

Choosing Judaism

Alison Pick to speak in Hamilton P7



Living generously

Rochelle Waxman on how to be happy P15



Hamilton Jewish News

THE VOICE OF JEWISH HAMILTON

APRIL 2015 VOL 29:3/ NISSAN 5775

AGREEMENT #40007180

Kehila Jewish day school faces an uncertain future

Can a Jewish community be expected to grow and thrive without developing generations of educated and committed Jewish children? Is it right that parents and cash-strapped schools bear the burden of covering the costs associated with a quality Jewish education or should our collective future be a collective responsibility?

With the recent announcement that Kehila Jewish Community Day School may close at the end of the year, these questions have risen to the top of the community agenda, amidst calls for increased support from the wider Jewish community.

The precipitating event was a Kehila board meeting that took place on Feb. 10, during which directors voted to “provisionally” close the school at the end of the year “in consideration of the financial burden of operating another year.” The decision, according to Kehila chair, David Shore, was based on the board’s view that it was unlikely to raise \$125,000 before the end of May, the amount needed for the school to stay open in its current form.

All, however, may not be lost. A small group of Kehila parents have announced that they are determined to find a way forward.

See story on page 6

Federation spearheads “Us for Us” initiative

Look who’s talking...

Join the conversation!



Passionate about Jewish education: From l to r: Rabbi Dan Selsberg, Nomi Cuneo, Rina Rodak, Joanne Macintosh, Laura Wolfson, Barb Babij, Peter Greenberg, Rabbi Daniel Green and Rabbi Jordan Cohen. Photo by Terry Babij

by BARB BABIJ, CEO Hamilton Jewish Federation

Paradoxically, one of Jewish Hamilton’s greatest strengths and biggest challenges is its size. We are small enough to be able to pull together and accomplish incredible things. We are also small enough that individual organizational agendas can fragment the community.

With this in mind, Federation convened a cross-community educational working group to begin to explore how we might work together – we named it “Us for Us”.

What Rabbi Dan Selsberg (Beth Jacob Synagogue), Nomi Cuneo (Federation), Rina Rodak (Beth Jacob Hebrew School), Joanne McIntosh (Hamilton Hebrew Academy), Laura Wolfson (Temple Anshe Sholom), Barb Babij (Federation), Peter Greenberg (Kehila), Rabbi Daniel Green (Adas Israel Congregation) and Rabbi Jordan Cohen (Temple Anshe Sholom) have in common is a commitment to excellence in Jewish education and a desire to make it more affordable and accessible. We came together in December and again in January to talk

about the possibility of organizing a cross-community fundraiser to be held in 2016, funds that would be used for access to Jewish education across the communal spectrum. Those initial meetings, however, have been eclipsed by reality.

First, Rabbi Selsberg announced his intention to leave Hamilton, and will no longer be in the picture (figuratively and literally). Second, as you will read elsewhere in this paper, Kehila has since announced that it lacks the funds to continue to operate in its current form. This does not augur well, as a vibrant and healthy Jewish Hamilton requires members who are engaged with Jewish life and who are Jewishly educated and literate.

See “Us for Us” page 4

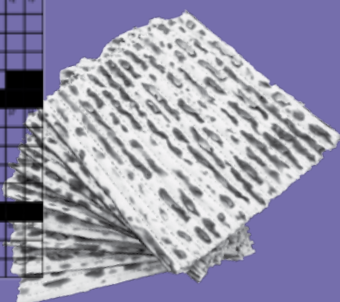
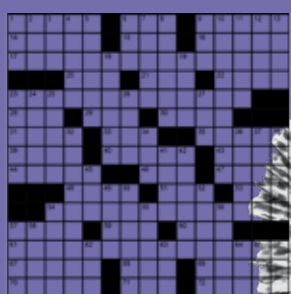


Photo courtesy of the Simone Rotstein

Leaving Egypt

Born into an upper middle class Egyptian Jewish family, Simone Rotstein’s idyllic childhood came to an abrupt end when her family was caught up in the mass expulsion of Jews ordered by the Nasser regime in the aftermath of the 1956 Suez Crisis. Rotstein’s memories of her last days in Alexandria, published here for the first time, offer a child’s perspective on the traumatic events unfolding before her eyes.

See story page 19



Passover Fun
Jerusalem Post
Crossword Puzzles

P20

TD Wealth

Fowler and Associates

TD Wealth Private Investment Advice
Complete Investment and Estate Planning

Scott Thomson
Investment Advisor

905-528-6349

Toll Free: 1-800-775-0037
Fax: 905-528-6897

Dwight A. Fowler
Vice President,
Investment Advisor

905-528-4254

Shane Fowler
Investment Advisor

905-528-0113

Fowler & Associates



Fowler and Associates consists of Dwight Fowler, Vice President and Investment Advisor, Shane Fowler, Investment Advisor and Scott Thomson, CFA, Investment Advisor. Fowler and Associates is part of TD Wealth Private Investment Advice. TD Wealth Private Investment Advice is a division of TD Waterhouse Canada Inc., a subsidiary of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. TD Waterhouse Canada Inc. — Member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund. All trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ®/The TD logo and other trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank or a wholly-owned subsidiary, in Canada and/or in other countries.

PERSPECTIVES

BEN SHRAGGE,
DIGITAL CONTENT EDITOR
HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS



I grew up in a house of newspapers. Some combination of the Hamilton Spectator, Globe and Mail, National Post, Toronto Star, Canadian Jewish News and, of course, Hamilton Jewish News was continuously strewn across the kitchen table. A grand sweeping away of the day's news preceded Shabbat and holiday dinners.

When HJN editor Wendy Schneider interviewed me for a story on Jewish twenty-somethings in Hamilton, I talked about my passion for writing and career in publishing. She asked if I'd be interested in writing for the paper and, given my newspaper-strewn upbringing, I said yes.

Journalism has pushed me out into the community. I've attended a conference on Israeli Arabs in Toronto, toured a Yiddish-language press in the north end and interviewed a diverse cast of characters I otherwise wouldn't have met, including musicians, artists and activists.

Although I grew up in a house of newspapers and still subscribe to one, I also voraciously consume media through my laptop and iPhone. My philosophy is that of the informational omnivore: there's place for unfolding a newspaper (e.g. at the breakfast table with a cup of coffee), and a place for reading and sharing a story on a smartphone (e.g. in a doctor's waiting room where the alternative is out-of-date magazines).

In recognition of the new media reality, Wendy and I recently began collaborating to make the digital edition of the HJN more than just an afterthought to the printed page.

We want to enhance stories with links, videos, photo galleries and other web exclusives.

In the online version of the December issue, Wade Hemsworth's profile of Marvin Goldblatt includes a photo gallery, Wendy's article on Sable Island features a video she shot and my article on Robin Zee's play embeds a clip of her performing. Whereas the print story about last August's New Israel Fund of Canada symposium mentions an article in The Walrus, the web version links to the article itself. These are all examples of how we can use technology to draw the reader more deeply into a story.

We want to embrace social media in order to keep the community continuously updated on relevant news and events.

Our Twitter and Facebook feeds allow us to post stories as they happen and link to articles as soon as they are published. Whether it's a Spectator column by Rabbi Baskin, CBC Hamilton's coverage of the McMaster "Hug a Terrorist" campaign or announcements of Holocaust Education Week events, the HJN will be first to share and spread awareness of relevant items.

We want to ensure our stories get the widest possible exposure.

Former Hamiltonians who are no longer in a position to receive the print edition, but are still interested in their hometown happenings, are one uniquely digital demographic. Dundas-born Torontonian Rachel Levy tweeted to us, "Love hearing about what's going on in my hometown." Similarly situated Stephen Adler tweeted that he'd follow the HJN on Twitter because "once a Hamiltonian, always a Hamiltonian." The HJN will always be a local paper, but our readership is no longer limited by the confines of a paper route.

We want to engage the younger generation of digital natives, the People of the Facebook, by meeting them where they are: online.

McMaster students are not going to get the HJN print edition delivered to their dorm rooms and student houses. They are in transit, on the move from one location to the next and likely to see Hamilton as a waystation rather than a home. But they might at least scan the HJN online and, perhaps, begin to appreciate and participate in the local community. We are motivated to make the HJN a truly multi-format, print and digital publication by these thoughts and ideas.

Please bookmark www.hamiltonjewishnews.com, follow us on Twitter @HamJewishNews, like us on Facebook and join us as the HJN's digital development unfolds.

And if you're reading this in our print edition, please continue to clutter the kitchen table to your heart's content.

TEN STAR FINANCIAL SERVICES
YOUR PARTNER FOR
SUCCESS



TEN STAR Life Insurance Brokers Inc.



TEN STAR Life Insurance Brokers Inc. has Advisors throughout Canada who are able to assist you with all of your life insurance needs as they have access to some of Canada's largest life insurance companies offering a variety of life insurance options.



TEN STAR Insurance Brokers Inc.



TEN STAR Insurance Brokers Inc. provides business, home, auto and travel insurance to help protect your most important assets. We invest the time to understand your needs and work with you to help minimize your insurance costs and risks so there are no unexpected surprises at the time of a claim. For your peace of mind we deal with well-established and reputable insurers.



TEN STAR Financial Inc.



TEN STAR Financial Inc. provides you with one stop shopping for all of your investment needs. TEN STAR Financial Inc. is a mutual fund dealer and is a registered member of the Mutual Fund Dealers Association (MFDA).



TEN STAR Group Benefit Specialists Inc.



TEN STAR Group Benefits Specialists Inc. offers comprehensive group benefit plans, exceptional service and substantial savings. With our 35 years of experience, knowledge, understanding and unique inventive plans we are able to accommodate the diversity of your business.

TEN STAR FINANCIAL SERVICES
95 HAMILTON ST. NORTH, WATERDOWN, ON L0R 2H0
1-800-461-9501 • www.tenstar.ca

Table of Contents

HJN APRIL 2015 IN THIS ISSUE:

- IN THE NEWS**
- 6 KEHILA LOOKS TO ITS FUTURE**
New parent group determined to see school survive
- FEATURE**
- 16 FROM HAMILTON TO HOLLYWOOD**
Ariel Shaffir talks The Interview and his local roots
- ISRAEL**
- 23 TEN GAV MAKES IT EASY TO GIVE**
Former Hamiltonian founds crowdfunding site
- PROFILE**
- 27 MARK MORGENSTERN**
James Street North's Charred is a family affair



PAGE 27

Do you have a story to tell?



Mark Morgenstern conducts a virtual tour of his James Street North restaurant, Charred, for the HJN digital edition.

The HJN is building video content for its digital edition. If you'd like to be interviewed or featured, please contact the editor at wschneider@jewishhamilton.org.

COMING UP

SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE

- Deadline for Booking Ad Space
May 14, 2015
- Deadline for receiving copy
May 20, 2015
- Deadline for receiving ad copy
June 9, 2015
- Estimated Date of Arrival
June 29, 2015

DEPARTMENTS

Editorial	2
Table of Contents	3
Federation	4,5
In the News	6
Upcoming Events	7
Education	8
JCC	9
Shalom Village	10
Community	11-13
Portraits in Giving	15
Feature	16
Obituary	17
Memoir	19
Passover Feature	20-21
Israel	23
Guest Voices	24
Special Mentschen	25
Profile	27

Hamilton Jewish News

PLEASE RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:

P.O. Box 81203
1030 Lower Lions Club Road
Ancaster ON L9G 4X1
Agreement # 40007180

HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

is published four times a year by Hamilton Jewish News Inc. and is funded by the Hamilton Jewish Federation
Circulation 2,000

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

PUBLISHER

Wendy Schneider

EDITOR

Wendy Schneider
wschneider@jewishhamilton.org

TELEPHONE

905-628-0058

HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION

PRESIDENT
Carl De Leon

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Larry Szpirglas

CEO

Barb Babij

BOARD MEMBERS

Yves Apel, Jeffrey Brown,
Janis P Criger, Howard Eisenberg,
Vadim Gershkovith, Mark Gould,
Daniel Hershkovitz, Zion Naftali,
Yael Reznick DeMarco, Ira Rosen,
Hanna Schayer, David Shore

HJN ADVISORY & EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Aviva Boxer
Brenda Deskin
Wade Hemsworth
Celia Rothenberg

Phil Leon insurance broker inc.
Est. 1965

*Wishing everyone a
Happy Passover*

David A. Leon, FCIP
Vice President

Automobile Insurance Commercial Automobile
Home Insurance Retail, Office & Wholesalers
Home Based Business Commercial General Liability
Personal Umbrella Liability Professional Errors & Omissions Liability

Discount rates available for B'nai Brith members.
Plan underwritten by Novex Group Insurance

Bus: 905.525.0001 1.800.734.6362
dleon@philleon.ca Fax: 905.525.1690



*"I'm so fortunate that my vet highly recommended
McCann Professional Dog Trainers!"*

McCANN
PROFESSIONAL
DOG TRAINERS
Serving Southern Ontario

Call **1-888-681-7877** or register online
www.McCannDogs.com

Now offering Doggie Day Care with a difference!

*More than 50,000 family pets and their owners
trained! New sessions start every month.*

ALBERT SNOW
HAIR DESIGN GROUP

1036 KING WEST HAMILTON
WWW.ALBERTSNOW.COM
905-525-0831

DARE to be YOU

EXCLUSIVE
TECHNIQUES | DESIGN | IMAGINATION



The “good old days” were wonderful, now it’s time to look ahead

by BARB BABIJ
CEO, Hamilton Jewish Federation

The good old days were wonderful; now it’s time to look ahead. Jewish Hamilton is on the cusp of change. Building on earlier leadership forums, Hamilton Jewish Federation began conducting a series of meetings under the rubric, Community with Open Doors. On January 22, professionals and lay leaders from our city’s Jewish agencies met at Temple Anshe Sholom to dialogue about and begin to set community priorities. Among these preliminary rankings, Jewish education ranked most important, followed by financial stability, bonding as a community, a vibrant JCC and inclusivity in Jewish life.

The premise of this process was based on our belief that, in prioritizing goals, we will be able to focus our energies in a more strategic manner and plan how we might

achieve them. During a discussion facilitated by Federation president, Carl De Leon, some participants voiced their impatience with decades of conversations around recurring issues and their desire for action. Others bemoaned the good old days with regard to the JCC. I wondered what’s different today and why does the connection to the JCC on Delaware still resonate so strongly?

The Good Old Days

From the many conversations I’ve had with numerous folks, I’ve learned that people played basketball, learned Hebrew, met other Jews and socialized at the old JCC at 57 Delaware Avenue; that it provided Jewish cultural programming as well as community celebrations; that it was a place where first kisses took place; and that the atmosphere was welcoming and comforting. In short, the JCC was the thriving hub of the

Jewish community in Hamilton for 38 years.

Unforeseen Changes

As the Jewish community moved westward, the decision to sell the Delaware Avenue JCC prompted a search for a new location, and in 1988 the current JCC opened on Lower Lions Club Road in Ancaster. But plans to develop the site as a recreation complex went unrealized, for numerous reasons.

One of the most significant changes has been in our demographics. Based on the 2011 StatsCan census, Jewish Hamilton grew by 9.29 per cent overall, with the largest increase in the 65+ year old category. This demographic shift is also a factor in the decreasing numbers of children attending Jewish day schools, the implications of which are discussed elsewhere in this issue.

Another way in which our demographics changed is an

influx of people moving here from elsewhere and a not insignificant increase in the number of Jews by choice. These are folks who, whatever their current involvement in Jewish life, have no emotional ties to “what was”; indeed, what was has no relevance to them at all.

Other Shifts

In the last number of years, Jewish Hamilton has become more synagogue-centric, each shul offering a full calendar of social and cultural programs that tend to attract its own constituency. For many, supplementary school education has become a more viable and relevant option to Jewish day school education for a number of reasons, including cost.

Many of today’s families include two working parents, and the choices for after-school and week-end activities for children are legion. Jewish-themed activities are not necessarily given high priority.

Increased choice in the philanthropic landscape is having a negative impact on volunteerism and long-term involvement in our Jewish agencies, as well.

The Solution

The tapestry that is Jewish Hamilton is rich and diversified. It is also unsustainable in its current configuration. So what’s the alternative? Some very practical solutions have already been identified – institutions sharing purchasing services, security and employee benefit packages – and we are moving forward on these initiatives. More than that, though, the “right” solutions begin with the word, “Imagine.” Imagine a thriving Jewish community in Hamilton that includes a modified campus concept where all Jewish agencies reside in one place, or are near to one another. Imagine a community where there is choice in Jewish education. Imagine a community where the JCC is a true centre of Jewish life and is accessible to all.

