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SEPTEMBER 2021 | TISHREI 5782

Hamilton
Jewish

News

The voice of Jewish Hamilton

Federation's largest annual campaign aims to fulfill an unprecedented need

Following a most challenging year, \$1.6-million campaign will help battle high rates of antisemitism, meet increased need for mental health services and bolster Jewish education in the community

STORY BY **ABIGAIL CUKIER**
THE HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

THEY SAY that difficult times often bring out the best in people. It has been more than a year since COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic, a year in which lives and livelihoods were upended around the world. In its response to the crisis, Hamilton's Jewish community was exceedingly generous. Federation raised a record \$1.5 million through its annual campaign, an emergency campaign, and a grant of \$84,000 from the Jewish Federations of North America through a special matching program. In response to emerging needs in the community that include increased demand for mental health services, kosher food, and Jewish day school and supplementary school scholarships, the Hamilton Jewish Federation is once again calling upon the Jewish community for its support. The goal for the 2022 campaign is \$1.6 million in support of three guiding principles that inform Federation's priorities and program initiatives in the coming year.



These adorable siblings were among the happy campers thrilled to be back at Camp Kadimah this summer. Educating and engaging children in Jewish life is one of Federation's top priorities. SEE PAGE 26.

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Federation is here. For good.



Gustavo Rymberg

CEO
HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION

I'M VERY EXCITED to announce the beginning of a new Community Campaign, which, believe it or not, is my fifth since coming to Hamilton.

In a year filled with new fears, old threats, and deep divisiveness, there is still so much good. It's easy to forget the good that surrounds us, but at the Hamilton Jewish Federation, good is something we think about every day. Because good is something that we do every day.

Good is in our DNA, as a community and as an organization. Good is what we have been doing for more than 90 years. It's what we've been focused on during one of the hardest years we've ever faced. And good is what we will do now and in the future.

While Federation is the engine for good in Hamilton, the work we do supporting individuals and organizations often takes place in the background. Federation impacts virtually every sphere of Jewish communal life. And this year, after COVID-19 changed our world, we didn't just continue our work — we evolved, finding even more ways to provide support. That included being a lifeline to our isolated seniors by providing meals, transportation, and wellness support, bringing peace of mind to them as well as their families.

When there is a crisis, we are there. For good.

Good isn't just about working in crisis mode. It's about being proactive in strengthening Jewish life and laying the foundation for the next generation. That's why we're committed to strengthening and deepening community engagement by offering diverse Jewish education and identity-building programs; providing opportunities for participation in all aspects of Jewish life; developing a capable and dedicated leadership pipeline; and growing community-wide programming.

To actualize these important strategic priorities, over the coming year we will focus our attention on young adults and young families. Our scholarship fund will provide subsidies that will enable parents to send their children to Jewish day schools and Jewish day camp, a need we've seen increase over the past year; and we will continue to fund PJ Library and the JCC cultural programs that our community counts on — whether online or in person.

In spite of the many challenges posed by the pandemic, we found innovative ways of sharing good. We adapted existing resources and programs to meet emerging needs and

were able to offer most of our important programs virtually. We also created new opportunities to learn and connect, some of which have been so popular that they will live on in a post-COVID-19 reality. Despite the fact that the pandemic literally kept many of us apart over the last year, our community never wavered in its commitment to sharing good.

Doing good, in Israel, and across the Jewish world.

While the majority of the good that the Hamilton Jewish Federation does occurs at the local level, we must also recognize that strengthening our bonds with Israel is essential to ensuring a strong Jewish future. Through our partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Jewish Federations of Canada-UJA, the Jewish Federations of North America, and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), we are also here for good in service of the Israeli people.

We are keenly aware of growing antisemitism and BDS activity that aim to weaken and diminish our value as a people and a community. That's why we work with Jewish community advocacy organizations on critical incident intervention and strive to build long-term strategic relationships with other community groups. We actively participate in boards and coalitions, collaborating to address issues of common concern whenever possible, and we intervene with the relevant government bodies when issues arise that have an impact on the Jewish community.

Hamilton Jewish Federation is here for good.

But good doesn't just happen on its own. It comes from our supporters, who are dedicated to the promise of a flourishing Jewish future. With your gift to the Annual Community Campaign, you will help struggling families in our community get back on their feet, ensure that the vulnerable are cared for, and give younger generations opportunities to connect to our heritage and Jewish communal life.

Your donation means that Hamilton Jewish Federation will continue to help good grow. Just as we have in the past. Just as we will in the future. Because with your help, we are not going anywhere. Please do good today by donating online at jewishhamilton.org/2022-donate.



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How does your garden grow?



Louise and Oded Klinghoffer at the Rotary Sunrise Garden at St. Marks United Church in Dundas, where they've spent many hours this summer growing vegetables for the Kosher Food Bank. The Klinghoffers are just two of many community volunteers who grow vegetables for Hamilton's hungry at community gardens throughout the city. At the Rotary Sunrise Garden, each community gardener is allocated a plot, from which half is donated to food banks in the area.

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- Fred Bennink, Ontario PC Candidate
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For Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas

Authorized by the CFO for the Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas PC Association.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Paying it forward

ONE SUNDAY NIGHT in July, my wife Flora, myself, and our son Max were at a restaurant in Ancaster. We had an enjoyable meal and talked to some of our friends who happened to come to the same place. After we finished our meal, we called the waitress over to ask for our bill. A short while later, she came back with a manager, to tell us that someone in the restaurant had paid our bill. They could not tell us who. This has never happened to us before.

The following Thursday happened to coincide with Hamilton Jewish Family Services's kosher food drive. Keeping in mind that someone had paid a \$60 bill of ours, I decided to add that amount to the money that I was spending on the food drive.

In general, I can say that I have not ever had a "free" cup of coffee from McDonald's. Whenever I go to pay for a cup of coffee with a coupon, I always give a donation to the Ronald McDonald House. The other day was Tim Horton's Camp Day, when all proceeds from coffee sales are donated to the company's camp fund. As we did not go to Tim Horton's that day, I made a \$25 donation online. As they say, what goes around, comes around. Maybe that's why we were treated to a free supper that day.

Allen Rams

Don't stifle criticism of Israel

MUCH OF my identity is tied to the Hamilton Jewish community, where my husband and I grew up. I have wonderful memories of my 11 years at Jewish day school, attending synagogue regularly with my family, and many community celebrations at the JCC.

Now, as a mother with four young children, I struggle with how to instill my love of Judaism and sense of community to them. Even though my children are all under 10, our discussions and bedtime reading regularly centre around human rights conversations, often driven by current events. We spent significant time last summer discussing the Black Lives Matter movement, George Floyd's death, and systemic police brutality. We read books about our country's mistreatment of Indigenous people, the atrocities committed within the residential school system, and ongoing steps towards reconciliation. And now, we discuss Israel and the endless plight of the Palestinian people. I struggle internally to balance my family's desire to be committed to social justice, and recognize that we cannot fulfill this goal without committing ourselves to work for — or at the very least talk openly about — equality, opportunity, and the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people. I am deeply concerned about our community's unconditional support for Israel, and unwillingness to engage with any form of dissent within the community.

We do not shy away from contentious conversations with our sons. They are aware antisemitism is real and on the rise. My grandparents fled Europe in 1938, and my children know these stories well. They understand why they had to leave, they are aware that Hitler's aim was to kill their great grandparents and annihilate the Jewish people and they know that Israel was established as a country in 1948, partially as a result of this. But they also know that in order for this to occur, people had to be displaced. We talk about the Palestinian families, very much like our own; large, educated, loving and devoted families, who only want for their children the very same thing we want for ours.

I am no longer able to ignore Israel's violations of international human rights. I cannot accept the narrative that Israel is solely defending its right to exist, as justifications for its actions. It is not enough for me to justify Israel's military actions by saying Hamas does worse. While I do not pretend to have the answers to this decades old conflict, the only way forward as a community is to ask the difficult and uncomfortable questions.

I am not alone among North American Jewry in feeling this way. Organizations like IfNotNow, Independent Jewish Voices, and JStreet have recently had significant increases in participation. Their membership is mostly comprised of progressive and young Jews, who, like myself, proudly identify as Jewish, believe that human rights are universal and indivisible and must be upheld without exception, and yearn for Palestinians and Israelis alike to have the right to peaceful and secure lives.

We, as a community must not stifle those who question Israel's political policies. We cannot equate opposition to the current Israeli government's policies to antisemitism. We must find a place within our own community where dissent is both accepted and respected.

Growing up, I spent a lot of time at Temple Anshe Shalom, and two of my children currently attend Kehila Heschel, the school located within its walls. I am reminded of the guidance that adorns the entrance: "To do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with thy God." Let us all work to make these our community's guiding principles with respect to the ongoing Palestinian and Israeli conflict.

Rachel Loewith Rochwerg

The views expressed in the Letters to the Editor section do not reflect the views of the HJN. To submit a letter for publication, email wschneider@jewishhamilton.org.

We must come together in the face of rising antisemitism

BY GUSTAVO RYMBERG
CEO, HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION

LIKE MANY Jewish Canadians, my heart was breaking last May, as I scrolled through social media that was then overflowing with misinformation about the Israel-Hamas conflict.

A real peace can only be built on truth. Here's what really happened last spring. Amidst rising domestic tensions, Islamic Jihadist terrorist groups, who were in the midst of a power struggle following the cancellation of the first Palestinian election in 15 years, launched more than 3,000 missiles — indiscriminately targeting Israeli civilians and using Palestinians as human shields.

Meanwhile, Israel has taken steps to limit their own response to military targets only. It is an inescapable truth that, if it were not for the Iron Dome, many more

Israeli lives would have been lost.

When news of a ceasefire finally came, I welcomed the news and mourned the lives lost on both sides.

Everything about the Israel-Hamas conflict is almost incomprehensible for many born and raised in Hamilton.

Imagine if a missile was launched from Ryerson Public School at Ottawa Street North. Ask yourself, how would you feel?

I was living in Argentina during the 1994 bombing in Buenos Aires of Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina by the Iranian-funded terrorist proxy, Hezbollah. The blast murdered 85 people and injured hundreds more. I was working next door when it happened and I know first-hand the feelings of horror and heartbreak of a terrorist attack.

Unfortunately, what happened in Israel and Gaza resulted

in a horrifying and toxic spate of antisemitic acts unfolding in Canadian cities across the country. During a peaceful rally in Montreal, members of the pro-Israel community were pelted with rocks. In Edmonton, Toronto, and Montreal, anti-Israel protesters harassed residents of predominantly Jewish neighbourhoods; Jewish homes were targeted with specious eviction notices, and parents were scared to send their kids to school. Montreal police went as far as calling what is happening "a hate wave against the Jewish community".

We cannot stir hatred. We must come together and strengthen our resolve for peace. Jewish Canadians are resilient, but all Canadians of good will must stand together united against antisemitism.

Food insecurity in the Jewish community

BY RACHEL BERNHOLTZ
HJFS FOOD INSECURITY
COORDINATOR

AT ROSH HASHANAH, when some of us may be praying together for the first time in more than a year, I hope we will take the opportunity to reflect on a challenging 5781 and to look ahead to a better, sweeter and more joyous 5782. Wherever we are, I hope we will also remember those in our community who are experiencing food insecurity.

Since March 2020, our community has had to deal with lockdowns, closures, and quarantines due to COVID-19. Who among us has not grown tired of Zooming instead of hugging? How many of our community members have lost jobs and opportunities as the economy struggles to adapt to ever-changing guidelines? How many of our seniors have had to endure life in solitude without the supportive visits of friends and family? How many of our neighbours have been unable to afford enough safe, nutritious food to feed themselves and their families, and have gone to bed at night with their stomachs rumbling?

As the pandemic drags on, stress on families in our community continues to grow. In order to meet the increased demand, Hamilton Jewish Family Services has stepped up. Hamilton's K kosher Food Bank, renamed Carol's Cupboard in loving memory of Carol Krames, z"l, has undergone several changes. Over the past year, the space has been renovated and expanded, making room for a new industrial refrigerator, a third freezer and more shelving for an increased variety of items, including pantry staples and personal hygiene products. Carol's Cupboard now provides



Rachel Bernholtz at Hamilton Jewish Family Services' K kosher Food Bank, recently renamed Carol's Cupboard in memory of the late Carol Krames.

support to more than 90 families, 40 of whom have joined just since last Rosh Hashanah.

This is the second summer Hamilton Jewish Family Services is running our community gardens. There are nine garden beds in three locations: Kehila Heschel Community Day School, Adas Israel Synagogue and Beth Jacob Synagogue. A team of six volunteers manages the gardens which provide fresh produce that is distributed by the food bank. Additional fresh produce is provided by the Dundas Rotary Club and individual contributions. Our partner, Hamilton Food Share, provides us with milk, eggs, and non-perishables weekly.

It was just before Rosh Hashanah last year that I accepted the call to become the food security coordinator for Hamilton Jewish Family Services. I had been a board member and

volunteer for this wonderful organization, but I did not know how much I had to do and how much I had to learn about food insecurity in Canada and in the Jewish community. I was surprised to learn that 65 per cent of people who are food insecure are employed. And although the negative effects of food insecurity on physical, mental and social health are well known, studies show that most individuals experiencing severe food insecurity do not ask for help.

At this season of reflection and renewal, I hope our food bank will be in your thoughts and will be supported in your actions. It takes the whole community to ensure those in need can live with dignity and peace of mind. For more information about Hamilton's K kosher Food Bank, please contact me at rachelb@hamiltonjfs.ca or call 905-627-9922 ext. 29.

Community Campaign aims to fulfill unprecedented need

CONTINUED FROM P1

The three guiding principles that inform the organizational structure, priorities and program initiatives of the Hamilton Jewish Federation are:

- Protecting the vulnerable in Hamilton, Israel and around the world
- Educating, engaging and strengthening our Jewish community
- Supporting and advocating for Jewish and Israel issues

To tackle these priorities, Federation has developed strategies that include engaging with experts, community leaders and students from diverse backgrounds to educate and build awareness and respect among religious, ethnic and cultural groups. This is especially important as the number of hate crimes/incidents continues to rise in Canada and internationally, with Jews often being disproportionately targeted. For example, in 2020, of the 31 religion-based hate/bias incidents reported to the Hamilton Police Service, 30 targeted members of the Jewish community.

“The plan is to mount an annual educational gathering in Hamilton, called #nomoreantisemitism, aimed at understanding the historical roots of antisemitism, as well as its current manifestations. The gathering will be structured to develop actionable follow-up activities that will engage and keep the issue on the community agenda year round,” says Federation CEO Gustavo Rymberg. “The Jewish community is well placed to take a leadership role that faces inward and outward.”

Plans also include the JCentre for Wellness, housed at JHamilton at 1605 Main St. W., which will offer informal activities and drop-in programs, including public education on wellness topics, group support, social and spiritual programs and individual counselling. The centre will also serve as an entry and referral point for people

who need more comprehensive support and offer educational programs in collaboration with the mental health community in Hamilton. Rymberg says the centre will aim to reduce social isolation and support mental health by providing a place for people to come together and connect.

The 2022 Annual Campaign is kicking off with a series of three Zoom sessions, one focused on each of Federation’s guiding principles. The first event, which took place on July 29th, featured a discussion on supporting and advocating for Jewish and Israel issues with Michal Cotler-Wunsh, former Member of Knesset, and Irwin Cotler, Canada’s Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism (see Page 7) and former Member of Parliament, Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

On Thursday, Aug. 26th at 7:30 p.m., Dr. David Bryfman, CEO of The Jewish Education Project, will discuss educating, engaging and strengthening our Jewish community. Bryfman told the Hamilton Jewish News that the pandemic exposed underlying issues in Jewish education and engagement that have been present for decades. While the challenge of addressing these longstanding issues is daunting, he believes that possible solutions may have been beneath the surface for decades, too.

In a Times of Israel blog, Bryfman wrote, “The pandemic is an opportunity to free ourselves from the shackles of any practices and approaches to Jewish life that we do only because ‘that’s how we’ve always done it.’ The Jewish community must seize this unprecedented moment as a time to pause, reflect, design, plan, and strategically implement a roadmap that will build a Jewish education and engagement infrastructure that reflects the Jews of today and tomorrow.”

Bryfman identified five priorities that he believes are integral to good Jewish

education: ensuring Jewish knowledge and values enhance the lives of individuals and their communities; including and being accessible to the broadest range of individuals and families who identify as Jewish; engaging family members to reinforce learning; using technologies to enhance learning; and recruiting, developing and retaining the best professionals to serve as educators.

