

Hamilton Jewish News

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AGREEMENT #40007180

UJA Campaign responds to tough times

Campaign team remains optimistic despite economic crisis

Following in the footsteps of its best ever campaign, UJA 2009 got off to a quick start.

Now, midway through the campaign season, the impact of the current global economic uncertainty has begun to show its affects.

Given the circumstances, the campaign isn't doing badly. On a card for card basis, the campaign is showing a modest increase. A serious challenge is that a number of major donors have yet to make their commitments – partly in response the uncertainty of the markets.

According to UJA Federation Executive Director Gerald Fisher, "We have every reason to be hopeful about the final campaign result. Of course, I would prefer a campaign process where donors are quick to step up to the plate. However, I have come to realize that the Hamilton Jewish community is not only resilient, but this community has a gritty determination to see itself through tough challenges. I am sure we will come through this one as well."

Fisher reminds the readership that the economic uncertainty isn't only about shrinking portfolios. "Our first obligation is to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our community.

In times like this, those needs expand. Job losses, mortgage defaults and loss of savings affects the Jewish community like it affects everybody else. We are not immune and we are not different. This is when people in our community need UJA the most and we must not let them or ourselves down."

Women's Campaign Director, Christine Nusca, sees reasons for optimism.

"Despite the current economic climate, the Women's Campaign has several new Lions of Judah this year. The Women's campaign results continue to rise and we are reaping the benefits of the involvement of young leaders such as Lisa Morris, Cindy Kam, Danna Horwood, Andrea Molot, and Jocelyn Katz. These young women have been working hard to set a new standard of achievement for UJA and the community. Their success speaks for itself."

As we head into the last few weeks of 2008 and you have not yet been canvassed by a volunteer canvasser please call the UJA Federation office to make your pledge. Pledges and payments received by December 31 will receive a 2008 tax receipt. Please make your call today to 905-648-0605, ext 306.

Join us on a UJA Mission to Israel

Co-Chairs David & Danna Horwood and Lisa Morris are excited to be co-chairing a Mission to Israel which will take place late in 2009. UJA Missions are travel experiences unlike any other. What makes each Mission truly unique is its 'sense of purpose,' guaranteeing travelers a heightened appreciation and connection to their Jewish identity.



While in Israel you will have the opportunity to visit sites where UJA Federation funds continue to support vital social services, such as our Coast-to-Coast initiative, The Shechafim Regional Rehabilitation School, trauma centers and immigrant absorption centers. You will meet people who have been personally touched by the education, health care and economic support the UJA Federation makes possible.

If you are interested in participating in this incredible opportunity call Christine Nusca at the Federation office at 905-648-0605, ext 306.

Ken Stein meets with Hamilton YAD



Hamilton's newly formed YAD leadership group met last Fall with UJA Campaign opening keynote speaker, Professor Ken Stein. Pictured above are (l to r, back row) Herbert Brill, Tom Furst, Nicole Crone, Jeff Shinehoft, Lisa Morris, Mario Stolar, Yves Apel, David Horwood, David Corsini. (Front row l to r) David Shore, Annie Shinehoft, Ken Stein, Laura Laengerer and Joel Feldman.

Poverty in the Jewish community

Leadership forum addresses issues of assisting the vulnerable

Assisting the Vulnerable" remains the top priority issue for the Hamilton Jewish Leadership Forum. The topic has been the focus of serious community thinking at the past two Leadership Forum sessions. The decision to pursue issues related to the vulnerable in our community was taken at the initial forum gathering in February 2008. Both the spring and fall sessions of the forum have been devoted to better understanding the scope of the issue and the myriad complexities in addressing it.

According to Canadian census data, Hamilton, at 17%, has the highest level of Jewish poverty in Canada. Since 1981 that number has steadily grown. The statistical indicators suggest that this number will continue to grow as the community ages. The rate of child poverty in the Hamilton Jewish community is a staggering and seemingly inexplicable 22.1%.

Vivienne Epstein is UJA Federation's VP for Human Resources Development and serves as Chair of the Leadership Forum.

"UJA Federation established this forum to provide a mechanism for our community leadership to explore major issues affecting the quality of Jewish life in Hamilton. When the forum was presented with the current statistics describing poverty within the Hamilton Jewish community, they felt compelled to address it as a top priority."

The Leadership Forum has

been assisted in addressing this matter by Dr. Allan Reitzes, former CEO of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Liz Weaver, Director of the Hamilton Roundtable on Poverty Reduction. Reitzes' expertise is in Jewish communal planning modalities. Weaver is the most knowledgeable person in Hamilton on issues related to poverty and access to services. Together, they helped the Forum participants to develop a more realistic understanding of the issue and to consider more effective methods to address it.

One of the major issues the community will need to overcome is the basic reality that the people described in these statistics are very difficult to identify. The client base at Jewish Social Services certainly captures a portion of this demographic, but does not capture all of it. However, JSS service statistics certainly reflect both the growing numbers and the growing needs.

Identifying children at risk becomes an even more complicated challenge. One measurement of the growth in the number of children at risk is the growing numbers of families

that request support for their children to attend the community summer day camp. Those numbers spiked in 2008. When brought to their attention, the UJA Federation Allocations Committee quickly provided an additional \$1,500 in emergency campership support.

Even more mystifying was the growing numbers of campers arriving "without their lunch." UJA Federation made an additional \$500 available to ensure that the kitchen was fully stocked and that every child had lunch every day, regardless of why they arrived without one.

According to UJA Federation Executive Director Gerald Fisher, "The Leadership Forum will continue to meet and generate ideas about how to most effectively address this difficult issue. In part, it may mean providing more financial resources to the community's direct service agencies. However, the community may also consider playing a more direct role in those networks that address the root causes of these problems."

To that end, the Jewish community is now exploring

Please see POVERTY page 2

Israel education inadequate

Ken Stein argues for Israel 'teach-ins' on campus

UJA 2009 keynote speaker Dr. Ken Stein delivered a blunt, yet clear message to the Hamilton Jewish community regarding the situation at McMaster University. Stein addressed major donors, McMaster students and faculty and the Jewish community during a two-day whirlwind tour on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal 2009 campaign.

Dr. Stein gained notoriety last year when he resigned as Director of Emory's Carter Center in response to the publication of the former President's book suggesting that Israel practiced a form of Apartheid against Arab populations.

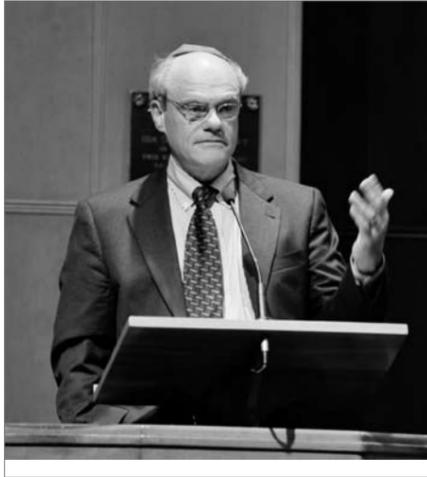
In an address to the general community Stein discussed "The Middle East Challenges Facing the Next American President." Stein also met with UJA major donors, where he discussed the Jimmy Carter controversy. His most important stop in Hamilton, however, may have been his meeting with McMaster students and faculty.

According to Stein, students, faculty and the Jewish community need to go on the offensive to bring a halt to the growing climate of antagonism towards Israel and Jewish students on the McMaster campus. He was particularly incensed at the inadequate response to the libel of "Israel Apartheid," not only at McMaster but at universities across North America.

Stein suggested several short-term tactics such as holding "60's" style "teach-ins" for students and faculty that would focus on Israeli policy in the territories since 1967, economic relations between Israel and the Territories up to the first intifadah, between the first and second intifadahs and on the corruption of Yassir Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

He suggested that students organize campus programs about the definition and practical meaning of Zionism. He further suggested that programs be organized that feature Black Academics from South Africa who can speak directly to what apartheid really is and why it is an insult to those who suffered from apartheid to see the term wrongly applied to Israel.

Stein also suggested several long-term



UJA Campaign 2009 keynote speaker, Ken Stein

approaches, such as a visiting faculty position being created for the teaching of Canadian Jewish history, 20th century European Jewish history, a history of Zionism and Israel, Sephardic Jewish History, Israeli Sociology, Israeli Politics and Political Institutions, Civil Liberties and National Security, using Israel as one example along with the USA, Canada, Britain and India.

Stein also suggested that the Jewish community develop resources to provide for a visiting professor in Israeli history. He was very specific regarding the course topics and emphasized the importance of teaching Israeli history as opposed to Israeli literature, or Israeli film. Stein offered to assist in the development of course material and to use his contacts in Israeli academic circles to bring the best people to McMaster.

Dr. Stein's visit to Hamilton was facilitated by YAD chair, Mario Stolar, who met Dr. Stein last November at the UJA National Young Leadership Conference in Montreal.

According to Stolar, "Dr. Stein was one of the most highly motivating presenters I heard in a long time. Judging from the response to Stein's speaking engagements in Hamilton, the community was in full agreement.

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the possibility of formally participating in the Hamilton Roundtable on Poverty Reduction. UJA Federation President Dr. David Somer commented that "our community is very small – only .7% of the population of Hamilton. On our own, we are not likely to significantly impact on this difficult issue. However, we have expertise to share and we can always learn more from others who have greater expertise than us. The "roundtable" may provide our community with an important link to services and resources."

Founded in February by UJA Federation of Hamilton, the Leadership Forum brings together the lay and professional leadership of all Hamilton's Jewish organizations, both UJA beneficiaries and others. The Forum provides a mechanism for key leaders to explore the major issues facing our community and provides Federation leadership with the benefit of bringing broad community thinking into the decision making process.

Other agenda items to be addressed in the near future include "Strengthening Jewish Identity and Jewish Education," "More Effectively Supporting Israel" and "Senior Volunteer and Organizational Development."

Funds for Shechafim

Christian 'Friends' raise thousands for Israeli school

What started out as a very modest suggestion for a program reflecting local Christian support for Israel ultimately evolved into a major interfaith event raising close to \$10,000 for the Shechafim Regional Rehabilitation School in the Upper Galilee.

The event took place just before the Yom Tovim at the Christian Crossroads facilities in Burlington. Although there was a respectable turnout from the leadership of Hamilton's Jewish community, the event was a project of the Christian community and the standing room only crowd of 300 was overwhelmingly Christian.

UJA Federation president, David Somer and Israeli Consul General Amir Gissin brought greetings from the community and from the State of Israel. Much of the program content was provided by members of the Jewish community, including cantorial soloist Laura Wolfson, who, accompanied on piano by Stuart Zaltz, provided a touching medley of biblical verses set to music, along with several well known popular Israeli songs, and Hamilton's own "A Touch of Klez" that kept the crowd moving all night long.

Keynote speaker, media personality Michael Coren, spoke passionately about Israel and why Christians in particular had something important to celebrate as Israel turned 60 years old.

In a bit of a surprise, UJA Federation Executive Director Gerald Fisher was asked to provide the "love offering remarks." When approached early in the planning, Fisher declined saying that this was an event of the Christian community and that his public involvement would be inappropriate. Nevertheless, when the individual who was to provide this aspect of the program called ten minutes before the program to say she couldn't attend, Fisher was tapped for the job.

Fisher summarized the personal meaning of his Hamilton encounters with "Christian Friends" and how they helped him to better appreciate both the need and the value of each community



UJA Federation Executive Director, Gerald Fisher

taking prudent steps toward greater mutual understanding.

As one of the first Hamiltonians to visit Shechafim School, Fisher also spoke about the impact that the school made on him and why it was so vital for the school to receive support. The result was an outpouring of good will toward the Jewish community and a surprising generosity toward the school.

Phyllis Eason, who was the driving and spiritual force behind this initiative, made it clear that she would not rest from her work on behalf of Israel until there was "peace in Jerusalem." Bob and Sandy Maton, who approached Beth Jacob Rabbi Dan Selsberg and Federation's Fisher with the original plans, were thrilled with the results. "We are just so pleased that the evening was such a success in every way. Most of all, we are very grateful that this event and the process of working together to make it happen has created the opportunity for further collaboration."