Here’s what we have going for us. We are a small community that works well together. Here is one of our challenges. We are a small community that sometimes does not work well together. And because we are small and self-contained, we must begin to seek partnerships with the wider community.

Society has changed, and so have we, though it’s no wonder that the echoes of the past still resonate. Given the number of changes our community has undergone in the last 30 years, and the current pressure on the infrastructure of Jewish Hamilton, it is time to adapt from models that are no longer effective towards models that will ensure the viability and richness of this community for decades to come.

We need to reinvent ourselves for the 21st century. Together we can find the right solutions for Jewish Hamilton.

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW)

Helping Children. Improving Healthcare. Supporting Women.



BIG NEEDS caring hearts

With your help, Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) changes the lives of children, women and families who are battling hunger, a devastating disease or domestic violence.

Your gift today will answer the growing needs for all who depend on our collective help, showing them just how much we care.



HELPING CHILDREN



IMPROVING HEALTHCARE



SUPPORTING WOMEN

Please give generously. Your Annual Campaign gift today...

Protects a child at risk. Children will have a safe place to call home while receiving nutritious meals and snacks, ensuring they can focus on learning, playing and growing.

Helps heal a patient who has experienced a stroke. Patients will have immediate access to life-saving surgery and a chance for full recovery.

Supports a woman who is struggling day-to-day to feed her children. She will receive guidance and job skills training empowering her and her family.

About CHW

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) is Canada’s leading Jewish women’s philanthropic organization. Founded in 1917, CHW is non-political, volunteer driven and funds a multitude of projects for Children, Healthcare and Women in Israel and Canada.

To give or learn more

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW)

Toll-free: 1.866.937.9431

E-mail: info@chw.ca

Web: www.chw.ca

Canadian Charitable Registration: 135506483RR0001

Us for Us Initiative

Cont’d from page 1

Evidence indicates that the duration and quality of a child’s Jewish education has a strong correlation with subsequent engagement with Jewish life. And choice of Jewish orientation is critical. Together, our two day schools provide a true pluralistic choice for families who want their children to receive a Jewish education. Without this choice, it will become even more difficult to attract families to Hamilton and continue the rich diversity we have today. If Kehila were to close, it is likely that this choice will be gone for good.

Federation supports both schools, but Jewish education in Hamilton is in flux. During the period between Fall 2011 to Spring 2015, attendance at Jewish day schools in Hamilton decreased by 24 per cent, factoring out the children who are bussed to the HHA from Niagara and Kitchener-Waterloo. During this same period, attendance at Jewish afternoon schools decreased by 32 per cent. Interestingly enough, overall funding for Jewish education in Hamilton has remained relatively stable during this same period, with only a slight increase (about one per cent) due to the two new

initiatives supported by Federation last year – special needs and cross-community educational programming.

In our continuing dialogue of community sustainability, on the revenue side, we could hold one fundraiser in 2016 for access to education. On the cost side, we need to consider how we can most effectively support Jewish educational choice. We need to provide the best secular education we can afford, to give our children their best shot at competing in an increasingly competitive world. We need to provide choice across the entire spectrum of Jewish theology as well as multiple entry points to that education. One alternative is a single school, where children from across the community would come together for both secular and special needs education. With regard to Jewish education, a single school could provide two distinct tracks – an orthodox and a progressive. This is only one alternative, and with the barest of bones.

We’d like you to join the conversation. Please call me at 905-648-0605, ext 305 or email bbabij@jewishhamilton.org.

Special Needs Action Plan (SNAP) ready to disburse funds

LAURA WOLFSON

The Hamilton Jewish Federation allocated a small amount to the Special Needs Action Plan (SNAP) committee to assist families with children who have special needs.

Our mission is to promote the full inclusion and participation of individuals of all ages with disabilities in every aspect of their community; to work towards eliminating the social injustices that diminish human rights; to enable collaboration among self-advocates, families, professionals, and advocates to promote equity, opportunity and inclusion.

SNAP envisions a community of full inclusion, where people with disabilities are included and fully participating members of their communities; and where there are no obstacles preventing equity, diversity and quality of life in their education and social opportunities; and where no one is segregated and everyone belongs.

We believe that this vision will be realized when all individuals with disabilities:

- have recreation and learning opportunities.
- are fully included in their neighbourhood school.
- have a way to communicate, as a result of their communities providing alternate ways of communication that support full participation.
- enjoy individualized supports and equality in quality of life and have unqualified access to education.

SNAP is ready to disburse funds to help families who have children with special needs. Although the

funds are limited we hope that they will make a difference. At this time, we are looking to support families who need assistance in getting psychological assessment for their children's educational and recreational needs, as well as to support families whose children need special assistance to be able to participate at Camp Kadimah.

The SNAP committee is made up of representatives from the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, Kehila Jewish Day School, Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School and Beth Jacob Hebrew School, as well as from the Beth Tikvah Foundation of Hamilton, Hamilton Jewish Federation, interested community members and parents.

The SNAP committee is currently working on a plan to partner with a professional who can provide psychological assessments at a reduced rate. We are also exploring the idea of making the JCC playground more accessible for children with disabilities.

One of the messages we hear repeatedly is that it can be very overwhelming for families to access appropriate supports. Beth Tikvah Foundation's Chris Barone is available to help families learn how to access services for children and adults with developmental disabilities. To contact Chris please email cbarone@bethtikvahhamilton.org. For more information about how to apply for funds or other questions, please contact Danielle Belliveau at the Federation office at 905-648-0605, ext 304 or email dbelliveau@jewishhamilton.org.

2015 COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN



YVES APEL
COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN CHAIR

We are ready to wrap up our 2015 Community Campaign. To date, we've raised \$1,028,979, but we will probably fall short of our goal of \$1.4 million. I am afraid this will mean that some of our institutions will be forced to cut back services, and others will close their doors. Our tireless and very talented campaign cabinet supported by dedicated staff and the dozens of canvassers made hundreds of calls and visits.

I want to take a moment now to thank our Campaign Cabinet members for their tireless efforts on behalf of the entire community. They are Carl DeLeon, Steven Dembe, Sandy Fuss, Danna Horwood, Harvey Katz, Jocelyn Katz, Lester Krames, David Loewith, Jay State, Liz Tick and Lawrence Yanover

It can be both exhilarating and discouraging to see what's happening in Jewish Hamilton. Our Campaign reflects it, in my opinion. On the one hand, we raised a lot of money, but on the other hand, it's not even close to what we need to assist some of our institutions. Our schools, for example, need significantly more money than we are raising for them. The unfortunate effect of not "feeding them enough" is that we are slowly starving them. If we are a community that cares about continuity, we need to invest more in our schools. Not funding them sufficiently is short-sighted.

Thank you to all who continue to believe that we are responsible for each other; and that, together we are stronger, safer, healthier, and more prosperous. Thank you, Jewish Hamilton!

PJ Library comes to life!



A series of PJ Library monthly programs are enriching the lives of a broad spectrum of our community, from pre-schoolers and their families to the residents of Shalom Village. These Federation-sponsored events are open to everyone and are a great way to connect with other families. All this is in addition to the free program that sends high-quality, age appropriate Jewish books and music to subscribing families each month in Greater Hamilton. PJ Library

is a gift to Hamilton area families with children from ages 6 months to 6 and a half years old, from the Hamilton Jewish Federation, the Lions of Judah Division, the Shirley and Morris Waxman Family, an anonymous donor and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. To receive the PJ Library monthly newsletter, or if you have PJ Library books your family has outgrown, contact Elaine at 905-627-9922 ext. 24 or email elevine@jewishhamilton.org.

Don't miss these upcoming PJ Library programs

Tuesday, March 17, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Join us for PJ Library Pesach-themed story time and crafts at Kehila's Open House, 215 Cline Ave. N., Hamilton

Thursday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy PJ Library stories and cake at the annual Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration at the JCC at 1030 Lower Lions Club Rd., Ancaster

Sunday, May 3 at 10:00 a.m.

Join us at "Morning in the Park" with Beth Jacob Synagogue. Activities will include Beulah park clean-up, PJ Library stories and crafts and more! Location details to follow.



Photos by Elaine Levine



Kehila looks for a way forward

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

David Shore knows full well that the financial struggles faced by Kehila are being played out in Jewish day schools across North America who are similarly challenged by declining enrolment, increased demands for financial assistance by parents who cannot afford full tuition, and the need to accommodate a growing number of children with special needs. Nevertheless, it's painful to know that his youngest daughter, currently in Grade 4, will not have the opportunity to spend one more year at the school from which her three older sisters graduated.



A hallmark of Kehila is its allowing girls the same religious privileges as boys. Photo by Rina Rodak

Kehila appeared on the Jewish Hamilton landscape 16 years ago after a small group of parents, whose children had formerly attended the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, decided to establish a second Jewish day school in the city, that was both pluralistic and egalitarian and offered a curriculum that integrated secular and Judaic studies. The school opened in 1999 with five children, peaked at 41, and currently has 26 students enrolled. There are more than 100 alumni students from the past 15 years. With between 40 and 80 per cent of students receiving tuition subsidies over that time, Kehila has always relied heavily on donations from private donors and annual fundraising efforts. But with 85 per cent of current families unable to pay full tuition this year, it's no wonder that the board saw the current situation as unsustainable. Since its founding, the school has insisted that every student who desires a Jewish education should receive one.

It speaks to the Kehila parent body's love for the school that, undeterred by such dim financial prospects, a group of parents are making plans to put together a new board and strategize how to keep the school open. Ryan Lobb, the current treasurer, is likely to succeed David Shore as chair of the new board. Lobb, whose three children attend Kehila, said that for the school to continue, it has to increase enrolment, fundraise for bursaries, and seek donors willing to fund Kehila's special needs program.

"The special needs program is a large investment for the school" Lobb told the HJN, explaining that the school currently employs one full time and one part-time E.A., whose combined salaries make up a

"This sends a signal. If this community can't support education, then the next generation is not going to be an engaged generation."

David Shore
Chair, Kehila Jewish Community Day School

significant portion of the school budget. Lobb said that there is currently a verbal commitment of 11 students for Kehila's Junior Kindergarten, Senior Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes.

"We do not have any children going into Grade 2 and only one child going into Grade 3," he said, "so the decision facing us right now is whether we continue with just the lower grades. With just JK, SK, and Grade 1, the financial need is \$80,000"

Lobb, who grew up in Edmonton, thinks that giving parents options when it comes to choosing a Jewish day school is essential. Were Kehila to close, he feels certain that, "we would lose all of these children to public school."

For David Shore this is a pivotal moment in the history of Hamilton's Jewish community.

"This sends a signal," he said. "If this community can't support education, then the next generation is not going to grow up and be an engaged generation."

Kehila: A Personal Plea

by DAVID I. SHORE, on behalf of the Kehila Board of Directors

All four of my daughters attended Kehila JCDS. The youngest is currently a student in Grade 4. While it is my deepest hope that she graduate from Kehila, like her sisters, that may not be possible.

The Kehila board, which I chair, needed to make a decision about next year early in order to inform teachers and parents in a timely fashion. All of the current families want this high quality experience to continue, but the board must consider its financial position. We are still actively fundraising for the current year—please consider donating.



The Hamilton Jewish community has struggled with the concept of two schools for many years. While some feel strongly that one school should be able to accommodate the needs of our community. Others feel that parents need an alternative where all of the community's educators (cantors and rabbis) can teach, where girls are taught the same things, and given the same rights, as boys, and where parents influence how the curriculum is taught. Kehila's multiple modalities of artistic expression—art, drama, music—and spiral curriculum that integrates the secular studies with Judaics and Hebrew provides this alternative learning environment.

Beyond the stellar mainstream education, Kehila integrates children with exceptionalities into the learning environment, which presents both a challenge and an opportunity; Kehila provides an excellent environment for all of our community's children.

The current board has decided that we cannot afford to operate for another year; however, parents of JK/SK/Grade 1 children are eager to continue the tradition of liberal, egalitarian Jewish education that is the hallmark of Kehila. In order to remain open another year, we require pledges for next year of \$80,000 before the end of May, on top of the needs for the current year.

To be clear, the current board of Kehila has made a decision to close the school based on its fiduciary responsibility. At the same time, a new board consisting of young families is trying to bring together the same energy and excitement that began this school 16 years ago.

On a personal level, I am pledging \$10,000 to this cause, even if my daughter will not graduate from this school. If only seven other people step up and do the same, we can continue to enrich the lives of our future Jewish community for another year. Please contact me directly at dishore@me.com if you want to become involved.

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 our clients. If you have any questions about what we can provide you, feel free to contact us.



Ross & McBride LLP

1 King Street, 10th Floor
Hamilton, ON L8P 1A4

TEL: 905.526.9800
FAX: 905.526.0732

www.rossmcbride.com

Lawyers in your Corner



Brad Wiseman

Hon. David Steinberg

Barry Yellin

Jeffrey Manishen

Alison Pick to speak about her journey to Judaism

On Monday, April 27, Na'amat's annual Celebrity Author Luncheon will feature Alison Pick. Alison Pick is the author of the novel *Far to Go*, which was nominated for the prestigious Man Booker Prize and won the 2011 Canadian Jewish Book Award for Fiction.

As a teenager, Pick, who grew up in Kitchener, Ontario, discovered that her grandparents were Jews who had escaped from the Czech Republic during the Second World War, and that most of this side of the family had died in concentration camps. Her father, who had only learned of his heritage as a young man, kept the secret from Pick and her sister.

In her early thirties, Pick, 40, began to research her Jewish heritage. In her recent memoir, *Between Gods*, Pick recounts her struggle with the meaning of her faith, her journey to convert to Judaism, her battle with depression, and her path towards facing and accepting the past and embracing the future.

The following is an interview by Hamilton resident, Annette Richardson with the award-winning author.

AR: How was writing a memoir different from your earlier work?

AP: With a memoir you are working from your life and with a novel you are making things up. There are elements of narrative that make a novel a good novel. Plot, setting, tension and character development are all really crucial in a memoir also. Even though it was a switch for me, it was not really as radically different as I had anticipated.

AR: In the beginning of *Between Gods*, you share your discovery of your Jewish heritage. Can you say something about this family secret and your reaction to it?

AP: I think my reaction to it has really changed over the years. I grew up knowing nothing about the fact that my dad was Jewish. There were a couple of incidents when I was 10, 11 and 12, that sort of made me understand at the most superficial level that Dad was Jewish. But there was still this secrecy in our family. I remember trying to ask about it and feeling that the conversation was very tense. I think there was a way in which I both knew and didn't know

— Where I knew on the surface but I certainly didn't understand the deeper implication. My understanding had deepened when I was a teenager. But it was really when I began to research my novel *Far to Go* that I began to have a sense of the scope of what had happened in my family and the impact of that, the trauma of the Holocaust and the further secrecy.

AR: When and how did you make the decision to convert to Judaism?

AP: When I started to research *Far to Go*, I took a basic introduction to Judaism class, and I experienced an immediate and visceral response to the material in a sense that this is who I was and what I was supposed to be. It was then that the seed was planted. The actual process of converting was longer and more political but it eventually worked out and I feel like it was the right end to the story.

AR: How has your relationship with your father evolved since your decision?

AP: I feel like the decision to convert has brought Dad and me closer. It's a little hard for him to understand the extremes to which I went, but he is really proud of both *Far to Go* and *Between Gods*. He was really helpful in the process of writing both the books. I think that is an especially nice thing for our relationship.

AR: How did your mother accept your decision to convert?

AP: My Dad is a person whose feelings are all out on the surface and my Mom is a person who is the opposite. There were certainly some intense conversations about it. I was cognizant that I didn't want her to experience it as a rejection of her side of the family. Of course, on some level it ultimately is going to be a rejection of the way they raised me. However, she is a kind, understanding and supportive person. I feel like it has been fine for our relationship.

AR: You write openly about your battle with depression in *Between Gods*. Is it difficult to reveal yourself so honestly to your readers?

AP: Because I think of my writing as an art,



Alison Pick is the featured speaker at this year's Na'amat Celebrity Author Luncheon.

Photo by Emma-Lee Photography

first and foremost, I become fixated on the craft of how to tell the story. The content of what I am telling becomes a little superfluous, not the main focus. I am really thinking of how do I make this a good story and how do I make the reader want to turn the pages. I know that the memoirs that I love the most are the ones where I feel that the writer is risking something and being honest and vulnerable. To me if a memoir doesn't do that it doesn't really succeed. So, it was easy in that way. I knew I wanted to write the best book I could. By being honest that was going to help the book.

AR: What was the inspiration behind your novel, *Far to Go*, which, in some ways, feels autobiographical?

