

Hamilton Jewish News

SERVING HAMILTON WENTWORTH & AREA

FEBRUARY 2005 VOL 19:3

SHVAT/ADAR 5765

Dates to Remember

Join Co-Chairs
Amy Katz Martin
& **Tom Martin**
on

UJA Federation of Hamilton's



Call Wendy Schneider at 905-628-0058 for more information

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, 2005 to June 30, 2006, applications must be submitted by **FEBRUARY 25, 2005** to the UJA Federation office to the attention of Gerry Fisher at 905-648-0605.

Poverty Statistics Alarm Community Leadership

UJA Federation of Hamilton has recently come into possession of a highly scientific analysis of Canadian 2001 census data. The results are very disturbing.

The analysis was conducted by a team of demographers led by Dr. Charles Shahar of Montreal. The study was commissioned by United Israel Appeal of Canada (UIAFC). UIAFC commissions studies such as this to assist Canadian federations in social services planning. Here are a few of the findings:

- The number of poor in the Hamilton Jewish community is steadily increasing.

- 795 Jews live below the poverty line in Hamilton. The poor comprise 17% of a total population of 4,675 Jews. The national poverty average for Jews is 13.4%.

- More than one in five Jewish children (22%) in Hamilton are poor. Children in single parent families are especially at risk (50%).

- There are 190 poor Jewish families in Hamilton. When unattached individuals are included, a total of 575 disadvantaged households are identified.

The document has been shared with the leadership of both UJA Federation and Jewish Social Services. Susan Roth, president of Jewish Social Services, recognizes that

the Social Service client base has been growing over time. According to Roth,

“Although the professional staff and Board of Directors of Jewish Social Services recognize

that our client base has been growing dramatically over the last few years, we don't feel the Jewish community is aware of these dire needs. Our relief

cont'd on p4

Teen Telethon Makes Community Proud!



Community teens recently raised a record \$5,287 in one night at a youth telethon. Thanks to Lynne Czutrin (far right) and Vivienne Epstein (far left) for chairing the program and to the teens. Pictured here are (from l to r) Natalie Epstein, Tanya Schneider, Sari Meyerson, Aaron Friedman, Macie Mandel, Arielle Strub, Jason Hossiasohn, Joel Meyerson, Jared Mark, Josh Strub, Max Mandel, Aily Leibtag and Emily Schneider. Missing from the photograph is Ilana Klinghoffer.

UJA Campaign Results Promising

“THE UJA 2005 Campaign goal of \$1,000,000 is within reach and will be achieved, provided that volunteer canvassers fulfill the commitments they made at the campaign launch.”

This was the view recently shared by Dr. Larry Levin, chair of this year's UJA Men's Campaign.

Speaking to the February meeting of the UJA Federation of Hamilton Board of Directors, Levin reported that at January 30th 2005, pledges received totaled \$812,000.

“On this date last year, pledge totals were \$675,000. This larger pledge total may be explained by some donors making their commitments earlier than last year. However, the important statistic is the card for card increase of 13% on an overall basis. This suggests real growth; the growth we require in order to recover from last campaign's downturn and meet urgent community needs in the coming year.”

The UJA women's campaign has continued with its tradition of good organization and good results. Women's Division co-chairs Louise Klinghoffer and Jo-Ann Pomerantz were delighted to report that the UJA Women's campaign has produced three new “Lions of Judah,” with high hopes

for at least one more Hamilton woman joining this prestigious group. (“The Lion of Judah” is an international affinity group for donors of \$5,000 or more to the UJA Women's annual campaign. Qualifying donors are invited to participate in a wide range of seminars and conferences with Jewish leaders from all over the world.)

