistics Canada last year.

In 2013, an Angus Reid poll revealed that 54 per cent of Canadians held unfavourable views of Muslims – up from 46 per cent in 2009. In Quebec, a negative view of Islam was held by 69 per cent of the population.

Anti-Islamic sentiment was also stoked in some quarters by Canada’s admission of some 25,000 refugees from Syria between November 2015 and March 2016.

Jewish institutions and organizations roundly condemned the Quebec City shootings, expressed condolences and reached out to Muslims. Jews attended some 20 nationwide vigils.

What’s in a name?

The rampage in Quebec City raised the general question of how Jews, as a people who have experienced history’s most brutal forms of prejudice and hatred, should respond to Islamophobia?

First, there’s the word itself.

Prof. David Novak, a University of Toronto expert on Jewish theology, ethics

and philosophy (and an ordained Orthodox rabbi) bluntly calls Islamophobia “a soundbite” and “a stupid phrase.”

“I strongly object to the use of the term.”

He would prefer the term “anti-Islamic,” comparable to “anti-Judaic.” However, comparing Islamophobia with anti-Semitism “is a little bit different, because anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism are not the same things.”

Prof. Morton Weinfeld, a sociologist at Montreal’s McGill University, said the term Islamophobia has merit.

“It combines fear of Muslims with dislike of Muslims. It makes a certain amount of sense. ‘Anti-Islamicism’ is clumsier.”

Asked whether Jews are speaking out more now against Islamophobia, Weinfeld said, “it depends which Jews.”

Liberal Jews are more comfortable publicly opposing Islamophobia – and it was mostly liberal synagogues that sponsored Syrian refugees – while more traditional Jews “have been much more ambivalent because they are keenly aware of the fact that a lot of Muslims are opposed to Israel.”

A Jewish duty to speak out?

There is a Jewish duty to speak out against Islamophobia, said Barbara Landau, co-founder of the Toronto-based Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims.

“Our teachings from rabbis Hillel and Akiva make caring about our neighbour a fundamental principle of Jewish ethics,” Landau said. “As a group, Jews have been vulnerable to irrational hatred for centuries, and therefore, our experience enhances our empathy and responsibility to speak out when others experience racism and faith-based prejudice.”

Karen Mock, chair of the progressive Zionist group JSpace Canada and a long-time anti-racism activist, agreed Jews are duty-bound “to speak out against all forms of prejudice, bigotry and hate.”

Mock said that, “sadly,” she has encountered Jews “who easily recognized anti-Semitism and discrimination against themselves, but failed to be able to accept and name discrimination against others.”

While Jews indeed have “a moral obligation” to oppose all forms of discrimination,



Toronto resident Tracey Erin Smith at a demonstration last January protesting the U.S. government’s Muslim ban.

Photo by Jonathan Ellul

“Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia share irrational prejudice, discrimination and actions to marginalize members of a minority faith community.”

Barbara Landau
Co-founder of the Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims

“the real question” is how one defines Islamophobia, said Novak.

Killing worshippers in a mosque certainly qualifies as hatred of Muslims. So does believing that Islam is an evil religion, he said.

“On the other hand, if someone says that we have a particular problem with Islamicist terrorism, I don’t consider that to be Islamophobia.”

Terrorism, theology, tradition

Novak said he feels Islamophobia is clouded by “the problem of what has been called Islamicist terrorism, which certainly cannot be blamed on Islam, but certainly a lot of Islamic theology seems to lend itself to that.”

While the Jewish tradition on the whole has “had a very high view of Islam,” there

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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Jewish response to Islamophobia

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

have been “a lot of problems” between Jews and Arabs in the past century, “especially [those] who are overwhelmingly Muslim,” Novak said.

Anti-Islamic sentiment has risen “because the vast majority of terrorist acts in North America and Europe have been performed by people who claim to be doing this in the name of Islam.”

It’s up to Muslims to denounce terror and challenge those who say Islamic teachings support it, in the same way Christians, especially since the Holocaust, have distanced themselves from the anti-Semitism that once emanated from the pulpit, Novak said.

But for many Muslims, “it’s more difficult in the political climate today. A lot of Muslims fear for their lives when they speak out.”

As Landau sees it, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia share “irrational prejudice, discrimination and actions to marginalize or terrorize members of a minority faith community.”

Their histories are different, but “the key concern” is speaking out when individuals on both sides are subjected to violence based on their identity, she said. “Perpetrators are emboldened by silence, acquiescence or worse.”

The elephant in the room

As for the proverbial elephant in the room – Israel, and how it colours a Jewish response to Islamophobia – Mock believes it should have no impact.

“It shouldn’t come in at all. We should all stand together against Islamophobia and anti-Semitism in all their forms.”

Israel “becomes conflated with all that,” Mock said. “It’s a political discussion that should have nothing to do with religion. But because of propaganda and hatemongering – from them and us – many Muslims and Jews in the Diaspora have been polarized

against each other when it comes to discussions of the Middle East.

“When people discriminate against Jews because of the situation in Israel, that is anti-Semitism, whereas criticism of Israeli policies is not,” Mock said.

Landau encourages people “to build a relationship based on getting along as Canadians and avoid confrontations about a problem that is not ours to resolve.”

Novak agrees the Middle East conflict is not about religion.

“It is a political conflict, [but] one that clearly can be resolved by Jews and Muslims.” Still, it colours relations. “Jews look to a certain degree with suspicion on Muslims, because Muslims largely come from countries that are the enemies of the Jewish state and Jewish People.”

Raheel Raza, an outspoken Muslim activist, sees Islamophobia as “a created word. The very word – fear of Islam – does not really identify what we are talking about. It shuts down criticism of Islam.”

To Raza, the picture is much larger, encompassing racism, bigotry, and old hatreds.

As a Muslim Zionist, Raza pointed out that the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe and the West “doesn’t get the same kind of attention that this whole Islamophobia notion does.” Yes, there are attacks on Muslims, but Islamophobia “isn’t institutionalized, like the anti-Semitism in Europe.

“So I have difficulty with that term.”

Weinfeld said that challenges facing Muslims in Canada today are greater than those facing Jews.

Muslims are more recent immigrants, not as well integrated and tend to come from societies racked by violence, he noted. They find themselves where Jews were in Canada a century ago.