In the final event of the series on Thursday, Sept. 30th at 7:30 p.m., Alexis Wenzowski, Executive Director of Hamilton Jewish Family Services, and Reuben D. Rotman, President and CEO of the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies, will discuss protecting the vulnerable in Hamilton, Israel and around the world. Wenzowski says she plans to focus on:

- The importance of Federations in protecting the vulnerable across North America and Israel
- The hidden face of marginalized Jews within our communities and why they need our support
- The nature of Jewish poverty
- Why protecting the vulnerable matters so much as we shift into the post-COVID-19 era

Wenzowski says that to her, protecting the vulnerable includes advocating with government to ensure fair treatment, feeding those who are food insecure and providing needed mental health support. “For me, protecting the vulnerable means that we have the responsibility to make sure that all members of the community have every opportunity to live their life with dignity, support, inclusion and equity,” she says. “Judaism holds that we are all created in the image of God and are equal to one another. Therefore, we have a responsibility for each other’s well-being, regardless of faith, income, ability or ethnicity.”

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN 2022 ZOOM LAUNCH SERIES



WHEN:

- Thursday, Aug. 26, 7:30 p.m.

SPEAKER

- Dr. David Bryfman, CEO, The Jewish Education Project

TOPIC

- Educating, engaging and strengthening our Jewish community



WHEN:

- Thursday, Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m.

SPEAKER

- Reuben D. Rotman, CEO, Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies

in conversation with Alexis Wenzowski, executive director, Hamilton Jewish Family Services

TOPIC

- The hidden face of marginalized Jews within our communities and why they need our support in the post-COVID era

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AWARD-WINNING ENRICHMENT PROGRAM TO OPEN NEW HAMILTON LOCATION

Engaging after-school education in post-pandemic times



By ADAM RICHTER, PhD

THE ONGOING PANDEMIC has hit all of us hard. For many of us, life has been transformed beyond what we could have imagined. To varying degrees, we've been cut off from family, friends, and community. For me, as an historian and educator, the pandemic has been challenging both personally and professionally, as I've had no access to the university campuses where I teach or the archives where I conduct research for over a year. And although we're making progress, it seems we're still a long way from returning to normal. This year's High Holidays, for instance, won't be the experience we all grew up with. What's more, even when we can all reconnect in person, the effects of the pandemic will be with us for a long time. When life is back to normal—or at least close to normal—we'll still face the daunting task of catching up on what we've missed.

THE PANDEMIC'S TOLL ON OUR CHILDREN'S LEARNING

Sadly, I believe this turmoil has affected young people in our community most of all. I've observed this firsthand as an educator working with students from middle school to university. For kids in particular, life revolves around school, both educationally and socially, and the lack of consistent access to in-person schooling during the pandemic has taken a real toll. Between the difficult transition to online classes and the constant uncertainty, students have faced unprecedented obstacles to their learning. Research has shown that students are generally unhappy with their school experience during this time, and their academic performance has suffered. Even as we transition back to in-person schooling, we have work to do to help our kids catch up academically.

Just this year, two Brain Power students were selected for the elite Harvard Summer School program, and an alumnus earned a postdoctoral fellowship at Princeton

OUR PROGRAMS CAN HELP

Fortunately, throughout this time, I've been working with a team that's making a difference in kids' lives. At Brain Power Enrichment Programs, which is based in Vaughan and is now expanding to Hamilton, we provide an engaging, enjoyable, and personal classroom experience that students have been sorely missing. Located in the Schwarz/Reisman Jewish Community Centre, Brain Power offers unique, award-winning educational programs for high-achieving students. In our Language Arts courses, for instance, students study vocabulary, literature, and philosophical subjects that they'd otherwise be unlikely to study before university! With

its small class sizes and talented teachers, many of whom hold PhDs, Brain Power provides an unrivalled experience for students who need an extra challenge, as well as those who exceed in some areas but might need to brush up on certain aspects of written or oral communication.

OUR TRACK RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

In other words, whatever our students need to succeed, we have the courses and teachers to help them do it. In fact, Brain Power has been setting students up for success for over three decades, and the results have been spectacular. Each year, Brain Power students and alumni win prestigious academic competitions, earn

lucrative scholarships, and receive admission offers from world-class universities. Just this year, three Brain Power students were selected for the elite Harvard Summer School program, and an alumnus earned a postdoctoral fellowship at Princeton University. These are just some of the most recent examples of how Brain Power helps to put talented students on the path to success.

HAMILTON WILL BE OUR SECOND LOCATION

We're excited to announce that, as of next year, students in the Hamilton area can benefit from this fantastic educational resource! Beginning in January, Brain Power will be offering classes at McMaster Innovation Park. At the new location, we're offering Language Arts courses for students at every level from middle school through early high school. We're also arranging specialized workshops on topics such as creative writing, public speaking, scientific research, and training for the Canadian Math Olympiad. In addition to Language Arts classes, I will personally be leading workshops on the Mechanics of Writing (Grades 6-8) and Critical Thinking and Writing (Grades 9+).

ONE-ON-ONE ASSESSMENTS

In the wake of the pandemic, the skills that Brain Power fosters in its students are more important than ever. I'm truly excited to be part of the team that's bringing this opportunity to the Hamilton community. If you're interested in arranging a free one-on-one assessment, or if you're just curious about Brain Power, you can reach us at:

info@brainpower.ca or call **289-276-5878**. Our classes are already filling up, though, so act fast! More information is available at our website:

www.brainpower.ca.

I wish you all Shana Tova and a successful school year!

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SHUTTERSTOCK

Irwin Cotler: “We are witnessing a new old antisemitism”

Speakers at Community Campaign opening say Jewish students face an especially troubling world

BY STEVE ARNOLD
SPECIAL TO THE HJN

HUMANITY’S OLDEST hatred wears a new mask today, but for Irwin Cotler its message is the same as always – blame the Jews.

The former federal Justice Minister and Attorney General of Canada said at the launch of the Hamilton Jewish Federation’s annual fundraising campaign on July 29 that the old hatred now hides behind claims of protecting Palestinian human rights but is expressed in claims such as “the Jews” created, spread and profit from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another recent example close to home occurred when a street thug in Toronto allegedly attacked a Jewish man screaming “F@ck you, you Jew – you’ll never take Israel, free Palestine.”

Cotler argued the line between legitimate criticism of a government’s policies and antisemitism is crossed when the focus becomes one man walking his dog on a Canadian street, not the Israeli government in Jerusalem.

Cotler knows about antisemitism. He led the federal government’s recent emergency national summit on the topic and is Canada’s special envoy for Holocaust remembrance and antisemitism.

He said the summit concluded that focused government action is needed to combat antisemitism. Such a program must include

mandated Holocaust education, laws to target Holocaust denial, adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, action to implement Parliamentary resolutions to make combatting antisemitism a government priority, increased security funding for Jewish institutions and efforts to control antisemitic messages on social media.

“Jews cannot combat antisemitism alone,” he said. “It needs a global commitment of conscience and action.

“Antisemitism must be unmasked, exposed and defeated. Combatting antisemitism cannot be a one-time effort.”

He told his audience the people who sent 17,000 tweets in May proclaiming “Hitler was right” to try to eradicate the world’s Jews weren’t standing up for displaced Palestinians, they were preaching hatred against one group of people.

Antisemitic messages like that, Cotler said, are really a warning for the rest of the world because Jews are only the first target.

“We are witnessing a new old antisemitism,” he said. “Antisemitism is the canary in the coal mine of global hate.”

Michal Cotler-Wunsh, former member of Israel’s Parliament, counter-terrorism researcher and Cotler’s daughter, said an especially troubling part of the



The Honourable Irwin Cotler



Michal Cotler-Wunsh

continuing hatred is the double standard that condemns Israel for trying to protect its citizens, but not the Hamas terrorists who hide their homemade rockets beside schools and then fire them indiscriminately at Israeli civilians.

Those attacks are very real for her, she said, telling of an evening walk with her parents in Jerusalem interrupted by sirens warning of incoming rockets. In another incident, an attack came while she was driving between cities, forcing her to lie on the side of the road “watching a sound and light show coming out of Gaza targeting our children.”

The new expression of antisemitism has created many challenges for Jewish communities, but college and university students face an especially troubling world.

When they return to their campuses in September, she said, many will feel forced to choose between their Jewish identity and supporting the progressive causes to which young people are

attracted. To navigate that ethical minefield, she added, they will need the support of the kind of agencies funded by community appeals.

“Students can’t be left on their own on campus,” she said. “We have to equip them to withstand the tremendous pressure they are going to face.”

Much of that support will be provided by Hamilton Jewish Federation’s annual campaign, which seeks to raise almost \$1.7 million from a local Jewish population of about 5,000.

The target is 18 per cent higher than the total of \$1.5 million gathered last year.

Supported programs include education initiatives such as the Hamilton Hebrew Academy and synagogue religious schools and social service efforts such as Hamilton Jewish and Family Services.

Federation CEO Gustavo Rymberg said the past year was a troubling one, making the success

of this campaign even more important.

“As the main supporters of our city’s Jewish human services agencies, we help those with special needs, families in distress and people struggling with mental health issues, drug addiction or other overwhelming life challenges — all of which not only increased last year but made us more aware of the situation,” he said.

In a world where antisemitism grows daily, Rymberg said support for Jewish advocacy agencies such as UIA Canada and the Joint Distribution Committee become ever more important.

“With the undeniable rise in antisemitism and hate, we are actively involved in making the world a more secure place. We are doing it together with CIJA (the Centre for Israel and Jewish affairs) and The Jewish Federations of North America,” he said. “These partnerships are focused on providing security training for our Jewish communal institutions, as well as high-level national affiliation with federal, provincial and local law enforcement.

We are keenly aware of the growing antisemitism and BDS activity aimed at weakening and diminishing our value as a people and a community. Therefore, we must maintain strong relationships with all of the Jewish community advocacy organizations and work together with them on critical incident intervention as well as long-term strategic relationships.”



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BARI WEISS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Bari Weiss is a journalist and the author of "How to Fight Anti-Semitism," which won a 2019 National Jewish Book Award and a Natan Notable Book Award. From 2017 to 2020, Bari was an opinion writer and editor at The New York Times. Before that, she was an op-ed and book review editor at The Wall Street Journal and a senior editor at Tablet Magazine.

Bari is the winner, this year, of the inaugural Per Ahlmark award in recognition of her moral courage. She is also the winner of the Reason Foundation's 2018 Bastiat Prize, which honors writing that "best demonstrates the importance of freedom with originality, wit, and eloquence." In 2019, Vanity Fair called Weiss the Times' "star opinion writer" and The Jerusalem Post named Bari the seventh most influential Jew in the world.

THE PROJECT

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*JNF Future (the under 40 crowd) tickets begin at \$100.

HJN receives major gift from Gould Family Foundation

Ben and Mark Gould hope their family's gift will help newspaper adapt to meet needs of a digital world

BY **WENDY SCHNEIDER**
HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

THE HAMILTON Jewish News (HJN) has received a generous gift of \$15,000 from the Allen and Milli Gould Family Foundation, the largest single donation the community newspaper has received in its 35-year history.

The donation will enable the newspaper to explore new initiatives for its print publication as well as its website, hamilton-jewishnews.com, including an expanded pool of paid contributors, and an increased focus on digital-first content, podcasts and multimedia projects.

In discussions with Federation and the HJN over the summer, Ben and Mark Gould, who have been long-time supporters of the newspaper, demonstrated a clear understanding that niche media face significant challenges in the digital age, and they affirmed their unwavering support of the Hamilton Jewish News and their commitment to its future.

"Many of us still appreciate a printed paper delivered to our door. However the cost of production and distribution have made

the printed word more difficult to sustain," they wrote in a letter accompanying their donation. "In that regard, the funding we are providing should be used to modernize the communication to your target audience and be invested to ensure its future."

The Hamilton Jewish News began publishing in its current form in 1987, but its origins go back nearly 100 years as the CJO News, a communication vehicle created by Hamilton Jewish Federation's predecessor, the Council of Jewish Organizations. Over the years, the paper has expanded its scope beyond its original purpose to include opinion pieces, features and human-interest stories that collectively reflect a vibrant and diverse Jewish community. As its tagline, "The Voice of Jewish Hamilton" suggests, the HJN offers its readers a sense of unity and acts as a portal to all that this community has to offer. Unlike many Jewish newspapers in major cities that had to give up their print editions due to pandemic-related revenue losses, the Hamilton Jewish News has continued to print and remains a free publication, thanks



The late Milli Gould with her sons Ben and Mark.

to Federation funding, support from its loyal advertisers, and more recently, voluntary subscription fees. The Gould Family sponsorship has further strengthened the newspaper's financial viability, while enabling it to pursue a digital strategy that will serve it well in the coming years.

"Ben and I have been blessed with a Foundation that my parents had the vision to start many years ago ... and Ben and I look at it as a big responsibility," said Mark.

The brothers have made significant changes to their Foundation over the last year, which include bringing in an advisory board and laying the groundwork for a future

board of directors to bring more structure to its gifting process.

Having an advisory board has opened up a whole new world of funding opportunities, said Mark, that "broadens our knowledge and ability to reach out to communities and programming that we wouldn't normally be involved with."

Focusing their philanthropy on Hamilton-based projects in the areas of healthcare, education, children and the Jewish community has allowed the family "to invest in the community and have an outcome that's really significant," said Ben, adding, "If we can make a difference at the Hamilton

Jewish News and our gift can move the organization to be more encompassing of different ways of communicating, we think that that's a wise investment."

Federation CEO Gustavo Rymberg, grateful for that investment, is looking forward to working with the HJN editor to explore innovative ways to inform and engage the community. "This generous donation will help us develop new ways of engaging with the Hamilton Jewish community and reach a new generation of readers," he said.

"Anything that I find out about what's happening in Hamilton in terms of the Jewish community I get from that paper, and if I didn't have that, I would be completely disconnected," said Ben. "The Hamilton Jewish News, to me, is a connector, and in that role, it has to connect to all community members."

How to communicate effectively is just as much a challenge in retail as it is in print, and there's a place for bricks and mortar (like the family's flagship store Milli on Main St. W.), just as there's a place for print publications.

"Correct," said Ben, "but it's not just one or the other. You need to have a foot in various worlds to make sure that you're not left behind."

JNF honours Lowell and Cindy Richter at this year's Negev Dinner

BY **SUZY POLGAR**
JNF HAMILTON

THE ANNUAL Negev Dinner, held in cities across Canada since 1948, has been known as THE place to be! Year after year, this premier event has honoured people who have had a profound effect on our local communities, and year after year, members of the local Jewish and greater community have shown their support for the honourees, for Israel, and for the Jewish National Fund.

JNF Hamilton is excited to honour Cindy and Lowell Richter at the 2021 Hamilton Negev Dinner — a couple who is loved and respected in Hamilton and beyond for their dedication and commitment to helping others, and for the selfless manner in how they give back and pay it forward.

The beneficiary project in Israel the Richters have chosen to support is the Bervin-JNF Canada House for Excellence in Sderot, an academic centre for high school students in the Gaza envelope, with a mission of giving the young people in the periphery educational advantages needed to improve their social mobility and prosperity by closing the educational achievement gap. The building will be completely fortified, as Sderot is located along Israel's most hostile border and recent times have reminded us how



The Richters are being honoured for their leadership in community causes.

crucial this is. This facility will give them the security of knowing that building will be protected against attacks and they will be safe while pursuing their studies.

Bari Weiss, journalist and the author of "How to Fight Antisemitism," will be the dinner's keynote speaker. Weiss wrote her book in 2018, in response to the terrorist attack at her childhood synagogue in Squirrel Hill, PA. She was relevant and popular then and was even doing the nighttime talk show circuit. And now, as antisemitic incidents have hit an all-time high, Weiss's current writings, blogs and podcasts have launched her into being one of the most popular and relevant speakers today as she addresses the rise

of antisemitism and intolerance across the political spectrum.

With Ontario opening up, we are thrilled to finally gather in person to toast Cindy and Lowell and to hear the speech that Bari Weiss has been working on for two years. Hopefully we can gather in person, but if that doesn't happen, we will pivot to plan B. Everything is business as usual and if it's not, JNF Canada has proven it can adapt and create gala evenings in different ways. Please join us on Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 5:30 p.m. at LiUNA Station. Tickets begin at \$180 with a special price of \$100 for the under 40 crowd. Please contact our office 905-527-5516 or hamilton@jnf.ca for more information.



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Hamilton police take action against hate and antisemitism

New police chief promises to “lean into” challenge of fighting hate crimes in the city

BY **STEVE ARNOLD**
SPECIAL TO THE HJN

AS A WAVE OF antisemitism and hate sweeps across Canada Hamilton police are building a new tool to help respond.

The new Hate Crime Case Review Team will bring community agencies together with police to review cases, provide recommendations on handling hate and advise on training for officers on the front lines.

For newly appointed Police Chief Frank Bergen, the effort is a way of showing the community the police are serious about tackling hate.

