

Hamilton Jewish News

SERVING HAMILTON WENTWORTH & AREA

FEBRUARY 2004 VOL 18:3

SH'VAT 5764

Dates to Remember

Morris Black Public Speaking Contest
Sunday, February 29
6:00 pm at the JCC

Purim
Sunday, March 7

Hamilton Mission to Israel Information Night

Wednesday, March 24 at
7:30 pm
(see p3 for details)

Inside



David Frum in Hamilton, see p7

UJA Privacy Policy, see p2
Remembering Sam Soifer, see p 13

and much, much more

NEW APPLICATIONS TO THE UJA FEDERATION BUDGET & ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

The community is hereby notified that new beneficiary applications for funding must first come to the UJA Federation executive for approval. If so deemed worthy, the application will be brought before the board for approval. If the new beneficiary agency is approved by the board of directors, the Budget and Allocations Committee will be so notified to hear a submission for funds. For the fiscal year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, applications must be submitted by **MARCH 31, 2004** to the UJA Federation office to the attention of Gerry Fisher at 905-648-0605.

Full Steam Ahead for Hamilton Mission to Israel

A Hamilton mission to Israel is being organized by UJA Federation this coming October 16-24, 2004. Co-chaired by Michele and Lorne Finkelstein and Michael and Pam Taylor, this mission, whose theme is "With Israel...In Israel", promises to be an experience of a lifetime that will educate participants about Israel's history, inform them about the issues and challenges she faces, and immerse them in the spiritual and historical roots of the Jewish people.

The 8-day itinerary will include a mixture of sight-seeing, sessions on Israel advocacy and on co-existence initiatives between Israelis and Palestinians, visits to innovative programs funded by UJA dollars and briefings by top officials about the political and security challenges facing the state. A special highlight will be a picnic barbecue with the large community of former Hamiltonians and their families who have made aliyah over the years. First time visitors to the country will be particularly delighted with visits to the Golan Heights and the Dead Sea/Massada area.



Hamilton Mission co-chairs, Lorne and Michele Finkelstein and Pam and Michael Taylor

This will be a first visit for co-chairs, Pam and Michael Taylor, who are thrilled to be going.

"It is our sincere hope," said Michael, "that this mission will provide the excitement and commitment within our fellow

travelers to return to Hamilton with the passion to make a difference."

This will be the third visit but the first mission for the Finkelsteins, who celebrated their son Chad's bar mitzvah in Israel ten years ago.

"After speaking to others who have come back from recent missions," said Lorne, "Michele and I are excited about returning to Israel after all these years. We believe this is the time to go and show support for Israelis."

cont'd on p7

UJA 2004 Campaign in Race to Close Special Campaign Required to Meet Overseas Obligations

The UJA 2004 Campaign is now in a race to close, still intent on meeting the campaign goal and closing by the end of March. The good news is that the campaign is projecting an increase over last year's record numbers, despite the loss of several major commitments.

At a Federation board meeting on February 4, Men's Division co-chairs Paul Roth and Lester Krames reported that the \$1.1 million campaign target is still proving elusive and that there needs to be an extraordinary effort on the part of donors and canvassers to reach a successful conclusion.

The co-chairs explained that when United Israel Appeal of Canada approached the Hamilton Federation last spring, asking them to participate in the 'Global Jewish Crisis Campaign', there was an unequivocal acceptance of Hamilton's joining this national initiative by raising an additional \$94,000 towards addressing three extraordinary needs: The ongoing economic crisis in Israel, brought on by three years of Arab violence, the need to respond to the growing levels of antisemitism in Europe; and the need to respond to the collapse

of the Jewish community in Argentina.

Despite concerns of donor fatigue resulting from last year's very successful Israel Emergency Campaign and the ongoing capital campaign for Shalom Village, the Federation Board was confident that the Hamilton community would never let a special appeal from Israel go unheeded.

"We accepted the challenge and we still intend to meet it", said Krames.

Gerald Fisher, Federation Executive Director agreed with this assessment.

"I know this community to be profoundly committed to Israel. My concern is that we haven't done enough to inform the community of exactly what is at stake here."

What is 'exactly at stake' was clarified by UJA Federation President, Bonnie Loewith.

"At the moment, we are faced with three basic options: We ignore the commitment made last spring and just say 'sorry, but we can't do it'; we keep the commitment, realizing that it will mean significant cuts to local services; or we make a special effort to raise the additionally needed dollars

right now."

The question was brought before the UJA Federation Board at the February meeting. After serious consideration of the options and the consequences, the Federation leadership provided a simple and clear response:

"We will not renege on a commitment to Israel; we will not endanger the survival of our local agencies and schools; we will make the extra effort to successfully complete the job we started."

As an expression of that commitment, the UJA Federation Board of Directors committed itself to conduct two special telethons during the month of February to complete the regular annual campaign. According to Fisher,

"There are a number of donors who have not yet been contacted for the UJA 2004 commitments; people who will surely donate if they are asked. The dollar value on the cards not yet called exceeds \$200,000. It would be an act of utter abdication of responsibility to not make every effort to contact community members that we know will be supportive. The responsibility now rests with the

UJA Federation leadership. If they make the effort, they will surely be successful."

As soon as these donors are successfully contacted, a 'quick hitting, special initiative' will be launched specifically for the Global Crisis Campaign. Campaign strategies will be focused on parlor meetings with Israeli envoys, return visits to donors whose commitments were flat and special outreach to those who have not traditionally supported UJA in the past, but who did respond to the Israel Emergency Campaign. The target date for completion is March 31st.

If you have not yet made your commitment to UJA 2004, or if you would like to make an additional donation to support the Global Crisis Campaign, please help by contacting the Federation office at 905-648-0605 with your pledge. You can also donate online by going to the Federation website at www.jewishhamilton.org. Thank you for your support.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE HJN IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2004.

UJA/FEDERATION OF HAMILTON

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Bonnie Loewith

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Lester Krames and Paul Roth

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Privacy Policy of UJA Federation of Hamilton

UJA Federation of Hamilton respects your privacy and maintains high standards to protect the confidentiality of the personal information of our donors and potential donors. We use your personal information for a number of reasons. These include providing you with up-to-date information on our objectives, services and programs and processing any donation you make.

The collection, use and disclosure of personal information for commercial activities are governed by privacy principles and laws including the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA). Our organization's Privacy Policy describes the treatment and protection afforded personal information by UJA Federation of Hamilton.

UJA Federation of Hamilton's goal is to strengthen our community and build partnerships in Canada, Israel and throughout the Jewish world. The fundamental themes which guide our work are: financial resource development, leadership development, advocacy, Jewish continuity, maintaining the centrality of Israel and responding to the needs of Jews wherever they may live.

To accomplish our goal, UJA Federation of Hamilton collects personal information including but not limited to names, address, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, family member names and donation history. We use this information for the following purposes:

To distribute information that assists in creating an understanding of the community's needs;

To communicate information about our programs, services and products;

To advise of specific programs and services that may be of interest to individuals;

To meet legal and regulatory requirements relating to the services we provide; and to request, invoice, collect and process donations.

UJA Federation of Hamilton may also review your donation preferences to determine your interest in specific programs or services and tailor our communication with you in an attempt to provide only materials of interest to you. Federation shares personal information with its local beneficiary agencies including Jewish Community Centre, Jewish Social Services, Hamilton Hebrew Academy, Kehila Community School, Beth Jacob Synagogue, Temple Anshe Sholom and Adas Israel Synagogue.

Federation may also provide the personal information we collect to other community organizations that have official ties with the Federation, such as Canadian Jewish Congress, Canadian Council for Israel & Jewish Advocacy, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and others that mirror our mandate, objectives and/or provide services on our behalf. We may also share information where we are required by law to do so.

If you do not want to receive information about the community and the programs and services we and others in the community offer, or if you have questions, comments or concerns about our personal information practices, wish to access any personal information about you in our records or wish to request that your information be updated or corrected, please call executive director Gerald Fisher at 905-648-0605 or email gfisheru@on.aibn.com.

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Scholarship awards are based on merit and financial need

B. APPLICATIONS

Applications are available through the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services National Office or Hamilton Jewish Social Services, and are due by April 16, 2004. Late entries will not be considered. Applications and enquiries should be addressed to:

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada
National Scholarship Committee
4580 Dufferin, Suite 306,
Toronto, Ontario, M3H 5Y2

For further information: Tel: (416) 630 9051 Ext. 33 Fax:
(416) 630 19029 email: national@jias.org

Our Apologies

An article praising Hamilton's Jewish community and the Hamilton Hebrew Academy was published in the December 2003 issue in the space allotted to the school. It was published without any significant editing of content, in keeping with the promotion of community organizations in the pages of HJN. A similar article submitted last year for the GroHamilton section of the newspaper included comments praising Kehila school. The aforementioned article was by edited by HJN staff, removing all references to Kehila on the basis that it was solicited as a GroHamilton article and not for the school's column. Items that were edited out included testimonial comments from a parent about how Kehila school was welcoming to her child and how the school focuses on each child's individual needs.

The HJN recognizes that allowing an article supportive of the Academy to run while editing out comments that promote Kehila was unfair and could be construed as an editorial bias against Kehila. No such bias was intended.

The HJN recognizes that Kehila School has demonstrated its value to the children of our community and deserves to be treated on an equal footing with other schools in its pages. We did not intend in any way wish to belittle the achievements of Kehila students and faculty, the warmth and openness of the school or its academic excellence. In order to remedy the situation and provide balanced coverage of the educational options available to Jewish children in Hamilton, the HJN will run an article on the history, mission and achievements of Kehila in an upcoming edition. We apologize for any distress that might have been caused by our error.