“Muslims,” Weinfeld said, “are now the iconic ‘other.’”



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Crossword Puzzle Solution (from page 10)

1	H	U	S	K	5	B	A	N	J	O	10	S	W	A	13			
14	A	N	T	I	15	O	C	E	A	N	16	L	I	L	O			
17	S	P	A	S	18	B	L	A	M	E	19	A	S	I	A			
20	S	E	L	L	Y	O	U	R	C	H	22	A	M	E	T	Z		
23	G	L	E	E	24	A	I	G										
25	V	A	C	U	U	M	T	H	E	C	A	R						
33	A	M	P	36	H	U	R	L	37	A	B	O	D	E				
38	R	E	I	N	40	T	I	T	L	E	43	B	R	A	D			
44	A	N	T	I	45	C	46	R	O	T	47	S	48	E	M	S		
49	B	U	Y	T	H	E	M	A	T	Z	A	H						
53	I	T	A								54	L	A	S	T			
57	S	W	I	T	61	C	H	T	62	H	E	63	D	I	S	H	E	S
65	L	O	B	E	66	I	L	O	V	E	67	S	O	A	P			
68	O	V	E	N	69	C	I	L	I	A	70	L	O	S	E			
71	T	E	X	T	72	S	N	E	L	L	73	E	K	E	D			

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A portrait of Hamilton's

JEWISH MILLENNIALS

Story and photos by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News



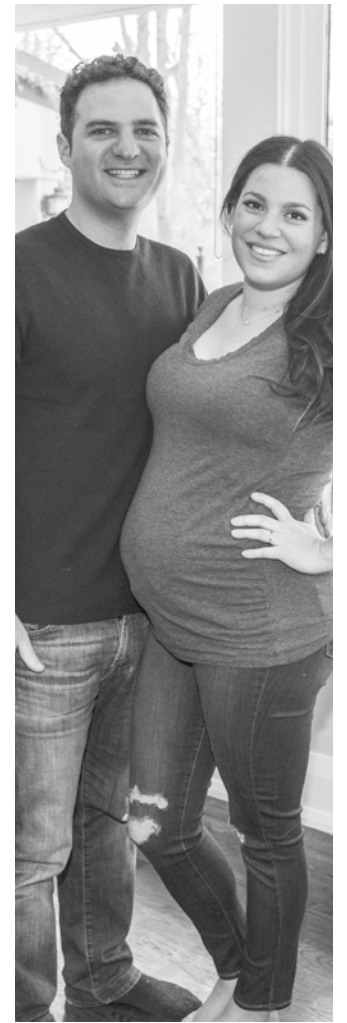
ABOVE: ARI LEVIN AND LAURA WALTMAN
HE: WORKS FOR A GLOBAL CONSULTING FIRM
SHE: PEDIATRICIAN
CHILDREN: MAX, 6, NORA, 3, SADIE, 10 MONTHS

BELOW: TOVA AND JONAH VERTES
SHE: REALTOR IN TRAINING; HE: LOVE OF HER LIFE, 2

RIGHT: ROB ELLISON AND DORA-ANN COHEN ELLISON
SHE: HEAD TEACHER, TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM
HE: CORRECTIONAL OFFICER
CHILDREN: EVELYN, 4 AND JAMES, 2



Megan Belleau-Bluebird Imagery



ABOVE: CORY AND HALEY QUITT
HE: WORKS IN A FAMILY BUSINESS
SHE: PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST
CHILDREN: ONE ON THE WAY

LEFT: JOSH RAUCHWERGER AND MICHELLE "MICKEY" ZELLER
HE: BUSINESS OWNER
SHE: HEMATOLOGIST
CHILDREN: ZEV, 6, AND ZOEY, 4

7 THINGS THAT BROUGHT THEM TO HAMILTON

1. Affordability

Almost all the families interviewed for this feature say that the move to Hamilton made it possible for them to purchase a home and enjoy a quality of life that would have been out of reach in Toronto, where most of them were living before coming here.) Day-care costs and children's after-school programs are also much more affordable here.

2. The support of family

Eight of the families interviewed for this feature include at least one spouse who was born and raised in the city. That, they say, played a big role in their decision to move back to Hamilton once they were ready to start a family. For Rachel and Bram Rochweg, both of whom were raised in Hamilton, and whose four children were born within four years, having both sets of parents living in the area "is the thing that keeps everyone sane."

3. Green Space

The abundance of green space, conservation areas and Hamilton's accessibility to

family-centred activities like apple-picking and maple syrup tasting are, especially for those who have moved here from Toronto, among the city's greatest assets.

4. Neighbourhoods

"In suburbia everyone had a big backyard a big pool," said Rachel Rochweg. "Here (in her southwest Hamilton neighbourhood) you're in the park all the time ... so it's very much a community." "From a neighbourhood perspective I don't think we've ever been happier," said Alice Mendelson, a Montrealer, who moved here with her husband Simon and their four children two years ago from Zurich, citing the "support, openness and kindness" she's received from neighbours who take turns accompanying children to the neighbourhood park.

5. Quality of Life

"I have breakfast with my kids every morning, get them dressed and I have dinner with them every night," said Mickey Zeller, whose Westdale home is walking distance from the hospital where she works. "We didn't want to be battling traffic and leaving at 7 in the morning and coming home at 7 at night. That wasn't the existence that we wanted." "In Hamilton, I feel a lot less pressure to

have my kids doing the latest and greatest 24/7," said Laura Waltman. "There are lots of opportunities for children's activities here, but there's a lot more focus on meeting up at a park, doing something over Shabbat."

6. Culture

"When I left 15 or 20 years ago, Hamilton was not a good place," said Ari Levin. "Lots of people were leaving; lots of people were out of jobs ... now, it's getting to be a place where there's a nice scene. And there's a definitely a buzz. Papers like The National Post are writing articles about Hamilton's affordability and its great restaurants. That definitely makes it more desirable to be here."

5 WAYS THEY'RE JEWISHLY ENGAGED

7. The Jewish community

Alice and Simon Mendelson moved to Hamilton from a four-year stint in Zurich, where Alice served as principal of a Jewish day school. She said that in all

her travels, she's never come across an Orthodox school that appeals to families from other denominations the way that the Hamilton Hebrew Academy does. "It's important for kids to grow up with a variety of different perspectives and different kinds of friends," said Alice. "I think it's a strength of the Hamilton Jewish community that you don't see elsewhere."

