



He's one of a kind

Paul Hanover on a storied career **P10**

Poland looks at its past

Polish attitudes towards Jews are changing **P9**



Hamilton Jewish News

THE VOICE OF JEWISH HAMILTON

SUMMER 2016 VOL 30:4/ SIVAN, TAMUZ, AV 5775

A new phase for the JCC

by LOWELL RICHTER, co-president, JCC

The JCC of Hamilton is proud to announce its exciting vision for 2016 and beyond led by its new programmer, Hindy Ehrentreu. In April, the JCC parted ways with its brick and mortar establishment in order to better serve the Hamilton Jewish community. This affords the JCC immense flexibility, making better use of the existing Jewish facilities around the city. Camp Kadimah will operate this summer out of 235 Bowman St. in the west end. The result is higher quality programming. Hindy's first two events as director for Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'atzmaut were extremely well received with excellent attendance from

the entire community. By utilizing the city's outstanding establishments, the new JCC, under Hindy's leadership, will bring the community together in new and exciting ways.

The JCC will soon release its calendar of events for the coming year as it continues to strive for a better Jewish Hamilton. We will investigate all the possibilities of creating a new physical building with care and concern with respect to viability, usability and sustainability. Any new JCC needs to serve the community efficiently and effectively. The JCC welcomes any ideas and suggestions that our community members would like to share.

Portraits in Giving

2016 SHEM TOV AWARDS



Honouring our community volunteers

See page 4



Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum curator, Erin Napier, next to a model of the Secret Annex, where the Frank family lived in hiding for more than two years. Photo by Wendy Schneider

Anne Frank exhibit

The Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum is currently hosting a travelling exhibition from the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. Anne Frank, a History for Today, will be on display until August 28. "Although this isn't a story about aviation," said curator Erin Napier, "it's still a universal story that everyone can relate to. It's known world wide." The exhibit features artifacts never before displayed in Canada, such as a model of the Secret Annex, where the Frank family hid for more than two years. "It's a very popular part of the exhibit because it's a visual for our visitors to relate to ... the small spaces that they had to stay in," said Napier. The exhibit also focuses on Canada's role in the Liberation of Holland. For more information go to www.warplane.com.



Advocating for special needs families

P13

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**FEDERATION
REPORT**

BARB BABIJ, CEO
HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION



As the 2016 fiscal year draws to a close, Hamilton Jewish Federation celebrated its 40th birthday. It was a quiet celebration, representing a truly remarkable achievement and a testament to the generosity of this community. Think about it. For 40 years, the Federation has been providing support to Jewish Hamilton through its beneficiary agencies: support for the homeless, for the new immigrant, for the hungry, for those who cannot support themselves, as well as for Jewish education, cultural programming, and for Israel. The Hamilton Jewish News, PJ Library, Holocaust education, advocacy for Israel, workshops on topics of interest, SNAP; these are all programs of the Hamilton Jewish Federation. For 40 years, you have been powering the Federation so it can be the safety net for this community.

This past year was a year of continued change for Federation. The most recent of those changes of course, was our move from the JCC building on Lower Lions Club to new space at 105 Main Street E. This move is a baby step towards a campus concept in Jewish Hamilton. JNF is just down the hall, and the JCC moved with us. In addition, we are making space for an off-campus office for Mac Hillel. This move will facilitate the synergies to be achieved from working together. We invite you all to come visit!

This was not the only change. Recently I had the opportunity to listen to a speaker from the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton (and columnist for the Hamilton Spectator) and she spoke about “walking with both feet”. She explained the concept as addressing any problem from a short term perspective as well as looking toward a long-term solution. This is what the Federation Board did when it passed a motion to change the allocations basis from a pledge basis to a modified cash basis, based on cash received plus “reasonably assured pledges”. (“Reasonably assured pledges” are those which have not been made during campaign, though based on history, will be received eventually.) This change will ensure a stronger financial foundation for Federation in the longer term.

The total amount allocated (\$1,084,784) reflects the reduced campaign this year and addresses the short-term. While allocations were reduced, the objective was to reflect the four allocation pillars: Awakening Jewish Identity, Restoring Hope, Securing a Thriving Jewish Community, and Strengthening Israel’s Promise.

Finally, when defining Jewish education, a broader definition of education was considered, resulting in treating the afternoon schools as equal.

This was indeed a year of change. Large and small changes which will have a significant impact on Federation moving forward. Please let us know what you think – your feedback is important. And if you have not made your pledge this year, it is not too late. Please contact the office: 905-648-0605. Thank you.

Our future is powered by you.

Attention Young Writers

Are you an aspiring writer? Want to be published? The Hamilton Jewish Federation would love to kickstart your writing career by publishing your short stories, poems, or articles in the Hamilton Jewish News print and digital editions. All submissions need to be 1,500 words or less and are subject to acceptance and/or editing by its publisher, Wendy Schneider, and CEO Barb Babij. Full attribution will be given to the author; the author will retain copyright of the original piece.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Questions? Contact wschneider@jewishhamilton.org
Read: Madeline Loewith's short story in the Young Voices section at www.hamiltonjewishnews.com



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TEMPLE CELEBRATES ITS 165TH

It was a Shabbat to remember when Temple Anshe Sholom celebrated three milestones on Nov. 21, 2015. During an historic afternoon service at Temple and a sparkling evening Gala at LIUNA Station, congregants and guests recognized Temple's 165th anniversary, the 95th birthday of Rabbi Emeritus Bernard Baskin and Rabbi Jordan Cohen's 25th year in the pulpit. Temple Anshe Sholom is the first Reform Jewish congregation in Canada. Above: Ruth and Harry Hotz are among the 300 Gala guests. At dinner, Dr. Hotz received the HaMotzi.

Photo courtesy of Temple Anshe Sholom

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COMING UP

ROSH HASHANA ISSUE

- Deadline for booking ad space July 26, 2016
- Deadline for receiving editorial copy August 10, 2016
- Deadline for receiving ad copy Aug. 29, 2016
- Estimated date of arrival Sept. 16, 2016

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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Frank Simkevitz receives community's highest award

Frank Simkevitz was honoured with the CeCe Schreiber Volunteer Leadership award at the Hamilton Jewish Federation's

AGM on May 19. Named after one of Hamilton's most respected and accomplished volunteers, the award is given annually to those who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service in various roles with multiple organizations, and who are inspirational leaders.

"These criteria fit Frank to a tee," said Federation CEO Barb Babij. "Frank was involved in multiple roles at Beth Tikvah for more than 16 years in both professional and volunteer roles. He's been involved in JNF and has been a staunch supporter of the Hamilton Jewish Federation for many years. He has the ability to focus on the important issues, putting community first."

On learning of his being honoured with the community's most prestigious award Simkevitz responded with characteristic humility. "I do these things because I care for the community and I enjoy the work; However, so do so many others. I'm not special," he said, adding, "We have a wonderful Jewish community here in Hamilton. We all have to do our share and pass on these values to our children. Let's all do our part. Thanks so much for this award."



1. BETH TIKVAH FOUNDATION - FRANK SIMKEVITZ

Since 2007, Frank has led many crucial fundraising initiatives and helped craft a new framework for Beth Tikvah. In 2010 he became co-president of Beth Tikvah Foundation with Dr. Nadia Rosa. Both worked tirelessly to revitalize the board and engage the community in the business of Beth Tikvah. In 2011, Franklin was elected president of Beth Tikvah and continued as a driving force for building the strong organization that Beth Tikvah Foundation is today.

2. ADAS ISRAEL - EVA & ELLIOT RAPHAEL

Eva has been volunteering for various organizations in Hamilton since she was a child. Both Elliott and Eva are very eager to help at the Adas Israel Synagogue with just about anything. From shopping for supplies, to setting tables, to cooking, to feeding the early morning minyan, to security... this power couple has been our saving grace on many occasions. The Adas Israel community is privileged to have them as members and supporters. When asked why they are so helpful all the time, Elliott simply replied, "Because I can". Eva says that she volunteers because it is in her blood and that is how she was raised. Both said they feel very much at home in the Adas community and "when you are at home, you help out around the house."

3. JNF - NEIL SILVERT

Neil's role was varied over six years as a JNF volunteer. From fundraiser, to Negev Dinner chairman with his bride Linda, to being a board member and then president for a three-and-a-half year run, Neil has offered experience and leadership. Neil's passion is volunteering and enjoying the camaraderie with all other volunteers and staff. He is a passionate speaker about Israel and the blessing that she is in this world.

Silvert: "I see volunteering as a duty and an opportunity for individuals to give to others. Doing that is an honour that anyone can enjoy."

4. SHALOM VILLAGE - SANDY MORRIS

Sandy's compassion, patience, warm heart, friendly smile and ability to connect with the residents have enabled her to build meaningful friendships and relationships with our residents and staff. Sandy visits

with our palliative care residents and uses her skills as a trained caregiver to offer support to the residents and their families as well as spend time with residents during their final days. Sandy is also volunteering in the new Namaste Care program that seeks to improve the quality of life for people with advanced stage dementia by providing meaningful activities with a loving touch approach. Sandy is truly an amazing volunteer whose dedication to her role is greatly valued.

Morris: "Even if a resident cannot speak, we can talk to them and show our affection by touch and by being sensitive to their fragile temperaments. Remember to honour our forefathers."

5. KEHILA - PIOTR GAWEK

This year Kehila has been extremely fortunate to have Piotr Gawek, a Kehila parent and teacher with 25 years of experience, volunteer his time on a weekly basis to introduce our students to the wonderful world of music and all the benefits and advantages that a strong music program provides. Kehila is so grateful to have such a passionate person have such a significant impact on our students and enrich our curriculum.

Gawek: "I feel a special responsibility to give my time and energy as a volunteer to a cause I believe in: music education. My goal is to encourage our children to express themselves and their Yiddishkeit freely and without reservation, and to help the next generation of young people to connect with, and draw strength, hope and inspiration from, the rich musical heritage of our foremothers and forefathers."

6. NA'AMAT HAMILTON - HELEN METZ

Helen has been an active member of our chapter for more than 20 years. She has held many different roles, including past president. Helen is currently in charge of communication. Regardless of the time of day or night, she will make sure that any message gets relayed in a timely fashion. Often she will add some wonderful comments. For Helen the glass is always half full. When Helen is not thinking and breathing Na'amat, she is a passionate social worker, supporting children and adolescents.