UJA FEDERATION TRIBUTE CARDS

648-0605 EXT. 306

JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES & THE KOSHER FOOD BANK

In Memory Of

HY FEINSTEIN – Carol & Lester Krames LES PASIS – Sam & Odette Brownstone, Joyce & Irv Dain. SAM KRAUSZ – Lore Bronner SAM SOIFER – Sam & Odette Brownstone, Elmer & Adas Farkas, Louise & Oded Klinghoffer and family, Bill & Marcia Halpren, Joyce & Irving Dain, Lore Bronner, Michael & Harriette Orlander, Judy & Mel Basbaum, Paul & Susan Roth. LOU HOTZ – Sam & Odette Brownstone, Joyce & Irv Dain, Paul & Helen Hanover. HARRY LASKIN – Sam & Odette Brownstone, Paul & Helen Hanover. IRVING WAXMAN – Manny & Ruth Fine, Paul & Helen Hanover. PEARL GILMAN – Michael & Harriette Orlander. EVELYN LEVY – Janet & Gerald Asa. Mother of Rabbi Ben Hecht - Michael & Adalia and family

Special Occasions

RUTH ZALTZ – 80th birthday – Shava Siegel, Moey & Cheryl and family, Nancy & Allen and family, Terry & Chris and family. ANNA & LEON SHKOLNIK – engagement of your daughter – Phil & Andrea Zians FAYE LEIBTAG – Special Birthday – Dolly & Ralph Cohen SAMARA STRUB – Bat Mitzvah – Glogauer Family. JOSHUA STRUB – Bar Mitzvah – Glogauer Family. AVI & ITKA DALFEN – birth of daughter – Michael & Harriette Orlander, Fae & Hy Wiseman. LAURA WOLFSON & TISH BYRNE – on your recent vows – Joyce & Irving Dain. SID & SONIA SHUMACHER – 40th wedding anniversary – Goldie Robbins

Speedy Recovery

LILY SILVERSTEIN – Robert & Marilyn Wasserman HARRY KELMAN – Susan & Paul Roth. BARBARA GOLDBLATT – Marilyn & Robert Wasserman. MICKEY BOGART – Dolly & Ralph Cohen. DOREEN LEVITT – Paul & Helen Hanover. HENRY VINE – Joyce &

RALPH TRAVIS ISRAEL EXPERIENCE FUND

In Memory Of

HY FEINSTEIN – Corinne Travis. HARRY LASKIN – Gladys Dubo. Max Bernstein – memory of Evelyn – Gladys Dubo. Thelma Travis – memory of Evelyn – Gladys Dubo. Ethel Myers – memory of sister – Corinne Travis

Speedy Recovery

BARBARA GOLDBLATT – Corinne Travis

Special Occasion

TERRY & ERICA MOSHENBERG – birth of daughter, Jessie – Corinne Travis. BARBARA LASKIN – Special Birthday – Corinne Travis.

ERWIN JACOBS ENDOWMENT FUND

Special Occasion

LORE JACOBS – Bar/Bat Mitzvah of grandchildren. David & Sarah – Lore Bronner

MCMASTER JEWISH STUDENTS SHEILA FREEDMAN MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory Of

HY FEINSTEIN – Gloria Silverman

THE EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory

SYLVIA KLEIN – Allen & Flora Rams

Special Occasion

DANIEL & JACKI SNADJMAN, ABE & GINA SZPIRGAS – engagement of son, Hershel to JoAnna Szpirglas – Allen & Flora Rams NANCY & BRIAN SOMER – birth of grandson - Allen & Flora Rams. REBECCA & AVI SHAPIRO – birth of son – Allen & Flora Rams BARBARA & JACK SHINEHOFT – Adam's engagement to Eleanor –

Join Co-Chairs Lorne & Michele Finkelstein and Michael & Pam Taylor
at UJA Federation's upcoming

Hamilton Mission to Israel "With Israel..in Israel"

October 16 to 24, 2004

Mission Highlights:

- Touring in the Galilee Panhandle, Golan Heights, Dead Sea/Massada, Tel Aviv/Yafo, Jerusalem, Archaeological Sites
- Sessions in Israel Advocacy and on co-existence initiatives between Israelis and Palestinians
- Meetings with Political Leaders

An Israel Mission is an exciting spiritual, historical and personal adventure to the land of Israel — the land of soul and vitality. It is an opportunity to meet the People of Israel — to talk to new immigrants on a one-to-one basis, to ask questions and to share ideas with new Israeli friends. It can mean so many things to so many people — a dream vacation for some, a spiritual awakening for others. A call to adventure that must be answered, or a shared experience that can become the foundation for the rest of your life — and for those you love. So pack your bags — you're going home!

BYOT or BRING YOUR OWN TEEN and make this a truly inter-generational experience.
Call Wendy Schneider at 905.628.0058 for more information.

Find out more... Join the Mission Co-Chairs at a

Mission Information Evening

Wednesday, March 24, 2004 at 7:30 pm

at the home of Michele and Lorne Finkelstein

R.S.V.P. to Wendy Schneider at 905-628-0058

Do you have family or friends living in Israel? A highlight of the mission will be a picnic/barbeque with former Hamiltonians who live in Israel. Help us contact them by sending us their email address. Contact Wendy Schneider at wendy.schneider@

UJA Federation

First Mission for veteran Israel travellers an unforgettable experience

BY
WILLY STEEN

In November 2003, my wife, Sylvie and I and four other individuals from Hamilton, joined approximately 700 others from across Canada and 3500 from the U.S. on a solidarity mission to Israel. I had heard of missions to Israel but I had never really known what a mission was. We met wonderful people on the mission, some for whom this was a first visit to Israel, and others who had been many times. We shared many special moments together and everyone left with a greater love and commitment for Israel than ever before.

Our journey started in the Galilee panhandle in the north, where we met with a group of high school graduates who are enrolled in a "Mechinah" Leadership program. These exceptional young people have chosen to defer their military service by a year in order to study, volunteer, and develop their leadership skills. Another



Willy and Sylvie Steen in Israel

highlight was a "Canada Salutes Israel" extravaganza at the elite Palmachim Air Force base where Prime Minister Ariel Sharon spoke to us and thanked us for coming to Israel. That night I was very proud to learn that Canada has sent more missions to Israel than any other country since the second intifada started three years ago.

Our mission was packed with informative and moving sessions, including a visit to the emergency operating rooms at the Hillel Yaffe Hospital in

Hadera, lunch at the Park Hotel in Netanya, the location of the Passover Massacre, and an extremely moving meeting with Ruth Bar On, founder of Selah, the Israel Crisis Management Centre. During this meeting, we heard chilling accounts from women who lost loved ones in horrific suicide bomb attacks. At the site where Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated, we lay wreaths and chanted Kaddish. We said a "Shecheyanu" at the first view of Jerusalem and participated in an emotional Kabbalat Shabbat service at the Western Wall.

We were also addressed by a host of exceptional speakers, including Dalia Rabin Pilosoff, the daughter of the late Yitzhak Rabin, Dr. Boaz Ganor, director of the Counter Terrorism Institute, and Gerald Steinberg, director of the Conflict Resolution Center at Bar Ilan University.

Throughout the mission, food and accommodations were first class. There were times we laughed and sang, and times we had tears in our eyes and a knotted feeling in our throats.

In addition to dealing with the unimaginable stress from fear of terrorism, Israelis are struggling to cope with an ailing economy - 30% of the population lives below the poverty level.

Israel needs our financial help badly, yet polls in Israel repeatedly show, that, they appreciate our support more if we come and visit. Yes, we felt very safe - one Arab shopkeeper in Old Jerusalem told me it was safer here than in Manhattan, and he was right!

Midrasha News

Midrasha Hebrew High School has had a great year so far. Our enrollment has been up and our students are enjoying learning experiences both inside and outside of the classroom. Midrasha is committed to incorporating the Jewish Holidays into the curriculum of each class. This past Chanuka, our students enjoyed a lovely Chanuka party at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. Latkes and sufganiot were fried, and everyone had a great time. On Succoth we enjoyed a festive Succoth party in both the Goldberg and Silverman succah. Thanks to our parents, students, and community who helped make these events a success. This year our Hebrew students were invited to personally meet and talk with Ruth Bar On. Ruth Bar On organizes help for Israeli immigrant victims of terror. She was a guest of the Hamilton Jewish Federation. Our students had the privilege to meet with her and share dessert with her. Our Jewish History students had a field trip to the McMaster Mills Library. There they met with a librarian who taught them how to use the computer system for research. The students then followed up the lesson by doing research on the Spanish Inquisition within the Mills Library. These are just a few of the educational and fun things we have been up to this past semester. Midrasha



Midrasha teacher, Elana Barbut with student Samuel Yellin

staff and students would like to take this opportunity to extend a mazel tov to members of our steering committee. We wish Anna Shkolnik and family a hearty mazel tov on the recent engagement and upcoming marriage of their sister and daughter Jane, and we also wish Adele Reinhartz and family a mazel tov on the upcoming marriage of sister and daughter Simma Miriam Walfish. For more information about Midrasha High School Program please contact Andrea Zians at (905)308-7647 or azians@hotmail.com. Midrasha Hebrew High School is a joint project between UJA Federation of Hamilton and the Hamilton Learning Center.

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WE WANT TO GET YOU TO ISRAEL THIS YEAR!

UJA Federation is pleased to announce the availability of ISRAEL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS for recognized high school and university level programs. These funds have been



made available through The Ralph Travis Israel Experience Fund and UJA Federation. Scholarships are available up to a maximum of \$500 and are subject to a number of criteria, outlined on the application form.

- All candidates will be interviewed
- Applications will be considered only from families who have met their commitment for the 204 UJA campaign.

TOURS TO ISRAEL

JOINT SOLIDARITY MISSION
APR. 27 - MAY 6/04
Led by Rabbi Joseph Kelman of Beth Emeth Synagogue and Dean Bye,
Director - Christian Zionists for Israel in conjunction with B'nai Brith

COMMUNITY JEWISH HERITAGE TOUR TO ISRAEL & PRAGUE

MAY 9 - 23/04
led by Rabbi Philip Scheim and Cantor Marshall Loomer

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Subject to

UJA Federation



Barry and Alma Yellin happy to be back in Hamilton

by Ellen Resnick

Jewish Social Services

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

The Jewish Social Services would like to start a support group for caregivers. If you are a primary caregiver and would like to meet other people in our community to talk and share experiences, please call Carol Krames at 905-648-0605 (325)

PURIM CARDS

JSS is selling personalized Purim cards to send to family and friends. To order yours call Carol Krames at 905-648-0605 (325) or email carol_krames@eudoramail.com

KOSHER FOOD BANK

A special thank you to our Jewish community for their ongoing support of our Kosher Food Bank. Our shelves are being kept full thanks to our schools, teens, service clubs, and community members. We want to offer a special thank you to Hamilton Kosher for their annual donation of 44 kosher chickens to our Food Bank. Another special thank you to Mazon Canada, an agency that was created as a Jewish response to hunger and one of our biggest funders. Mazon Canada has given us consistent financial help throughout the years.