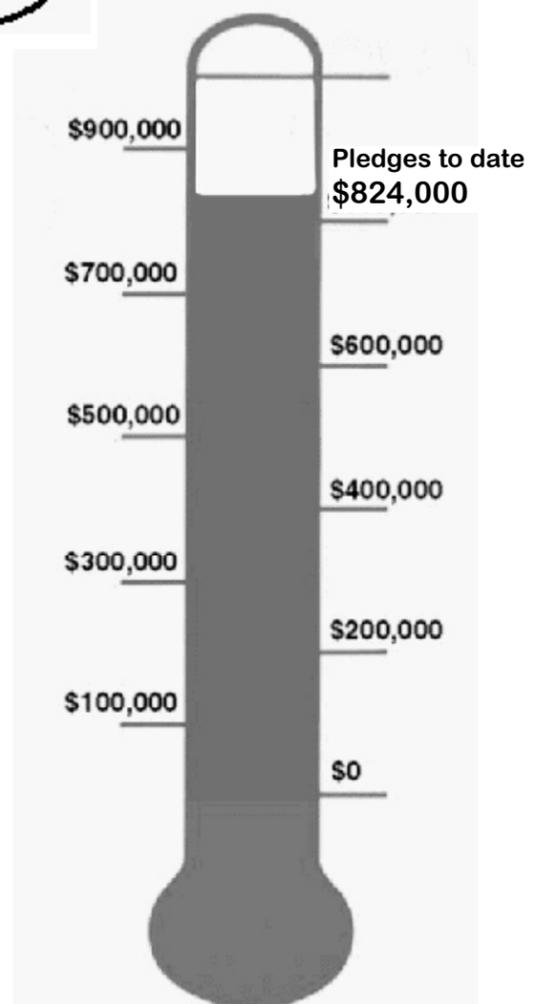
UJA Federation executive director, Gerald Fisher, was optimistic about the campaign's final result.

“The potential for meeting or exceeding the campaign goal is within reach. What will make this year more successful is volunteer canvassers staying focused until they complete their jobs and donors being more responsible in the face of growing needs locally, nationally and around the world.”

On a final note, the campaign chairs mentioned their plans to hold a volunteer canvasser appreciation evening on Wednesday, March 30th. Among other highlights of the evening, volunteers will have an opportunity to meet with IDF Air Squadron Commander Amnon Ron. Details of the event will be available within the next few weeks.



Campaign 2005 Goal
\$1,000,000



Help us meet our commitments to our local agencies and to Israel. Call the UJA Federation office at 905-648-0605, ext 306 to make your campaign pledge

UJA Federation Programs

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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 14, 2005

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Editorial

UJA Federation of Hamilton is launching a campaign to encourage the community to support local vendors of kosher products.

Federation president, Leslie Lasky, remarked that

"We are all aware that the opening of the kosher food section at the new Fortino's presents significant challenges to our existing vendors of kosher meats and foods. We appreciate all that Fortino's has done to service the Jewish community. However, there is a value to having vendors you know by name, vendors who will do something special 'just for you'.

Starting this month, UJA Federation will be sending letters to all congregations and organizations, calling on them to encourage their constituencies to shop at Hamilton Kosher and Westdale Deli. According to UJA Federation executive director, Gerald Fisher,

"This initiative is not an action against Fortino's. It's a bit of a 'wake-up call' to our own community to appreciate the value of vendors who have served our community well over such a long period of time.

The situation has been described as a challenge very similar to the experience of any small community when a box store opens down the street from a local hardware store or children's shop. These kinds of changes can challenge the nature of community life. The purpose of the UJA Federation initiative is to encourage the community to demonstrate its appreciation for what it has in hand.

McMaster Jewish Student Writes a Letter to the Editor of the Spectator

Two weeks ago, UJA Federation sent out an E-newsletter broadcast to the community asking recipients to write to Hamilton Spectator editor, Dana Robbins, expressing their concern regarding the media's publishing opinion pieces without verifying whether the expressed opinions are based on fact, nor with any regard to the inflammatory effect they have in cultivating a climate of increased antisemitism. The email prompted Brandon deSilva, president of the McMaster Jewish Students Association to write the following letter:

"When repeated malicious and inaccurate anti-Israeli items are publicized, the risk of antisemitic acts based on anti-Israeli sentiments increases".

Dear Dana,

My name is Brandon deSilva and I am president of the Jewish Students Association (JSA) at McMaster. This is my fifth year being actively involved with the JSA. From my experience, the above statement is 100% true and is a constant worry for me and many Jewish students on campus. Over the years many individuals as well as an anti-Israel group on campus have been spreading hateful material about Israel using highly offensive and loaded words. As of now, the administration has refused to do anything, bowing to the principle of freedom of speech. I fear that the constant barrage of anti-Israel information being spread through my campus is leading to an increase in antisemitic acts. Just this year, the student group, Zionists@McMaster received a hate email including a picture of a Nazi and the JSA itself received antisemitic phone messages.

Since September, the anti-Israel group has been spreading the inaccurate and disturbing statement that Israel is an apartheid state. I am on constant guard because I worry that since for the average student Israel is synonymous with Jews, it is not hard to imagine a possible antisemitic incident.

