

Hamilton Jewish News

SERVING HAMILTON WENTWORTH AND AREA

FEBRUARY 2008 VOL 22:3/ ADAR 5768

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CELEBRATE 60!



View the *Walk the Land* video on jewishhamilton.org



logo designed by Misha Apel

A global project of
THE AFIKIM FOUNDATION

Celebrate Israel's 60th at joint UJA - JCC community event

In celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary, UJA Federation and the JCC are collaborating on a special event that combines the UJA Walkathon with Yom Ha'atzmaut. This year's Walkathon, known as Walk The Land,

is part of a global initiative with Jewish communities around the world walking within a specified two week period, in honour of Israel's 60th anniversary. Both events will take place on **Thursday, May 8** – JCC Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities will begin at 6:00 pm (For Yom Ha'atzmaut registration information see page 9) and the one kilometer Walk will begin at approximately 8:30 pm. The evening will culminate with fireworks.

This year's festivities offer a unique opportunity to stand up for Israel with other communities around the globe. Funds raised

will be directed towards providing critical financial support to the Shechafim School in Northern Israel, with whom Hamilton has recently established a partnership through UJA Federations Canada's Coast to Coast initiative. Walk the Land chairs, Carolyn Molot and Denise Calman and Yom Ha'atzmaut chair, Racheli Kirat, have been busy planning the event and are looking forward to the community coming together to celebrate this significant milestone in Israel's history. Murals depicting Israeli landscapes will be displayed along the walk route, providing sponsorship

opportunities for interested individuals and businesses. Shalom Village residents will also participate in a Walk the Land event at Shalom Village on May 8th at 10:00 am.

A limited number of Walk the Land packages that include a T-shirt, water bottle and sling sack, are available for a pre-registration cost of \$5.00. Reserve yours today by emailing elevine@jewishhamilton.org and specify the size requested. (adult sizes, S, M, L, XL, XXL)

Sponsorship forms for the Walk are available at jewishhamilton.org or through the schools. The Walk chairs are asking people who are turning 60 in 2008 (together with the State of Israel) to contact Chris Nusca at the Federation office 905-648-0605, ext 306.

Trouble at Mac

Jewish students feel under siege



Israel on Campus president, David Levine, addresses a community forum at the Adas Israel, while Detective Sergeant Chris Kiriakopoulos looks on.

Middle Eastern politics have been playing out on Canadian campuses for several years but recent events at McMaster University have resulted in an escalation that has made life for Jewish students on campus increasingly uncomfortable.

This was the primary message that McMaster Jewish students communicated to a large community gathering at the Adas Israel Synagogue on March 16. The event, organized by an ad hoc group calling itself S.O.S. (Support our Students), the newly formed Jewish Faculty Association (JFA) and Rabbi Daniel Green, featured a panel of Jewish students, Jewish Student Association (JSA) Director, Judy Schwartz, Federation Campus Services Committee Representative Hanna Schayer, National Jewish Campus Life (NJCL) Representative Jared Isaacson, JFA President, Lawrence Hart and Detective Sergeant Chris Kiriakopoulos of the Hamilton Police department's Hate Crimes Unit.

Audience members heard the now familiar story that began in early February when McMaster University Provost Dr. Ilene Busch-Vishniac, responding to formal complaints made to the Human Rights and Equity Services at McMaster (HRES) by the Jewish Student Association, disallowed the display of a large banner that used the slogan "Israel Apartheid." Many of the Jewish students had attended the "free speech" forum subsequently held by pro-Palestinian groups

Please see COVER STORY on page 2

UJA 2008 Sets Record Level of Giving

The UJA 2008 Campaign Cabinet is excited to announce that this year's campaign has set a record level of giving for the Hamilton Jewish community. As of this date, the campaign stands at \$1,125,000. Organizers expect that the total will grow by an additional \$25,000 as "snowbirds" begin to make their way

back home.

According to UJA Federation President David Somer, "this achievement stands as a wonderful testimony, not only to the generosity of our community, but also to the commitment and abilities of a new generation of community leaders. David Horwood, Michael Kam, Lisa

Please see UJA SETS RECORD on page 5

חג שמח
HAPPY PASSOVER

from the board and staff of UJA Federation

Your Life... Your Legacy



THE BOOK OF LIFE: A CELEBRATION OF FAMILY, VALUES AND HERITAGE

Launched in a number of Federations across North America the Book of Life is a compendium of stories as told by individuals and families who have confirmed their commitment to the Legacy Endowment Fund. Some have done so by opening an endowment fund, others by leaving a legacy through a life insurance policy or a bequest in their will. There is no minimum financial commitment.

The Book of Life is about values and heritage. It's about putting down on paper a message for the future. Between its covers we learn from individuals and families what motivated their generosity. By adding their story to the Book of Life each of them is saying, "We want our name to bear witness to our birthright, the values and achievements of our parents and grandparents for generations to come".

In Hamilton our narrative will begin at a prestigious event in the latter half of May, 2008 by honouring donors who have already made a commitment to the Legacy Endowment Fund. At this event each donor will add his or her signature to their respective stories that will be included in an elegant book that will be exhibited prominently and exist for posterity.

We have every expectation that this will become an annual event to record the ever growing commitment made by one generation to the next that the values of our generation will be preserved and available for future generations, dor l'dor.

For information about how you can donate to UJA Federation's Legacy Endowment Fund call 905-648-0605, ext 305.



Career Opportunities in the Jewish Community

Beth Jacob Synagogue is seeking applicants for the following positions:

Education Director

Conservative, egalitarian synagogue in Hamilton seeks Education Director for its supplementary religious school. Candidates should possess vision, energy, and creativity to help maximize the potential of the school and its students. Candidates should be guided by a strong Jewish identity, possess excellent communication skills, and have a passion for teaching Jewish children. Supervisory and teaching experience as well as a university degree required. Position is part-time with possibility of becoming full-time. Send resume with cover letter to office@bethjacobsynagogue.ca

OHUSY Advisor

We are seeking a motivating and inspiring Jewish role model to lead our Conservative Synagogue Youth group (USY). The successful candidate will be responsible for working with teens in a leadership role, to develop and implement dynamic and educational programming. This is a great experiential learning opportunity for a University/College student. Previous experience in youth programming is preferable. This is a part-time position (15-20 hours/week) and offers a competitive salary.

Kadima Advisor

We are also seeking a responsible and dynamic youth leader to implement programming for Conservative synagogue children (grades 6 to 8). You will bring the energy and enthusiasm and we will provide the programming. Must be enrolled in post-secondary education and previous experience working with youth is preferred. This is a part-time position (3-7 hours/month) paid on an hourly basis. Please submit your resume for either position to: Beth Jacob Synagogue, Attn. Youth Director, 375 Aberdeen Ave., Hamilton, ON, L8P 2R7 or by email to office@bethjacobsynagogue.ca

Temple Anshe Sholom is seeking an

Advisor for TASTY (Temple Anshe Sholom's Youth Group) beginning in September 2008
Job Description: Plan and supervise monthly youth group activities. Liaise with NFTY-NEL regional youth events. Please email resume to office@anshesholom.ca or call 905-528-0121, ext 2.

Hebrew School Teacher wanted for September 2008 for Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School. Saturday mornings and/or Wednesday afternoons. Competitive salary. Please send resume to lwolfson@anshesholom.ca or call (905)528-0121 ext 2 for more information.

Shalom Village is seeking a
Recreation Therapist

Are you compassionate, energetic, creative and a team player who takes initiative? Shalom Village has an opening for a fulltime Recreation Therapist on our Community Centre Team. We are also accepting applications for part-time permanent positions. The successful candidate will work with both long term care and independent living residents. Experience in recreation and working with seniors would be helpful. A diploma in recreation, Degree in gerontology or related studies would be an asset. Letters of application, accompanied by a resume and other supporting documents, should be delivered to: Shalom Village, 70 Macklin Street North, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 3S1; Fax: (905) 529-7542, e-mail: careers@shalomvillage.on.ca

COVER STORY continued from page 1

on February 29, during which speaker after speaker spewed anti-Israel invective. And most had heard of how, after the formal proceedings, a group of pro-Palestinian activists had unfurled banners and placards featuring the words "death to apartheid", and "Zionism is racism", while chanting slogans calling for another Intifada as a small group of Jewish students looked on in horror and burst into a spontaneous rendition of Hatikvah as campus security moved in to keep the two groups apart.

Throughout the evening, students told a similar story of how Jewish students at McMaster feel marginalized and intimidated by the increased anti-Israel activity on campus. Israeli-born and raised Snir Seitelbach, spoke of being accosted in the campus library by those familiar with his pro-Israel views and said he no longer has faith in the administration's ability to create an environment free of intimidation for Jewish students.

Sarah Lafreniere, Vice President Administration, JSA, recalled feeling "alone" and "instantly scared" as she watched organizers prepare for the forum that Friday morning. However, she found comfort in the presence of JSA director Schwartz and the hundreds of community members who came out to support the students. Watching so many faces around her reflecting the same disgust that she was feeling was ultimately empowering, and allowed her and others to immediately mobilize and respond to the blatant display of intimidation and hate that followed the formal proceedings. The most tragic part of the incident, said Lafreniere, is that "it has ended all academic debate because we have been demonized. It

or indirectly, which is considered intimidating, offensive and/or threatening, is considered a major offense. Even though the petition makes no mention of Israel or the recent events at McMaster, Tcherniak said many of her friends have been unwilling to help distribute it for fear of being seen as engaging in pro-Israel activity. Anticipating that the coming year will be even more difficult, she asked that the community help push for more programs that will empower Jewish students and teach them advocacy skills.

Also speaking that night was York University student Sammy Katz, who decried the fact that Israel Apartheid Week, which began four years ago at the University of Toronto, has now spread to 20 campuses across the globe. Describing the anti-Israel activities at York as being far worse than those at McMaster are, he praised the university administration for its actions and the community for their outpouring of support. "I wish Toronto was as mobilized as the Hamilton Jewish community," he said.

Detective Sergeant Chris Kiriakopoulos, visibly moved by the students' testimonies, said that the February 29 incident is currently under criminal investigation, and assured the audience that the Hamilton community will not tolerate anti-Semitism. "You should be very proud of the students at McMaster," he told them. He then addressed the students directly, saying, "You are not alone. The community is with you and the Hamilton police are with you."

The final speaker of the evening was Dr. Lawrence Hart, President of the McMaster Jewish Faculty Association. He said that an event like Israel

The most tragic part of the incident is that it has ended all academic debate because we have been demonized. It has made it even more difficult to speak out in our classes and to debate with our friends. Regardless of where we stand, we are scared to say that we stand with Israel.

SARAH LAFRENIERE
McMaster Student

has made it even more difficult to speak out in our classes and to debate with our friends. Regardless of where we stand, we are scared to say that we stand with Israel." She stressed the importance of the Jewish community uniting in their shared love for Israel in the face of hate and intimidation.

Rebecca Cherniak, incoming President of Israel on Campus (IOC), described how the JSA and IOC have responded to the February 29 events by collecting signatures for a petition calling for the university to uphold its Student Code of Conduct, which states that "engaging in verbal or non-verbal communication toward an individual or group directly

Apartheid Week definitively falls into the category of Natan Sharansky's "three D's" – demonization, double standards and de-legitimization – a kind of litmus test of determining what constitutes legitimate criticism of Israel. There is no question, said Hart, that Israel Apartheid Week falls into that category. Neither is there any question, he said, that anti-Zionism is the new anti-Semitism.

Hart closed by praising the administration for its "courageous and principled stand" and calling for McMaster to uphold its code of conduct by putting an end to the ongoing bullying tactics and intimidation on campus.

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Call Chris Nusca at
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information



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Written submissions and
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indicated in each issue. This
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Deadline for submissions
for the next edition of the
HJN is **March 3, 2008.**

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Teen Thank You Telethon



It was with an abundance of energy and enthusiasm that teens gathered at the UJA Federation office on an early Sunday morning to make calls for the first ever THANK YOU Telethon. This telethon was initiated by Lisa Morris, Women's Division Co-chair after attending a Young Leadership conference. She felt it was a wonderful idea to let our donors know how much their ongoing support is appreciated and how their contribution makes a difference. The individuals who were reached during this telethon were pleased and enjoyed speaking with the teens. Pictured from left to right are back row: Tamara Sehayek, Samara Strub, Daniel Hosiassohn, Geoffrey Zalter, Joshua Lerner, Samantha Freidland, Rachele Zalter, Sarah Hosiassohn, Jessie Schoenberg; front row: Ashlee Woolfson, Lauren Schoenberg and Melissa Woolfson.