2004 THEATRE CLUB SEASON

Guys and Dolls - Sunday May 16 - \$74
Stratford
The Producers - Wednesday, June 23 - \$92
Cannon Theatre, Toronto
A Month of Sundays - Sunday, July 18 - \$35
Erin, Ontario
Hairspray - Wednesday, August 4 - \$81
Princess of Wales Theatre, Toronto
Pal Joey - Wednesday August 25 - \$65
Niagara on the Lake
Summer of Love - Wednesday, Sept 1 \$37
Port Dover

All our shows are orchestra seats for 2:00 pm matinee. Buses depart at 10:30 am and return at approximately 6:00 pm. Your cheque is your reservation. If you would like to be put on the mailing list for the Theatre Club call Carol Krames or Bea Matchen at 905-648-0605 ext 325 or 326 or email Carol_Krames@eudoramail.com

Looking for the perfect present? Why not give a gift certificate to the Theatre Club. You can give it towards a specific play, or let the recipient decide what play they want to attend. This is a present for people of all ages, parent, cousins, friends. For more information call Carol at 905-648-0605 (325) or email carol_krames@eudoramail.com



See Fiddler & Support GroHamilton

The best 100 seats for the Thursday, May 13 performance of Fiddler on The Roof have been set aside to raise funds for UJA Federation's GroHamilton Project whose objective is to grow our Jewish community. Tickets cost \$50, a portion of which is tax receiptable. Call Ellen Resnick, GroHamilton coordinator to order your tickets.

Help Us Grow The Jewish Community
Hamilton....Gro For It!

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UJA Federation

Malaysian President's Remarks Cause Jewish Community Leadership To Speak Up

BY GERALD FISHER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UJA FEDERATION

Drs. Lorne Finkelstein and Lester Krames have taken a courageous public stand by insisting that the anti-racism arm of the City of Hamilton denounce the racist and antisemitic comments recently made by the President of Malaysia at an international conference of Islamic leaders.

Their concerns were raised at the January meeting of the Strengthening Hamilton Community Initiative (SHCI) Roundtable. The "Roundtable" is the policy making body of SHCI.

SHCI is a major community relations initiative, launched by the City of Hamilton after the events of 9/11. Municipal leaders were concerned that the unpredictable aftermath of that tragedy might well be a backlash against local, minority communities. The torching of the Hamilton Hindu Temple was one example of "worst fears realized".

SHCI has reached out to bring together the broadest imaginable collection of cultural, ethnic and religious communities in the Hamilton area. The intent has been to create a plethora of activities designed to sensitize all participants – including municipal functionaries – to the concerns of others... and to create positive opportunities for

those concerns to be addressed.

Jewish community representatives contacted the SHCI leadership immediately after the offending remarks were communicated around the world. Our representatives were seeking two outcomes: a statement from SHCI denouncing the statements and the use of SHCI "good offices" to ask the Hamilton Muslim Association for a public comment distancing themselves from the offending remarks. The initial response to both requests was negative.

SHCI leadership argued that since the offending remarks were made at an international event, it was beyond their mandate to comment. They further declined to ask the local Muslim leadership for a comment, out of concern that it would lead to an unending chain of demands for public comment every time there was an act of violence in the Middle East. Undeterred, the Jewish representatives would not accept no for an answer.

A special meeting of an executive committee was called early in January to listen more closely to our concerns and to determine what – if any course of action was required. The result was a decision to bring the issue to the SHCI Roundtable as a whole.

The Jewish community presentation to the roundtable included the following points:

- The local Jewish community was deeply frightened and hurt by the remarks.

- If the SHCI mandate is to expose and denounce racism when its expression affects Hamilton, then this is a serious example.

- If the current SHCI mandate is too limited to provide for an appropriate response, then the mandate needs to be expanded.

What followed was an animated discussion by the 0 plus individuals sitting around the table.

The Jewish community representatives were actually quite surprised by the degree of support they received from all quarters – including from several Muslims. By the end of the meeting, there was a clear consensus that the SHCI mandate required some modification. A commitment was made to provide a new draft at the next meeting.

This experience has been an important learning curve for all concerned. The SHCI leadership has learned something significant about Jewish community sensitivities. Our Jewish community representatives have learned that there may be more good will out in the world than we sometimes realize. Perhaps the most important learning aspect is a greater appreciation of the value for the Jewish community to be present in the larger community – not just to protect the Jewish community interest – but to contribute to the building of a greater sense of well being for all Hamiltonians.

Genesis Leadership Project bears fruit in creation of New Singles Group

by
Helen Metz

Single. Divorced. Widowed. All types were represented at the successful JOSH (Jewish Opportunities for Singles in Hamilton) get-together, organized by Helen Metz, Sandy Morris and Jewish Community Centre staff, that took place on February 8, when eleven participants met to see the movie "Big Fish". Afterwards everyone met to eat, discuss the movie and socialize. The mood was amicable and jovial.

The February event was the second that JOSH had arranged. The first took place in November 2003 at the JCC when Sharyn Gunter from Toronto addressed an audience of six on the topic "Seizing Social Success", which outlined a myriad of ways to meet new people. The idea to get together at the movies was a direct offshoot of one of her ideas.

JOSH was formed as one of the many projects initiated by GENESIS, the Hamilton Jewish Leadership Development Program run by the UJA Federation last year. This is a program offering an intense growth and learning experience. To date, two GENESIS groups have taken place. One of the requirements of the program

is having participants design and implement a project that will serve the Hamilton Jewish community.

The need to serve Jewish singles was seen as a clear need by some members of the second Genesis group, and they have found that working together to organize activities serves in itself as a way to feel more connected, useful and fulfilled. The fact that the first meeting attracted six participants while the second meeting attracted eleven participants is seen as an indicator of what is to come. It is anticipated that numbers will grow as more events are organized, and that opportunities to meet other Jewish like-minded singles in a congenial atmosphere will increase.

The next meeting may take the form of a pot-luck dinner and games evening to be held at the home of one of the group members.

Hamilton Jewish News Readers are invited to attend future meetings, to refer friends or to call in with ideas and requests. Details will be available from Michele Schneider at the JCC at 905-648-0605.

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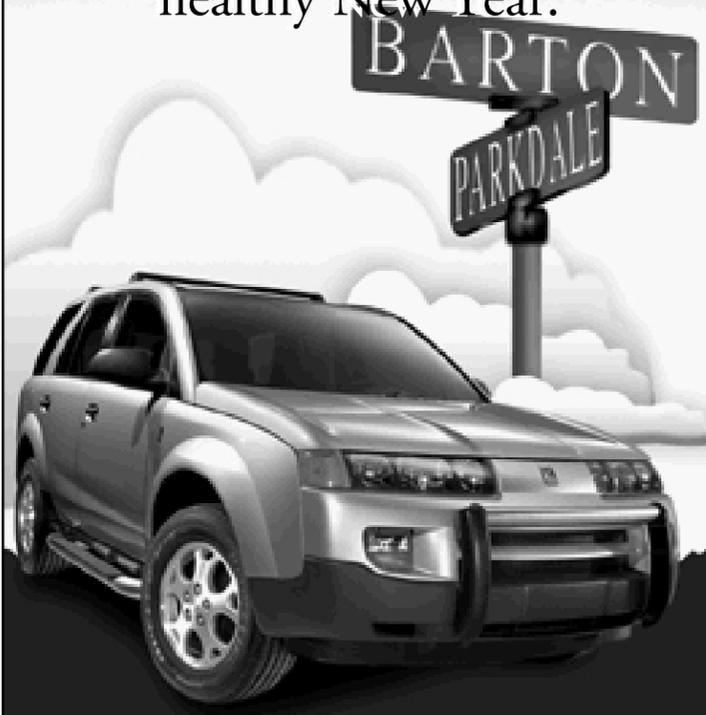


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Local Events

David Frum: Jews should embrace "new friends" in Republican Party

by
Wendy Schneider

The approximately 150 community members who gathered at the Adas Israel Synagogue on February 5 to hear David Frum were treated to a provocative evening in which the outspoken conservative political commentator challenged the tradition alliance between Jews and the Left, and outlined his views on a wide variety of topics, ranging from his opinions about U.S. president George Bush, the betrayal of Israel by the Left, and the need for taking an uncompromising hard line on the war against terror. Frum, who is currently on a North American tour promoting *An End to Evil*, a book he co-wrote with former Assistant Secretary of Defense, Richard Perle, said that the West is facing "a huge, idealistic challenge" in its battle against a vast network of terrorism, supported and funded by a massive, global infrastructure of extremism.

He said that Israel has become a symbol of the Islamic



David Frum, signing books for Cheryl Greenbaum, David Steinberg (centre, standing) and JNF emissary, Frank Simkevitz.

world's inability to make room for modernity and the Western world and he challenged the view that resolving the Palestinian issue will solve the global terror problem. Even with all of the resources and all-consuming efforts made by the Clinton administration during

its final years, finding a peaceful solution was ultimately seen to be impossible, as the Palestinian Authority revealed itself as unable to exercise authority over an increasingly radicalized Palestinian population.

Frum scoffs at accusations of an insidious Jewish, neo-conservative influence in the White House. The truth, he said, is that American public policy has become more open and, as a result, more pro-Israel. Citing poll results that

show that registered members of the Republican party support Israel by a ratio of seven to one compared with a ratio of three to one among the general American population and an even smaller ratio among registered Democrats, Frum said that the Jewish community, "like it or not", must come to terms with the fact that it has "gained some new friends and lost some old ones." The problem with the Democratic Party, he said, "is they don't have their hearts in the right place". Jews, he added, have "a bad habit of looking for personal warmth instead of the values and backbone to do the right things." And while no president in American history has ever been more personally disposed towards Jews than Bill Clinton, George Bush is proving himself to be a much stronger President and better friend to the Jews. While "the Left has turned against Israel", he added, "the local gun club has not."

Frum also took a few shots at Canadian Foreign Minister, Bill Graham for his moral vacuity expressed by his insistence on establishing moral equivalency and, by implication, Prime Minister Paul Martin, for failing to replace him when making up his new cabinet.

During the question and

answer period that followed, Frum responded to a question as to why he thought campuses have become hotbeds of anti-Israel activity, saying he was bewildered by how the Left can bring itself to support the world's most repressive regimes which hold the most fundamental human rights in contempt. He said that Leftists on campus have adopted the Palestinian cause because it fits in with their need for a simplistic, polarized view of world politics. Today's campus leftists, he added, are closer to being anarchists, and their unequivocal embrace of radical nationalism "borders on fascism."

Frum concluded his remarks by reminding the audience that Jews have traditionally believed in the power of politics and the ability of people to make a difference. Stressing the importance of advocacy, he claimed that letters and communications from constituents matter and that, contrary to popular belief, politicians do, in fact, listen.

The evening with David Frum was sponsored by UJA Federation of Hamilton.