Overall, I become increasingly worried as time passes. Just yesterday the JSA brought four Israeli soldiers who had participated in Birthright trips and who ranged from 21-23 years of age to speak about life in Israel. This was met with the anti-Israel group protesting the event and handing out material that called the Israelis "war criminals", "murderers" and calling for their arrest. Believe it or not I even overheard them telling students that in World War II, the Zionists and Jews were helping the Nazis!

I have met many Jewish students who no longer wear their Magen David necklaces or any other identifiable Jewish items. Some of these students are worried about the way Israel is being depicted and are actively disassociating themselves with Israel and Judaism. When Jewish students in Canada are afraid to be who they are it's a very scary thing. I don't think any student, Jewish or not, should have to hide who they are.

The hatred for Israel is being pushed on students all the time and this can only lead to greater tension and antisemitism on campus.

Brandon deSilva
4th Year Honours Commerce, McMaster University

UJA FEDERATION TRIBUTE CARDS

648-0605 EXT. 306

JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES & THE KOSHER FOOD BANK

In Memory Of

NANCY KATZ – Dolly & Ralph Cohen, Jeff & Gilda Ennis and family, Carol & Lester Krames, Sam & Odette Brownstone. **IRWIN LYONS** – Helen & Paul Hanover, **ELLARD EPEL** – Paul & Susan Roth. **Father of Siggy Rajzman** – memory of father – Heather & Len Ritter and family. **MEL DULBERG** – Carol & Lester Krames **Brother of HARRY KELMAN** – Paul & Helen Hanover. **AL OSSEA** – Dolly & Ralph Cohen, Gail & Les Wolfe. **Grandson of MILLIE COWAN** – Ida Shuman, Goldie Robbins. **HANNAH FELDMAN** – Dolly & Ralph Cohen. **EMILLYA LAVINOVA** – Jacklyn Strohl & family. **JACK ROSEN** – Sharon & Lawrence Hart and family, Ida Shuman, JSS Chai Choir, Sam & Odette Brownstone. **Father of IAN KATZ** – Helen & Paul Hanover. **MICHAEL LEVINSON** – Natalie Sobel, Rafael Kleiman. **LARRY SEGAL** – Carol & Lester Krames. **AARON LAX** – Sam & Odette Brownstone. **NATE SHERMAN** – Carol & Lester Krames, Louise, Oded, Tamar, Naomi, Ilana Klinghoffer, Moura Wolpert, Dolly & Ralph Cohen.

Special Occasion

BARRY YELLIN & ALMA ARGUELLO – birth of son - JSS Board of Directors. **FRAN SIMMS** – New Home – Jack & Barbara Katz and family. **LENA & MURRAY ROTHBERG** – birth of great grandchildren – Gloria Silverman. **SAUL COHEN** – birth of grandson – Paul & Helen Hanover. **DANNA & DAVID HORWOOD** – birth of daughter – Carol & Lester Krames, JSS Board of Directors **BEV SOBEL** – Happy Birthday – Goldie Robbins. **GEOFFREY ZALTER** – Bar Mitzvah – Glogauer Family. **DANIEL HOSIASOHN** – Bar Mitzvah – Glogauer Family. **SYD MANDEL** – Special Birthday – Didi Dulberg. **CISSIE MORRIS** – Special Birthday – Dorothy Rosenthal, Annabelle Laskin. **PAUL & SUSAN ROTH** – Engagement of Jay to Vered – JSS Board of Directors, Brenda & Sol Sandberg and family, Suki, Mark & Danielle Berman, Vender Family. **ADA & ELMER FARKAS** – Anniversary – Helen Yellin. **RABBI & MRS. DANIEL GREEN** – birth of daughter – Michael & Adalia Schweitzer and family. **ELAINE SORKIN** – Birthday wishes – Lester & Carol Krames

Speedy Recovery

MARI WAISGLAS – Dolly & Ralph Cohen. **HELEN GERTSACOV & ZETY FIDLER** – Ruth & Manny Fine. **ELLIOTT RAPHAEL** – Ruth & Manny Fine, Zians Family, Carol & Lester Krames. **SAM SILBERG** – Louise Klinghoffer. **LEAH GLOGAUER** – Selevan Family. **REESA ROSEN** – Shirley Yaffe. **HELEN YELLIN** – Ralph & Dolly Cohen.