AP: The family in *Far to Go* is in some ways inspired by my family. In particular, anybody who knew my grandmother, will see her in the character Annaliese. My grandfather had a textile factory as does the family in the book. So there is certainly some overlap. Because I had never written historical fiction before, I didn't want to be constrained by what exactly happened to

my family. I wanted to have the freedom to create tension and story. I used my family as the inspiration but I took a lot of artistic liberties. Certainly what happens to the family in *Far to Go* is different from what happened to my family.

NEED TO KNOW

WHAT: Na'amat Hamilton's 25th anniversary Celebrity Author Luncheon

WHEN: Monday, April 27 at noon

WHERE: Adas Israel Congregation, 125 Cline Avenue North, Hamilton

TICKETS: Call 905-528-4508 or email authorluncheon@cogeco.ca. Tickets are also available at Bryan Prince Book-seller, 1060 King St. W., Hamilton.

ABOUT NA'AMAT: Na'amat is a non-profit charitable organization that provides shelters in Israel for abused women and children, legal counselling, recreational and retraining programs, and a countrywide network of daycare centres.

NEW HORIZON DEVELOPMENT GROUP PRESENTS
HAMILTON'S PREMIER CONDO COMMUNITY
 SALES CENTRE AT 85 ROBINSON ST | ANYTIME BY APPOINTMENT | TEL 289.389.1734

CITY SQUARE
HAMILTON'S TRUE ADDRESS OF DISTINCTION

SUPERIOR LOCATION IN THE PRESTIGIOUS DURAND NEIGHBOURHOOD
 DISCOVER THE ULTIMATE CONDO LIFESTYLE
 GEOTHERMAL COOLING AND HEATING

NEW HORIZON DEVELOPMENT GROUP
 NEWHORIZONHOMES.CA



The Beth Jacob kitchen was filled with congregants of all ages on a lovely January morning, eager to learn the secret to baking beautiful challot. Under the guidance of Beth Jacob's in-house cook, Katrina Simmons, the participants learned how to knead and bake their own beautifully braided and baked challah. Karen Selsberg was on hand to explain why challah baking is a mitzvah and when this practice began. Above, Ben Avetissian, along with other children and parents prepare their challot. Photo by Rina Rodak

hamilton hebrew academy



For nearly 40 years, Rabbi W. Zev Eisenstein greeted every child at the front door of our school with the words "It's a beautiful day at the HHA." Those welcoming and heartfelt words touched students both near and far and gave the HHA an incredible reach that transcended all affiliations and boundaries.

So many children were greeted at the front door by Rabbi Eisenstein with open arms. Now, in his memory, we can commit ourselves to opening the door for more children to experience the beauty of Jewish education.

This past year, more than 20 students from Niagara and Kitchener Waterloo travelled each day on HHA buses to become part of the rich HHA history.

Beginning in September 2015, bus routes to and from Burlington, Oakville, Dundas and Ancaster will be added to help make it possible for more students across Southwestern Ontario to attend a Jewish school. For information, or to support this important initiative in memory of Rabbi Eisenstein, please visit www.hamiltonhebrewacademy.ca/supportus.

Lawyers and Trade Mark Agents

OUR TEAM

Our team combines the wisdom and ingenuity of our partners with the energy and enthusiasm of our associates. We're a hard-working client focused firm with a can-do culture.

CONFIDENTIALITY / DISCRETION

We emphasize absolute confidentiality and discretion on behalf of our valued clients.

PRACTICE AREAS

We are as close to a full-service law firm as you will find in the region. We cover many areas including purchase and sales of businesses and property, commercial leasing, shareholder agreements and disputes, land development and corporate restructuring.

OUR REPUTATION

We are a mid-sized law firm that has earned an enviable reputation for excellence.

Joseph G. Speranzini
Business and Real Estate Law



SCARFONE HAWKINS LLP

1 James St. S., 14th Floor Phone: 905-523-1333
P.O. Box 926, Depot 1 Fax: 905-523-5878
Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3P9 Email: speranzini@shlaw.ca

www.shlaw.ca

tas religious school

LAURA WOLFSON

This past February, three of our Temple teens, Arielle DeLeon, Shelby Frank-Davis and Matthew Sampson, participated in the NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth) National Leadership Convention in Atlanta. This is the first time that Temple Anshe Sholom has sent delegates to this important leadership convention, which every year energizes and inspires Reform Jewish young people who are on the cutting edge of Jewish youth activism, leadership and programming.

Our youth participate regularly in NFTY events, coming together three to five times during the year for learning, fun, worship, community service, and fellowship to help young Jewish adults throughout the region build and strengthen lifetime ties with each other and Reform Judaism. However this year has been an outstanding year for our young leaders.

On the last weekend of March, our youth group hosted a weekend retreat for teens from the Northeast Lakes region. Four delegates from each Reform congregation in the region (100 in total) came to Temple Anshe Sholom to elect the 2015-2016 regional executive Board. There were speeches, meet the candidate sessions, as well as some unique programming, planned by, and for our youth leaders. Lively and uplifting Shabbat services were led by NFTY regional tefillah and song leaders. Many Temple families supported the event by offering home hospitality to our out-of-town guests throughout the weekend, and by helping to cook meals for 100+ hungry teenagers and their adult advisors.

The dedication and commitment of our young people to their Jewish values and their community is truly encouraging.

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, May 10 from 2 - 4:30 p.m.
JEWISH HAMILTON
for grades 3-10
LIMO SCAVENGER HUNT
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT limohunt2015@gmail.com

THE FOREVER FUND

A message from the JCC Co-Presidents



The Hamilton JCC has been part of the fabric of the Jewish community for more than 128 years. During that time, the demographics of our community have changed. What hasn't changed is the desire and need for a central Jewish meeting place, which encompasses and respects the different streams of our religion and ethnicity. We are, without question, stronger as a community with a solid JCC.

Your Hamilton Jewish Community Centre is launching the 2015 annual Forever Fund to ensure the history, present, and future needs of our community. To do this, of course, requires commitment and funding. Through the Forever Fund, we can build on our strengths and open the door to limitless possibilities. We need to look forward to the next generation and be able to provide for their needs and desires while continuing to be a beacon of Jewish culture for Hamilton. This has become even more relevant with recent developments in the world.

Simply put, we need your help. Be part of history and help us write the future chapters for this great institution. The JCC annual Forever Fund is the way to our collective future.

We would be glad to discuss your donation or answer any questions you may have with respect to our place in the community. Please call Laura or Jenn at 905-648-0605 for further information.





Should you wish to talk about any other JCC related issues, you can contact me directly at lowellrichter@icloud.com

Thank you.

Lowell Richter and Ed Zaltz
Co-Presidents, Hamilton Jewish Community Centre

2015 JCC ANNUAL FOREVER FUND

YOUR GIFT PROVIDES CRITICAL FUNDING FOR THE ENGAGING PROGRAMS AT THE CENTRE. THESE GIFTS ENABLE THE JCC TO BE A LEADER IN CULTURAL, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING.

			
DIAMOND \$5000	SAPPHIRE \$2500	RUBY \$1000	EMERALD \$500

YOUR GIFT HELPS

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE JCC FOREVER FUND

- DIAMOND \$5000
- SAPPHIRE \$2500
- RUBY \$1000
- EMERALD \$500 _____
- OTHER _____



P.O. BOX 81203
ANCASTER, ON L9G 4X1

PLEASE CALL THE JCC AT 905-648-0605 TO CONTRIBUTE. JCCHAMILTON@GMAIL.COM



A Message from Laura Laengerer, JCC Coordinator

It's Tuesday morning and the JCC parking lot is full. The tennis balls are flying high and the majjongg ladies are socializing and playing. Ladies are moving and grooving to the beat for our Zumba class as well. Why isn't every day like this at the JCC? I have decided it is time to ask you, the community for some feedback. What is it that you would like to see happening at the JCC. Is it a lunch and learn, a lecture, an art class, yoga, a basketball league or just a social event? Please reach out to Laura Laengerer by calling 905-648-0605.

PROGRAMS

Israeli Folk Dancing
Every second Monday from 6 - 7pm
April 13, 27, May 11, June 8, 22

Maj Jongg
Tuesdays 10 am - noon

LET THE JCC HOST YOUR NEXT SIMCHA!

Rent the bubble, the bouncy castle, the "yellow" room or the lounge for your next birthday or b'nai mitzvah party! We set up for you, you bring the guests!

EVENTS

Yom Hashoah
Thursday, April 16
7 pm at the Adas Israel

Yom Ha'atzmaut
Thursday, April 23
6:30 pm at the JCC

Lag Ba'Omer
Wednesday, May 6
6:30 pm at the JCC

Max and Stella Rotman Youth Awards
Wednesday, June 3 at 7:00 pm

CAMP KADIMAH



July 6 to August 28

We need specialists and counsellors!
Are you going into grade 10 and above and want to be a part of a wonderful community camp? If so then now is the time to send your resume and cover letter to laurajcc@gmail.com

Wishing the community a
Happy Passover



Kyle Foster
Sales Representative



Jordan Guest
Sales Representative



Tanis Hall
Sales Representative



Jack Levy
Broker



Judy Rosen
Sales Representative



Larry Szpirglas
Broker

Helping you is what we do.



905.648.4451

1122 Wilson Street West
Ancaster, On L9G 3K8



Community support makes the Shalom Village experience possible

In a world of stagnant and limited public funding for services to frail seniors, charitable donations make an incredibly positive and lasting impact on daily life at Shalom Village. They help make it possible to provide those little extras, to create and maintain beautiful and comforting spaces for the residents. What makes Shalom Village different is its unique ATHOME approach to care, and the organization works hard to ensure people maintain their quality of life when they move there. While residents may need assistance with some aspects of daily living, they also have opportunities to participate in activities that have had meaning to them throughout their lives.

Donations help to provide fulfilling, fun programs through the Community Centre. Whether it's music therapy, creative arts, spiritual support, access to transportation or fitness and wellness, programs are tailored to the capabilities of the residents. For example, the Club Fitness Centre, which is so crucial for residents' continued mobility and wellbeing, would not exist without contributions from the annual Hanukkah Hustle, a 1K, 5K and 10K Run/Walk.

In addition, a special project is chosen each year to receive the proceeds from the Annual Shalom Village Ladies Auxiliary Chai Tea. In 2014, the funds raised allowed Shalom Village to add sprinkler systems, giving resi-

“

Thank you for all the kindness my father was shown at Shalom Village by all the staff. They made every effort to welcome my father and include him in the things he liked to do.

My beloved sister's last years of life were filled with love and comfort through the care provided by ALL the staff. Shalom is a wonderful organization that fills a place of need in our community and the general community.

”

dents and their families peace of mind knowing their home is protected by the best and most up-to-date fire protection equipment.

Thanks to donations to the Renovations Fund, in 2015 residents in the original building's long term care suites will have new bathrooms, as well as special spa showers and baths. This fund also provides equipment including mattresses,

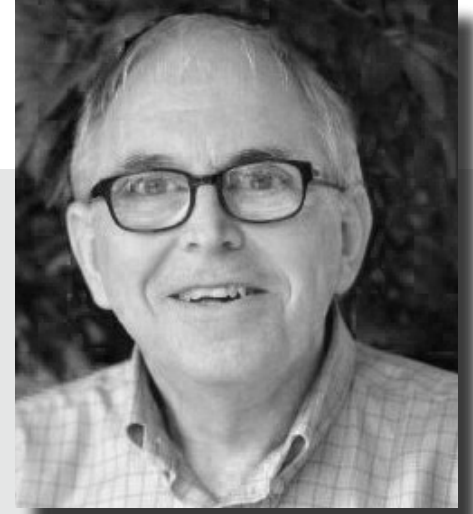
bathtubs, lifts, medical monitoring devices, and the list goes on. Resident care, because of this response to needs, is never compromised.

Shalom Village's approach to palliative care – to ensure that when a resident's end of life draws near, they need never be alone – has been made possible almost entirely through donations. This support comes from contributions to palliative care and the interest from the Palliative Care Endowment Fund. Especially for residents with limited support or small incomes, these gifts make a tremendous difference.

At the moment, the Board of Directors and staff of the Shalom Village Charitable Foundation are placing special emphasis on building up the Endowment Fund. A robust endowment will provide a stable source of funding so residents today and in the future will continue to have those extras that make all the difference in their quality of life. Shalom Village is relying on significant donations from individuals in the community and its Legacy Giving program to enhance this vitally important pool of funds.

This vivid picture shows how community support, at all levels, is integral to daily life at Shalom Village. Indeed, it is what makes possible the exquisite ATHOME experience we provide for our residents, staff and the broader community.

Remembering Our Bob



It is with deep sadness we announce that Bob Deans lost his six-year battle with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. Bob was a long serving team member at Shalom Village. As part of his role as Director of Levy Solutions, Bob was the creative mastermind behind our communication and public relations. He created the Shalom Village website, Grapevine, videos, e-blasts and this very page that we profile in the Hamilton Jewish News. He is deeply missed by our residents, staff, Board of Directors, and the many community members that he interacted with as part of his work at Shalom Village. He has left behind his loving wife and four children and many family and friends. Bob loved coming to work every day to help us live our mission of Honouring our Father and our Mothers, and his contributions will live on in our work with our residents and our community. May his memory be a blessing to all those who knew him.

Happy Passover from your friends at Shalom Village



Passover is celebrated at Shalom Village with a Seder, where the story of Passover is retold through the reading of the Haggadah. With its special foods, songs and customs, the seder is the high point of our Passover celebration.

Preparations start early as our kitchens and dining rooms are cleaned and our regular dishes go into storage to be replaced by special Passover dishes and utensils. Matzah and matzah products are substituted for bread products (Shalom Village uses more than 280 packages of matzah during Passover!).

Our residents and their families enjoy a seder on the first night of Passover in our dining rooms beginning with candlelighting and reading the haggadah, accompanied by a traditional dinner.

Join with your community now and make a gift to Shalom Village



A Shalom Village resident using a Nustep machine in the Club Fitness Centre

We need your help with:

- Our many renovations
- Support for the Hustle and the Tea
- Growing our Endowment
- Enhancing the Community Centre experience
- Increasing our Chai Club membership

For more information on how you can help, please contact Kathleen Thomas, Executive Director of the Shalom Village Charitable Foundation at kathleen@shalomvillage.ca or 905-529-1613, ext. 264.



Passover Cards

Send Shalom Village Tribute Cards to honour family and friends at Passover. Just give us your list and we'll take care of the rest. Contact Kate Buchanan at 905-529-1613 ext. 356 or email kate@shalomvillage.ca

Save the Date! Upcoming Events in 2015

Wednesday June 24
34th Annual Ladies Auxiliary Chai Tea

Sunday November 15
14th Annual Hanukkah Hustle



Shalom Village
shalomvillage.ca
70 Macklin Street North
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 3S1
P: 905-529-1613 F: 905-529-7542
E: info@shalomvillage.ca

jewish social services

BY CAROL KRAMES

The people we see at Jewish Social Services need our help in many different ways. Very often our clients are in financial difficulty due to chronic illness, mental health problems, unemployment, or recent immigration. But very often people need attention in other ways. And that's where volunteers can help us. Here are some ways you can help:

Call a lonely person

Many of our clients are shut-ins. They are elderly and have trouble getting out in the winter or have physical restrictions that make it impossible. They would love to hear from someone, especially in the evenings. A friendly voice on the phone can make a huge difference in someone's life.

Help someone find a job

Unemployment levels are high in the Jewish community. If you can mentor someone in your place of employment, or help someone write a resume or find a job, you'd be doing that individual an amazing service.

Help shop for the Kosher Food Bank

Every month JSS provides 45 needy families with their basic nutritional needs.

Our Food Bank could benefit from shoppers to help us stock its shelves with kosher nonperishable packaged and canned goods and cosmetic items. You can also donate the items in exchange for a tax receipt.

Organize a food drive

Do you belong to a book group, study group or women's organization? Planning a birthday party? All of these are opportunities to organize a food drive for the Kosher Food Bank.

Cook or bake for us

We are always in need of people to help prepare meals for the 25 seniors who are part of our sheltered workshop.

Lead a discussion group

Lead a discussion for our speakers bureau on topics such as current affairs, medical issues, senior safety and healthy eating. The stimulation and attention we give our seniors makes a huge difference in their well being.

If you think you'd like to help us with any of the above, please contact Carol Krames, director Hamilton Jewish Social Services by calling 905-627-9922, ext 21 or email carolkramesjss@hotmail.com.

jewish genealogical society

STEVEN BROCK

Once again we find ourselves coming to the end of another successful year at the Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton and Area (JGSH). As we approach the summer, we look back on our 11th year as being among our best ever.

We still have three very exciting events that are sure to appeal to genealogists and the public at large.