According to Fisher "The initiative for this event did not come from the Jewish community. It is entirely an expression of love for Israel, coming from Christian friends who really want to be supportive in meaningful ways. I am very grateful to them for their understanding and willingness to be helpful."

The Shechafim Regional Rehabilitation School serves the needs of Israeli children with multiple disabilities. The school was adopted last year by the Hamilton Jewish Community as a part of its involvement in the "Coast to Coast" initiative organized by United Israel Appeal of Canada.

Community hosts anti-racism meeting

The Board of Governors of the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (HCCI) recently conducted its all-day strategic planning session at the Hamilton Jewish Community Centre. The direct successor to the Strengthening Hamilton Community Initiative, HCCI is a community-based civic resource centre, committed to working as a catalyst for anti-racist change across Hamilton. HCCI assists Hamilton, its major institutions, businesses, service providers and residents to develop transformative processes that promote equity and create racism free and inclusive environments in all areas of civic life.

Hamilton's Jewish community is represented at the HCCI Board of Governors by Madeleine Levy and Gerald Fisher. Fisher further serves as Treasurer of the organization and is a member of the HCCI Executive Committee.

The day long session focused on matters pertaining to transforming the HCCI initiative from a three-year project to an organization that can secure its long term future. In so doing, it faces many familiar challenges; doing more to ensure that the community knows what HCCI does, securing long term funding, cultivating community "champions," etc.

By the end of the day, much had been accomplished, with strategic directions for the next year well laid out. Many of the participants went out of their way to express their gratitude to the JCC for hosting the event. Everyone commented on the beautiful JCC grounds and facilities and expressed their support for the JCC redevelopment plan.

As a further note, members of the HCCI Executive Committee recently met with the President and Diversity Chair of the McMaster Student Union. The meeting, which focused on the perceived growing climate of hostility towards Jewish and pro-Israel students at McMaster, took place at the request of the Jewish community. True to its mandate, HCCI brought its message of inclusivity, and the need for environments that are free of racism and intimidation to the McMaster student leadership.

HCCI stressed the priority it ascribes to this matter and also offered its considerable resources to MSU in developing new mechanisms to achieve these objectives. Fisher, attending this session, was pleased with HCCI for taking up this initiative without hesitation and with the McMaster MSU for the seriousness with which it has responded.



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If you are interested in being part of the GroHamilton Team along with Chair, Norma Jack, please contact Kristine Stolar at UJA Federation of Hamilton

kstolar@jewishhamilton.org
or call 905-648-0608 ext. 304

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GIL TROY AT MAC

PICTURED ABOVE: Professor Gil Troy, VP Israel On Campus Lianne Sharvit, JSA President Anna Kos, Israel On Campus President Rebecca Cherniak, JSA VP Israel Affairs Ron Levitin, and JSA Director Judy Schwartz at a recent presentation made by Dr. Troy at McMaster on Zionism.



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UJA FEDERATION 4 WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

Women set the standard for giving

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MID WINTER ISSUE	
• Deadline for booking ad space	Jan 8, 2009
• Deadline for receiving editorial copy	Jan 21, 2009
• Deadline for receiving ad copy	Jan 31, 2009
• Estimated Date of Arrival	Feb 15, 2009

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We celebrate Women's philanthropy...

'GOLDA' COMES TO HAMILTON



Some of Hamilton's Lions of Judah posing for a photograph with 'Golda'. From left to right, Shirley Molot, Rhoda Katz, Lisa Morris, Danna Horwood, Cindy Kam, Anna Taylor, Batia Phillips, Liz Tick and Michele Finkelstein.

Approximately 25 women gathered at the home Cindy Kam for the 2009 UJA Women's Top Gifts and Lion of Judah Campaign opening to share a delicious meal and camaraderie, followed by an opportunity to see history come alive. Golda Meir was the special guest – in spirit, character and charisma. Professional actress Joan Wolfberg, portrayed a convincing Golda, who recounted a journey that led her from Milwaukee, via Denver, to pre-State Palestine, where she was destined to become Israel's first female Prime Minister.

Golda's legacy of determination, pride, and commitment to Jewish tradition and the Jewish future is mirrored by the women of our own community. For the past number of years, the UJA Campaign's Women's Division has been raising the bar for philanthropy by becoming the fastest growing component of the UJA annual campaign. Women's Division gifts now represent more than 25% of the total, with the percentage rising every year.

When we give in our own name, we become role models to the entire community in how each one of us can make a difference.

We invite all of the women in our community to support the UJA Federation Campaign as individuals. Respond generously when one of our canvassers contact you about your 2009 pledge. For further information about the UJA 2009 campaign visit our website www.jewishhamilton.org or contact Christine Nusca at the UJA Federation office at 905-648-0605.

UJA "GIRLFRIENDS" DIVISION

The "Girlfriends" Division aims to instill in young women a strong commitment to Jewish life through education and fundraising. Today's young women can have a major impact on the future of their community through their involvement with UJA Federation and other community organizations.

Division co-chairs, Andrea Molot and Danna Horwood conveyed this message at the 3rd annual "Girlfriends" event held this past November.

Over 30 young women attended the PJ Karaoke Party, held at the home of Girlfriends Co-Chair, Danna Horwood. A fun evening was had by all and more importantly, the understanding how their UJA gift makes a difference in the lives of those in our own community.



Above, from l to r, Andrea Molot, Danna Horwood, Lisa Morris and Sari Horwood.



Pictured above, from l to r, Racheli Kirat, Laura Laengerer, Ilana Fein and Nicole Furst.



LOJE: LION OF JUDAH ENDOWMENT

UJA Federation congratulates Sasha Weisz who was recently awarded the Kipnis-Wilson/Friendland Award. This award was established in 2004 to honour women who have set the highest standard for philanthropy and volunteerism in their communities. Sasha, a passionate advocate of community cohesiveness and Israel, embodies the spirit and vision of Lion of Judah through a commitment to tzedakah and tikkun olam. Sasha is also our community's first Lion of Judah Endowment Chair.



Sasha Weisz

...and the next generation



LIONS OF JUDAH



Shirley Molot and Cindy Kam with new Lion of Judah, Michele Finkelstein

The Lion of Judah recognition program was introduced by the Miami Jewish Federation in 1972 and endorsed nationally in 1980 to honour philanthropic women. Lions of Judah act on the strong belief that tzedakah is an individual responsibility by making a significant and continuing personal gift to the annual campaign. This year marks the 36th Anniversary of the Lion of Judah.

In Hamilton, this year alone we have four new Lions of Judah – bringing Hamilton's total to 25 Lions of Judah. Shirley Molot and Cindy Kam, co-chairs of the Lion of Judah Division welcome to the "pride" the following women: Lisa Morris, Janet Weisz Asa, Barbara Paikin and Michele Finkelstein. Each woman will be presented with a Lion of Judah pin, a symbol of her extraordinary commitment.



Lisa Morris



Janet Weisz Asa



Barbara Paikin

YAD AT THE TAPHOUSE



Michael Glogauer, Rikki and Peter Gross and Michael Dembe enjoy the cameraderie at the official YAD launch.

The idea of creating an active YAD in our community became a reality this fall. A group of community leaders met for a meet and greet with Dr. Ken Stein prior to his keynote address at the UJA Federation's official campaign opening on September 15. Dr. Stein, a former Middle East advisor to U.S. President Jimmy Carter, shared some of his experiences with the group and instilled the importance of YAD's role in the community.

This meet and greet was followed by YAD's official launch at The London Tap House on November 10, 2008. Special guest Michael Soberman spoke and entertained the attendees, who at last count totaled more than fifty. The evening was an example of how the 25-45 age group in our community can get together, socialize and have a good time. We look forward to growing YAD and making it a fun and exciting presence in our community.

For upcoming events or to help plan and organize a YAD function, please contact Elaine Levine at elvine@jewishhamilton.org or 905-627-9922 Ext. 24.

UJA Dollars at Work

▶ MCMMASTER JEWISH STUDENTS

McMaster Jewish Students are reaping the benefits of your UJA dollars, which fund Israel advocacy and cultural programming, staff support and Israel advocacy training to prepare them for the challenges of campus life.

WENDY SCHNEIDER

It seems to be a fact of life that it often takes a crisis to bring people together. This was certainly true when, in response to a marked increase in virulent anti-Israel activity on campus, the Hamilton Jewish community came out in unprecedented numbers last year to demonstrate their support for McMaster Jewish students. Today, ties between the two Jewish student groups, the Jewish Student Association (JSA) and Israel On Campus (IOC), and the community have never been stronger.

Historically, the McMaster JSA has received funding from two sources: local UJA dollars, which fund the position of JSA director, now occupied by Judy Schwartz, and the National Committee for Jewish Campus Life (NCJL), also funded by local UJA dollars, whose mandate is to enhance the quality of Jewish life on campus through a variety of educational and advocacy programs.

Now, however, Jewish students at McMaster are receiving



PICTURED ABOVE: Jewish Student Association president, Anna Kos and Israel On Campus president, Rebecca Cherniak.

additional support, from two new bodies – UJA Federation's Campus Oversight Committee, headed by Hanna Schayer, and the Jewish Faculty Club, whose members include: Lawrence Hart, Joel Goldberg, Fred Hoppe and Irwin Feuerstein. Representatives from both groups meet with the students on a regular basis to provide moral support from the local community and to help with planning programs. In addition, the Federation board voted last year to hold all of their community Israel Advocacy programs

at McMaster. The results have been dramatic: attendance at a campus program, held last October that featured Israel advocate Neil Lazarus, attracted 75 people, half of whom were community members.

The chemistry between JSA president, Anna Kos and IOC president, Rebecca Cherniak was readily apparent at a meeting with the Hamilton Jewish News in a local coffee shop last month, where they explained the difference between their two groups. The JSA sees itself as a cultural group, said Kos, and is involved primarily with social and educational programming as well as partnership and dialogue with other cultural groups. The JSA also engages in fundraising for local causes, including Shalom Village, Out of the Cold as well as for the Jewish community's adopted Israeli project: the Shechafim School in Northern Israel. Kos said that this year, the atmosphere on campus has been calm and she is encouraged by the positive tone of talks she has conducted with the President of McMaster Muslims for Peace and Justice, Karim Mirza, with whom she is co-writing an article for the campus newspaper.

Israel on Campus has more of a political mandate, explained Cherniak, who pointed out that her executive, which includes both left and right leaning Jewish students as well as two non-Jewish members, is a microcosm of what she'd like to see on campus. "We need to unify the pro-Israel people regardless of their political leanings," she said, "who care enough to come together to figure out how to promote Israel in a positive light."

Both young women spoke enthusiastically about a joint initiative currently in the planning stages by representatives from Jewish Student Associations (i.e. Hillel groups) and Israel On Campus groups from across the country: a two-week celebration of Tel Aviv's 100th anniversary during the last two weeks of February on Canadian campuses. One of the initiative's most promising aspects, in addition to its presenting a face of Israeli society that is woefully underrepresented on campus, is its intent to partner with other pro-Israel cultural groups including Iranian, Assyrian, and Gay and Lesbian groups (Many gays see Tel Aviv as the Mecca of the Middle East).

Last spring, many were predicting that anti-Israel activity on North American campuses was only going to get worse. The jury is still out on whether those predictions will come to pass, but one thing is certain – McMaster's Jewish students have never been better prepared.

JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES



Join Hamilton Jewish Social Services' Theatre Club, see all the popular plays, meet friends and have a great day.

Looking for Work?