THE RALPH TRAVIS ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

In Memory Of

NANCY KATZ – Corinne Travis. **MEL DULBERG** – Gladys Dubo, Corinne Travis, Glen & Gwen. **Liz Cyna** – memory of father – Corinne Travis

Special Occasion

BARBARA LASKIN – engagement of granddaughter – Corinne Travis. **DALE & ABE COHEN** – engagement of daughter, Sara – Corinne Travis. **SHELDON & SUE GUREVITZ** – New Home – Corinne Travis. **SHELDON ROSENFELD** – Special Birthday – Corinne Travis. **TOM & SASHA WEISZ** – birth of grand-daughter – Phil & Daphne Leon. **GERRY & ROCHELLE SWAYE** – birth of grandson – Phil & Daphne Leon. **DAVE WATTS** – 80th Birthday – Corinne Travis. **LEAH & RON TATTUN** – birth of daughter- Avery Summer – Corinne Travis. **RACHEL & HARVIN PITCH** – birth of granddaughter – Corinne Travis

Refuah Shlayma

MAX NATHAN – Corinne Travis. **CELE STEINBERG** – Corinne Travis. **DAVID ROSENFELD** – Corinne Travis. **SHELLI EISENBERG** – Corinne Travis. **MARILYN WASSERMAN** – Corinne Travis.

MCMASTER JEWISH STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

In Memory Of

ANN FELDMAN – Amy Freedman & JonArno Lawson

THE EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory Of

John Fingret – memory of mother – Flora & Allen Rams

Special Occasion

ARNOLD & JEAN VERTLIEB – Alana's engagement – Allen & Flora Rams. **HEATHER & LEN RITTER** – Mitchell's graduation – Allen & Flora Rams. **JOANNE & HOWARD BERNSTEIN** – Adam's graduation – Allen & Flora Rams

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

In Memory Of

JACK ROSEN – Moura & Bernard Wolpert

Special Occasion

SHIRLEY YAFFE – marriage of granddaughter, Chani – Hilda Rosen and Reesa & Ira

UJA FEDERATION GENERAL FUND

In Memory Of

ELLARD EPEL – Moura & Bernard Wolpert

Speedy Recovery

DAVID STEINBERG – Abe & Gina Szpirglas

Thank You

SEYMOUR EPSTEIN – Bernice Crangle

UJA Federation

UJA FEDERATION EXTENDS MESSAGES OF GOOD WILL

UJA Federation leaders have played prominent roles in several recent major community events. On January 16th, UJA Federation President Leslie Lasky delivered the invocation at the annual Martin Luther King Day observance at the Stewart Memorial Church. On February 2nd, Dr. Lester Krames delivered a d'var Torah at an inter-faith memorial service for Tsunami victims at City Hall.

Federation President Leslie Lasky believes these events are important and positive reinforcement for Federation's initiatives in playing a more visible role in the larger community.

"Two years ago, the Jewish community would not have even been invited to these events. Now, we are not only expected; we are expected to provide our leadership and our expertise as well. This is a good thing."

UJA Federation's sponsorship of the Joshua Nelson Concert put it in direct contact with the leadership of Hamilton's Black community. As a result of that positive interaction, Federation was invited to sit on the planning committee of the Martin Luther King Day Observances. One of the key players in this initiative is Madeleine Levy.

Madeleine was a co-chair of the Joshua Nelson event. When UJA Federation was invited to sit on the Martin Luther King Day planning committee, Madeleine was asked to represent the Jewish community. Norma Jack was also recruited to help. The result was an event that was triple the size from the year before, as well as an opportunity for the

president of UJA Federation of Hamilton to speak publicly at the event that had several hundred attendees, including the mayor. The UJA Federation President was very graciously received.

Madeleine also represents the Jewish community at the "Hamilton Interfaith Group." This group, in co-sponsorship with the "Strengthening Hamilton Community Initiative (SHCI), organized the recent Inter-Faith Memorial Service for Tsunami victims. As a result of her involvement the community was asked to participate in the service.

Approximately 200 people gathered in City Hall to pay homage to the Tsunami victims. This ecumenical gathering reflected the full multi-faith character of Hamilton. First Nations People, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Bahais and others offered their prayers and wisdom in helping to cope with the aftermath of the disaster. Dr. Lester Krames very appropriately offered our Jewish voice.