“Every time we give a statistic about hate crimes, people say it means nothing and we are being disrespectful to their barriers,” he said in an interview. “The public wants action, and they criticize us when they think we are just saying the words.

“We are going to lean into challenges like this,” he added. “We are asking the community to help use design the program.”

The new team is modelled after the city’s Sexual Assault Community Review Team. It meets to review sexual assault cases deemed unfounded or lacking sufficient evidence to lay charges. It was created following a 2018 report that concluded up to 70 per cent of sexual assault cases deemed unfounded by police should have been pursued.

Six cases were reopened because of that initiative, and one has resulted in charges.

The latest 2020 figures from Statistics Canada show a sharp spike in hate crimes reported to police, with the Jewish community remaining a special target.

The national agency said on July 28 the number of police-reported hate crimes in Canada increased by 37 per cent during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising from 1,951 incidents in 2019 to 2,669 in 2020. Those numbers mark the largest number of police-reported hate crimes since comparable data became available in 2009.

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre Canada calculated a 37 per cent increase in hate crimes reported to police and the total number, 2,669, the highest number ever recorded.

Of the 515 police-reported incidents involving religion, Jews were the targets in 321 cases, 62 per cent of the total. That’s an increase of about 4.7 per cent from 2019.

In a news release following the Statistics Canada announcement, FSWC CEO Michael Levitt called the increase “troubling” and called for more government action to combat the trend.

“These newly released hate crime statistics are extremely troubling but also sadly expected, as many minority communities



Hamilton Police Chief Frank Bergen

in Canada reported witnessing a dramatic rise in hate incidents throughout 2020. As the COVID-19 pandemic ran rampant, so did hatred,” he said.

“In the Jewish community, we saw a particular increase in anti-semitic conspiracy theories about the pandemic, especially on social media platforms,” Levitt added. “There is no room for any form of hatred in this country, and while we are seeing our federal, provincial and municipal governments take steps, more concrete actions must follow to combat hate, whether it’s online, in schools or in our neighbourhoods.”

In Hamilton, during 2020, police recorded 80 hate/bias incidents. The number includes both suspected hate/bias incidents and criminal offences. Blacks and Jews continue to be the communities most targeted by such incidents.

One such incident involved two Hamilton men who, after a night of drinking, scrawled anti-semitic message in chalk on the parking lot of the city’s Beth Jacob Synagogue. That incident was elevated from mischief to a hate crime. The men involved are to be sentenced on Aug. 11.

In another Hamilton-area incident, two Burlington men were convicted in January of willfully promoting hatred for a spree of incidents that included posting antisemitic materials on private cars and public buildings. Each received a six-month conditional sentence order and two years probation.

In a news release, police said the new review team will seek “to work collaboratively to develop comprehensive recommendations to improve outcomes for hate crime victims. Similar to the (sexual assault team), the scope of the review will include an internal and external analysis of hate crime investigations, as well as looking at policies, procedures, and training. Organizational representatives on the Hate Crime Case Review Team would also have a background in anti-racism, anti-oppression practices.”

The new Hamilton program will also seek to enhance support for victims by having the force’s hate crime detective and victim services staff making contact after an incident is reported. Victim services workers will provide emotional support, assist in safety planning, provide community referrals, and guide victims on accessing financial support in

some cases.

They can also help victims navigate the reporting process, including use of the city’s new online reporting program.

“Hate crime in Hamilton is not acceptable. Left unchecked, we know hate crime can have a far-reaching impact on communities. We must come together and work collaboratively to eliminate hate in our city,” said Bergen.

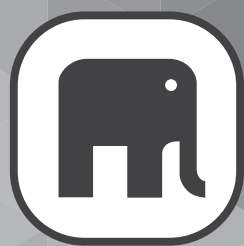
Gustavo Rymberg, CEO of the Hamilton Jewish Federation, said while the program “is only an idea at this time,” it’s a good idea with the potential to help once its details are unveiled.

“Whatever we can do to help improve life in our community I will do it, but right now we don’t know lot of detail about this program,” he said. “Despite that, we will participate and whatever they need me to do I will be there.”

Making it easier to report hate crimes, Rymberg said, is a good step, but details are needed about what happens once a report is filed. Real progress, he added, needs action by the federal government and the courts.

“Fixing hate crime takes more than just our local police,” he said.

Hate crimes can be reported online at www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca. Reporting Hate/bias incidents can also be reported on the phone at 905-546-4925 or in person at any Hamilton Police station. Organizations interested in participating can contact community relations coordinator Jas Dhillon at 905-546-4910 or jdhillon@hamiltonpolice.on.ca.



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Inspirational lessons from a family-owned business

Its guiding principles have helped furniture retailer Tepperman's thrive over three generations

BY **WENDY SCHNEIDER**
HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

THE TEPPERMAN family story begins like many other Jewish immigrant stories from the early 20th century. A young Nate Tepperman, fresh off the boat from Eastern Europe, headed out onto the streets of London, Ontario to make a living selling carpets and blankets door to door. It was Tepperman's sales philosophy that would prove particularly appealing to his customers and set the enterprising young immigrant on the path to success.

"His niche was, 'take it today and I'll come back every week to collect a nickel,'" said Andrew Tepperman about his grandfather.

Nate Tepperman would go on to open the first Tepperman's furniture store in Windsor in 1929, making in-house financing a cornerstone of his business. It remains a core value of the company more than 95 years later, distinguishing Tepperman's from its competitors and helping to make it one of Canada's largest independent home furnishing retailers.

The family story took a tragic turn in 1970, when Nate died in a drowning accident in Florida. His son Bill, who was 36 at the time, was suddenly left to head the family business on his own. But Bill Tepperman more than rose to the challenge, eventually expanding to Sarnia, Chatham and London. In 2006, Bill retired, and management of the company passed to his sons Andrew and Noah who continued the company's growth, opening new stores in Kitchener and, most recently, Ancaster.



PHOTO BY WENDY SCHNEIDER, HJN

"We did a test with 15 people from all different departments and everybody loved it," said Andrew. "That was seven years ago and we have not changed a single word – same six guiding principles, same vision. It doesn't matter if you're in HR, in warehousing or in sales, part of your strategic plan is going to incorporate everything in that vision."

A workplace where employees and employers work together to achieve company goals sounds almost utopian, but in putting "creating an awesome staff experience" at the top of their list of guiding principles, Andrew and Noah Tepperman join a growing number of forward-thinking businesses that prioritize their responsibility to their employees, their community and the environment in addition to profit.

Tepperman's has contributed to its local communities in many ways, including planting a 2,500-square-foot pollinator-friendly garden next to its London store (and a smaller one adjacent to its Ancaster location); distributing \$50,000 to Hamilton area charities in conjunction with the opening of its Ancaster store; providing \$700,000 in post-secondary scholarships; and recycling returned mattresses. Through its outlet stores, Tepperman's has also helped furnish the homes of countless budget-conscious consumers.

Andrew Tepperman is quick to respond to the question of what he most wants the Hamilton Jewish community to know about his business.

"I would love people to know what we stand for, who we are, where we came from," he said. Just ask anyone living in Windsor.

"When you're in a city like Windsor for 96 years, people know what we stand for. We do so much in the community and have built up a lot of trust over the years."



Above: Andrew Tepperman at Tepperman's Ancaster store.

Left: The original Tepperman's store in Windsor.

Tepperman's opened its Ancaster store in August 2019. The timing could not have been worse. Less than a year later, COVID-19 forced them into what would be the first of three lockdowns.

"I can tell you, honestly, the first time we shut down, I was terrified," said Andrew, who spent the next two months on the phone every morning, strategizing with his executive team. Fortunately,

the company, having already invested in its ecommerce platform, was able to adapt by putting together a new call centre and managing a complex delivery schedule that followed pandemic protocols.

Nine weeks later, customers flooded back to the store in huge numbers.

"We had never seen a surge like this," said Andrew. "Everybody

came out because they realized they're not travelling, they're not spending money on anything. So, they started spending money on their homes."

The COVID-19 pandemic was not the first time Tepperman's had to adapt to new realities. The 2009 recession also hit them hard.

"We kind of flatlined for a couple of years after that," said Andrew.

That was when Andrew and his brother Noah signed up for an immersive "art of visioning" course in Ann Arbor, Michigan; they emerged with a 10-year vision and six guiding principles.

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A High Holy Day reflection on end-of-life wishes



Harvey Starkman

IF I WERE A Buddhist, I might be better prepared to look objectively and accept the unavoidable realities of aging, illness, death, and separation from loved ones. But I'm not a Buddhist. I have a lot trouble accepting these realities, and I know I'm not alone in this.

The COVID pandemic has made us all more aware of our mortality, and has prompted some of us to look seriously at medical crises and end-of-life planning.

In general, we have control when it comes to receiving medical care and treatment. But what if at the end of our life, or in a medical crisis, we are not physically or mentally capable of directing our care or expressing our wishes? How will they be carried out? Who will know what we want?

My wife and I began to ask ourselves these questions when we were invited by our *machatunim*—our co-in-laws—to join them in a guided Advanced Care Planning program designed by Dying With Dignity Canada.

In preparing an Advanced Care Directive, we are asked to imagine the actual end of our lives. That's hard. We know that we are going to die, but we act as if we're not. Denial is what gets us through. Otherwise, how could we carry on our day-to-day living?

The end goal of the Advance Care planning process is to clearly express our end-of-life wishes in writing and to appoint a Substitute Decision-Maker—someone who will speak for us when we cannot. The journey to get to that point teaches us much about ourselves and what we truly value. It is not coincidence that I'm writing this before the High Holy Days. Focusing on how we have lived, and on how we wish to die, both demand honest and serious reflection.

I'll admit that I like to be in control. I would rather do all the driving on a long road trip than surrender the wheel to someone else. I wish I knew how to fly a passenger jet. Developing a plan for the end of life might seem like a natural fit. But I know we can't control everything, nor should we.

There's a dilemma I can't ignore: while our focus in Advanced Care planning is on ourselves, living and dying are not just about us. And they never have been. Notwithstanding my need for control, I

value the needs and feelings of others. I value peace and harmony. My wishes for my end of life might work well for me, but how will they impact my loved ones?

There are difficult decisions to make, and as always, our choices have consequences. For example, since we can choose our Substitute Decision-Maker, who should it be? Our spouse? Our children? Will they be able to execute our wishes in light of their own needs, beliefs, and values at what is also a crisis point in their lives? What if one person is better suited than the others? What would be the immediate and long-term effects of choosing one over another, or of going outside the family to ensure that our wishes are respected?

Did you have "The Big Talk" with your children as they approached puberty? I have to admit I never did. My sons are now in their forties with children of their own, so clearly they managed without it. Now, according to the Advanced Care Planning guide, it's time for another Big Talk, the one where we put everything out there: our wishes, our requests, our direct questions to them about their readiness and willingness to speak forcefully for us if we cannot. I'm having problems starting this talk as well.

Reaching out to others to talk about death is hard. So is asking someone if they are ready and able to be our voice. But this is a talk we do need to have, and better sooner, when there is no immediate need, than later.

I'm coming to understand that my signed and dated Advance Care Directive is not my final statement of my end-of-life wishes. It's more like a work-in-progress, a draft that I can revise as often as I want as my self awareness grows or as circumstances change. I find that reassuring. Meanwhile, I now have something in place that speaks to what I would ask for today, and I find that comforting. Maybe now I'm ready for that second Big Talk.

Like the spiritual work we begin over the High Holy Days, acknowledging our mortality and planning for our end of life isn't easy. Rationally, we know that we should, though we also recognize that there's more at play here than reason. The process may take us to places we fear to go. But so does the Yom Kippur liturgy. Hopefully, when we have done our work, we'll have the same sense of peace we feel when the Shofar sounds and the High Holy Days draw to a close.

Harvey Starkman was born and lives 75 km east of the city, but has deep and enduring family roots in

A delayed (and vaccinated) honeymoon in Hawaii



Ben Shragge

WHEN IT COMES to travel, I don't believe in half measures. If you're on a safari, go to the Serengeti. If you're on a pilgrimage, go to the Holy Land. And if you're on a honeymoon, go to Hawaii.

Our Hawaii honeymoon was originally scheduled for June 2020. Unfortunately, due to an unforeseen global pandemic, it had to be postponed. But this summer, two weeks after vaccination, we finally made it. We had to get tested for COVID-19 first (despite being vaccinated); we had to wear masks on a 12-hour flight; and we had to get tested, again, before flying to another island. But, to reiterate the main point: we finally made it.

We landed in Honolulu, Hawaii's biggest and most tourist-ridden city, on the island of Oahu. Yes, even during COVID, swarms of tourists (us included) filled overpriced

restaurants and teeming beaches. But though tourists deserve scorn when we're loud and we crowd, we also all deserved a vacation: the recent college graduates, the golden anniversary celebrants, and, yes, the delayed honeymooners.

In Honolulu, we were impressed by the vistas of Diamond Head, an extinct volcano overlooking the ocean; the majesty of Iolani Palace, home of Hawaii's tragic last monarchs; and the history of Pearl Harbor, where a memorial rests over a sunken battleship. On Oahu's east side, we were impressed by the wonder of Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden, 400 acres of Jurassic-style nature; the harmony of the Byodo-In Temple, a Buddhist shrine set against cloud-capped mountains; and the sublimity of giant sea turtles, the sight of which should (but sadly doesn't) confer instant COVID immunity.

As I mentioned, we were tourists, so we also made leis (to complement our aloha wear), went to a tiki bar (where, due to the pandemic, dancing was forbidden), and attended a luau (beachside dinner theatre).

As, at the luau, a half-naked Tongan juggled fire, we too juggled culture, nature, and kitsch in spite of danger, with some success.

After our second nose swab, we took a short flight to Maui, where the main evening activity is sitting on the beach watching the sunset. And for good reason. The sun does not stream on demand. It does not adjust its radiance based on an algorithm tracking your attention span. It shows up when it wants to show up, how it wants to show up, and demands your awe as it casts amber rays over black volcanic rock and crashing waves. As it should be.

At the northern tip of Maui, up a narrow and winding road, is an attraction to rival the sun: the Nakalele Blowhole. A warning sign says don't get too close or you'll be sucked in. By all means, don't gaze into the hole; but you should hike down the rocks so you're level with the water. Only there, and not from the "safe distance," will you see rainbows magically appear each time the hole shoots water. There's a lesson here, applicable to a pandemic, about taking calculated risks; but I won't press the point.

No trip to Maui is complete without a spin on the Road to Hana. The Road to Hana, stretching down the island's east coast, is a succession of hairpin turns, one-lane bridges, and breathtaking views. Yes, you'll feel like you're going to die at times; but that only makes you feel more alive when you hike to the bottom of a waterfall, stare up at a rainbow eucalyptus tree, circuit an ancient Hawaiian temple, and lay down on a black-sand beach. Just make sure you leave enough time to drive back before nightfall, because that going-to-die feeling goes best with peak visibility.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the two abandoned Tim Hortons I spotted in the south of Maui. How did the flag-hugging, Hamilton-spawned Canadian coffee chain make it to the middle of the Pacific Ocean? I don't know, but it was a welcome reminder of my hometown when I was about as far from home as I could be. That will be my next, more modest trip.

Ben Shragge is the digital editor of the HJN. He currently lives in Boston.

SHANA TOVA

FROM EVERYONE AT CIJA

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs is the advocacy agent for the Jewish Federations of Canada



What to do with those honorary degrees?



Phyllis Shragge

IT'S A BIT of a conundrum to value something and hide it away, but I am doing just that. I have a collection of honorary degrees, framed and ready to hang, yet they are gathering dust in a box in the storage area under my basement stairs. These degrees aren't mine, per se, at least I wasn't awarded them. They were presented to my father for his major contributions to the law.

My father received 14 honorary degrees from various universities. I have seven of these degrees, my brother and sister have the rest. My collection includes degrees from McGill, Queens, McMaster, and the University of Manitoba.

My father, Samuel Freedman, was appointed a judge of the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench in 1952. In 1960, he was elevated to the Manitoba Court of Appeal, and in 1971, he was appointed Chief Justice of Manitoba, a position he held until his

retirement in 1983. He was also chancellor of the University of Manitoba, a renowned public speaker and at his core, a humble man.

He was the son of a junk peddler who sold his wares from a horse and wagon. My father never forgot his roots. During his prestigious career, he prioritized social justice issues and the rights of the individual.

The honorary degrees reflect his accomplishments and I feel bad that they are hidden away, but do I really want my entire townhouse to be a shrine honouring my father? If I hung the degrees, they would take up a good part of a wall.