Hamilton Mission

cont'd from p1

Mission participants will see an Israel that tourists rarely see because they're taken behind the scenes. The itinerary, prepared by United Israel Appeal Federation Canada's Israel office, has access to all realms of Israeli society, whether military, cultural or political, as well as to the most experienced guides in the country.

If you have family or friends among the former Hamiltonian community currently living in Israel, we ask that you forward their email addresses to wendy.

schneider@sympatico.ca so that we can invite them to the barbeque.

A special evening has been set aside to answer all questions and concerns about the upcoming mission on Wednesday, March 24, at 7:30 pm at the home of Michele and Lorne Finkelstein at 2 Anslow Court in Dundas. Please RSVP by calling Wendy Schneider at 905-628-0058.

THE HAMILTON INTERFAITH GROUP

An opportunity to learn, to share, to grow, to act.

The Group currently includes members who are Bahai, Buddhist, Christian, First Nations, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh.

If you would like to be a part of this important initiative, contact Gerald Fisher, executive director, UJA

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Top of the Table MDRT

Lou Bukhman
B.A., M.Sc. (Econ.)
Member - MDRT

JCC Pages

The Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton & Area

"It's Where You Belong"

Sport and Social Memberships available. Call 905-648-0605 with your support.

*More Upcoming Events***Youth 3-on-3 Basketball**

April 18, 2004 @ 1:00 pm

for those born 1992 - 1995. Watch for further details

Yom HaShoah

Monday, April 18, 2004

Beth Jacob Synagogue

The Yom HaShoah committee is investigating ways of permanently recording for our community family members who perished in the Holocaust. Please submit names to Michele at JCC 905-648-0605 no later than Feb 27.

Yom Ha'atzmaut

A community celebration at the Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton & Area

Monday, April 26, 2004 6:30 pm

Lag Ba'Omer

Sunday May 9, 2004

at the Jewish Community Centre Fire Pit

JCC Beth Tikvah Golf Classic

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Beverly Golf and Country Club Copetown

The Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton & Area seeks a

DIRECTOR

for its

**KADIMAH & GADNA
SUMMER DAY CAMPS**

for children ages 3 - 15 yrs during the months of July and August with availability to pre-plan beginning April 15, 2004

Applicants should possess the following:

Experience in camp management and programming ; Ability to work closely with peers, campers and community ; Leadership potential; outgoing and fun personality ; Knowledge of Jewish holidays, traditions and Israel- based programming ; Safety oriented
Please send your resume ASAP to JCC Administrator Joy Foster at the Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton & Area, P.O. Box 7258, Ancaster, Ontario L9G 3N6. 905-648-0605 (Fax) 905-648-8388 email: jfosterJCC@on.aibn.com.

The Jewish Community Centre is taking applications for

**Senior & Junior
Counsellors**

for

Camp Kadimah & Camp Gadna 2004

A summer day camp for children 3 - 15 years

University, College or High School Students (entering Grade 11 minimum 16 years of age (2004)) may apply. If you enjoy working with children please call for an application form or send your Resume to: The Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton & Area, 1030 Lower Lions Club Road, P.O. Box 7258, Ancaster, Ontario L9G 3N6. Tel. 905 648-0605 (Fax) 905 648-8388. Email Hamiltonjcc1@cogeco.ca

**Donors help JCC build new ramp
but only part of problem solved**

There is now partial accessibility at the Jewish Community Centre. For many years volunteers to the board of directors and volunteers facilitating the many programs held in our gymnasium have been wrestling with the huge costs attached to becoming barrier free. Thanks to an initiative by Jeff Paikin in memory of Barry Foster, there is at last visible progress. The new wooden ramp reaches from the parking lot to the gymnasium/bubble allowing freer access to physical recreation programs.

Thanks to architect Joseph Singer and to Steven Dembe for their enormous help in seeing this project to completion. Mr. Singer has been contributing to expansion planning in so many ways, for so many years. His expertise is an invaluable gift to the community through the JCC. Mr. Dembe made smooth the road to construction with all of the data entailed in the building permit and with the construction company. Neil Mandel, another very good friend to the JCC provided the new security gate at the top of the ramp. This contribution solved the dilemma of this



Adrian Dieleman, captain of the Wheelchair Tennis Program of Ancaster, Cy Villa and friend and coach, Richard Bartlett, all happy to use the JCC facility.

extra but necessary expense. Allen Harris will be modifying the washrooms for those who are differently abled. Until now there has been difficulty for many with walkers and wheelchairs. How fortunate are we, that Mr. Harris will wield his tool belt, as well as leading the table tennis program youth.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Now that the ramp brings people to the door of the bubble we need to build a better door, as those using walkers or strollers are still

unable to enter the bubble. The door is of equal importance to the ramp. Currently the only entry options are the revolving door and the bubble exit doors which when opened create a strong resistance exerted by the pressure of the escaping air.

The barometer for contributions received to date, reads at just under the halfway mark. Please join the donors to date; and help the community realize a complete job well done.

Thanks so much to all of you who have responded: Jeff Paikin, Gary Minden, Warren Waxman, Sally Lax, Larry Kahn and Debbie Sheinbaum, Michael Benjamin, Sheldon and Bonni Carr, Benjamin's Park Memorial Foundation, Gerald and Janet Asa, Marvin Goldblatt, Max and Samieth Mintz, Marnie and Larry Paikin, Norma and Maurice Mishkel, Elmer and Ada Farkas, Joel Feldman, Steven and Cheryl Dembe, Philip and Dalia Kriszenfeld, Gerry and Rochelle Swaye, Norma and David Wright Lillian Cohen, Barry Foster z"l.

Annual Skiathon 'Not for Profit' Partnership in action

The Hamilton community is proud of their volunteers. As the 'not for profit-partnerships' practice grows in strength among volunteering organizations, Hamilton proves that this concept is not only valid - it has been working for the past 12 years! The Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton and Area together with the Beth Tikvah Foundation have been providing

a Family Skiathon to help with fundraising at these two valuable institutions.

The participants and donors have raised and distributed \$170,000 since this project was begun by Beth Tikvah co-chairs Stan Tick and Sheldon Frank and JCC chair Larry Szpirglas. Also for the past few years the event was 'heightened' by the participation of Phoenix Ski

program, which provide ski and snow board instruction to developmentally challenged children of all ages.

Partnerships prove successful, especially when they are led by volunteers such as these, whose continuing devotion to their community inspires the many contributors to participate.

Mark Your Calendars for the JCC'S annual

**Dinner Anywhere In The World
LOTTERY***Draw to be held on*

Monday, April 26 at 8:00 pm
at the Yom Ha'atzma'ut Celebration

WIN \$9,000 Cash!!!!**5 ADDITIONAL DRAWS - \$200 EACH**

Tickets: \$100

Call 905-648-0605 or email: hamiltonjcc1@cogeco.ca to purchase your ticket.

Monies raised will go towards youth programming at the JCC



JCC Pages

The Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton & Area

"It's Where You Belong"

Sport and Social Memberships available. Call 905-648-0605 with your support.

Why we send our Kids to Summer Camp at the JCC

By
GINNY LEVINE

For more than 75 years now, children in this community have spent carefree summers, enjoying sun, fun and a sense of belonging, all under the watchful eyes of our counselors, Jewish leaders of tomorrow.

In 2000, the Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton expanded its programming to two camps each July and August – Camp Kadimah for nursery-age to Grade 2 and Camp Gadna for youngsters in Grades 3 to 7 – as well as, a counselor-in-training program for teens Grades 8 to 10 and employment for University, College and High School aged counselors.

Where once upon a time, Camp Kadimah was one of only a few local choices for Hamilton parents, today's offering seems endless. Specialized sports, fine arts, music, and nature camps vie for campers' time and parents' attention.

"We say to parents, 'If you do send your kids to camp, please make sure that at least one of those weeks is at one of our camps,'" says JCC Administrator Joy Foster. "The JCC's community-based camps provide one of the few opportunities to mix with other Jewish children from across this region. This deepens the children's own definition of 'community' and 'belonging'



in the crucial formative years, which are patterns vital to the health of this community."

I know why my husband Mitch and I continue to send our children to camp (all three have progressed through the ranks with our youngest being a current Camp Gadna devotee) and why I've served on the JCC camp committee for the last few years, but I was curious about why other parents chose Camp Kadimah or Camp Gadna.

So, on January 6th we held a parents' focus group at the JCC. Participants Cindy Greenbaum Smyth, Jill Gaffe, Andrea Molot, Debbie Sheinbaum, and provided some invaluable feedback. Here are some of their comments on what makes Camp Kadimah and Camp Gadna so special:

"It's the counselors. They're so amazing. They are such

good (Jewish) role models for my kids."

"The day trips are great. My daughter was at Gadna and she loved going to the Royal Ontario Museum, the African Lion Safari and to Staircase Theatre. She also went canoeing and swimming at Christie."

"The overnights are lots of fun, and dress up and theme days. It's laid back. I know my children are having a good time, they're safe and I can relax knowing they're well looked after."

"I may not get all the details of what my kids do all day but I do know that my kids love coming to camp."

Personally, we support these camps because they strengthen our children's communal bonds and because they're fun, safe and enriching.

Some day, when they look back on summers spent, we know they'll remember fondly the times they shared with fellow Jewish Hamiltonians – kicking up their heels, singing Israeli camp songs and sharing a unique and rich past.

Would you like to join the JCC camp committee and help shape lasting camp memories? Please contact: Michele Schneider c/o hamiltonjcc1@cogeco.ca or at 905-648-0605 ext. 310.

Upcoming Events!

MORRIS BLACK PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

for Grades 4 – 9

Sunday, February 29 at 6:00 pm

Hosted by Rick Black and Family,
The Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton & Area
and Hamilton Hadassah-WIZO

Fun Games Prizes

"It's the whole Megillah at the JCC's

PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 7

Hot Dogs/Veggie Dogs: 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Games: 1:00 - 2:30 pm

(Purim style costumes encouraged)

\$18 per family includes 30 tickets

\$5 per single person/includes 5 tickets

JCC Members: Show us your family membership and receive 5 extra tickets



Volunteers Needed

to help program, plan and implement the following programs.

*Purim Carnival
Yom Ha'atzmaut
Lag Ba Omer
Film Festival*

The JCC encourages new ideas and suggestions and will work together in creating exciting programming for our community. If you would like to volunteer call Michele at 905-648-0605

Your commitment to community programs is invaluable and we look forward to having you join our team of volunteers!