According to UJA Federation executive director, Gerald Fisher,

"It was important that Lester's message was delivered and important that it was heard. The more often we are visible and involved, the more likely it is that others will come to understand and appreciate our own uniqueness. This has been a strategic goal of the Federation Public Affairs Committee since its inception. It is gratifying to see that objective being accomplished."

UJA Federation has recently conducted a meeting with families from the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of providing daily transportation between Hamilton and Toronto Jewish Day Schools. The idea was met with genuine enthusiasm.

The intent is to provide fully licensed and insured, professional limousine service.

Vehicles will be comfortable enough for children to do homework, or even nap while on their way to and from school.

Currently, there are two common options for families who are committed to providing day school education for their children. They can billet their children with Toronto families during the week while they attend Toronto schools, or just pick up and move to Toronto so that it will stop being such a problem. Both options are extremely disruptive as well as expensive.

Unfortunately for Hamilton, a number of families choose to move to Toronto every year. This has led to a steady loss of families with young children. Analysis of recent census data reveals that the Hamilton Jewish community is slowly dropping in overall numbers. More disturbing is the age distribution of our community, which shows a significant increase in numbers over 65 and a drop of almost 50% in numbers of school age children over the past ten years.

According to Howard Brown, Chair of the UJA Federation Community Planning

Committee, "Families with young children are the life blood of any community and ours is no different. Our community is not going to have a very bright future unless it takes steps to attract young families to live here and provide the necessary services so that they choose to stay here. Ensuring access to quality Jewish education can be a very valuable tool in growing our community."

The initiative has been driven by Dr. Jason Ohayon, a member of the Community Planning committee and a father of young children. Jason believes that this initiative can be a success even if it has only two or three children in the first year. "It's like any other new thing. Some people are hesitant to be first, but once its up and running the long term prognosis is really very good."

According to UJA Federation

Executive Director Gerald Fisher, "this program is attractive to Federation because it directly addresses two priority issues: our fundamental commitment to Jewish education and our deep interest in attracting and retaining young families in Hamilton."

Cost for the transportation service are still being negotiated and will depend on numbers of children involved. As well, steps will be taken to attempt to negotiate tuition subvention for those who are incurring transportation costs from Hamilton.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for March 7th, 7:30PM at Adas Israel. All interested parents from all schools are welcome to attend.

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 2005 UJA campaign. For application forms call Christine Nusca at 905-648-0605 ext 306 or email at cnuscauja@on.aibn.com. Deadline for submission is April 15.

One people. One weekend.

One chance to learn, laugh, celebrate and grow with other young Jewish adults in Toronto.

April 1st to 3rd, 2005

For more information or to register

www.uja.com or call 416.636.7855 ext. 222.

TO
05

THE UJAFJ
NATIONAL YOUNG
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Community Focus

Poverty Statistics Alarming

cont'd from pg1

program and food bank are already stretched thin so we are looking for new ways to educate the community of this very troubling situation."

UJA Federation President Leslie Lasky shares Ms Roth's sense of urgency and acknowledged that the results are alarming.

"UJA Federation's work is framed by three overarching themes: Rescue and Relief, Strengthening Jewish Identity and Assisting the Vulnerable. Our commitment to serving Jews in need is profound. With this information in hand we will go forward with Jewish Social Services in developing strategies

that can begin to address this urgent matter.

Lasky further commented that the community's ability to address the issue is very much a function of the success of the UJA campaign.

"We raise money to provide services for people who truly need them. I couldn't think of a more urgent reason for people to give more generously in support of United Jewish Appeal."

(For more details about poverty in Hamilton, see Jewish Social Services article, page 5)

"The journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step."

Amy Katz Martin and her husband, Tom Martin, have stepped up to community leadership in a big way: They have taken on the role of co-chairs of the next Hamilton community mission to Israel, scheduled to take place November 20 to 27, 2005.



Amy Katz Martin & Tom Martin

"We want our children to see us doing the things we value", Amy said in a recent interview with the HJN. The Katz Martins had hoped to participate in last fall's mission but the timing wasn't right. This year, they are determined not to put it off any longer.

"You can always find a way to put off important things like going to Israel because life is too busy here", she said, "and although it might be nice to lie on a beach somewhere, I hope to show my children how important it is to support Israel and demonstrate a commitment to Jewish values."