Metz: I get more out of volunteering than I give. I am naturally curious, so to be the communication officer suits me personally. It is interesting, stimulating, fun and well worthwhile. Volunteering with Na'amat is a pleasure because the women are so wonderful - respectful, fun, highly motivated and hard working - and my friends!

7. TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM - SEAN DAVIS

Sean and his wife Marla founded the Temple's annual golf tournament, an exceptionally well run and spirited event. Sean also regularly contributes his culinary talents and enthusiasm to many events and programs, always with an incredible generosity of spirit. It is personally important for Sean to give his time, energy and efforts to good causes, and he always gives it his absolute best!

Davis: "I am a part of something, a member, a needed foot soldier in which this association has taught and allowed me to give the right way, make a difference and in trade helped me become a better person"

8. JCC - LAURA LAENGERER

Laura Laengerer has been volunteering for the JCC well before her nine years of working for the organization and her impact will be felt well into the future as the JCC enters its new chapter. Her commitment and passion for finding a neutral ground where everyone can feel comfortable regardless of their religious observance or affiliation is greatly appreciated by the entire community. Laura went above and beyond in her role as program director. The board is extremely eager to publicly express their gratitude to her for all her years of commitment and community building. Although we will miss her a lot we are so proud of her accomplishments and wish her well in her new endeavours. On behalf of the entire Hamilton Jewish community we want to thank Laura for her volunteerism over and above her job and wish her much success in her new career.

Laengerer: "The JCC has given me the opportunity to give back to a community who has always been there for me. Being a part of this community has given me the chance to grow as an individual and being a leader in our community gave me the chance to help build our future. I look forward to

Wishing you a safe and wonderful summer!



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Portraits in Giving

watching our youth of today become the Jewish leaders of tomorrow.”

9. HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION - LARRY SZPIRGLAS

Larry has been involved in Jewish communal service his entire adult life. A one-time Jewish professional, Larry has served in a volunteer capacity with both the JCC and Federation, where he served as president and as a past UJA Campaign co-chair. A stalwart supporter of the JCC over the years, Larry played an instrumental role in its sale. Volunteerism is something Larry Szpirglas lives day to day; he is a true mensch, richly deserving of the Shem Tov award.

10. BETH JACOB - THE GREEN YARMULKES

The Green Yarmulke Team shares the responsibility in fulfilling this directive with their combined efforts to ensure the exterior of the Beth Jacob reflects our traditions, our membership's pride and our community profile. The Green Yarmulke Team brings honour to this imperative with its efforts to beautify the Beth Jacob's landscape. Doing so is a "Kiddush Hashem" and allows us to stand tall and with respect in both our immediate and extended communities.

Jerry Goldblatt, Les Lasky, Irwin Levine Len Kaufman, Ron Richter and Ivan Ross: "In volunteering for the Green Yarmulkes you receive as much as you give. You receive thanks from the Shuls's neighbours and admiration from the congregants – all this for donating a little bit of time. What can be better than to be loved and appreciated?"

11. SHAAREI BETH EL (OAKVILLE) - EVA NEILSON

Eva Neilson has been an integral part of Shaarei-Beth El Congregation for decades. Eva has served as a board member, executive officer, helps in the office, does our payroll, coordinates our Bingo fundraisers and serves anywhere else that is needed. She has provided a calm and steady voice over the years, as other leaders have come and gone, and her wisdom and perseverance in helping shape this synagogue community is what makes her stand out.

Neilson: The best way to sum up what volunteering means is to me is a quote from Sir Winston Churchill, "We make a living

by what we get, but we make a life by what we give". Volunteering my time is my way of giving back to the Shaarei Beth El family for the many blessings and courtesies I have received as a member.

12. HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY - SHERYL AND STAN KATZ

Stan and Sheryl's family history with the HHA begins well before its inception. They discreetly and diligently help with anything and everything, and they are always there behind the scenes making fundraising phone calls, opening their homes for guests, running errands and setting up events. Stan welcomes the children of the HHA every morning with "Boker Tov" and continues the tradition set in motion by the late Rabbi Eisenstein. Stan's love for and humour with the children is truly contagious. Stan and Sheryl were honoured at this year's HHA Gala Tribute dinner for all of their love and devotion to our school.

Sheryl attributes her community involvement to her parents and role models Goldie and Harry Robbins, both of whom were involved in a lifetime of chesed and tikun olam. Stan says that he derives incredible pleasure when the children repeat "It's a Beautiful Day at the HHA."

13. JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - MAUREEN PRICE

Maureen joined our board in 2007 and has served ever since. Maureen brings a distinct and much needed point of view to our discussions which is appreciated. Maureen has also served as a speaker for JGSH and has gone the extra mile to help members and non-members with questions about their genealogical pursuits.

Price: "Over the years I have learned that the most satisfying way to truly become part of a community is by joining organizations whose goals I believe in, and then working, in whatever ways I can, to help to achieve those goals. Genealogy has been a life-long interest and to be part of a group of interesting, dedicated and like-minded people who share my passion, is most gratifying. I feel very lucky and privileged to be awarded this honour for simply doing what I believe in and enjoy."

14. JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES - DAVID PAPERINICK

David Papernick has been a volunteer at the Hamilton Jewish Social Services Chai choir for the past four years. He plays his guitar coordinates the choir and helps everyone reach their full potential. In addition David is always available to do performances for the Chevra Club and at Shalom Village, where he has performed for the past 20 years.

Papernick: "I feel privileged to use my musical passion to make a positive difference to the lives of people in our community."

15. MCMASTER HILLEL - HAYLEY GOLDFARB AND MINDY CHAPMAN

As Hillel president, Hayley managed a 20-person student executive and was the face of Hillel for the campus and the McMaster Jewish community. Hayley worked diligently in organizing her executive, skillfully organizing events big and small, and always engaging with Jewish students new and old. Hayley's maturity in judgment and her thoughtful nature were amazing qualities in a leader.

Goldfarb: "Volunteering as the president of McMaster Hillel was an experience that improved my leadership skills, challenged my assumptions, and allowed me to connect with the Jewish community. Above all else, my volunteer experience has given me immense pride in what the McMaster and Hamilton Jewish community stand for and what we can accomplish."

As president of Israel on Campus, Mindy led her team in planning events showcasing Israel. From Israel Day to Israeli Wine and Cheese: Israel and Technology, to tabling information in the student centre, Mindy shared her love for Israel with the Jewish community and beyond to the campus community. Mindy's knowledge, passion and advocacy skills were amazing assets and she led her team with confidence and great skill.

Chapman: "If you ask any of us to describe Jewish life at McMaster, our answers are usually some form of the word family, and it's incredibly special to not only be a part of that family, but to know that I've played a part in making our community what it is."

Bill Morris receives Presidents' Leadership Appreciation Award

A pillar of the community and one of the most generous individuals this community has ever

seen, Bill Morris is the recipient of Federation's Presidents Award.

A past president of the Council of Jewish Organizations, Morris has also chaired multiple UJA

campaigns. Morris has been a strong supporter of Temple Anshe Sholom and the Beverley Golf and Country Club. His stalwart support of Jewish communal life in Hamilton is matched by his dedication to and love for Israel.

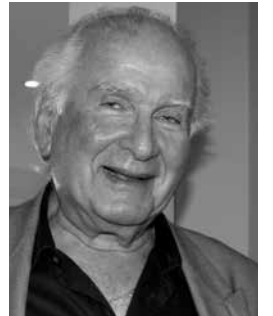
"He's a man who is very generous with the community," said his good friend, Judge David Steinberg. "Bill is the leader of the 'Jewish bar'."

A champion for the rights of injured persons, Morris was the 2006 recipient of the Emelius Irving Award, in recognition of distinguished service to the legal community.

Morris credits his mentor, Max Stein, for inspiring him to live a life based on giving.

"Virtually every one of this community's major donors tells a story how at one point or another, Bill Morris sat them down and got them to commit to step up in a sustained, big and responsible way," said Community Campaign chair, Yves Apel.

Asked to account for his extraordinary generosity, Morris has said, "Giving makes you feel good and it always comes back to you."



Wishing the community a summer filled with family, friends and joy.



Brad Wiseman

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At the Hamilton Jewish Federation AGM, Community Campaign chair, Yves Apel (left), Federation CEO Barb Babij and Federation president Carl De Leon, present a cheque to the community from funds raised during the annual campaign. Photo by Wendy Schneider

Where your dollars go

Hamilton Jewish Federation Community Campaign

Each year, a group of very dedicated volunteers meets numerous times to assess the needs of Jewish agencies in Hamilton. Each of our agencies deals on the front lines to restore hope to the vulnerable, awaken Jewish identity, ensure that the community that is Jewish Hamilton continues to thrive, and strengthen Israel's promise. This is a difficult task in the best of times. Against a background of a significant policy change with regard to allocations and a reduced campaign, this task becomes even more difficult. It requires that individual agendas be put aside while the needs of the agencies are weighed against the needs of the community from multiple perspectives. The Committee grappled with questions of impact, financial stability, and strategy. Under the leadership of Jacki Levin, the new chair of the Allocations Committee, this task was accomplished with great sensitivity. In an effort to achieve a more stable basis for allocations, the amount available for allocation will be based on the dollars received plus "reasonably assured" pledges, based on history, instead of pledges. The recommendation to the board of trustees more closely mirrored our four pillars: care for the vulnerable, Jewish identity, developing community, and support for Israel. The Committee submitted its recommendations to the board of trustees, and the board approved a total of \$1,084,784 to be allocated. The allocation to the four pillars follows (rounded to the nearest per cent):

Restoring Hope (36 per cent)

In Jewish Hamilton, we restore hope to the vulnerable, from cradle "to 120." Your dollars go towards:

- Supporting social services programs
- Feeding the hungry (45 families on a monthly basis)
- Housing adults with developmental disabilities
- Helping families who have children with special needs

Awakening Jewish Identity (33 per cent)

The link between Jewish education and experiences, and strengthening Jewish identity is well documented. Your dollars go toward:

- Jewish education at our day and afternoon schools
- Camp Kadimah bursaries
- Supporting Jewish students at McMaster
- Holocaust education
- PJ Library
- Birthright and other Israel experiences
- Scholarships for other programs in Israel

Strengthening Israel's Promise (21 per cent)

Klal Yisrael and responsibility for one another is evident in our support for Israel and Jews in need around the world. Your dollars go towards:

- Relief efforts through our support of JAFI (Jewish Agency For Israel)
- Israel advocacy in conjunction with our partner The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs
- Jewish Federations of Canada - United Israel Appeal

Securing a thriving Jewish community (11 per cent)

Tikkun olam and a sense of shared purpose are central to our notion of a thriving Jewish community. This requires commitment to cultural programming as well as an investment in infrastructure. Your dollars support this continuity and sustainability by:

- Providing a better quality of life through kashrut services
- Supporting cultural programming like Yom Hashoah, Morris Black Public Speaking Contest, and the Max and Stella Rotman Humanitarian Youth Awards
- Publishing the Hamilton Jewish News
- Providing a forum for community dialogue and leadership discussions
- Supporting transportation to Toronto for high school kids
- Fundraising through our annual Community Campaign

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HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION IS GRATEFUL TO THESE DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WHO YEAR AFTER YEAR DONATE THEIR TIME AND EFFORT TO MAKE JEWISH HAMILTON A BETTER PLACE.