I do have some of my father's memorabilia on display. On a bookshelf in my basement TV room, I have the Ben Gurion Centennial Award, an engraved bust of the former Israeli prime minister, given to my father by the State of Israel Bonds in 1986. Next to it is a framed photograph of my father receiving an honorary degree from the University of Western Ontario in 1973. And on another shelf, there's a statue of the Manitoba bison, presented to my father from the Rotary Club of Winnipeg.

In my office on the bedroom level of my townhouse, I have a poster advertising my father's life and career in a 2006/2007 exhibit held by the Jewish Heritage Society of Western Canada. Beside it is a large collage of Winnipeg Free Press stories honouring my father after his death in 1993. On another wall, there's a picture of my father with Prince Charles as he officially welcomes the prince to Manitoba.

This memorabilia is on view just for me, not for casual visitors. When most people visit my home they see none of this. The walls in my front hall, living room and dining room are filled with art. There is no reference to family history.

When I consider hanging the honorary degrees, I decide: Enough already. But I wonder what will become of the degrees buried in no man's land under my basement stairs, hardly visible between boxes of scrapbooks and photographs. When I moved from my house in Hamilton to my townhouse in Ancaster seven years ago, I tried to purge whatever I could. It took months to sort and prioritize a lifetime's worth of possessions. Not everything I kept

sparked joy, as in the Marie Kondo philosophy, and not everything was useful, but I have few regrets about what I disposed of. I certainly do not regret throwing out my late husband's undergraduate notes that he had saved since his days at the University of Manitoba. Why on earth had he stored them for years then moved them to our house?

When I'm no longer in the picture, I doubt that my children will want my mini shoe collection, or my many, many dishes, or the sterling silver flatware that sits idle in a drawer. But I can't see my children tossing the honorary degrees into the garbage. I imagine one of them (likely my youngest son who's interested in genealogy) will become the curator of his grandfather's honorary degrees. Undoubtedly, the degrees once again will be deposited in a box in the corner of a basement. They will stay there for years, unattended, waiting to be handed down to the next generation. And so it goes.

Phyllis Shragge is a local writer, mother of five, and grandmother of four.

Why "sprawl" is such a big deal



Laura Katz

YOU MAY HAVE heard a lot of talk of "sprawl" and "urban boundaries" this summer. Thanks to a team of grassroots organizers, this pressing issue has had more coverage than ever in the preceding months.

When the premier sneaks clauses into unrelated bills in order to exempt developers from adhering to environmental regulations, and when you learn that land speculators bought farmland for \$18,000 an acre and can sell it for \$1-million an acre once it's rezoned as residential, you know it's time to make a stink.

What I didn't know until earlier this year, is that land use planning is the key lever in locking in or locking out greenhouse gases

at a municipal level. I also didn't know that only 7.3 per cent of Canada is farmable land, and most of that prime agricultural land is located right here in Southern Ontario — the very land that is at stake today. In short, it's a really big deal.

When the city first proposed solutions to accommodate population growth, its only options were to pave over farmland or pave over even more farmland; a firm urban boundary wasn't even on the table until now.

You may be asking, if our population is growing, where are we going to put everyone? Our answer is that we have room to grow within the existing city. In fact, we have a lot of room. Between vacant land and under-utilized parking lots, Hamilton has the potential to transform empty spaces into more walkable, bikeable, affordable, safer (especially for women, trans, racialized people) and less car-dependent neighbourhoods. Allowing for more density in

the existing, spacious boundaries will also help the city crawl out of our deepening \$3.8 billion infrastructure deficit. Hamilton already has the highest property taxes; when it comes to sprawl, we will be the ones footing the bill.

The City of Hamilton declared a climate emergency two years ago — which tells me that there is some sort of understanding of what ghastly future awaits us. The recent fires and tornados in the province provide a glimpse into what we can expect as our new normal. Nothing short of bold and radical solutions must be implemented now to avoid more of it. Demanding a firm urban boundary is one simple thing we can all do to respect the land and future generations.

We already know that what we do in this part of the world has far-reaching effects around the globe. And what the pandemic has taught us is that we really are all in this together. When it comes to civic mobilization, we need all hands on deck.

After a failed attempt (only 150 responded!) to engage citizens online, the City mailed out paper surveys in June, though we know not every household received one. The team at Stop Sprawl then kicked off a campaign to have more than 8,000 additional Hamiltonians write in digitally to request a firm urban boundary.

In October, the City will make a final decision on urban boundaries. There is still time for you to have your say. Write your councillor asking them to support a firm urban boundary today.

Visit www.ssho.ca, find us on Instagram @stop_sprawl_hamilton, or look for us on Facebook to learn more, subscribe to our newsletter, request a lawn sign and join the fight to stop sprawl in Hamilton, once and for all. Our future depends on it.

Laura Katz is a working stay-at-home parent who believes that environmental stewardship begins with Indigenous sovereignty.

The things that happen when I put down my phone



Abiella King

WHEN PEOPLE talk about phone addiction, the focus is often on the ways in which apps are designed to keep us engaged. We are Pavlov's dogs salivating at the ding of each notification, scrolling through the lives of those we know and many we don't until we buy something or fall asleep, whichever comes first. These apps are enticing, it's true, but that wasn't what worried me most when I read each week's dreaded screen time total (a total that jumped by hours per day with the birth of my son). I thought about quitting and I knew it wasn't the phone I would miss, it was the escape hatch the phone provided from a state I was furiously avoiding — boredom.

I could not move the laundry from the washer to the dryer without a podcast playing. I began every walk by unlocking a

screen. In the stillness of waiting for a TV show to start, for the water to boil, for a checkout counter to open, I was kept company by strangers whose voices took on the intimacy of a long acquaintance. I knew I had a problem when I started bringing my phone into the shower with me, unwilling to spend a single waking minute in quiet contemplation. Something had to give.

Writing for the Globe and Mail, Benjamin Leszcz offers three simple rules for a life in which a phone is a tool instead of a vice. We should put our phones down when we are paying attention to other people, ideas, and nothing at all.

Step one was easiest. The joy of living, breathing company has never felt as precious as it does now. I am grateful for the ability to see loved ones through a screen when that is all that's available, but in their presence I can't allow the distraction.

The second rule was tougher to follow. I know I am not alone in finding reading harder than ever, my attention span reduced nearly to oblivion by a steady diet of bite

sized content. Reading books again was like a workout that I willed myself to start, knowing how good it felt to finish. With each book the muscle strengthened, and it is becoming less like work, and more like sustenance.

The last rule proved most difficult. Paying attention to nothing was exactly what I had been avoiding each time I reached for the screen. The first time I got ready for work without my phone, it seemed uncomfortably silent. Making coffee was tedious. Vacuuming was a chore.

It was uncomfortable, because for the first time in years, I was choosing to be bored.

The shiny escape hatch beckoned, but when I managed to resist it, even for a few minutes at the bathroom sink, I was surprised by how good it felt. Slowly it came back to me — the awareness of what I had been missing in my campaign to avoid boredom.

I lost the silence that makes space for a curious mind to wander, unbound by

the banter of podcast hosts; the patience to wade through a book's early chapters, before it's impossible to put down; the willingness to listen without distraction, to allow conversation to move as it often does between quiet lulls and raucous laughter; the ability to take comfort, and even respite, in doing absolutely nothing.

I went for a run last week and my headphones never left my pocket. The sound of my breath and the forest waking up was enough. I am not ready to claim victory over my phone addiction yet, but this feels worthy of celebration.

I watch my son marvel at the simplest objects, every surface a playground, and I want that for myself. I may never get it back entirely, this childlike thrill at simply living, even through the most banal of days, but each time I leave the phone untouched I inch a bit closer.

Abiella King is a senior manager who recently moved back to her childhood home of London, Ontario with her husband and son.

Five common misconceptions about dying



Sammy Winemaker

DYING COMES once in a lifetime. The world around us shapes our perception and expectations of this mysterious destiny. In truth, we don't know what to expect when our time comes other than what we've witnessed, by proxy, through people dying in our lives. For the most part, dying is a taboo topic in our society, so we are left to fantasize about what ours will be like. The natural tendency is to think the worst. The media's portrayal of dying doesn't help. Dying is typically portrayed as sudden, sterile, or dramatic, none of which depicts the more common ways of dying.

Much of my work, as a palliative care physician, is spent demystifying dying for healthcare providers, patients and their families. Failure to address the myths, misconceptions and misinformation result in misguided decision making, decreased quality of life, and worsening suffering when our time comes.

The following misconceptions have one profound root cause in common; people are

missing factual information about dying. Here are the most common myths:

1. Dying is wrong

The pervasiveness of this myth, that dying is wrong, is curious because dying is one of life's events that is an absolute guarantee. Our society's values regarding our 'invincibility' permeates the health care system, marketing, and media; we convince ourselves that we can escape the realities of our own finite lives. We learn from an early age that dying equates to failure; failure of the patient to fight, failure of the caregiver to do enough, failure of the health care system to cure illness. We don't properly acknowledge the concept that dying is a natural, expected, part of living.

2. Dying will be sudden and unexpected

Only 10 per cent of the population will die from sudden causes like trauma, acute illness, or suicide. The rest of us are more likely to die from a progressive non-curable illness at some point in our lives, or later, from old age. Dying is a chapter, a phase that occurs over time. There is a distinct decline associated with dying that spans months, then weeks, then days. It is not like a light switch going off. It is a fade.

3. Dying is impossible to predict

There are ways to estimate the average life expectancy for different illnesses. For example, a person with ALS has an average prognosis of two to five years. A person with dementia has on average 10 years. For patients with heart failure the average is five years. These are based on large numbers of people with these illnesses. For an individual person, these numbers only serve as very rough estimates and early on one never knows for sure if the person will live longer, or shorter. However, as an illness advances it does become possible for doctors to predict their individual timeline.

4. Dying causes hopelessness

There is a strongly held belief that people will automatically lose all hope if they know they are dying. This is not necessarily true. In fact, people who are guided along their illness journey with realistic information are able to continuously shift their focus of hope as their illness changes. People can, and do, remain appropriately hopeful the entire time.

5. Dying is painful

Depending on the underlying illness,

people can experience a variety of symptoms throughout their journey. However, just because an illness becomes more advanced and enters into the terminal phase doesn't mean that symptoms crescendo until death comes. In fact, the most prominent symptoms of dying are weakness and fatigue, not pain! Most people die comfortably.

There are many other misconceptions about dying. I've heard them all. They always stem from a fundamental gap in real information. The chasm between truth and falsehood starts when we are young and builds momentum over our lives. When the time comes that we are diagnosed with a progressive chronic illness our journeys will be complicated by the cumulative effect of these myths. Without the facts, we risk experiencing a journey that feels out of control and feeds into our sense of suffering. Alternatively, seeking factual information about 'what to expect' is the single best insurance for remaining well grounded, proactive, prepared, and dignified until the end.

Dr. Samantha Winemaker is a palliative care physician based in Hamilton.

"Wine"ing About My Unorthodox Life



Rebecca Shapiro

WALKING THROUGH the kosher aisle at the local LCBO, a beautifully decorated kosher Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon catches my eye. The old-English blue willow pattern on the label reminds me of the bone china place settings my family used for holidays and family gatherings when I was a child, each plate brimming with the most delicious traditional foods in plentiful quantities. This bottle stirs something inside me and ignites my senses. I can actually smell and taste the turkey, stuffing, brisket, green bean casserole and cranberry sauce. I can hear my grandfather making kiddush with his thick Polish accent and I can feel my grandmother's soft touch as she places my tiny chubby hands over my eyes for the blessing on the candles.

I think to myself that the branding on this wine is inspired. In less than 10 seconds, it stirred something inside me that I have not felt in years. Ironically, the wine is called "Unorthodox," which is how I would have described myself at the time of all of those warm memories. Now that I attempt to be

"Torah observant," my take on orthodoxy is a bit unorthodox. I find this play on words amusing. I have a unique mix of experiences and exposures to all different "sects" of Judaism, growing up with one set of grandparents at the Reform temple, another at the Conservative synagogue, and my own parents going to the orthodox shul. Throughout my life, I've experienced many different worlds within Judaism before I landed on my own unique "brand."

I get home and unwrap the foil covering that surrounds the cork. Wait... it's not a cork. It's a twist top! I try not to judge by first impressions. A 2017 Merlot Cab with a fancy label can't be that bad, right? I pour a glass and after smelling it, I decide to let it breathe. A half hour later I take a sip and spit it out. I'm not a wine connoisseur, but this wine is just not landing well. The beautiful label betrays its inferior product.

I have a similar visceral reaction as I watch Netflix's new show "My Unorthodox Life." I hadn't intended to watch it, but the explosive reactions on social media piqued my curiosity. After the first five minutes, however, I realize this show is like the twist-top wine. It pulls us in, tugging at our heartstrings (and gag reflexes). The creators, it seems, were aiming for a strong reaction.

It turns out I have something in common with the show's protagonist Julia Haart. I was in the fashion industry for almost a decade, but chose to leave when the cost of success became more than I was willing to pay. One of the biggest lessons I learned during that time is that there are generally higher profit margins in the mass-market than there are in high-end. Cheap wine has the potential to earn higher profits than exclusive fine wine and mass-market clothing lines will generally see a higher return on investment than high-end couture designer brands. Companies that cater to the masses buy the cheapest product with the highest markup potential. This new Netflix show is intended to pique the interest of the mass market: An ambitious woman mixed with ethnic trauma, resentment and rage are highly marketable.

As someone who currently works in marketing, I see that, beyond the craziness and inconsistencies in the script, the series is a brilliant marketing ploy; but as someone who once worked in the fashion industry, I see someone who paid an unbelievably high price for her success.

I actually achieved much more than I dreamed possible in that industry before realizing that to push beyond the glass

ceiling would have forced me to compromise my values even more than I already had. Instead I chose to redefine my vision of success with my values and faith in full focus. Julia Haart made different choices than I did. I'm not in a position to judge her.

We wouldn't assume that all Merlots are inferior after tasting one cheap bottle, right? So why would we assume Haart represents anything but her own brand? No matter our religious or spiritual background, we each have our own mix of flavours, values, traumas and opportunities that make us unique in who we are, how we live and how we relate to our faith and others. While Haart may present legitimate concerns with a particular group, her show is missing significant nuance.

Haart took what she felt were spoiled grapes and made mass-market wine with an enticing label. Rather than "wine"ing over sour grapes, we can each choose differently for ourselves. We can identify our own values, assess our own risks, and chart our own course — while respecting other people's right to choose differently.

Rebecca Shapiro is a communications and media consultant specializing in mental health and education.



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Donate to the Annual Community Campaign at jewishhamilton.org

HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION
#Here for Good





Shalom Village

Honouring our Fathers and our Mothers

Celebrating 40 Years

OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY TEA!

SAVE THE DATE
October 20, 2021

With COVID news rapidly changing, we will be announcing additional details as the summer progresses. Please watch your inbox and your mailbox for more information about our 40th Anniversary Tea - honouring volunteers past and present who have made Shalom Village possible!

HONOUR YOUR LOVED ONES WITH A TRIBUTE CARD

The Shalom Village Charitable Foundation invites you to send one of our personalized Rosh Hashanah greeting and tribute cards this new year, featuring artwork by our residents. By reaching out to family, friends and loved ones this Jewish new year through the purchase of our Rosh Hashanah cards, you touch not only the recipients, but also the lives of our residents at Shalom Village.

To make your donation
and send your card, visit:

ShalomVillage.ca/Give-Today
or contact
kathleen@shalomvillage.ca

Thank You to all the donors who supported the "Lock-in Your Love Memorial Garden Appeal" (as of August 12, 2021). The Shalom Village Foundation is aware that during these difficult times many charities are asking for your support. We wish to thank the following individuals who have given to this important project:

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It's not too late to support the Lock-in Your Love Memorial Garden Appeal. To make your gift, please visit www.ShalomVillage.ca/Give-Today



2021 SHEM TOV AWARDS

HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION

#Here for Good



Shem Tov Awards 2021



Adas Israel Congregation | Alan Silver

With humility and little fanfare, Alan Silver personifies consistency, leads by example and supports our community in the most vital of ways. For nearly two decades, Alan Silver is invariably the first to arrive and commence services, and is a stalwart participant of the daily Talmud learning cycle.

"Being available for the community is essentially my life, with the synagogue being at the core of the community."



Beth Jacob Synagogue | Anna Lilliman

Dissatisfied with the opportunities for local Jewish kids and teens, Anna designed and facilitates engaging youth programs. We are endlessly grateful for Anna's selfless dedication and commitment to our students and can't imagine a more deserving recipient of this public acknowledgement.

"Judaism is beautiful and our kids need to see that. So if there isn't a way for them to do so, then I have to come up with one. For me, volunteering is sharing how much fun being Jewish is."