JCC TRIBUTE CARDS

In Memory Of

Father of IRENE ALBERT: Charles & Michele Schneider, JCC Board of Directors, Aubrey Friedman & Family. **Mother of GAYLE KEPECS:** Charles & Michele Schneider, Abe & Gina Szpirglas. **HARRY LASKIN:** Aubrey Friedman, Mel Gunn, Sylvia Jacobs, David & Esther Levy, Abe & Gina Szpirglas, Warren & Karen Waxman, JCC Board & Staff. **LOUIS HOTZ:** Mel Gunn, Warren & Karen Waxman, JCC Board & Staff. **HARRY PERELL:** Marilyn Kam, Harry & Barbara Laskin, Derry & Susan Millar, JCC Board & Staff. **LESLIE PASIS:** Mel Gunn, Rochelle Waxman. **Sister of EDIE ROCHKIN:** Sam Boccoccio. **SAM SOIFER:** Irwin & Sandy Fuss, Mel Gunn, Helen Yellin, JCC Board & Staff. **IRVING WAXMAN:** Aubrey Friedman & family, Magda Muller, Abe & Gina Szpirglas, Warren & Karen Waxman, JCC Board & Staff.

Mazel Tov

SCOTT BALINSON (promotion): JCC Board & Staff. **FRANCES & STUART CRITCHLEY (daughter's engagement):** JCC Board & Staff. **MITCHELL & GINNY LEVINE (Carson's Bar Mitzvah):** JCC Board & Staff. **Marty & DEBBIE STRUB (Joshua's Bar Mitzvah):** JCC Board of Directors & Staff.

Thank You

TIM FLETCHER (contribution of security advice): JCC Board of Directors. **MARVIN GOLDBLATT:** JCC Staff. **ROYPORTER (contribution of security donation):** JCC Board of Directors

Best Wishes

MICKEY BOGART (wishing you good health): Joy Foster. **CHUCK MATCHEN (wishing you good health):** JCC Board of Directors & Staff. **PAULINE MORRIS (Happy Birthday):** Tom Martin & Amy Katz Martin, JCC Board of Directors.

Speedy Recovery

Rae Cohen: Joy Foster. **Dr. Irving Dain:** JCC Board & Staff. **Fanny Grinspan:** Joy Foster.

JCC Youth Maccabi Games Fund In Memory of

LOUIS HOTZ: Doreen & Larry Goldblatt. **HARRY LASKIN:** Doreen & Larry Goldblatt. **ROSE ROTH:** Doreen & Larry Goldblatt. **SAM SOIFER:** Doreen & Larry Goldblatt. **IRVING WAXMAN:** David & Melanie Bromstein, Doreen & Larry Goldblatt.

*Wax Up Your Skis & Snowboards for the
72th Annual*

JCC/BETH TIQUAH SKIATHON

Sunday
March 14

at the

*Holmont Ski Club
Ellicottville, New York*

New this year! JCC will hire a bus with sufficient registration. Transportation costs will depend on the number of reservations received.

Call the JCC today for your application form, sponsor sheet and itinerary. Please return your application by Friday, February 27. Line up your sponsors now and be prepared to have fun.



Special Feature

You can't get peaches from a lemon tree

The goal is plain and simple. We must leave no Jewish child behind.

by George D. Hanus
JewsWeek.com

The most recent National Jewish Population Survey has confirmed trends we've feared but long suspected. Increasing numbers of young people are saying goodbye to their Jewish heritage.

Most indicators of Jewish identity - communal

philanthropy, Jewish literacy, attachment to Israel - are significantly down among the under-35 cohort. Every 10 years when a new population study is released, their elders cry and bemoan these statistics, marveling at young people's colossal abandonment of a 4,000-year tradition. National philanthropies wring their hands

and form emergency committees to study the problem. The sense of urgency which led to their formation quickly fades as these commissions are reportable to no one and have the financial muscle to do nothing.

But young people, by virtue of their youth, are not primarily responsible for their lack of Jewish identity. Children do

not make educational decisions by themselves. They do not, as a rule, choose their own schools. The seeds of Jewish involvement were planted by their parents, and by the Jewish community as a whole. If we want Jewishly affiliated adults, we must provide our children with high quality educational opportunities at affordable tuitions. If we valued Jewish education, it would be high on our budget of expenditures and not high on the list of excuses. You can't plant a lemon tree and expect to get peaches.

Indeed, the statistics show without a doubt that when the seeds are planted carefully, we do reap the rewards. It is an incontrovertible fact that those young Jews who are Jewishly educated are unlikely to abandon their ancestors' way of life. According to the 2000 National Jewish Population Survey, 43% of those who lacked any Jewish education intermarried, while only 7% of those who attended Jewish day school intermarried. (Whatever one's views regarding intermarriage, only one-third of intermarried couples raise their children as Jews, while 96% of in-married couples do.) Those children who were given a thorough Jewish day school education tend overwhelmingly to become active Jewish adults. This is clear and irrefutable.

The Jewish community's reputation for philanthropy is legendary. At the forefront of every social cause there is a disproportionate number of Jewish lead gifts. Whether it is a hospital, art museum, zoo or environmental group, Jewish donors are well-represented. Whether it is poverty, endangered birds, or rainforest conservation, Jews are often among the activists bringing these issues into the limelight. All of these charitable

initiatives are important and deserve support. But in our zeal to support causes of universal significance, we often forget our own children.

Even the whales have their saviors, but who represents Jewish children? What national organization speaks to guarding the future of Jewish children, to giving them an understanding of where they come from? What organization seeks to plant seeds so that our children grow into strong, healthy trees that will ensure the future vitality of Judaism? Currently, there is no such organization.

We must leave no Jewish child behind. Currently, young families are unable to provide an intensive Jewish education for their children unless they are very rich or fervently committed. Young families simply cannot afford to educate our children because of the philanthropic community's prioritization of values and program initiatives.

In an attempt to address this extraordinary crisis, a movement is building across North America. The idea is clear and direct. Establish locally controlled and managed Superfunds for Jewish Education and Continuity (SJEC) that would raise money to provide scholarship funds for all students in that community. The raised money would be distributed in only one of two avenues:

1) The scholarship money would be distributed on a pro-rata basis to the day schools in the local area, based on their respective enrollment in kindergarten through 12th grade, or in the alternative.

2) The donor can designate a particular school or schools. The donor's request would always be honored and would take precedence over the first option.

As an added incentive for
cont'd on p16




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In Memory Of

SYLVIA KLEIN: Howard & Shelley Brown, Michael Danna & Adam, Sol & Sylvia Jacobs, Sharon & Lawrence Hart & Family.
ROSE OFSTEIN COPPEL: Sol & Sylvia Jacobs. **HARRY PEREL:** Natalie Strub, Esther Alexander, Pearl & Izzie Waxman, The Maccabees, Ruth & David Madger, Harold & Marie Sutin & Family, Didi & Mel Dulberg, B'nai Brith Women's Bowling Association, Sophie Buchalter. **LUDWIG BILLIGHEIMER:** Congregation Ohav Zedeck. **MARJORIE MACINTOSH:** Helen Goldstein, Abraham Latner, Halina Lewczyk, Joan Silverman, Miriam Lebow, Barbara Abraham, Edna Smith, Joan McIntosh, Orion & Bernie Paquette, Teddy Sutherland, Ken & Bev McIntosh, Cathy & Sarah McDowell, Elly Veldhuis. **SAM SOIFER:** Dorothy Rosenthal, Miriam Lebow, Lily & Harry Silverstein, Merle Cwitco, Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village, Anna Taylor, Ron & Miriam Davidson, Joan Epstein, Elizabeth & Arthur Lesser, Larry & Jay Rosenberg, Rhoda & Bernie Katz, Michael & Pam Taylor, Donna Y Henry Vine, Leon & Vivian Price, Gloria Silverman, Howard & Shelley Brown, Michael, Danna & Adam. **JENSEN FAMILY:** Ron & Anne Barrs. **AKLER FAMILY:** Ron & Anne Barrs. **LES PASIS:** Margaret & Harry Kelman, Ruth & Sam Rosenblatt, Anna Taylor, Ruth & Murray Stein, Jack & Barbara Katz & Family, Mary & Reube Levy, Dorothy Adler, Sandy & Steven Silver, Michael & Pam Taylor, Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village, Yetta Levy, Mary D'Amico, Molly Aron & Sam Yanover, Jackie Wasserman (Leon), Al & Mickey Ossea, Les & Gloria Roefe. **HARRY LASKIN:** Margaret & Harry Kelman, Ron & Miriam Davidson, Jack & Barbara Katz, Dorothy Adler, Gert Goldblatt, Lotti & David Redner, Joan Silverman, Yetta Levy, Annette & David Magder, Natalie Strub, Anna Taylor, Bess Goldblatt, Betty Foster, Isabel & Leo Strub, Ruth & Yaacov Goldberg, Debbi & Derik Abraham, Syd & Jean Brown, Allan & Lorraine Kudlats, Gloria Silverman, Sylvia Kritzer, Ted & Carol Adler, Lil & Harry Silverstein, Al & Mickey Ossea, Leona Bergman, Mates Cohen, Al & Ruby Berns, Donna & Henry Vine, Esther Ovsey, Ruth & Manny Fine, Lee Cohen, Molly Aron & Sam Yanover, Harriet & Ralph Israel, Jodi & Dean Newman, Robin & Brian Pierce, Leslie Magder, Leon & Vivian Price, Leah & Leslie Lowinger, Frank & Bobbie Lebow, Dianne & Jerry Woznica & Family, Eldon Moses, Julia & Arnold Swartz, Irwin & Sandra Fuss, Jane & Jeff Schwab, Ellen & Alan Moskovitz, Ann & Hugh Kestenbaum, Judy & Ronnie Kobrick, Stuart & Carol Gordner & Family, Les & Gloria Roefe, Ricki Shore & Rob Rochkin, Marvin, Helene, Jonathan & Lindsay Obar, JoAnn & Harold Pomerantz, Pete & Cookie Rosenblatt, Evelyn Cohen, Mary & Reube Levy, Edie Rochkin, Howard & Elaine Evinoff. **EVELYN LEVY:** Howard & Shelley Brown, Michael, Danna & Adam, Anna Taylor, Joan Silverman, Jack & Barbara Katz, Sandra Levy, Sandy & Steven Silver, Sarah Epstein, Michael & Pam Taylor, Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village, Debbi & Derik Abraham, Andy Hrba, Irwin & Sandra Fuss, JoAnn & Harold Pomerantz, Sheryl & Aaron Shecter & Family. **LOU HOTZ:** Honey & Gary Chertkoff, Jack & Barbara Katz, Blanche & Norman Levitt, Mel & Didi Dulberg, Yetta Levy, Sally, Ted & Bonnie Lax, Natalie Strub, Anna Taylor, Ruth & Yaacov Goldberg, Sari & Abe Mandel, Elizabeth & Ivan Bloom & Family, Molly Aron & Sam Yanover, Bess Dulberg, Congregation Ohav Zedeck, Anne & Joe Minden, Evelyn Cohen, Sharon & Stephen Lax, Les & Gloria Roefe, Rhoda & Bernie Katz. **IZZIE WAXMAN:** Jack & Barbara Katz, Len & Ann Gooblar, Mary & Reube Levy, Joan Epstein, Jocelyn & Ben Katz, Didi & Mel Dulberg, Sandy & Steven Silver, Larry & Jay Rosenberg, Ray Rosenberg, Michael & Pam Taylor, Shirley Yaffe, Lotti & David Redner, Joan Silverman, Yetta Levy, Phil & Rose Rosenshein, Cookie & Pete Rosenblatt, Annette & David Magder, Natalie Strub, Ted & Bonnie Lax, Rhoda & Bernie Katz, Esther Alexander, Marilyn Pomerantz, Anna Taylor, Debbi & Derik Abraham, Syd & Jean Brown, Allan & Lorraine Kudlats, Sylvia Kritzer, Edie Rochkin, Lil & Harry Silverstein, Al & Ruby Berns, Molly Aron & Sam Yanover, Bess Dulberg, Ron & Ann Barrs, Frank & Bobbie Lebow, Julia & Arnold Swartz, Irwin & Sandra Fuss, JoAnn & Harold Pomerantz, Sharon & Stephen Lax, Les & Gloria Roefe, Ricki Shore & Rob Rochkin, Margaret & Harry Kelman, Sheldon & Marlene Gains. **Mother of ROSLYN ZIKMAN:** Ruth & Yaacov Goldberg. **LENA LEAF:** Glenna Mackay, Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village, Cathy McDowell, Marie & Harold Sutin. **JERRY RUBIN:** Mickey & Al Ossea. **Brother-in-law OF LIL BUCHALTER:** Barbara & Izzie Abraham, Syd & Sonia Shumacker. **PETER SPIEGEL:** Abe & Sari Mandel. **HY GREENBERG:** Harry & Helen Mendelson. **MARY - Sister of ESTHER SCHWARTZ:** Ray Rosenberg. **HARRY HALTON:** JoAnn & Harold Pomerantz. **IZZIE POMERANTZ:** JoAnn & Harold Pomerantz. **DOROTHY BECKERMAN:** Claire & Lou Latner, Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village, Sadie Stren. **MYRTLE DUNLOP:** Joan Silverman, Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village, Barbara & Jack Katz, Barbara Abraham, Donna Vine, #6 SFTS Reunion Committee. **VIRGINIA HOWARD:** Lou & Sophie Berenbaum, Howard & Shelley Brown, Michael, Danna & Adam. **SAM GAINS:** Jack & Barbara Katz & Family, Abraham Latner, Didi & Mel Dulberg. **SAM KRAUSZ:** Jack & Barbara Katz, Fanny & Ben Davine, Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village, Ray & Shelly Greenspan, Hamilton B'nai Brith Bowling League, Ahuva Soifer, Edna Smith, The Spa @ Mykos, Irma & Phil Perlgut, Arnold & Chava Segalowitz. **SYDNEY FELDMAN:** Jack & Barbara Katz & Family