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THANK YOU TELETHON

Lisa Morris (organizer) Volunteers: Annika De Leon, Ariel De Leon, Carl De Leon, Carl De Leon Jr., Augustina Gershkovich, Ester Gershkovich, Matthew Gershkovich, Samuel Gershkovich, Jonathan Gershkovich, Matthew Sampson

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HOLOCAUST EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Lois Freeman, Chair, Sima Aronowicz, Anne Barrs, Geraldine Katz-Rose, Anna Schafer

SNAP COMMITTEE

Andrea Levy, Anita Bernstein, Chris Barone, Joy Zians, Marilyn Levy, Rina Rodak, Sandy Morris, Yael Reznick-De Marco

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WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL TOGETHER!

(*When making a list like this, there's always the danger of inadvertently leaving someone out. Our apologies to anyone we might have missed.)

PJ Library Upcoming Events

PJ Library visits Camp Kadima

Wednesday, July 13, 2016, 10 – 11 a.m. 235 Bowman St., Hamilton

Great opportunity for younger siblings to visit Camp Kadima! All children under 7 along with a parent, grandparent or caregiver are welcome to join us for PJ Library stories and crafts.

PJ Library at the JCC Community BBQ

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2016 6 p.m. 235 Bowman St., Hamilton

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SNAP SPECIAL NEEDS ACTION PROJECT

ANITA BERNSTEIN

SNAP develops programs to support families of individuals with special needs. SNAP evolved in response to the challenges felt by families of children and adults with special needs in the Hamilton Jewish community. The Hamilton Jewish Federation and representatives from the four Jewish schools and Beth Tikvah mobilized to identify the needs in the community and provide information to families with children and adults who have special needs. In the past year the committee provided the following programs:

A parent education forum provided information to more than 35 participants on resources and local services that support children and adults with special needs.

A professional development day that brought together over 40 participants from the four Jewish schools and Beth Tikvah to share experiences and learn innovative strategies for encouraging positive behavior in schools and community programs.

Created a fund to subsidize psycho-educational assessments for children attending Hamilton's Jewish educational programs. Five subsidies were made available of which three have been allocated.

Moving forward, the committee is looking to continue providing a forum for family members of individuals with special needs, to assist access to Jewish education and develop innovative programs in the community for this population. If you need additional information or are aware of a family requiring support for a child or adult with special needs, contact SNAP through Barb Babij at the Hamilton Jewish Federation at 905-648-0605, ext. 305.



Above, l to r: Manny Figueiredo, director of education for the HWDSB, Karen Dick, Westdale – recipient of the 2016 Sharon Enkin Award, James Enkin, Sandie Pizzuti, superintendent, HWCDSB, Barb Babij, CEO, Hamilton Jewish Federation.
Inset: Keynote speaker Ian Jones.

Photo by Wendy Schneider

800 ATTEND HOLOCAUST HIGH SCHOOL SEMINAR

Hamilton Jewish Federation's 18th annual Student Seminar on Holocaust Education took place on April 12 at Mohawk College with approximately 800 in attendance. The three-hour program began with honouring this year's annual Sharon Enkin Award winners for demonstrating commitment and creativity in engaging students in Holocaust Education. James Enkin, whose mother Sharon, was a dedicated educator and philanthropist, presented the award to Westdale Secondary School teacher, Karen Dick. Ian Jones, retired principal of Milton District Secondary School gave an inspiring talk titled, How Different Are We? Using the Holocaust to Reflect Forward. The second keynote was given by Holocaust survivor, Nate Leipziger, who survived the Sosnowiec Ghetto and the camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Gross Rosen, Funfteichen, Leonberg, Flossenberg Muhldorf and Waldlager (two sub-camps of Dachau). Leipziger and his father were liberated in May 1945, and immigrated to Canada in 1948.

Comments made by students included: "Everyone is different and we need to treat each other with respect no matter what their differences" – "There will always be differences but how we choose to react to them is what matters, difference should not lead to hatred" – "I learned that predict and prevent is better than react and respond" – "I learned that we can change the world for the good." Hamilton Jewish Federation thanks Mohawk College, The Azrieli Foundation, Cable 14, the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, Lawrence Enkin and family, Paratus Investors Corporation and the Erwin Jacobs Endowment Fund for their support. Special mention to The Azrieli Foundation for organizing our survivor speaker this year and donating two class sets of Survivor Memoirs to every participating school. A special shout out and thanks to Federation's Holocaust Education Committee for another successful program.

Trivia night at Mac Hillel

DANIEL BORINS

On April 2, Mac Hillel hosted our very own Havdallah/Trivia Night, the likes of which the McMaster Jewish community had never seen. The night began with a Havdallah ceremony in Clubspace. But that was only the appetizer for the main course. The Hillel executive served up quite the tasty dish of pop culture questions, Israeli trivia, and brain teasers for the two teams of contestants. As the teams tried to solve the questions together, I could see friendships develop through their teamwork; it was an amazing sight to behold.

I was happy that I not only got to help run the event, but also create the questions. I made a huge amount of pop culture questions, due to my knowledge of useless information about movies and music. A few members of the executive and I spent the week coming up with creative questions that would really push the boundaries on what a typical trivia night might provide. One really cool round that Hillel President Ben Buckler created was a Google Earth picture round. Participants were shown a Google Earth picture of a famous location and had to guess where it was. Another fan favourite was the chip contest, where contestants had to guess the brand and flavour of a variety of potato chips. I very much enjoyed this round, because even though I wasn't guessing any of the flavours, I got to "judge" the chips myself. In the end, everybody had a good time, there were plenty of snacks, and people even learned a little something along the way. Great success!

Daniel Borins is a third year student majoring in psychology, neuroscience and behaviour.

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What I learned about myself at the Israeli Film Festival

by LEE ALEXANDER, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

The welcome was great, the food was great, and yes, the films were great – ALL of them, but for really different reasons. The Israeli Film Festival, held in Beth Jacob Synagogue last month screened three films: “Dancing Arabs”, “The Farewell Party”, and “Dr. Pomerantz”. The first film, “Dancing Arabs”, was the easiest to love, and my guess is that it was probably the most popular. The story of a young Arab boy coming of age in a fractious community was told with a lot of humour but no flinching. Pivotal moments of this boy’s life were indeed severely scarred and in the end caused him to persevere personally but abandon his identity, his family, his community. The characters in the second film, “The Farewell Party” were, in contrast, at the end of their lives. They were coping with not just the inevitable death of a loved one, but also with watching the dying person endure ongoing and inescapable physical pain. Standing by, powerless to ease the suffering, they were prompted to concoct their own solution to the dilemma. This process became, at times, hilarious even though the themes were topical and serious. It was the third film, “Dr. Pomerantz”, however, that I suspect was probably the least popular. Like the first two, this film dealt with a serious subject and at times was just as hilarious as they were. But this was a film I would never, on my own, have chosen to watch. If I were channel surfing, I would

instantly skip it. So, why then, did I not walk out?
 In retrospect, I realize that initially the two things that put me off were the main character and the setting. The main character was unkempt – he was unshaven, overweight, poorly dressed, a slob. He was not someone with whom I would strike up a conversation – quite the contrary – I would politely sidle away from him if I found myself in the same room with him or on the sidewalk waiting for a green light. The setting was his apartment – a claustrophobically small, cheaply furnished, poorly organized box. If, inadvertently, I found myself there I would want to exit immediately; its inhabitant was someone I would scramble to avoid at all costs.
 As the film progressed, the viewers got a picture of Dr. Pomerantz. His wife had killed herself, his son had Asperger’s and he himself was working at a suicide hotline. He was a decent, well liked man; he provided a home for his handicapped son and contributed to the community. Not a great life but things were going along until he fell victim to depression and himself descended into the netherworld of mental incapacity; he then transformed into a Charon, boatman of the Styx, accepting the payment of one gold coin for ferrying the dead across to the underworld. As Dr. Pomerantz’s depression worsened his son took over the “family business”; at

the end he became nothing more than a clownish carnival barker, collecting cash for a short, meaningless, midway ride.
 The maker of this film, Assi Dayan, did inject humour, but it was indeed black – unrelieved black. Depression is not pretty and it is not sociable and for these reasons it is well outside my comfort zone and, I suspect, that of the general populace. Discomfort starts with the physical – personal appearance, physical setting. That’s why I change the channel or sidle away. This same discomfort mounts with the fear of social unpredictability. People who are seriously depressed are often beyond performing the smooth, often meaningless social niceties that we use on a daily basis to grease polite society along.
 Depressed people are liable to respond in a manner that does not fit our formulaic conversational patterns; they can be quite loud, possibly foul, not really logical, and unreasonable. This is embarrassing to respond to. There is also the chance that they will not physically respond as our ingrained social expectations dictate; body language is a delicate issue sometimes beyond the control of the mentally ill. I am uncomfortable and downright fearful when I have to deal with this much social uncertainty and I avoid people who are likely to put me in the position where I might have to respond to their potentially embarrassing unpredictability. A good reason

to change the channel. However, I sat through this film and now I have to deal with the emotionally painful aftermath.
 Watching “Dr. Pomerantz” was not comfortable because it did not allow the viewer this escape. Assi Dayan put socially upsetting people front and centre in his film. The viewer could not ignore them or sidle away; he or she had to sit with his or her discomfort for 90 minutes. Where was all my discomfort coming from? It came from evading in myself the next step to the discussion – the usually politely ignored, unspoken question – exactly where, on that so-called “continuum” was I? Nobody, but nobody, ever asks that question in polite discussions. My discomfort with Dayan’s film effectively answered that question point blank – I was somewhere I did not want to be. And worse yet, I certainly did not want to admit it. Assi Dayan’s Dr. Pomerantz forced me to peg myself squarely on the line. Ironically, while the film itself offered no hope, it did indicate the direction in which hope could be found. I have Dr. Pomerantz to thank for this powerful, disconcerting diagnosis. I may not have liked it, but at least there is a cure.
Lee Alexander, now retired, taught high school English for the Hamilton-Wentworth Roman Catholic School Board for 24 years.