Temple Anshe Sholom | Liora Malka

After a difficult period of transition, Liora stepped into the role of treasurer, and almost immediately was able to transform the Temple's approach to our financial situation, bringing a new spirit of transparency and collaboration to our Temple board. Liora's insight, guiding spirit, strength of leadership and dedication have been essential in allowing the Temple board to navigate its way through this period of unprecedented hardship.

"Supporting TAS has allowed me to give back to a community that has supported my family since we arrived in Hamilton. Sitting on this hardworking Temple board through these unprecedented times has been an honour. The board's primary goal has been to make the Temple sustainable for future generations. As treasurer, I can contribute to that goal."



Jewish National Fund | Vadim Gershkovich

Vadim exemplifies JNF his eagerness to help with passion and a smile. He enthusiastically shares his passion and involves his wife, family and peers in JNF events. Vadim is a true "mensch" with the qualities that anyone would hope for as a trusted colleague and great friend.

"Volunteering with JNF is a chance to educate our community about ecological, agricultural and social efforts in Israel. But most importantly it's about our children's experience during this process. For my children, volunteering is a part of life. Hopefully this feeling will never fade and they will carry it on to the next generation."



Hamilton Hebrew Academy | Sherri Bavly

Sherry Bavly not only serves the city at large, but has dedicated her few remaining hours to selflessly support the HHA. From the crafting of re-entry policies to the management of Covid-19 outbreaks, Sherry has exemplified a dedication that transcends all normative expectations of volunteerism. During trying and charged moments, Sherri makes herself available, bringing wisdom, expertise, professionalism, calm, and patience.

"My commitment to our community is aimed at promoting the mental and physical well-being of our members, and to reduce stigma, and promote connectivity, especially during these trying times."



Kehila Heschel School | Romy Friedman

Amidst the chaos and uncertainty of the last year, Romy helped our teachers set up the technology to transition to online learning, helped set up COVID guidelines for opening our safe-school for in person learning this fall. Kehila Heschel is so appreciative of Romy's willingness to share her abilities, time and expertise with our students, teachers and staff.

"Giving back and helping others is a value instilled in me by my parents, especially my mother Elaine Friedman who led by example. As a teacher, I am passionate about education, and I feel it is important to our future Jewish community, local and worldwide, to help ensure a quality Jewish day school education is available. Volunteering helps me to build connections to others and gives me a sense of purpose."



McMaster Hillel | Sam Neumark, Daniella Mikanovsky, Zev Winegust

As Hillel president, Sam was the face of Hillel for the campus and the McMaster Jewish community. Sam has a strong commitment to community and to Jewish life on campus and led the Jewish community at McMaster with a great deal of commitment.

"Four years ago, the Hamilton community welcomed me with open arms, and having the opportunity to give back to the community over my years at university has filled my heart."



As education chair, Daniella's passion for community building, social justice, and Jewish enrichment resulted in many unique opportunities for students to come together around various issues in profound ways. Daniella dedicated her heart, soul, and mind to better the community.

"I am so proud of the work we have done together, from educating our peers during Holocaust Education Week to our fun holiday programming. Thank you to my Hillel mishpacha for a fantastic four years!"



During a time when social interaction was completely limited and university students were virtual, Zev was a leader in creating programming to promote connection such as virtual games nights, trivia nights and a paint night. Zev cares very deeply about his community and the for his peers who may have been socially isolated in this past year.

"Volunteering with Hillel, I met many of my closest friends, and was given countless leadership opportunities. The experience I gained at Hillel has been invaluable, and I am honoured to receive this award."



Hamilton Jewish Federation Award for Excellence in Education | Linda Geva

Linda Geva exemplifies the professional qualities of an exceptional primary educator. She has been with Kehila for more than 18 years. Linda is passionate about her work, aims to inspire her students in their learning and growth and is truly committed to assisting each of her students to achieve their personal potential. Through her participation in community-wide programs, Linda models the value of communal involvement and instills Jewish values in her students. As a Kindergarten and Grade 1 teacher, her warm, inviting, inclusive classroom and manner lays the foundation for a positive school and learning experience. In implementing the Kehila Heschel curriculum, Linda's knowledge, experience and expertise allow her to seamlessly integrated secular and Judaic studies as she collaborates openly with the Hebrew and Judaic studies teacher with whom she shares the kindergarten programming. Linda is the kind of teacher every parent wishes for his or her child!

2021 SHEM TOV LEADERSHIP AWARDS



THE CECE SCHREIBER AWARD FOR VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE | JACKI LEVIN

In recognition of her exemplary leadership at Federation and her enduring service to the Jewish community, the Hamilton Jewish Federation is proud to present Jacki Levin with our community's most prestigious volunteer leadership award.

Over many decades, Jacki has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to make a difference. Jacki served in leadership roles at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, Adas Israel, and Shalom Village before becoming deeply involved at Federation, where she's served as treasurer, chair of its Budget and Allocation Committee, and president for the last four years.

We can think of no one more deserving to receive this year's CeCe Schreiber Award for Volunteer Excellence.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD | JANIS CRIGER

This award is chosen by the Federation President and is given to someone who has made significant contribution to the Federation.

Janis has been a member of the Federation Board of Directors since May 30, 2013. Janis fits the description "if you want something done, give it to a busy person". She quietly works behind the scenes producing great volunteer roles while working in her busy legal practice and serving on the board of the Ontario Deputy Judges Association, including being the chair of that group and this is while serving on the Federation Executive. Janis has been in charge of the Federation Human Resources portfolio assisting us with staffing issues.

She has been a campaign canvasser for many years, and she sat on the Strategic Planning Committee. Also, she has been the chair of the administration committee which deals with many important issues. We depend on Janis for her wise counsel in many situations and she is always there to give advice in her calm, quiet way. Janis has been the chair of the nominating committee for many years. She is also a member of the by-laws committee, actively working for several months now, sometimes weekly to update our by-laws. Janis has had leadership positions outside of Federation as well, Janis sat on the Temple Anshe Sholom Board for 8 years, including president of the Board for 2 years. Janis is well deserving of the Hamilton Jewish Federation President's Award.

Shem Tov Awards



Jewish Genealogy Society of Hamilton & Area | Hazel Boon

Hazel has served as our president since its inception and been a driving force in the organization. She a valued speaker at our monthly meetings and regular contributor to our quarterly newsletter, and she generously shares her expertise to help others with their personal genealogical searches. Thank you Hazel for all you have done for the JGSHamilton and Area.

"Researching my family's history was my way of remembering my many ancestors whose lives were so very different from the life I know. I am blessed to have the opportunity to advise and guide others on their journeys to memorialize those who came before them."



Hamilton Jewish Family Services | Paula Garshowitz

Paula's extensive non-profit experience, along with diligence, commitment, and leadership, has helped HJFS to develop and implement several new operational and program policies. In addition, Paula has been a long-time volunteer driver for the Hamilton Kosher Food Bank and kosher hot meals. We are lucky to have her as part of the HJFS family.

"It is an honour and a pleasure to work with dedicated HJFS staff and with other volunteers to help improve the quality of life for vulnerable persons."



Shalom Village | Boris Apel

Boris Apel has been a committed and caring volunteer at Shalom Village since 2018. Some may even call him a Mensch! Boris' mother, Sura, lived at Shalom Village for more than 12 years. Boris brought joy and comfort to residents and family members alike. His generous spirit and empathy and genuine concern for people makes him the perfect candidate for this year's Shem Tov Award.

"Our mother always told us that helping others is not a job. It's a mitzvah! My mother lived at Shalom Village for 12 years. During that time, I met so many people and I always tried to cheer them up! That's how I gained friends. When my mother moved to long term care, I came to see her every day and continued to help in whatever way I could, folding laundry, feeding residents, and translating from Russian to English when I was asked. If I only could help everyone on the planet ... I would do it! That's what our mother taught us."



Na'amat Hamilton | Ronit Mesterman

Ronit has been the guiding light and soul of our Hamilton Na'amat chapter with tireless commitment and passion. Her enthusiasm and moral compass guided us as we made changes, grew in numbers, and took on new challenges and responsibilities. Ronit served as president and program chair, bringing us a wonderful array of speakers and ideas. Thank you Ronit for all that you do!

"I feel proud to be part of an historic chain of dedicated women, volunteering, helping and supporting other women. It is me that needs to thank Na'amat Hamilton and all of my chaverot for embracing me into their circle."



Hamilton Jewish Federation Shem Tov Award | Lorne Rochweg

A long-time volunteer with the Hamilton Jewish Federation Lorne Rochweg recently joined the executive committee to take on the role of Federation treasurer. Over the last year, Lorne devoted countless of hours attending Zoom meetings overseeing the complex financial discussions. In honour of Lorne's commitment to the organization and dedication to his work, Federation was delighted to honour him with a Shem Tov Award.

"I have always felt it is very important to give back to the community. As a retired professional accountant, my role as Hamilton Jewish Federation treasurer allows me to donate my skills to the only local body that helps the vulnerable, supports Israel and provides financial assistance to local Jewish educational institutions"

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<p>Sunday, Nov. 7 7 PM "ONCE WE WERE SLAVES" Laura Arnold Leibman</p>	 	<p>Monday, Nov. 15 7 PM "THE HOUSE OF FRAGILE THINGS" James McAuley</p>	 
<p>Monday, Nov. 8 7 PM "X TROOP" Leah Garrett</p>	 	<p>Tuesday, Nov. 16 7 PM "RBG'S BRAVE & BRILLIANT WOMEN" Nadine Epstein</p>	 
<p>KRISTALLNACHT EVENT Wednesday, Nov. 10 7 PM "999" The Extraordinary Young Women of the First Official Jewish Transport to Auschwitz Heather Dune Macadam</p>	 	<p>Wednesday, Nov. 17 7 PM "OPHELIA" Norman Bacal</p>	 

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HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION
#Here for Good





Rebecca Shapiro says writing her book was a labour of love.

Moussia's story

A children's book about loss and grief that's for everyone

BY **WENDY SCHNEIDER**
HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

LIKE SO MANY others in the Jewish community, Rebecca Shapiro was deeply affected by the tragic drowning in 2015 of six-year-old Moussia Zaltzman, daughter of Chabad emissaries to the Niagara region, Rabbi Zalman and Perla Zaltzman. So, to honour what would have been Moussia's Bat Mitzvah year, Shapiro spent the good part of the last year writing and illustrating a children's book about Moussia, her family's grieving process, and the ways the Zaltzman family is keeping their daughter's memory alive. The fruit of her labour is *It's Not Over When We Say Goodbye*, a book that one prominent trauma specialist has called a "game changer" that "should be a part of every family and school library."

This is not the first book Shapiro has written — she's been commissioned in the past as a ghost writer and curricula writer — but it's the first she feels is truly her own creation. At the same time, the finished product was very much a team effort. Shapiro worked closely with Perla Zaltzman, whose feedback she sought early on in her writing process, after realizing that the story would have a greater impact if it was told in Moussia's voice.

"We kind of took the journey together because the way that Perla

wanted to grieve was not to forget Moussia but to bring Moussia to life," Shapiro says. "Her biggest fear is that people will forget her daughter and ... she wants people to remember her daughter with warmth and love. She had the most beautiful personality ... She was a very nurturing and motherly kind of little girl."

Shapiro also consulted widely with therapists and trauma specialists she knew from Project Proactive, an advocacy organization she co-founded a number of years ago that develops mental health resources in the Jewish community. Their advice would turn out to be invaluable.

"When I first wrote it, I glossed over a lot of the details around her accident," says Shapiro, who was concerned about traumatizing young readers. But her colleague urged her to take a different approach. "She said ... you have to give the kids enough details that leaves no room for their imagination, because imagination is so much scarier than the truth."

Shapiro says that avoiding difficult conversations around illness and death is widespread in her generation. "I remember watching people come to the shiva house and they were bawling their eyes out and Perla was comforting them," she says, who acknowledged her own feelings of awkwardness and uncertainty about what to say. But in

private conversations with Zaltzman in the weeks and months following Moussia's death, Shapiro learned that would have been most helpful was for people to be attuned to what her needs were.

"I think that's what a lot of us are missing," says Shapiro. ... "I don't know that I was always so attuned to what other people needed until Perla got me reading books, and it really did help me ... learn more about how to be attuned to other people's needs when they are in need ... and not to overstep and push my own agenda."

Recognizing that many people experience similar discomfort in the face of another person's tragedy, Shapiro included in her book a parent's guide and a grief guide for the community at large. The parent's guide, written by trauma specialist Esther Goldstein, gives parents practical tools that will enable them to have open conversations with their children about death. The community guide, written by Shapiro, offers insight into Jewish mourning rituals and meaningful ways to comfort mourners.

If Shapiro's deep dive into the Zaltzman family tragedy has taught her anything, it's that the capacity to feel great pain and experience great joy are inextricably linked. She writes in her author's note of the profound impression Zaltzman family simchas have had on her over the last few years.

*Each day that you read this story,
Or talk about me for a while,
Is another day my memory is celebrated in this world,
And it really makes me smile.*

To order a copy of *It's Not Over When We Say Goodbye*, visit jproactive.com/childrens-grief.

ILLUSTRATION: REBECCA SHAPIRO

"I don't think I've ever experienced joy to that magnitude as I do when I go to their family simchas," Shapiro says. "Moussia's a part of every one of these events. There's a certain amount of warmth of having her presence there ... The joy is palpable because they've seen so much sadness and because they've allowed themselves to feel sad, I feel like that just gives them that added element of being able to feel joy."

In the book's closing section, Perla Zaltzman writes how she received an advanced copy of *It's Not Over When We Say Goodbye* two days before Moussia's sixth *yahrzeit*. That night, as she read the book to her two youngest children, both of whom never knew Moussia, she immediately saw its effect. "Their connection to Moussia was palpable, more than ever before. For that alone, this book is the greatest gift Rebecca could have given us in honour of Moussia's Bat Mitzvah this year," she wrote.

It's more than likely that Shapiro's book, enhanced by beautiful digital illustrations, some of which are based on actual photographs, will be seen in the same light by countless others, including the Jewish and other faith-based organizations that have ordered copies. Zaltzman shared with Shapiro that her daughter Hanna's favourite picture is the one that shows Moussia lying peacefully in her hospital bed, her brothers by her side, and members of the community praying in the background.

This reader was drawn to an illustration based on an actual event, its backstory infused with what feels like mystical significance. It shows Moussia, a week before the accident, drawing her name on the pavement of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy playground, a moment her teacher Clare Gajdo, with uncanny foresight, captured by taking a picture of Moussia's handwriting with her cell phone. Six years later, Shapiro would trace those precious letters, making it possible for Moussia's own imprint to grace the book's cover, just as it graces the playground that now bears her name, and the book that closes with these words:

*Each day that you read this story,
Or talk about me for a while,
Is another day my memory is celebrated in this world,
And it really makes me smile.*

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Schitt's Creek: a quintessential 'Jews of no religion' story

McMaster professor Celia Rothenberg muses on themes of exile and redemption in the acclaimed Canadian series

BY CELIA ROTHENBERG
REPRINTED COURTESY THE
CONVERSATION

CBC'S BREAKTHROUGH comedy Schitt's Creek tells the story of the Rose family. The Roses, including parents John (Eugene Levy) and Moira (Catherine O'Hara), and grown children Alexis (Annie Murphy) and David (Daniel Levy), have been conned out of their wealth by Eli, their corrupt business manager.

They're forced from their lavish home in California to Schitt's Creek, a tacky, down-and-out small rural town. John, in better times, bought the title to the town for David as a birthday joke. Over time, however, Schitt's Creek becomes the source of the Rose family's redemption, saving them from not only potentially endless wandering in search of a new home, but also, to a large extent, their parochial world view.

Schitt's Creek has won 102 awards, including a sweep of the 2020 Primetime Emmy Awards and 2021 Canadian Screen Awards for comedy. The cast has been lauded for their superb, on-point performances.

The show has also been recognized for its deft handling of a range of identity issues, particularly LGBTQ+ relationships, pansexuality, socio-economic class and Canadian-ness.

Yet Schitt's Creek, co-created by real-life father-son duo Eugene and Daniel Levy, is also fundamentally about Jewish identity. Critics who ignore or simply miss the Jewishness of the characters fail to appreciate this key aspect of the show's inclusive reach and appeal to diverse viewers.

Flying latkes

Eugene Levy, Jewish in real life, is also Jewish as John Rose; John's wife, Moira, is not. The show's Jewish references are abbreviated, dropped in passing in a number of the show's episodes.



PHOTO COURTESY: STEVE WILKIE/CBC/NOT A REAL COMPANY PRODUCTIONS INC.

Schitt's Creek cast members Annie Murphy, Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara and Daniel Levy

A local man presumes that John has bagel expertise because he is Jewish in Season 2, Episode 5; Daniel explicitly describes himself as a product of a "delightful half-half situation" (referring to an interfaith family) in a Season 4 holiday special.