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Coming Up...

LATE SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE

Deadline for booking ad space	April 25 2008
Deadline for receiving editorial copy	May 5, 2008
Deadline for receiving ad copy	May 5, 2008
Estimated Date of Arrival	May 20, 2008

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The Annual General Meeting
of UJA Federation of Hamilton

will take place on

Sunday, May 27, 2007

at the Jewish Community Centre

Reception 7:00 pm Proceedings 7:45 pm

- presentation of committee reports
- presentation of year end audited statement

Community members wishing to view the statements
prior to the AGM call the UJA Federation for pick up.
Nominations for the 2008 board must be submitted in
writing to David Somer, one week prior to the AGM.

For more information call Gerry Fisher
at 905-648-0605, ext 305.

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Ilya Pinassi **Marik Pinassi**

CJC representative offers support for JCC redevelopment

Hamilton native Steven Adler, Canadian Jewish Congress Director of Public Policy, came home recently to discuss the possibility of securing public support for the redevelopment of the JCC. Adler, who played a key role in assisting the Toronto Federation secure \$15M in public funding for its various development projects, was hopeful that the Hamilton project would also qualify for government assistance. Adler was accompanied by Len Rudner, Ontario Region Director of CJC.

A draft of the Hamilton JCC redevelopment plan was unveiled to UJA Federation leadership in February. The plan called for sweeping changes to the physical plant.

Equally impressive was the JCC vision for "re-inventing" itself to support multiple uses to meet broader needs. In both respects, the plan enhances the possibility of significant funding from outside the Jewish community.

The property falls within the jurisdiction of the Niagara Escarpment Authority, which virtually eliminates the possibility of further development outside of the current building footprint. Given that severe restriction, the plan has cleverly provided for significant changes in three component parts:

- a wall to wall reconstruction of the present JCC building
- conversion of the current basketball courts into a permanently covered

"gymnasium." permanent covering of the existing indoor and outdoor tennis courts.

Among other improvements, the existing building would be upgraded to provide much improved facilities for community organization offices, full service catering facilities, vastly improved meeting facilities and new men's and women's health facilities.

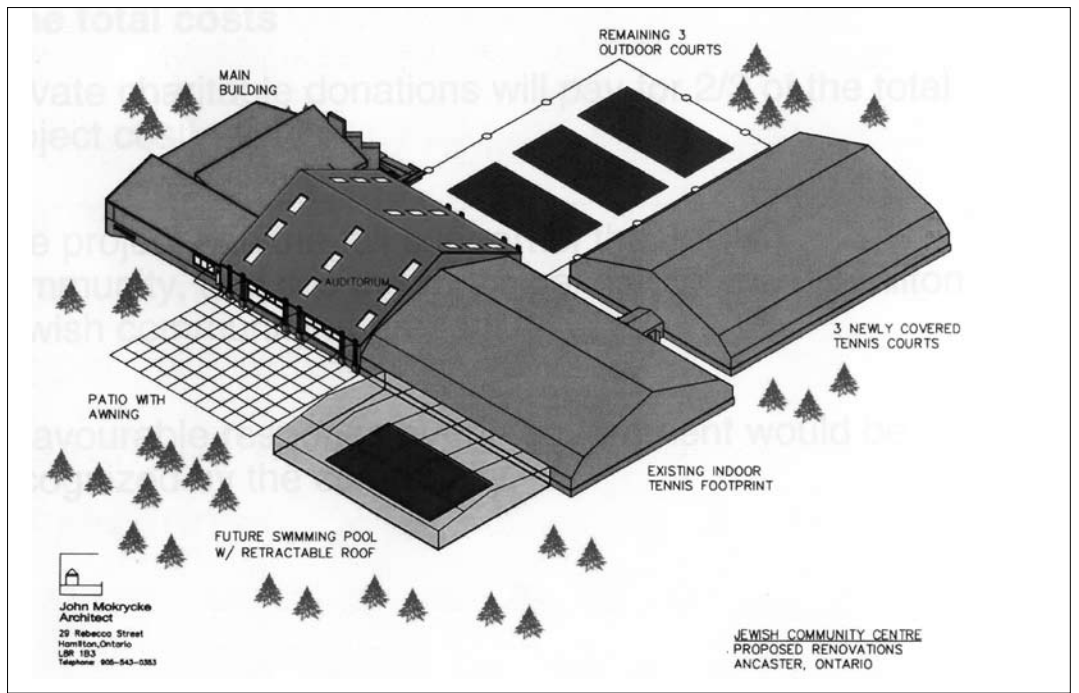
The "gymnasium" would provide both a basketball court and a first class facility to

hold programs with comfortable seating for over three hundred, with a stage and up to date audio / visual capabilities. The facility would also be available on a rental basis to community groups and private events.

The expansion of the tennis facility to six year round courts would make the JCC the premiere tennis club in the Hamilton area,

The scope of the project in its entirety is quite large. However, the plan has been developed in a way that would allow for its implementation in stages. Done over time, it would relieve some of the financial pressure to raise the cost of the project all at once.

In his remarks, Mr. Adler focused on two critically important concepts. He praised JCC leadership for considering the possibility of extending access to the facilities to other faith and cultural groups. He also urged the center to seek out active



The proposed JCC site will contain a community centre offering fitness, wellness and cultural social services

"partnerships" with other institutions to both enhance the use of the space and to create new income streams.

A gesture to encourage greater usage by other groups can be seen as a logical extension of the JCC's current designation as a "Municipal Capital Facility." It would also be seen as a dramatic shift in the perception of the Jewish community from one that has been traditionally viewed as on the margins of Hamilton civic life to one that is now prepared to proudly offer itself as a host to others.

In terms of partnerships, Adler urged the community to actively seek out institutions that would mutually benefit from the JCC's redevelopment. As examples,

he suggested approaching McMaster University and the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board to enter into agreements to use the tennis facilities for their students, perhaps Mohawk as well. Additionally, he suggested pursuit of public funding for use if the facility as an ESL and day care center for New Canadians.

Another key element under discussion is the mobilization of the tennis club membership to be part of the team leading the efforts to bring the JCC into a first class facility.

There are many hurdles still to overcome before the details of the plan can be brought to the attention of the community. JCC has been asked to do further

market research to support some of the plan's assumptions regarding potential rental income and increased membership. As well, it would be wise to secure some of the partnership agreements in advance of approaching government for support.

By the end of the evening, it was apparent that Adler's catalytic effect generated some wonderful creativity and enthusiasm for rebuilding the community center into a facility that would not only better serve the Jewish community, but that would also be a source of pride in a community that intends to enjoy a strong and vibrant future.

David Sweet works for the Hamilton Jewish Community



Almut and David Sweet

"David has proven himself to be a good friend of the Hamilton Jewish Community. He has made himself available personally on numerous occasions when help was needed. He is our voice in Ottawa."

- Lester Krames, Hamilton

"Never in the history of our Federal Government, have we had a more honourable representative than David Sweet, who supports and understands our community and the legitimate Israeli policy of our Federal Leadership"

- Benjamin Levinter Q.C.

"David Sweet is always responsive to the needs of our community and his constituents. He calls back and helps get the job done. He understands the issues important to me as a member of the Jewish community and he takes action to work for us in Ottawa."

- Judy Mintz, Dundas

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UJA SETS RECORD continued from page 1



2007 and 2008 Campaign Teams (left to right), David Horwood, Jo-Ann Pomerantz, Larry Levin, Debbie Strub and Michael Kam. Missing from the picture: Lisa Morris.

Morris and Debbie Strub have been extraordinary in their leadership roles as Campaign Co-Chairs."

UJA Federation Executive Director Gerald Fisher shares Somer's enthusiasm. "This campaign faced very specific and difficult challenges. Unavoidable attrition in last year's campaign totaled more than \$150,000, representing a loss of 13%. Recouping losses like that, especially in a community of our size and capacity is a daunting task. Nevertheless, our community and our leadership team rose to the challenge and exceeded all expectations. Not only did we recover last year's losses, we also grew the campaign by an additional 18%"

Excitement over the accomplishment is tempered by the fact that the campaign goal of \$1.2M is not likely to be reached. Federation staff told HJN that the campaign target was a figure based on real community needs. Not reaching that target means that vital community services may not reach people who really need them.

The strong campaign result is good news to each of Federation's beneficiary partners. Last year's lower campaign total required Federation to reduce its support for every agency both local, national and overseas. Reducing allocations to social services and education hurts people. Sitting in national meetings, knowing that you didn't pay your fare share of the costs is embarrassing. This year, Federation hopes to bring allocation levels closer to the 2006/2007 levels.

This is also good news because UJA Federation expects to fund two additional initiatives in the coming year. Beth Tikvah Foundation is expected to become a full beneficiary agency in 2008/2009. As well, in repayment of United Israel Appeal of Canada's grant for more staffing, additional allocations will be made to the Jewish Agency for Israel's Core Budget and to the Shechafim School, Hamilton's recently adopted Israeli institution in the Upper Galilee.

Congratulations to all for a job so well done!

We want to get you to Israel this summer

Ralph Travis Israel Experience Scholarships Available

UJA Federation of Hamilton, is proud to announce that financial support is available to Hamilton students intending to participate in extended programs in Israel in 2008 through the Ralph Travis Israel Experience Scholarship Fund. Applications for other education programs in Israel may be considered on an individual basis.

The scholarship will be up to \$500 per student, depending on the number of applications and availability of funds. Participating families are expected to be in good standing with United Jewish Appeal. Application deadline for summer 2008 programs is April 30th. Applications available at 905-648-0605, ext 306.

The Ralph Travis Scholarship fund is an important part of the Federation's Legacy Endowment Fund. Additional contributions are welcomed. Please contact the federation office to learn how you can help support this wonderful initiative.



Celebrate Israel's 60th at



YOM HA'ATZMAUT AT THE JCC Thursday, May 8 at 6:00 pm

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UJA WALKATHON 2008

Walk the Land

a one-kilometre walk for Israel
followed by fireworks

This will be a party you won't want to miss!

Reservations are only accepted if paid in full. Do you want to sit with your family & friends?
If so call Laura Laengerer at the JCC at 905-648-0605, ext 308 before May 1

Cost before May 1	JCC Members: \$45 immediate family; \$15 per person
Non-Members:	\$54 immediate family; \$18 per person
Cost after May 1	JCC Members \$54 immediate family; \$18 per person
Non-Members	\$60 immediate family; \$20 per person

If you were born in 1948, please let us know by contacting the Federation at 905-648-0605, ext 306.

Coast to Coast Mission to Israel & UJC General Assembly

November 10 - 19, 2008

Join Coast to Coast Federation leadership on this unforgettable journey. Spend two days in Northern Israel visiting projects in our partnership communities. Visit Sderot and see IEC dollars at work. Explore Jerusalem, the Dead Sea Region, Tel Aviv and the Golan Heights with top notch tour guides. Meet with political, military and academic leadership and attend high level briefings. **Be a part of Israel's 60th birthday celebration.** Price includes registration for the UJC General Assembly – the largest annual gathering of Jewish leadership in the world on Nov 16 - 19 in Jerusalem.

Costs: Ground only \$2000 based on double occupancy; Includes hotels, most meals, guides and gratuities. Single supplement \$1300

• Optional 2 day Eilat add-on \$750* based on double occupancy. Single supplement \$200*

• **Airfare not included**

This mission price reflects a \$1500 national travel subsidy from UJA Federations Canada

Eligibility:

Minimum individual gift to UJA Federation's 2008 annual campaign.

Contact: Call Elaine Levine at 905-627-9922, ext 24 for details. Registration deadline: May 30



Teens share experiences of antisemitism

Canadian Jewish Congress rep facilitates discussion

GERALD FISHER

Through Federation's good offices, Temple Educator Laura Wolfson invited CJC National Director of Community Relations, Wendy Lampert, to engage the students in a discussion about anti-Semitism in Canada and what to do about it. The conversation was far reaching.

Students raised examples which affected them personally – schoolyard comments and bullying for example – that were examined from the perspective of identifying an effective response. Students also discussed various legal remedies such as the Human Rights Code, Hate Crimes legislation.

Perhaps the most challenging aspect was the recognition that it never helps to "lose your cool" when confronted by hurtful or hateful remarks.

Emphasizing the seriousness of the school session,



CJC National Director of Community Relations, Wendy Lampert with Temple youth

Lampert and Federation Executive Director Gerald Fisher then met privately with two families whose children have encountered not only hateful behavior from some classmates, but indifference from school teachers and administrators. According to Fisher "these are troubling incidents and families are entitled to expect a more substantial and concerned response from school authorities."