1. Jewish pre-schools

Of the nine families who have very young children, seven have them enrolled in a Jewish pre-school, whether it's the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, Temple Playhouse, or Kehila Jewish Community Day School.

2. Shul services

Temple Anshe Sholom's YoFi Friday Night Services and Parent-Tot Shabbat morning services are proving popular choices for unaffiliated families. Adas Israel-affiliated families are drawn to the synagogue's rocking Carlebach Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday nights as well as its Saturday morning programs that culminate in a host of children ascending to the bimah at the end of the service. Beth Jacob also offers monthly family Shabbat programs.

What they love about Hamilton, how they're engaging Jewishly and what Jewish things they wish were available



ABOVE:
JODA AND MEAGHAN EISENBERG
HE: WORKS IN FINANCE
SHE: POLITICAL AIDE
CHILDREN: TALIA, 4, VANESSA, 3 MONTHS

BELOW:
DAN ADDISON AND LAURA KATZ
HE: WORKS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SHE: MAKES BABY CLOTHES
CHILDREN: LENNY, 18 MONTHS

RIGHT:
SIMON AND ALICE MENDELSON
HE: LOGISTICAL ENGINEER
SHE: EDUCATION CONSULTANT
CHILDREN: EMET, 12, KOL, 8, BAILA, 6, NAOMI, 2



ABOVE: BRAM AND RACHEL (LOEWITH) ROCHWERG
HE: ICU PHYSICIAN
SHE: FAMILY PHYSICIAN
CHILDREN: NATE, 5, LEO 3, HENRY AND JAKE, 1

BELOW: ARIELLE (STRUB) AND NOAH FARBER (MISSING FROM PHOTO)
SHE: PILATES INSTRUCTOR
HE: EMERGENCY ROOM PHYSICIAN
CHILDREN: HARRY, 2 AND ORLY, 3 MONTHS

3. PJ Library

Federation's PJ Library programs are another popular choice for young families. The programs, which encourage Jewish families with young children to explore Jewish literature at home and in community, are "a nice way to meet the unaffiliated who I haven't seen in years and didn't realize moved back to the city," said Dora-Ann Cohen Ellison, and even though she's seeing more families coming out for Temple programs and JCC events "the most valuable are the PJ library events," because of the program's appeal to families from across the spectrum.

4. Family gatherings and celebrations

Shabbat dinners and Jewish holidays spent with extended family are a big part of how they "do Jewish," said Laura Katz, whose father, four of her sisters and a "huge extended family" live in the Hamilton area. Family gatherings are where "I feel I get my Jewish fix."

5. Social media

Getting your name on an email list or "liking" an organization's Facebook page is all it takes to keep oneself informed

about Jewish community events, where everyone is welcome and no membership is required. "I don't think it matters anymore as much as it did when we were little if you belong somewhere," said Dora-Ann Cohen Ellison, "because with social media everything's out there ... It's more of you can go to any program anywhere and feel as if you're part of that community." Engagement through social media, however, has long term implications for the sustainability of Hamilton's longstanding Jewish institutions, which have long relied on a membership model that no longer fits with what millennials want.

4 JEWISH THINGS THEY WISH WERE AVAILABLE

1. A bricks and mortar JCC

Almost all those interviewed expressed regret at the loss of the JCC. "It was a huge part of my growing up and I have very distinct memories of Walkathons and Purim carnivals with kids from everywhere," said Rachel Rochwerg. "I find now that everything's so synagogue

delineated, and it's unfortunate, because I think that there's a benefit to being exposed to all spectrums." An entirely different perspective was expressed by Simon Mendelson, who says he's been impressed the way the JCC programs have been able to attract representation from across the community spectrum.

2. Bagels

"There's virtually nothing that's lacking in Hamilton except for bagels," said Mickey Zeller, who was raised in Toronto where there's no lack of bagels and kosher food options. Meaghan Eisenberg said the only drawback she can think of about living in Hamilton is the lack of Montreal-style bagels, baked fresh at two locations in her hometown of Ottawa. "Joda and I have joked about opening up a bagel shop," she said. "For us," said Laura Waltman, eating in a kosher restaurant is not a big deal, but a kosher bakery would be lovely."

3. Jewish education options

Josh Rauchwerg said he wishes that Hamilton had two equally viable Jewish day school options for parents to choose between. "My beliefs may have been in

line with one of them, but my kids at this age, need to learn social skills ... So we put them in the HHA even though we're not orthodox," he said. When it comes to Hamilton's supplementary schools, Joda Eisenberg believes there should be less choice. "I think it's ridiculous that Anshe Sholom and Beth Jacob are competing for families," he said. "I think there should be a lot more collaboration ... because at the end of the day we're a small Jewish community and I don't think people are necessarily concerned about denominations."

4. Networking opportunities for Jewish professionals

As a single parent Tova Vertes finds that many of the other young mothers she's befriended are simply not available for weekend socializing – "If you want to go for a glass of wine or coffee, they're at home with their husbands." Undeterred by the absence of a networking group for young Jewish professionals in the city, Vertes is determined to start her own. "If I can put together a coffee date and get three people out to start, I'd be really happy."

What it means to be free today



Laura Wolfson

Passover reminds us not only of what it took for our people to be free in ancient days, but also what it means to be free today. For me and for many of you, without taking the opportunity to reflect upon what the lessons of Passover mean for the daily choices we make in our lives, the observance of the holiday is hollow. Our Torah teaches that freedom comes with obligation: “Do not oppress the stranger, for you know the feelings of the stranger, having yourselves been strangers in the land of Egypt” (Exodus 23:9). What will this mean for us this coming year?