More references abound, for example, in Seasons 5 and 6: Daniel mentions his birthright trip, a reference to free, 10-day trips for Jews between the ages of 18 and 32 who have never before travelled to Israel, and Alexis recalls her bat mitzvah for which she wore a tiara. John reminisces about his boyhood Hebrew school baseball team, The Flying Latkes, and Moira references a Passover seder. Alexis sports a hamsa necklace featuring a hand shape with an eye (in Jewish understandings of the hamsa, the hand is symbolic of God's hand, which wards off the evil eye). The episode "Sunrise, Sunset" is named after the song from the iconic Jewish musical, Fiddler on the Roof.

Exile and diaspora

Schitt's Creek also presents a new interpretation of the most central of historically Jewish themes: exile and diaspora.

Throughout history Jews have been "strangers in a strange land."

As described in the biblical story of Exodus, the Jews were forced from their homeland due to famine to reside in Egypt. Following the destruction of the First (586 BCE) and Second Temples (70 CE) in Jerusalem, the Jews were again forced into exile, living until today in diaspora throughout the world.

The Rose family is in exile in Schitt's Creek. Yet the Roses, like so many Jews in diaspora, emotionally and personally grow in this strange land, adapting to their changed circumstances, although never wholly assimilating.

The show's conclusion is at least suggestively symbolic of the range of solutions undertaken by Jews who have had to rebuild their lives time and again in diasporas throughout history: David opts to stay in Schitt's Creek with his new husband, John and Moira return to California and Alexis goes to young American Jews' very own Zion, New York City.

'Jews of no religion'

In light of this evidence of Jewishness, it may be surprising for viewers who can see that religious belief and ongoing practice is minimal to non-existent in the Rose family. There are no Jewish holidays or heartfelt

discussions of the complex nature of Jewish identity. There is no mention of affiliation or identification with Reform, Conservative or Orthodox Jewish religious movements.

Yet the Roses' Jewishness is unself-conscious and undeniable: They are not hiding their Jewishness out of fear of antisemitism or self-loathing. Their Jewishness, like Daniel's pansexuality, is simply a fact, part of who they are as people, if not the basis for whatever spiritual beliefs they may or may not hold.

Indeed, the Roses offer many Jewish viewers a recognizable reflection of themselves. The Roses can be described as an example of the broad category of "Jews of no religion," a term used by the Pew Foundation in its surveys of Jewish Americans.

For Jews of no religion, in contrast to Jews by religion, Jewishness is located in one's ethnic, cultural or ancestral background. In terms of beliefs, Jews of no religion are likely to identify as atheist, agnostic or "nothing in particular."

A matter of inheritance

Four out of 10 Jewish American adults under the age of 30 identify as Jews of no religion; overall, Jews of no religion make up 27 per cent of American Jewry and 79 per cent of them are intermarried. This Jewishness, for many, is most akin to an inheritance, a link to the past that shapes, but does not solely determine, one's sense of self in the present or future.

Many Jews of no religion are quick to argue that they are "not less than" Jews by religion. Being Jewish by religion is both a family inheritance (except in the case of converts) and a matter of belief. Jews of no religion separate family inheritance and personal belief, highlighting the fact that Jewishness is historically and in the present not only a belief system, but also a matter of history.

The Rose family, with love, sharp wit, endearing acceptance and fabulous fashion gives viewers a glimpse of Jews who know that they measure up quite nicely to just about anyone both within and outside of the diaspora of Schitt's Creek.

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Volunteers spearhead efforts to feed Israel's hungry

LEKET ISRAEL

IN THE SPRING of 2014, through a dedicated donation of \$25,000, Leket Israel – The National Food Bank, began to provide monthly food-purchase vouchers to a select group of Holocaust survivors living in the city of Haifa. Through the project, and with the assistance of the Foundation for the Welfare of Holocaust Survivors, an Israeli organization founded by Holocaust survivors in Israel to aid other Holocaust survivors in need, Leket identified 40 survivors who were in dire need of supplemental welfare help. In addition to delivering the survivors a NIS 250 (\$75) food voucher each month for 12 months, the field relations specialist spent time with each of them, surveying their needs to understand how Leket Israel could best assist this vulnerable population group.

In 2018, Ohad Levy began to spearhead the rescue of surplus food from the Israel Electric Company (IEC) cafeterias throughout Israel. When the pandemic caused the cafeterias to close, Levy reached out to Leket Israel to find out if there was any way to continue to provide food to people in need.

“Before the COVID-19 pandemic, we were in a much better place and

were able to donate 500 meals daily. We were about to open more cafeterias, and then suddenly everything fell apart. Even though our kitchens were closed, I knew people in need had not suddenly disappeared,” Levy said.

The Leket volunteer department paired Levy with the Foundation for the Welfare of Holocaust Survivors. Since March 2020, a group of some 20 volunteers from the IEC has been delivering Leket's food parcels directly to each Holocaust survivor who resides in government-subsidized housing throughout the Haifa region.

To Levy, building relationships with the survivors is the most important part of volunteering. Some survivors share their personal stories from the Holocaust, while others ask for help with things that need fixing around their house. Even when the recipients are not eager to engage, the volunteers do their best to see if there is anything they can do to assist. In one instance, scheduling a food parcel drop-off turned into a lifesaving experience. The IEC volunteer, unable to reach a recipient to schedule the drop-off, became concerned and persisted in trying to reach her. Eventually, the recipient answered the phone and disclosed that she had fallen.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEKET ISRAEL

Leket Israel volunteers prepare food for Holocaust survivors.

Levy and other volunteers called for emergency services and went to her house. The fire department had to break down the door to gain entry, and the woman was transported to the hospital. Thanks to the scheduled food delivery, the woman was found and received life-saving medical treatment.

Leket is grateful for its passionate volunteers, whose dedication to both the recipients and to Leket's mission help provide food to those in need.

“It is my privilege to be able to participate in this project, and our responsibility to help the people in need in our own communities,” said Levy.

Leket Israel — the National Food Bank — rescues and distributes surplus cooked food and agricultural produce from hotels, corporate cafeterias, IDF army bases and farms, to 246,000 Israelis in need weekly, through 330 nonprofit partner agencies. To learn more about Israel's national food bank, visit leket.org.

The “Shadow Pandemic” of domestic violence

BY **REBECCA BOWSLAUGH**
SPECIAL TO THE HJN

STAYING HOME during a pandemic is not safe for everyone. After more than a year and a half of lockdowns and quarantines, domestic violence has increased across the globe. The drastic increase in intimate partner and domestic abuse has been coined the “Shadow Pandemic” by the United Nations. In Israel, the number of domestic violence complaints has increased by 800 per cent since the beginning of COVID-19. The Assaulted Women's helpline in Ontario reported a 400 per cent increase during the first month of the pandemic. With no opportunities to leave the house and limited or no access to friends and family, it became that much easier for abusers to isolate their victims.

The “Shadow Pandemic” is hitting close to home with a rise in domestic violence complaints across the Hamilton area. The director of women's services at Good Shepherd and co-chair of Hamilton's Women Abuse Working Group said, “The violence-against-women shelters, legal supports, and counselling services cannot meet the demand. As such, shelters are operating above 100 per cent occupancy and wait lists to access supportive programs are increasing.”

The annual report by the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, which was released in March, showed that 160 women and girls were killed in Canada in 2020, many by current or former partners or family members. In the first half of 2021, 92 women and girls were killed, mostly by men.



Canadian Hadassah-WIZO seeks to empower victims of domestic violence in Israel.

The report also stated that one woman or girl is killed every 2.5 days in Canada. One in five women and girls killed by a man was Indigenous. Indigenous women make up 12 per cent of femicide victims, despite comprising just 5 per cent of Canada's overall population.

Now is the time to empower women by stepping up emergency support and services. In order to break the cycle of violence and prevent victims from re-entering an abusive relationship, local organizations must:

- provide the basic necessities needed to help each family start over safely after they leave an emergency shelter;
- provide a safe haven for at-risk children and support mental health through a variety of outlets;
- empower women and their children by providing housing, financial help, social and personal

support, employment support, and a network of other women in similar circumstances.

Even though things are opening up again, and it seems like life is returning to normal, these negative effects will linger long after the pandemic ends. There are many ways you can help support victims of domestic violence, both locally and across the world. Inasmuch House, Interval House of Hamilton, Native Women's Centre, and the YWCA Hamilton all offer emergency services and accept donation. And for those looking to help our Israeli community, Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) is launching a 24-hour crowdfunding campaign on August 24-25 to empower victims of domestic violence in Israel.

Rebecca Bowslaugh is a marketing communications manager for a non-profit, trying to make change happen at home and abroad.

NEED TO KNOW

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS IN ISRAEL AND CANADA

ISRAEL:

- The number of domestic violence complaints in Israel has increased by 800 per cent since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 25 Israeli women were murdered by their partners or relatives since early 2020.
- An estimated 200,000 women are currently living with violence and fear.
- A recent survey shows that only 30 per cent of women know where to turn to for help.
- Only 4,000 out of around 20,000 violent men are receiving professional consultations or care to confront their violent tendencies.

CANADA:

- Half of all murders against women are committed by their current or past partners.
- 79 per cent of police reported intimate partner violence is against women.
- Women were victims of intimate partner homicide at a rate four times greater than men.
- Women who experience spousal violence are twice as likely to report being sexually assaulted, beaten, choked, or threatened with a gun or a knife than men
- One in five women and girls killed by a man was Indigenous. Indigenous women make up 12 per cent of femicide victims, despite comprising just 5 per cent of Canada's overall population.
- Out of the 92 women and girls killed by violence, 33 of them were in Ontario.

Luxury retirement in Israel beckons

Spacious campus outside Jerusalem offers a revolutionary concept for senior living

BY SHARON GELBACH
SPECIAL TO THE HJN

WHO DOESN'T LOVE those videos of silver-haired, wizened old folks running marathons and lifting weights? I think they appeal to that part of us that is in denial about our own aging prospects – and besides, don't we all aspire to be among those select non-aging nonagenarians?!

Genes notwithstanding, no one really knows what lies in store for them in the aging department. And as another Rosh Hashanah rolls around, signifying another year of life — thank God! — it makes sense to think ahead and be prepared.

Here in Israel, Anglo olim (new immigrants) are expressing interest in a brand-new concept for senior living. With construction well underway and occupancy planned for August 2023, the Beresheet retirement community, located in Greater Jerusalem, is intended for over-60s who are eager to take full advantage of all the opportunities offered.

“Longer life expectancy and the desire to do something meaningful after retirement have created a new generation of seniors who wish to make the most of the present, yet still want security for the future,” said Beresheet founder Avi Lichak.

“We believe in creating a safe environment for residents to enjoy an unmatched quality of life as they pursue the interests and hobbies that they love or that they always dreamed of.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERESHEET RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Artist's rendering of the future Beresheet retire community in Greater Jerusalem.

Lichak summarizes his revolutionary idea: “We welcome residents’ input. Rather than having to accommodate themselves to an existing schedule, Beresheet residents will have the freedom to decide what they want to do and how and when they want to do it.”

The atmosphere at Beresheet encourages residents to discover hidden talents and form new connections. With an array of trips and social and cultural events to choose from, and with the opportunity to create unique programs, every member of the Beresheet community will be able to find their niche in the manner that suits them best. “We welcome residents’ ideas and will endeavor to give them expression,” said Lichak.

Beresheet’s sprawling, 4.5-acre forested campus, surrounded by greenery and adjacent to an archeological park and a nature reserve, is a walker’s paradise. The feeling is decidedly rural, although, in true Israeli style, Beresheet is just minutes away from

the bustling center of Jerusalem, with all that it has to offer.

The luxurious, high-end apartments are equipped with “smart” technology and feature high ceilings, arches and picture windows that bring the breathtaking view inside. Spacious balconies or a garden — take your pick. From the recessed, glare-proof lighting in every room, to the fully accessorized kitchen and double bath and toilet facilities, it’s clear the founders have invested thought into each and every detail.

A shuttle bus will be available daily for trips to town, but Beresheet has everything right on site, from a synagogue to a cultural center to activity rooms, as well as a fully equipped spa with a half-Olympic-sized pool and fitness room. Tai Chi, book club, reflexology, art and gardening are just a smattering of what will be available. Choice is the buzzword also when it comes to Beresheet’s all-kosher culinary options: In addition to the main chef’s restaurant, residents can enjoy

a variety of eateries and coffee shops in the built-in mini-mall.

To facilitate visits from relatives and friends, tech-equipped party rooms of different sizes can be reserved for celebrations, special occasions and get-togethers. Several on-site, fully accessorized guest suites are available for family or friends to stay for an extended visit.

Beresheet has a comprehensive plan in place in the event of medical changes that may occur along the line. The complex is fully equipped with efficient solutions to provide residents with all their medical needs on site and in their own home.

Behind Beresheet’s revolutionary concept is the Lichak family. The owners of a chain of nursing homes that enjoys a sterling reputation, these three brothers and one sister are not your typical entrepreneurs. “Our father passed away when we were very young, forcing our mother to support us by working as a cook in an old age home, which was basically where we grew up. Years later, when our mother degenerated and needed round-the-clock nursing care, we were unable to find accommodations that met our standards. That was when we decided to open our own facility, and since then, we’ve been catering to the senior population with the same care and devotion that we wanted for our own mother.”

Armed with a wealth of experience and a fervent desire to upgrade the existing model of senior community life in Israel, the Lichaks have opened registration for their flagship Beresheet retirement community. “We welcome Anglo seniors to join Beresheet at the founding level and enjoy their best years with other like-minded people,” Avi Lichak said.

Shanah Tovah u'Metukah

Wishing you and your family good health, happiness and peace.

“There’s no one I trust more than Dan Muys to carry on our work and serve the people of the Hamilton area well. Dan has been by my side since day one. We have worked together on many issues.”

- David Sweet, retiring MP, Flamborough-Glanbrook
Former Chair, Canada-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group

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Dan Muys
Federal Conservative Candidate
Flamborough-Glanbrook

Dan
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HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN 2022 | CASE FOR GIVING



Campaign 2021
\$307,225



Campaign 2021
\$679,150



Campaign 2021
\$395,300

Total allocated 2021 \$1,381,675



Hamilton had Canada's highest per-capita rate of hate crimes for the last three out of five years, according to Statistics Canada. There were 17.1 hate incidents per 100,000 people, with those incidents ranging from graffiti to assault. Groups targeted were Jews, Muslims, Blacks and LGBTQ and while the number of incidents is growing for each group, the incidence of antisemitic incidences were the highest.

There is much work to be done to educate, build awareness, respect and understanding about and among the different religious, ethnic and cultural groups in Hamilton.

The Jewish community is well placed to take a leadership role that faces both inward and outward. The plan is to mount an annual educational gathering in Hamilton aimed at understanding the historical roots of antisemitism as well as its current manifestations. The goal is to create an opportunity to learn and to dialogue with experts, community leaders from all domains, all backgrounds and affiliations. A special effort will be made to engage young people at both high school and university. They are the future leadership and must be involved in shaping attitudes and opinions.

The annual gathering will be structured to develop actionable follow-up activities that will engage and keep the issue on the community agenda year round.

NEW NEEDS

New technology for hybrid programs and events

Develop new programs to educate young generations about antisemitism and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

BENEFICIARIES | PROGRAMS

- Holocaust Education
- Students and Teachers Seminars
- Yom Hashoah Commemoration
- Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration
- McMaster Hillel
- Va'ad HaKashrut
- Community Mikvah
- Centre for Israel and Jewish Advocacy | United Israel Appeal

The Hamilton Jewish Federation is committed to accessible and affordable Jewish education experiences.

This commitment includes diverse ideologies and structures. The financial support will therefore have two components aimed at strengthening the institutions as well as the individual's capacity to benefit from the program of their choice.

Children have experienced significant disruption throughout the COVID-19 experience. Disruptions have interrupted their education, their family routines and their social lives. They have been isolated from their friends, their extended families and their activities. These factors, along with others directly associated with the Hamilton JCC day camp, make it the ideal moment to redevelop the Hamilton summer day camp experience.

NEW NEEDS

Higher demand for scholarships for Jewish day schools and supplementary religious schools

New Centre for wellness to support the increased number of community members with mental health issues

Higher demand for scholarships for summer, winter and spring camps

Recovery after a year of social isolation with new social and cultural JCC programs

BENEFICIARIES | PROGRAMS

- Hamilton Hebrew Academy
- Kehila Heschel School
- Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School
- Beth Jacob Synagogue Hebrew School
- Hamilton Hebrew High
- Hamilton Jewish News
- PJ Library
- Hamilton JCC | Camp Kadimah

The experience of COVID-19 has highlighted the need for a gathering place that will offer social and emotional support to people who are dealing with mental health challenges associated or exacerbated by the pandemic.