My leap of faith



Ralph Benmergui

There is an argument to be made that certain points in life require a leap of faith. Some would say a leap in to faith in yourself, others argue that we require faith in the good intentions of others and finally for some there is the notion that we must give ourselves up to a higher power and leap in to the mystery. I understand that mystery to be an essential element of our journey together. Living, as we do in a rational age we often shrink from mystery. At times we relegate it to the realm of the fairy tale, in the pejorative sense.
 I was once invited to a dinner being held by a publisher friend at a swank restaurant in the bowels of the financial district

of Toronto. The Guest of Honour was the atheist writer Richard Dawkins. He was touring to promote his bestseller, *The God Delusion*. I was seated beside Mr. Dawkins. He had taken a leap of faith. His belief was that science was truth and religion was a fairy tale that only the infantilized could appreciate. I asked him what made him believe that science was truth. He looked at me with what can only be described as a look of pity and proceeded to explain that the laws of nature were immutable. That religion had done nothing but turn us on each other and that the sooner we rid ourselves of this irrational nonsense the sooner we would save ourselves from this delusional and frankly feeble mindset.
 I asked him why he believed science was truth if science itself is constantly being reshaped by new discoveries, new thinking and never before discovered possibilities.
 To me science is how we attempt to articulate God. God is the eternal creative force that gives birth to the cosmos through a cycle of creation, transformation, death and rebirth. God is unknowable and worthy

of our humility. Dr. Dawkins it seemed to me would be loathed to bend his knee to God or the waiter serving our table for that matter. He, I think, saw the mystery as a puzzle. A Rubiks Cube that some of us can figure out and others, the simpler of us, cannot. That dinner was many years ago and I was in a different place in my life. Since then I have left broadcasting, created and accepted new opportunities, and soon will be an ordained spiritual director. All have required a leap of faith. I speak occasionally of my leap role model. Nachshon. He is part of the Exodus story. Moses brings the people to the shores of the Red Sea. Pharaoh has hardened his heart and has given chase. He will slaughter the Israelites rather than set them free. As Moses prays and the people panic Nachshon enters the sea, and here the question becomes, was he pushed or did he walk in to the water. I like to think that the answer is irrelevant. Sometimes our leap is self-propelled and sometimes we need a little nudge. So be it. What happens next is what to me embodies the ruach, the courage, the spirit that can bring meaning and

deep intention to our journey. Nachshon walks in to the water, up to his knees, he does not falter; up to his hips, he carries on, next his chest and as Moses prays/begs God to save his people his inner voice says turn and see what Nachshon has done. By then Nachshon is almost completely submerged and Moses calls for the people to follow. The Red Sea parts inside of us when we make ourselves available to the truth that this life is not rehearsal. That we have a Pharaoh deep inside us, a Mitzrayim that is the tight space that makes our lives seem small. We must choose our liberation, make ourselves available to the ever present wonder of creation and as a recent guest to our Shabbat table said, come to the realization that we are all just walking each other home.
Ralph Benmergui, his wife Cortney and their two boys moved to Hamilton last summer. He is currently in the process of being ordained as a spiritual director and works with Sheridan College on its journey to become a university.

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Poland and the March of the Living

MOL participants receive warm welcome in Poland

by BENSON HONIG, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Last Yom HaShoah, my wife Dena and I attended the March of the Living (MOL), whereby the world's Jewish community walks the three kilometre distance from Auschwitz to Birkenau. We had sent both our son Alon and daughter, Shanee on this important learning journey, one that normally follows up with a Yom Hazikaron and a Yom Haatzmaut visit to Israel. However, we felt it more important to send them first – we could wait. When Hamilton school trustee and local NDP candidate Alex Johnstone said, during the last election, that she had no idea what Auschwitz was (Johnstone subsequently went on a Shoah trip to Poland), we realized that we, too, needed to be vocal witnesses to the evidence of the Shoah in order to report back to the Canadian community, at large.

It was a very moving moment, for both of us. My grandmother, German born and raised, was murdered in one of these very crematoria. This was the closest I would ever come to walking in her footsteps, of honoring her memory.

In a way, the MOL experience for me was something I started nearly 10 years ago. A German newspaper reported that a mikvah had been discovered by archeologists in the basement of a rural house south of Frankfurt, in Germany. That house was my grandfather's house, and shortly after, I summed up some courage, rented a car in Germany, and found myself knocking on the owner's door. That same weekend, I visited the Jewish cemetery of my family, which had a history in Germany for more than 200 years. I took some stones from that cemetery back with me to Canada. When my uncle and later my own father were buried, I placed some of those stones in their grave. It was, sort of, a completion of the historical cycle, linking them with all our other departed relatives. With just a few stones left, it was my privilege to bring some of those stones to the final resting place of my murdered grandmother, and we were both honored and proud to be able to march with the adult Canadian group.

There were two things that I found most surprising in the MOL. First, was the extraordinary range of Jewish communities making the walk – more than 10,000 participants from 52 countries were represented. Ours was a spontaneous outpouring of community consciousness to ensure this would never happen again.

The second surprising item was totally unexpected. Our children had reported receiving numerous



Dena and Benson Honig at the March of the Living. Photo courtesy of Benson Honig

“Poland was an amazing experience ... We found the people very friendly.”

dirty looks in Poland, and got the impression that Jews were still a very unwelcome presence. Imagine our surprise, then, when at the MOL, we were met by contingent after contingent of young and old Polish citizens, holding signs of sympathy and support. One young Pole handed me a memorial tag, and showed me the picture of his own grandfather, who had been interned at Auschwitz, but somehow survived.

It should be remembered that the Polish national rhetoric after the Second World War under communist control was historically that Poles were murdered in Auschwitz, not primarily Jews. In fact, the first monuments made no mention of Jews at all. As the Polish national museums attest, periodic pogroms were launched against Jews regularly before the war, shortly after the war, in 1967 after the creation of Israel, and again in the 1980s.

There are very few Jews left in Poland, although the number seems to be growing, particularly by the younger generation who have started to recognize hidden

Jewish ancestry in their families. We spent a wonderful day with one young woman who self-identified as culturally Jewish. Her recognition of her Jewishness was by her own darker complexion, and by the fact that her grandmother was mysteriously only baptized at the age of seven right after German occupation (her assumption was that her grandmother was a Jewish child adopted by Christian Poles).

Poland now sees itself as a full fledged European country. The Jewish culture festival in Krakow, annual since 1988, celebrates Jewish culture and music with 30,000 attendees. Krakow has numerous living synagogues. Warsaw has its own active JCC and synagogues. The POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, which opened in 2013, is one of the most impressive Jewish museums we have visited world-wide. Strikingly, as with the Jewish Museum in Berlin, this is a museum designed primarily for non-Jews – and we observed hundreds of school children attending the exhibits.

Poland was an amazing experience. We found the people very friendly, even when they knew we were Jewish. The food we ate was surprisingly good. The infrastructure solid (Dena remarked that we, in Canada, should learn how to build roads from the Poles!) All in all, the trip was very moving, and it also highlighted the importance of recognizing the following verse in Deuteronomy: “The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own



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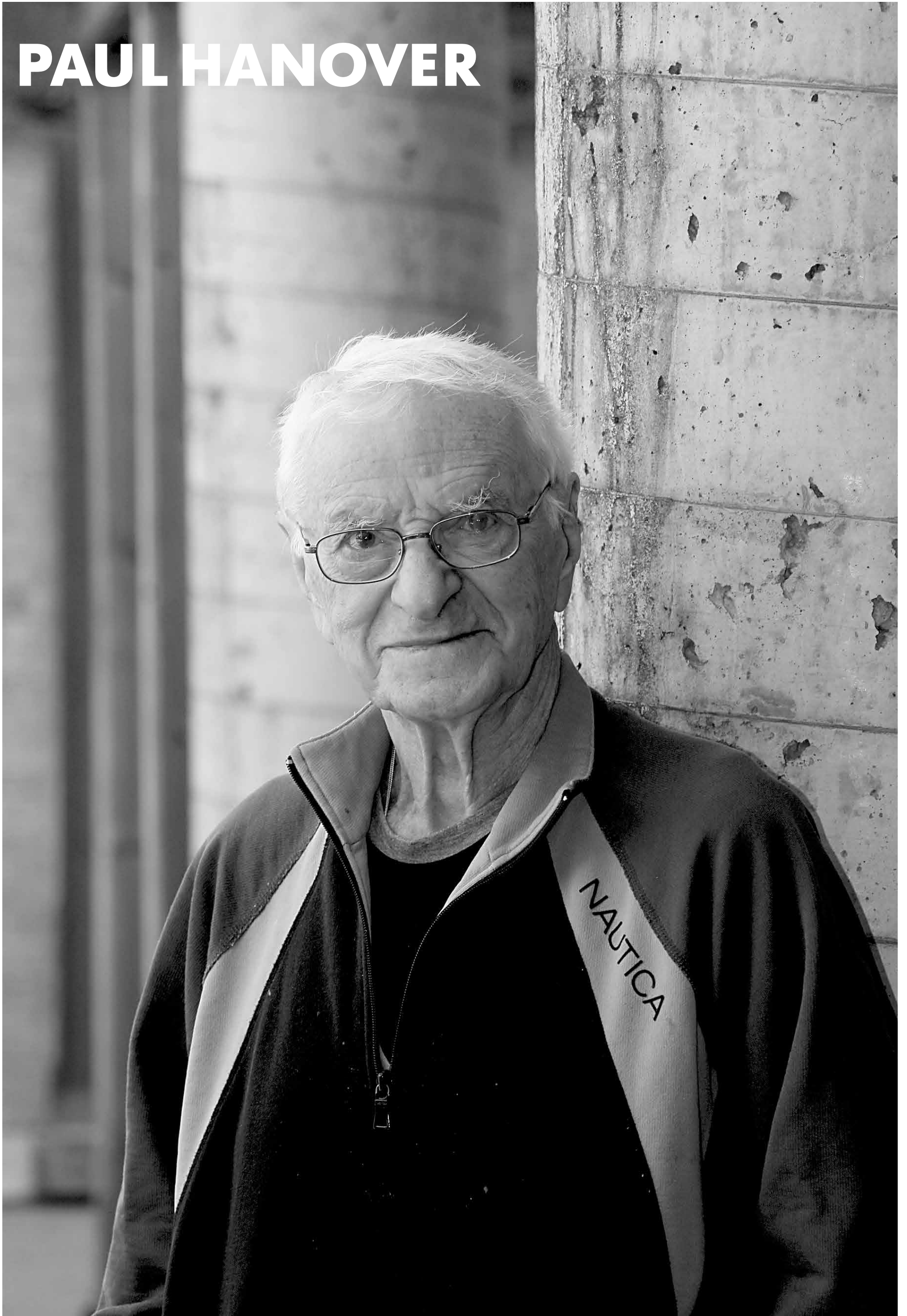
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PAUL HANOVER