Lampert hopes that the school administrators will fulfill their responsibility. Lampert was able

to empower the families with an outline of strategies to employ with the schools now. If families are unsatisfied with the school response, Federation has excellent relations with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board who will be called on if required. Canadian Jewish Congress will monitor the situation and is prepared to directly intervene if that would be helpful. All concerned are hopeful that the situation will be satisfactorily resolved without further intervention.

Bob Hemberger

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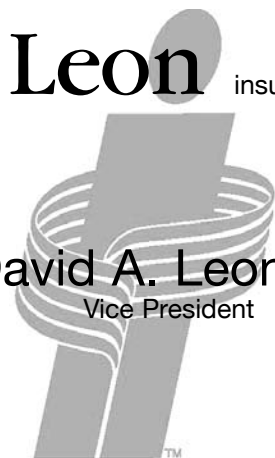
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JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

Children 'Hand in Hand' Fun Fair

We are hoping that you will help us aid the poor and needy people of our community. On Sunday, May 4, 2008, the Hamilton Jewish Social Services Food Bank is planning the 'Children Hand in Hand Fun Fair' at 30 King St E Dundas from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Admission is \$25 per family or equivalent in kosher food. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided. The purpose of this day is to bring awareness to the community and get food and money donated to our Food Bank. We all know how difficult it is to fill the stomachs of hungry children when no money is available. Come out and meet Dora the Explorer, and Bruser from the Bull Dogs Hockey Team and more surprises. Can you be a sponsor? For a small donation of \$100 a child can eat for a week. A charity receipt will be issued and we will be advertising the names of all our sponsors at the event.

Theatre Club

Wednesday, May 28 at 2:00 pm

DIRTY DANCING at The Royal Alex in Toronto. \$92.

Wednesday, June 18 at 2:00 pm

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS at St. Jacob's Country Playhouse. \$52.

Wednesday, July 2 at 2:00 pm

FIRE at the Lighthouse Theatre in Port Dover. Based on the lives of pop icon Jerry Lee Lewis and his cousin evangelist Jimmy Swaggart. \$46.

Wednesday, August 13 at 2:00 pm

CABARET at Avon Theatre in Stratford. \$80.

Wednesday, August 27 at 2:00 pm

JERSEY BOYS at The Toronto Centre for the Arts, a musical based on the smash Broadway hit and Tony award winning singing group "Frankie Valley and the Four Seasons". \$95.

Tuesday, September 16 at 2:00 pm

AFTER THE DANCE at the Royal George Theatre at Niagara on the Lake. It's 1938 and the generation of Bright Young Things are still carrying on like it's the Roaring Twenties although the threat of another war looms. \$63.

Tuesday, October 23 at 2:00 pm

MUSIC MAN in Stratford. \$81.

Tuesday, November 6 at 2:00 pm

CAESAR & CLEOPATRA at Stratford. \$58.

Prices quoted includes transportation as well as the price of one ticket. These trips make great birthday, anniversary, Mothers and Fathers day gifts. If you would like to be put on our mailing list call 905-627-9922 or email carolkramesjss@hotmail.com.

A message from outgoing JSA president

ANDREA ROWAN

As we approach the end of the semester, it seems fitting to take this opportunity to show our sincere appreciation to the Hamilton Jewish community. More specifically, there are been certain individuals and groups that have been there for our students during the good times, as well as more difficult times.

Over the year, you have read about some of the amazing programs and activities we offer in the Jewish Student Association (JSA), thanks to the top-notch group of student leaders. Despite their busy schedule, they found the time to plan programs such as Birthright in One Night, Israel Speakers Series, Bathtub Project, Shabbat 100, Kosher Meet Market, Interfaith Shabbat Dinner, "Senior" Prom, Purim Costume Party (Thank you to Rabbi Green for letting us use the Adas). In fact, there wasn't one week during the school year that there wasn't some sort of program.

I don't think there are enough words in the dictionary to describe the deep impact that Judy Schwartz has had on the students of the JSA. She takes on so many roles throughout the year and really give her heart and soul to all of us.

Over the past year, the community has played a major role in supporting the students on campus, by coming out to events, co-sponsoring programs and showing their support and commitment to the safety and enhancement of life for Jewish students. UJA Federation's Campus Services Committee chair, Hanna Schayer has worked around the clock with



McMaster JSA students, Sarah LaFreniere, Dave Levine, and Marli Shelton at a table in the student centre getting signatures for a petition to Uphold the Student Code of Conduct

Gerry Fisher and we truly appreciated their hard work and presence. I especially thank Hanna, Gerry and the UJA Federation Campus Services Committee for their leadership in helping to create the first ever McMaster University Jewish Faculty Association (JFA), headed by Lawrence Hart. For the past few years Lawrence Hart has been there for students and Israel advocates on campus. The JFA opening event with Aurel Braun allowed students and faculty to meet and discuss the situation on campus. We are so grateful at all the hard work the JFA has done for students, and the McMaster community over the past month.

Madeleine Levy has helped so much by giving her time and generous donations in transforming the JSA office space into a beautiful (and environmentally friendly) blue and white and providing us with newly upholstered and comfortable seats.

Thank you to Shaina and Rabbi Rosenfeld from Chabad Lubavitch for all the support

they have given to students throughout the year. Students always look forward to Shabbat dinners and the various educational programs you offer.

Lastly, I want to thank the community for accepting me and so many of our students. You have opened your homes and hearts to us and we are truly grateful for that. Whether it's inviting students for Shabbat dinner, attending JSA events, writing newspaper articles and letters on our behalf and really coming together for our students due to recent events – this community has truly been there for McMaster's students. The amount of people who came out to the "Support Our Students" event really speaks for that commitment and dedication.

I would like to welcome Anna Kos, next year's JSA President. I am confident that Anna will excel in this position and will continue to work in continuing the important relationship between the Hamilton community and the Jewish students on campus.



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The Jewish Community Centre

HIGHLIGHTS

Living it up at the JCC



- On February 9th, 2008 members of our community enjoyed an evening of dancing, food and fun with Ron Wilmott and Iris Kacor of Rendezvous Band. Thank you to Shari Raphael, Jennifer Klein, Nick Jaspan, Eva Raphael and Abe Szpirglas for volunteering their time.
- On February 10th, the lounge was transformed into a Rock N Roll theme for a Diner Style Lunch. We ate grilled cheese sandwiches, pancakes, waffles, submarines, omelettes, salad and ice cream floats! Steps Performing Arts performed 2 dance routines and they were amazing. Orders for delicious Omelettes made by David Kravetzky were taken by Alyse Overholt on rollerblades. The children enjoyed the piñata and the treats that came tumbling down. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this the most exciting lunch ever!
- March 8th, 2008 was the worst snow storm of the year but we did not let that get in the way of our Saturday Night Fever Disco Party. Those who came boogied the night away, ate delicious finger foods, drank delicious martinis and had a blast. Congratulations to Michael and Julie Dembe on winning the best costumes. Thank you to our DJ's from Karaoke Closet who came to our rescue at the last minute and a special thank you to the following volunteers: Inbal and Eli Chaimovitz, Shari Raphael, Shannon Girt, Louise Morissey, Nick Jaspan, Ollie Laengerer and Rhonda Dahan.
- Our children enrolled in indoor soccer have been learning the basic rules of soccer. At 4:30 the kids and our volunteers Moriel Mesterman and Raffi Shulman meet in the board room for a snack and then they head to the bubble where they practice a few drills, learn a few skills and then they play a soccer game until 5:30. They are having fun and that's what counts!
- The Purim Carnival took place on March 16th and the bubble was full with many families from our community. Chester the Clown brought a mini train ride and mini roller coaster for the kids, he also performed a music and magic show, face painted and gave the children balloon animals. There were great games for the kids to play such as a remote control obstacle course, Haman hoops, pin the crown on Esther, Duck o War, Dinosaur Dig and more! Special thanks to Gloria Rams and all the volunteers who helped to make this event a great success!
- Winter would not be complete without the annual Morris Black Public Speaking Contest. This year there were over 30 participants who worked extremely hard preparing for this event. It means so much to Rick Black and his family to see the interest from our Hamilton and Area Youth. The topics varied from "What it means to be Jewish" to "If I were Prime Minister of Israel". We want to congratulate you all on your presentations. Special Congratulations to the following winners: First Place: Sarah Gervais, Sarah Leah Zians, Jess Sussman, Molly Martin, Daniel Friedland, Rafi Zians, Samantha Friedland & Sarah Kohanzadeh. Second Place: Uriel Tahover, Lauren Winemaker, Emanuel Furman, Sarah Zepeda, Misha Apel, Zach Kahn, Avi Kohanzadeh, Rochelle Zalter, Sarah Rashid, Judah Glogauer, & Eliana Glogauer. Third Place: Stav Pinthus, Rebecca Sampson, Jennifer Waxman, Joshua Shapiro, Chaya Sarah Lavin & Shlomo Eli Schweitzer.



Please contact the JCC for information on the following upcoming events or check our website at jccchamilton.com

- April 6th, 2008 Guitar Hero for grades 5-9 at the JCC
- May 1st, 2008 Yom Hashoah 7:30 p.m. Temple Anshe Sholom
- May 8th, 2008 Yom Ha'atzmaut 6:00 p.m. at the JCC. Registration must be made by May 1st, 2008.
- May 25th, 2008 Lag Ba'Omer Cookout and Sing Song at the JCC fire Pit. More details to follow.



Joel Feldman

President's Message

While driving home from the JCC Purim Carnival, I was thinking about what to write for this article. I thought back to the evening and how busy the bubble was. Many kids and Adults were dressed up for Purim, playing games, jumping in the bouncing castle and the families from our Community were mingling with each other. Laura, with the help of the many volunteers and JCC staff, worked hard and did an excellent job.

There were many new faces at the Purim Carnival that I had not met before. They are new to our community and bring with them their family and friends. It was a pleasure meeting everyone. I realized that this is why it is important that we have an active and vibrant JCC. It not only gives those already in our community a place to gather and provides an opportunity to welcome new members to the community. A Jewish Community Centre, provides us with a place where we can all come together.

Together we can build a JCC that we can be proud of and fill it with active programming that attracts the entire community. JCC's are membership driven. Obviously the more members that the JCC has, the more successful it will be. Imagine what we could achieve, if every member of our community, was a member of the JCC.

People often ask me what they get by taking out a JCC membership. I always give the standard answer, you get discounts on activities, programs and Camp Kadimah, and you get extended use of the Facility. More important than this, membership gives you an opportunity to have input into the type of Jewish Community Centre you want. The more active and vibrant our members are, the more active and vibrant the JCC will be. To this end, I would like to announce two membership initiatives for the month of April:

1. All new members for the month of April, will be entered into a draw for \$100.00.
2. In order to build up our database of e-mail addresses and home addresses, please e-mail the JCC or drop off at the front desk, your e-mail address and home address. All addresses collected during the month of April, will be entered into another draw for \$100.00.

The JCC's e-mail address is receptionjcc@on.aibn.com. Check out the JCC's web site at www.jccchamilton.com. Join the JCC today. Together we can build a bright future for the JCC and a bright future for the Jewish community.

Yom HaShoah is on Thursday, May 1

Gilda Ennis and Archie Lieberman, chairs of the Yom HaShoah Committee, invite the entire community to attend this year's commemoration on **Thursday, May 1 at 7:30 pm at Temple Anshe Sholom**. In recognition of Israel's 60th anniversary, Amir Gissin, the Consul General of Israel in



Toronto, has been invited to speak about orphan survivors of the Holocaust who came to Israel and helped build the country. The annual Yom HaShoah commemoration gives community members an opportunity to remember those who perished in the Shoah and pay their respect to our community's survivors. Beautiful memorial banners inscribed with the names of family members of community survivors will be on display and there will be an opportunity for all those who wish to light candles upon entering the synagogue. A new banner will be added to the display some time in the future to provide for names that were inadvertently omitted. If you would like names added to the new banner, please contact Gilda Ennis at ennisg54@eastendpainclinic.com.

Camp Kadimah begins June 30, 2008

We are now taking registrations for Camp Kadimah, don't delay register today! Register before April 15, 2008 and save 5%. Call the JCC at 905-648-0605 for more details.

Camp Kadimah is looking to hire the following specialists:

Dance/Gymnastics • K'tanim • Science and Nature • Computer/photography • Judaica/Mashgiach Arts and Crafts

Please forward your resume to the JCC c/o Allan Fein

The JCC and the Canadian Red Cross present **THE BABYSITTING COURSE at the JCC** Friday, April 25, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. offered to children 10 yrs. + This course covers prevention skills, First Aid and CPR skills related to children. JCC Members \$40; Non-Members \$50 A maximum of 20 Students may enroll so please contact the JCC today to register

LITE LUNCH and SNACKS will be served

Temple Anshe Sholom honours Rabbi Baskin

STEVE ARNOLD

Hamilton was only supposed to be a short sojourn when the young American rabbi arrived here in 1949.