The new wellness centre at JHamilton will aim to reduce the social isolation and anxiety that so many people are experiencing by offering a place for people to come together and connect. The centre will offer informal activities, groups, and drop-in programs. It will also serve as an entry and referral point for people who need more in-depth interventions. And it will offer a public awareness and educational program in collaboration with the mental health community in Hamilton.

NEW NEEDS

More mental health support

Increased number of individual and family counselling services and programs

More financial assistance

More services for isolated seniors and Holocaust survivors

Increased demand of Kosher free meals to be distributed through food security programs and food banks

BENEFICIARIES | PROGRAMS

- Beth Tikvah Foundation
- Hamilton Jewish Family Services
- Shalom Village
- Grow Hamilton
- Special Needs Action Project

Campaign 2022 | Goal \$403,575

Campaign 2022 | Goal \$823,000

Campaign 2022 | Goal \$441,800

TOTAL CAMPAIGN 2022 GOAL \$1,668,375

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HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION
#Here for Good



A Camp Kadimah summer to remember

After being forced to cancel its summer 2020 session Camp Kadimah reopened this summer to the delight of campers, parents and staff

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
WENDY SCHNEIDER
HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

THE SUMMER OF 2021 will be remembered by thousands of campers, staff and parents across Canada as the summer of freedom from lockdowns and a welcome return to semi-normalcy. For that reason alone, Camp Kadimah has just wrapped up one of its best summer seasons.

"I truly believe this year has been one of the best years because the children are so excited to be at camp," says Camp Kadimah director Emmilee Claus. "I think the pandemic really affected kids, not being around their friends, not being in an environment with other people. They were really isolated."

Claus, 20, is an honours student at Brock University where she majors in children and youth studies. No stranger to the Jewish community, Claus has worked at Kadimah for six years, her grandmother Eileen O'Raw, is the Adas Israel's much loved secretary, and her mom, Jenn Laslo, is the JCC administrator. Claus started her own career in the Jewish community as a volunteer with the Hamilton Hebrew Academy after school program.

"The Jewish community's so welcoming," she said. "I've always



loved and always felt a part of it."

Ben Avetessian, 18, is also a veteran of Camp Kadimah. He was a camper there since the age of 3, and started its CIT program when he came of age. Avetessian, who has volunteered extensively at Beth Jacob Synagogue and other community organizations and a graduate of the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program, is entering Wilfrid Laurier University's BA Leadership Program this fall.

A natural born leader who credits his parents for giving him "a good sense of leadership," Avetessian hopes to practice personal injury law one day "to help people ... get the coverage they deserve. I want that to be my way

of giving back to society," he said.

Claus made a promise to herself this summer that she would do everything in her power to give campers the best camp experience possible despite having to forego field trips to places like Wild Waterworks or African Lion Safari. So, she and Avetessian brought the outside world to camp by inviting a special guest each week like a mad scientist, a pottery company and a reptile trainer. Campers especially look forward to Fridays, where they're invited to "chill and just be themselves" in honour of Shabbat. More than anything, Claus feels camp is about growth, not just for campers but for staff.

"It's really about growing people and welcoming people in and just



Camp Kadimah director Emmilee Claus and assistant director Ben Avetessian agree that this has been one of the camp's best summers.

becoming a bigger family that offers more support during this time."

The feedback Claus and Avetessian have gotten from parents this summer has been universally positive. Maggie Norris says her children are loving camp. "We were desperate to get back to some kind of normalcy." Her youngest, especially was yearning to be exposed to kids his own age after a year of remote learning.

"Yes, they're wearing masks, but being with their friends and other people after the kind of summer we had last year ... They don't even look back to say goodbye. They're thrilled ... they're safe and happy," she said. "Supporting a local Jewish camp, nothing else matters. It's really, really important."

Her kids agree. "We don't want to do any other camp," they tell her. "Just Kadimah."

Thank you to our members, donors and friends who have made these challenging times easier for those in need at our women's shelter, our day care centres and our vocational high schools throughout Israel.

**Wishing you and your loved ones
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HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS SEEKS FREELANCE CULTURE WRITER

The Hamilton Jewish News seeks a part-time freelance writer to produce a range of high-quality stories and podcasts on timely Jewish topics relevant to our growing young adult audience in the Jewish community. Our goal is to explore Jewish culture in a way that's accessible to everyone, regardless of knowledge or experience with Judaism. The ideal candidate has experience in online journalism and podcasting with proven storytelling instincts, expert reporting and research skills.

Working independently and with the HJN editor, this writer will be eager to explore Hamilton's Jewish community through coverage of a wide range of cultural events and subjects, including, but not limited to, arts, film, food, holidays and Israel. The ideal candidate is excited by Jewish culture and has the initiative to own this "beat," including the ability to shoot quality photographs when necessary. A strong working knowledge of podcasting, as well as Jewish culture, history and religion is a must.

Think you have what it takes? Please submit a story demonstrating high-quality reporting—in about 500-1,000 words—on a cultural subject particularly relevant to the Hamilton's Jewish young adult community. To apply, please send your submission as a complete, original article to wschneider@jewishhamilton.org, along with a brief bio, resume and three additional writing or podcast samples that showcase your reporting, research and storytelling abilities.

The joys of Talmud study

BY RABBI YONAH LAVERY-YISRAELI
SPECIAL TO THE HJN

IMAGINE A box was discovered in your old family home. Inside the box: old legal documents, love letters, found objects, diaries stuffed with family stories that make you question everything you thought you knew about yourself. This is a way I often think about Talmud, and I'm not the only one. When I recently asked my students why they learn Talmud, the "box in the attic" was an image often used to explain their interest. The box shows that for them, learning Talmud is not a difficult commitment, at least not in the usual way we think about difficulty. Rather, they feel driven to know, they must know. The Talmud is about them: how can they not look?

Anna puts it this way: "I feel like every time I am in class, it's like opening a box in an attic. Brush off the dust, pry open the old-fashioned lock and wow! There's gorgeous stuff — only instead of fancy dresses, exquisite china or well-made wooden toys, I find fancy ideas, exquisite discussions and well-made arguments. I have yet to have a Talmud study that didn't challenge my preconceptions, force me to work hard, and cause me to laugh."

Anna's description of prying open the lock shows another reason why the box image works so well for Talmud: you have to open it. "It is not given to you as [mere] inheritance," say the sages. Keep it in the corner, for others to study if they like, and it is useless. And the cover doesn't lift easily. The language of the Talmud must be mastered. Yes, you could read it in English, but that would be like hearing someone else tell you what's in the box, while you yourself are blindfolded. Can you be sure that what you're hearing is really all there is? (This is never the case with English translations.) On a deeper level, can you bear not encountering these precious items for yourself?

If you choose to engage with the words of the sages directly, the "lock on the box"



ILLUSTRATION BY CESARIO LAVERY

opens slowly, but becomes one more treasure for you to delight in. The language of the Talmud is crafted not just to communicate concepts, but faces, gestures, the rise and fall of the human voice. It uses unique devices designed to bring oral tradition to the page, so that you can reconstruct and engage in something more like a real conversation. And while the phrase "Aramaic grammar" might give you nightmares, it is really much more approachable than you might think. Most of my students started off with very basic prayerbook Hebrew. Now they can read Rashi. Their secret was approaching the text with dedication and curiosity. With these two qualities, it is impossible to fail.

Thanks to the pandemic and the explosion of interest in Daf Yomi, there are more ways to learn Talmud well than ever before. Naturally, I recommend the home-grown variety. It's good to have local friends who are into this sort of thing. Here in Hamilton, you can learn Talmud using traditional methods, even if you don't always feel like a traditional person. It is perfectly free. You can sign up for the year program (every Sunday evening), the summer intensive (coming up the third week of August), or both at hamiltonbeitmidrash@gmail.com. But there's a catch: no one can do it for you.



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A WORD FROM OUR BAGEL BAKERS, The Bagel Oven

The Bagel Oven was born from a fiery passion wanting to fill the need for ethnic bread that brought a focus on good food and a strong community in the Niagara Region. This family-owned company offers the highest quality products, specializing in authentic Jewish-Montreal bagels and bread. The Bagel Oven is here to evoke a sweet new year for you.

Forty years of women volunteering and making a difference

Shalom Village's Ladies Auxilliary Tea is celebrating its 40th anniversary

BY LAURIE PRINGLE
SHALOM VILLAGE

FORTY YEARS ago another Trudeau (Pierre) was our Prime Minister. The top songs of the year 1981's were "Bette Davis Eyes" by Kim Carnes, "Your Kiss is On My Lips" by Hall and Oats, and "Jessie's Girl" by Rick Springfield. Disco was on the way out, Hair Rock Bands and New Wave were on the upswing! A loaf of bread cost 54 cents, a stamp was 17 cents, and you could see "Raiders of the Lost Ark" for \$2.25.

Meanwhile, at Shalom Village, Rochelle Waxman and JoAnn Pomerantz teamed up to create the Shalom Village Ladies Auxiliary Tea, to support seniors at Shalom Village. With their boundless energy, persistence, and spirit of generosity, these two dynamic women started an event, that still continues 40 years later. Very few charities can boast about a 40-year-old event that continues to grow each and every year.

Inspired by this remarkable mitzvah, many other women from the local community joined Waxman and Pomerantz. They scrubbed floors, made the sandwiches, baked all the goods, visited local stores to request donations, and drove to Toronto to buy kosher bread. If it had to be done, these dedicated volunteers in the Ladies Auxiliary rolled up their sleeves to make it happen.

Back in 1981, the Shalom Village Tea was an intimate affair, attended by friends and family members of the



Above: JoAnn Pomerantz and Rochelle Waxman take a moment from their busy volunteering activities to pose with former Shalom Village staff member Noreen McConnell.



Left: An archival photo of Rochelle Waxman with then Shalom Village director Sheila Burman

volunteer. Initially, the event raised hundreds of dollars, but as it picked up steam, the Tea began to raise thousands of dollars. Tea was served buffet style, and it was a wonderful excuse to see friends, dress up and do good.

Today, thanks to the early efforts of the Ladies Auxiliary volunteers, the event hosts more than 200 guests and raises more than \$65,000. Some of the items purchased with Tea donations include a piano, patient lifts, an industrial generator, specialized resident beds, a nursing call system, and multi-sensory stimulation programs for seniors living with dementia. In addition

to their financial support, many Tea donors offer their tickets to Shalom Village residents who might not otherwise be able to attend, making their gift twice as impactful!

All of this is made possible thanks to our Ladies Auxiliary Tea callers, bakers, errand runners, and of course, Rochelle and JoAnn. The Shalom Village Foundation now provides additional support to the Ladies Auxiliary, but the real heroes remain the wonderful ladies!

The uncertainty created by the COVID-19 pandemic means we don't know what the Tea's 40th anniversary will look like, but our volunteers are determined to make it special and wonderful.

We hope you will join us as we applaud their 40 years of volunteerism and thank them for all they've done for Shalom Village, the Jewish community, and Hamilton seniors. We are truly blessed to be the recipients of such impressive dedication and support.

If you're looking for a wonderful way to give back to the local community, and the seniors who helped build it, please contact us to find out how you can join our wonderful group of Ladies Auxiliary volunteers. As Sasha Weisz said recently,

"It has always been my pleasure and privilege to have been able to volunteer and assist Shalom Village in any way that I can. Their annual tea is a great time to support and to help out! I applaud Rochelle and JoAnn for their 40 years of dedication to this wonderful event!"

And to all our current and past volunteers, thank you ladies! We look forward to supporting your efforts for many more years.



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In these challenging times and during this season of renewal, we celebrate that spirit; we honour our fathers and our mothers; and rededicate ourselves to the work of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world.

This year, we offer each of you our deepest wishes that this year be a year of blessing, good health, and peace for you and those you love. May you be inscribed for blessing in the Book of Life.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK A TOUR PLEASE CONTACT:

Dan Fournier
PHONE: 905-529-1613 Ext 391
EMAIL: Dan.Fournier@ShalomVillage.ca

Adas Israel Congregation

LIKE MANY synagogues across Canada, the Adas Israel Congregation have been navigating and strictly upholding the provincial COVID-19 restrictions over the past year. As a large percentage of Canadians are fully vaccinated and restrictions begin to ease, members of the Adas community were asked to reflect on this past year.

“During the first lockdowns, when we lost the privilege to go to in-person Tefillos (prayer), it was heart-crushing,” said Ariella Borr. “The Adas is so much a part of our family’s Shabbos routine, for my husband, my children and I. We are all really happy to have returned.”

Rabbi Green was quick to pivot and make sure we had virtual services and to keep our community connected as much as possible with each other, especially during these uncertain times,” said Adas executive director, Rabbi Chanan Weiser.

“As this fluid situation continued to ebb and flow, we continued to do our utmost to provide our community as many opportunities to participate as possible,” he continued. “When the governmental guidelines allowed us to have Tefillah with only 10 people, this was bittersweet, because we were finally back in the Adas pews, but without all of our sisters and brothers by our side davening together.”

Rabbi Weiser went on to explain that the mindset of the Adas over the course of the past year has been to engage as many people as possible, in the most safe and comfortable way as possible.

“Although social distancing has challenged and even deconstructed our definition of community, it has also opened new frontiers and opportunities,” said Rabbi Green. “One such example is synchronized in-person prayer services with virtual attendances through Zoom, which people expressed that they enjoy.”

Beyond simply providing access to those who are unable to attend Adas services physically due to COVID-19 restrictions or concerns, Zoom has maintained



Rabbi Daniel Green keeps connected with his congregation via Zoom services.

and continued to foster the bonds of the Adas community. Dr. Sol Sandberg, a recent migrant to Toronto after 40 years as a Hamilton resident, said,

“At one point, I worked in three different cities, but my heart has always been in Hamilton at the Adas. Now, I’m able to experience communal prayer once again, but more essentially, I now have a sense of friendship and community, twice each day.”

Similar experiences have also been shared by those who have attended other virtual events, such as the weekly Coffee with Friends founded by Carol Krames, a’h and Dr. Lester Krames, or weekly Torah classes.

Stan Katz, the president of the Adas, said, “One major effect of the COVID-19 restrictions has been our inability to get all of our beautiful children back to Shul. The innocent laughter and pitter patter of our children have been missing for too long echoing in the Adas walls.”

Looking towards the High Holiday season, Rabbi Weiser said they are still currently planning for all possibilities. “Planning for the best, but keeping alternatives in mind, seems to be the only way forward,” he said.

Hamilton Hebrew Academy

BY RABBI YAACOV MOREL

WHILE THIS PAST year has been challenging, I am overcome with a tremendous sense of pride when I think of our incredible team of teachers and staff who care so deeply about our school community. I am also inspired how our parent body supported us on every level during this difficult time. Most of all, I am proud of our amazing students who persevered despite constant shifts to their learning environment, consistently making each day a beautiful day at the HHA.

One of the greatest testimonies of the exceptional dedication of our teachers occurred during our final week of programming this past June. With the release of the provincial Covid-19 guidelines for day camps, our school administration had the ambitious goal to welcome back all students for one final week of Camp HHA. This in-person experience would capture as many memorable moments as possible that were lost due to school closures.

The idea was presented through Zoom at a staff meeting and was unanimously accepted by of each and every staff member. With this, Camp HHA was born! Camp HHA included a COVID version of the legendary HHA Maccabiah with lots of sports, human foosball, archery, Apache relay, bean hunt, art, as well as team presentations.

Our students also boarded buses for a June “Lag Ba’Omer picnic” at a picturesque farm, with frisbee golf, BBQ, tie dyeing, and marshmallow roasting. Camp HHA also hosted the Moussia Zaltzman Torah Bowl, JK Aleph Bet celebration, SK graduation, Grade 1 Siddur Presentation, and Grades 2 and 3 Chumash Ceremony, and more!

One other area that must be highlighted is our daycare workers, who were called upon to be true front-line heroes working throughout the majority of the

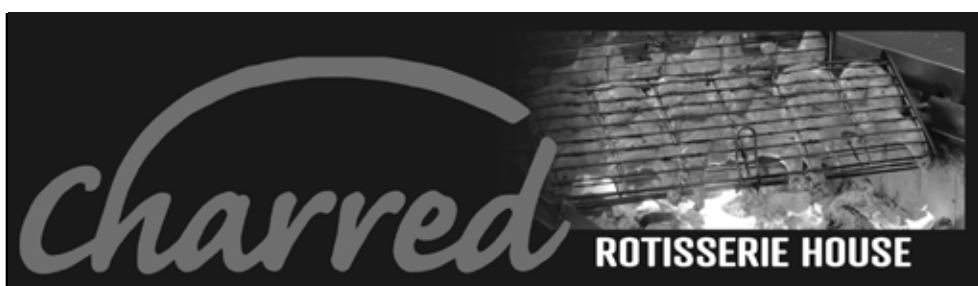


Enjoying some sun during an HHA day.