When Paul Hanover reflects on his storied career as a radio and television personality, he modestly attributes his success to being in the right place at the right time. But even into his 90s, it's readily apparent that Hanover's love of people, essential humanity and wry sense of humour are the real reasons why he's a Hamilton treasure and ...

One of a Kind

A series that profiles our community's most interesting people

Story by Wendy Schneider, the Hamilton Jewish News

When did it become apparent that a career in show business might be in the cards for you?

I was the class clown at Westdale high school, which is something I did to get some attention. I remember it was wartime and we had a skit we made up, a Julius Caesar play, as a fundraiser. Even though there was a script, I decided I would do something on my own. I didn't have a toga so I wore my sister's confirmation dress. I remember that I walked out, stopped, looked out at the audience and went straight into a monologue, and they received it very well. So that gave me the whole inspiration to get into radio, because radio was the only outlet for that sort of stuff.

How did you get into radio?

I got hired because of wartime. I was lucky. Any other time I might not have been able to climb the ladder. When I was 17 I was hired by a radio station in Sault Ste Marie. Then I got lucky when Norm Marshall, the star performer at CHML, and an alcoholic, disappeared and they didn't know where he was, so I got hired. In those days, working on radio was essentially announcing music and the news, but with television coming along at the same time, we gradually got into personality radio. The station developed that way and I grew with it. I had a chance to find the real me by meeting people, talking and kibbitzing around. The whole industry, the whole world was changing and I happened to be in the right place at the right time.

How did you come to change your name?

In show business, Hollywood stars would generally not keep their original names. Solly Yanover was all tough to say, so when I was up in Sault Ste. Marie, I tried calling myself Sy Young at first. (Then I came up with) Paul Hanover. And that just fit in beautifully. There's a woman here at Shalom Village who went to school with me in Westdale. She said to me one day, "I remember you as that curly haired Solly Yanover." I didn't know anybody noticed me in school.

At the height of your career you became known as Mayor of the Morning. How did that come about?

It was my boss's idea, who got the idea from a disc jockey in Chicago. It really opened up a whole new field

“

Do the best job
you can wherever
you are and things
will come your way
eventually.

Words to live by by Paul Hanover

for me, because my being in Hamilton was an advantage. I knew the people. I'd be out talking to them and then go on the next day and talk about them. That made a whole family of listeners. One of my best jokes involved (former mayor) Vic Coppins. A big issue at the time was McMaster University's taking over a lot of homes in Westdale for its expansion. It caused a lot of brouhaha that led to one of my great coups. I was out doing a banquet and I said that Vic was the night ma(re)-yor. After that, every mayor since then became the night mayor.

How did you get into television?

It was a lucky break. I was the Mayor of the Morning in Hamilton, when one of the salesmen I knew from Sault Ste. Marie was down in Montreal to help open a CTV station there. At the same time (American game show producer) Dan Enright was pitching a game show to the network, but they couldn't get a host. This guy remembered the days when I hosted a show on CHCH called Mother Parker's Musical Mysteries and recommended

me. I went up and auditioned and (subsequently) had a whole new career as a game show host for about 10 years on CTV.

You've talked about your career highlights. Can you also speak about the hard times.

You know it's funny. Success can bring tough times. There was a time when I had a television show, I had the radio show, and I started working as an announcer at Woodbine Raceway. Here I was working seven mornings and seven nights a week and calling the races and on weekends, and flying to Montreal to do TV shows. That was pretty stressful, but in that business, you were afraid to let anything go. The work might only last a week or a month so you took on everything. I had everything going for me, and yet, that was my most depressing time. But I got over it. What helped me a lot was being able to do comedy. And most of the comedy stuff I did was telling the truth about people.

What words do you live by?

I used to tell kids at school when you're in school, get involved with as many things as you can because someday there's going to be somebody who can do something for you ... So you have to do the best job you can wherever you are and things will come your way eventually.

What do you see as your legacy?

Staying in Hamilton. Being with family and friends. When CHML started the concept of the radio personality I took hold of that and ran it as hard as you possibly could ... It was hard work and everything, but I've got millions of friends. Thousands of people whose lives I've affected and that made me feel really great, to have done something and felt it and pioneered something that worked out well for the station, for CHML, for Ken Soble. Not bad for a kid who put on his sister's dress and went on a stage in Westdale and got his first taste of an audience reaction.

WEB EXCLUSIVE

Watch *One of a Kind* online: An interview with Paul Hanover at www.hamiltonjewishnews.com.



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A debate on liberal Jewish ideology and Israel

Story and photo by DAVE GORDON, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

DAVE GORDON

To the question of: "Are Liberal Jews Trapped by Their Own Ideology?", Barbara Kay, National Post columnist, began her address by answering the talk's title: "yes."

Barbara spoke about campus anti-Semitism, the demonization of Israel, and issues facing Jews, April, 12 at Toronto's Holy Blossom Temple.

She was later joined in conversation with her son, Jonathan Kay, editor of the Walrus Magazine.

She began her address by describing a poster circulating American campuses, derived from the neo-Nazi website, Daily Stormer, that explicitly blamed Jews for "destroying your country through mass immigration and degeneracy".

"If I had seen that poster in my youth, it would have felt like a punch to the gut. Objectively, I should still be sickened. But the world has changed a lot since I was young and naively swaddled in the belief that anti-Semitism had finally been vanquished," she said, noting that those with "genocidal dreams" today are plentiful.

"This time around, a sizable number of our Jewish intelligentsia think the way that hate is framed in modern times – as Israel cleansing, rather than racial cleansing – is kind of cool."

Among those intelligentsia, she cited Michael Neumann, a professor of philosophy at Trent University in Peterborough, Ont., who claims in a 2003 blog post: "If an effective strategy means encouraging reasonable anti-Semitism, or reasonable hostility to Jews, I also don't care. If it means encouraging vicious racist anti-Semitism, or the destruction of the state of Israel, I still don't care."

Professors such as these have "unprecedented access" to "masses of vulnerable minds in an environment virtually cleansed of pro-Israel voices," said Barbara.

It is especially troubling because campus "is influential in society. It creates leaders of tomorrow."

University students are "indoctrinated into reflexive anti-Israel mindset," she said, while BDS is a "long game" that isn't necessarily concerned with the economic crippling of Israel; rather, convincing the populace of Israel's evils.

"BDS Jews are unappeasable, because they want Israel not to be there altogether."

Barbara noted, "[T]he vitriol, the irrationality, the delirium of anti-Zionist loathing ... [is] more ferocious, more structured and better funded than at any other time in Jewish history."

Israel supporters, meanwhile, have not been truly successful in educating the public, she said. When PEN Canada invited Max Blumenthal to speak, for example, Barbara asked the organization whether they were aware of his notorious criticism against Israel. Their response, she said, was tantamount to a shrug – she was told he was "mainstream."

After concluding her remarks, Jonathan chided Barbara for using "epithets" to describe Jewish anti-Zionists, among them: "pathological altruists", exterminationist, Jewdiots (Jewish idiots), fifth columnists,



Mother and son: Barbara and Jonathan Kay

University students are indoctrinated into a reflexive anti-Israel mindset

Barbara Kay

and comparing them to those who indulge in honour killings.

After Jonathan noted that "exterminationist" sounded equivalent to the Holocaust's final solution, Barbara conceded, switching the term to "eliminationist" to denote the elimination of Israel.

Taking issue with her description of Jewish BDSers as "enemies of the Jewish people", Jonathan asked whether it would be more intellectually honest to label them "ignorant or naïve," but Barbara disagreed.

"There's a big difference between free speech and blood libels," she said. "Tolerating hate is not a luxury."

Jonathan downplayed the threat of BDS, the anti-Israel left, anti-Israel reporting, and campus rhetoric, contending Barbara cherry-picked from dated examples.

"I've been reporting on this for years," he said, referring to his previous employment as Editorials Editor of the National Post. To his eyes, the anti-Israel left is comprised of splintered groups, "with 17 people in them."

"I don't know why the Jewish community isn't giving itself a collective high five," for outnumbering and outdoing, these groups.

On the topic of skewed reporting on Israel, he added, it was "so fifteen years ago; when I first began in journalism... They (pro-Israel camp) pretend they're still in the Chrétien timewarp."

Why anti-Zionists appear to be so vocal is because "we give them attention; we make them the centre of attention."

One example he offered was accentuating the scuffles on campus – "like (pointing to) a YouTube video from five years ago" at York University.

"People will say 'My God, that's the only reality at York!' It's not like Kristallnacht," he asserted.

"It's a slur against Canadian universities."

Though there was little daylight between the two Kays, the questions taken from the audience reflected agreement with Barbara.