In the past months, it’s been impossible to ignore what is happening south of the border. Since I tend to hold liberal or moderate opinions on most social

issues, my Facebook news feed has been full of postings that decry the undeniable racism, misogyny, xenophobia, homophobia, and dishonesty of the 45th American president and his administration. I felt alarmed at the anti-Mexican rhetoric and the promises to build a wall, as well as Trump’s comments about NAFTA. I felt outrage at the immigration and travel bans targeting Muslims, even those who held green cards. My outrage doubled when I learned that Canadian citizens who were Muslim, even some Canadian-born Muslims, were denied entry into the U.S. I feel anxious at the prospect that all Muslims in the U.S. could be asked to register, echoing what happened to European Jews during the Holocaust. And like all of you, I felt deep sadness when six men were murdered in Quebec while praying in their mosque. Was their murderer emboldened by the success of the anti-Muslim Trump? It seemed to me that he was. I do believe that economic and social attitudes in the U.S. influence economic and social attitudes in Canada greatly. I despaired

— and then I set myself to thinking about what an ordinary Jewish Canadian can do to respond to these kinds of threats to my safe, peaceful, diversity-embracing, Canadian society. (Please don’t assume I am blind to the flaws in Canadian society; I am not. But as a Jewish, Israel-loving, married lesbian with children, I feel safe and secure.)

To speak up against misogyny, I took my daughter to the women’s “sister march” at city hall on January 21. I attended an open house at the Downtown Hamilton Mosque, to learn more about Islam. I attended a fundraising dinner for the mosque, to extend my hand of friendship. I signed petitions pressuring companies that I have either done business with or have invested in, to discontinue advertising in Breitbart News (the “alt-right” news network). And then I began to think about the very timely opportunity that we have to influence the agenda of the next Canadian election, by selecting the next leader of the Conservative Party of Canada.

In the past 10 federal elections I have voted variably for candidates from four different political parties. My vote depends on my priority issues at the time, as well as the following questions: Is it consistent with the values I hold most dear? Is it good for my family? Is it good for the Jews? Is it good for Israel? Last month, I joined the Conservative party in order to have a vote in their leadership race. And as I evaluate each leadership candidate, I will ask those same four questions. The Republicans did not choose their leader well. I have not decided whether I will vote Conservative, but I will use my party membership to try to ensure that their next candidate for Prime Minister is someone who will have a positive and constructive vision of Canada’s present and future, focusing on what I hold most dear about Canadian society.

Laura Wolfson was Temple Anshe Sholom’s educator and cantorial soloist. She is currently completing a Master’s Fellowship through the Chicago-based iCenter for Israel Education.

Living in an alternate history in the age of Trump



Ben Shragge

In the introduction to his novel *Bend Sinister*, Vladimir Nabokov writes: “This choice of title was an attempt to suggest an outline broken by refraction, a distortion in the mirror of being, a wrong turn taken by life, a sinistral and sinister world.”

On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, an electoral bend sinister took place. Donald Trump won the American presidency in defiance of polls and pundits. Riding the subway in Boston the next day, I could feel the collective disquiet. Hillary Clinton may not have fired up crowds like Bernie Sanders or President Obama, but she was the safe and responsible choice, and was going to make history as the first female U.S. president. By becoming the Republican nominee, Trump had gone further in politics than anyone predicted, but he was too extreme,

too vulgar, too Trump, to win the general election.

The *Nation* had published an article in June with the reassuring headline “Relax, Donald Trump Can’t Win,” and *The New Yorker* summarized the conventional liberal wisdom in an October 31 editorial: “On November 8th, barring some astonishment, the people of the United States will, after two hundred and forty years, send a woman to the White House. The election of Hillary Clinton is an event that we will welcome for its immense historical importance, and greet with indescribable relief.”

Alas, there was some astonishment, and Hillary Clinton lost. Instead of indescribable relief, the “we” *The New Yorker* represents (college-educated urban professionals) greeted the election results with palpable dread. On November 9, my unusually silent fellow Boston commuters could have paraphrased Nabokov, had they been able to find any words: “History has taken a wrong turn; we are entering a sinister new world.”

It wasn’t just Hillary supporters who were shocked by Trump’s victory. The *Associated Press* reported in October that Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan told fellow

lawmakers “he now is focusing on ensuring Hillary Clinton doesn’t get a blank check as president with a Democratic-controlled Congress.” Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said, “I didn’t think President Trump had a chance of winning.” The Republican establishment was prepared for a loss, and for a return to conventional politics and politicians.

Trump himself may not have thought much of his chances. Before the vote, he began making groundless claims that the election was being rigged; probably because, as Philip Bump wrote in *The Washington Post*, he would rather “toss public confidence in our electoral system under the bus” than “have to face the world as a loser.” And speaking more broadly, Trump biographer Timothy O’Brien said of his subject: “I think he stumbled onto this national stage without a lot of long-term plans about what he was going to do when he began running. I think he was surprised as anyone else that he got as much pull with the voters as he did.”

There is a genre of fiction, alternate history, devoted to exploring historical “what ifs.” What if the Confederacy had won the American Civil War? What if the D-Day invasion

had failed? What if the Cuban Missile Crisis hadn’t de-escalated? We are now living out a “what if” scenario no alternate history writer ever contemplated: What if the host of *The Celebrity Apprentice* was elected U.S. president?

One novelist did imagine an alternate history with some sinister echoes of today. Philip Roth’s 2004 *The Plot Against America* takes place in a world where Franklin Delano Roosevelt loses the 1940 presidential election to Charles Lindbergh, resulting in an “America First” foreign policy and rising domestic fascism. Asked about parallels between the novel and current events, Roth wrote to *The New Yorker*: “It is easier to comprehend the election of an imaginary President like Charles Lindbergh than an actual President like Donald Trump.”

We are now living in an alternate history, full of alternative facts, and it would take exceptional imaginative powers to predict the next four (or three, or two, or less) years.

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

“Muslim ban” a misnomer for U.S. immigration policy



Michael Glogauer

Characterizing President Trump’s pause on immigration from seven terror-associated countries as a “Muslim ban” is a mainstream media/leftist dishonest and self-serving mischaracterization. This recent executive action is neither a “Muslim ban” nor an unwarranted action. While its implementation may have been less than efficient, the principles and ideals behind this action certainly demonstrated Trump to be a leader intent on protecting his nation.

Comparing this proactive move with the 1930’s immigration barriers to European Jews shows a complete and utter ignorance of the situation. The entire world shut its doors to the Jews, whereas the citizens of these seven countries have many available options including more than 40 Muslim nations.