Perhaps your grandfather, born in 1914 had an Austrian birth certificate written in German. His marriage certificate (1938) was issued by the Polish Republic in Polish, and his first daughter has a birth certificate issued by the Ukrainian Soviet Republic. Yet, he lived his entire life in the house where he was born. Does that make sense? Yes! Although your grandfather never moved, the political borders of Europe did.

On April 29, Dr. Ralph Bloch will explain the changing political geography of Europe over the past 300 years in his presentation, *The Wandering Borders of Europe*.

Then on May 20, we are excited to host University of Guelph Associate Professor of History and the on-air genealogist from History TV's hit show "Ancestors in the Attic", Dr. Kevin James.

In *Family Mysteries and Public Histories*, James explores the intersections of family history and popular media in as he charts the twists and turns of a cold case, and reveals how the shocking results are framed for a wide public audience.

Finally, our season wraps up on June 10 as the founder of Global Genealogy, Rick Roberts, guides us on a voyage of discovery into Researching Canadian First World War Records Using Online and Traditional Resources.

JGSH Meetings are held monthly between September and June at Temple Anshe Sholom. All are welcome! Contact Hazel Boon at 905-524-3345 or jgshamilton@gmail.com for more information.



Since 1965, Vine and Partners LLP has been providing comprehensive financial services and exceptional customer service to a wide variety of clients in Canada and the U.S. Our expert team of professionals partner with you to design innovative and comprehensive financial solutions to drive your business forward on all levels.

- Audit and Review Engagements
- Corporate Tax and Reorganizations
- U.S. and International Tax Services
- Business Transition Planning
- Personal Tax and Estate Planning
- Not-for-Profit and Charity Engagements

VINE and PARTNERS LLP 
1 Hunter Street East, Suite 100 • Hamilton ON L8N 3W1 • (905) 549 8463 • vine.on.ca

PETTINELLI MASTROLUISI LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

For more than 25 years, Pettinelli Mastroluisi LLP has provided auditing, accounting, income tax and estate planning services to clients in a variety of industries, including manufacturing, construction, healthcare, retail, service and automotive. Pettinelli Mastroluisi LLP is committed to helping clients grow their businesses profitably. Through its affiliate, Pettinelli Mastroluisi Valuations Inc., the Firm provides valuation and litigation support services including expert testimony in court.

T. 905-522 6555 F: 905 522 6574 6th Floor, One James Street South, Hamilton ON

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW)
Helping Children. Improving Healthcare. Supporting Women.



CHW Children Healthcare Women

Chag Sameach!



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

We are deeply grateful for your generosity and support of our mission, which makes a tremendous difference in the lives of children, patients and women at CHW projects in Israel.

Claudia Goldman
National President

Board of Directors

Alina Ianson
National Executive Director


Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) is Canada's leading Jewish women's philanthropic organization. Founded in 1917, CHW is non-political, volunteer driven and funds projects for Children, Healthcare and Women in Israel and Canada.

Web: www.chw.ca


Email: info@chw.ca

Tel: 1.866.937.9431

JUDY MARS SALES
REAL ESTATE LTD. Brokerage



JORDAN ZALTER
Sales Representative



SARIT ZALTER
Sales Representative

Wishing our clients & the community a Happy Passover

Sylvia Simpson

Westdale
(905) 522-3300

Locke St.
(905) 529-3300

Dundas
(905) 628-2200

www.judymarsales.com

BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE PRESENTS



MICHÈLE TREDGER

SUNDAY
MAY 3
2015
7:00 PM

Tickets:
\$25 in advance
\$30 at the door
905.522.1351

 www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca
www.micheletredger.com

beth jacob synagogue

Beth Jacob Synagogue invites the community to join them in expressing their love and appreciation to Rabbi Dan and Karen Selsberg, who will be moving to the United States this summer. On Sunday, June 14, the shul will present Simcha V'Hokara, In Celebration and Appreciation of Rabbi Dan and Karen Selsberg. The evening includes a gala dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by the main event at 7:30 p.m.

In their nine years in Hamilton, the Selsbergs have made significant contributions to Jewish life in our community.

Rabbi Dan has been a warm and compassionate presence in nursing homes and hospitals, schools, Hamilton City Hall and community meetings and events of all stripes and purpose. No stranger to rock concerts and sporting venues, he still managed to maintain rabbinical decorum expressing some very partisan team allegiances. A true leader, whose integrity, wisdom and wit gained him widespread respect and affection throughout this community and this city, he will be sorely missed.

In her short time in Hamilton, Karen Selsberg has been a role model and leader in her own right. A former chair of Kehila Jewish Community Day School, Karen has been the driving force behind bringing the challenges met by

special needs families to the forefront of the community agenda. Karen's weekly Torah class held at Jewish Social Services has brought together women from across the community spectrum to a deeper knowledge and appreciation for Judaism.

In recognition of their many and valued contributions to our shul and to this community, Beth Jacob has launched the Rabbi Dan and Karen Selsberg Fund for Creative Jewish Life as a way for those whose lives have been touched by the Selsbergs, to contribute. For more information, please contact Hanna Schayer, executive director, at 905-522-1351.

On Sunday, May 3, Beth Jacob presents the incomparable Michèle Tredger, for a memorable night of music. Tredger, the wife of Beth Jacob Cantor Eyal Bitton, is known to many in Hamilton for her versatile and phenomenal voice, which The Epoch Times calls "an impressive instrument." As comfortable singing jazz as she is singing pop, neo-soul, Broadway, and operatic arias, Tredger has performed in numerous concerts, cabarets, oratorios, and musicals. Michele Tredger In Concert will take place on Sunday, May 3 at 7 p.m. at Beth Jacob Synagogue. Advance tickets are \$25; \$30 at the door. To order, call 905-522-1351 or email office@bethjacobsynagogue.ca.

Dependability,
Accountability
& Trust



THE
RICHTER
GROUP

350 Parkdale Ave. N, Hamilton
905-547-3211 | therichtergroup.ca

HOLD THE DATE
SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2015
FOR



שמחה והוקרה

In celebration and appreciation of
RABBI DAN AND KAREN SELSBERG'S
contributions to Jewish life in Hamilton

Details at www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca

B'nai Brith Sports Dinner always a thrill for local sports fans



Emcee Jim Ralph with B'nai Brith Sports Dinner co-chair, Jeff Paikin. Photo by Donna Waxman

by H.A. DIAMOND

On January 26, sports legends, corporate leaders and throngs of local sports fanatics converged on the Hamilton Convention Centre for the 64th Annual B'nai Brith Hamilton Sports Celebrity Dinner. The event, presented by Investors Group and chaired by Brent Clifford and Hamilton's 2013 Citizen of the Year, Jeff Paikin, has raised more than two million dollars in its illustrious history for numerous local and national charitable organizations.

As in recent years past, longtime Toronto Maple Leafs announcer Jim Ralph served as master of ceremonies, and helped honour this year's panel of sports celebrities which included Hamilton's own, NHL icon Dave Andreychuk, Toronto Blue Jay great Devon White, Canadian Olympic Gold Medalist, Laura Fortino, Craig Butler of the Hamilton Tiger Cats, former Toronto Raptor GM, Glen Grunwald, Joe Bowen, Derek Wills and this year's feature guest, former MLB

pitcher and motivational speaker Jim "The Rookie" Morris.

The gala also provided the opportunity for the local athletic and business communities to commemorate and celebrate those student-athletes who, during the 2013-14 season, have excelled at their respective sports while exemplifying qualities and characteristics that have a powerful and profound impact on their schools and communities.

"This event has always held a special place in my heart and the city's as well," said Paikin. "Having the opportunity to honour some of our country's most accomplished athletes, while raising much needed money for worthwhile charities that strive to make a difference in our community, is something we can all take pride in."

Plans are already under way for next year's dinner. Stay tuned for more details.

Something for everyone at Na'amat's Wellness Day



Photos by Irwin Rodin

On January 25 Na'amat Hamilton held its first city-wide Wellness Day at Temple Anshe Sholom. The facilities provided an excellent setting for this special gathering, and the event surpassed expectations.

Participants started the day by signing up for either a yoga class with Wendy Schneider or a Pilates class with Debbie Strub and Hadas Gabizon. Both classes were relaxing, intense and offered a full body work-out, and people left with smiles on their faces.

After a delicious and healthy snack, participants listened to Dr. Sonia Anand, chair of Women's Health at McMaster University, speak about healthy diet; Dr. Stuart Phillip, professor of kinesiology at McMaster speak about the benefits of exercise; and Dr. Jeff Ennis, a specialist in chronic pain, speak about hypnotherapy as a highly effective method of managing pain. All three talks kept the audience fully engaged, as we found relevance in

the topics and took note of information that had direct interest and application.

By 4:15 p.m. people were quickly rejuvenated with another quick snack and pumped to try either a Salsa class with fitness instructor Tracy Kornblum or an "Insanity" workout with Gustavo Araujo. Both high energy classes were well attended as their awesome instructors created a synergy between the music and the exercises.

While most people participated in the exercise programs, others preferred to hang back and engage in conversations. Some participants just came for the lectures. No matter what parts of the program people participated in, they came away having enjoyed an afternoon of camaraderie and friendly shared purpose, with new tools to improve their health and a renewed sense of well-being.

Watch for Na'amat's second annual Wellness Day next year and plan to join in.

A multi-generational Tu Bi'Shevat

Stories by SUZY POLGAR, Jewish National Fund



Playing JNF Tic Tac Toe and Find the Hidden Blue Box games.

Photos by Rebecca Shapiro

More than 20 residents of Shalom Village enjoyed a JNF Tu Bi'Shevat this year, along with school children and their families. It was truly a multi-generational event!

Being a shmitta year, we decided that since no trees can be planted in the land of Israel this year, we would create our own JNF forest right here in Hamilton at Shalom Village! Under the guidance of Robert Reti of Oakville and his daughter, Eszter, participants were able to plant maple seeds and keys into pots of soil that will be nurtured and planted in an area designated for this purpose at Shalom Village.

Other activities included fabric painting with Marilyn Levy, PJ Library stories with Esther and Lauren Levine, Tu Bi'Shevat games, drum circles and painting clay pots and planting parsley for our Pesach seder tables.



Multigenerational Drum Circle - Helen Goldflus and David Levy with his children.

Thanks to our wonderful chair, Rebecca Shapiro, Shalom Village volunteer coordinator Debbie Ginsberg, Donna Sampson and Dafna Bener.

Don't miss out on next year's event as it gets bigger and better every time!

JNF's Mind and Body 360°



Listening intently to keynote speaker Esther Konigsberg

Photos by Wendy Schneider

More than 30 ladies braved the heavy snow conditions in order to attend JNF Hamilton's second annual 360° program on Thursday, Jan. 29. While last year's inaugural event focused on our 'outer selves', this year the focus was on women's physical and emotional health, with featured speaker Dr. Esther Konigsberg, MD, whose practice combines conventional with alternative medicine. It was clear that Dr. Konigsberg's topic, Women's Health, Hormones and Happiness, resonated deeply with her audience, who sat in rapt attention to her remarks. In addition to Konigsberg's remarks, the audience watched a video created by Jennifer Howe of Perfect Sphere Productions that focused on a women's shelter in Jerusalem, that stands to benefit from a garden towards which proceeds of the event were directed.

JNF thanks lead sponsors Lax Financial, Sandra and Ken Cohen, Relax Esthetics and Sasha and Tom Weisz, and many other generous donors. Thanks as well to Wendy Schneider

for taking photographs, Eva Raphael for setting up the food tables and to the JCC for the use of their lounge. Who knew that the room could be transformed into such an elegant and sophisticated setting?

Our dedicated committee was led by co-chairs Yael Arnold, Danna Horwood and Laura Laengerer, and all members of the team, including Nicole Feldman, Daisy Hadfield and Darlene Shapiro, worked very hard to make the evening a success. We look forward to next year's 360° event and to see what they committee will do to top this year's event!



Committee co-chair Yael Arnold

OVER
100
EMPLOYEES

3
BRANDS

3
DEALERSHIPS



NISSAN



TOYOTA


parkway
NISSAN

OF STONEY CREEK

www.parkwaynissan.com

Red Hill  **TOYOTA**
 **SCION**

www.redhilltoyota.ca

UPPERJAMES 
TOYOTA

www.upperjamestoyota.ca

1 FAMILY

**WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
A JOYFUL PASSOVER SEASON AND
HAPPINESS ALL THROUGH THE YEAR**

The world according to Rochelle Waxman: Feeling needed and having a purpose are the key to a happy life

L
I
V
I
N
G



Photo by Wendy Schneider

GENEROUSLY

portraits in giving

A series that offers a glimpse into the generous habits of Jewish Hamiltonians, who, in their own words, explain why they give.

There is something quite wonderful that emanates from Rochelle Waxman, akin to being gently wrapped in a cozy blanket and held in a warm embrace. It probably explains why the Corner Store on Shalom Village's "York Street", where Waxman volunteers five days a week, is the go-to place for both staff and residents in search of camaraderie, and, oh yes, the perfect gift. At 89, Waxman cuts an elegantly-attired, gently mannered and remarkably youthful figure. Volunteering at Shalom has clearly been a good life choice for her, and needless to say, a blessing for the many recipients of her kindness.

Who was a volunteer role model for you?

My mother. She had eight children and things were tough, but I always remember her baking for Pioneer Women because I'd go with her door to door to sell tickets. She didn't drive a car, so we'd take a streetcar to go to the different places. She would always say, "You have to give back. You can't just take."

What's your role at Shalom Village?

It's going to be 34 years that I've been volunteering at Shalom. It's something I love and I look forward to it every day. I look after the Corner Store (the Shalom Village gift shop on "York Street"). We're open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and I'm there two whole days and three half days a week. Also, Jo-Ann Pomerantz and I organize the Ladies Auxiliary Tea every summer.

How does Shalom Village benefit from your volunteer efforts?

Whatever we make in the store all goes back to Shalom. As a matter of fact, the money is used to provide bursaries for staff who want to take courses to better themselves. The tea does very well for Shalom. Funds have been used to purchase things like patient lifts, Passover dishes and to furnish Shalom's "Snoezelen" room (a multi-sensory room designed for Alzheimer's patients.) Last year's tea raised \$50,000. It makes you feel good.

"When I hear somebody going by the store say, 'They've got beautiful things in there,' I tell you it makes my day. I get a big smile on my face and I feel good. I feel needed. I feel I'm doing something. So the best thing is volunteering and helping out."

How do you benefit from volunteering?

Running the store has done a lot for my awareness. I go to the gift show twice a year and I do all the buying. We have a separate bank account for the store and I make the cheques out for whatever I buy. Whenever I go into the store and see an empty spot on the shelf, I get a big smile on my face because I chose it at the gift show, and it was sold. It makes me feel good.

What do you do for fun?

You know what? Every day is fun because I go in there and socialize. The residents feel like talking so we talk. It's good. For fun I used to play canasta but I don't now because my days are filled with going in to the store.

Are you a people person?

I love people. I've always been a shy person. But now I push myself a little more. I think as you get older you get a little braver.

Do you have to be a people person to do what you do?

If you just want to just sell in the store, then no, but the residents want more than that. They're lonely, and you can see, sometimes, that they just want to talk. And sometimes caregivers will bring the nursing home residents down. They love the look of the store and its pretty colours. Some times they'll bring in gift certificates for the Corner Store that they've saved up by playing Bingo. It makes them so happy to buy something and I'm happy for them. Outside the store there's a little table and some chairs. If a resident's wheelchair takes too much room I'll go out and speak to her out there. It's good therapy for me as well as for them.

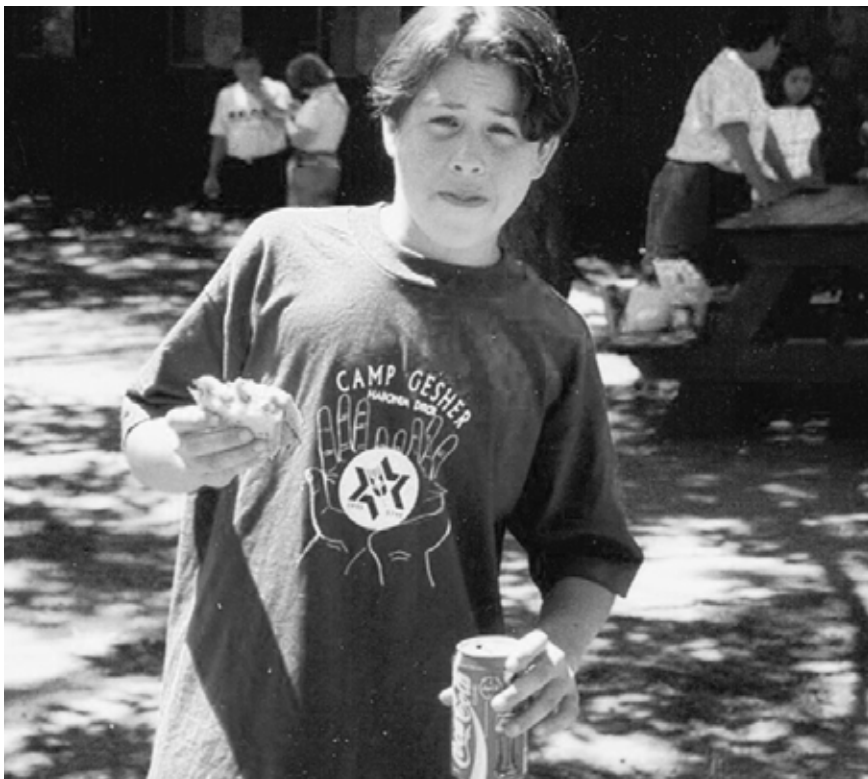
In what way, good therapy?