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Co-owners of Now What? Consulting



Photo Credit: John Rullo

As parents of special needs children, Rina Rodak and Milena Romalis know how overwhelming it can be to navigate the education and healthcare systems. That's why they've teamed up to provide other parents with the benefit and wisdom of their experience.

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

When Rina Rodak transferred her eldest son Zane from Jewish day school to public school, she was shocked to learn that he didn't qualify for special education services. How could she have known that her decision to send him to private school years before his autism diagnosis would exclude him from receiving immediate school board-funded support service? Despite her background in education, the transition was more complicated than could ever have been anticipated.

With her years of experience as a teacher with the Toronto District School Board and as an academic and vocational counsellor, Milena Romalis would often advise parents whose children faced academic and vocational challenges. But when her son Zev was diagnosed with autism at the age of three, she felt as helpless as her clients.

"I told myself; I'm educated, I'm resourceful, I know the education system, I know the therapeutic system. I have done this professionally, and I'm still absolutely overwhelmed. I can't get my hands on the supports I need," Romalis said.

Between the two of them, Rodak and Romalis have 23 years of collective experience in facing the myriad challenges inherent in raising a special needs child. They are now channelling their personal and professional experience into a consulting business they've called NowWhat? (<http://nowwhatconsulting.ca>).

"We thought that between us we had a whole gamut of experiences that could spare other families a lot of frustration, time and money. We can help families who think that if they don't qualify for a particular government service, they can't get the help they need anywhere. Here we are... we can help you," said Rodak.

While the two have unofficially been helpful to parents facing similar challenges over the years – "there wasn't a week that went by where I didn't have a phone call or an email from somebody whose child had been recently diagnosed who had been networked to me," said Romalis – by formalizing their relationship, the two women offer the wisdom of their experience on a much larger scale, while providing an essential service.

"Here in Ontario we have a very disjointed system," said Romalis. "Your child is diagnosed by

a physician and then you're on your own. You are left to clarify whether your child falls into an age group that is covered by OHIP therapies or under school board funding. You need to determine what public and private resources are available and how to access them, to find the subsidies and maximize your tax credits."

"The doctor, the psychologist, the behavioural pediatrician... the schools are all dealing with different areas," said Rodak, "but there's no one who bridges it all, who brings all those people to the table. And if you don't have all of them working together, then you're not working."

The missing case management piece is the essential service that Romalis and Rodak will provide their clients. During intake sessions, said Romalis, "we'll be looking at academic and therapeutic supports, what private and public models have been in play ... basically getting a sense of what the family's needs and goals are, what their biggest challenges are. Then we'll go off and do a whole bunch of research, pull together resources and come back with a plan."

Raising a special needs child in Ontario is expensive. Even when government-funded treatment options are available, parents typically pay out of pocket for therapeutic services. It's for this reason that Rodak and Romalis have kept their fee affordable, even providing pro bono services for families in dire need. "That is a key piece for us," said Rodak.

It's important to the two women that people know that it's not only families with special needs children who stand to benefit from their services.

"There are many higher functioning kids who fail to thrive in school," said Romalis, "and we work with families who have any kind of challenge with their young or adult child, who find themselves mired in the system."

Both Rodak and Romalis are pleased to see how Jewish community institutions are increasingly becoming more sensitive to special needs families. Federation's recent decision to allot funds to help families access psycho-educational testing is another significant step towards removing the stigma from special needs families and creating a sense of inclusion.

Retiring educator to pursue other endeavours in Jewish education



Laura Wolfson will continue to work in informal Jewish education.

Story and photo by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

After 18 years as Temple Anshe Sholom's religious school and youth director, Laura Wolfson is moving on to other endeavours in Jewish education.

"I've been doing congregational Jewish education all of my life and I know that there are all kinds of ways to be involved in the professional Jewish world. I feel like I want to try it from a different angle," she told the HJN.

Wolfson points to the collaborative art projects she has facilitated in the past as the kind of endeavour she hopes to do more of. Referencing the community mosaic project she oversaw several years ago that was presented by Hamilton's Jewish children to the Shechafim school in the Upper Galilee and Shalom Village, Wolfson said, "Everywhere it went, it carried a story and people got to participate in the creation of something beautiful... I'd like to do that work with camps, youth groups and synagogues as a way to help them focus on their core values."

Wolfson's influence on the Temple's religious school curriculum has been in the area of experiential education. Temple students are provided with iPads instead of textbooks, learn Hebrew through action-based activities, and discover what it's like to be

part of a global Jewish community through video-conferencing.

Fostering unity in the community is another area where Wolfson has made an impact. Her frequent collaborations with Beth Jacob educator Rina Rodak have led to several innovative joint programs in which Temple, Beth Jacob and Kehila students learned Jewish values through role play and Hamilton Jewish history through scavenger hunts. Among Jewish community professionals, Wolfson was highly regarded as a team player and an idea person.

It is Temple Anshe Sholom, however, that will feel Wolfson's absence the most. "Laura will be dearly missed," said Rabbi Jordan Cohen. "Her commitment to the Anshe Sholom community and its programs has been outstanding... I will miss working with her on an almost daily basis but I am pleased that she and her family will continue in the capacity as members as an essential part of our Temple community."

The good news is that Wolfson, who just received her Masters degree in Jewish education at Hebrew Union College, is not going anywhere.

"I'm entirely committed to making a contribution to the Jewish community as a volunteer," she said.



Immigrant Stories Wanted

The Rosenshein Museum at Beth Jacob is compiling data on the mosaic that makes up the Hamilton Jewish community for a future exhibit. If you or your family immigrated to Hamilton from another country between the years c. 1975 to 2015, we are interested in your story.

Please contact Wendy Schneider by calling 905.628.0058 or emailing wendyschnei@gmail.com.



Shalom Village
shalomvillage.ca

A Good Name Shalom Village remembers Joey Cohen

Our consummate volunteer, Joey Cohen, passed away on March 6, 2016, and his Shalom Village family remembers him fondly.

It is written in the Book of Kohelet: *A good name is better than precious oil; and the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth. We are all born and we all die corresponding to the first and last stops on our life's journey, but what we make of the intervening time is what our name will ultimately be remembered for.*

A Real Mensch

Cohen was a mensch, a kind, decent, and reliable person, sensitive to other people's needs and seeking out ways to help them. In Judaism, to call someone a mensch is



Each year, a well deserving volunteer receives the Joey Cohen Award for their contributions to Shalom Village

one of the highest compliments that can be given.

For Cohen, it didn't matter whether a volunteer assignment was too large or too small – he always gave 100 per cent to the residents and staff at Shalom Village.

"We were so blessed to have Joey as a volunteer. He made our residents his number one priority, even when he was facing his own difficult journey. His dedication to our most frail residents was an inspiration to us all," says Jeanette O'Leary, CEO. "We are so honoured by all of the love and efforts that he gave to Shalom Village."

Above and beyond

Cohen was a volunteer with Shalom Village from 2003 to 2016, and was committed to his work here. "He often said that he needed Shalom Village as much as Shalom Village needed him," says Noreen McConnell.

Cohen had a desire to make a valuable contribution, and his work at Shalom Village gave him a sense of satisfaction.

Due to his declining health, Cohen moved to Shalom Village. Despite his progressive illness, Cohen was up every single day, visiting and providing comfort to our residents, for as long as he could. His story of dedication in the face of his own difficulties is truly inspiring.



Joey Cohen (right) shares a smile and a dance with Frances Silver.

Volunteer extraordinaire

An anonymous donor who was so impressed with Cohen's efforts as a volunteer, established a fund to present the Joey Cohen award annually to a deserving volunteer. Cohen was the inaugural recipient of this esteemed award.

Debbie Ginsberg, volunteer coordinator for Shalom Village, sums up Cohen's contributions to Shalom Village, "He was a loved and valued volunteer, known by all the staff and recognized for his commitment and dedication to

volunteering," she says, "he set the standard for all volunteers."

A good name

In Pirkei Avot, Rabbi Shimon said, *"There are three crowns: the crown of Torah, the crown of priesthood, and the crown of royalty. However, the crown of a good name is greater than all of them."*

That was Joey Cohen. Through his volunteering at Shalom Village he engaged in daily acts of loving kindness. Thus, he acquired the highest accolade in Judaism, a Kesser Shem Tov, the Crown of a Good Name.

Shalom Village's 35th Annual Ladies Auxiliary Tea

Join us on July 6th for the premier event of the 2016 summer social season!

Friendship and food

We hope you will join us for this incredible milestone with a social afternoon of friendship and wonderful food, including party sandwiches, fresh fruit, and our famous scones.

Our Auxiliary Tea volunteers will be calling you soon. Please be generous — they work hard to make life better for our residents!

Tickets

Tickets are \$25 but we hope you will consider VIP giving at the \$50, \$72, \$118, \$250, and \$360 levels. If you can't attend the tea, you can still support Shalom Village by filling out a gift card with your donation.

Support a great cause

Proceeds from the 35th Annual Ladies Auxiliary Tea have been earmarked to acquire new mechanical lifts for our most vulnerable residents. Our current lifts are in urgent need of replacement after more than 10 years of reliable service.

Hope to see you there!

For more information about the 35th Annual Ladies Auxiliary Tea, or to offer your support, please contact the Shalom Village Charitable Foundation Office at 905-529-1613 ext. 264 or email kathleen@shalomvillage.ca.



The Shalom Village Ladies Auxiliary Tea is a time of friendship and joy where residents and the community come together to support an important cause

Thank You

Grateful thanks to the families of **Sally Lax, John Kelly, Eleanor Mitchnick, Joey Cohen, David Schultz, and Leni Lamsen** for requesting donations to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers.

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



Shalom Village

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Honouring our fathers and our mothers with tribute cards

With the generous support of our donors, the Shalom Village Charitable Foundation is able to make possibilities possible for our residents.

New Tribute card designs coming soon!

Our beautiful and colourful new tribute cards were designed by Shalom Village residents June Barrett, Jim Kennelly, Peggy Aitken and Gloria Greenspan-Glayt.

As you celebrate your special occasions, please consider sending one of our lovely cards at our traditional tribute card levels:

Chai (\$18), Silver (\$25), Double Chai (\$36), Gold (\$50), Platinum (\$100), or Diamond (\$100+)

Please contact Nadine Nock at 905-529-1613 ext 356 or email nadine.nock@shalomvillage.ca to order a card today!