Are you looking for work? Are you underemployed? If you are you are not alone. Here at the Hamilton Jewish Social Services we would like to help you with these employment problems. As of November we will have an employment counselor from Toronto Jewish Vocational services at our office 30 King St E Dundas, Ontario to meet with you to explore employment possibilities. For more information and to book an appointment you can contact Jolanta Nozka at Jewish Vocational Services 1-416-661-3010 ex365 or at jnozka@jvstoronto.org

Bike Drive for Needy Children

Do you have a spare bicycle that is either too big, too small or not in great shape? If so; you will be glad to know that Kehila JCDS & Temple Anshe Sholom would like you to donate them & they will have them repaired & dispersed among needy children. During the month of NOVEMBER at 3:00 p.m. on Thursdays: bikes can be dropped off at Ryerson Middle School located at 222 Robinson Street at Queen Street. Mr. Steve Begley & his students will repair the bikes and then they will be distributed through the Hamilton Boys and Girls Club and the Hamilton Jewish Social Services. For more information please contact Leia Ger-Rogers at Kehila JCDS 905-529-7725.

Do your children need a bicycle? Please call Carol Krames at 905-627-9922 ex 21 or E mail carolkramesjss@hotmail.com. we have an opportunity to have many bicycles donated for children. These bikes are all repaired and in excellent condition.

Games Day

Don't sit home alone on these cold winter days; come out and meet your friends and make new friends! Please join us for a fun afternoon of all our favorite games... Bridge, Dominoes, Rummy Q, Trivial Pursuit, Cribbage, Mahjong or Bingo for Money on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:30 pm at Hamilton Jewish Social Services 30 King St E Dundas. If transportation is a problem, give us a call and we can arrange a car pool or a taxi. Refreshments are provided. Please contact: Lillian at 905-627-9922 ex 25 or Carol ex 21. There is no charge for this program!

Wanted

The Hamilton Jewish Social Services is looking for a Mah Jong set. If anyone would like to donate one please call Lillian Hinkley at 905-627-9922 ex 25.

Mac students join protest in NYC



Steven Gwartz, Lianne Sharvit, Rebecca Cherniak and Daniel Joseph at the protest against Ahmadinejad in New York City

REBECCA CHERNIAK

Last September 22, thousands of people gathered at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza in New York City to protest genocidal statements of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his visit to the United Nations. With the help of the National Jewish Campus Life, Canadian Jewish Federation of Students and Students Helping Others Understand Tolerance (SHOUT), 150 Canadian students from eight different universities boarded buses to join in the historical protest.

Students drove all through Saturday night and arrived in New York City on Sunday morning. Sunday morning was packed with informative sessions to teach students proper messaging, as well as what to expect during the rally. Students heard an update on the political situation from Micah Halpern, a political analyst in the area of Middle East and Muslim fundamentalism and an expert on terror. Following the speaker, students were given time and materials to make posters for the rally.

On Monday morning, the day of the protest, students were hosted by the American Jewish Committee and its Executive Director, David Harris spoke to the point that Ahmadinejad is not just another "Israel problem", but a threat to the basic tenets of humanity. Students were joined by AJC staff and 200 Toronto high school students on a walk to the rally, which brought out 10,000 people.

McMaster University's Israel On Campus and Jewish Student Association sent a delegation of nine students. We were inspired by speeches by Irwin Cotler, Natan Sharansky, Knesset Speaker Dalia Itzik, Elie Wiesel and others. We were grateful to the organizing groups for the opportunity to have our voices heard and to be counted among those who will not stand for human rights violations, funding and support of terrorist groups, or incitement to genocide.



A COMMUNITY IS NOT TRULY GREAT UNTIL IT IS GREAT FOR EVERYONE

- Last year 1 in 3 people used a United Way funded program or service
- United Way is a Funder – not simply a Charity
- Other than the Federal & Provincial Governments, United Way is the largest funder of health and social service related programs in Hamilton and Burlington.

United Way is people helping people

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Thanking our Troops



For Holocaust survivors who were liberated by Canadian Troops November 11 takes on special significance. "We remember how for the first time in many years we were to walk safely on the street and we saw the Canadians marching triumphantly in a sight never to be forgotten," said Emmy Weisz, pictured above at a Remembrance Day commemoration. This year, in response to a suggestion by Weisz and Betty Laron, the Holocaust Education Committee, arranged for a beautiful wreath to be prepared with the following inscription: "Dedicated by Holocaust Survivors who were liberated by the Canadian Troops." "We hope to continue this in coming years," said Weisz, "and when we are too frail, we hope that the younger members of the Jewish community will do this for us. Without the valiant fight of the Allied troops there would not be any Holocaust survivors."

Holocaust Education Week reaches over 700!



Madeleine Levy, Lore Jacobs and Gilda Ennis at a Holocaust Education event

The Hamilton Jewish Federation Holocaust Education Committee presented its 3rd annual Holocaust Education Week on November 3rd – 9th with three moving and educational programs that reached more than 700 people from a broad spectrum of diverse and religious backgrounds.

The Holocaust Education Committee's aim is to teach tolerance and understanding as well as to perpetuate the memory of the Holocaust for future generations, and to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust will never be forgotten. Committee chair Gilda Ennis remarked "the events of Holocaust Education Week could not have been possible without the enduring commitment of the volunteers, some of whom have served on the committee for years".

Our keynote speakers Nadia Rosa and Lore Jacobs, both survivors, deeply touched many in the audience with their personal testimonies. Holocaust Education Week heightens awareness of the Holocaust and of its devastating impact on the world, including the rare opportunity to hear from those who experienced its horrors first-hand. We are grateful to our survivors, for their crucial role in ensuring that our children and future generations learn the lessons of the past.

In addition to the speakers, three poignant and thought-provoking films were incorporated into each program to convey our message. The following films were viewed: My Mother's Courage, The Führer Gives a City to the Jews and Zahor. Rabbi Emeritus, Bernard Baskin opened the week of programming with an important message that education and humanity are needed to combat the various forms of prejudice and hate that persist in our world today. Remembrance and study of the Holocaust are powerful and unifying forces for positive change. At the concluding program on November 9th, Grade 8 students from the Hamilton Hebrew Academy presented a compelling oration and introduction to Kristallnacht and March of the Living participants, Jacob Kriszenfeld and Jonathon Asa shared their inspiring personal reflections of their journey to

Poland and Israel.

Holocaust education week chair Madeleine Levy remarked, "I am certain that everyone involved came away with a sense of hope for the future, and renewed commitment to the fight against anti-Semitism, racism, and intolerance in all its forms. One of the universal lessons of the Holocaust is that action must be taken – for as Kierkegaard put it, "life must be lived forwards, but it can only be understood backwards".

We would like to thank the following for hosting our programs; Westdale Theatre, Pastor Loretta Jaunzarins - Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and Rabbi Daniel Green - Adas Israel Congregation. Special thanks to our community partners The Hamilton Spectator and The Art Gallery of Hamilton.

In addition to Holocaust Education Week, this committee



Lore Gotthelf (Jacobs) alighting from a street car in Frankfurt in 1934

is responsible for the Student and Teacher Seminars on Holocaust Education, The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program, March of the Living, Survivor visits to middle and high schools and Bar/Bat Mitzvah twinning project.

Holocaust Education Committee members – Anne Barrs, Gilda Ennis (Chair), Suzanne Goldflus, Lore Jacobs, Bev Lasky, Madeleine Levy, Archie Lieberman, Dennis Nash, Nadia Rosa, Ira Rosen, Doris Schulman, Judy Schwartz, Shelly Sender, William Steen, Lila Strub, Sharon Woolfson, New members: Anita Bernstein and Leia Ger-Rogers.

If you are interested in volunteering on the Holocaust Education Committee, contact elevine@jewishhamilton.org



live generously

Your UJA pledge is your bond between yourself and the Jewish community – in Hamilton, in Canada and around the world.

When you made your UJA pledge you made a commitment to assist the vulnerable, to strengthen Jewish identity and education, to increase our support for Israel and to continue to develop this community in so many important ways.

We honored your pledge and made financial commitments to support Hamilton's five Jewish schools, Jewish Social Services, our community center, McMaster Jewish students, Canadian Jewish Congress, Canada Israel Committee, United Israel Appeal, Jewish Immigrant Aid, the Jewish Agency for Israel and a host of other vital services that keep Jewish life alive.

Together, we can make wonderful things happen... so please, honour your pledge.

All payments received by December 31st will be tax receipted for 2008. Won't you take care of this right now?



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UJA Campaign '09

UP *and coming*

International Holocaust Remembrance Day February 28, 2009

The Bach Elgar Choir and the Hamilton Children's Choir will mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day with the performance of Oratorio Terezín in Hamilton Place on Saturday, February 28, 2009.

Composed by Ruth Fazal, Oratorio Terezín is a full length work scored for orchestra, children's choir, adult choir, and three vocal soloists. Set in the context of the Holocaust, using children's poetry which miraculously survived from the ghetto of Terezín, woven together with passages from the Hebrew scriptures, this piece explores the question so many ask in the face of human suffering: Can God be found in my place of pain?

The Bach Elgar Choir will present as their guests the Hamilton Children's Choir, who will present the children's poetry in this moving and touching performance. Since several survivors of Terezín live in Hamilton, the Bach Elgar Choir will provide a unique opportunity for our audience to hear from them and understand their experiences.

Tickets for the performance can be ordered from the Hamilton Place Box Office or by calling the Bach Elgar Choir at 905 527-5995. Check the Bach Elgar website for more details: www.bachelgar.com

From Sinai to the Shtetl and Beyond: Where is Home for The Jewish Writer? Friday, June 5, 2009

Plans continue for the Second Occasional Celebration of Jewish Writers and Writing to be held **Friday, June 5 to Saturday, June 7, 2009** at Temple Anshe

Sholom. We hope to include a literary shabbat service and oneg, a panel discussion, and performances. In conjunction with this festival, we've issued a call for submissions of poetry, short fiction, and memoir on topics related to our theme. We will compile the best of these into an anthology which will be available to all attendees. We hope to have a reading from the anthology on Saturday evening, June 6. Writers are invited to consider these topics:

- Do you have a portable shtetl, or did you leave it in Bubbie's kitchen?

- How do themes in your writing link you to the Jewish community from Sinai to the shtetl?

- Are you linked to the Yiddish writers of our past or the Jewish writers of today?

- What is your *mameloshen*? How does it speak in your writing?

- Who are you channelling?

We've already received several submissions and invite community members to consider submitting.

Deadline: January 8 2009. Please contact us if you are interested in submitting, but cannot make the deadline. **Notice of Inclusion:** Friday, February 27, 2009.

Guidelines: Individual poems should be no longer than a page - maybe two; no more than three poems. Prose should be 1000ish words, one piece only, please. Writers included in the anthology will receive two complementary copies.

Submission Procedure: Email submissions in one of the following formats WORD - must be preVista, WordPerfect, rtf, pdf, or in body of an email. Copy to both Ellen Jaffe at ejaffe@sympatico.ca and Lil Blume, lilblume@rogers.com.

The excerpt below is from "Mary," by Ellen S. Jaffe, previously published in Parchment 13. The poem is about her great-grandmother, Mary Becker Axelrod (1872-1963) who came to New York from Russia at age 14 and who embodies Ellen's "portable shtetl" -- including the kitchen!

I do not know the name of the ship you sailed in,
the one that held you in her belly
as you travelled alone on this journey
to a new world, new birth,
across oceans the colour of pogroms,
bayonets, and the icy breath of horses -
the sun setting like fire
over endless wastes, salty as tears.
I talk to you now, across the years,
through the oven of dreams,
remembering the taste of your cooking -
"jelly cakes" sweet with apples and raisins,
ptcha, boiled tongue, soup with chickens' feet -
I call to you with my trembling tongue,
out of practice for singing, for loving,
for speaking Yiddish, the language of the heart.
Your house remembered. You are warm
in a cold season. Over the water of time
I call to you, in a language I do not know.