Mazel Tov

MICKEY & AL OSSEA: Joe & Ann Minden. **FRANK & RITA SHAPIRO:** Joe & Ann Minden. **DOLOVITCH FAMILY:** Sheila & David Burman. **SYD & SONIA SHUMACKER:** Leah & Les Lowinger. **MURRAY & TISH ADELMAN:** Joan Epstein, Donna & Henry Vine. **JERRY & ROCHELLE SWAYE:** Auntie Lil & Uncle Sam. **LARISA VOLMAN:** Vicky Bach.

Thank You

GOLDIE ROBBINS: Ben & Ida Sussman. **SHALOM VILLAGE WEISZ HOUSE STAFF:** Heather & Len Ritter
AL OSSEA: Saturday Nitters.

Birthday

JOYCE LIEBERMAN: Shirle Weddum. **DR. STEVEN SILVER:** Jerry & Elena Goldblatt. **FAYE LEIBTAG:** Len & Ann Gooblar
SUSAN MENDELSON: Helen Goldstein. **MARGARET KELMAN:** Yetta Levy & Family.

Get Well

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Special Mentschen

Hamilton Teen Helps Bring Canada a Silver Medal from Pan-Am Maccabi Games

by
Wendy Schneider

Shauna Eisenberg has covered a lot of territory in her 18 years. The young athlete recently returned from Santiago, Chile, where she and her fellow teammates on the Canadian women's national basketball team at the Pan-Am Maccabi games brought home a silver medal. This was the second time Shauna had participated in the world Maccabi games – Two years ago she played on the Canadian junior women's basketball team in Israel.

The daughter of Mark and Shelli Eisenberg of Westdale, Shauna was of the top scorers during the Pan-Am games, leading to a profile in a local Chilean newspaper. The exceptional athlete is currently a student at the University of Guelph where she is studying Applied Human Nutrition. Her earliest experiences in the Maccabi games were as a young athlete participating in the annual North American Maccabi youth games that take place every summer in a major American



Shauna Eisenberg (first from the right) and some of her teammates at the Pan-Am Maccabi Games in Santiago, Chile

city. In the year, 2002, she tried out for and won a place on the Canadian junior women's basketball team at the world Maccabi Games in Israel. The experience, which reawakened in Shauna a strong connection to her Jewish and Zionist roots, was overwhelmingly positive, and she enthusiastically anticipated another opportunity to play in the "Jewish Olympics."

For Jewish athletes from around the world, opportunities to take part in the Maccabi

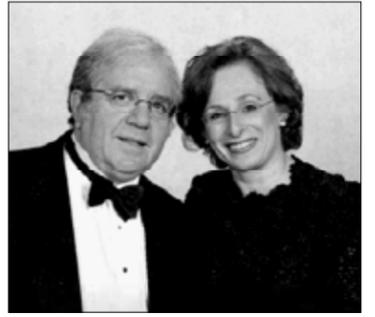
Games arise every two years: the Israel Maccabi Games, which take place every four years, alternate with the Pan-Am Games, which take place in a major world capital every four years. The next Israel games will take place in two years and the next Pan Am games will take place in Australia four years from now.

Shauna plans to try out for both and, given her track record, is sure to make the team.

Joe and Cheryl Greenbaum 2004 Negev Dinner Honourees

Hilton Silberg, president of the Jewish National Fund of Hamilton is pleased to announce that Joseph and Cheryl Greenbaum will be the Hamilton NEGEV Dinner honourees for 2004.

The tentative date for the 2004 Hamilton Negev Dinner is Sunday, May 30, 2004.



Both Joe and Cheryl are well known in the Jewish community. They are long time dedicated members of the Adas Israel synagogue and have been involved with numerous Jewish organizations both locally, nationally and in Israel. Cheryl served as president of the Jewish Federation of Hamilton-Wentworth and as co-chair of Women's Division of UJA. Both are respected physicians within the medical community in Hamilton and at McMaster University.

Joe and Cheryl share a love and a passion for the State of Israel and they fully support the work of the Jewish National Fund. The Jewish National Fund of Canada is delighted to have such a committed couple as honourees for 2004.

The Zionists at McMaster invite you to attend a lecture by

Sheikh Abdul Hadi Palazzi

Secretary General of the Italian Muslim Association

Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00 pm

Temple Anshe Sholom

215 Cline Avenue North, Hamilton.

Sponsored by the Zionists at McMaster with participation and support from the Jewish Students Association of McMaster, Hadar: The Morris Lax Centre, Betar-Tagar, the Canadian Zionist Federation and UJA Federation of Hamilton

Prof. Abdul Hadi Palazzi, of Rome, Italy, is Moslem Co-Chairman of the Root & Branch Association's Islam-Israel Fellowship, which encourages a positive Moslem attitude towards Jews and Israel based on a re-examination of the authentic teachings of Mohammed as revealed by the Koran and Hadith (Islamic oral tradition). Abdul Hadi Palazzi challenges conventional views on peace, Oslo, Arafat, Islam, the Middle East and Arab-Israel conflict. According to Palazzi, Saudi Arabian Wahhabis and Arab dictators distort Islam and have perverted it into a religion of hatred.

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Special Mentschen

Doctor makes fantasy writing look easy

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Courtesy of the Canadian Jewish

He makes it seem so easy. Family physician Dr. Michael Schweitzer jogs for about an hour and a half daily in good weather and eureka – a fantasy novel is born. Schweitzer writes in his head while jogging. The next morning, he types up his notes. Schweitzer began writing his first book in March 2002 and completed the first draft that June. Several months later, he completed the final draft. The novel, called *The Curse of Garnel Ironheart* and published by Manor House, is Schweitzer's first book in a trilogy for teens and adults. The story is filled with epic battles, soul-searching dilemmas and moral quandaries. The novel brings together two groups of misfits on a quest to retrieve three ancient magical objects. A hidden agenda is gradually revealed and the characters discover they are pawns in an evil bid for power. Schweitzer, who has a



Michael Schweitzer
photo by Lester Krames

busy family practice in Stoney Creek, says he wanted to write a book since he was a teenager, but time was always an issue. "There was no time in medical school. Writing was one of those things that got put on the back burner. Now I have a routine and I have the opportunity to write," he said in an interview. "Finding the time is a matter of prioritizing, organizing your day, knowing what you're doing and when you're doing it and not wasting time between activities. It's amazing how much time just appears when you do that." "When I exercise, my mind runs. I think of an idea, put the scenes together and write the book in my head. When I hit the keyboard the next morning, I don't have to think. It flows out. I know what I want to type and I type very fast." He was determined to complete the book, he said. "I decided this was going to get done. It became part of my daily routine. I'd get to the office at 8 a.m. and type before seeing my patients at 9:30." Schweitzer also credited technology with his ability to write quickly. "Feedback is important to the development of the novel. I e-mail a chapter to a friend and I get feedback right away." Schweitzer decided to write a fantasy novel because he is a fantasy fan. "I've always

liked fantasy. I've always liked the possibilities. Fantasy is the way we wish the past to be. If dragons existed in the past, there is the possibility of them being out there now. That would make our lives a lot more exciting." One of Schweitzer's favourite authors is J.R.R. Tolkien, whom he calls the "grandfather" of fantasy. The recent success of the *Lord of the Rings* movies, based on Tolkien's trilogy, has introduced the fantasy genre to a new audience, he said. "People are realizing these are inspiring stories. Any theme presented in a modern-day story can be in fantasy, from oppression to freedom to philosophy. "Everything is basically a variation on Tolkien. Fantasy writers aren't going to amaze anybody with magic or with great monsters. It's been done. What you need to do is work within the genre and focus on developing the characters and the story." *The Curse of Garnel Ironheart* is fantasy with a Jewish twist. "There is a strong Jewish presence in the book. The language of magic is Hebrew, and there are Hebrew names and words," Schweitzer said. "There is a lot of Jewish philosophy, including a conversation about why a God who is good could create evil." He said he also has made a point of including strong female characters that are often missing from traditional fantasy novels. In addition to his writing and medical practice, Schweitzer is active at Adas Israel Synagogue and is a member of the local chevrah kadishah. He and his wife Adalia have two young children, Shlomo-Eli and Rena.