It's good therapy because I think to myself, 'aren't I lucky that I can be the one to go home every night, and then come back and talk to them?' I love it when a resident comes in very sad and we talk, and then she's smiling and will say to me, 'Rochelle thank you for spending time with me.' And I say don't thank me. It was my pleasure. I gain a lot. And I really do feel I'm lucky that I can still do it at my age.



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

Make a donation to the Community Campaign. Call 905.648.0605 ext 305 today.



The young Ariel at Habonim Dror's Camp Gesher.

Photo courtesy of Billy Shaffir



Executive producer Ariel Shaffir (third from left, back row) in a recording studio during the filming of *This Is the End*. From l to r: Jason Stone (executive producer), Seth Rogen (director and star), George Young (choir director), Evan Goldberg (director), Kyle Hunter (executive producer) and James Weaver (producer). Photo courtesy of Ariel Shaffir

From Hamilton to Hollywood

Ariel Shaffir talks *The Interview*, his local roots and working with Seth Rogen

by BEN SHRAGGE, the Hamilton Jewish News

After terrorist threats and cyber-attacks linked to North Korea, then a cancellation that drew criticism from President Obama, Hamilton-born Ariel Shaffir is happy *The Interview* is finally being released.

Shaffir, an executive producer of the film starring Seth Rogen and James Franco, didn't expect the political comedy to spark such a firestorm of controversy.

"The basic idea was a celebrity journalist gets an interview with a guy who the United States would want to assassinate, and the CIA recruits him to do it," he recalls. "It wasn't Kim Jong-un originally. It just became that over time. Originally it was the father, actually, and then he died."

The American government accuses North Korea, which the film lampoons, of sponsoring the November cyberattack on Sony that led to the release of reams of private data. The hackers demanded Sony shelve the film, threatening an attack similar to September 11. After major North American theater chains refused to screen the film, Sony canceled its scheduled December 25 release.

Following widespread criticism, including a rebuke from President Obama, Sony authorized a limited theatrical release on Christmas Day. The film was also released to online distributors such as Google Play and YouTube.

"It was a conscious decision to make a bold comedy and do something original, and after [the 2013 post-apocalyptic comedy] *This Is the End*, to up the stakes in terms of how far we could push the envelope," Shaffir comments.

That being said, "No one thought that it would get this huge, where the President is commenting about it and Sony's getting hacked."

Shaffir, 32, is the son of McMaster sociology professor Billy Shaffir and the late Rivka Shaffir, past principal of Hamilton Hebrew Academy. He grew up in Dundas and attended Hamilton Hebrew Academy and Highland Secondary School.



Ariel with his parents, the late Rivka Shaffir and Billy Shaffir at his wedding in 2011.

Photo courtesy of Mango Studios

The story of how a young Hamiltonian became executive producer of one of the most controversial movies of all time begins, as so much of human history does, in Israel.

Shaffir met a then-unknown Seth Rogen on a camp trip to the Holy Land in 1998. Both their camps were affiliated with Habonim Dror, the Labour Zionist youth movement. He later befriended Rogen's writing partner, Evan Goldberg, at McGill University.

"I went to law school and I was on the path to becoming a lawyer. I started writing in undergrad at McGill. My mindset was if it happens, it happens, it probably won't and if it doesn't that's fine. I was lucky enough to have a screenplay [Camp Sawyer] purchased when I was in law school and then it all became a little more attainable and real."

"I probably started focusing more on writing and less on law school when I was still in law school," he says, adding "I still did fine and graduated."

"Once Seth started to become really successful and Evan moved out to LA, Evan suggested that Kyle [Hunter], my writing partner, and I continue writing and work for him."

After twice being rejected for a visa, Shaffir moved to LA four years ago. In addition to *The Interview*, he's worked as executive producer of *This Is the End* and associate producer of *Goon* and *50/50*.

As an executive producer, Shaffir's chief responsibility is to workshop the script. He reads every draft, gives notes and writes scenes and alternate lines and jokes.

"We film lots of different jokes and even versions of each scene so that in post-production, we have options to choose from when editing the movie," Shaffir says. "During post-production I watch all the cuts of the movie and give notes and help with music choices."

Shaffir, Rogen and the rest of the team at production company Point Grey Pictures

are a close-knit creative unit. "We're all really tight," Shaffir says. "We're all respectful of each other and it's very collaborative. It's a great place to work."

"We all sit around as a group before a script is ever written and just talk about what the movie should be about. We start very generally figuring out what that is, and then start talking about funny ideas and funny scenes. Usually we create an outline that becomes more and more specific as we go along. And then someone writes a first draft."

"There's an R-rated animated movie called *Sausage Party* that we've been writing for probably seven years now. And it's probably been through close to fifty drafts. You write, you send it out to other writers, you get notes, you revise, notes, revise, notes, revise..." he says of the creative process. "Even when you're shooting the movie, you're revising the scenes of the day as you go along."

"The best idea wins," he adds. "It doesn't matter who comes up with it."

Camp continues to create unexpected connections for Shaffir. "I met Sacha Baron Cohen. He went to a Habonim Dror camp in England and he was very excited about it and wanted to sing Habonim Dror songs. It was hilarious," he recalls.

Asked about future ambitions, Shaffir mentions music. "I'd like to one day cross over into music in some facet, probably in filmmaking," he says. "I wrote a gospel song for *This Is the End*, which was a very cool experience."

Shaffir still attends Hamilton's Adas Israel Synagogue over the holidays, where as a boy he was a member of the choir. He also jams with friends from Camp Gesher in Toronto, among them fellow Hamilton Hebrew Academy graduates. Shaffir, who is married with one young boy and another on the way, hopes to return to Canada when his children are school-aged.

"My roots are firmly planted," he says, even as his work continues to reach across the globe—from Hamilton to North Korea.

A man and his legacy

RABBI EISENSTEIN'S ABILITY TO SEE BEAUTY IN EVERY STUDENT RECALLED AS HIS GREATEST GIFT

by REBECCA SHAPIRO, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Rabbi Zev Eisenstein was a towering figure who understood the “power of one.” Each person, regardless of age or position, felt ennobled in his presence. His love and care was palpable. It was in this spirit that two generations of Hamilton children were nurtured.

From where does a personality like this emerge? Rabbi Eisenstein attributed his outlook in life to his experiences in elementary school and a teacher who believed in him in Grade 6.

Born in New York City on August 15, 1939, Eisenstein was raised in the Lower East Side. He often said his teachers thought he was an underachiever and forced him to sit on a stool in a corner wearing a dunce cap – a humiliating experience that influenced his decision to become a teacher himself. In Grade 6 he had a teacher who realized that he was bright and had great potential. This teacher instilled in him confidence, self-esteem and the determination to work hard. From this experience, he learned how much power and positive influence a teacher could have on a student. This teacher taught him that he was a ‘somebody’. From this he learned that everyone is a “somebody” with great potential.

After graduating from high school, Rabbi Eisenstein spent four years studying in Israel. There he learned a love for the land and developed close relationships with leading rabbinical figures including the famed Rabbi Tzvi Yehudah Kook. While it was Eisenstein’s intent to remain in Israel, circumstances led him back to North America.

On a visit back home to assist his parents, he accepted a teaching position in Seattle, where he had instant success in working with



Rabbi Zev Eisenstein
Photo by Lawrence Yanover

youth and adults alike. During that period, he met Esther, the love of his life, whom he married in 1963.

In 1973, hearing that the University of Tel Aviv was starting a department in speech pathology, Eisenstein contacted his rebbe, Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, to ask for his blessing to return to Israel. Rabbi Feinstein refused, telling his protégé that Israel didn’t need more American rabbis or speech therapists. Rabbi Eisenstein’s unique gifts would have a far greater impact in North America.

Shortly after, Rabbi Eisenstein applied for the position of principal of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy (HHA). The 13th candidate to be interviewed by the school’s board of education, he was offered the job that same night.

Rabbi Eisenstein worked together with Esther, his greatest supporter and the solid rock that provided the foundation for his life-long success in Jewish education and communal life. Together they not only worked tirelessly on behalf of the Jewish community, but they provided a warm environment for their children Chani, Chaim, Bitzallel and Shayna. His

beloved Esther passed away in December 2005 and was buried in Israel.

Rabbi Eisenstein served as principal of the HHA for 30 years, and continued to teach for another eight years following his retirement. Loved by his students, cherished by the parent body and respected by his staff, he was there for anyone who needed him – no matter what time of day. He was also loved and respected by his colleagues on the boards of the Hamilton Jewish Federation, Shalom Village, and those who served alongside him on the Chevra Kadisha.

Eisenstein had a particularly close relationship with the late Rivka Shaffir, a trusted colleague and friend, who succeeded the rabbi upon his retirement.

Rabbi Eisenstein passed away on Nov. 26, 2014. Throughout his years at the Academy, Rabbi Eisenstein stood outside every morning greeting each student with a smile and a “Boker Tov”. He cultivated a culture of Jewish pride, religious acceptance, high academic achievement, personal growth and a sense of being part of a big family. His motto “It’s a beautiful day” is still quoted by staff and students, regardless of whether they knew him personally. His legacy remains and continues to grow and flourish with each passing day.

On May 12, 2015, the Hamilton Hebrew Academy will premiere a documentary honouring Rabbi Eisenstein’s life and legacy. “It’s a Beautiful Day” will showcase the people whose lives were impacted by this great man. The life of Rabbi Eisenstein will forever be a source of inspiration to those who knew him.

TAYLOR LEIBOW LLP
ACCOUNTANTS AND ADVISORS



Beyond Bean Counting...

Accounting, audit, tax, business valuations, insolvency and business advisory services.

105 Main Street East, 7th Floor, Hamilton, ON L8N 1G6 • 905-523-0000
3410 South Service Rd, Suite 103, Burlington, ON L7N 3T2 • 905-637-9959

taylorleibow.com



VINCENT SAMUEL
for Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas



**אביב הגיע
פסח שמח!**

Chag Kasher V'Same'ach

Wishing you and your family a very Happy Pesach!

www.vincentsamuel.ca

DAVID SWEET, M.P.
905.627.9169 | davidsweet.ca

Wishing you and yours a...

Happy Passover!



Representative for Ancaster - Dundas - Flamborough - Westdale



Chag Sameach!

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

HAMILTON CHAPTER

Hilda Rosen, Ambassador
27 Haddon Ave. S.
Hamilton ON L8S 1X5
Phone: 905-529-4824



HE WHO SAVES ONE LIFE - SAVES AN ENTIRE WORLD

Once in a while

Once a week



Wishing you lived closer to your family?

Introducing V!VA Thornhill Woods, the newest Jewish retirement community in the heart of Vaughan. Live just minutes from your loved ones, while enjoying beautifully-appointed suites, spectacular amenities, and three freshly prepared meals daily.

- Jewish-style Dining and Celebrations
- Independent and Assisted Living
- Located across from the Schwartz/Reisman Jewish Community Centre
- Underground Parking
- V!VAfit Wellness Program
- V!VAplex big-screen theatre
- On-site *Perks!* bistro-café

ONE BEDROOM SUITES

From **\$2,950***

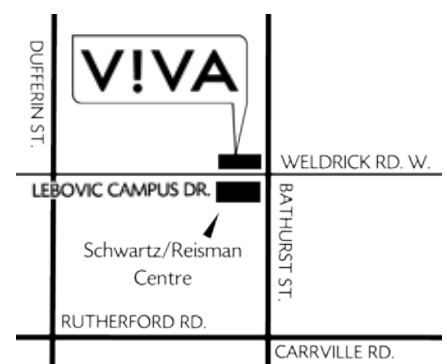
Limited Availability - Call Today!

Call 905.417.8585 for more details!

Chag Sameach!
Happy Passover!

V!VA Retirement Communities™
THORNHILL WOODS

9700 Bathurst St.,
Vaughan, ON
Call 905.417.8585
or visit www.vivalife.ca



*Conditions Apply.

Leaving Egypt

A memoir by Simone Rotstein

“When will I get clothes for school?” I asked my sister, Vivi, excited to be going back to the Lycée Française de l’Union Juive with her and my older brother. I was seven years old and eager to continue learning Arabic and Hebrew at the French school, a private Jewish institution in Alexandria, Egypt.

All four children and our nanny, Sowad, were in our bedroom – a carpeted room with five beds and some dressers that we shared with Sowad. The light shone into the high-ceilinged room and Alexandria’s street noises filled the space. Sowad’s dark face glowed at the notion of being left to mind only one child, my three-year-old brother, Riri.

The heavy living room and dining room drapes were drawn to keep the unrelenting sun off the Turkish rugs and the oversized furniture that filled the rooms. These were adult places, where my parents entertained family and friends, setting up tables for games of cards.

In the kitchen, the cook and his helper, Ibrahim, were noisily preparing a meal, crashing pans and chopping vegetables. Ibrahim was a trusted employee and my parents routinely gave him money to do the food shopping and to run other errands.

The large table at the centre of the kitchen was covered with rice, chicken and fresh, colourful produce – purple eggplants, tiny okra, long green beans, mangoes, fresh figs and dates. An aroma of cumin and lemons permeated the apartment. The shopping had been done and the bread bought that morning from a street vendor who took the money from a basket we lowered on a rope, in exchange for the pita that we then reeled in. We would eat lunch as soon as my father returned from his shop and my mother from her errands.

Outside our apartment, the world was changing. A few weeks earlier, on July 26, 1956, the new president of Egypt, Gamal Abdel Nasser, had given a speech declaring his intention to nationalize the Suez Canal. The Canal had been built with the assistance of the French and English governments, and they controlled the navigation. Nasser wanted Egypt to be the sole monitor and specifically wanted to disallow Israel from using the Canal. He made the case for Egypt’s claims: “We shall not let imperialists or exploiters dominate us. We shall not let history repeat itself once more. We have gone forward to build a strong Egypt. We go forward towards political and economic independence...”

Concerned about the growing Soviet influence in the Middle East and the prospect of war, the Western powers were distressed, but divided in their response to the ‘Suez Crisis’.

Oblivious to these political issues, I happily started school. My Nono and Nona, my mother’s parents, continued to have us over for dinner, along with all the others cousins. The nine of us would play and squabble as our parents sipped Turkish coffee and chatted about people and places. More and more frequently, we became aware of the tension in our parents’ discussions.

“But, what are we going to do? Do we need to leave this country?” my aunt would ask.



The author’s brother, Charles, (centre front), sister Vivianne (right) and cousin, with her aunt and grandmother, at a family wedding, circa 1949. Photo courtesy of Simone Rotstein

“No, no! It will be all right. All of this will blow over. They will come to some agreement. Anyway, where would we go?” her husband answered.

“After all, we are Egyptians. We were born here. What would we do with our businesses? It isn’t a good time to sell,” my father interjected.

By the end of October, 1956, Israel moved into the Egyptian Sinai. Two days later, France and Britain entered the conflict, which they had crafted. The airplane bombings of Port Said, Cairo and Alexandria began shortly thereafter. We were in a siege, our daily comings and goings curtailed.

“Papi, what are you putting on the windows?” my brother asked my father.

“I’m sticking up dark blue paper so that the planes will not see any lights. Then, they will not bomb our apartment building. Here, hold it up for me and I’ll fasten it.”

“Will it have to stay up forever?” my brother continued.

“No, this will all be over soon and everything will return to normal,” my father answered quietly.

When the siren sounded, alerting us of possible bombing, we would turn off all the lights and quickly make our way down to the basement of the building. All the families living in our building would join us, waiting for the all-clear signal. It was a new routine for us and, amidst crying babies and stressed adults, anxiety soon became the norm.