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE



MEET HINDY EHRENTREU

Hi Hamilton! I am grateful for this opportunity to introduce myself and very excited to be here! I am originally from Toronto and recently moved here with my husband, Dovid Moshe, and our 18-month old son, Naftali. I was very excited to learn about this position because I really wanted to tie together my background in marketing with my passion for Jewish community involvement, and working at the JCC is the best way to do that! I am coming in to the JCC at a new and innovative time, where I have the chance to really make a difference. With the JCC entering a new era, I have the opportunity to focus on programming that will cater to the entire community. I have great plans for my life here and hope to build the existing programming into something spectacular. I have enjoyed meeting so many remarkable people from all of the synagogues, schools and beyond. You have all made me feel so welcome and appreciated, and I look forward to getting to know you all better. I would really appreciate feedback from everyone. If you want to email me and introduce yourself or send me some great ideas, please shoot me an email at hindy@hamiltonjcc.com.



WEEK 1 - JULY 4-8

Adventure Village and Fire Station

WEEK 2 - JULY 11-15

Museum of Steam Technology and TBA

WEEK 3 - JULY 18-22

Lil Monkeys and Police Station

WEEK 4 - JULY 25-29

Earl Haig and Under the Stars Overnight

WEEK 5 - AUGUST 2-5

Emerald Lake and Loewith Farm

WEEK 6 - AUGUST 8-12

Special Guest and Bowling

WEEK 7 - AUGUST 17-21

Dundurn Castle and TBA

WEEK 8 - AUGUST 24-28

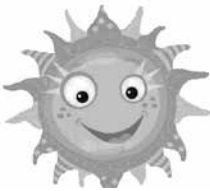
Bingemans and Special Guest

To register, email hindy@hamiltonjcc.com or call 905-648-0613.

Sponsor Some Sunshine!

Help send a child to Camp Kadimah

Every summer, the JCC, Hamilton Jewish Federation and the Spectator Summer Camp Fund provide camperships to many children whose families are financially unable to manage the cost of day camp. For these children, attending day camp provides them with significant contact to the Jewish community during the summer. Your support, in any amount, will allow us to continue and expand this proud and important tradition of helping children in our community. Corporate donations welcome. For donations of \$360 or more, your business logo or name will be on the back of our staff and campers' t-shirts. If you would like to help, please email hindy@hamiltonjcc.com or call 905 648 0613. You can also send a cheque directly to 506-105 Main Street E., Hamilton ON L8N 1G6. On behalf of our campers, we thank you.



Author Kim Thuy delights



According to Na'amat Hamilton members, there had never been a Celebrity Author Luncheon quite like this year's event held on April 4. From the moment of her arrival celebrated Canadian author Kim Thuy (reclining above) delighted her hosts by pitching in with last minute luncheon preparations. Her warmth and exuberance were just as apparent to audience members who listened intently as Thuy told entertaining stories about her life in Vietnam before the war and immigration to Canada nearly 40 years ago. Photo by Wendy Schneider

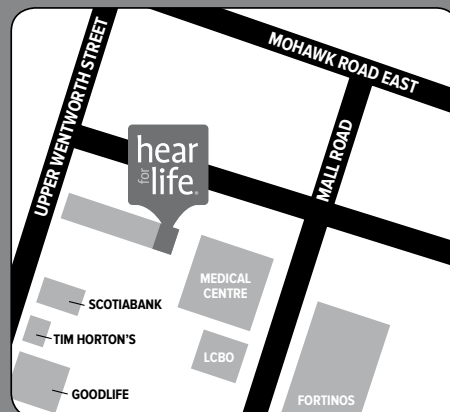
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Visit representatives from the community's Jewish organizations.

We hope to see you there!

Hamilton Jewish Genealogical Society

STEVEN BROCK

Each summer the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) holds an annual conference for their affiliated member societies. The conferences offer a multitude of speakers, exhibits and workshops and the offerings have grown steadily each year. From August 7 through 12, Seattle, Washington will host this year's symposium and will include more than 325 individual events packed into its six-day schedule.

For the past 12 years, Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton and area (JGSH) has been bringing together people with a shared interest in family history. Beyond just collecting cousins, our members have a deep interest in the history of the Jewish people. We meet approximately 10 times per year to share the results of our research, and to learn about the work of others.

This year we will be represented in Seattle by one of our members—Ralph Bloch, who will give two presentations. In "The Wandering Borders of Europe" he will discuss how the complex political history of Europe has directly affected the biography of its Jews for the past 2,000 years. In "Ele Toldot Made Easy" he will show how to use a database (now online) compiled by Shlomo Ettlinger between 1933-1960 to examine the lives of individual ancestors who lived in the Frankfurt ghetto from the 16th to 18th centuries.

To find out more about the JGSH, please check out www.jgsh.org.



Students from Beth Jacob and Temple Anshe Shalom enjoyed joint programming through the 2016-17 year. More joint programs are planned for 2017-2018. Photo by Rina Rodak

THE PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES

RINA RODAK AND LAURA WOLFSON

After a year-long series of professional learning sessions conducted jointly by and for the teachers at Beth Jacob Synagogue and Temple Anshe Shalom, exciting plans for a large scale student project are coming together. To be implemented during the 2016-2017 school year, the Uniquely Hamilton: A Living Jewish History project will see students at all age levels exploring what makes the Hamilton Jewish community unique and special.

Learning about all the different countries and communities that Hamilton's current Jews have come from, our students will explore cultural traditions brought with families when they immigrated to Canada and/or relocated from other parts of Canada to Hamilton. Jewish holiday traditions, recipes passed down from generation to generation, songs and melodies and forms of dance, evolution of family occupations and businesses, language traditions, changing cultural expectations, and collective memories... all these will be studied and

experienced by our students as they begin to understand how Jewish people have carried their identities with them when they immigrate, and how this affected the development of our own unique Hamilton Jewish community's culture. Stay tuned for progress reports over the coming year!

Since Beth Jacob and Temple Anshe Shalom's Hebrew schools hold classes on the same weekday afternoon, it has been easy for us to envision ways that our students can support and complement each other's learning, as well as ways in which our teachers can support and complement each other's lesson planning and share resources. This past year, our students came together on five separate occasions for very successful experiences. Next year, another five dates for shared programs have been scheduled, including a final event next May (during which we will be inviting the entire community to attend) as the students showcase the culmination of the Uniquely Hamilton Living History project.

Jewish Social Services

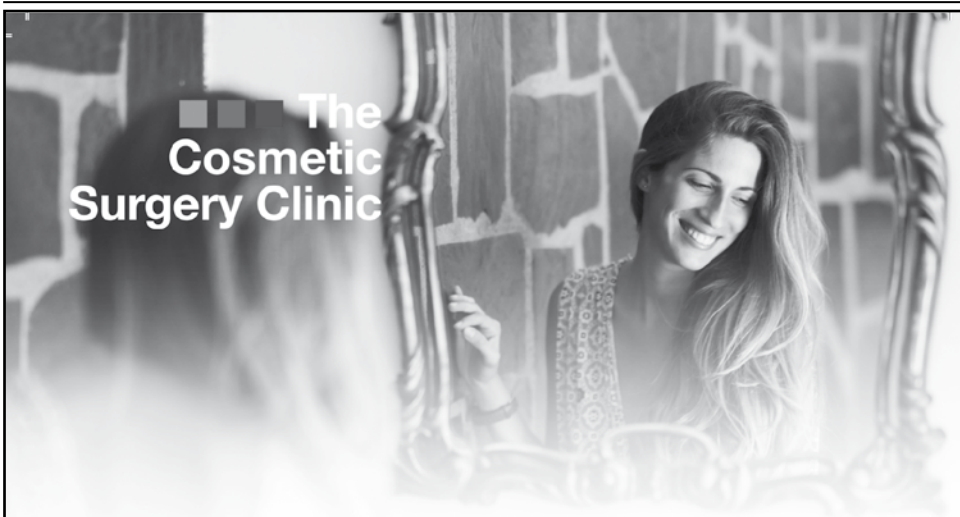
CAROL KRAMES

According to Statistics Canada, 20 per cent of Hamiltonians live below the poverty line. Government plans provide only subsistence. After paying for rent, phone, bus tickets, and other utilities, little remains to buy food.

Unfortunately, the needy not only go hungry but because their finances restrict their diet they also suffer poor health. Recent studies have shown that Vitamin B12 helps maintain brain functioning. Low levels of vitamin B12 are related to depression, anemia and in extreme cases paranoia. B12 is particularly important for older adults. The best way to get Vitamin B12 in our diet is by consuming meat. Unfortunately, individuals on a low income have to make food choices based on how to spread their budget rather than on what may be the most healthy decisions.

Several years ago JSS started the Chicken Club. Donations made on a monthly basis ensure our clients can have chicken for Shabbat. It became apparent that the need for meat products was greater than we had initially estimated. Our food bank now has two freezers, and we provide frozen ground beef as well as chicken to our clients. We assist our clients in the use of these products suggesting how to use the chickens to make soup and the boiled chicken for an extra meal.

Donating to the Hamilton K kosher food bank is a double mitzvah. You are providing our clients with nutritious foods and good health. Please think about joining the Chicken Club for a minimum donation of \$25 per month. You can also become a food bank shopper. For more information please call Christine Nusca 905-627-9922 ext 22 or Carol Krames ext 21.



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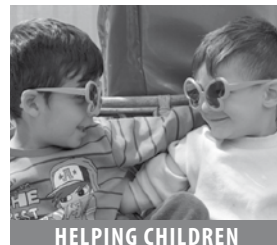
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Above: Moussia Zaltzman (centre) enjoying her friends on the HHA playground, taken the month before her tragic passing on June 27 2015. Photo courtesy of Perla Zaltzman

A WAY TO HONOUR MOUSSIA'S MEMORY

PERLA ZALTZMAN

Five days before her Senior Kindergarten graduation at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, our daughter Moussia had a tragic accident while swimming with her friends at our pool. For 12 long but precious days we held on to her in the ICU at McMaster Children's Hospital. There, she was showered with love and prayers from people worldwide but in particular from the remarkable Jewish community of Hamilton. At 4.30 a.m. on Shabbat, June 27, we watched her heart go flat as she peacefully returned her soul to the Almighty.