Orthodox comic with an unorthodox past

Three-time convert to Judaism, Yisrael Campbell, headlines comedy night

WENDY SCHNEIDER

Stand up comic Yisrael Campbell's journey to Judaism has provided him with enough material for a lifetime, and his hilarious retelling of that story has earned him a large following in both Israel and North America. Often referred to as the "Matisyahu of Stand Up Comedy", Campbell, who makes his home in Israel, was the subject of the documentary film, *It's not In Heaven*, currently making the rounds of Jewish film festivals. His popularity among North American audiences is so great that he is currently on sabbatical in New York City, with his wife, Avital and their three children, working on a one-man off-Broadway show, called "You Can Never Be Too Jewish" that is scheduled to open in March.

Campbell, who will headline Beth Jacob Synagogue's annual comedy night on Sunday, February 15 (see page 18), shared the following thoughts with the HJN in a recent telephone interview.

How does it feel to be compared to Matisyahu?

I'm honoured by the comparison. I think he's an innovative artist doing amazing things.. blending reggae, Hassidic thought and Jewish passion. He's being a light unto the nations. If the comparison is simply because we dress the same and both have beards... I don't think that's what was meant. If it's thought of as a real comparison then that's a real honour.

You and your wife were married in Israel in 2002 and you speak about how it was not an easy decision for you.

The hesitancy... was because it was a time of this terrible fighting and terror, with attacks almost every day. People were avoiding stores and public places. I asked myself, were we crazy to put hundreds of people in harm's way in order to have a wedding. But someone read me a quote by Abraham Joshua Heschel: 'When a Jew is sad, he cries; when he is even sadder, he is silent; and if he is even sadder still, he sings.' That's what Jews do. We have weddings in the midst of the intifada. We had babies in slavery in Egypt because it was life affirming. People davened mincha at Auschwitz.

In your show you tell the story of how it came about that you converted to Judasim three times. What led you to the decision to undergo the Orthodox conversion?

I had come to Israel in the summer of 2000, ostensibly for four months and decided to stay for a year and do that orthodox conversion I was thinking about doing... Ultimately I converted through Rabbi Yosef Avior, under Rabbi Chaim Druckman [then head of the Israeli Conversion Court] In fact, theoretically my conversion is now under questionable status.

How does that make you feel?

I feel a bit like a political prisoner. I feel Jewish, I daven three times a day... to say that I'm not Jewish because the rabbi that converted me is not haredi enough seems a little silly... It's all very mixed up.

What's your favourite kind of audience?



Israel-based comedian, Yisrael Campbell

A passionately Jewish audience. In the past I tended to perform in places like the CAJE and LIMUD conferences or film festivals. ... Originally I was performing very much in the cultural world. Various denominations would avoid me.

Can you elaborate on that?

For a long time I felt they would look at me and couldn't believe I wasn't going to attack them. Maybe there were thinking 'his journey started here but it didn't end here.' But I don't tell my story in any way that denigrates where it began. Even though I did three conversions I'm not saying I did it "Wrong, wrong, right". Each conversion served three different evolutions of purpose. It's important for me to embody the characteristics that were important to me when I was converting, and such as empowering and making people feel comfortable.

Commemorating the Rededication

As your family lights the Menorah and reflects on their faith and traditions, it is my sincere hope that the festivities will bring peace for today and brilliant hope for the future. May it also be a time of family love and community hope as you gather for the eight days of celebration of the Festival of Lights.



From our family to yours
Happy Chanukah.



David Sweet, MP
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BOOK REVIEW

The Essential Bernard Baskin

ELLEN S. JAFFE

Rabbi Bernard Baskin is known and beloved by both Hamilton's Jewish community and by the whole city; he has been called "Hamilton's clergyman." (Hamilton Spectator, 1999). Many people have read his articles and book reviews in the Hamilton Spectator over the past fifty-plus years, or heard him speak on the bimah or pulpit, in his well-attended book groups, or at public meetings; there have been many requests for a book of his writings. This year, in honour of the 60th anniversary of the Rabbi's ordination, Temple Anshe Sholom has compiled and published *The Essential Bernard Baskin*. This is not a scholarly treatise, but rather a collection of short pieces, mainly from the Spectator, that address our human and spiritual concerns in a "bite-size" manner. Interspersed through the pages are tributes from congregants, and there is a memoir by his daughter Judith Baskin. There is also a collection of photographs taken over the years.

Rabbi Baskin and his late wife Marjorie Shatz Baskin came to Temple Anshe Sholom in Hamilton in 1949 from the U.S. They intended to stay for "a few years" – now it is almost 60. Bernard Baskin served as Rabbi of Anshe Sholom for 40 years, until his "retirement" in 1989. I put retirement in quotes, because he has stayed active, both in the Temple and in the wider community, ever since. Rabbi Irwin Zeplovitz, who served at Anshe Sholom from 1989 to 2003, writes that "...I came to love Bernie, not only as a teacher, but as a friend." And Rabbi Jordan Cohen, the present Rabbi, notes that "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."

I asked Rabbi Baskin what he hopes readers will gain from this volume. "Information and inspiration," he replied. Both emerge clearly from these articles, which are grouped by theme, not chronologically. Themes include: life, religion, values, culture, and social problems. As you browse through the book, you will discover that the themes interweave and resonate with each other, and words written ten years ago still ring true today. These passages show both Rabbi Baskin's wisdom and his humility. As his daughter Judith writes, "he is...honoured because he honours others."

For me, the essential theme is that the most important thing in life is not great intellect or knowledge – but compassion, kindness, respect for each other as human beings and for the biosphere in which we live. In discussing "multiculturalism," for example, Rabbi Baskin pleads for tolerance for our differences – while speaking out strongly against war and against oppression of minority cultures and

people, in Canada and around the world.

In other pieces, he discusses the importance of books, poetry, and imagination to our lives and to our ongoing quest for truth and meaning. But words, he tells us, are a paradox. They can enlighten and connect us, or they can be used carelessly and abusively. He cites the story of Tobi, the servant of the sage Rabban Gamliel, who was sent to the market to bring back, first the "best" cut of meat he could find, and then the "worst" cut. Each time he returns with a piece of tongue because "There is nothing better than a good tongue and nothing worse than a bad one!"

There are a few articles Jews and Jesus, a delicate subject. Rabbi Baskin differentiates between "Jesus" (the Palestinian man who preached "an ethical, redemptive message") and "the Christ" (a word derived from the Greek for "saviour," implying a hallowed deity), in a clear, lucid way that will interest both Jews and Christians. In other pieces, he talks about the relationship between science and religion and about "faith without fanaticism"

Among many aphorisms on the nature and meaning of life, is this: "A rabbinic colleague recently warned of a disease that he called 'materio-sclerosis.' This is a malady that tends to clog the arteries of compassion, human concern and humility." Although light, this quote emphasizes one of book's important messages: "sadness is the universal heritage of mankind" – we all have personal griefs, we lose friends and loved ones, we fail to meet our own ideals. But in spite of – even because of – this sadness, this awareness, "love, friendship, and happiness are possible, and life does go on." ... "Hell is apartness," he says; "heaven is togetherness" – this is not a cliché, but the hard work of "forgetting ourselves in loving concern for others," thus becoming stronger and more contented ourselves.

I could go on quoting – or I can simply urge you to buy a copy for yourself, and for your family and friends. The book leaves us with a sense of hope, even in dark times. Rabbi Baskin says, "Let us act as people about to embark on a perilous enterprise might link arms on setting forth – or as a child about to enter a dark chamber might reach out for his mother's hand." He describes the practice, on coming back from the cemetery after a burial, of drinking a small glass of whiskey and saying, "L'Hayyim," to Life, to show that life and love will go on. Now, on the happier occasion of this review, I wish this to him: "L'Hayyim," Rabbi, to your wonderful life; thank you for sharing much of it with us.

The Essential Bernard Baskin is available at Temple Anshe Sholom and at Bryan Prince Bookseller, Hamilton, \$20.00. Ellen S. Jaffe is a Hamilton writer and poet.

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Upper James Toyota...We're here to serve you.



ILYA PINASSI AND MITCH SHERMAN LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU AT UPPER JAMES TOYOTA.

Upper James and Parkway Toyota have been a fixture on the Hamilton automotive scene for more than a decade. Father and son team Marik and Ilya Pinassi, guided by a shared vision of excellence in sales and service, look forward to welcoming you to one of their two locations. As general manager of Upper James Toyota, Ilya Pinassi, speaks with pride about a banner year of sales, it is readily apparent that he carries deep respect for his staff.

"It's the best sales floor we've ever had," said Ilya, who went on to talk about "the quality people", not least of whom is sales associate Mitch Sherman. "Mitch is incredible – a wonderful guy to work with," said Ilya.

Ilya credits a superior team as the reason behind his dealership's experiencing record sales in 2008. In fact Upper James Toyota is expanding. A new display lot adjacent to the main building was a recent purchase, allowing for more space to showcase new vehicles and accommodate customer parking. With help from the community Ilya is hoping that 2009 will be another banner year.

Parkway Toyota...Service par excellence



MARIK PINASSI, SERVICE DIRECTOR, SAM MCALPINE AND GENERAL MANAGER RICHARD BOND LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AT PARKWAY TOYOTA.

Marik Pinassi beams with pride when discussing the ambitious plans in store for an all new Parkway Toyota. In the works for 2010 is an all new 32,000 square foot facility just a block away from its current location at the corner of Centennial Parkway and Barton.

Parkway Toyota, like its partner store, has built its reputation on an outstanding sales team and an exceptional service department, headed up by Sam McAlpine. Marik, Sam and General Manager, Richard Bond are a team of dedicated professionals who look forward to providing you with the service you deserve. Drop in and see us...and mention that you saw us in the Hamilton Jewish News.



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The Jewish Community Centre

HIGHLIGHTS

Community Events

Community Wide Chanukah Party and Vendors Marketplace

Dec 14, 2008 2:00 – 4:00 pm; Activities for all ages
We are looking for vendors, if you are interested please call the Laura at 905-648-0605 ext 310

Cabaret Series:

Jan. 17, 2009

Rhythm & Blues with Harrison Kennedy

From Hamilton's first family of music we take pleasure in Juno nominated, Maple Award nominated, Harrison Kennedy, performing his latest interpretations of R&B, in the intimate setting of the Lounge at the JCC. Harrison performs around the world, to enthusiastic and critical acclaim.

March 7, 2009

Gabi Epstein: A little Broadway, a little Jazz,

One of the joys we have at the JCC is to present exciting, young performers, as they earn their stripes in the arts world. Gabi is already, at a tender age, a seasoned performer, having performed at well known venues in Toronto; Tickets: JCC members: \$10; Non members: \$15.

Youth Activities

Casino Night

for grades 6-8 - January 10, 2009, 8:00 – 10:00 pm

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

for Grades 3-5 January 18, 4:00 – 7:00 pm

High School Coffee House

February 1, 7:00 – 10:00 pm

Kids Sport Session 2

from January 7 – February 25, 2009
Preschool Children 2:45 – 3:30 pm
Grade 1 – Grade 3, 4:30 – 5:30 pm
Cost: Members - \$45; Non-Members \$55

Maccabi Games

If you are interested in participating in this years Maccabi Games please contact Laura Laengerer for more information.

JCC Winter Camp



JK - Grade 6

Dec 22, 23, 29 & 30 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm -
Extended care available from 5:00 - 6:00 pm at
\$3/half hour/child;

Dec 24, 31 & Jan 2, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

No extended care available on Dec 24, 31, and
Jan 2. Early drop off: 8:00 am;

FEES:

JCC Members - \$28/day; Non-Members - \$38/
day; Register for all 7 days and receive a 5%
discount; 5% Family discount for every addi-
tional child for families with 3 or more children;

SPORTS, COMPUTERS, MUSIC & DRAMA, ARTS & CRAFTS AND OUTDOOR PLAY!