Amy, who spent a summer volunteering with Sarel in the late 1980s and a year studying in the graduate Middle Eastern Studies Program at Tel Aviv University, is thrilled that Tom will be making his first trip. "Tom is, politically, very astute and feels it's important to see first-hand where our donation dollars are going and where our heart is", she said.

The Katz Martins hope that their leadership will inspire friends and other community members to join them on the mission. "The journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step", Amy said, and this journey is one they hope will be shared by many of their peers.

Yoga

GENTLE, ALL LEVELS AND INTERMEDIATE CLASSES TAUGHT IN THE Iyengar Tradition

Ashtanga Classes TAUGHT ON THURSDAY EVENINGS & SUNDAY MORNINGS

CALL WENDY SCHNEIDER AT 905.628.0058

Passing the Torch... Young Leaders Step Up To The Plate

What makes a leader? Sometimes, it's as simple as noticing where there is a need and stepping in to fill a void. Such is the case with the following young women in the community who have recently stepped into leadership roles, simply because they felt a personal sense of responsibility to take action.

Cindy Kam spent many happy summers attending JCC camps in her hometown, Toronto. When her children reached the appropriate age she looked forward to sending them to Camp Kadimah with the hope that their experiences there would mirror her own. But when the camp experienced staffing problems last summer, as a camp committee member, Cindy felt she had to step up. "My kids love camp Kadimah", she said. "When I drop off them off in the morning and the counsellors come up to the car with a smile on their faces, saying 'Good morning Jacob and Ezra', you know it's a warm loving environment. JCC camps, she added, "are about relationships and friendships and creating memories every single day." When Ginny Levine asked Cindy to succeed her as chair of the camp committee, she could not refuse. As a result of her efforts, the enrolment of this year's Winter Camp program increased to a remarkable 69 campers in comparison to last year's 17.

And, with a little help from her friends, including Trudy Shore, who contributed to the cause by designing a colourful and upbeat camp newsletter, she knows that this summer's Camp Kadimah program will be a big success. Chairing the JCC camp programs is like having a full time job, Cindy says, but she's not complaining. The rewards are in seeing the happy faces of her children and their fellow campers and knowing that she's making a difference.



Cindy Kam

Like many good friends, Debbie Sheinbaum and Jill Gaffe can finish each other's sentences.



Jill Gaffe & Debbie Sheinbaum

The two joined forces last year to bring back the Hadassah WIZO bazaar to Hamilton after a 10-year hiatus. The moment of decision came during a Hadassah meeting last year, when they both made a verbal commitment to revive the bazaar. Although both women already have huge demands on their time - Sheinbaum is a psychiatrist with four children, while Gaffe is very busy raising two active little boys with a full schedule of carpooling and volunteer work - bringing the Hadassah Bazaar back to Hamilton felt like an important thing to do. No small project, the bazaar took around 10 months to plan. "We were very focused, we had a job to do and we got it done." And the response

from both within and outside the Jewish community was extremely positive. "The community businesses were generous, happy to give us donations of product or auction items. We got a lot of support from our friends and women who had worked on the bazaar years ago came out to help. It was truly a multi-generational community event and we ended up raising \$30,000." The most rewarding aspect of all, however, was knowing that they were setting an example for their children. "Our kids were really proud and wanted to be part of the whole thing," they said, adding, "If you want something to be important to your children you have to lead by example."

Susan Waxman felt "a big emptiness" when she called the JCC last May and learned that there wasn't going to be a Lag Ba'Omer picnic. The annual picnic, conceived and organized by former Hamilton Hebrew Academy principal, Frank Samuels, was doomed, it appeared, the moment Samuels and his family moved to Toronto a year and a half ago. Waxman hung up the phone, stunned and disappointed. But ten minutes later she called back and told Joy Foster that next year, the program was going to happen and that she would chair it. Like so many others before her, Waxman was not prepared to let a great program die because of a lack of volunteers. "We're a volunteer-driven community", she said, "and people who complain that there's 'nothing' going on in the community, don't realize that events can't run without them." The challenge of organizing a multi-generational, community-wide event that includes a huge barbeque, bonfire and fireworks is, she admits, somewhat daunting, but she is hopeful that her enthusiasm will inspire others to get involved.