Schools closed and we were home all the time. My father’s car parts business and my grandfather’s appliance store would often be shut. We had little social life. Then, one evening, my parents decided to visit some cousins living nearby. They entered the building and spoke to the concierge, Mohammed, whom they had known for years.

“Mohammed, how are you? Is Madame Esther home? We would like to go up for a short while,” my mother greeted him.

“Yes, Madame, they are upstairs.”

The concierge let them in. They were there barely an hour when there was a knock at the door. Mohammed had called the police. My parents, though both born and raised in Egypt, had broken a curfew imposed on foreign nationals. The Egyptian citizenship they had possessed had been stripped by a new law. Many Jews were accused of being Zionists and traitors and were declared foreigners. The Nasser government had enacted other regulations, including abolishing civil liberties and allowing the state to arrest people without charges.

The next morning, as requested, my father reported to the police station and returned home dejected.

“I have an expulsion letter. We need to leave Egypt in eight days,” he told my mother. “We are allowed to leave with one suitcase each and with only a small amount of money.”

My mother was panicking at the thought. “What are we going to do? How can we sell the apartment and the business? What about all our things?”

“I have signed a form ‘donating’ the shop to the Egyptian government,” my father replied. “We no longer own the shop or the apartment. I will see if I can leave some money with Ibrahim and have him send it to us when we know where we are living.”

“But where will we go?” demanded my mother.

My mother was now stateless. Her family had been wanderers since the Spanish Inquisition, and the previous country they had been in, two generations ago, was Bulgaria. My father’s family had also wandered, but, by a quirk of fate they had once lived in Algeria. In 1870, the French government granted citizenship to all Algerian Jews. That citizenship became our passport out of Egypt.

The following days were a blur of activities for my parents. We stayed home from school, full of worry about what was going on and what would happen next. Our parents’ unusual behaviour left us afraid.

“I want to go to school and see my friends,” complained my eight year old brother, Charles.

“Shh! Don’t disturb Mami and Papi. They are already very upset,” chided my sister, Vivi.

My mother bought two new suitcases and purchased clothing for all of us. We would need coats, boots and warm clothing for the cold winter in Paris. Whatever we took with us had to fit into a few suitcases. My father bought plane tickets for the six of us. He sold off part of the stock in his store and gave the money, which we were prohibited to take with us, to Ibrahim. “I will send you the address where we will be. Please, Ibrahim, send us this money. It is very important because we have nothing else,” pleaded my father.

Ibrahim nodded. Did my father really believe the money would follow? The truth was that the money never appeared.

We visited family and friends, saying goodbye. My grandparents, my two aunts, my uncle and their families all would soon follow in our footsteps to Paris. More distant relatives were heading elsewhere – to Israel, Switzerland, Brazil, and Australia.

“When will I ever see them?” my mother sobbed.

“Au revoir, au revoir! Bonne chance!” our relatives cried to us. “We will meet another time.” The connections would never again be the same. After our six-month stay in Paris, my mother saw her parents only once before they died. She had visits with her sisters and brother a handful of times.

On our last day, we took a walk along La Corniche, the beautiful promenade and road hugging the Mediterranean Sea. We had spent so many lazy days on the beach, strolling along the walkway, eating ice cream and jumping into the turbulent Mediterranean. Now, we loitered, watching the sunset over the sea, the smell of the salt water seducing us. We stopped at cafés and pastry shops, to savour the sweets and the aroma just one last time. Our forced upheaval was a betrayal of a life we knew and which we had expected to endure. For the first time, I felt the sadness of loss.

And then ... we were up in the air, flying away from Alexandria, away from Egypt, away from innocence and into the unknown.

Let my People PLAY!

PASSOVER FAMILY FUN

by Yoni Glatt
 Editor: DavidBenkof@gmail.com
 Difficulty Level: Easy

Across

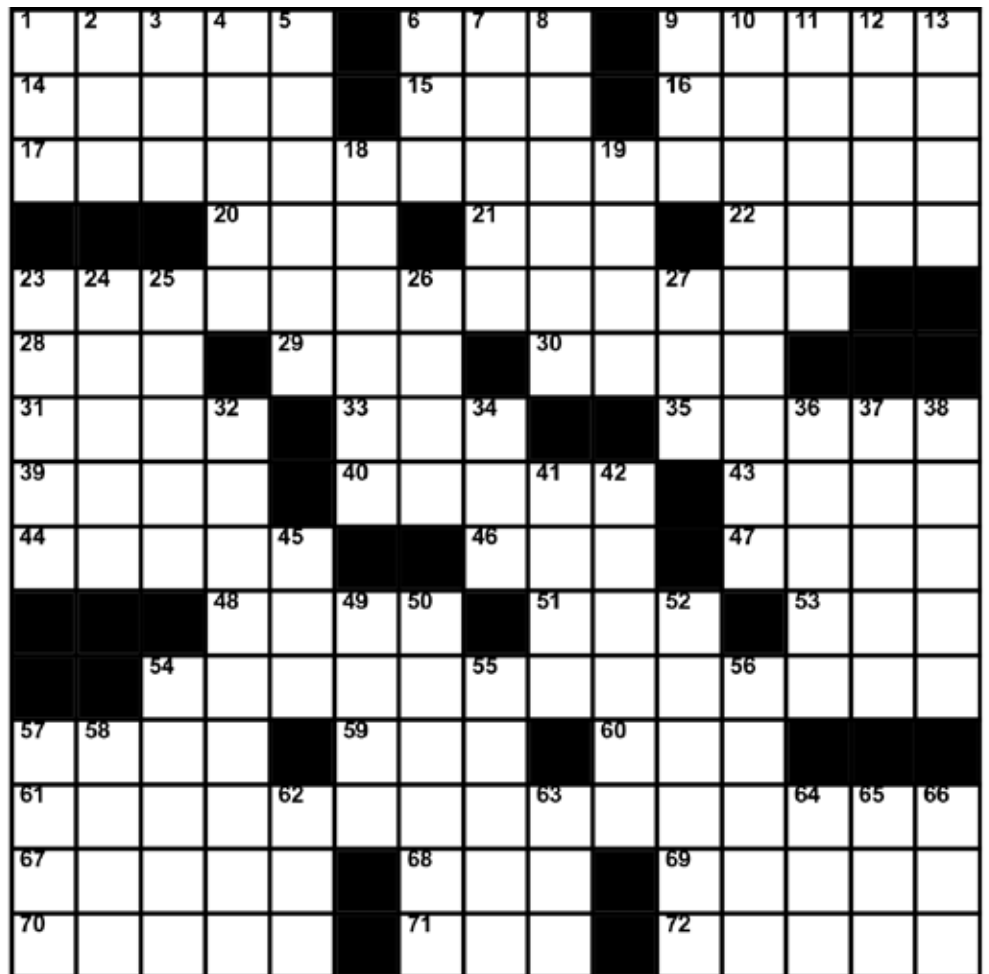
1. Prayer that involves a single bow
6. The "Cohen gene" is made up of it
9. Many shuls have one for Elijah
14. Territory in Israel's far north
15. Marc Roberge and Benj Gershman's rock band with a nautical-sounding name
16. "Son of Sam" David Berkowitz, e.g.
17. Prepare for Passover
20. ___ Poke (kosher-certified caramel candy)
21. Where to start when counting in Ladino
22. They might be served after Shabbat lunch
23. Prepare for Passover
28. "___ gezunt!" (Yiddish for "As long as you have your health!")
29. ___ Foods Kosher Fiber Love Bar
30. Way to prepare a brisket
31. The Jewish War Veterans have an award for cadets in this prog.
33. Chanukah candles are lit earlier because of it: Abbr.
35. Musical instrument referred to in the title of Roman Polanski's 2002 Holocaust film
39. Setting for David O. Selznick's "Gone with the Wind"
40. Seder bone
43. Tel follower
44. Ten Commandments physical descriptor
46. Something Zsa Zsa Gabor liked to wear around her neck
47. Foch who played Pharaoh's daughter in "The Ten Commandments"
48. Where some might watch "The Goldbergs"
51. Letters that might stop a gonif
53. Casspi's target
54. Prepare for Passover
57. Ahava ingredient
59. "___ Jewish?" (Avi Hoffman one-man show)

60. Sat. delivery in shul
61. Prepare for Passover
67. Genre for folk musician Regina Spektor
68. It covered Noah's Ark
69. First name in commentators?
70. The Jewish calendar has six main ones
71. Like Hodel (at first) in "Fiddler on The Roof"
72. Jerusalem zoomed in on a map, e.g.

Down

1. Michael Mukasey and others with the same Cabinet position: Abbr.
2. The Dead Sea, geologically
3. Samuel's mentor
4. Sometime Yiddish transliteration for a German anti-Semite
5. Get the schmaltz out of the sink
6. Part of the Jerusalem Post's web address
7. A minor prophet
8. Where some Jews once fought for sport (or their lives)
9. CBS show produced by Jerry Bruckheimer
10. Josephus, e.g.
11. They might be felt the day after running the Jerusalem marathon
12. Swedish superstore with locations in Netanya and Rishon LeTzion
13. A Friend
18. Acts aggressively like a Forward reporter might toward a Jewish leader accused of bribery
19. Make like a Jewish mother
23. Krusty's number-one fan, and others
24. German W.W. II menace
25. Father-in-law of Moses
26. Try to get into AEPi
27. Shoot Han Solo's gun
32. Like a Shabbat table
34. Part of a Dr. Brown's can
36. ___ Malkeinu
37. With "the," a number to dress to under the chuppah?

"Pesach Prep"



Puzzle solution on page 23

38. Like a ball used by quarterback Jay Fiedler
41. The oldest man on Earth, four thousand years ago
42. Seder starting step
45. "___-haw!" (interjection from Kinky Friedman and the Texas Jewboys)
49. Org. Israel is an ally - but not a member - of
50. Where some treif animals oink from
52. Rabbi Isaac Luria
54. Bubbie might make Jewish penicillin (chicken soup) to treat them
55. Prime Numbers setting?
56. Suze of CNBC
57. Alicia Silverstone's "Clueless" catchphrase
58. "Girls" girl Dunham
62. "Amen!"
63. Sound at a bris
64. Middle of Jerusalem?
65. Start of 189 "Seinfeld" episode titles
66. You won't find one on Adam Levine's face in his Proactiv ads

Passover Recipes

(courtesy of Andrea Levy)

Thai Quinoa

- 1 1/2 cups dry quinoa
 - 3 1/2 cups water (or follow directions on your package)
 - 1 Jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
 - 6 fresh basil leaves
 - 3 sprigs fresh cilantro, stems discarded, torn. (can substitute mint for cilantro)
 - One half firm mango
 - One half red onion, minced
 - 2 tbsp olive oil
 - 3/4 tsp fine sea salt
 - 1 tbsp plus 1 tsp lime juice
- Cook the quinoa per package directions, checking if rinsing is required. If rinsing is required, do not miss that step! Set aside until cool. Meanwhile, combine the minced hot pepper, basil, cilantro, mango, onion, olive oil, salt and lime juice into a dressing. When quinoa is cool, add dressing and seasonings to taste.

Gluten Rolls

- 1 cup water
 - 1/2 cup oil
 - 3/4 tsp salt
 - 2 tsp sugar
 - 1 cup dry mashed potato flakes
 - 1/2 cup potato starch
 - 4 eggs
- Boil water, oil, salt and sugar. Add potato flakes and starch, mix thoroughly and cool. Add eggs, one at a time, incorporating each one thoroughly. Spoon onto a greased tin foil or parchment-lined cookie sheet. Bake in conventional oven at 375° or convection 350° for about 30-40 minutes. (Each oven is different, so keep your eye on it to establish your oven's base bake time.) Makes 10 to 12 buns. Keeps well at room temperature for two days, or freezes well. Great for sandwiches!



In addition to exciting events, Shabbat dinners, and retreats, H3 offers a great way to learn and earn high school credits with courses in Jewish related topics for students in grades 8-12. (Grade 8 students attend through the Reach Ahead Program.)

H3 approaches everything with an open and honest mind and lets you draw your own conclusions. Programs are open to all Jewish high school students regardless of affiliation, background, or previous Jewish education.



Hamilton Hebrew High

Hamilton Hebrew High Courses 2015 / 2016

GET THE CREDIT YOU DESERVE!
 All courses (aside from Hebrew) are on Mondays @ 5:00pm - 7:30pm

Grade 9 Hebrew Language
 Schedule Available on Request
 Open to qualifying Grade 8 & 9 students - Reach Ahead!

Grade 9 Community & Individuality
 Open to Grade 8 & 9 students - Reach Ahead!

Grade 10 Ethical Dilemmas
 Open to Grade 9 & 10 students

Grade 12 U Philosophy
 Open to Grade 11 & 12

for more info visit
www.hcubed.ca
 or contact Racheli Kirat at
 905-528-0039 or e-mail
racheli@hhmidrasha.ca

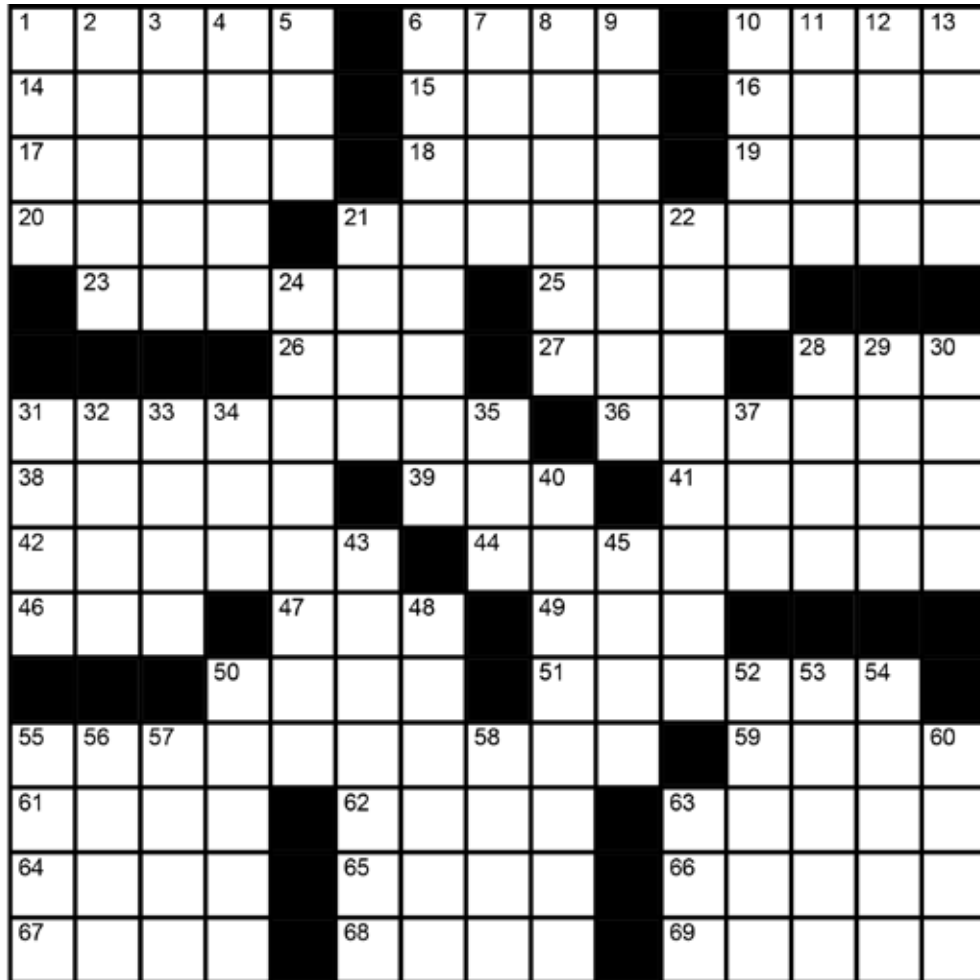


JOIN US ON
MONDAY MAY 4th
 FOR A JAYS GAME VS.
 YANKEES!!!