K'Tanim program for Pre-School children

9:00 am-1:30 pm or 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Pre-registration required

JCC Members: \$19/day; JCC Members/\$32;

Non Members: \$25/day; Non Members/\$42

Register for all 7 days & receive a 5% discount

Updates

The JCC has been bursting at the seams with some incredible programs. Since September, we have offered over 20 programs. Thank you to Gloria Mostyn at the Kool Klay Kafe for an afternoon of painting mugs, the girls from SK to grade 2 had so much fun. After 4 weeks of learning how to cook; our grades 3-5 students can now make home made pizza, crepes, cheese cake and sugar cookies. Our Go Kart trip in September for grades 6-8 happened so fast, the kids whizzed right by. Girls Just Want to Have Fun, and so they did here at the JCC on November 1st, we painted nails and watched a flick. Seven couples have thoroughly enjoyed our ballroom dance classes with instructor Nicky Morgan, the swing has been a favourite! 16 ladies attended our mah jongg maven day where we played bridge and mah jongg and we ate a lite lunch, it was a lovely afternoon. The Saturday night music series to date have been a blast, featuring Latin Plus and David Cavan Fraser. These are just a few of the incredible programs we have offered. Please feel free to call the JCC to find out what is happening, it's where you belong and you don't want to miss out on the fun!



JCC president Joel Feldman presents awards to Larry Szpirglas and Nomi Cuneo at the JCC AGM



Kids in the Kitchen

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The JCC Annual General Meeting was held October 23, 2008 with an attendance of over 50 people. The Kehila students gave a profound performance about the importance of teamwork that touched all. Larry Szpirglas was honoured with the Barry Foster Memorial Award for volunteer of the year. Additionally, Nomi Cuneo was given the Allan Harris Youth Award. We were thrilled to have Allan's family Maureen and Suzanne with us to present Nomi with this special honour.

MUSIC CABARET SERIES

Our very own Eduardo Zepeda and his band, Latin Plus, brought more than a flavour of Latin culture to the JCC on October 25, 2008. With almost 75 people in attendance, we all ate appetizers that were prepared by Chef Miguel Arguello and associates. With the amazing support of Abe Szpirglas, chair of the Music Series, Alma Arguello, chair of Latin Plus and their committees, the JCC Lounge was the place to be.

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Cooking is fun for all ages! This fantastic program has been offered to kids in grades 3-5 and 10 kids from our community have joined in on the fun learning to make crepes, pizzas and much more. Facilitators Eva Raphael and Charles Kravetsky are very excited to be a part of this program. Look forward to our Kids In The Kitchen Cookbook that will be for sale in the new year and all proceeds will go towards Camp Kadimah camperships.

HOLD THE DATES!!!

The JCC is kickin it old School all the way back to

THE 50'S/60'S WITH A SOCK HOP

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

GIRLS PULL OUT YOUR
POODLE SKIRTS GUYS GET
THE GREASE FOR YOUR HAIR.
THIS IS THE EVENT OF THE
YEAR. YOU DON'T WANT TO
MISS IT



DAVID BUCHBINDER'S
ODESSA/HAVANA
SATURDAY, MARCH 14

AT REDEEMER COLLEGE More details to follow



Joel Feldman

President's Message

If you listen closely, you will hear a buzz about the JCC. When I go to a social event or community event, I hear people talking about the programming that is going on at the JCC and the redevelopment plans for the JCC. I think this is a result of the great job that Annie and Laura are doing with the programming and the community getting excited about the possibility of a new and exciting JCC, that we can all be proud of. I urge you to listen closely and keep talking. This is how we can change the JCC and change the Community. This is Hamilton, this is your JCC and this is your Jewish Community. Be proud of it.

Record year for the Barry Foster Memorial Golf Tournament!

On June 19th the Annual Barry Foster Memorial Golf Tournament was held at the Beverly Golf and Country Club. Despite the rainy weather in Copetown, this year's tournament saw a record number of golfers hit the greens. But hey, if Tiger Woods can win the U.S Open while playing on one knee then what's a little rain? We are proud to report that thanks to all of our players, sponsors, donors and contributors, the tournament raised over \$30,000 in proceeds, which is a new record.

For the past 13 years this event has been run through a partnership between the Beth Tikvah Foundation and the JCC of Hamilton. Beginning in 2006 the committee has also selected two additional beneficiaries to join them in raising funds. For the past few years Hamilton Inner City Hockey and St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation Cardiac Care Unit have been selected. A special thanks goes out to all our volunteers and committee members who dedicated their time and effort to help make this year's event such a success. Thank you to all our supporters!

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Contributors

Kraft Canada Inc., Stoney Creek Dairy, Larry Goldblatt



Members of the Barry Foster Memorial Golf Tournament Committee present a cheque for \$5,000 to St. Joseph's Healthcare foundation. Pictured left to right; Dr. Kevin Smith, President & CEO of St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, Mr. Robert J. Donelson, President of St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation, JCC President Joel Feldman, Michelle Foster, Chair of the Barry Foster Memorial Golf Tournament, Stan Tick and Larry Szpirglas.

A journey of discovery

Hamilton Spectator reporter, Steve Arnold, recently returned from a first time trip to Israel – on a UJA Mission organized by UJA Federations Canada. Below, Arnold gives a moving account of how Canadian UJA dollars are making a world of difference for thousands of Galilee residents

STEVE ARNOLD

She stands alone in a crowd, softly stroking the white bunny in her arms, saying nothing, but watching carefully the crowd of strangers being led through her school.

She has the frightened look of someone who has seen things she's not supposed to, horrible things her young mind can't fully comprehend. Things like rockets falling from the sky, explosions, being rushed from her classroom or her warm bed to a bomb shelter, sometimes for days because people she has never met want to kill her.

The fear in those young eyes of the girl at Uziel School in Kiryat Shemona stays with you. It's unnatural.

That image is from one of the many spots in Israel visited by a group of Canadians taking part in the Coast-to-Coast mission in November, one of several trips to Israel sponsored by United Israel Appeal Federations Canada. The whirlwind tours of Canadian-funded projects throughout the country was a lead-in to the annual General Assembly of North American community leaders held this year in Jerusalem. Participating in the mission from Hamilton were Laura Wolfson, cantor-educator at Temple Anshe Sholom and Steve Arnold.

Children, whether Israeli or Arab, disabled or healthy, toddler or teenager, were a special focus of the trip. In addition to the stop at Uziel, participants also visited the Shechafim Special Education School in Kiryat Shemona – a special project of the Hamilton community and recipient of the stunning tile “Mosaic Mitzvah in Motion” project Wolfson created.

“This is a school of last resort for children who can't be handled anywhere else,” said David Rose, chairman of the Friends of Shechafim, explaining the school gets less than half the cost of educating a child from parents and government sources. Most of the money has to come from diaspora donations.

Shechafim's 43 students, who come from all over the Galilee region, are among the most



This little girl is a student of the Uziel School, in Kiryat Shemona. Like many students who have suffered under terrorist rocket attacks from Lebanon, she is fearful. The bunny is part of a program at the school partly funded by donations from Canada. It's designed to help the children bond with animals and learn to trust again. Photo by Steve Arnold

vulnerable children in Israel. They are all profoundly handicapped, their twisted bodies and damaged brains leaving them without hope in a country struggling everyday for its very survival.

One reflection of that desperate need for money is the depressed state of the Shechafim campus – its buildings are in desperate need of renovation, its grounds look more like an abandoned Hamilton factory than a school for children with special needs.

The Hamilton mosaic, now installed near the school's main entrance and matching one in the main entrance at Shalom Village, remains one of the few bright spots in the lives of these children.

Across Kiryat Shemona, at the Uziel school, teachers struggle not only with the needs of children damaged by war, but also with the demands of a growing number of Ethiopian children struggling to adjust to live in a new country.

“The real problem we have here is we don't have enough room,”

explained on teacher speaking to the Canadian visitors. “We have to have our English classes in the bomb shelter because we don't have any other place.

“We used to have 150 students, now we have 435 and each year we're getting bigger and bigger.”

The Ethiopian children – there are 35 in the school now in grades 4-6 – spend two years at the school learning Hebrew and “western” ideas like hygiene. Sometimes they study beside their parents who hope to learn enough of the language to land a job in their new country.

In another part of the region, Canadian dollars support an innovation program that brings Israeli and Arab children together in a special class to study Arabic language and culture. It's designed to be a bridge between people who share a country but barely acknowledge each other's existence.

Children enrolled in the program understand that need. Responding to questions posed



Laura Wolfson, of Temple Anshe Sholom, unveils a banner for children at the Shechafim Special Education School from children in Hamilton. The banner was part of a gift to the school that provides services for 43 profoundly handicapped Israeli children. Photo by Steve Arnold

by their teacher and the director of the program, one girl told her visitors “It's important to learn the other language so we can talk to all of the people living here.”

Another student added “we live here together so we should be able to talk to each other.”

Located at the Shechanya School in the Misgav region of Galilee, the Language as a Cultural Bridge program is two years old. It's an initiative of the is operated by the Israel-New York-based Abraham Fund.

“The fact is, Jewish children in Israel don't learn or use Arabic, even though 20 per cent of the population is Arab,” explained Dadi Komem, program director. “Teaching culture is an important part of the program – the teacher is an Arab and that doesn't really happen in Jewish schools.”

Without diaspora support, he added, the program would wither because it doesn't have the political support it needs in Israel to become fully institutionalized.

“We've tried this before as an independent effort, but when the funding is gone you're done,” he said. “What's really required is a real effort from the Ministry of Education.”

Canadian dollars are also important to a Jerusalem-based program which tries to help “street children” turn their lives around by learning to operate a business. These are kids who've expelled from school and their families, who face a life on the streets. They are so marginalized they're usually rejected by the Israel Defense Forces – and without army service Israelis find many doors closed to them.

At Susan's House, these children have a chance to learn the art of working with glass, making and marketing a wide range of products. It's a chance to learn the discipline of work, and to see rewards for their efforts.

Program director Avital Goel explained Susan's House was started seven years ago. It's named for the wife of its founder who

died of cancer at age 39.

“We work in very high class material here. We make art and sell it,” Goel said. “We're not getting rich, but we're successful.”

Susan's House clients range in age between 15 and 20. The program has 14 participants at a time and handles about 40 children a month. About 70 per cent of the participants are girls because their options on the street are considered the most dangerous.

“These are kids who come from very broken families,” he explained. “They've grown up without any idea of how to live their lives.”

For 20-year-old Judah, who will graduate from the program this year, that lesson has been the most valuable.

“Being here has given me a feeling of being at home and a lot of skills that I can use in life, he told the Canadian visitors just before they started the store's cash registers ringing.

The Galilee region has become a special project of Canada's Jewish communities, and it's support the Jewish Agency for Israel calls vital to the future of the region.

“What you've really seen on this trip is a glimpse of your investment here,” said Jeff Kaye, of the JAFI Israel office. “You're in partnership with the people of this country to build a state, you've been part of building something that's bigger than all of us.”

Today, he explained, JAFI works to help immigrants adjust to Israeli society, to connect people outside the country to their Jewish identity through education on the role of Israel in Jewish life and to close the country's yawning economic gap.

“There's a sharp divide between the rich and poor here. Israel has one of the widest gaps in the world between haves and have nots,” he said. “Many of the poorest people are the newest immigrants and we need you to partner with us in closing that gap.”

Camp Tamakwa in Algonquin Park: Character, Tradition, Back to Basics



Character, tradition, back to basics, these are core values of Camp Tamakwa and what it has stood for since it's founding in 1936 in pristine Algonquin Park. A residential summer camp for boys and girls ages 7 to 16; Tamakwa has provided generations of children with skills and memories that last a lifetime.

Only a couple hours north of Toronto, Algonquin Park is a jewel of Canada and a destination for campers from all over Ontario, North America, and the world. For Tamakwa, it's their backyard. Living in its splendour, where the sound of loons and scent of cedar provide the background for daily play, children learn first hand to appreciate and care for the environment in a personal way, unrivalled by any other experience. Tamakwa's premier canoe tripping program encompasses approximately 100 trips each summer including regular cabin trips as well as long trips ranging from 10-15 days in length.