Susan Waxman



Racheli Chaimovitz

The Chaimovitz family has chaired the JCC's Yom Ha'atzmaut program for over ten years and Racheli, 25, has been involved as long as she can remember. Last year, for the first time, she co-chaired the program along with her father, Moishe. Following in her father's footsteps is clearly an important value to her. "Because Israel is so close to my heart", she said, "it is important to me to be a part of this program and to learn from my father." This year, Racheli is chairing the event on her own, which will involve coordinating a broad-based committee and overseeing an event that is expected to attract over 400 people. The rewards for her are built in: spending quality time with family members and helping the community to celebrate Israel. But, as with anyone taking on a leadership position, the biggest challenge is inspiring others. "We really appreciate our volunteers and I hope

that this year younger people will come out so they can be more involved in the events that are so important to all of us."

Beneficiary Agencies

Jewish Social Services

JSS Workshop Goes High Tech

Anyone dropping in to see the Jewish Social Services "workshop" at the JCC any Monday or Thursday morning will have a very pleasant surprise. The former workshop has evolved into highly technical training. With the recent purchase of two computers workshop participants are now learning computer skills by Suzanne Goldflus, a trained and dedicated teacher. The JSS computer program is open to any adult who would like to learn or upgrade their computer skills. JSS has also acquired a big screen television that has 150 channels, enabling Russian speaking members of our community to see the latest programming from Israel, Russia and other countries.

In another classroom, in our English as a Second Language and literacy classes, the walls are decorated with complicated jigsaw puzzles that our members have been working on together. We also offer knitting, refreshments, and holiday celebrations.

Our workshop participants look forward to spending their mornings with Jewish Social Services. If you or someone you know are interested in participating call us at 905-648-0605, ext 325 or send an email to Carol_Krames@eudoramail.com.

Personalized Tribute cards for Purim

As hard as it is to believe, with the New Year barely upon us, Purim lurks around the corner! And with Purim, Hamilton Jewish Social Services is again offering for sale Purim cards and make it easy for you and your family to observe the custom of Mishloach Manot, by making a contribution to the Kosher Food Bank, which is currently in great need. By fulfilling your Purim Mitzvah, you will directly be helping to feed those in need in Hamilton.

The personalized and attractive tribute cards may be purchased for \$3 or 18 for \$36. Tribute cards can also be sent for any occasion: birthdays, congratulations condolences, celebrations, anniversaries, or even to just say hello. To order cards call Carol Krames at 905-648-0605, ext 325 or send us an email at Carol_Krames@eudoramail.com. Visa is accepted.

Author dedicates profits from novel to Kosher Food Bank

Dr. Michael Schweitzer's recently published book, "The Ashes of Alladag" (Manor House Publishing, Dec. 2004) is the second in his trilogy adventure series, the first of which was "The Curse of Garmel Ironheart". The Ashes of Alladag begins ten years after the end of the first book, its plot filled with mystery, betrayal and war. The Talmud tells us that "Lust, honour and glory drive a person from this world." Our old friends from the first book – Khazav, Arian, Ritchar Oa-neth and Don-zee, embark on a quest for the truth of this proverb. Follow our heroes as circumstances beyond their control and the plotting of a powerful evil bring them back together again to fight for survival. Copies of the book are available at the Hamilton Kosher Butcher Shop, with all proceeds going to the Kosher Food Bank. Over the years the Hamilton Kosher Food Bank has evolved into a permanent structure on which many families depend on to survive. Keeping it well-stocked is a challenge and funds raised are used to stock our shelves. Enjoy a great book and support a worthy cause!

Midrasha High School

The following Midrasha students were asked the following two questions: 1) What are the benefits to taking a Midrasha course? 2) What do you like about the course you are taking this year? Sari Richter (Grade 12 Comparative Philosophy): It's really interesting to continue your Jewish education. (About Comparative Philosophy Grade 12) The people who teach are really qualified for the job and are really personable as well.

Josh Goldberg (Grade 12 Hebrew, and Grade 12 Comparative Philosophy): One of the major benefits for me is that I can still stay connected to the Jewish community and Modern Jewish thought. My mind has developed a lot from the philosophy and my Hebrew as well.

Daniel Ennis (Topics 4 Teens) It increases political awareness and open mindedness to other people. (Benefits of Midrasha): We're able to get back together with our friends. Another benefit of Midrasha is furthering Jewish learning.

Jennifer Waxman (Grade 10 Hebrew): I feel it is an opportunity to see other Jewish kids and associate with them. It's a time to focus upon your culture. It ties me back to Judaism and back to the community. (What I like about taking the Hebrew course): I feel that I am getting the language back, especially because I haven't taken it in a few years. I am also getting the (Israeli/Jewish) culture and it makes me feel good to know that I am doing something once a week associated with my culture.