That sojourn stretched over 40 years, however, and made Bernard Baskin a part of the fabric of Hamilton.

Baskin's tremendous legacy will be honoured May 22 with a gala banquet and presentation at the Hamilton Convention Centre marking the 60th anniversary of his ordination.

In addition to serving as the major fundraising drive of Temple Anshe Sholom, the event will also feature the unveiling of a special collection of Baskin's columns written over the last half century for The Hamilton Spectator.

That volume will correct one of the great ironies of Baskin's long life -- the fact that despite being known for his annual book lectures and decades of book reviews for The Spectator and Canadian Jewish News, he has never published a book of his own.

Bernard Baskin was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey in 1920, and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. His father, Samuel, was a progressive Orthodox rabbi who had been ordained in Eastern Europe. Young Bernie was educated at an Orthodox yeshiva and public high school, and graduated from Brooklyn College, part of the City University of New York before moving on to the Jewish Institute of Religion where he was ordained in 1948.

During that same eventful week, the new State of Israel declared its independence.

Partly because of war demands, Baskin actually took up his first post, in Denver, Colorado, before he officially graduated. One outcome of that experience was his marriage to Marjorie Shatz (1927-2005). Before coming to Hamilton they also spent a year in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a place they found beautiful, but marred by racial strife, and with a pace of life they thought too slow.

Although several posts were available, "We thought it would be fun, interesting, fascinating to come to another country. We were intrigued by the exoticism," Baskin told The Spectator in 1989.

With time, however, "We became a part of it all. I found a place in the general community. The kids were born. Marjorie began to sink roots. Later on,

it became hard to leave something that had become so much a part of yourself."

Those roots included children Judith, David and Susan.

In 1949, Temple Anshe Sholom was a congregation of 80 families worshipping in a bleak and cramped building at Hughson and Augusta streets. Within a year of the new rabbi's arrival work started on a modern new facility in a farm field in Westdale.

The years in Hamilton were good and active. The rabbi became deeply involved in community service -- he was a member of the public library board for a decade and served as its chairman, was a member of the boards of the Hamilton Art Gallery and Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra as well as Board of Governors of McMaster University.

Marjorie Baskin served for almost 20 years on the Hamilton Board of Education, including several years as its chair. She also became Director of Public Relations for the McMaster University medical school and hospital. Within the Temple, she served as principal of the religious school, founder of the nursery school, program chair of the Deborah Sisterhood and organizer of the youth group. She was also the organizer and first president of DARTS (Disabled and Aged Regional Transport System), the first woman to serve as president of the Hamilton and District Social Planning and Research Council and was the force behind Hamilton's Meals on Wheels and HELP (Hamilton Elementary Lunch Program).

Baskin became Rabbi Emeritus of the Temple in 1989. In retirement he and Marjorie operated an antique book business specializing in Judaica, books about books, and private press volumes.

Even today the home resembles a library/art gallery.

Over the years there have been many honours -- Baskin was one of the first Jews awarded an honorary doctorate by McMaster University, he is a recipient of the B'nai B'rith Humanitarian Award for his commitment to interfaith activities, he has been the Hamilton Jewish community's Man of Year and also received the Good Servant Award of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. In 1990, he was chosen for Hamilton's Gallery of Distinction.

In the foreword of the

feshtrift being published by the Temple, Baskin's daughter Judith, a distinguish professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Oregon, calls him a man who is honoured because he honours others.

"It is evident that Rabbi Bernard Baskin is honoured in the public sense of the word but I think he is also honoured because he honours others, in his every contact with them. The combination of respect, compassion, and mediation he brings to his professional and personal relationships is admirable; they have made him a cherished rabbi, teacher, counselor, and friend," she wrote. "My father is an exemplar of a man of peace, an irenic seeker of reconciliation who has never been afraid to fight for what he believes is right and just."

Rabbi Irwin Zeplovitz, who replaced Baskin at the Temple and served for 14 years, recalls he was slightly intimidated by the reputation of the man he was replacing.

"It was, to be honest, a bit intimidating coming to Hamilton as a rabbi following Bernie's 40 year stint as the rabbi of Temple Anshe Sholom. In some ways, my impact on the life of

the community could never quite measure up to the standard he set. I had the privilege of serving the congregation for 14 years -- and took pride in the many ways that I reached out to the wider community while I was there. Not long before I left town, however, I was reminded not to take too much pride in my accomplishments. Someone I had not met previously found out where I worked and said, with some astonishment, "You are the new rabbi at Temple Anshe Sholom? When did you replace Rabbi Baskin? What a wonderful man!"

"I could not have asked more of a colleague than what I had with Bernie Baskin. Typically, when a new rabbi comes to congregation, it is rare for the Rabbi Emeritus to be present on a regular basis. When I first arrived in Hamilton I was unsure how it would work out having Bernie in the building. In short order any trepidation I had was replaced with respect, as I came to him to learn about the history of the synagogue, how he worked through problems and to seek his advice about how to be effective in the rabbinate. Anyone who knows the two of us can quickly discern how

different we are in our style and manner. Bernie was continually open and gracious to me, and defended to others the changes I might suggest. Over the years my respect for him deepened -- to the point that I cherished the fact that we had found a way to so easily be together at Temple Anshe Sholom. It is fair to say that I came to love Bernie as not only a teacher, but as a friend."

For Rabbi Jordan Cohen, who recently took over as the Temple's spiritual leader, Anshe Sholom is "the house that Baskin built.

"Almost 20 years after his retirement from the pulpit, his dignified presence, perspicacious observations and erudite wit still influence much of what goes on in the congregation. He motivates everyone - from Bar & Bat Mitzvah students to the members of our Temple Board - to strive for excellence in their service to God, congregation and Israel."

Tickets for the May 22 tribute are available from Temple office for \$180 with a tax receipt available for about half that amount. Space in a tribute book is also being sold.

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Rabbi Emeritus



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May 22, 2008
at the Hamilton Convention Centre
Tickets: \$180.00 each

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<i>Quarter Page</i>	<i>\$1,800.00</i>
<i>Business Card size</i>	<i>\$ 900.00</i>
<i>Greetings (1 Line)</i>	<i>\$ 180.00</i>
<i>Name Listing</i>	<i>\$ 72.00</i>

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or Temple Anshe Sholom at 905-528-0121, extension 5

60 Years Later

As Israel approaches its 60th anniversary, the HJN asked four individuals to reflect on how Israel's contemporary reality reflects the vision of its founders as outlined in its Declaration of Independence.



David Ben Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, presiding over the Jewish People's Council which gathered at the Tel Aviv Museum, declares Israel's independence on May 14, 1948, on the day in which the British Mandate over Palestine expired.

Reflections on a beacon of hope

Amir Gissen
CONSUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL, TORONTO

On the occasion of Israel's 60th Independence Day, Israel is proud to uphold its dedication to the basic humanistic and democratic principles of the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel. Despite the huge challenges that it has faced in the last 60 years, Israel has been able to preserve two essential pillars of its foundation: to provide a Jewish homeland to which Jews from all over the world have a birthright, and to guarantee essential democratic rights to its citizens from widely diverse ethnic, religious, cultural, and social backgrounds.

Israel is a liberal, pluralistic democracy embodying the principles of freedom, justice, the rule of law and equality of social and political rights.

As part of the Declaration of Independence focuses on Israel's relationship with the United Nations, it is important to note that Israel has kept its commitment to the U.N. despite the fact that the U.N. has not always fulfilled its commitments to Israel, most notably in its infamous resolution equating Zionism to racism, condemning Israel while ignoring blatant offences against human rights by many of its member states, and applying a double standard by calling for motions and resolutions against Israel that would put its citizens at risk.

Despite the fact that Israel today faces even more severe threats than in the past such as the prospect of a nuclear Iran, Iranian terrorist proxies on its



borders, and the outrageous threats by Iran's President, Israel continues to extend the hand of peace to all its neighbouring states and their peoples. As the late Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, said, "We will negotiate for peace as if there is no terror, and we will fight terror as if there were no peace negotiations".

Israel is a beacon of hope and justice, a land of tremendous achievements in every field of human endeavour, and a blessing for Jews throughout the Diaspora. All civilized nations should recognize and be grateful for Israel's contributions to humanity. Jews everywhere – in fact, people of goodwill anywhere – can be proud of the contributions made by Israeli citizens to achievements in medicine, science, technology, agriculture, economics and culture.

Israel is a unique case of a democracy under fire, facing a wide range of challenges, particularly from states that do not share a democratic history or the values that have informed the foundation of Israel. But, let it be known, as always been the case, Israel will prevail. Israel will carry on to be a homeland for Jews while thriving as a democracy for all its citizens. If those signatories of

the Declaration of Independence were alive today, they would be extraordinarily proud of Israel's accomplishments and its adherence to the vision reflected in their Act of Declaration founding the State of Israel.

Reflections on how Israel has changed

Louis Greenspan
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MCMASTER UNIVERSITY

I first went to Israel in the mid-fifties on a training program for Jewish youth leaders in the Diaspora. We were to be educated in the fundamentals of Zionist ideology, the Zionist approach to Jewish history and methods of attracting Jewish youth in Canada to life on Kibbutz as agricultural labourers. The fundamentals of Zionism included: Hagshama Atzmit – self-realization as Hebrew peasants who tilled the soil by day and read Tolstoy by night, and Shlilat Hagalut – rejection of the exile and the diminished life of Jews in the a Diaspora that was destined to disappear. So ingrained was the Halutz (pioneering) ideal in early Israel it was said that here Jewish mothers were ashamed if their children became doctors. Thus as my Jewish friends in Canada were going to professional schools and opening businesses I and several Canadian youth leaders proudly accepted an assignment to dig an irrigation ditch in Kibbutz Tel Yitzhak.

I should have noticed even then that things were changing. When I and my Canadian friends were taken off the ditch digging platoon as kalikers, we were replaced, not by Hebrew speaking peasants, but by



Arabs. The Israeli youngsters we met were going to America and Canadian universities to become, guess what, doctors, lawyers and engineers. The times they were a changing and they kept changing.

Today, at Israel's sixtieth anniversary, everything is different and wildly unexpected. Not only is the Diaspora still here, it is growing. In those days Europe was a Jewish ghost town. Today France and even Germany have large Jewish communities. In New York, Toronto and Paris there are large Israeli Diasporas. Deserts still bloom, but with startup companies rather than tomato patches. The pastoral kibbutzim are now shopping centres. As an Israeli economist told me, "Today Zionism equals high tech, not the Jaffa Orange." I once heard the mayor of Tel Aviv address a breakfast club in Beth Jacob saying, "We have to return to a Zionism of breaking rocks and tilling the soil," without mentioning how he was going to yank Israeli students from Yale and U. of T. to fulfill this dream. Old Eretz Israel would have been loved by Rousseau and Tolstoy, but not by Intel or Bill Gates. Now she has become one of the respected players in a world of high tech globalization.

Israelis have turned their ploughshares into weapons and computer hardware. The old "yishuv" survives mainly in the old JNF films we sometimes see at Negev dinners.

I do not mourn these changes. Israel is still Israel. I was never much of a kibbutznik. I admire Israel's energy. Globalization has welcomed Israel but transformed her people as much as it has transformed anyone. Israel's Jewish population consists of contending Zionists, post-Zionists and ultra-Zionists. One of the fastest growing institutions is the ultra-Orthodox Yeshiva, which we had thought was disappearing. Its non-Jewish population is vast: Arabs and foreign workers comprise over 20% of the population, about the same percentage as French speakers in Canada. Jewish tourists are more likely to boast of new shopping centres and the proliferation of Shoppers Drug Marts. There are billionaire computer geeks under thirty years old. There are – unimaginable in Old Eretz Yisrael – Jewish soup kitchens.

In spite of all of these culture shocks and the almost constant reminders of the fragility of Zionism, Israel remains and thrives. This is impressive because many of the states that came into being in 1948 have crumbled. The communist world of Eastern Europe and its cheerleaders in Canada called Israel artificial and ephemeral. They, not Israel, have disappeared. In the early seventies it seemed that the Arab world was becoming an economic superpower and Israel a backwater. Today the Arab world is a synonym for economic stagnation, Israel a synonym



“The State of Israel... will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace... it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.”

From the Declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel, May 14, 1948

for economic dynamism. Why then do we continue to feel such anxieties over Israel's future?