Facts matter. To label this a “Muslim ban” is a misnomer; immigration into the USA from more than 40 other majority Muslim countries was not restricted in any way, nor was any reference made to religious denomination in the executive order. The countries listed in the ban were listed due to the current turmoil and instability of their governments; any effective vetting for terrorists is seriously affected by such circumstances.

In 2011, Barack Obama drastically curtailed the number of Iraqi refugees being resettled in the USA for just such a reason. Media sources do not hesitate to remind us that President Obama did not halt all immigration, but merely slowed it. However, this rebuttal displays a serious ignorance of today’s realities. Obama grossly underestimated ISIS’s goals and abilities (he called them “the JV team”). Immigration of refugees has been openly described as a Trojan horse to plant terrorists in the West. Europe has already seen the success of this latest ISIS approach. President Trump’s action is merely a more cautious version of President Obama’s ... and rightfully so. Tough times call for tough actions, and safeguarding the nation should be a

president’s priority.

As Jews, our memory of immigration bans is forever linked with the deaths of millions of our people. This, however, is not a ban, but a safety measure put in place to prevent terrorist attacks. We must always remember that if these approaches are not undertaken, we Jews will be among the first targets — remember the Chabad family in Mumbai. We can only hope and pray that our leaders continue to act responsibly to ensure our safety before taking unnecessary risks. Safety and protecting our society are paramount.

Michael Glogauer is a former Hamilton resident but always a Hamiltonian at heart. He can be reached at michael.glogauer@utoronto.ca.

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

HAZEL BOON

In times past, the procedure for tracing one's roots was painstaking and could take years, often with little result.

We now live in a "golden age" of technology. The 21st century has delighted genealogists with the ability to connect people from across the globe with one click of a mouse. One can merge to existing family trees (saving hundreds of man-hours of reproducing the same information), find newspaper reports on ancestors, and explore ships' passenger lists, records of landings, census records, birth/death/marriage records, and much more. In particular, websites that specialize in Jewish genealogy not only facilitate the search for family trees, but also connect special-interest groups and locate shtetls. In addition, they offer pre-war maps, a Holocaust database, a burial registry, and allow posts of those seeking family members, among many other services that aid the budding or experienced genealogist to succeed.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton and Area has stepped right into the game for our April meeting. Instead of incurring the high cost of travel to bring in our guest speaker, Marlis Humphrey, we will connect with her live via the internet from her home in Florida as she lectures on The Hidden Gems of Jewish Genealogy. Using cutting edge video conferencing technology, we will be able to see and interact with her and fully experience her multi-media presentation. We invite you to join us for this state-of-the-art undertaking on April 19 at Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Ave., N. Hamilton at 7:30 p.m.

For further information, check our events page at www.jgsh.org or contact Hazel Boon, at 905-524-3345 or jgshamilton@gmail.com

2017 MIKVAH BENEFIT



Photos from another successful Hamilton Mikvah benefit event on Feb. 15. Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors, volunteers, local artists and community members who made the event the most successful one yet!
Photos by Donna Waxman

CHABAD LUBAVITCH

SHAINA ROSENFELD

For the second year, the City of Hamilton and Chabad Lubavitch erected a 12 foot menorah in the downtown core. Due to the recent renovations at Gore Park all holiday decorations and events were moved to City Hall and it is there that on the second night of Chanukah, Sunday, Dec. 25, a community menorah lighting was held. Almost 75 people of all ages attended the lighting, notwithstanding the bitter wind and school holidays. It was marked by sufganiyot, hot cocoa, and a rousing Maoz Tzur and I Have a Little Dreidel, and was a joint effort by Rabbi Chanoch and Shaina Rosenfeld to convince the flames to light despite the wind.

As we head into Pesach, once again Chabad Lubavitch will be selling shemura matza. We will also be providing matza through Jewish Social Services for those who need but cannot afford. If you would like to purchase shemura matza for yourself or help provide matza for another Jewish family, or sell your chametz for Pesach, please visit chabadhamilton.com.

KEHILA



Everyone gets a chance to make Charoset
Photo by Michele Schneider

Passover at Kehila is an opportunity for students to learn about the pursuit of freedom throughout history and today. Students are engaged and eager to absorb Jewish traditions and to apply their concepts beyond the classroom. At Pesach, students help prepare and take part in the school's model seder. Aside from reading together the journey from slavery in Egypt to Freedom in Eretz Yisrael in Hebrew, they also think about and discuss the importance of democracy and the freedom of speech.

With our cross-discipline curriculum, the Jewish experience of slavery is compared with victims of the African slave trade. Junior students examine how the different levels of Canada's government work together to protect our rights and freedoms.

When it comes to Jewish education, Hamilton is lucky for its own freedom of choice, with several options that accommodate the Jewish lifestyle and educational outcomes parents want for their children.

Find out more about the Kehila experience for your child at kehilaschool.com or book a tour by calling 905-529-7725.

AN EVENING TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN'S CLINIC AT THE DR. MAX AND GIANNA GLASSMAN PTSD AND HEALTH CENTRE IN JERUSALEM

JNF Hamilton's Negev Dinner will honour three of Hamilton's prestigious and internationally acclaimed medical researchers



Dr. Hertzel Gerstein



Dr. Mark Levine



Dr. Sandra Witelson



ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY THE INCOMPARABLE AWARD-WINNING AND JUNO-NOMINATED JOHANNES LINSTAD

Sunday, June 25, 2017 - Reception 5pm Dinner 6pm
Liuna Station - 360 James St. N, Hamilton

FOR MORE INFO, RESERVATIONS AND ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES: JNFHAMILTON.CA 905.527.5516 EXT.1 HAMILTON@JNF.CA



Some of Beth Jacob's small but mighty kindergarten and Grade 1 students. At this level the children learn through stories, songs, games, poems, dances and more. Photo by Rina Rodak

BETH JACOB HEBREW SCHOOL

RINA RODAK

Beth Jacob Hebrew School offers a kindergarten class where children learn about prayer, holidays, and Israel through stories, songs, games, and dances. They learn to recognize and sound out a new Hebrew letter each week and reinforce their new learning between lessons through short but pertinent "homework." Asked what he liked best about Hebrew school, one student said, "the vegetables and dip and the muffins are the best and when we do our homework, Mrs. Schmerling gives us a sticker!" Another student said her favourite learning activities are baking traditional Jewish food with Morah Gila in the big kitchen and playing the Israel matching games with Morah Margalit.