COVID lockdowns. These dedicated educators rose to the moment while all other schools were forced to shutter their doors. Under the inspirational leadership of Mrs. Joy Zians, the HHA daycare not only persevered, but began to burst at its seams due to a 40 per cent increased in enrolment.

This growth was undoubtedly a result of the dedication and care of our entire HHA staff who continued to work in a variety of different ways over the course of this past year to continue fostering relationships and learn with our students.

The HHA is very appreciative of our partners who helped the school during this year. Special mention must be made of the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Jewish Federation for supporting the PVAC ventilation systems upgrades, PIP, and additional targeted grants that helped insure the safe running of our programs.



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Kosher Food Bank volunteers Mel Enkin, Dena Honig, Geraldine Katz, Rose and George Cseplo collecting donations during Hamilton Jewish Family Services' Kosher Food Bank drive in July.

McMaster Hillel

BY **RABBI BEN SHEFTER**
SENIOR JEWISH EDUCATOR



ON ROSH HASHANAH we eat round bread. Whether it is a round Ashkenazi challah, a Sephardi bolo, a Yemenite sabaya, or an Ethiopian dabo, the round challah symbolizes the end of one year and the start of another. Last year, COVID forced many communities to go virtual and families to no longer gather. This year, we have a unique opportunity to reinstate traditions of the past in new and meaningful ways. My friend and colleague, Maharat Bracha Jaffe, introduced me to the concept of COVID keepers, new norms that one wishes to keep as the world emerges from the pandemic. For Hillel, this means a new normal. As we start a new academic year, here are a few of Hillel's COVID keepers.

Virtual programming

Many students study abroad, go on coop, or simply cannot make it to in-person programming. Maintaining a virtual community will enable Hillel to reach Jewish students wherever they are and foster a connection to the Jewish community irrespective of their location or accessibility needs.

Restructure large programs

Many people are longing for larger gatherings, however, for those with social anxiety, a large room full of people is daunting. By creating micro-communities or activities within a large group, Hillel can enable all types of students to feel at home in the community.

Diversity, equity and inclusion

COVID has seen many communities struggle in different ways. Hillel has been fostering groups of individuals with intersecting identities to empower them and to bring them closer to the community.

Antisemitism

The past year has unfortunately taught us that racism and hatred is alive and well in this country. Hillel's work to counter discrimination, harassment and intimidation of Jewish students on campus has never been more important.

As we go into the new year, we hope that you will find a way to highlight your COVID keepers. Shana Tova, a happy and healthy new year.

Hamilton Jewish Family Services

BY **ALEXIS WENZOWSKI**
HAMILTON JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

HAMILTON JEWISH Family Services wishes you and your family a very sweet new year. This will be the second year in which we partner with Hamilton Jewish Federation, Second Harvest and our synagogues, to distribute 90 Rosh Hashanah holiday hampers to vulnerable families. Each hamper contains honey, apples, kosher chicken, harvest vegetables, and other treats to let every recipient know that they are cared for. Last year's recipients were so filled with gratitude that we will do this mitzvah twice annually, on Rosh Hashanah and Passover.

During the summer, HJFS launched its Older Adults Mental Health Advisory Group, tasked with bringing awareness to mental health challenges seniors face. Since its inception, this enthusiastic group has put on workshops on brain health strategies, stress reduction and mindfulness. Their next workshop, "The 411 on 211," on how to access mental health resources

will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 1 at 11 a.m. To register, please email mildredr@hamiltonjfs.ca.

HJFS is looking for volunteers to help with food bank shopping and delivery and promotions. We also need friendly callers, guest speakers, gardeners, and more. To learn more, please email mildredr@hamiltonjfs.ca.

This fall, HJFS, in partnership with Federation, will deliver backpacks stuffed with school supplies to families in need and other organizations that serve the vulnerable. We believe that every child should have the tools they need to have a fun and happy back-to-school. To participate in this mitzvah, please email aimeew@hamiltonjfs.ca or call 905-627-9922, ext. 22.

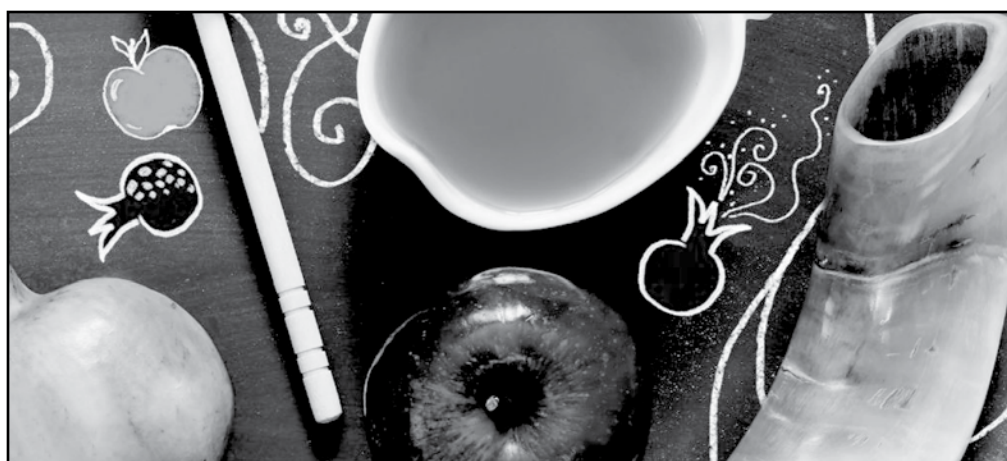
In closing, we wish you and your family all the best. Thank you for your continued support of Hamilton Jewish Family Services, and the Hamilton Jewish Federation. Your support, including your donation to the annual Community Campaign, helps to make our work possible.

*Wishing You
and Your Family
a Shana Tova!*



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Shanah Tovah

Never before has wishing someone good health and prosperity for the new year been more meaningful. Coming out of the last 18 months many of us have a new found appreciation for so many things; first of all our health and our family's health, front-line workers, healthcare professionals, teachers and schools and our clergy members, that found a way to provide the meaningful spiritual guidance and often comfort during this unprecedented time.

JNF Hamilton would like to thank all those that helped us over the past 18 months, and we would like to wish everyone a Shanah Tovah and good health, happiness, and prosperity in the coming year.

**We wish for all of you to
be inscribed in the book of life
- Happy New Year -**



TAS Religious School

BY **DORA-ANN COHEN ELLISON**
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WE CANNOT WAIT to get back together! This year at Temple Anshe Sholom we are hoping to return to in-person learning on Shabbat mornings, with virtual learning on Wednesday afternoons. Our curriculum of Jewish values, Torah, traditions, and prayer hebrew is rooted in hands-on learning and interactive lessons with friends. We are finding creative ways to safely sing, cook, dance and learn together in our physical space, while adhering to current Public Health guidelines. Currently, we are working with the staff at Kehila Heschel School to invest in portable air purification systems, and have an ample supply of masks and hand sanitizer, courtesy of the Hamilton Jewish Federation. We are moving our Shabbat Service for Families outdoors and will use our large social halls more frequently. Last year, our virtual learning journey aimed to engage whole families in Jewish Learning, as the walls between Temple and home were blended into one, bringing learning directly into our families' homes and daily lives. This year, we are striving to continue to build on this model; a kehila of many homes and families, who are learning, schmoozing, singing, and working together. We are planning small family group outdoor learning activities, where we will continue to build relationships between families while exploring Jewish traditions together. At Temple Anshe Sholom we continue to plan engaging and exciting Jewish learning experiences, and have plans in place for both in person and virtual, should we need to move our classes back online. Now at 8:45 a.m. on Saturdays, families with children age 1-4 are invited to begin Shabbat morning with Morah Dora-Ann at our Virtual drop-in Tot-Shabbat; songs, stories and Shabbat fun! For School age children, our



Educator Dora-Ann and daughter **Evie** getting ready for family High Holiday programs and services.

Shabbat morning begins at 9:30 a.m. with program opportunities for Kindergarten through Grade 7. Our Grade 8/9 class: Making a Difference in My Community, is open to all and will explore how our Jewish values guide how we engage with our self, family and greater community (Wednesday 5:15-6:15pm online). New this year is our Wednesday Hebrew Conversation Class for Grade 4-6 students. We invite you to join our learning adventure, all are welcome! For more information please email Dora-Ann at dacellison@anshesholom.ca or visit anshesholom.ca/tas-religious-school.

The family learning and engagement begins with our Family High Holy Day programs; Rosh Hashanah in the park, online morning services, PJs & prayers, Jonah in the park and so much more! We invite you to participate in our High Holy Days services, programs and activities and explore what Temple Anshe Sholom has to offer your family. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur information can be found at anshesholom.ca. Shana Tova!



Primary school educator Linda Geva in action.

Kehila Heschel

BY **ANITA BERNSTEIN**

WHEN EXPLORING educational choices, one often focuses on the school's philosophy, its curriculum, the school environment, classroom size, the number of students in the school and its affordability. Although all of these are crucial, it is teachers who have the most opportunity to impact their students' lifelong learning.

Kehila Heschel teachers are exceptional in inspiring, motivating and encouraging their students to explore new areas of knowledge, develop new skills and find lifelong passions. They help them realize their potential, remind them to try harder, be a mensch and develop an "I can" attitude.

Kehila Heschel school is proud that Linda Geva has followed in her colleague Zahava Chaimovitz's footsteps by being awarded the Hamilton Jewish Federation award for Excellence in Education.

As a Kindergarten and Grade 1 teacher, her warm, inviting, inclusive classroom and manner lays the foundation for a positive school and learning experience. Her classroom exudes a calm atmosphere and she is able to maintain students' attention and discipline through imaginative

presentations, predictable routines and songs. Linda's enthusiastic manner encourages students' participation in her classroom activities as she organizes the classroom centres in a creative way, projecting a learning environment that incites exploration and independence.

Linda's knowledge, experience and expertise allow her to seamlessly integrate secular and Judaic studies as she collaborates openly with the Hebrew and Judaic studies teacher and French specialist, with whom she shares programming. Linda is connected to her Jewish identity and as such models and infuses those values and identity in her students.

Linda Geva is passionate about her work, aims to inspire her students in their learning and growth and is truly committed to assisting each of her students to achieve their personal potential. Linda is the kind of teacher all parents wish to have teaching their child.

Mazal Tov Linda – you are truly deserving of the Award for Excellence in Education.

Want to see our teachers in action – Call 905-529-7725 and book your tour today.

2021 / 5782 HIGH HOLIDAY APPEAL



SCHOOL SHOULD BE SAFE

In the Eshkol region, on the border of Egypt and Gaza, attacks are frequent and bring everyday life to a sudden stop. The closure of schools interrupts crucial childhood development, meaningful social interaction, and leaves children and parents isolated at home. For parents, this also means time they cannot go to work, which further exacerbates periods of instability. JNF Canada is fundraising to provide a shelter for safe education for children to continue their studies during a school shutdown. Parents can return to work knowing their children are safe, and life can continue with as little damage as possible. This safe space can lessen the psychological effects of the attacks for both parents and children, promising them a more stable and healthy future.

Please Answer Our Call

As times are slowly getting back to the way they were, we'd be grateful for your support during the High Holydays - This has always been a time of great generosity in our community.

Our calls to you will begin early this year in observance of the Federation's Annual Campaign period so if you hear from one of our friendly canvassers, please support us in any way that you can.

Calls Will Begin In August

We'd love to hear from you!

We understand that these calls don't always happen at the most convenient times, so please feel free to connect with us on your own schedule to avoid receiving a call.

 1-905-527-5516



Temple Anshe Sholom

BY RABBI JORDAN COHEN

IN AUGUST 2020 I wrote, “Since March, out of concern for the health and well-being of our community, Temple Anshe Sholom has moved almost all of Synagogue life online with a great measure of success. As we enter into the new year, we will continue in this model until such a time when we can guarantee that it is both safe and equitable for all the members of our community to gather together. This approach is a strong expression of our values during a challenging and difficult time.”

When I wrote those words, I don’t think I ever imagined that a year later we would, essentially, still be in the same situation. While we yearn to regather with our Temple community in person, our Temple leadership is still committed to a cautious approach, prioritizing the health and well-being of our community above all. Therefore, while we continue to explore opportunities for safe in-person events, for the second year in a row, all our main services and programs throughout the High Holy Day season will be streamed online.

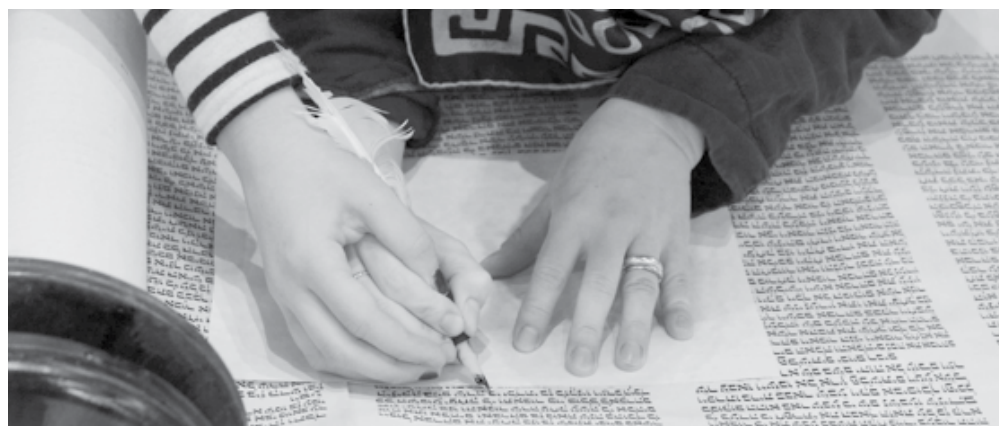
Beginning during the month of Elul we will be offering special readings during our online Shabbat services and special programs and study opportunities to help prepare the members of our community for an unprecedented Days of Awe. Following last year’s outstanding program, for S’lichot we will be joining with

the other Canadian Reform congregations for a nationwide online Canadian Reform S’lichot service and program which, this year, will have a special focus on our relationship with Israel.

While most of the main High Holy Day services will be on Zoom, there will be limited opportunities to gather. For Erev Rosh Hashanah, we are offering an outdoor family celebration, with masks and physical distancing, to which everyone is welcome. For our second day Rosh Hashanah morning service, we will welcome members of the community to gather in our Sanctuary for in-person worship, with appropriate precautions in place. Pre-registration will be required for in-person events.

Of course, even though we must remain physically distant, our services and programs will continue to feature the beautiful High Holy Day melodies that most inspire our congregants, and a wide variety of study opportunities and sessions of music, meditation, readings and discussion, including special services and programs for youth and young families. Details about High Holy Day events and registration and log-in information is available on the Anshe Sholom website.

The new year 5782 will surely be a year of returning, reconnecting and renewal. We can’t wait to see you and we welcome everyone to celebrate with us at Temple Anshe Sholom. We wish everyone a Shana Tova u’m’tukah!



Beth Jacob Hebrew School

BY AIMEE WIGLEY

SHANA TOVA! As we go into a new year, Beth Jacob Hebrew school is embarking upon a brand new educational adventure. After the success of our ever evolving curriculum last year, Rabbi Yonah has been hard at work on further developments to enrich each of our students Judaic journeys.

This year, we will feature a wealth of guest speakers from diverse backgrounds, participate in social programming with USY and continue to nurture our partnership with Temple Anshe Sholom’s Hebrew school, strengthening our community connection. Students can look forward to hands-on creative projects, such as hand beading and baking, woven in with Hebrew and teachings from Torah. Whether we are in person or online, we will adapt and grow. We are also thrilled to announce that Rabbi Hillel will be joining our Bar and Bat

Mitzvah class as their teacher. Students will be offered a year of meaningful discussions, unique insight and establish a deep connection with both their faith and our rabbi!

Do you play an instrument? Do you have a unique skill? Are there stories in your family tree you would like to share? We would love to hear from you! If you would like the opportunity to be a featured guest speaker, please contact aimee@bethjacob-synagogue.ca to discuss an upcoming engagement opportunity.

Make sure to keep an eye on the Chai-Lites and our social media pages. There are some fantastic programming opportunities coming up as restrictions start to ease, including our back-to-school kickoff celebration.

Our goal is to welcome students back to our Beth Jacob classrooms Oct. 3, restrictions permitting. We cannot wait to see you all!

L’Shanah Tovah

The lawyers and staff at
Ross & McBride LLP
wish the entire community a
happy and healthy New Year.

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

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Wishing the Hamilton
Jewish community a healthy,
happy, and sweet year

Shana Tova

Malcolm Silver and Patrick Bermingham

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