I have been a Zionist of all of my life and seen her meet many impossible challenges. I do not believe that Israel can survive a heavy handed occupation either morally or politically. Like the British she acquired an empire in a fit of absentmindedness. Unlike the British she can neither swallow nor cough it up. I would not advise returning to the old arcadia that I went to long ago but I would advise that we reaffirm the democratic ideals that have sustained it over the decades.

Reflections on the nature of citizenship

Elham Farah
ARAB CITIZEN OF ISRAEL, DUNDAS

The normal understanding of Israeli citizenship is based on a religious connection. My Israeli citizenship is based on an historical connection as well as on other basic aspects. Citizenship is multi-dimensional and includes the political, social and civil domains. Having been born and raised in Nazareth, Israel, I was taught what it means to be an Israeli citizen in my secondary education.

Two significant events transpired in 1949: Palestine disappeared from the world map when the Palestinians refused to accept Partition and the United Nations accepted Israel as a democratic country and an equal member of the Family of Nations.

Israel's parliament, the Knesset, is made up of freely-elected representatives every four years and its Arab citizens have the right to vote and



participate in free elections. Through this democratic participation Arab Israelis are able to obtain many educational rights.

At the turn of the 20th century many Jews immigrated to Palestine as a safe haven from Europe. The education system that Israel subsequently established was based on its vision of a new Jewish State. Israel's Ministry of Education is the centralized body overseeing education in the country, which is compulsory and free for all of its Jewish and Arab citizens. Municipalities and other public agencies support and implement the national policy. This method of operation has allowed for the integration of a complex social fabric of Jewish immigrants from all over the world, along with its Arab minority.

The birth of the State of Israel transformed the education system among its Arab citizenship – a system previously open to the elite was now open to all. Arab Israelis, who make up 20% of the Israeli population, have their own schools, the most popular being the missionary schools, which were founded during the Ottoman Empire in the 18th Century, which perceived that an educated Arab nation would threaten their interests and

lead towards instability. In contrast, Israel used education for both social change and social integration. At the same time it has been used as a mechanism through which the government can exercise political and social control over the entire population and maintain the traditional structure of Jewish State.

The Israeli education system has undergone tremendous change due to political changes in the region. Before the 1993 Oslo Accords, there was a discrepancy between programs offered in Jewish schools that emphasized social integration with what was being offered in the Arab sector. Furthermore, the notion of Palestinian identity was completely absent from Israeli textbooks. Real educational reform began after '93, when textbooks were changed to reflect the desire for coexistence and the government made an increased effort to include Israel's Arab citizens in social services and educationally integrated programs. Today, textbooks in the state's Arab schools refer to the establishment of Israel as a "nakba," or catastrophe, for the Palestinians, not only as a joyous occasion for the Jews. But the complexity of Israel's social fabric translated into confusion about what exactly Israeli citizenship implied.

The Western media is guilty both of a negative bias against Arabs as well as of labeling Israel either as victim or aggressor in this 60 year conflict. If they are sincere in their desire to help achieve peace in the region, the international community needs to look beyond the present, and look back to the period between 1920 and 1947 when Palestinian Arabs were

severely under-educated.

Education has played a significant role in modernizing and developing social literacy and integration among Israel's citizenry. But educational reforms are needed and greater accountability in a climate of budget cuts in education, as Israel spends more and more on defence. A concern is how Israel can sustain its development through the complexity of honouring its traditional culture, carrying its wounded memories of the Holocaust, and, at the same time, dealing with a troubled and undeveloped Middle East.

Reflections on "living in a state of incurable tension"

Sam Ajzenstat
PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT (RETIRED)
MCMASTER UNIVERSITY

The other night I saw a movie called "The Counterfeiters." A group of death-camp inmates—printer, engraver, banker, counterfeiter—buy their lives at the price of taking part in a Nazi scheme to destroy the British and American economies by flooding them with phony currency. A gripping masterpiece, it was all the more devastating for me because as I sat on the edge of my seat watching, I couldn't shake the waves of personal memories, thoughts about the meaning of the survival of Judaism and the state of Israel and questions about what Jewish ethics demands of us that came flooding over me with particular force even though they've been with me for most of my 71 years.

Part of what survival cost these men was the constant taunt that "You Jews will do anything to save your miserable skins," the soul-destroying



sense that maybe it's true and the nagging desire in us all to prove—to ourselves and others—that it isn't.

Jews understand that the answer to most serious questions is yes and no. And because we know, if only from Fiddler on the Roof, that "they can't both be right," we can't resist picking away at our moral scabs, torturing ourselves with the kind of dilemmas that have no solution. Asking ourselves endlessly whether it would have been "right" to smother a newborn baby to keep its cries from alerting a Nazi patrol to Jews in hiding is not something we do to get an answer, but so as to remind ourselves that however scrupulous we try to be we are going to run into situations in which anything we do will be wrong. Before the messiah comes we have to find a way of living in a state of incurable tension somewhere between the highest standards of purity on the one hand and saving our skins on the other. God demands of us that we be a holy people and also that we choose life. The deepest meaning of Galut, exile, is the impossibility of doing both. And it's because the existence of Israel has not relieved that tension, but, if anything, has tightened it by giving us, thank God, more

Please see INCURABLE TENSION on page 12

Foreign Press Mission Experiences the Arava with JNF

Thousands of people streamed from all over Israel to see the research station at the Yair Agricultural Research Station in Hatzeva, located in the Arava, its greenhouses and its magnificent displays, to observe – for some, for the first time in their lives – how Israeli agriculture is functioning in the 21st century, what it produces, and how. Many of the visitors learned for the first time that fewer than 3,000 people in the central Arava produce around 60% of all Israeli vegetables for export, and that they do so in the most difficult physical and climatic conditions in this part of the world.

KKL-JNF Foreign Journalists Mission joined the huge crowd of visitors. The dull and rainy weather they had experienced in Mitzpe Ramon followed them to the Arava, and they made the journey through a heavy cloak of mist. Even Ms Ronit Ratner of Moshav Faran, who was the journalists' guide for the visit to the Yair Research Station, felt the need to apologize for the sun's absence from the Arava on this, of all days.

Ms. Ratner, a long-time resident of Moshav Faran, the most southerly moshav in the central Arava, is a living example and personification of the strength and perseverance that characterizes early Arava settlers, who did not give up and leave in the

difficult early years and would never consider changing to an alternative, easier way of life.

She went on to explain everything imaginable, from preparing land for agricultural use and the construction of reservoirs and flood-barriers to the agricultural research and development of which KKL-JNF has been meeting half the costs for many years by means of funds raised among its friends throughout the world. "Without KKL-JNF, we wouldn't be doing anything here at all. It's KKL-JNF that performs all these sacred tasks," she said.

"By now, the fifth day of our trip, it seems to me that Israel without KKL-JNF wouldn't be Israel at all," remarked Swiss journalist Matthias Herren with a smile.

Later in the day the delegation members visited Kibbutz Lotan, which was founded by members of the Movement for Reform Judaism in the US in conjunction with young Israelis, and which continues to grow daily despite the harsh climatic and environmental conditions of the southern Arava.

The local mud is used for building. The playground created on the kibbutz a number of years ago, with a great deal of imagination and humour, is constructed mainly from mud, and serves as a venue for workshops for schoolchildren and groups of teenagers. This is

where young people learn the elements of organic farming, the secrets of recycling and even the knack of preparing compost from materials provided by the public toilets, in which straw, rather than water, is used. Mark Naveh, a veteran member of the kibbutz, explained the classic communal kibbutz principles that still govern life at Lotan, whose 50 members believe that we can live in a better world if we can only combine the ability to use and recycle materials wisely with the principles of the Reform version of the Jewish faith.

The kibbutz recently inaugurated a tea-house made from mud and tires, which, after extensive resilience testing, received all the necessary engineering permits for its construction. It is a pleasant, intimate place, without air conditioning, as it makes use of the natural airflow to keep it cool inside even on a boiling hot Arava summer's day.

The day's tour of the Arava concluded with a special night-time trip to Timna Park, whose principal sites were magnificently floodlit. This unique park, many of whose sites were developed with the help of JNF America, is also floodlit for the benefit of visitors on warm summer nights, when daytime temperatures are too high for people to enjoy the park's beauty and its wealth of

INCURABLE TENSION continued from page 11

power to save our skins than we've had for two thousand years and hence more difficult choices, that we have to think of Israel as a part of the real exile rather than as an end of it.

This is the "no" answer to the state of Israel that some ultra-orthodox Jews give. Their mistake is not that they say "no" but that they are unable to say "yes" at the same time. For, much as it may not end the Galut, the establishment of the state of Israel is still, as Leo Strauss puts it, "the most important event in Jewish history since the completion of the Talmud."

Of course, just because we are still in a world of hard choices, made even harder by Israel's genuine desire to live up to high moral standards, doesn't mean we can't ever criticize the choices she makes. Criticism is not treason. Israel's real enemies are those who think there are no hard choices because we must always choose purity above survival. That naïve idealism is our worst enemy. It only begins to turn into anti-semitism (or Jewish self-hatred) with the realization of how deeply Judaism rejects naïve idealism.

When I was a kid I wanted Judaism to be naïve idealism and I declared myself a pacifist not for any Christian notion of turning the other cheek but rather for what I thought was a very Jewish reason. Integrity meant not letting other people control my behaviour. To try to kill someone because he was trying to kill me was precisely to let him control my behaviour. As long as I cared about saving my own skin I was giving up my moral self-determination. And I thought I had Torah support for my pacifism. After all, doesn't God refuse to let David build Him a temple because David is a "man of war" with "blood on his hands?" Wouldn't a true Jew so

want to be worthy to build the temple that he would, even in the most apparently justifiable circumstances such as those in which David had fought, refuse to get even a drop of blood on his hands? What I was leaving out in those days of adolescent idealism, was that the same God who deplored the blood on the hands of the man of war, had picked him out precisely to get that blood on his hands in defence of his people. God had said yes and no to the need for self-defence and then left it to David to face the hard decision about when and how much knowing that any response, however "appropriate" would rob him of the greatest possible closeness with God.

I can celebrate Israel's anniversaries as my own moral coming-of-age because it was while looking down from the Golan Heights that I finally let the last shreds of my pacifism slip away. I saw two things that day that I think are two very Jewish things. The first was that to give up saving my own skin so as to keep blood off my hands was also to give up saving the skin of all those I love. To be morally pure I would have to stop loving anybody including my people. And I could see that God's answer to that was at least as much no as yes.

The second thing I saw that day was that those who wish to destroy me and mine, do have the power to control my behaviour. As long as I love anyone, not only those I love but those that hate me are able to take away my freedom of choice. When we say, as we often must, that our enemies leave us no choice, we don't always realize how tragic that is.

Israel brought me back from a fool's paradise into the real world of Galut. That's how it—as in different ways for so many others—helped me grow up.



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Israel Branding seeks to close gap between image and reality

WENDY SCHNEIDER

New York has its apple. Canada has its maple syrup and hockey players. Switzerland has its mountains and its chocolate. What do people think of when they think of Israel? Unfortunately, the news is not good.

At a recent conference in Jerusalem, Israel's Foreign Minister, Tzipi Livni acknowledged as much when she said, "It's clear to us what our values are but there is a huge, insufferable gap between Israel and its values versus Israel's image abroad that creates a lack of legitimacy," Livni's statement speaks to one of Israel's biggest challenges: how to combat the perception that the sum of Israel's identity is defined by its ongoing conflict with the Palestinians.

Livni is one of the principal backers of a recent initiative undertaken by the Israeli Foreign Ministry called Israel Branding. The concept was unveiled with some fanfare in Toronto a few weeks ago at a conference organized by the Consulate General of Israel and attended by representatives from Toronto and Hamilton Federations, Canadian Jewish Congress, the Canada Israel Committee, as well as Israeli diplomatic staff from across Canada and the United States and local public relations experts.

Israel Branding evolved from the belief that "hasbara", (literally translated as "explanation") a term used to describe Israeli government's efforts to explain its policies and to promote itself, is not working. Ido Aharoni, founder of the Israel Branding concept, said in his remarks that it's up to individual countries to effectively define and market their own identity. Otherwise, "there's always a danger that someone like Sacha Baron Cohen will emerge and define your image like he did with Kazakhstan [in the film Borat], who tried to explain to the

world why it wasn't true," he said.

Aharoni shared with the audience the results of extensive research showing that most people around the world view Israel through the very narrow lens of the conflict. "We assumed that political support was the only thing that mattered," he said, "but for the average consumer, we conveyed a message that was 100% irrelevant."