The learning continues Shabbat morning during our family focused services, as the kindergarteners are invited to open and close the Ark, wrap the Torah, lead a prayer

or answer Rabbi Hillel's famous Torah parsha trivia questions.

After almost 50 years of teaching at Beth Jacob (we know, amazing, right?), Fay Schmerling summarizes our school's mission and vision for these small but mighty students beautifully,

"Children are eager to learn. I believe a positive attitude to learning develops through understanding, enjoyment, participation and celebration of our Jewish holidays and history. Children who come to Hebrew school when they are in kindergarten learn early that they are part of the Jewish people and are proud of their heritage."

For more information about Beth Jacob's Hebrew School program, contact Rina Rodak at school@bethjacobsynagogue.ca or phone 905-512-4036.

JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

CAROL KRAMES

Who are the people who use Jewish Social Services? Our clients are an invisible segment of our community. They may be people who go to synagogue with you or are in your child's class at school. They may have a physical or mental disability, be unemployed, have no suitable living space, or be single parents with little or no child support. Our clients have incomes that are far below the poverty line.

Jewish Social Services provides an essential service for up to 45 families a month who have difficulty coping with life's demands. We supply kosher food and food vouchers, and help our clients with rent subsidies and financial relief.

One third of our caseload are families with children; one third are seniors; 10 cases are adults on disability pensions. At Jewish Social Services, we try to help all of our clients become self sufficient. Sometimes this is nearly an impossible feat. Why? The likelihood of some of our clients

finding employment is very slim, whether due to mental or physical disabilities, lack of skills, their age, or because they've been out of the job market for too long. Every single one of our clients is in a precarious financial situation, with their rent taking up almost all of their monthly income. They simply would not be managing without our food bank.

On Feb. 26, we held our annual wine tasting fundraiser in aid of the Kosher Food Bank. The money raised went directly to helping the vulnerable survive another month on limited financial resources. On behalf of all the recipients, we sincerely thank all of our sponsors who made the event such a success.

Wishing everyone in the community a happy and healthy Passover. This is the time of year when we launch our Passover food drive to feed more than 75 families. To make a donation call 905-627-9922, ext 21 or 23.

HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY

YAAKOV MOREL

On May 16, the Hamilton Hebrew Academy will pay tribute to the legacy of four exceptional community leaders: Mary Martha Starkman, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr. Lester and Carol Krames, recipients of the Community Impact Award, and the Legacy Tribute Award in memory of Marvin Caplan a'h.

These remarkable individuals, in their own way, dedicated their lives to the values of Chesed (kindness) and inclusivity, championing the unique and innate greatness of each person.

The Hamilton Hebrew Academy passionately shares these beliefs. The school is committed to the development of the whole child by nurturing the unique intellectual, emotional, and spiritual well-being of each individual student. The theme of our gala tribute is: kindling the spark: empowering each individual child.

In our continuing goal of meeting the academic, social and emotional needs of our students, our school support team implements various strategies to ensure that each child is best poised to succeed and thrive.

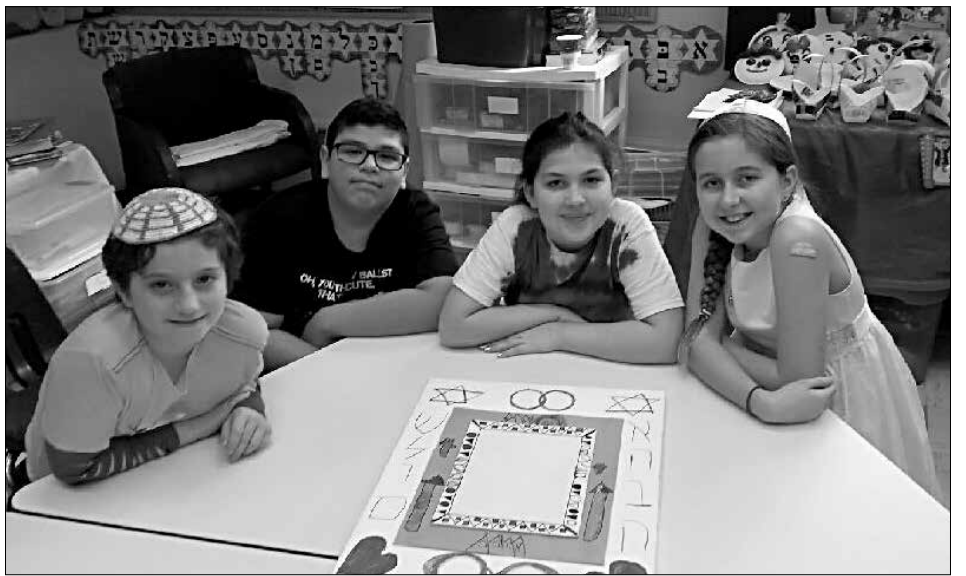
The HHA has recently hired a school counsellor to design and implement preventative and therapeutic programs for our students. This individual will also help students develop effective coping strategies through play, preparation, education, and self-expression.

The school has also recently established the Jewish Diverse Learning Centre (JDLC) for students requiring learning support in Jewish studies and Hebrew language. In addition, the school also employs three educational support workers and works with a consultative support team of a child psychologist, behavioural specialist, and special educational specialist.

As we reflect upon our honourees and recognize their lifetime commitment to providing nurturing and holistic support to various segments of our community, we feel privileged to carry on these traditions within the walls of our school.

For more information about our upcoming gala dinner, please visit www.jewishfuture.ca.

TAS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



Grade 5/6 students Ethan S., Ethan A., Natasha K., and Annika D. pose with their wedding Ketubah design

Photo by Dora-Ann Cohen Ellison

DORA-ANN COHEN ELLISON

At Temple Anshe Sholom, students engage in learning activities that are set in a two-year spiral curriculum. This year, students have explored the rituals and traditions of various life cycle events. This learning culminated in our biennial mock wedding! Students created everything required to have a beautiful and meaningful Jewish mock wedding ceremony and reception. Our youngest students made invitations and decorations, and our oldest students created a beautiful Ketubah, sang Dodi Li, and prepared sweet treats for the reception. Meanwhile, the Grade 2/3 students pretended to be the parents of our bride and groom, the best man and the maid of honour. They made the day special for our wedding couple with a very personalized and student created chuppah. Thank you to our couple, Jordan Wronzberg and Christine O'Connor for getting "married" again!