Character. Whether on canoe trips, living in small intimate cabin groups, or sharing a secluded setting in a community where everyone knows each other's names...Tamakwa kids learn the life skills of embracing new friendships, living in harmony, and being resourceful. Under the watchful eyes of nurturing skilful leaders, campers learn a myriad of skills from Tamakwa's many activities including canoeing, kayaking, sailing, swimming, windsurfing, roller hockey, half-court tennis, soccer, volleyball, basketball, archery, fishing, ropes course and climbing wall, outdoor education, drama, arts & crafts, wood shop, clay/pottery, Camp TV and music composition and recording.

Tradition: With 74 years of history, there is a lot that keeps campers coming back to Tamakwa. From telling tales around the campfire to gathering all together to send off and welcome back canoe trips everyday, Tamakwa is enriched with history and tradition. Campers go home at summer's end with confidence, skills, stories, laughs, and even a lingo that is uniquely Tamakwa. They also go home with an enriched outlook; that there is life and fun without Facebook, Wii, and YouTube.

Back to basics. Tamakwa embraces traditional camping values, where individual growth, camaraderie, and finding your unique niche are more important than being first. Where the renewal of their facility and amenities is all state-of-the-art, but built to allow Tamakwa to blend with - and celebrate - its wooded surroundings. Where activities are time tested to grow a child's physical and mental fitness, but make room for a few 21st century skills that provide new opportunities for creative expression.

And the three core values in their daily language: Safety, fun, and "it's for the kids". Kids from 7 to 16... as well as alumni who spent their formative years at campnever want to leave Tamakwa.

For more information, visit www.tamakwa.com or call 416-924-7433.

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For more information about these events, please call our JNF office at 905-527-5516 or email Hamilton@jnf.ca

Working with new immigrants

Israeli artist uses a combination of skills and empathy in her work at SISO

WENDY SCHNEIDER

Empathy and compassion – not the armchair variety, but the real things – are rare commodities. It means having a certain quality of presence to sense, with an open heart, what life may be like for another individual. This empathetic presence has the ability to create a healing experience for others and Hana Pinthus, in her work at SISO, Hamilton's Settlement and Integration Services Organization, is having a huge impact on the lives of others. . In her work, she conducts a form of Healing and Counseling through Art with Government Assisted Refugees, many of whom are from war-ravaged countries.

One could partly attribute Pinthus' level of caring to the fact that five years ago, she too tasted the newcomer experience when she, her husband, and their two children moved here from Israel. Pinthus, an artist who holds degrees in industrial design, education and art therapy, arrived at SISO'S doorstep driven by a deeply held desire to serve others, and it is that characteristic which sets her apart.

At SISO, Pinthus is a member of the RAP (Resettlement Assistant Program) team, a multidisciplinary group of 12 dedicated professionals, who have been assigned to work with Government Assisted Refugees coming through Hamilton. She and another artist, Andrew Ostapenko, have developed a program they call "Healing and Counseling through Art", whereby they encourage their clients to express through art what is often too painful to talk about.

"Art is used as a means of communication...and they learn they can express whatever they want to say through their artwork," said Pinthus. "Often it is a very personal story. They start drawing without knowing what they are going to draw. I ask them questions and they realize the source of the pain, the main trauma they went

through is there in their drawing. It's a very unconscious route of expression."

Pinthus' clients hail from countries such as Myanmar, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, the Congo, Somalia, and Eritrea. For many of them, taking classes at SISO is the first opportunity they've ever had to interact with people from different countries. The experience "helps people understand they're not alone and that others have gone through similar experiences," Pinthus said. It enables them to see that tolerance and mutual respect are cherished Canadian values.

"What makes SISO so unique, Pinthus explained, is that the many people employed there were themselves immigrants or refugees at one time and, every one who works there, regardless of where they are from, receives anti racism training which prepares SISO professionals to relate to clients across any kind of difference. These differences can be about race, class, immigration, status, gender, ability or any other identity label."

"That's why they truly understand the clients' experiences and can help them deal effectively with the challenges they face as newcomers," said Pinthus. For the clients, it is both comforting and empowering to know that an agency like SISO is there to support them on their journey.

SISO, which opens its doors to 300 refugees a year, is currently fundraising for a new reception house in the Hamilton area." Right now, when refugees first arrive in Hamilton they stay in a hotel. SISO is working toward the goal of having a Reception Centre where clients will be able to stay for a longer period of time while receiving a comprehensive range of specialized services that will better prepare them to manage the change from their previous culture to the Canadian way of life. A health clinic, a children's play area,



Artist, Chani Pinthus

and a kitchen where clients can learn life skills in a safe environment, are among those services SISO wants to provide in the reception centre.

Pinthus has high hopes that SISO will agree to the art therapy program evolving from its current six weeks to a more long-term process, "because right now...we don't go deep into their emotional difficulties. We can only try to ease their stress, help them connect with other people and give them a space to share their stories."

Asked how her co-workers and clients react on learning that she is from Israel, Pinthus acknowledged that her initial concerns were unfounded. For many people around the world, Israel carries an aura of mystery and people have been genuinely warm and open with her. But above all, Pinthus feels it is her Jewishness that provides the most compelling reason to make a contribution in the lives of refugees.

"We sought a refuge when we needed it and we know how difficult it is to be persecuted and to be a refugee," Pinthus said, pointing to the many places in the world that are currently experiencing their own versions of the Holocaust. She hopes that her story will inspire other members of the Jewish community to consider getting involved at SISO. The best case she can make is from her own experience. "I love my job," she said. "I feel very fortunate to work here."

HONOURABLE MENTSCHEN

The HJN congratulates Donna Waxman, research assistant in Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour at McMaster University, who was recently awarded a President's Award for outstanding service. A university press release cited "her commitment to hard work, energy and positive spirit, and an innate ability to build relationships..." "She consistently goes far beyond the call of duty to help others and the impact of her work is seen at many different levels..." Through her care and engagement with the participants in the lab, Donna plays a key role in promoting the importance



Alan Mendelson

Congratulations to Andy McDonald, for co-producing the recently released CD, 'Masterpiece Unsigned: Songs of Leonard Cohen'. The new disc was subsequently recorded, engineered and mastered by Jordan Abraham at Hamilton's Studio J. and a Japanese Zen-style layout was crafted by local design artist Satomi Inoue. Leonard Cohen devotees are familiar with the 10 selections on Masterpiece Unsigned. The album features a variety of sound arrangements, from wall-of-scintillating-sound, smooth jazz tempo, and even a hint of upbeat Motown rhythm. This limited edition collectible album is one of hundreds of Cohen covers listed on www.leonardcohenfiles.com, and is released in honour of Leonard Cohen's current World Tour. More than half of this limited edition CD has been pre-ordered from Vancouver to Halifax and points in between. Not to be missed.



Donna Waxman with McMaster President Dr. Peter George

of McMaster's research into the community."

The HJN congratulates Alan Mendelson, Professor Emeritus, (Religious Studies), McMaster University on the recent publication of *Exiles From Nowhere, The Jews and the Canadian Elite*, described as a compelling investigation into the attitudes of Canada's intellectual elite in the 19th- and 20th- centuries towards their Jews. The title of the book is taken from a phrase by Canadian-Jewish novelist, Matt Cohen that expresses his belief that the Canadian establishment had erected psychological walls that could never be breached by outsiders.

McMaster University Professor Sandra Witelson is proud to announce the publication of her sister-in-law, Renata Witelson Hornstein's Holocaust memoir, "A Tumultuous Journey – Horror, Hope and Happiness". The book can be purchased at Bryan Prince Bookseller.



Hadassah-WIZO of Hamilton will be completing the Telephone Listings December 15, 2008. If you have a change of address, telephone number and or marital status, please notify Andrea Stringer at 905-528-0874 or email astringer@cogeco.ca

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Aliyah story

Sara Cuneo reports from Israel

I hate when people ask me why I made aliyah, because I don't know what to tell them. For the schwarma? Perhaps the climate? Any answer I might provide cannot possibly give justice to that expression of love which propelled me to move half way across the world. To put it simply, I am a Zionist. I love the land and the great diversity of people which constitutes the State of Israel; indeed, it is in order to help sustain this country that I am here.



Sara Cuneo

The journey from Canada to Israel was not a simple one. The Jewish Agency, representing the State of Israel, and Nefesh b'Nefesh, a non profit organization which supports North American immigration to Israel, helped enormously in the initial planning stages. At times working in tandem and at others in fisticuffs, these organizations are charged with the task of promoting aliyah to the Jewish Diaspora. And promote it they do. When interviewed by a Nefesh b'Nefesh public relations coordinator, I was given the task of proclaiming to the media that, "I am here for the men". I made sure, when disembarking from the plane, to avoid the cameras at all costs.

While my situation seemed humorous and slightly disconcerting at the time, the truth is that Israel needs Jews. So while my response to the question of aliyah is not to marry and make Jewish babies, I recognize the standpoint from which Zionist organizations would seek to promote that aspect of Jewish life in the Aretz. As my roommate often states, women here are either thinking about getting pregnant, they currently are pregnant, or they have just given birth, and often times I find myself surrounded by women bursting at the seams.

What is my purpose in relating the Jewish need to procreate? Perhaps it is to connect with the past. In building a new generation of Israelis, both native born and immigrant, we perpetuate what has been lost to us in the tragedies of Jewish history. At the Hebrew University where half of my Holocaust studies class is German, there is a need to grapple with past realities which inform current relationship. "Where were your grandparents when mine were being persecuted"? Israel is seemingly filled with questions of this nature, thereby producing a society continually in search of stable ground. And while Israel remains a fiercely independent nation, it is the Diaspora which has lent crucial support to the building of a state often times in crisis. Whether we be left-wing or right, engagement with Israeli issues is fundamental to our shaping the future of this nation. Let's continue to be that support.

Sara Cuneo made aliyah in September, 2008.

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Hannukah Hustle gets people back on their feet

NeuroGym program creates possibilities at The Club Fitness Centre



Funds raised at The Hannukah Hustle go to support The Club Fitness Centre at Shalom Village. The Club is equipped with state of the art Keiser low-impact weight training equipment and is open to all people over the age of 70, including members from the community as well as residents of Shalom Village. Head Coach Greg Almas and his team lead participants through a detailed assessment process to develop a fitness plan suitable to their individual needs and abilities. Whether people are fully able to undertake all activities, confined to a wheelchair or restricted by other health issues, a plan is formulated to help them stay active and increase their mobility and independence.

Can you imagine what it feels like to a person who requires a wheelchair or a walker to be able to regain some of the mobility and independence they have lost to disability? Just think what it means to be able to perform some of the activities of daily living that we take for granted – to ease the fear of falls, or to be able to go to the bathroom unassisted.

The Hannukah Hustle is helping us continue the successful NeuroGym program started with funds raised by the Shalom Village Ladies Auxiliary at their Annual Tea in 2007.

NeuroGym Technologies manufactures a unique line of mobility training equipment that targets the underlying motor skills critical for day to day functions such as transfers, standing and walking. There are

two specialized NeuroGym machines available to Shalom Village residents, including a “bungee walker” and a “sit to stand” machine that helps people stand from a sitting position with the assistance of counterweights. The weight is gradually reduced as the person gains strength.

More than 20 Shalom Village residents and Goldie’s members have been using the NeuroGym machines in The Club, not including Shalom2 Home and Goldie’s2Home convalescent care rehab clients. Head Coach Greg Almas says it is exciting to see the improvements as people gain strength and improve their balance.

“People who sit too much begin to atrophy,” says Greg. “But when they walk, the whole body comes into play. The increased activity has many benefits

including reducing swelling by improving circulation, building strength and improving balance.”

Greg likes to work with an inflatable ball, playing catch with participants who are supported by the bungee walker. “It forces them to let go with their hands and works on forward and lateral movements. It improves hand eye coordination as it increases confidence.