There is great public fatigue for "hasbara" said Aharoni, and people are no longer listening, nor are they able to distinguish between the victim and the perpetrators.

Brand Israel is not meant to replace "hasbara" but to communicate a more holistic portrayal of the total reality of Israel. Nor is it simply about spin. "It's about communicating the reality of the country through more than one channel," said Aharoni. "When people go to Israel they're touched. The challenge is to find the language to make that connection with people who are not there."

That language will be based on concepts that communicate the passion of its people, the diversity of its population, its ingenuity in arts, science and technology and its environmental innovations. The hoped-for result is a change in peoples' perceptions of Israel.

Among the presentations was one by Larry Weinberg, CEO of Israel21c, a group whose website (www.israel21c.net/) highlights, among other things, medical and technological advances in Israeli laboratories and snapshots from the lives of typical Israelis.

The city of Toronto has been chosen as one of eight cities around the world in which to pilot Israel Branding, with an expected launch date of 2009.

The day the Haganah came to town

WENDY SCHNEIDER

During the period between the end of World War II and the birth of the State of Israel in 1948 an arms smuggling network involving hundreds of North American Jews was created by those who shared a burning desire to provide the as yet unborn state with the armaments necessary to defend itself against its enemies. In his book, *The Pledge*, Leonard Slater recounts an incident that occurred at the Fort Erie border crossing into Buffalo in February of 1947, when a car and its two passengers were detained after hidden gun parts enroute from Toronto to the United States were discovered inside. According to Slater, the gun parts had been hidden in the car by Zionist activists Norman Grant and Max Brown, and a Swedish American gun designer by the name of Carl Ekdahl. Behind the wheel was a young man by the name of Andy Noseworthy, who was totally unaware of the vehicle's contents. His employer, however, whose identity Slater did not reveal, was in full knowledge not only of the contents, but of the ultimate destination of those contents.



Marvin Goldblatt

In a 2004 interview for The Jewish Hamilton Project, Marvin Goldblatt told Billy Shaffir and Wendy Schneider that International Iron & Metal, the scrap metal business owned by his family, was the employer mentioned in Slater's book.

Goldblatt said he was a young man of 27, when one day in 1947 he received a call from a friend – Norman Grant – who needed a favour. Would the company be able to provide him with a car and driver to take gun parts across the border. When Goldblatt sought advice from his uncle, the late George Goldblatt, he was told in no uncertain terms to offer money for the cause and nothing more. But, swayed by the urgency in his friend's voice, Goldblatt was persuaded to offer his help. Grant hid the parts in the company car and Goldblatt instructed the unsuspecting Noseworthy to take Grant's colleague, Max Brown to Buffalo on a contrived errand.

Grant had assured his nervous friend that the whole thing would be over in two to three hours, but when the call failed to come in, Goldblatt feared the worst. Sure enough, hours after the appointed time he received a call from Grant, who had gone down in a second vehicle, informing him that the gun parts had been discovered by a suspicious customs agent. Noseworthy and Brown had been detained for questioning at the Erie County jail.

Desperate to keep the incident out of the local press, Goldblatt contacted a friend at The Spec, who promised to do what he could. Slater also describes frantic attempts on the other side of the border to keep the incident from escalating into an international affair. Within three days, a lawyer appeared with bail money to release the two and Noseworthy, who clearly knew nothing, was free to go home.

In the end, it was as if the incident had never occurred. But in the aftermath, Goldblatt heard rumours. "Somebody had to go as high as Truman to squash the whole thing," he speculated.

Indeed, Slater reports that Max Brown got off with a minor fine and an order to stay out of the U.S. for a year.

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Dancer Maya Weiser on the beach at Tel Aviv.



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Honourable Mentschen



Dr. Hertzal Gerstein

Mazel Tov to the Loewith family, on being awarded the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce's Ironman Award. Summitholm Holsteins was recognized both for its innovative spirit and community involvement. It is only the second farm operation to earn a chamber award in the 24-year history of the ceremony. Dave Loewith is a past president of the JCC and Temple Anshe Sholom. Carl Loewith is a past president of Shalom Village. Bonnie Loewith is a past president of UJA Federation and the current president of Shalom Village. And this is just the second generation! Matriarch, Minna Loewith does indeed have much to be proud of.

The HJN congratulates Dr. Hertzal Gerstein, who was recently honoured by Hamilton Health Sciences for globally advancing the treatment and prevention of diabetes. Gerstein is in charge of Diabetes Hamilton (www.diabeteshamilton.ca), an online one-stop shop of information and resources for people trying to cope with the disease. There are an estimated 35,000 to 40,000 Hamilton adults and between two and three million Canadians with diabetes and Gerstein's research has shown that increased physical activity, modest weight reduction and drug therapy can dramatically reduce the risk of getting the disease.

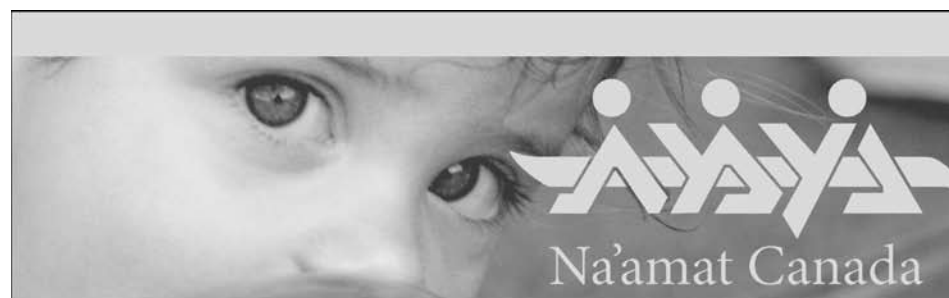
Congratulations to Shalom Village's Pat Morden who won a spot on the Grand Masters Club Crew that will be going to compete in the 6th IDBF Club Crew World Championships (2008 CCWC) to be held at the Teluk Bahang Dam, Penang, Malaysia in early August. Morden will compete in women's races, mixed races and an open race which is usually a full mens' crew. Morden's team will race in the qualifier for the International Dragon Boat Races this July to qualify for a spot in Poland in 2009.

"It is so great to have this opportunity to improve my paddling and coaching so that the Meshuggena Warriors will have an even better season", said Morden referring to the Jewish dragon boat team that had its debut at Hamilton Harbour last summer.



Pat Morden coached the community's Meshuggena Warriors last summer.

Mazel Tov to jazz musician Dave Levy, son of Sandra and Richard Levy, whose Jazz ensemble, Out to Lunch, was invited to play at New York City's Blue Note Jazz Club, one of the city's premier clubs. Levy is the front man for Out to Lunch, which released its debut album, Excuse Me While I Do the Boogaloo on the esteemed label Accurate Records, in January. Launching the record at the Blue Note the ensemble is currently touring through North America. According to Levy's website (<http://outtolunchmusic.com>) "Boogaloo fuses groove music with improvisational imagination creating a sound that hits both the mind and the feet."



On Shabbat, March 1st, a Kassam missile hit the Na'amat Israel Tze'elon Daycare Centre, in Sderot.

Luckily, no children were present, but this terrorist attack left behind a path of shattered windows, broken playgrounds and one irreparable baby nursery. The daycare's bomb shelters will have to suffice as the children's classrooms for now...

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Adas Israel Synagogue

Purimania at the Adas



Barry Gibb (Rabbi D. Green) with Sonny & Cher (Jason & Evelyn Ohayon) at Purim at the Adas.

RYAN GRIVER

A crowd of over 500 strong came out for boisterous Purim fun of what is quickly becoming a must-see event in the Hamilton Jewish Community.

This year the Hollywood theme saw major movie sets being reconstructed in the Netkin Auditorium. In what was dubbed "JU-niversal Studios," the youngsters saw Shrek standing next to Jack Sparrow and Mickey Mouse. Volunteers worked tirelessly to build 15 foot replicas of the ship from the Pirates of the Caribbean, the house of the loveable ogur, Shrek, Peter Pan and a Disney filled fantasy world.

With hands filled with popcorn, hot dogs, and cotton candy, the lines for the jumping castle and movie theatre moved briskly, as all the stage areas were well looked after by tremendous number of volunteers for the night. With each successive year, the crowds get bigger and the scope of the event continues to grow to match its popularity.

Following a packed children's Megilah reading led by Rabbi Golan Amar & Rabbi Eisenstein, the evening celebration began. The talent level was phenomenal. Barry Gibb from

the Beegees (Rabbi Daniel Green) performed to thunderous ovation. Sonny & Cher (Jason & Evelyn Ohayon) performed some of their classics as well as an ode to Adam Sandler.

The event was highlighted with the premiere of "JewTube", a collection of vignettes highlighting the various artistic talents of the Hamilton Jewish community. The video will certainly become the next viral hit of the internet. Building upon the interest in Purimania, the Adas held a Purim feast the following day. This had been done in the past, and once again it was a hit with all who attended. The menu was specially designed by Hamilton Kosher and Yousef Kohanzedeh, the reigning Cholent Champ (a local cooking competition). With a Persian flair, the kebobs and stews scintillated the room and the various l'chaims brought mirth and merriment to the cheeks. The event was well attended and brought many families together without worrying about cooking or cleaning the house. The real question is, what can they do next year to top themselves?

Midrasha

High School students host mock Knesset

LANI GOLDBERG

As we celebrate "Israel at 60" we all recognize the significance of the great miracle of modern history: the emergence of the State of Israel. After being disenfranchised from organized political life for nearly two millennia, the Knesset, Israel's parliament, was established in the foothills of Jerusalem. Whether one agrees with the most of the rhetoric and rancor, a sovereign Jewish people debating their future in their ancestral Biblical homeland is nothing less than miraculous.

In celebration of this reality, Midrasha - Hamilton Hebrew High will be hosting a Mock Knesset Program at their open house on Sunday, May 25 @ 11:00 am. Students will be researching and representing specific Knesset members and will be debating the crucial issues that face the Jewish State. The program

will be open to all Jewish high school students from the community regardless of whether they are currently registered in Midrasha courses.

The mission of Midrasha is to inspire our teenage students with the relevance and importance of their heritage. This at times requires tremendous creativity and inventiveness. In addition to our successful courses in Hebrew Language, Midrasha has launched innovative "for-credit" high school courses in Jewish Film and Media, Ethical Dilemmas, Jewish History, Leadership and Advocacy that have truly captured the imagination and interest of our students.

To find out more about the Mock Knesset or to register for Midrasha please call Lani Goldberg at 905-524-2663 or visit www.midrashahhh.ca.

Upcoming events

Rabbi Baskin to give major public address

Westdale United Church's distinguished visiting speaker program has, over the past decade, sponsored outstanding speakers from across the continent and abroad, but this year has named **Bernard Baskin**, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Anshe Sholom in Hamilton, as its honoured guest. He will deliver a major public address on the evening of **May 4, 2008**, at Westdale United Church on the subject, **'From Abraham to Bin Laden: Deceptions and Misconceptions about Islam.'**

Rabbi Baskin has received many honours in the course of his long and distinguished career in Hamilton. national awards have recognized his interfaith sympathies; and membership in the Hamilton Gallery of Distinction has recognized his many contributions to the public life of this city. His many book reviews and studies and his frequent articles on life issues have enriched the lives of many.

Rabbi Baskin's address will cap a series of lectures entitled 'The Tent of Abraham' recounting the development and significance of the Abraham story in each of the Jewish, Christian,

and Islamic traditions. These lectures, on April 16, 23, and 30, will be offered respectively by Rabbi Jordan Cohen of Temple Anshe Sholom, Professor Anders Runesson of McMaster Religious Studies, and Professor Timothy Gianotti, who holds the Noor Chair of Islamic Studies at York University.

Rabbi Baskin has received many honours in the course of his long and distinguished career in Hamilton. Honorary doctorates have recognized his well-known scholarly attributes; national awards have recognized his interfaith sympathies; and membership in the Hamilton Gallery of Distinction has recognized his many contributions to the public life of this city.

The 'Tent of Abraham' series will emphasize both the common and the distinctive features of the shared heritage of three faiths. The lectures are intended for the general public and all are welcome. They will take place in the sanctuary of Westdale United Church at 7:30 in the evening of the above dates. Rabbi Baskin will also preach the morning sermon on May 4, and a reception will follow the evening address.

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Chabad Lubavitch

SHAINA ROSENFELD

On February 8, 2008 Chabad Lubavitch of Hamilton once again held their annual 'Shabbat 100' dinner on the McMaster University campus. Although Chabad holds weekly Friday night Shabbat dinners at their 'home away from home' on Sterling Street, adjacent to McMaster, this yearly event is a unique opportunity for Jewish Students at McMaster to bring their Jewish pride to the campus itself. Indeed "Shabbat 100", a program of Chabad that is held on university campuses across North America, was created specifically to foster and enhance Jewish identity and pride among Jewish university students.