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 5: We welcome Beth Jacob students for a walking seder experience at 4:30 p.m.

April 12: We are visiting Shalom Village to sing Passover songs at 4:30 p.m.

May 24: Uniquely Hamilton Project Community Fair. Come and see what Temple Anshe Sholom and Beth Jacob students have been learning about our Jewish roots around the world. Watch our performances, view our cultural art projects and taste the Jewish food of Europe, Africa and Israel! Time TBA

Weekly programming for JK-grade 10 takes place Wednesdays 4:30-6 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Young Family Shabbat takes place on April 7 and May 5 at 5:15 p.m.

Weekly Drop-In programming for tots and caregivers, Saturdays at 11 a.m.

More about what Temple has to offer can be found at www.anshesholom.ca.

Wishing you peace, health and happiness on Passover and always.

From our family to yours.

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NISSAN
OF STONEY CREEK

Red Hill
TOYOTA

UPPERJAMES
TOYOTA



jcc

EVENTS

Yom Hashoah

Sunday, April 23
7:30 p.m. at Beth Jacob
Synagogue

Yom Ha'atzmaut

Monday, May 1
5:30 p.m. at Beth Jacob
Synagogue

Max and Stella Rotman Humanitarian Awards

Wednesday, June 7
7 p.m.
Temple Anshe Shalom



July 3 to August 25

**Camp Kadimah is ready
for another super fun
summer!**

Our new location will be
announced soon!

**We need specialists
and counsellors**

Are you going into Grade 11 and
above and want to be a part of
a wonderful community day
camp? If so then now is the time
to send your resume and cover
letter to hindy@hamiltonjcc.com



B'nai Brith Sports Celebrity Dinner co-Chairs Jeff Paikin and Brent Clifford book end head table guests Canadian olympic champion Hayley Wickenheiser, Stanley Cup champion and Olympic gold medalist Theo Fleury and TSN sports personality Michael Landsberg.
Photo by Donna Waxman

B'NAI BRITH SPORTS DINNER

Earlier this month, the Hamilton Convention Center was host to the 66th Annual B'nai Brith Sports Celebrity Dinner. Once again the event drew a sell out crowd that included several local dignitaries, and showed why the dinner is Hamilton's most anticipated annual fundraiser. This year's dais was headed up by Hall of Fame broadcaster, and Sick Not Weak spokesperson, Michael Landsberg. He brought along Hayley Wickenheiser and Theo Fleury – two of the country's most celebrated athletes – who courageously shared their struggles and triumphs while battling depression. Landsberg has long been a proponent for mental health awareness, and he too shared his experiences and insights with a completely captivated crowd. Thanks to patronage and support of all the attendees and sponsors, more than \$75,000 was raised for numerous worthwhile local charities. The dinner committee would like to extend a special thanks to all of the staff and volunteers who helped make this event such an outstanding success. If you were unable to attend this year's event, donations can still be made directly to laura@nhdg.ca.

BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE



The 2017 Beth Jacob Lottery will take place on May 10 at 7 p.m. This year's event, in tribute to Phil Rosenshein – a stalwart of the Jewish community – includes a fabulous dinner, a substantial monetary raffle, door prizes and a live auction that will be nothing short of spectacular. Proceeds go towards Beth Jacob's Hebrew School, a school we are proud to say subsidizes its tuition fees so that no child is ever denied a Jewish education. Join us as we honour a great Hamiltonian. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased by calling 905 522-1351 or by emailing office@bethjacobsynagogue.ca. We need YOU to make this evening a success.

Local football star played for Team Canada

Story and photo by WENDY SCHNEIDER



In what is undoubtedly a first for Hamilton's Jewish community, Dundas's Spencer Smyth played football for Team Canada at the U17 North American Cup this past January during the NFL's Pro-Bowl week in Orlando, Florida. Smyth is a graduate of Kehila and the Hamilton Jewish Middle School. Smyth was named to the All Canadian high school class of 2017 at the

Canada Prep Academy in St. Catharines, and was a three-time Team Ontario captain and a member of Team Canada.

Smyth has often been asked by his teammates – many who have never met a Jewish person – about his religion. He recalls one particular evening when, leading his team in a group prayer for the recovery of a serious injured player, he found

himself reciting the Hebrew prayer the Shema, and explaining to his surprised teammates its meaning.

After receiving offers from McMaster, Queen's, UBC and many others, Smyth signed with Western University, which offered him a full athletic and academic scholarship. The next chapter starts when training camp commences in August.



Mary Martha Starkman
Lifetime Achievement Award



Dr. Lester & Carol Krames
Community Impact Award



Marvin Caplan a'h
Legacy Tribute



HH4
Gala TRIBUTE DINNER

TUESDAY MAY 16TH, 2017

125 Cline Ave South, Hamilton
\$180 per person
7:00pm

For more information please call 905.528.0039
e-mail tribute@hamiltonhebrewacademy.ca or visit
www.jewishfuture.ca



KINDLING THE SPARK

EMPOWERING EACH INDIVIDUAL CHILD

Jewish Free Loan Toronto to offer interest-free loans in communities across Ontario

There is exciting news from Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA and Jewish Free Loan Toronto. The eligibility criteria for Jewish Free Loan Toronto's (JFLT) interest-free loans will now extend to all of Jewish Ontario with the exception of Ottawa. The only stipulation is that applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of Canada.

"This expansion of services was important because I did not feel it was fair to exclude people just because they lived outside of the GTA. Now Jews in need – from Kenora to Kingston, from Hamilton to Huntsville – can come to us for help. It is time for JFLT to go from being a hidden gem to a household name," said Marra

Messenger, executive director of JFLT.

Interest-free loans that will be available to Jewish Ontario include Personal Loans up to \$7,500, Small Personal Loans up to \$1000, J-SAP Student Loans up to \$10,000, Fertility and Adoption Loans up to \$7,500 and Business Loans up to \$10,000. Guarantors are required for all aforementioned loans with the exception of the Small Personal Loans.