Improving mobility also impacts incontinence. Movement stimulates the bowels and walking helps

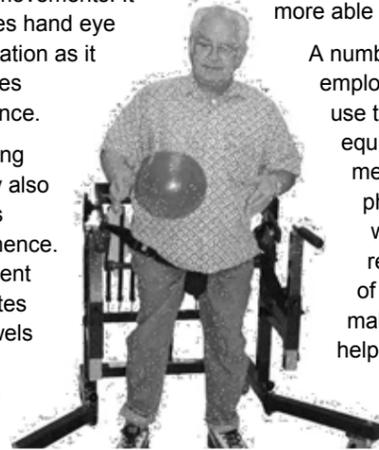
strengthen abdominal muscles. As people regain strength and balance, transfers become easier, reducing the need for caregiver assistance.

“Another great thing about these

machines,” says Greg, “is that they are on wheels. We can take them to the residents who are not able to come to the Club.” Greg also points out that the equipment provides exercise opportunities to residents who are not able to take advantage of the Keiser weight training equipment used by The Club’s more able members.

A number of Shalom Village employees are trained to use the NeuroGym equipment as well as the members of the physiotherapy team work with our residents. Your support of the Hannukah Hustle makes it all possible by helping to fund the many hours of staff time needed to improve the mobility of our frailest residents in ways that will improve their lives every day.

To support The Club and its programs call to Joan Ulrich : (905) 529-1613 ext. 231.



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Accreditation isn’t something we do because the government tells us we have to. We do it voluntarily because it helps us be the best we can be. We do it because it gives us the tools to measure and evaluate the quality of the care and services we provide and because it helps us to continually improve. Accreditation helps us anticipate trends and plan for the future instead of reacting to situations as they arise. Accreditation also tells the world that our processes have been reviewed by an independent third party so you don’t have to take our word for it when we tell you how great we are. Families can rest assured that their loved ones are in capable hands.

Accreditation Canada is an independent

not-for-profit organization that develops standards for healthcare and provides tools to measure and evaluate outcomes. All of the top healthcare organizations in Canada are accredited.

While accreditation is an ongoing process, there is a detailed review every 3 years. Our next review is in June 2009 and several teams are busy reviewing the standards and preparing the documentation needed for our site visit.

To be successful, accreditation needs participation from all stakeholders— residents, families, staff, volunteers and community partners. Please make your opinions count if you are approached to participate. Together we are paving the pathway to possibilities!

Accreditation...

- gives us tools to make ourselves better
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- helps us measure quality so that we can continuously improve
- helps us meet the future with a plan
- is independent validation that we are the best we can be
- shows the world that we are providing quality care and services

Thank You

Thank you to the families of Muriel Stolman, Albert Berns, Harold Sutin, Margaret Crusoe and Klazina VanAsselt for choosing to honour the memory of their loved ones by requesting donations to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers.

This is a wonderful way to honour a person’s memory while helping others at the same time. All it takes is a phone call to Joan Ulrich at (905) 529-1613 ext. 231.

Shalom Village Tribute Cards

Shalom Village will send beautiful tribute cards on your behalf to acknowledge life's milestones and special occasions. Cards are sent directly to the recipient and include your own personal message.

All it takes is a phone call to Kathleen Thomas to set your card in motion. Kathleen can be reached at (905) 529-1613 ext. 264 or by e-mail at kathleen@shalomvillage.on.ca.

Funds raised by card sales help us make possibilities possible at Shalom Village. Many of the wonderful things that make home at Shalom special would not be possible without your support. Please give Kathleen a call. She would love to hear from you!

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

IN MEMORY: Dr Joseph Minden; Edna Miller; Robert Rochkin; Renee Pasis; Sylvia Molot; Mildred Somer; Fred Houston; Dolly Vaisler; Randolph Rhodes; Kenneth Lord; Leonard Atkins; Jean Zvonkin; Barney Paikin; Irene Doyle; Andrew Sebastian; Allison Heaps; David

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NEW HOME: Goldie Robbins; Lotti Redner; Gert Goldblatt; Clara Bloom; Cantor & Mrs Theilheimer.

THANK YOU

Pat Morden & Shalom Staff; Mr. & Mrs. Manny Leder; Danna & David Horwood; Morden Family; Dave Stempin.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY; Margaret & Arthur Weisz; Lil Silverstein; Sylvia Katz; Jerre Krieger; Molly Lewis; Barry Smurlick; Allen Bain; Mildred Sonshine; Faye Karon; Marvin Wasserman; Jack Kreiger.

NA'AMAT HAMILTON

Hamilton Na'amat is proud and delighted to announce that our dear friend and colleague, Rivka Shaffir, a founder and past president of our chapter has been appointed the new National President of Na'amat Canada. Rivka has been a source of inspiration for all of us. Her roots in Na'amat run deep. Raised in a family where Labour Zionism was espoused with great passion, Rivka's formative years were spent in Zionist youth groups, summer camps and Jewish schools where the Yiddish language and culture reigned supreme. Among Rivka's important role models was her mother, Ellen (Elka) Broder, who was deeply involved in the Labour Zionist movement, Pioneer Women, the precursor to Na'amat. For all these reasons and more, Rivka has a unique perspective of our group's place in the historical flow of the role played by Diaspora women in the Zionist movement.

Rivka was formally installed as National President at the Triennial Na'amat Convention in Israel in July. Then on November 22 the Na'amat Hamilton chapter held a members' tribute dinner in Rivka's honour. It



Members of Hamilton Na'amat in Israel last summer at installation ceremony. Pictured from left to right: Wendy Schneider, Sandi Seigel, Agi Meinhard, Rivka Shaffir, Susan Roth and Simone Rotstein.

was no surprise that Rivka asked that funds raised in her honor be dedicated to the Swing into Action Campaign that is rebuilding playgrounds for our Na'amat daycare centres, in Israel. Her love for children is well known. For more than 35 years, Rivka's name has been associated with the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, both as its longest serving staff member and principal. But Rivka's affinity for children has no boundaries, and her dedication extends to the thousands of

Israeli children and youth cared for at Na'amat facilities.

If you would like to honour Rivka by contributing to the Swing into Action Campaign, please contact Na'amat co-presidents, Tory Metzger at vmetzger@cogeco.ca or Deena Sacks

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

Delighting the younger children and causing curiosity with the older children, Blue Box Bob made an appearance at the Kehila School, Beth Jacob School and Temple Anshe Sholom School.

The appearances were part of an ongoing awareness program launched by the Jewish National Fund to encourage children and youngsters in the community to engage in Tzedakah by filling their Blue Boxes.

While the funds raised from the Blue Box collection worldwide are not used for charity in the traditional sense (helping feed and clothe the poor), they clearly have a charitable application. Canadian funds raised are sent to Keren Kayemeth L'Israel where they are applied to a couple of key areas: helping with water conservation – a critical issue facing ALL Israelis, and maintenance of the hundreds of recreational areas around the country. Those recreation areas are vital to many Israelis. JNF parks and recreation areas are a wonderful respite to tens of thousands of Israelis especially those who do not have places to picnic, BBQ or simply relax and who would otherwise not have anywhere to go.

Volunteers have also been busy collecting blue boxes in our community and if your home was missed and you have a Blue Box which you would like to turn in, please contact

the JNF office at 905 527-5516 OR bring in your box to one of the synagogues, the JCC, Shalom Village or one of the Jewish schools. Not only is it a mitzvah to fill your Blue Box but it will help Israel as well.

The Yiskor Service is conducted only four times a year; on Yom Kippur, on Shemini Atzeret, toward the end of Pesach and during Shavuot. During the Yiskor Service, we are reminded that we should honour our lost loved ones with a charitable gift. The Jewish National Fund has had a Yiskor campaign in the Fall for many years. Each year, a new theme is chosen to add meaning to the campaign and this Fall was no different.

Especially poignant in light of events that transpired this past summer when the bodies of Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev were returned to Israel, the funds raised from across Canada are being directed toward the development of a scenic road on the northern border of Israel. The site is several kilometers from where Goldwasser and Regev were kidnapped. The families were very moved by the decision taken by the National Board of Directors of the JNF in Canada to support such a project.

Those who have not made a Yiskor donation and still wish to do so may contact the JNF office at 905 527-5516



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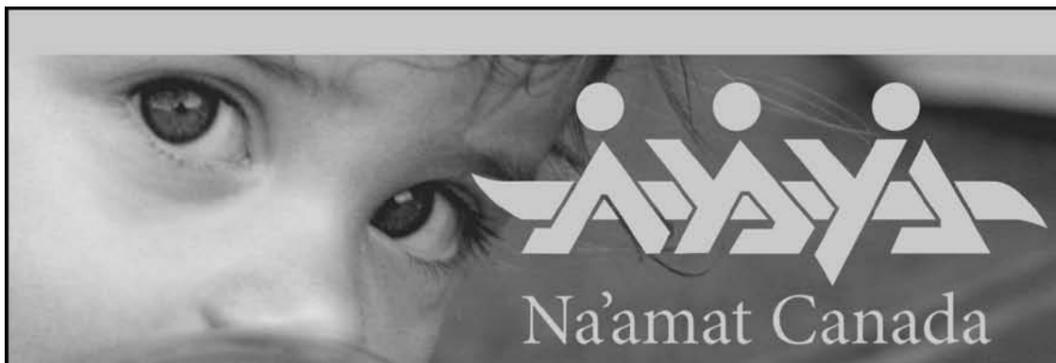
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Sari and the children at the Beit Elisheva Day Care were lucky to receive a modern playground, but there are thousands of Israeli children who are still waiting for their small miracles. Na'amat Canada is working to provide new equipment for more than 200 daycares, but we need your help to make miracles happen!

**Make a child smile this holiday.
Wishing you a joyous and warm Chanukah.**

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KEHILA JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

Kehila Jewish Community Day School is pleased to announce the appointment of Paula Baruch to its staff. Paula is teaching a number of different subjects across the grade levels in Kehila's elementary and middle school curricula. She teaches Jewish ethics, drama, and language arts for students in grades 5 and 6; global education and Torah study for students in grades 3 through 6; and math for the school's kindergarten students. Paula's teaching background has been as a drama specialist and she brings to the school an expertise in arts-based pedagogy. She has recently completed her Masters degree in education at Central Michigan University and worked in adult education in Peterborough before coming to Kehila.



Paula Baruch

Paula says that she appreciates that much of the education at Kehila is arts-based, noting that this method of teaching coordinates well with character-based pedagogy as well as

traditional teaching techniques with the result that students receive an education that is balanced and broad-based in its delivery methods. This kind of multi-disciplinary and eclectic approach to learning is representative of the direction in which our global knowledge is headed. The school's approach to learning, and especially its global education component, is formulated in such a way as to acknowledge and reflect the fact that global knowledge is built through people learning

and contributing in a multitude of ways, in what Paula sees as our developing "wiki society."

Paula, who is married to Rabbi Cohen of Temple Anshe Sholom, also points out that in addition to Kehila's innovative teaching methods, nurturing environment, and emphasis on critical thinking, the component of spirituality that is built into the daily life of the students is what really makes the school stand out. The spirituality that grounds and directs all of the learning at Kehila makes the school's curriculum complete. It is, for Paula, the necessary counterpart of the character-based education that can, of course, be found at many other, secular, schools. The effect on the students is clear. Paula reports that she has found the students at Kehila to be engaged and exuberant. "There is an atmosphere of joy that I really appreciate, having taught in the public system for a number of years," she says.

TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

JAMIE ABRAM

At Temple Anshe Sholom we are very excited about our Sha'ar (Grade 7) Program. Throughout the year preceding their Bar/Bat Mitzvah, our Sha'ar students, along with their parents, participate in a series of family programs which focus not only on preparing them to be responsible Jews who have the commitment, information and skills to navigate their lives both Jewishly and in the larger world, but also prepares them for their actual Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony.

As part of this ongoing program, each Sha'ar student, with the help of his or her parents, designs and makes his/her own wimpel. The wimpel is then used to wrap the Sefer Torah on the day of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

The history of this beautiful tradition goes back many centuries. Back then, it was the custom of German and Italian Jews to make a wimpel (a hand-decorated silk scarf) out of the wrapping worn by an infant during the brit milah ceremony. The wimpel was decorated with a blessing by the child's family including his name, birthdate, and this wish: "May Adonai bless him to grow up to become Bar Mitzvah, to stand under the wedding canopy, and to do good deeds." This wonderful tradition almost became extinct when the synagogue archives where the binders were stored, were burned down during the Holocaust.