I wanted to do something that would bring joy to her friends and perpetuate her legacy of inclusion and love. My friend Tiki suggested dedicating a new playground at the HHA in her memory. I loved the idea.

After discussing the idea with individuals at the school, I realized that the importance of the project went far beyond my initial inspiration and made it even more meaningful. I learned that the entire neighbourhood had only one play structure, 15 years old, located on the grounds of the HHA. I realized that a full park redevelopment would not only enhance the school

but would strengthen the neighbourhood as a whole.

With the assistance of landscape architects, we began designing plans to build a state-of-the-art park. Our plans include a toddler park with rubberized surfacing, two hill slides, a sand play area, play hut and a crawl-through tunnel. Shaded trees placed throughout the site. An outdoor classroom. An adventure play structure for children five to 12. A soccer field, baseball diamond, tetherball and basketball area. New asphalt surfacing with bright geometric painted shapes as well as outdoor chalk boards.

As our vision becomes a reality, I know Moussia is smiling down seeing the actualization of a new playground for her friends and future generations of children. It brings me a sense of peace amid the grief, knowing she will be remembered in a beautiful place she loved so much. To dream with us, please visit www.hhapark.ca.

Perla and Zalman Zaltzman live in St. Catharines, where they serve the Jewish community of Niagara and Brock University. They currently have three children attending the HHA.

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THE MEANING OF KEHILA

We all need a community, a “kehila” in Hebrew, to belong to. Beyond the many practical benefits, being part of a community provides us with a sense of belonging and promotes our mental health and well-being. Over the past few months the Kehila community of students from JK to Grade 5 as well as teachers, families and fellow Hamiltonians expanded it’s circle to include the State of Israel through the annual Avigail project. This project exemplifies Kehila’s integrated curriculum which bridges all academic subjects as well as its trilingual program.

During the semester our students across the grades learned, about the rich diversity of Jews who have made aliyah to Israel and the traditions and customs of Jews from across the world. The project culminated with the Avigail awards when, through songs (in English, French and Hebrew), presentations and artwork the students shared with parents and friends what they had learned. Specifically, each of the senior students – dressed in appropriate costume – presented a review of the history and culture of Jews from a different nation, promoting understanding and respect of people from diverse backgrounds by

celebrating and honouring differences. All students gained an appreciation of the value of Eretz Israel as a Jewish home away from home.

The Avigail project honours Avigail Ra’anani (Va’anunu) of Jerusalem who was neighbour and friend to Daniel Kollek (one of the school founders) during his teenage and army years. Ra’anani embodied many of the values of the school. She focused on caring for others both professionally as a nurse at Hadassah hospital and “adopting” Daniel if his family was away. It is out of respect for those values of caring, community and country that the Kollek family created and endowed the Avigail Awards.

The Avigail project encompasses Kehila’s philosophy of an inclusive community by instilling a sense of belonging by welcoming children, families, and staff from diverse backgrounds and establishing a strong foundation for building meaningful relationships.

Do you want to learn more about Kehila for your child? Contact us at 905-529-7725 or by email office@kehilaschool.ca.



Bill and Eva Morris (left) and Sasha and Tom Weisz (far right) with Marie and Ron Foxcroft.

Photo by Jason Leizer

BIGGEST NEGEV DINNER IN RECENT YEARS

GERALDINE KATZ-ROSE

JNF Hamilton honoured Ron Foxcroft at the 64th Annual Negev Dinner on May 16, 2016 at Liuna Station. Co-chaired by Tom Weisz and Bill Morris, the dinner’s MC was veteran radio personality Roy Green, included world renowned entertainer, Andre Philippe Gagnon, and it was a tremendous success!

More than 630 people attended, making this year’s dinner the largest in several years. Funds raised by the dinner will build an outdoor pavilion and rest area at Yad LaYeled, the Children’s Holocaust Education Museum in northern Israel.

Ron Foxcroft is an ongoing friend of the Jewish community and a strong supporter of the State of Israel. When Roxcroft was given the details about the Yad LaYeled project, dedicated to the memory of the 1.5 million children who died in the Holocaust, without hesitation he selected the Children’s Museum to be the beneficiary of the proceeds of this year’s dinner. By all accounts throughout the evening, what was highlighted repeatedly

was Foxcroft’s humility, his dedication to family and community and his resolute compassion. He commits his time and resources to scores of charitable and non-profit initiatives, directly and indirectly supporting causes in business, sports, education, healthcare, and culture. His philanthropic involvement led Josh Cooper, CEO of JNF Canada, to remark, “I don’t think I’ve ever seen a Tribute Book with letters from so many organizations!” And according to Dinner Co-Chair Tom Weisz, Ron Foxcroft “has been there for any cause, almost anywhere, that requires assistance and support.”

As a former Honourary Colonel of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise’s), the Foxcrofts entered the banquet hall escorted by an Argyll piper, much to the delight of the entire room. Speakers included Israel’s Deputy Consul General Irit Stopper, MP David Sweet, MPP Ted McMeekin, Mayor of Burlington Rick Goldring, Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger, and Josh Cooper, CEO of JNF Canada.

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Not your normal tour of Tel Aviv

The city's Florentine neighbourhood is rich with graffiti art

Story and photos by NATHAN APEL, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

The tour commences with an introduction to Kislev, the most highly acclaimed graffiti artist in Tel Aviv, also known as the "Israeli Banksy" (Banksy is a world famous graffiti artist who focuses on political/social issues). The painting above depicts an elf (Kislev) with spray can in hand, floating towards another elf (Banksy) while being carried via balloons of love. The works of Kislev are easily identified by his signature logo of an elf.

An interesting phenomenon in the graffiti community is prominent artists working together. An example of this is BabyK who is French, but his works are frequently found across Florentine (above, right.) Tel Aviv is an attractive destination for groups of graffiti artists because there are no strict graffiti laws. Small fines are issued when caught and sometimes police officers will not even punish the artists. As a result, other than New York City, Berlin, and London, Tel Aviv has become one of the most pursued canvases for graffiti in the world.

There is an artist that goes by the name of Dede who did a collaborative piece with his friend Wonky. Wonky is known for his depictions of strange looking monkeys and Dede is known for using Band-Aids; these Band-Aids are a metaphor for not being able to completely fix emotional scars. Dede's service in the combat unit of the Israeli army, where he had to deal with difficult situations, lead to this recurring theme in his artwork.

A unique graffiti style is that of Vered Dror, who uses braille. This type of artwork originated from when Vered was in Zagreb, Croatia for a graffiti competition. After days of planning her masterpiece for

the competition, she noticed public places vandalized with swastikas painted on them. Dror asked several locals why nobody was cleaning these horrific symbols up and everyone answered by simply saying "I didn't notice." Outraged, she abandoned her previous plan for the graffiti competition and placed all around the city a single statement in braille: "I didn't notice, I didn't see a thing". Vered went on to unanimously win the competition.

Due to the large gay community in Tel Aviv, graffiti expressing gay pride is not an unusual sight. One of the wittier pieces is an image depicting Bert and Ernie from Sesame Street embracing each other saying "Hi kids, we are getting married!"

As we approach the conclusion of the graffiti tour there is a focus on political art. Among these is an image depicting the assassination of Prime Minister Yizhak Rabin, showing the crosshairs of the sniper on his head (lower right, above) The painting was created in Rabin's honour. In the insert above, you can find a slogan relating to conflict between Jews and Arabs. When first sprayed, the slogan translated to "Jews and Arabs refuse to be enemies." However, someone vandalized it to say "Jews and Arabs are enemies." Later, one of my Jewish history teachers, Evan, changed it again to say "Jews and Arabs are not enemies." Good job Evan!

Tel Aviv is a beautiful city and I thank you for joining us on our graffiti tour!

Nathan Apel, 16, has recently returned from a four month semester program at the NFTY-EIE High School in Israel.

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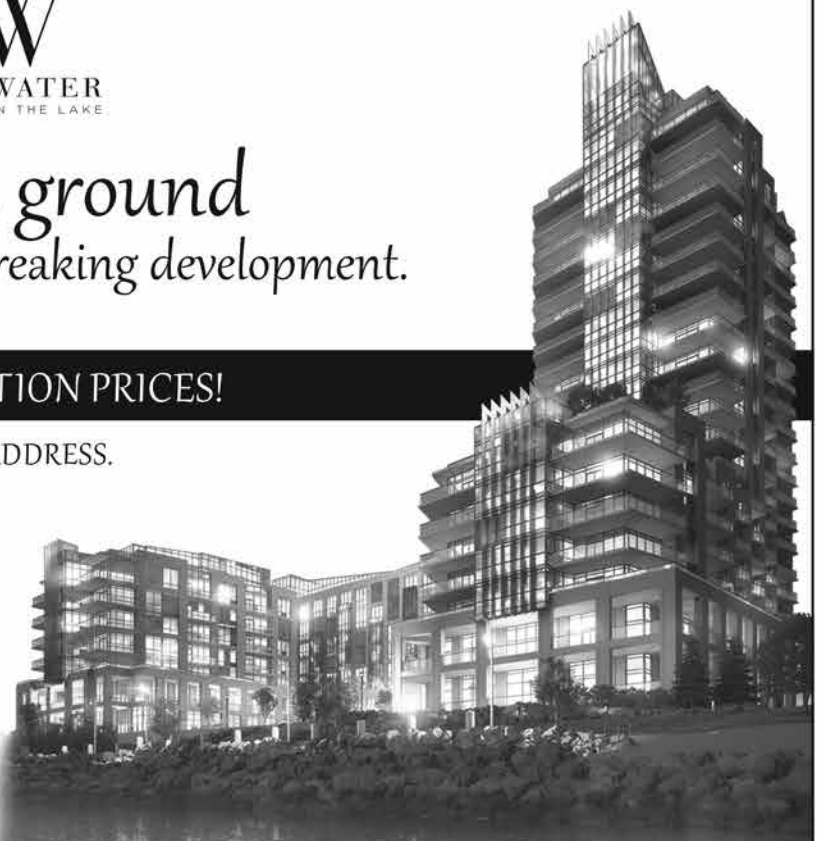
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