JFLT's lending programs reflect the mandate of helping others help themselves. The expansion of services comes at a time when poverty is on the rise. To meet these challenges, JFLT has committed to effectively doubling the number of its active loans to 1,200 with \$5 million outstanding by the year 2021.

Reflective of the modern micro-finance movement, JFLT clients are serviced with staunch compassion. As JFLT's assistance is a hand up rather than a handout, all clients emerge with their dignity and self-respect intact. JFLT is based on the belief that the Jewish community has a responsibility to assist and invest in the future of its members.

JFLT currently has 714 active loans and \$2.6 million outstanding. In 2016, 232 loans worth \$1.2 million were granted. The default rate on secured loan is under 1 per cent. The default rate on unsecured loans is between 10 and 12 per cent.

As all donations to JFLT are recycled into new loans immediately upon

repayment, all contributions are worth much more than their original value. A donation of \$1,800 becomes \$4,050 when it is recycled for 5 years and \$10,800 when it is recycled for 20 years.

JFLT has a special connection to the Hamilton community. Current president and longtime committed volunteer Rob Tick grew up in Dundas as did his wife Michelle. Executive director Marra Messenger recently settled in Dundas with her husband Jack.

To learn more about JFLT or to get involved, please email mmessenger@jewishfreeloan.ca or 416-6351217 ext. 5269. To apply for a loan visit: www.jewishfreeloan.ca, call 416 645 1217 or email info@jewishfreeloan.ca.



HAPPY PASSOVER



HELPING CHILDREN



IMPROVING HEALTHCARE



SUPPORTING WOMEN

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) wishes all our members and friends a joyous Passover Holiday!

We are grateful for your generosity, which helps us fulfill our mission of passionately supporting projects and services for Children, Healthcare, and Women in Israel and Canada.

Debbie Eisenberg
CHW National President

Alina Ianson
CHW National Executive Director

CHW Board of Directors



✉ info@chw.ca ☎ 1.855.477.5964
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Beth Tikvah will have a new home!

Effective May 1, 2017, Beth Tikvah Foundation of Hamilton will be joining the Jewish Community Centre and the Hamilton Jewish Federation at 105 Main Street E., Suite 506 in Hamilton down the hall from JNF. We are delighted with this development which moves us one step more toward a campus concept and creating the creative space for us to work more collaboratively together. Please call Barb at 905-648-0605, ext. 305 with any questions.



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www.sarelcanada.org

Programs start approximately every 3 weeks.

Local contact: Gord Garshowitz 905-906-6900

Lives Remembered JACK KATZ

Born June 27, 1931 in Hamilton. Died Nov. 19, 2016 in Hamilton.

by TEDDY KATZ

When my dad passed away, it left a huge void, but what was amazing to see was the response inside and outside the Jewish community. Many came up to my brothers and me to tell us ‘they don’t make them like your father anymore’. Many others used the word ‘mensch’. It didn’t matter who you were or what your position, my dad would take the time to chat and to offer help if requested. He was the personification of love. He would strike up a conversation, smile and take an interest in what was going on in your life. It is why many people tell me they felt close to him and really felt his loss.



Teddy Katz with his father, Jack, at the annual Adas Israel Men’s Club Brotherhood Social. Photo by Donna Waxman

Parkdale was the offshoot of the family business known to many in the Jewish community, Hamilton Auto Parts, started by my father’s hero – his dad Sam. That store amazingly spawned close to 30 other businesses and rival auto parts stores throughout the city.

My father dropped out of McMaster University after his first year so he could work there alongside his father, brothers, sisters, and cousins. To him, this was the best place in the world to be because as he told me a few months ago, family was “everything”. Just ask his wife of 62 years Barbara or any of his five sons, or 19 grandchildren or great-grandchildren whom he considered his biggest dividends and his greatest legacy. They’ll all concur. Dad was our biggest cheerleader and couldn’t spend enough time with each and every one of us and the family.

The youngest of seven children, my dad Jack learned hard work and discipline from his father and mother Sam and Mary, who arrived in Canada from Poland with next to nothing. Sam worked as a tailor, making suits when he first arrived in the country. He also delivered fruits and vegetables door to door and then he started what became the thriving auto parts business.

For Sam, the Adas Israel Synagogue was also a big part of the family, a sentiment that rubbed off on all his children. Oldest son Nate became the patriarch and helped run the men’s club brotherhood social, the Adas Israel’s biggest fundraising event soon after Zaide Sam passed away. When Nate passed away 17 years ago, my father stepped into Nate’s shoes and was a one-man show running the brotherhood event. It was his way of staying close to the family and its roots.

As he became frailer and could barely muster any energy, it was amazing to watch my father still trying to organize the annual fundraiser this past November. He couldn’t do or say a lot, yet he tried to take part in the meetings.

His dedication taught us another important lesson: that it’s never too late to write an amazing final chapter. At the same time, my dad gave my brothers and me marching orders at his bedside, including his wish that we remain united above all else. For him that meant one thing: “unconditional love” for family.

If any of the boys had issues with one another, he always played the role of peacekeeper and instilled the value that it’s family above all else. He gave us all one last amazing gift and lesson when he summoned everyone into his bedroom on his final Sunday. There were about 30 of us in his condo – all of his sons and their families. One by one, he called us to his side and gave us all a hug and kiss and went on to tell each and every one of us why we were so special in his eyes.

We would say, “We love you dad” and he would respond, “I love you more”.

He showed such incredible strength of character and his humour, saying “I’m not going anywhere”. He wanted the whole family to be by his side so there was nothing left unsaid and he could say goodbye in his special Jack Katz way.

One of the last things he said was to my brother Brian, who was stepping in to help run the Adas Israel fundraiser for him this year. He once again showed his unending dedication to family and the community by asking, “how many new tickets have we sold.”

Dad, you will be missed but never forgotten.

Chag Sameach!

And a Healthy Passover to all our Donors, Supporters and Friends



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HAMILTON CHAPTER

**Hilda Rosen,
Ambassador**

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More information: 905.574.3900 or info@thepec.ca

with:

				
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partners:

						
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250 g

Foodfest
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3⁹⁷
168/170 g

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selected varieties



8⁹⁷
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Matzos



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907 g

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4⁹⁷
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200 g

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5⁹⁷
200 g

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1⁹⁷
100 g

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