It was beautiful and wonderful to see so many students from various backgrounds joining together as one in celebrating Shabbat at the Phoenix in Wentworth House on campus.

Thank you to Judy Schwartz and the JSA for co-sponsoring this event. A very special thank you goes to Michelle Loterman the student co-ordinator who worked very hard in making this event the success that it was.

Shabbat 100

MICHELLE LOTERMAN

Imagine a room full of Jews sitting at long tables, having a relaxing Shabbat dinner together, and meeting new people in a calm environment. This is what occurred on February 8, as a result of the almost 100 Jews who attended, many dedicated students who helped



Michelle Loterman right before Shabbat 100

to plan, organize, cook, and advertise, a few individuals who took charge to head up the committees, and lastly Shaina Rosenfeld, and the Rabbi, who helped me along to coordinate everybody's efforts.

Shabbat 100 turned out to be a very successful event, despite many midterms and other events happening simultaneously. As students came in, they could feel the "Ruach" spirit that was provided by the wonderful decorations put up in the morning, and later when indulging in the amazing home cooked food. Rabbi Rosenfeld spoke about the weekly torah portion, and two of the students spoke about their amazing Jewish transition to McMaster, mainly due to the open, and welcoming Jewish community. To end off the evening, we sang familiar Jewish songs to which everyone joined in.

This 3rd annual Shabbat 100 dinner was a success, and should be an inspiration to students to come to future Shabbat dinners.

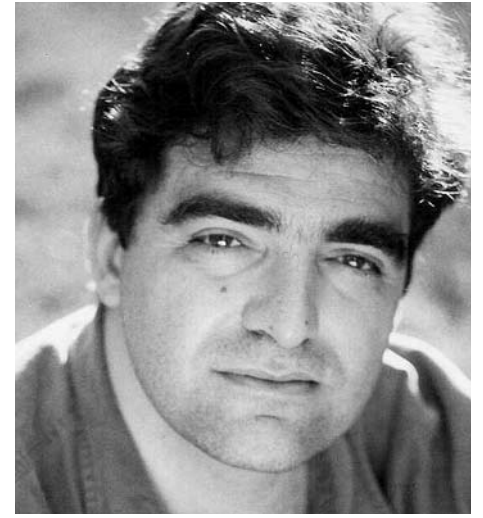
Na'amat Hamilton

Na'amat Hamilton is pleased to announce its upcoming **Celebrity Author Luncheon**, featuring one of Canada's greatest literary voices, **Nino Ricci**. The event will take place on **Tuesday, May 27 at 12 noon at the Adas Israel Synagogue**.

Nino Ricci was born in Leamington, Ontario, to parents from the Molise region of Italy, and completed university studies in Toronto, Montreal, and Florence, Italy. He now lives in Toronto, where he writes full time. He is a past president of the Canadian Centre of International PEN, a writers' human rights organization that works for freedom of expression. Nino Ricci's last novel, *Testament*, was the co-winner of the Trillium Award and was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Prize for Canada and the Caribbean and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize.

Set in a remote corner of the Roman Empire at a moment of political unrest and spiritual uncertainty, *Testament* is the timeless story of how a holy man of enormous charisma and passionate belief alters forever the course of human history. Provocative, intelligent and brilliantly executed, *Testament* is widely considered to be Nino Ricci's most ambitious book to date. His first novel, *Lives of the Saints* (1990), was an internationally acclaimed masterpiece, spending a stunning 75 weeks on *The Globe* and *Mail's* best-seller list. In Canada it won the Governor General's Award and the W.H. Smith/Books in Canada First Novel Award, in England the Betty Trask Award and the Winnifred Holtby Prize, and in France the *Prise Contrepoint Madri-neaux*. Published in over a dozen countries, Ricci's novel "envelops the reader with magic and wonder page after page." (*The News and Observer* - U.S.) Ricci's new novel, *The Origin of Species*, will be published this coming fall.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$20, \$17 for seniors and students (\$25 at the door for all), and can be purchased in advance at Bryan Prince Bookseller, 1060



Nino Ricci to headline Na'amat's Author Luncheon

King St. W. Hamilton, 905.528.4508; at Kool Klay Café, 36 King St. E., Dundas, 905.628.6062 or by contacting Ellen Resnick at 905.628.4804, ellen.resnick@sympatico.ca.

Magen David Adom

Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel (CMDA) has donated more than \$300K U.S. towards this new project. The MDA Israel Cord Blood Bank collects donated umbilical cord blood following the birth of healthy children, and then removes, tests and types the stem cells. Stem cells have the unique ability to develop into any of the body's tissue types. Stem cells are currently being used primarily to treat cancers and blood disorders; however, the possibilities for their use are seemingly endless. All religious and secular authorities in Israel agree that donating cord blood is acceptable; it does not raise the ethical issues involved in taking stem cells from human embryos. When the MDA Cord Blood Bank reaches full operation it will become a major resource for all of world Jewry as well as for Bedouins, Druze, Israeli Arabs and Israel's neighbours.



Hadassah-WIZO of Hamilton is preparing a new **Hamilton Jewish Telephone Directory**

If you have moved or are new to the community and wish to be in the 2008 directory, please phone 905-528-0874, fax 905-332-0396 or email astringer@cogeco.ca with changes or additions.

Eugene Levy and Rick Mercer join JNF and Hamilton to pay tribute to Shalom Village at the 2008 Negev Dinner



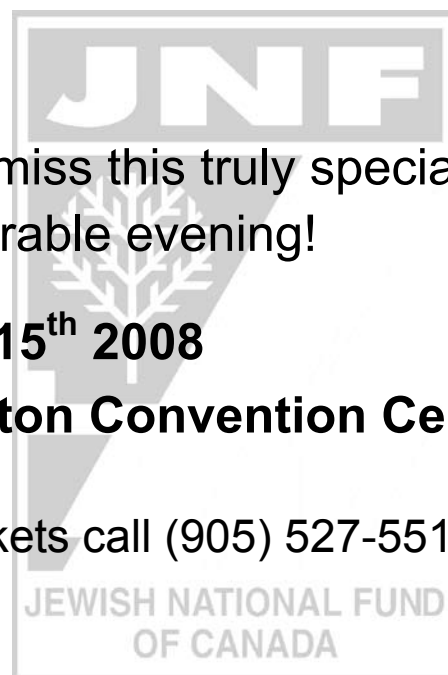
This year's Negev Dinner will be hosted by noted comic actor Eugene Levy and will feature Rick Mercer, host of CBC's *The Rick Mercer Report*.

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June 15th 2008

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...to Israel

Temple Anshe Sholom

On Facebook there is a group called "Anshe Sholom NYC Trip 2008". Set up by members of the Grade 10 class of Temple Anshe Sholom's religious school, the virtual meeting place includes a photo that one of them created, of themselves (smiling!) standing in front of the New York City skyline. From this point the excitement began to build up for their big Grade 10 Jewish New York trip this April.

Each year, Grade 10 students at Temple look forward to a trip to visit another Jewish community. This year's trip to New York, accompanied by Rabbi Jordan Cohen and Cantor Laura Wolfson, will include a visit to the Jewish Museum, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, and the Eldridge Street Project, in addition to a Broadway show, the Central Park Zoo, an NBC tour, and Ground Zero. Oh, and a chance to do some shopping! Friday night includes Shabbat dinner and services at B'nai Jeshurun, one of the larger and very lively Reform Temples in New York City.

Class trips have a special impact on a group of religious school students. Over and above the obvious benefit to them of visiting another Jewish community

and seeing the similarity and differences from their own, there are hidden benefits: since most of them attend different public schools and do not see each other on a regular basis outside of the Temple, these trips have the effect of cementing bonds between them and creating for them a lasting community of Jewish peers. Furthermore, when they are accompanied by the Rabbi and/or Cantor-Educator, the students develop a trusting relationship and a sense of warmth, comfort and ease with us that they would not be able to develop otherwise. Since students often do not spend time on a regular basis inside the Temple walls after their grade 10 year, this is very important for the future of their relationship with synagogue life.

The students helped to raise a significant amount of the funds for the trip by holding a silent auction at the Temple. Using the title "New York Or Bust!" they organized the fundraiser on their own. For them, the trip might be seen as a nice reward for their continued commitment to the religious school through to high school. For us, it might be seen as another opportunity to enrich their Jewish education. Either way, what a fun way to spend an extended weekend!

Jewish Genealogical Society

STEVEN BROCK

After a long difficult winter, spring is finally here and with it another Passover is just around the corner. Pesach has always been my favorite holiday, and has become even more significant to me since I started tracing my own genealogy. During the Seders we retell one of the most important stories of our heritage - the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Remembering our past, who we are and where we came from, is such an important part of our identity. As we research deeper and deeper into our ancestry, we rediscover, retell, and remember the people who came before us who are our direct links to the past.

With every breakthrough in my research I am continually intrigued by the fascinating characters I find sitting on the branches of my family tree. For instance, I recently discovered that a great-great-great uncle of mine was knighted by Queen Victoria. In 1887 Benjamin Borochovitch, a British industrialist was informed of the honour Her Majesty was to bestow upon him. Before the ceremony, he met with one of the members of the Royal court who explained what would be expected of him. He was to kneel in front of the Queen, and recite a sentence in Latin

when she tapped him on the shoulders with her sword. Unfortunately, when his turn finally came, he panicked in the excitement of the moment. For the life of him, he could not remember the Latin phrase. Thinking fast, he recited the first thing that popped into his head: "Ma neesh tana ha lylah hazeh mee kol ha laylot." Puzzled, Her Majesty turned to her advisor and asked, "Why is this knight different from all other knights?"

But seriously folks...Once we have all had our fill of matzoh, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton & Area (JGSH) will be holding our next meeting on April 30, when we will welcome Mel Solman who will speak on Novel Ways of Presenting your Family History, using the Internet and PowerPoint. On May 28, Stephen Wise, Rabbi of the Shaarei-Beth El Congregation in Oakville, along with his father Lenny Wise, will detail the Genesis of Toronto Jewish Community, and how they traced their own Polish Ancestry. Both meetings will be held at Temple Anshe Sholom. "Meet & Greet" at 7:30 pm; lecture at 8:00. Admission is free for members. Non-members, \$5, which will be applied to the JGSH membership for next year. More information can be found at www.jgsh.org

Beth Jacob Synagogue

King Davids of Comedy Perform at Beth Jacob

Following the success of last year's "Laugh in Peace Tour" Beth Jacob Synagogue is proud to present its annual comedy night, "Funny, I Don't Feel 5768", featuring acclaimed American comedians Cathy Ladman and Steve Hofstetter on **Wednesday, June 4 at 7:30 pm** at Beth Jacob Synagogue.

Forget the "Kings of Comedy!" come see the King Davids of comedy and hear some hilarious schtick when the great tradition of Jewish comedians continues at the Beth Jacob.

As one of North America's top comedians, Cathy Ladman's performance is a self-probing, anxiety-venting vehicle, which draws laughter from exposing personal neurosis. She has not only appeared on "The Tonight Show" nine



Cathy Ladman : Best Female Stand Up Comic



Steve Hofstetter, called "The Thinking Man's Comic"

times, but was also the only female comic to appear on the last two of Johnny Carson's "Tonight Show Anniversary" shows. Cathy has had her own HBO "One Night Stand" comedy special and has been the recipient of the American Comedy Award for Best Female Stand Up Comic.

A native New Yorker, now living in Los Angeles, Cathy is successfully pursuing an acting career in television and film. "She appeared regularly on ABC's "Politically Incorrect" and Comedy Central's "Dr. Katz: Professional Therapist" and appeared recently in an episode of the hit series "Curb your Enthusiasm". She was most recently one of the three finalists on Nick at Nite's "Funniest Mom in America." Cathy is currently working on a new solo show, entitled, "Does This Show Make Me Look Fat?"

Author, columnist, and comedian Steve Hofstetter is a unique act when it comes to Jewish shows. His philosophy is not to do an hour of jokes about Purim, but to do jokes about the real world

from a Jewish perspective. Called "The Thinking Man's Comic" by the Queens Tribune for his ability to make his audiences laugh at real issues, Steve Hofstetter discusses race, politics, body image, and religion all with the sarcastic wit that landed him his own show on Sirius Satellite Radio. A huge hit on the college circuit (Hofstetter performs at over 100 every year), the 28-year-old Hofstetter has also been featured by Bob & Tom, CNN, and the New York Times. Having performed at dozens of synagogues and dozens more Hillels, Hofstetter is also the star of "King Davids of Comedy," a routinely sold out fundraiser for Magen David Adom at the Hollywood Improv and Comix New York.