Today, new traditions are beginning. At Anshe Sholom, wimpel making has become an annual activity. For the Sha'ar student, they get to create a priceless heirloom which they will always cherish.

For additional information about Anshe Sholom's Sha'ar

program, please call Laura Wolfson at 905-528-0121.

Chanukkah Shopping?

Hamilton is blessed to have a large South African Jewish Community and benefit from their wonderful flare and taste in Art. As a result of this cultural integration we have the privilege of being the Canadian representatives of a talented South African Artist – Carmel Stoch.

Carmel is well known in South Africa, Europe and the USA for her custom hand painted coated cotton table cloths. These table cloths come in so many designs that you can choose one to suit your home – both in color scheme and design. They are not only unique and creative, and brighten up every home, but they are easy to maintain. Even though they are 100% denim cotton, they require NO LAUNDERING, just wipe with water or a soapy cloth and they stay beautiful for many years to come.

This unique gift – for yourself or for a friend or family – can only be purchased at the Temple Anshe Sholom Sisterhood Gift Store. Come take a look at the sample booklet and design your own tablecloth. Ask a South African Community Member who has one, and she will rant and rave about their functionality, their beauty and their durability. Come and see samples of this unique form of Functional Art at the Temple Anshe Sholom Chanukah Gift Show or upon request from Leia Ger-Rogers at 905-317-3746. Please remember that they are individually painted and shipped from South Africa so it will take time to produce and receive your unique piece of table art, so order well in advance.

BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE

Beth Jacob Synagogue is delighted to announce its third annual comedy night on Sunday, February 15, 2009 featuring Yisrael Campbell – often referred to as the "Matisyahu of stand up comedy" and widely regarded as the premiere standup comedian in Israel.

As Yisrael describes it: "I'm the first-born son a manic-depressive Italian woman and a pathologically silent Irishman. This makes me wildly emotional ... in a very quiet way."

Although he attended Catholic school as a boy (his aunt was a nun and his mother was in the convent for a while), Chris was destined to leave the Church. As a teenager, his recovery from substance abuse led him to the spiritual path. (Over 25 years later he remains sober.) This spiritual path led him to seek out a variety of religious and spiritual experiences, ultimately leading him to the cultural and religious richness he found in Judaism. Tickets to

see Yisrael Campbell are \$36 and can be purchased by calling 905-522-1351. The event will also feature a reception and silent auction with a twist.

On Sunday, January 25th, the guest speaker at the popular Soul, Body & Mind Sunday morning prayer, breakfast and lecture series, will be Dr. Lawrence Hart speaking on Debunking the Myth of Israel as an Apartheid Regime. Dr. Hart will demonstrate that the linkage is an attempt to isolate and criminalize the Jewish State and its people and will offer suggestions on how to counter the rhetoric of 'Israeli Apartheid. On Sunday, Minyan is at 9:00 am followed by breakfast. Dr Hart will talk at 10:00 am for about an hour and will be pleased to answer questions after the talk. There is a cover charge of \$5.00 per person for breakfast. For reservations please e-mail Maureen Price at: mpprice@cogeco.ca, or phone 905-523-8067.

Beth Jacob Synagogue presents its 3rd annual comedy night featuring the

"Matisyahu of stand-up comedy"

Yisrael Campbell:

"You Can Never Be Too Jewish"



**Sunday,
February 15, 2009
Beth Jacob Synagogue
375 Aberdeen Avenue
Hamilton**

**Silent Auction & reception at 6:30
Show begins at 7:30 pm
Tickets \$36
Call 905-522-1351 or email
office@bethjacobsynagogue.ca**

"Campbell does something truly extraordinary: he takes his non-Jewish background outsider status to his new Jewish persona and translates the feelings and communicates them in simple, direct and absolutely hilarious ways."

The Australian Jewish News

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HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY

This fall, the HHA eagerly welcomed back Mrs. Mary-Martha Starkman to the Hamilton Hebrew Academy school administration as she assumed her new role as the Director of the Diverse Learning Centre.

The Hamilton Hebrew Academy adheres to an inclusive philosophy that strives to meet the needs and strengths of all its students. Under Mrs. Starkman's direction, the Centre addresses student needs and strengths, and establishes a solid foundation for future successes. Through the implementation of individualized instruction and the direct teaching of specific skills, in-class accommodations, and support for classroom teachers in modifying the core curriculum, the Diverse Learning Centre is enabling successful classroom experiences for all students at the Academy. Students participate regularly in individualized and small group remediation and curriculum support, and small group enrichment programming. Computer technology and a solid range of curriculum resources serve in providing effective materials for student learning.

Mrs. Starkman has 25 years of experience in elementary school and special education, and brings a strong background to her new role. Her Master of Education Thesis, Inclusive Teaching Practice in the Jewish Day School, studied the challenges of addressing student learning needs in the dual curriculum



PICTURED ABOVE: Mary-Martha Starkman (far right) with staff members of the Diverse Learning Centre, Uriel Ezra and Kim Easter

day school setting. She served as Enrichment Specialist and Curriculum Consultant at Netivot HaTorah Day School; and was instrumental in the establishment and running of the Centre for Diverse Learning in its first year at the Kamin branch of Associated Hebrew Schools.

Mrs. Starkman works closely with Ms. Margaret Secord, the founder of the programme. Ms. Secord is currently an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University where she is the Programme Coordinator for the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) Programme. Ms. Secord continues to provide consultation and instruct part-time in the programme. Volunteers from the McMaster Bachelor of Health Sciences enthusiastically participate in the Centre's programme, under the

supervision of Ms. Secord and Mrs. Starkman. The Centre also benefits from the involvement of Mrs. Kim Easter, an experienced Educational Assistant with extensive experience in the field of special education.

Critical to Jewish Day School education is the availability of support for students in the areas of Hebrew language and Judaic studies. Chana Bordovitch, Inbar Alafi, Uriel Ezra and Elkana Ifrah, young educators sent through the offices of the Jewish Agency of the State of Israel, enhance the range of services available for the Centre of Diverse Learning and bring an added flavour of Israel to daily lives of the Academy students.

The Diverse Learning Centre is an active and happy learning space for students and for the enthusiastic team of educators and its new director.

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

You've been putting it off for ages. Admit it - you've always wanted to know more about your great-grandfather's shtetl back in the old country, but were afraid to ask. Who were those people dressed in funny clothes in the faded sepia photograph? What did they do for a living, and why did they come to this country? Is it true that you have the same hair as great-aunt Rachel? Did zaid and bubby really have ten brothers and sisters? What happened to them? Where are their descendants today? Now that the kids are back to school all day, it's a great time to finally get started on tracing your family tree.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton & Area is here to help you! Our members and guest speakers are full of interesting stories and expertise. So you're not from the Hamilton area? No problem! Many of our members also grew up in other cities and the records are readily available via the internet and other resources. We can link you to other genealogy society web sites to aid your research project. Don't know how to use a computer or search the internet? We can help you, step by step.

There are many resources available to researchers which include the internet, microfilms, city directories, Jewish public libraries, Yizkor books,

cemeteries, Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum in Israel, and the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arolsen, Germany. Passenger lists of ships that left the United Kingdom are available on line if your relatives stopped in the UK on their way to North America.

It is important to know from whence we have come in order to know to where we are going. Searching our roots and ancestors will help future generations to have a strong sense of "belonging" to not only our immediate Jewish community, but to greater Jewry world-wide.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton & Area (JGSH) meets monthly, usually on the third Wednesday of the month. Please check our web site, www.jgsh.org, on the "Events" page for dates and speakers. We meet at Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Avenue North, Hamilton, ON L8S 4A1. We begin with our Meet & Greet at 7:30PM, followed by our guest speaker. All are welcome to join us.

Admission is free for members. Non-members are asked to pay a \$5 guest fee, which is used to defray our cost, and will be applied to the JGSH membership fee when joining in the same membership year. Please contact our president, Hazel Boon, at president@jgsh.org or phone 905-524-3345. We look forward to meeting you.

ADAS ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

It was a simple idea that has begun to transform a congregation. This past Rosh Hashana, Rabbi Daniel Green of the Adas Israel announced a new initiative called "US," United Shabbat.

United Shabbat is a once-a-month event designed to build a sense of community and make synagogue life an engaging and vibrant experience.

Rabbi Green explains that many Jews are caught between conflicting values. They appreciate the role of a synagogue in everyday Jewish life yet they are pulled in many directions by competing needs. The goal of United Shabbat is to focus on one particular Shabbat and make that Shabbat truly special.

Each United Shabbat is designed as a journey to a new Jewish culture and destination. The inaugural weekend was a South African experience, with scrumptious South African cuisine at a gala congregational luncheon, a discussion group with Rabbi Mayer Michalowitz, a new arrival to the Hamilton community, a special address by Rabbi Daniel Green on the Animal Kingdom, and a Jewish Jungle Safari for the children.

Prior to the inaugural Shabbat, Rabbi Green challenged the congregation and announced that 400 chairs would be set for the luncheon. While many were skeptical, when the date finally arrived close to 500

participants and worshipers filled the hall and sanctuary.

The Israeli contingent of Elkana Ifrah, Uriel Ezra, Inbar Alafi and Chana Bordowicz, together with Rabbi Shmuel & Taly Bloom, transformed the Hamilton Hebrew Academy gymnasium into the Jewish Jungle Safari, testing the skill and knowledge of the dozens of children that participated.

One could not help but feel overwhelmed by the tireless efforts and dedication of all the volunteers. In just a few days, these community minded individuals achieved miracles. The auditorium, bedecked in South African flags, animal print overlays, palm tree centerpieces, and a "rainbow" of color, created a sense of elegance and cultural authenticity.

Elkana Ifrah, volunteering at the South African United Shabbat at the Adas

Under the direction of master chef volunteer, Alon Goldshtein, the cuisine included three varieties of South African fish dishes, specialty salads and sides, and, for dessert, crême boules, individual cheese cakes, and ice cream.

Sheryl Hosiassohn, the volunteer chair, commented, "It was wonderful and inspiring to see a community come together and come alive, all in the South African tradition."

"We need to open the doors of synagogue life to a broader base," said Rabbi Green, "and create a realization that vibrant Jewish life needs vibrant synagogues forge community."

United Shabbat will continue on November 29, with a Taste of the Mediterranean, and thereafter on January 24 and February 21. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend the complimentary gala events.

MIDRASHA - HAMILTON HEBREW HIGH

This year, Midrasha Hamilton Hebrew High has seen an explosion in enrolment and in attendance at events. With classes based out of the JCC, the program has been infused with great community spirit and is engaging students from the full spectrum of Jewish life.

Midrasha students and Yaakov Morel with the Hallelujah Drummers

Under the leadership of Yaakov Morel, the program has been injected with vibrancy and enthusiasm. After attending high school in Hamilton, Morel, earned his BSc in Psychology at York University and his Masters of Science in Education at Medaille College. Yet, his magic with teenagers surpasses his formal education and is a natural gift enhanced by over

6 years of experience with high school aged students.

At Midrasha, high school students have the opportunity to enjoy a vast array of programs including once a month Friday night "themed" dinners, hockey nights, movie nights, Mock Knesset, and lots of holiday parties. This past Sukkot, students experienced Tarbukah in the Sukkah, a smash hit event with the Hallelujah Drummers. Midrasha students also have the opportunity to join Morel on a trip to New York City.

All Midrasha classes are credited courses with the Ontario Ministry of Education and engage Judaism in an exciting and relevant way. For more information about Midrasha events, and how you can be involved, please email Yaakov Morel at yaakov.morel@gmail.com.

Support Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel

Your help is urgently needed. We've recently sent people to assist in Georgia and Mumbai, India. MDA has invested in a fleet of 3-wheeled scooters to help navigate traffic-jammed and narrow streets. To donate call Hilda Rosen at 905 529 4824.

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