To sign up contact
 Yaakov Morel 905-512-1960 or
 e-mail yaakov.morel@gmail.com

Let my People PLAY! PASSOVER FAMILY FUN

"The Final Frontier" Leonard Nimoy Memorial Puzzle



By David Benkof
DavidBenkof@gmail.com
Difficulty Level: Easy

Puzzle solution on page 23



Across

- 1 Actor Leonard, the subject of this puzzle, who died February 27, 2015
- 6 Seltzer
- 10 JAP type
- 14 Debbie Friedman's "Let Us ___"
- 15 Animals the priests would "use" in the Temple
- 16 Look (over), like a rabbi with a medieval text
- 17 Prepares one's knees to bow during the Aleinu
- 18 "___ Fair" (1989 George Segal movie about a war-games retreat)
- 19 What an IDF soldier may be at?
- 20 Do it to yourself to prepare for the Birkat Hamazon
- 21 1977-1982 TV series about mysterious phenomena
- 23 Non-kosher cocktail variety?
- 25 Comes close to beating Maccabi Haifa
- 26 "___-Devil" (1989 comedy with Roseanne Barr)
- 27 Transports in Rahm's city
- 28 Territory that would refuse its refuseniks (abbr.)
- 31 With 55-Across, catchphrase of 69-Across
- 36 Chanukah commemorates the fight when one of Zeus was erected in the Temple
- 38 He got miffed that he wasn't notified about Netanyahu's speech to Congress
- 39 Yiddish interjections of note
- 41 "Hearts ___" (early 1990s Ed Asner sitcom)
- 42 Circumcising grammatically?
- 44 1966-1969 TV series about space exploration
- 46 Chazer's home
- 47 Tiny drops of water about which there's a Passover prayer
- 49 Shalom from Josephus
- 50 Kind of truck whose number of wheels equals chai

- 51 Matzahs cannot have them
- 55 See 31-Across
- 59 Reagan Interior Secretary who said "a black, a woman, two Jews and a cripple"
- 61 Feel ready for a Shabbos nap
- 62 Filled with righteous indignation
- 63 Italian city whose Jewish ghetto was built in 1660
- 64 Cuban prisoner Gross finally freed in December 2014
- 65 In March 2015 it was worth 4.5 shekels
- 66 Under the ___ of an Orthodox rabbi (one way to convert)
- 67 It's owed to a moneylender
- 68 Competitor for Jann Wenner's Rolling Stone
- 69 Vulcan character from 44-Across

Down

- 1 Acts like a gonif
- 2 "God is One" and "The dead will rise," e.g.
- 3 October or Tishre
- 4 Seder has it and means it
- 5 In Ladino, it's "Si"
- 6 "Milk" Best Actor Oscar winner
- 7 Magical birds that helped a famous Daniel Radcliffe character
- 8 Leave out, as the o when spelling the word G-d
- 9 Uses a slingshot against Goliath, e.g.
- 10 Groucho Marx headwear
- 11 2014 Russell Crowe Bible movie
- 12 "... maybe more, maybe less... who knows exactly?"
- 13 It's fleishig

- 21 'Net abbreviation for a maven
- 22 Stop on the way to Eilat
- 24 National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame hockey player Bob Nystrom, e.g.
- 28 Instruction in Joan Nathan's "Quiches, Kugels and Couscous"
- 29 What Bob Dylan or Joel Coen mean by "You betcha!"
- 30 Smell like pickles in brine
- 31 Mandelbrot are formed into these before they're baked and cut
- 32 How Steve Wynn expresses skepticism?
- 33 "Opinions ___" (common statement about Jewish law)
- 34 Bird that isn't kosher because it resembles the forbidden ostrich
- 35 "Makin' Whoopee" lyricist Kahn
- 37 In the back of the ship Altalena
- 40 Became Rabbi Emeritus, e.g.
- 43 Israel's recent nationality bill does this to Arabic from its status as an official national language
- 45 Give testimony to a beit din
- 48 Start to use more sekhel
- 50 Got rid of some shekels
- 52 One way to prepare the home for Shabbat
- 53 Dance music heard in World War II ghettos
- 54 Philosophy that influenced Philo of Alexandria
- 55 Not the whole megillah
- 56 Exodus river
- 57 The clothing of Joseph's brothers, perhaps
- 58 Actress Gilpin who replaced Lisa Kudrow in the role of Roz Doyle on "Frasier"
- 60 Burning the chametz, e.g.
- 63 Kind of mask worn by Israelis during the Gulf War



Ontario Jewish Archives
 Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre
 UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

SOUTHERN AFRICAN LEGACY PROJECT

We want to hear your story!

The Ontario Jewish Archives, Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre is collecting and preserving material documenting the rich history of the South African Jewish community in Ontario.

If you or your family is from South Africa or Zimbabwe, or you know someone who is, we want to hear from you!

EVERY EXPERIENCE COUNTS:

- » Immigration to Canada
- » Adjusting to Canadian life
- » Maintaining South African roots
- » Holiday celebrations
- » Summer camps
- » Family life
- » Employment
- » Businesses
- » Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
- » Clubs and societies and more!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- » Photographs
- » Videos and films
- » Diaries
- » Letters
- » Memoirs
- » Speeches and writings
- » Cookbooks and recipes
- » Business records
- » Anniversary books
- » Sound recordings and more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PARTICIPATE:

ontariojewisharchives.org/Southern-African-Project
ojainquiries@ujafed.org | 416-635-5391

SOUTHERN AFRICAN LEGACY PROJECT

Chair: Stephen Pincus

Vice-Chairs: Colin Baskind, John Cohen, Lorraine Sandler and Heather Super



“I am proud to include my family’s story as part of the Southern African Legacy Project. As a prominent segment of Ontario’s Jewish community, it is our responsibility to build a permanent resource that can inform the next generation and beyond about our experiences and contributions to Canada. This is an exciting opportunity to share stories with loved ones and discover the common threads that make our community unique. I hope you will consider participating with me.”

*Colin Baskind, Vice-Chair,
 Southern African Legacy Project*

OUR STORIES ARE YOUR STORIES

Help the Ontario Jewish Archives preserve our heritage for future generations

At Ten Gav, a little goes a long way

Israeli crowdfunding site brainchild of former Hamiltonian

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

Naomi Jacobs Brounstein thought she knew something about the face of poverty in Israel. As the co-founder of Ten Gav, a new crowdfunding site that highlights the needs of struggling Israeli families, the former Hamiltonian is better informed than most about the struggles of lower income Israelis. Nevertheless, she was unprepared for what she found in Kiryat Malachi.



Naomi Jacobs Brounstein and Vivi Mann taking care of business. Photo by Hindy Lederman

"We were witness today to absolute squalor," wrote Jacobs Brounstein in a Facebook post describing the day that she and her partner Vivi Mann spent with the welfare department of the southern development town. A social worker had urged the women to accompany her on a home visit to an Ethiopian mother of 10. "She felt like we could be her source of oxygen," Jacobs Brounstein wrote, a sure sign as any that Ten Gav may have the potential to be a bigger player in the Israeli social services sector than anyone ever imagined.

It's probably no coincidence that the idea for Ten Gav came from another new immigrant, the women's friend and fellow social activist, Joseph Gitler, founder of Leket, Israel's largest food rescue organization. Gitler had sent them an email with a link to the American website, Benevolent, and asked if they'd be interested in starting up something similar in Israel. They had hired an internet design team and were well into their research when last summer's war with Hamas broke out.

The war was still raging when Jacobs Brounstein received a phone call from a friend in Winnipeg.

"He knew about my plans to start up Ten Gav and he really loved

the idea," said Jacobs Brounstein. Her friend wanted to know if they were operational. She told him that the design team they had hired had been called up and that things were on hold.

"He said, 'You know what? The war is on and I want to give some money and I want it to go to the people in the south ... And I think that my friends would also want to. Can you become operational?'"

The phone call created the impetus that propelled the women into action, with Mann contacting social workers and putting together cases, while Jacobs Brounstein built the website herself. Within a very short time they were up and running.

The Ten Gav website is an easy-to-navigate platform that offers visitors a list of attractively laid-out needs and two clearly defined assurances. The first is that any need that appears on its site has been verified by a social worker.

The second is that 100 per cent of donations are used to fund the need as described. That kind of direct giving experience, made possible because the two women fundraise separately to cover Ten Gav's operating costs, makes for a very satisfying donor experience.

"No single need on our website

will be above the cost of \$1,500. So if you see a need that is \$500 and give \$100 or even \$50 to that need, that donation represents a very significant percentage of the total," said Jacobs Brounstein, who said that most needs are funded fully within a few weeks of being posted.

While Ten Gav is still relatively small, its founders are hoping that the site's Bar/Bat mitzvah program has the potential to broaden its appeal internationally. A special section enables a bar or bat mitzvah child to design their own personalized webpage that invites guests to make donations in lieu of or in addition to gifts. Once a certain amount is accumulated the child can decide how to apply the money.

"It's a really nice opportunity for a family to read the cases together and discuss which of their son or daughter find meaningful," said Jacobs Brounstein.

The real appeal of Ten Gav is that it satisfies the basic human need to know that the smallest gesture, given whole-heartedly, can make all the difference in the world. Everything else is commentary. For more information about Ten Gav, visit www.tengav.org.

Show Israel You Care!

Volunteer as a civilian worker for 2 or 3 weeks on an Israeli army supply base



Free: accommodations, kosher meals, trips and events.
Cost: air fare, \$100 registration fee, weekend expenses.
416-781-6089 or toronto@sarelcanada.org
514-735-0272 or montreal@sarelcanada.org

www.sarelcanada.org

Programs start approximately every 3 weeks.

Know Your US Tax Advisor

US taxation of Americans in Canada is often more complex than Canadian taxation. Finding a qualified US tax return preparer and advisor can be a challenging task particularly for those unfamiliar with the complexities involved. Fortunately, taxpayers can find some comfort that US-admitted attorneys, licensed certified public accountants (CPAs) and actuaries are all regulated by state-level overseers. They, and another category of practitioner, the Enrolled Agent (EA), are also regulated by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and are allowed to "practice before the IRS".

To add to the confusion, a few states such as Illinois allow use of the CPA designation to persons who complete the uniform CPA examination but who may not satisfy other educational and experiential criteria. Such "registered" CPAs are not "licensed" CPAs and are technically not allowed to practice before the IRS.

In 2011, IRS enacted rules for "registered tax return preparers" (RTRPs) as a new category of practitioner. These rules prohibited some one who was not an attorney, CPA, EA or RTRP from preparing tax returns for a fee. The rules established qualifications for RTRPs including a competency exam and an annual continuing education requirement. RTRPs could represent taxpayers before the IRS during an audit for returns he or she prepared and signed.

In February 2014, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals in *Loving v. IRS*, 742 F.3d 1013 (D.C. Cir. 2014), invalidated the RTRP rules since they lacked legislative authority. As a result, new federal legislation will be required for the IRS to regulate tax practitioners who are not attorneys, CPAs, actuaries or EAs.

In response, IRS implemented a voluntary program, the Annual Filing Season Program (AFSP) to encourage tax return preparers who are not attorneys, CPAs, actuaries or EAs to complete continuing education courses. IRS issues records of completion to people who satisfy the requirements of AFSP. Participation in the AFSP program is voluntary.

As a result of the *Loving* decision, IRS further restricted those practitioners who can represent taxpayers before the IRS. Attorneys, CPAs, EAs and actuaries can all represent taxpayers before the IRS. AFSP participants can represent taxpayers for returns they prepared and signed but cannot represent taxpayers before appeals officers, revenue officers, General Counsel or similar IRS officers or employees. A tax return preparer that only has a PTIN can no longer represent a taxpayer before the IRS for returns prepared after December 31, 2015.

Today, any individual without regard to qualification, experience or credentials can still prepare US tax returns so long as they obtain a US Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN) from IRS. US taxpayers living in Canada are well pressed to consider credentials, experience and qualifications ahead of fees when selecting a US tax advisor or preparer.



Jeffrey M. Brown, CPA
BoTax, The Boston Tax Advisory Company Ltd.
500 Highway 7 East, Suite 200, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1J1
416-222-5555 ext. 322 or 416-268-1366

Crossword Puzzle Solutions

Pesach Prep (from page 20)

A	L	E	N	U	D	N	A	C	H	A	I	R		
G	O	L	A	N	O	A	R	S	I	C	K	O		
S	W	I	T	C	H	E	D	I	S	H	E	S		
		S	L	O	U	N	O	T	E	A	S			
B	U	Y	O	U	R	M	A	T	Z	O	S			
A	B	I	G	N	U	S	E	A	R					
R	O	T	C	D	S	T		P	I	A	N	O		
T	A	R	A	S	H	A	N	K		A	V	I	V	
S	T	O	N	Y		B	O	A		N	I	N	A	
		D	E	N	S	A	D	T		N	E	T		
		C	L	E	A	N	T	H	E	H	O	U	S	E
A	L	O	E	T	O	S	E	R						
S	E	L	L	Y	O	U	R	C	H	A	M	E	T	Z
I	N	D	I	E	T	A	R		R	A	S	H	I	
F	A	S	T	S	S	H	Y		I	N	S	E	T	

The Final Frontier (from page 21)

N	I	M	O	Y	S	O	D	A	S	N	O	B		
A	D	O	R	E	E	W	E	S	P	O	R	E		
B	E	N	D	S	A	L	L	S	E	A	S	E		
S	A	T	E		I	N	S	E	A	R	C	H	O	F
		S	H	R	I	M	P		T	I	E	S		
			S	H	E		E	L	S		S	S	R	
L	I	V	E	L	O	N	G		S	T	A	T	U	E
O	B	A	M	A		N	U	S		A	F	I	R	E
G	E	R	U	N	D		S	T	A	R	T	R	E	K
S	T	Y		D	E	W		A	V	E				
			S	E	M	I		Y	E	A	S	T	S	
A	N	D	P	R	O	S	P	E	R		W	A	T	T
T	I	R	E		T	E	E	D		G	E	N	O	A
A	L	A	N		E	U	R	O		A	E	G	I	S
D	E	B	T		S	P	I	N		S	P	O	C	K

A personal reflection on Let's Talk Day



Stephen Adler

Bell Canada's Let's Talk Day 2015 was January 28. For the last couple of years, Bell has joined forces with notable Canadians encouraging a discussion about mental health. Indeed, we need to talk about how mental illness impacts us all, given that statistics show one in five of us will suffer from mental illness and, fearing judgment and rejection, two-thirds of those will struggle in silence.

I cannot talk about what it is like to have a mental illness or the ensuing fears of judgment or rejection, but I can talk about what it is like to have loved someone who battled daily with mental illness. For many years my wife, Janna, suffered from a complex mental illness. But she never let her illness stop her. Janna was a speech and language pathologist who worked with stroke and head trauma patients as well as in a practice specializing in treating children with complex diagnoses. She was an amazing therapist who, at the same time, and – to all but her closest confidantes – silently

looked for a way to stabilize her illness. Unfortunately, for Janna, the usual treatments and therapies were unsuccessful. This led her to attempt experimental therapies in hope of finding a treatment that would allow her to return to a semblance of normal life. Unfortunately, each of these attempts also failed, only exacerbating her depressive symptoms. Janna said repeatedly that mental health is an invisible illness, which makes it impossible for others to understand the pain it inflicts. In fact, it was only after she began to suffer from debilitating vertigo, which struck suddenly and without a discernible underlying medical cause, that people saw her as ill – because she then required the use of a cane.

Coupled with vertigo, her mental illness robbed Janna of her ability to work, socialize and live. It robbed her of her ability to make a difference in her patients' lives and to do what she loved and what sustained her professional satisfaction and personal pride. But her illness robbed me of something even greater: it took my Janna from me. November 18 began much as any other day, but it ended like no other. The illness that stole Janna's life robbed us both of our future together.

It will not, however, prevent my trying to help others. Janna would want me to continue to do just that. Bell has done a great service encouraging a national discussion, but a single day is not sufficient. Helping to put an end to the stigma for those suffering from mental and related illnesses is not a one-day, annual activity.

In my personal and professional life, I have worked with community social service agencies to assist their efforts in tackling mental health challenges. Much of my work revolves around assisting social service agencies, community members, and organizations to navigate the maze of provincial programs, including those in mental health. On a volunteer basis, I have served on the Board of the Chai-Tikvah / Life and Hope Foundation for eight years. As a community-based organization supported by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Chai-Tikvah is a leading healthcare provider recognized for its excellence in delivering accessible, quality mental healthcare and support. Among their services are a group home that provides 24-hour support, a triplex that allows clients to live semi-independently, and various programs for those coping with mental health issues. This is just one example of the many wonderful agencies supported

by Jewish Federations in communities across Canada. Without question, ours is a community that cares for the most vulnerable among us – including those Jewish families affected by mental illness.

You can find your own way to get involved but, at the very least, I hope you will not shy away from talking about mental illness and the impact that it has on all of us every day. Offer to help if you can and – please – get help if you need it. Contact your family doctor, local social service agency or local mental health agency. You are not alone.

Janna Adler, z'l, died much too soon on November 18th, 2014, leaving a void in the lives of all who knew and loved her. While mental illness took away her future, it negated neither Janna's extraordinary gifts nor their positive effect on the lives of countless clients, friends, and loving family – impact achieved over a lifetime of battling a crippling, invisible illness, all while continuing to offer remarkable service to others.

I miss Janna. And I remain incredibly proud of her.