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Lives Remembered SAMUEL ISRAEL SOIFER

born April 25, 1920 in New York City
Died, December 14, 2003

The day before my father's sudden death, I was reading a biography of Abraham Joseph Heschel, the great Rabbi and civil rights activist. I had thought of my father when I came across a description of Heschel that stresses his "passionate Jewish open-mindedness." The phrase surely does fit, and on behalf of my siblings, all six of his grandchildren, and other members of our family, I want to talk about Samuel Soifer in terms of his courage, his knowledge, and his zest for life.

A central element of our father's courage, summed up by his daughter, Naira, was that he simply demonstrated no hypocrisy whatsoever. He had the courage to move far beyond his upbringing, without ever forgetting where he came from. His parents were in some ways part of the classic immigrant story of early last century. His father was an embroiderer in the garment industry, and a union man who was very often unemployed. His mother retained much of the small town shtetl.

It also took great courage to court and to win Ahuva Woll. Everyone who knows our mother knows that she is a force to be reckoned with, and yet our father had the strength, optimism, and foresight to choose exactly the right partner for a very fulfilling life.

When Shmuel Soifer attended the City College of New York, it was the heyday of either/or thinking around the famous alcoves. Political debate, particularly among Progressives, tended to be intense and unusually bitter. It was particularly difficult to think for yourself in that era if you loved the particularism of much of Judaism and embraced the "for us or against us" flavor of the times. Yet our father always clearly loved the Jewish people along with the pursuit of justice with righteousness for all humankind.

In his professional career, he had the courage to leave New York City--not done by many New Yorkers in those days--and then to help lead various Jewish communities, moving on when there was more of a challenge to be met. He found a welcoming home in Hamilton -- and actually lived here longer than anywhere else in his life -- for which we are also most grateful.

It is often said, "Knowledge is power." Not with Sam Soifer. For him, knowledge is knowledge --and very much worth pursuing enthusiastically for its own sake. I keenly remember walking with my father at Fresh Pond in Cambridge, Massachusetts on a beautiful, cool fall day of the sort he absolutely loved. Somehow we got to talking briefly about death, and he said he thought the saddest thing of all about it might be that "so much knowledge disappears with each person." Our father never really appreciated, however, how much he knew about a truly amazing range of subjects.

The breadth of his knowledge about Jewish matters was particularly striking. He knew deeply what made up the essentials for all manner of Jewish beliefs -- religious, cultural, historical, political, and even universalist. Though he keenly understood the faults and limitations of various kinds of Jewish practice and belief, he embraced the whole with astonishing enthusiasm and love. It was a love that tolerated and transcended well-understood fault lines and tensions. He really knew the facts and yet -- he somehow remained optimistic about a better future.

Sam Soifer led an integrated life, throughout which he continued to question authority. If something was accepted but wrong, he did not shirk from saying so. And he knew how to celebrate joyously the occasions when justice triumphed. He happened to be at a convention in Philadelphia 50 years ago this coming May, when the United States Supreme Court finally recognized that official racial segregation was immoral and unconstitutional. Our father sent a post card home saying, "I think I heard the Liberty Bell right and it got another crack today."

To know our father was to know an incomparable zest for life. The examples are innumerable. He was remarkably skillful in picking fruit, for instance--and it's hard to know how he developed that particular skill, given his Depression-era, low-income home life full of worry. But he just knew how to pick the sweetest and the best, at the peak of ripeness. And he was exhilarated at both the picking and the eating -- as he was at enjoying every swim and sunset and new adventure!

Shmuel Soifer found Canada particularly comfortable because of its more advanced social justice network and, at least recently, its relative welcoming attitude toward immigrants.

Our father and mother were a remarkable team. They were one word, Ayeness. They had an extraordinarily deep, sustained love affair for over 62 years of marriage and they were and remain a model for us all! Sam Soifer lived life with great gusto, unbounded curiosity, and a prophet's sense of outrage at injustice. He loved well and was very much loved. He surely will be remembered for being a wonderful person who proved that sensitivity and gentleness can be a force and an inspiration.

The Creator of life, like Shmuel Soifer, really knew how to pick 'em.

by Aviam Soifer



Sam and Ahuva Soifer

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HHA Hoyas Win Volleyball Championship 4th Straight Year!

By
MARY MARTHA STARKMAN

The Hamilton Hebrew Academy just added one more sports championship to its collection. The Hoyas, the Academy's senior boys volleyball team, won the Hamilton-Wentworth Middle School Athletic Association C Division Volleyball Championship in December.

The boys displayed tremendous team spirit and skill throughout the series of highly competitive games with teams from schools across the city. The players Samuel Gould, Daniel Rose, Samuel Starkman, Josh Strub, Isaac Greenberg, Gili Hershkowitz, Daniel Hosiasohn, Jessie Schoenberg, Jonathan Ventresca, and their captain Noah Leibtag trained hard over the course of the season and honed their skills in a full series of games.

Mr. Albie O'Hanian, the team's expert coach, also led the Academy junior and senior girls, and the junior boys volleyball

teams to the play offs in their respective tiers. Mr. O'Hanian, the Academy physical education teacher, coaches the junior and senior level teams in track and field, cross country, volleyball, and basketball. Over the course of the school year, students in grades 5 to 8 have the formative opportunity of being team members and competing against students from across Hamilton-Wentworth.

As well as competing in the public school leagues, all Academy students, preschool through Grade 8, experience an exceptional physical education programme. Daily intramural sports include: badminton, volleyball, newcombball, basketball, soccer, floor hockey, broomball and bordenball.

Over the past six years, the Academy has accumulated 17 championship banners often competing against schools ten times the size. The 2003-2004 Senior Boys Volleyball Championship pennant will join the prominent pennant display

in our gym as a reminder of our exceptional sports achievement.

In addition to our many athletic achievements at the middle school level, we are proud of the numerous athletic accomplishments of our past students at the high school level. A great number of HHA alumni, both male and female, have gone on to become members of their respective high school teams, taking part in games across the region.

Hamilton Hebrew Academy is dedicated to expanding education beyond the classroom walls. To find out more about our enriched and progressive educational programme please visit our OPEN HOUSE on



The Hoyas

Wednesday, February 25 @ 7:00 pm for parents of students in Playschool, Preschool, Montessori Casa, and Grade 1. For more information

about our school please call 905-528-0330 or visit www.hamiltonhebrewacademy.org

Fiddler on the Roof cast members: Back Row, from l to r: Melissa Weddum (Chava), Hanna Strub (Chava), Davida Buchalter (Golde), Dennis Schwartz (Tevye), Lonnie Zwaigenbaum (Motel), Brittany Ventresca (Tzeitel), Dora-Ann Cohen (Tzeitel). Front row from l to ro: Lauren Siegel (Bielke), Shari Levine (Bielke), Chava Starkman (Shprintze), Sarah Goldberg (Shprintze)



Hamilton Hebrew Academy Open House

Playschool & Preschool Program
Montessori Casa & Grade 1

Wednesday, February 25 at 7:00 pm

Come Meet The Teachers

- . Sherry Flippance, Preschool Teacher & Co-ordinator
- . Louise Goodyer-Owen, French Specialist
- Sima Gozlan, Hebrew Teacher . Cheryl Hossiasohn, Playschool Teacher
- Andrea Mark, Montessori Director . Albie O'Hanian, Phys. Ed. Specialist
- Matthew Scheben, Computer Specialist . Claretta Schoenberg, Preschool Assistant
- Susan-Bayla Waxman, Playschool Assistant . Susan Wilson, Preschool Teacher
- Karen Wong, Music Specialist . Joy Zians, Hebrew Teacher
- Rabbi Zev Eisenstein, Judaic Studies Teacher . Gayle Smithers, Grade 1 English Teacher

The HHA is dedicated to expanding education beyond the classroom walls. In addition to our enriched and progressive dual curriculum program, our school offers a host of extracurricular learning experiences:

- . Intramural Sports
- Boys & Girls teams in Basketball, Volleyball, Track & Field, Cross Country, Badminton, Soccer, Floor Hockey
- HHA teams have won 17 Hamilton-Wentworth Middle School Athletic Association Championships since 1998
- . Student Clubs
- Chess, Sketching, Rikudiah, Music, MAD Science, Computer, Breakfast Club
- . Special Events
- Maccabia, Canterbury Hills Adventureworks Leadership Program, Science Fair, Invention Convention & more
- . Community Outreach Projects
- Shalom Village, Heart & Stroke Foundation, MS Readathon & more
- . Interschool Competitions
- . Holiday Programs . Israel Projects
- . City of Hamilton Events . Educational Outings

Hamilton Hebrew Academy
60 Dow Avenue, Hamilton L8S 1W4 Tel: 905-528-0330

Organizations

Fun Fridays and Other Creative Events at Kehila

By
CAROL DESOER

This year at Kehila we have begun an exhilarating program on Friday afternoons that we call 'Fun Friday'. It is an opportunity for everyone to get together to do work at activity centres related to a specific curriculum theme. Some of our Fun Fridays have focused on Jewish holidays and others on diverse subjects such as winter, musical instruments, the United Nations day of the Child and plants. The plant unit relates both to the science of plants and their growth and to Tu B'shvat, our upcoming Jewish celebration. Our two wonderful teachers, Zehava and Linda, work together to provide the program in an integrated way.