Tickets are \$36 for regular seating or \$54 which includes choice seating and a post-performance reception. To order call 905-522-1351 or email office@beth-jacobsynagogue.ca.

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Award nominations for Shalom Village



Jo-Ann Pomerantz was nominated for a Service Award for Geriatric Excellence



The Hannukah Hustle is up for a Tourism Hamilton Award in the special event category

A long-time Shalom Village board member and a fundraising event for our fitness centre have both been nominated for prestigious awards. **Jo-Ann Pomerantz** has been nominated for a Service Award for Geriatric Excellence (SAGE) in the Volunteer category, and the Hannukah Hustle is up for a Tourism Hamilton Award in the special event category.

A registered nurse by profession, Jo-Ann has been involved with Shalom Village from the very start, sitting on the board and helping to develop the mission, vision and core values that guide Shalom Village.

Not content to watch things unfold from the board table, Jo-Ann has also been actively involved on a personal level with our residents, whether it is one-to-one visiting, leading music programs or helping people in our Snoezelen. Jo-Ann is a valuable part of our palliative care team and was instrumental in developing fitness programs at Shalom Village. She helps out at Bubbi Bessie's Café and The Corner

Store and is a key part of the team that produces our annual Women's Auxiliary Tea.

SAGE Award winners will be announced at an awards banquet at the Burlington Convention Centre on May 9th. Shalom Village will be well represented at the event. As winners of SAGE Awards in three other categories last year, Shalom Village team members have been asked to present awards to this year's winners in those categories.

The Hannukah Hustle brings hundreds of walkers, runners and spectators together each November for a celebration of active living for people of all ages. It is the main fundraiser for The Club fitness Centre and attracts many out of town visitors in addition to the residents, family members and volunteers who walk or run the course from along the scenic Bayfront trail.

Winners of the Tourism Hamilton Awards will be announced at a ceremony at Carmen's Banquet Centre on April 3rd.



The Possibilities Fund

The Possibilities Fund provides the people and the resources to help our fathers and our mothers get on with living as they move home to Shalom. It allows us to create a home where people are engaged in deeper experiences every day - experiences that have meaning to them and have relevance in their lives. Experiences that help them stay connected to their community and reflect their interests and needs, whether social, spiritual, physical or intellectual.

The Possibilities Fund provides the seasoning in the soup of life. It helps us create those moments that bring a smile to your face, a laugh to your heart or a tear to your eye. It is people to help you spend a sunny afternoon in the garden or to share your stories with over a cup of tea. It is the carpenter helping you build a birdhouse in the woodshop and it is the nurse getting you back on your feet with our Neurogym equipment. It is the creative programs, the beautiful facilities, the specialized equipment and most importantly, the people to make it all happen.

For more information, or to make a donation to the Possibilities Fund, call Joan Ulrich at (905) 529-1613 ext. 231. Together we are making the possibilities possible!

WHAT'S WITH THE WHEELBARROWS?

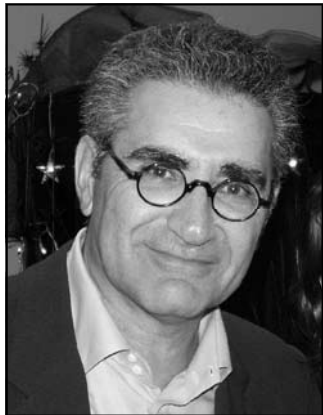
Flower-filled wheelbarrows can be found in the courtyard and on the balconies at Shalom Village during the growing season. They allow us to bring the garden to the people when the people can't come to the garden. These "portable gardens" symbolize the deeper experience your donations help us bring to our loved ones every day.

Eugene Levy and Rick Mercer to celebrate Shalom Village at the 2008 Negev Dinner

Long time friend of Shalom Village Eugene Levy will host this year's Negev Dinner at the Hamilton Convention Centre on June 15th. He will be joined by Rick Mercer, host of CBC's The Rick Mercer Report.

The proceeds from this year's Negev Dinner will improve the quality of life for our Fathers and our Mothers, both in Israel and here in Hamilton. In Israel, the funds will go toward the development of a Park Promenade for Seniors in Kiryat Eliezer, a suburb of Haifa. The park features special equipment and paths geared to older users. It will provide a place for seniors to enjoy nature and improve their mobility by providing opportunities for an active lifestyle.

In Hamilton, the funds will be used to create the Shalom Village Possibilities Fund (see above right). The Possibilities Fund will be an ongoing legacy that will make sure we have the resources and the people



to help our loved ones continue to get the most out of life.

The 2008 Negev Dinner will take place at the Hamilton Convention Centre on June 15th 2008. Plan now to be part of this truly wonderful evening.

Please call (905) 527-5516 for tickets.

Shalom Village Tribute Cards

Shalom Village will send a beautiful tribute card with your personal message to acknowledge life's milestones and special occasions. Your card is sent directly to the recipient and includes recognition of your donation, your personal message and your return address. Funds raised by the Shalom Village Charitable Foundation support life and living at Shalom Village. Together we make possibilities... possible!

Thank you to the families of Dr. Fred Houston, Barbara Reeves and Anne Seigel for choosing to honour their memory with donations to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers. This is a wonderful way to honour a person's memory while helping others. All it takes is a phone call to Joan Ulrich at (905) 529-1613 ext. 231 or by e-mail to joan@shalomvillage.on.ca.

The following have been honoured by family and friends with a donation to Shalom Village:

IN MEMORY OF: Sally Praiser; Anne Seigel; Freddie Feldman; Sheila Moser; Catherine McKay;

Claire Ridker; Barbara Reeves; Nancy Bleviss; Leon Bleviss; Murray Pollock; Julia Feldman; Mamie Geist Silverman; Joe Agro; Sister of Morris Gold; Fred Houston; Gerald Winer; Sari Vaisler; Frank Goldstein; Mr & Mrs Zipursky; Mother of Maxine & Allan Dierenfeld; Mother of Marilyn Boris; Bryon Mercer; Morris Silbert; Metro Sass.

MAZEL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS: Dennis & Judy Schwartz; Leona Bergman; Ora Markstein.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Freda Rosenfeld; Murray Adelman; Hannah Majoes; Dorothy Sherman; Rabbi Morton & Sylvia Green; Ruth & Labol Levy.

THANK YOU: Glenna McKay; Thelma Applebaum; Jordan Abraham "Touch Of Klez".

GET WELL: Sylvia Katz.

A complete list of card senders can now be found on our web site at www.shalomvillage.on.ca. Thank you for your support.

The Supper Club

Since its inception The Ruth Sherman Centre at Shalom Village has created possibilities through education and research. One of its first projects was finding ways to ensure that our residents, who respond to their world with sometimes defensive behaviours due to their dementing disease, do not inadvertently hurt our staff. What we created was our Gentle Persuasive Approaches Program. This is now a nationwide program used by hospitals and long term care homes across the country.

Under the innovative leadership of our Ruth Sherman Centre Executive Coach, Jeanette O'Leary, another wonderful program is beginning – and we need your help.

Many of those who call Shalom Village home wander. Sometimes their travels take them into the private spaces of others. Harmless, understandable – yet sometimes tiring for those whose space or person is disturbed. Tolerable – funny at times – but at the end of the day as we sit down to eat and prepare for bed its nice to do so in our own space.

This wandering is a natural part of dementing diseases. It is not something we would want to stop through physical or chemical restraint. Wandering is a way of these residents remaining a vital part of our community, exploring and making sense of an increasingly complex world, and retaining some sense of well being and comfort.

To welcome and support their need to wander while also recognizing others needs to have time for peaceful reflection we have created our 'Supper Club'. Supper Club members, with the caring attention of our Supper Club staff and willing volunteers (the help we need) will dine, wander, dance, read – walk outside, smell the roses in a separate Supper Club space – while their fellow residents do the same in their home space.

We are hoping that the Supper Club will teach us more about the special needs of our residents who wander and putz around – and how we can better help them feel A.T.H.O.M.E at Shalom Village. We also hope that it creates some space for other residents to relax and retain a loving and understanding perspective on those who wander.

Could you give us four hours a week, one early evening 5-9 p.m. to help the team members make this possibility possible? If so please give myself or Cathy McDowell a call 905-529-1613.

Supper Club – imagine the possibilities – on your behalf and for all of us – we are doing this every day - here at Shalom Village.

Together we make possibilities... possible!

Hamilton Hebrew Academy



Mrs. Overend with HHA students

LEONA OVEREND

It all started roughly twenty-three years ago. I would "set up school" wherever I went. I carried out regular teacher duties, including marking tests, completing report cards, giving out detentions, etc. It never fazed my students that I was five years old, and it never fazed me that they were invisible. Fast-forward to today, and here I am, living out my childhood fantasy at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. When I was hired on to teach grade 3 general studies in the afternoon, my intention was to only stay for the year and then apply to a nearby school board to work full-time. However, it didn't take long for me to realize that this was a school and community I wanted to get to know better. Besides, it was too late; I was hooked on the cheerful students, the helpful staff and the rich customs. Of course, the academy's emphasis on respect, tolerance and cooperation also made it easy to stay.

Unsurprisingly, the Judaic traditions and customs run deeply through the school. From Hanukkah excitement to Maccabiah fun to Purim festivities, it seems that almost every week the academy has reason to celebrate; and why not? Celebration brings on fun, and tossing fun into education brings on a love of learning. This, in my opinion, should be the main emphasis of schooling: to enthusiastically celebrate knowledge and inquisition.

In an insecure world where criticism and ostracism run prevalently, the community at Dow Street stands proudly, sings proudly, and is not afraid of who they are. It gives me tremendous pleasure to be part of not only such a rewarding profession, but to be part of such a strong community. And of course, as principal, Mrs. Shafir always encouragingly states after our morning anthems, "It's a beautiful day at the HHA".

Kehila Jewish Community Day School

JEFF TESSIER

The students at Kehila Jewish Community Day School are engaged in exciting work in the school's visual arts programme. Students recently worked on projects in which they constructed dioramas of the coral reef in the Red Sea. Students were asked to draw or colour representations of the fish and plant life they saw in photographs of the reef and to incorporate these works into three-dimensional models of the reef. The project was a fruitful coordination of visual arts learning and scientific inquiry, as the dioramas were constructed using what the students learned in their study of Israel's marine life, the ecological foundations of the region, and the biological diversity of Israel's geography. To make the dioramas accurately representative of the reef, students had to combine what they had learned in their scientific study of marine life, water, and color with the skills they had developed in the artistic use of composition, perspective, and dimensionality.

Kehila students have also been learning about some of the great visual artists. As part of the Global Education



"Under the Red Sea" dioramas

curriculum coordinated with the Berlin School of Excellence, students have studied the style and techniques of such artists as Frida Kahlo, Renoir, Seurat, and Degas. Part of the learning has involved hands-on mimetic work, creating drawings and paintings in the style of the artists being studied. Several great Canadian artists are also part of the visual arts curriculum. The students have been studying and copying the work of Canadian artists Emily Carr, Norval Morrisseau and Lawrence Harris, producing paintings of icebergs, Inuit villages, and diverse Canadian landscape scenes. One exciting element of the Canadian-focused visual arts

study is the study of the totem poles of the Cosalish people of the West Coast. Students will research the methods and meanings of totem carving and then produce their own totem poles by carving soap. They will also receive a visit at the school from a native elder and carver who will speak to the students about sculpture, totems, and the stories associated with these art forms. One goal of the whole visual arts programme at Kehila is to allow the students to range through different cultures and time periods through the study of art and use what they learn to understand the ways in which their own Jewish culture fits into global cultural diversity.

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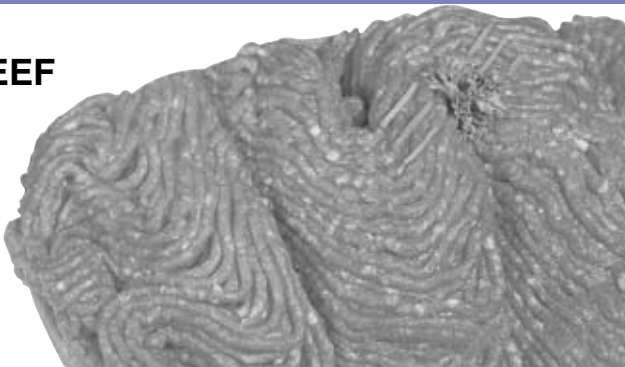
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