Originally from Hamilton, Stephen Adler is Associate Director, Ontario Government Relations, at the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

Dispelling urban health myths



Esther Konigsberg

In my Integrative Medicine practice I often see health conscious patients who are interested in pursuing the best possible health and well-being. Influenced by social media, the media at large or lay "health experts" perpetuating urban health myths, many people are misinformed about issues that directly affect their health. In this article, I will dispel three myths to help you get to the true bottom line.

Myth#1 – Soy foods cause breast cancer.

This belief has come from the fact that soy contains phytoestrogens, plant based estrogens which bind to estrogen receptor sites in both men and women. Many of us have also heard that too much estrogen is not a good thing (which is true and more of that later). As a result of these facts, it has been concluded that soy may be a contributing factor to increasing the risk of breast cancer and especially worrisome for women who have had breast cancer.

However, clinical research shows that soy and estrogen have different effects on a variety of health outcomes. A recent study followed 9,514 breast cancer survivors for 7.4 years and found that higher soy intake after breast cancer diagnosis was associated with a significant 25% reduction in tumor recurrence. Considerable evidence also suggests that soy reduces breast cancer risk when consumed during childhood and/or adolescence. Studies also suggest that soy foods can reduce heart disease by lowering cholesterol and providing healthy fats including omega-3s. Soy improves the function of coronary arteries as well as possibly slowing the progression of plaque build-up. In men there are high quality research studies which point to the fact that soy helps reduce the risk of developing prostate cancer and heart disease.

Bottom line: Aim to consume 1-2 servings of soy daily. I recommend Unsweetened Edensoy milk as a clean soy beverage.

Myth#2 – All fish are good for you.

This misconception is based on the true fact that a diet which favours fish over animal proteins such as red meat and

dairy is heart healthy. The Lyon Diet Heart Study followed men who after having heart attacks and found a 70 per cent reduction in the risk of recurrence and death after only two years of following the Mediterranean diet. In women, the Nurses Health study found that those who ate fish five times a week reduced their risk of death from heart disease by 50 per cent. Consuming fish one to three times a month reduced risk by 20 per cent. But not all fish are created equal. The most heart healthy fish are cold water fish such as salmon (Wild Pacific), arctic char, sardines, black cod, rainbow trout, herring and anchovies which have higher amounts of the anti-inflammatory omega-3 fatty acids. However some fish, such as swordfish, marlin and king fish, contain high amounts of mercury. Mercury is toxic to the nervous system and can cause developmental abnormalities in children. In adults, it has been linked to Alzheimer's disease. Furthermore, farmed fish can be very high in PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) which are cancer causing pollutants.

Bottom line: do eat fish, but choose your fish wisely. One excellent resource is: *Guide to Buying and Eating Fish* on the Toronto public health website.

Myth#3 – Organic foods are no better than conventionally grown foods.

A new study looked at dietary exposure, examining organophosphates (OPs), one of the most widely used type of insecticides, in 4,500 people. They found that people who ate the least organic produce had as much as twice the pesticide levels as those who ate organic the most frequently. OPs are toxic to the nervous system. Other pesticides also contain xeno-estrogens which are strong synthetic estrogens. (Xeno-estrogens are also found in the BPA which line thermal cash register receipts and are absorbed through the skin.) Xeno-estrogens have been linked to hormonal abnormalities including infertility, menstrual abnormalities, breast and prostate cancers.

Bottom Line: Favour organic produce where possible. Since pesticides concentrate up the food chain buy organic dairy, eggs and meats. For a great resource in choosing your organic produce wisely download *The Dirty Dozen* app which highlights the cleanest and dirtiest conventionally-raised fruits and vegetables".

Dr. Esther Konigsberg, MD CCFP, practices Integrative Medicine in Burlington.

**For the best access to Greater Hamilton's Jewish community ...
Advertise in the Hamilton Jewish News**

Special Mentschen



IDF soldiers from the 906th Battalion unpack bullet proof vests raised from a Hamilton-based fundraising campaign during last summer's war with Hamas in Gaza. Photo courtesy of the IDF

IDF SOLDIERS THANK FRIENDS IN NEED

When tensions erupted in Gaza last summer, the first thought on the minds of many Israel supporters throughout the world was: What can I do to help? With reports of undersupplied IDF units spreading through social media, many joined in widespread grassroots efforts to supply soldiers with food, clothing and specialized gear. Here in Hamilton, Ancaster resident Hana (Chani) Pinthus Rotchild spearheaded a campaign to outfit a bomb disposal platoon with bulletproof vests, knee pads and headlamps. "The money raised helped buy new vests for the soldiers," said Pinthus Rotchild who was eager to share the response she received from the grateful recipients. "We feel honoured and humbled that there are people like you who are there to support us and appreciate our harsh daily work," wrote a representative from the IDF's 906th Battalion. "The vests covering our bodies will be your constant hug; the knee-protectors who protect us from harsh terrain; and the bags will help us carry the weight of our responsibilities towards you and our country ... your generous acts have taught us a precious lesson — that it is an honour to be a soldier of a country where people are supportive and kind."

Stan Tick appointed to Hamilton Police Services Board

Mazel Tov to Hamilton lawyer and mediator, **Stan Tick**, for his recent appointment by the Ontario government to the Hamilton Police Services Board. The founder of the Beth Tikvah Foundation of Hamilton, a residential home that provides services to adults with developmental disabilities, Tick is a former chair of the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, and a former vice-president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.



Phil Rosenshein inducted into Sports dinner Hall of Fame

At this year's B'nai Brith Sports Celebrity Dinner Phil Rosenshein was inducted into its fabled Hall of Fame. Aside from being one of the founders of the annual event, Rosenshein has been an active fundraiser for B'nai Brith for close to 60 years. His tireless efforts over that span have resulted in numerous honours and accolades, including 10 successive annual fundraising awards from B'nai Brith.



BAX SECURITY
\$15.00 PER MONTH
 FROM **NO LONG TERM CONTRACT**
1-866-401-6848
 www.baxsecurity.ca

It's not too late to advertise in the new
Hamilton Jewish Telephone Directory

1/8 page	\$150
1/4 page	\$225
1/2 page	\$300
Full page	\$500

To place an ad call Jenn or Laura at 905-648-0605

TAS Social Action Committee Event for Beit Halochem Canada Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel

Featuring a presentation by 10 Israeli wounded heroes who will share their stories. Come out and show your support!

June 2nd, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
 Temple Anshe Sholom \$25 per person

Order tickets at Temple Anshe Sholom Office
 by calling 905-528-0121 before May 26
 Kosher Meal provided



Naale Best Schools ✓ Best campus life ✓ Best experience ✓
 Join an exciting, one-of-a-kind program that offers independent, motivated Jewish teens, the opportunity to complete 10th-12th grade in Israel.

Naale Elite-Academy, The World's Jewish High School In Israel

A School for Everyone

- Mosenson** - The Alexander Moss High School in Hod Hasharon - A World Famous International High School
- Ein Gedi** - A Kibbutz high school for environmental studies, arts and communication in the most unique place on earth!
- Anieres** - An Honors program for outstanding students: Engineer Your Way Straight to the Technion
- Shaalavim** - The Famous Yeshiva high school. Excellency since 1961. Winner of Top 10 High Schools in Israel

Free three years program including full room board plus much more! (One time registration fee's only)

Amana - Best Yeshiva high school for girls in Israel. An International environment with students from around the world.
Beith Chana - Chabad Yeshiva High School for girls, Where Excellency meets Spirituality.

Tiki Levgoron Naale-Elite Academy Canada representative
 Cell: 416-822-6190 naale.canada@gmail.com
www.elite-academy.org

ISRAEL 2015-2016

COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES

BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA

www.israelfamilytours.com

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony included All-inclusive deluxe hotels More days of sightseeing A true family itinerary Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child FREE* * Included in Family Rates. Excluding Air	Passover Mar. 31 - Apr. 12, 2015	Summer Jun. 28 - Jul. 9, 2015 July 5 - Jul. 15, 2015 Aug. 2 - Aug. 13, 2015 Aug. 16 - Aug. 27, 2015
	Winter Break Dec. 20, 2015 - Jan. 03, 2016	
	Call Kathy 905-886-5610, ext 345	

SPECIAL ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE APRIL 19 - 30 \$1,099 AIR ONLY, incl. taxes

INDEPENDENCE DAY USD **\$3,699**
 An All Inclusive Extraordinary Historical & Cultural Journey
 April 19 - 30, 2015
 Direct Flights Air Canada
 9 days of touring
 5-star hotels & most meals

Call Kathy 905-886-5610, ext 345

25th Anniversary
PEERLESS YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
UNIQUE Travel Partner Agency
 905.886.5610
 800.294.1663

tours@peerlesstravel.com www.peerlesstravel.com

Greater Toronto • Golden Horseshoe • Kitchener-Waterloo • Niagara

WB Wilson Blanchard Condominium Management with Experience and Integrity

PROFESSIONALLY MANAGING:
 Condominiums
 Office & Retail Buildings

ACMO ACMO2000

CONSUMER CHOICE AWARD 2013 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE HAMILTON 3 YEAR WINNER

Wilson, Blanchard Management Inc.
 701 Main Street West, Suite 101, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 1A2
 Tel. 905.540.8800 800.999.7419 Fax. 905.540.4450
 www.wilsonblanchard.com



PREMIERING

It's a Beautiful Day

the
Rabbi W. Zev Eisenstein a'h
Legacy Film

The Rabbi Eisenstein Era

Legacy Award Recipients

RABBI JOSHUA SPINNER
Alumni Award

MRS. JOY ZIANS
Teacher Award

DR. LARRY & JACKI LEVIN
Alumni Parent Award

Event Chair
RHODA SINGER

HHA
Gala
LEGACY DINNER
MAY 12, 2015
6:00pm

visit www.hhalegacy.ca for details



PROFILE

MARK MORGENSTERN

Owner of Charred Rotisserie House

Mark Morgenstern's James Street North rotisserie restaurant invites comparisons with the iconic Chicken Roost of days past, but it's his own family history that makes Charred an original.

Story and photo by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

The photographs on the wall facing Charred's open-style rotisserie tell the multi-layered story of an immigrant family's journey to Canada. Occupying the same building in which his parents opened Morningstar Clothing and Shoes – the precursor to Morgensterns – back in 1968, Charred is both a salute to the past and an act of faith in the future of James Street North. A tour of the family wall is a must for the first-time visitor, because the photographs – from the Israeli moshav where the Morgenstern children grew up, to the early years in Montreal and the mug shot outside the family store – tell you what matters most to Mark Morgenstern. Softly, almost reverentially, he says, "This is where we started." Welcome to Charred.

How it started

In 2008 Mark Morgenstern decided to close the London, Ontario clothing store he had managed for 33 years. Worried about what the future might hold for his long-time employees, one of his managers reassured him. She'd be going to work for her brother, she told him, at his very successful Portuguese-style barbeque chicken restaurant. His curiosity aroused, Morgenstern went to investigate. "Wow!" he thought. "I have the perfect spot for something like this."

The process

It took five years of careful planning before Charred opened its doors. The first hurdle to cross was convincing his brother and sister that opening a restaurant in their jointly-owned building was a good idea. At first, they couldn't wrap their heads around it. "Why not just open up a coffee shop?" his sister wanted to know. "That wasn't me, to have little pieces of cake," he said. "I was focused on the chicken." In the end, they agreed, and today, everyone is very happy.

The plan

Rotisserie chicken made in an open style kitchen and freshly made french fries were the main ingredients of Morgenstern's vision. That his wife's matzah

ball soup and poutine are equally popular has been an unexpected surprise.

The location

James Street North, five years ago, was not what it is today, but it made more economic sense to open in a building the family already owned than in another location. What happened next made all the difference in the world. "The art crawls have transformed the street completely ... You could spend millions of dollars on advertising, but it's not going to do what the art crawls and Super Crawl do."

Secret ingredients:

The chicken's secret ingredient is Charred's Piri Piri sauce. As for the matzah ball soup, Pat Morgenstern's soup has one ingredient that Charred's Jewish customers find, well, unorthodox. "It's a very good soup," said Morgenstern, "but my Jewish customers all say, 'hold the cilantro.'"

Social media and the restaurant business:

Of the 943 Hamilton restaurants listed on Urban-spoon, Charred has consistently placed in the top 15. "Social media is just amazing," said Morgenstern. "It's the best kind of advertising. It's not me pushing it. It's the customers. It's a different world completely."

Chicken Roost comparisons:

It goes without saying that Max and Cynthia Mintz have checked out Charred. For Morgenstern, who remembers eating at the Chicken Roost as a youngster, having the Mintz stamp of approval means a great deal. "It will be fantastic if I can do what they did."

What makes his day:

"The best satisfaction is the thumbs up from the customer, because then you know what you're doing is the right thing."

WEB EXCLUSIVE

For a virtual tour of the Charred family wall, visit www.hamiltonjewishnews.com

Life's Too Short To Wear Boring Glasses



Don't Let This Opportunity Passover

WESTDALE OPTICAL
— boutique —

1050 King St. West Hamilton, ON L8S 1L6
905-525-0788
www.westdaleopticalboutique.com

Charred



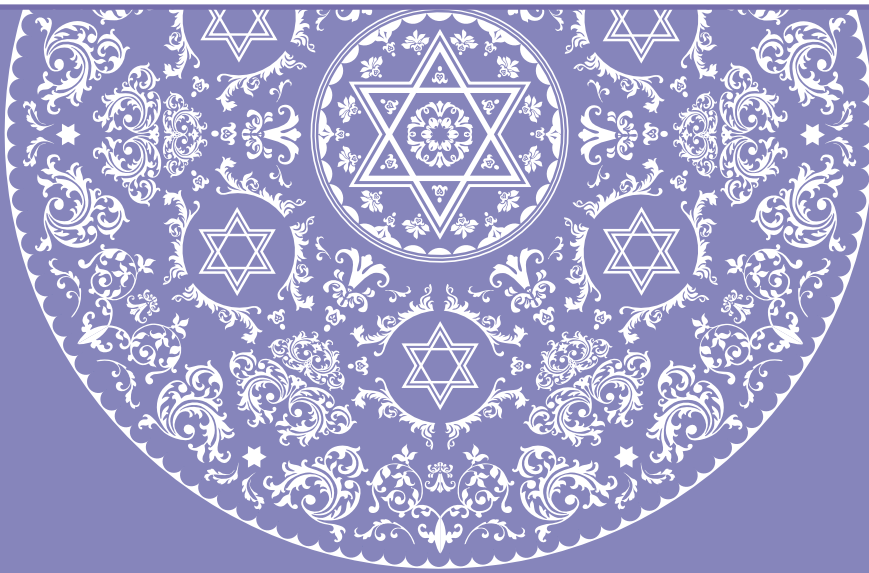
Charred Chicken

Fresh BBQ chicken cooked on our charcoal rotisserie with our signature home made piri piri sauce

244 James St. N.,
Hamilton, Ontario, L8R 2L3
(289) 396-0662

@charredchicken
charred.ca

Delivery and catering available



HAPPY PASSOVER

Chag Sameach
חג כשר ושמח



fresh kosher
whole chicken
cut up 6.59/kg

save
\$1/lb

2.99
/lb



save
2.70/lb

8.99 fresh kosher
pickled brisket
/lb
19.82/kg



save
70¢

2.99 Sabra dips
selected varieties
227 g



save
\$4

9.99 Foodfest
steelhead salmon
frozen
250 g



save
50¢

1.99 Foodfest Yom
Tov horseradish
or red beet
horseradish
375 mL



save
\$2

5.99 Clean Eats
tilapia fillets
frozen
454 g



save
\$2

4.99 Kedem grape juice
selected varieties
1.5 L



save
1.20

2.69 Manischewitz matzo
ball mix or matzo ball
soup mix
125-128 g



save
2.50

5.99 Meal Mart gefilte fish
680 g



2/5.00
or 2.50 ea.

Ceres juice
selected varieties
1 L



save
1.30

1.49 Elite milk
chocolate
selected varieties
85-100 g



save
\$2

3.99 Natural & Kosher
sliced cheese
selected varieties
170 g



save
\$2

12.99 Of Tov chicken
nuggets or
cutlettes
selected varieties
frozen
907 g

FORTINOS
Your Supermarket with a heart!

1579 Main St. W., Hamilton
50 Dundum St., Hamilton

All references to any savings claims (ie. "Save", "was", "1/2 price", etc.) is in comparison to our regular retail. We reserve the right to limit quantities. Product selection may vary and may not be available at all stores. Image prevails when text does not correspond to the description of advertised product. ®/TM trademarks of Loblaw's Inc. © 2015 Loblaw's Inc.

Prices effective until Thursday, April 16th, 2015