Linda Geva, our general studies teacher, has used her wealth of experience from her native South Africa and her ten years living in Israel with her family to enrich her programs. This year she discovered a Canadian children's writer who caught her fancy, Robert Munsch. We filled the classroom with his books in English and French and the children enjoyed reading and listening to his wacky stories. We also attended a play of six of his stories. The children wrote letters to Mr. Munsch who was so impressed that he sent us a large envelope full of 'goodies'. First there was a letter thanking the children for their letters. Then there was a large, autographed poster picture of Mr. Munsch. Next there was a copy of one of his books in Hebrew!! And last, there was a freshly written story

Canadian Magen David Adom

BY
HILDA ROSEN

Two fully-equipped ambulances were purchased – one in 2001 and one in 2003. Over and above these two units, approximately \$9,000 has been donated directly to medical equipment by Hamilton and area. My personal thanks to the many donors who made these purchases become a reality. A special thanks to Mrs. Jane Willinger who looks after the St. Catherines area. These donations



Linda Geva and her students enjoying Robert Munsch books

(not yet published) about Ms. Geva and her students. What a thrill for us all to be the characters in an original Robert Munsch story!!!

Our Channukah celebration with performances by all of our students in both English and Hebrew, plays, songs and a special rap were enjoyed by parents, relatives and about forty children from Temple Playhouse. That week was very busy with baking and latke making (as seen in the Hamilton Spectator) as well as making a presentation to the kindergarten classes at G.R. Allen public school. Learning how to spin dreidls really intrigued our neighbours.

On January 21, five of our parents hosted a senior kindergarten information breakfast meeting for interested families. Kehila will be extending the kindergarten to a full day program starting next September. Introductions were made by Yves Apel, chairperson of the Board and a presentation was

are part of our own area. In May 2003, an outstanding donation was received in the amount of \$45,000 from Fani Grinspan. These funds were used towards the purchase of a special medical unit shipped to Israel in memory of Ilan Ramon and his fellow astronauts. All donations received at present time are used to buy medical equipment. For donations and cards please call Hilda Rosen at 905-529-4824 and leave your phone number. Thank you.

made by principal, Carol Desoer. We had a lively question and answer period over our mouth-watering breakfast which really demonstrated the keen interest the parents have in providing an enriched, comprehensive education for their children. The host parents glowed with pride as they answered questions about their Kehila experience and their dedication to the school. Everyone is invited to call the Kehila office at 905-529-7725 for information about our full day kindergarten for next year.

We are looking forward to our 5th anniversary Open House on March 11th in conjunction

JNF Blue Box Campaign A Huge Success

With all the boxes finally turned in, the Annual Blue Box Campaign was brought to a close in December. The 2003 Blue Box campaign grew by 8% versus 2002 due in large part to the dedication of our volunteers. It also marked a turn-around from the previous year which had seen a decline in support for the program.

Traditionally, the Blue Box Campaign occurs on one Sunday in late October every year. This year was a little different in that the collection period actually ran several weeks after the Blue Box Collection Day. Some of our volunteers insisted on covering their routes well after the featured Sunday passed.

Our collection teams included Bonnie, David and Lenny Loewith, Cheryl and Phil Hosiassohn along with their children, Sharon and Yael Hart and Carmel Jacob, Jared, Cindy and Jeff Mark, Michael Kemeny and his daughter Hyla, Bruce,

with Celia's Temple Playhouse. There will be a cookie decorating activity for the children to add to the fun! Come join us.

We are pleased to announce that our board of directors has designated Kehila School's Literacy Program to carry the name of the Ruth and Lewis Sherman Literacy Program. We recognize the importance books and learning have in the Sherman family, and with their generosity, they have made it possible to pass on their passion for literacy to the children at our school.

The immense support and contribution they made in establishing Kehila Jewish

Community Day School continues to make Jewish learning possible for an increasing number of Jewish children in the Hamilton area. With the ongoing commitment by the Sherman family, Kehila was able to expand a number of enrichment programs at Kehila, one of them being the newly-designed Literacy Program. The school library, the Magic Mailbox project, and the innovative language learning approaches are the main features of the Ruth and Lewis Sherman Literacy Program.

Sean and Isaac Greenberg, Saul Eisenberg, Paul Hanover, Rebecca Katz, Kathy Jackson, Mike Goldenberg, Patricia Monkelbaan, Goldie Robbins, Vivian Epstein, Andrea Stringer, Charles Schneider and Marie Suttin.

The support of Anshe Sholom, Shalom Village, the JCC and Adas Israel who offered their offices as drop-off locations for Blue Boxes was a great help and much appreciated.

To sort and count and roll the thousands of coins, we had the agile dexterity of Murray and Tishelle Adelman, Bea Friedman, Julia Guest, Ida Shuman, Lorelei Zeiler and her daughter Johanna, the inimitable Israel Vukmir, who spent endless hours at our JNF office counting and rolling coins.

Hilton Silberg, himself one of the drivers and President of the Jewish National Fund in Hamilton was very pleased with the results. "A number of people

worked very hard to make this year's program a success and we owe them many thanks. We made some changes to the program this year and I think the Blue Box Collection program will continue to grow as more people get back into the 'Blue Box' habit ... putting their loose change into the box every week. The Blue Box has been around for over one hundred years. I think some people forgot about it for a while. But, we have been getting the Blue Box message out again and I think it's paying off. I'm confident that next year's program will be even more successful."

Funds from this year's Blue Box Collection will go directly to Israel and will be used to help maintain and upgrade JNF's many recreational areas and water facilities.

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New Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy

UIA Federations Canada (UIAFC) has announced a landmark agreement among Jewish Canadian advocacy groups to create a new body to conduct and direct a wide range of non-partisan public advocacy initiatives on behalf of the Canadian Jewish community. The new Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA) will bring together two existing complementary Canadian Jewish community advocacy organizations: the Canadian Jewish Congress, which has served the community for close to a century in addressing Jewish quality of life issues in Canada and anti-Semitism abroad; and the restructured Canada-Israel Committee, which serves as a focal point on all aspects of the relationship between

Canada and Israel. CIJA will also provide significant support to key organizations that are working to improve the quality of Jewish life on campus and that promote leadership and participation by the Canadian Jewish community in advocacy efforts.

The decision to create CIJA resulted from an extensive review, undertaken by a voluntary group of senior business and Jewish Canadian community leaders under the auspices of the UIAFC, of the existing Jewish community advocacy mechanisms. This group identified a series of steps to help the community improve the quality of Jewish life in Canada, increase support for Israel and strengthen the Canada-Israel relationship. In addition to creating CIJA as a means to

streamline and coordinate advocacy efforts, the group has allocated substantial additional human and financial resources and called for the launch of new initiatives to sensitize Canadians and the Canadian government to challenges facing Jewish Canadians and Israel.

"The time has come for the Jewish community to pool the resources at its disposal, to speak with a more effective voice on the most important issues of the day," said UIAFC President Shoel Silver. "CIJA will communicate directly with those interested in Jewish Advocacy. Its membership organization, the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy Public Affairs Committee (CIJA-PAC) will encourage the direct participation of as many people as possible in addressing the challenges faced by the community, and to provide a means for future leaders to be identified and nurtured." Under the new arrangements, CIJA has also invited representatives of all major Jewish community organizations in Canada to join a Community Council that will provide advice on advocacy initiatives directly to the CIJA Board and participate in their implementation.

Those wishing to receive up-to-date information on Jewish Advocacy issues may do so by registering at www.cija.ca. They may also join as an active advocate by signing up as a member of CIJA-PAC. For a membership fee of \$18, as advocates for the Jewish Community in Canada, CIJA-PAC supporters can provide input into CIJA programs and initiatives. For more information on CIJA or to purchase a membership through CIJA-PAC, visit www.cija.ca.

Leaving No Jewish Child Behind

cont'd from page 10

people to give, each Superfund (SJEC) would have an affiliated Ben Gamla Society of donors who would match every donation with an additional 10% gift.

In Chicago, the Superfund for Jewish Education and Continuity has already begun to organize, and commitments to establish the Ben Gamla Society of Chicago have already been made to match 10% of a \$2.2 million scholarship fund.

Each Superfund would be governed by local prominent individuals who possess impeccable personal and professional credentials. This Board of Trustees would be primarily engaged to insure integrity in the management and distribution of funds in accordance with the charitable

mission of funding Jewish education.

The goal is very simple. Leave no Jewish child behind. Every Jewish child should be able, if the family desires, to attend a high quality day school that has an affordable tuition, regardless of their stream of religious affiliation or financial resources. Back in the 1960's, one often heard the question, "What trees do we plant?" If we plant the seeds today, we can look forward to a thriving Jewish future.

George D. Hanus is chairman of the Chicago-based Jewish Broadcasting Network.

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Jewish Internet Sites

Jews of all ages will be able to find something of interest from the following list of websites, all sponsored by the organization, Jewish Family & Life (JFL)

BabagaNews.com: A Web version of the highly successful magazine for Jewish day school and congregational students.
JewishFamily.com: a non-denominational Webzine offering articles about issues facing Jewish families. The oldest of the growing number of Jewish online magazines, it has won numerous awards for coverage.

JewishHistory.com: An exploration of the heritage of the Jewish people from ancient to modern times.

Shma.com: A think tank for exploring issues in Jewish life and community, such as aliyah, Jewish political influence, creativity and assimilation.

GenerationJ.com: A Webzine aimed at Jewish 20-and 30-somethings, GenJ explores Jewish identity by publishing irreverent and provocative features on Jewish culture, relationships, spirituality and social action.

SocialAction.com: Articles, job postings, learning opportunities and community-building activities highlight this resource for Jews working to produce social change.

JVibe.com: An attempt to woo the most difficult of all Jews to reach: those between 16 and 21 years of age. The site focuses on music, books, film reviews, trips to Israel and other overseas destinations, celebrity profiles, contests, sports, sexuality, holidays, advice and connecting with other Jewish teens.

MzVibe.com: An online site for teens with feminist values. MzVibe seeks to help Jewish girls grow in independence, spirituality, inner beauty and confidence.

JewishSports.com: Described as the leading Web location for news and profiles on Jewish athletes and Israeli sports, the site is updated daily with sports news from around the world.

Interviews, profiles and athletes' personal reflections help to cover the Jewish sports experience.

JewZ.com: Provides arts and entertainment news and review, recipes and celebrity updates.

JBooks.com: Intended for every level of reader, from the serious book enthusiast to the summer beach fan, this is JFL's offering to the literary community.

Albert Snow Hair Design Group

&

The MacSOC Student Outreach Clinic
are hosting our

3rd Annual Cut-A-Thon

on

Sunday February 29th, 2004

between 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Our area's Top Salons are gathering at

1036 King St. W., Westdale

to offer

\$20.00 Haircuts

to aid Hamilton's Homeless

"Hope to see you there!"



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Locations also in London, Cambridge and London