Poverty in the Jewish Community

by Carol Krames
director, Jewish Social Services

There are enough people living in poverty in Hamilton to fill Copps coliseum five times – 20% or 93,370 of Hamilton residents live below the poverty line.

Over the past ten years income levels in Hamilton, among low and middle income groups have not kept up with the increased cost of housing taxes, utilizes, food and other basics of life. Over these years the poorest 60% of the population have seen a decrease in their already meager incomes.

What many people do not recognize is that our Jewish community in Hamilton shares the same percentage of economically disadvantaged people as the population at large. What this means in practical terms is that many people have to skimp on basic necessities such as food so that they can pay their rent.

Perhaps, the most devastating aspect of the growing poverty dilemma in Hamilton is its impact on our children. According to analysis of the 2001 census, approximately 22% of

Jewish children in Hamilton live below the poverty line. The "poverty line" refers to the cut off when people need to spend more than half of their income on basic necessities such as food, shelter and clothing. It is obvious then that any extra costs such as medication, education or kosher food put extreme strain on these families.

Without the help of Jewish Social Services and the Kosher Food Bank, our Jewish poor could not afford to eat. The following is a list of creative ways to donate to the Kosher Food Bank:

1. At your child's birthday parties ask your guests to bring food instead of toys. Popular choices are breakfast cereals, juices, peanut butter, jam, tuna fish, crackers, grape juice, gefilte fish, chicken soup mixes, and matza ball mixes. One mother had her children's friends bring toiletries, shampoo and toothpaste.

2. When celebrating a bar or bat mitzvah, make centrepieces of kosher food for the Food Bank.

3. When having a meeting or sending your child to school

send an item for the food bank. Every item helps.

4. Drop off food at the JCC front desk or leave your donation on the lower level where the Food Bank is located.

5. At holiday times, buy some extra food and leave it for us to pick up at Hamilton Kosher or Westdale Deli, or make a financial donation to Jewish Social Services.

6. Purchase Jewish Social Service tribute cards for both happy and sad occasions by calling 905-648-0605, ext 325.

With everyone's help we can help our vulnerable population put food on the table.

Hamilton Jewish Social Services is looking for a television in good working condition.

Please call Carol Krames at 905.648.0605 to donate.



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Jewish Life

2005 Maccabiah Games Likely To Be the Biggest and Best Ever

By

Lawrence Hart

In July of this year, about 6,000 Jewish athletes from over 50 countries will arrive in Israel for the Games of the 17th Maccabiah. And Team Canada will again be among the larger contingents at the Games. Almost all of our athletes and coaches have now been selected and, funds permitting, we will likely have more than 375 participants in Israel this summer. Add to this an unprecedented level of interest from among families of the athletes and other supporters and our numbers will likely increase to 500 or more.

This might well be the biggest team that we've ever sent to the Maccabiah Games. It might also turn out to be the best. We have in our ranks Alexandra Wosniak and Sharon Fichman, for example, both of them ranked among the top women tennis players in Canada today. Our track and field team has

attracted more interest than ever before, with 11 athletes having met extremely tough qualifying standards. All in all, we've selected six basketball teams across the various age categories. We also have accomplished athletes on our soccer, rugby, volleyball, softball, golf, swimming, waterpolo and karate teams.

Of our total numbers, 117 are juniors (under 18) and for many of them this will be their first trip to Israel. What an amazing experience it promises to be. Who knows whether among them will be the next Mark Spitz or Lenny Krayzelberg or Kerry Strug, all international sports stars who started off as Maccabi athletes.

Ask anyone what it was like to march in the opening ceremonies of any previous Maccabiah Games and you'll see in their eyes a glint of nostalgia that reflects their warm memories of what was for them a once in a lifetime

opportunity that they will never forget. There is something in the spirit of Maccabi that goes to the very core of Jewish experience and Jewish identity.

The Maccabi Movement, and the Games that carry its banner, have been an integral part of the Zionist vision for almost 100 years. The concept of the Games began, in fact, with the fantasies of a Jewish teenager. Yosef Yekutieli, a 15 year old, was so inspired by news of the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm that he began obsessing on the notion of a worldwide Olympics for Jewish athletes in Eretz Israel. For 10 years he grappled with what was then considered a crazy idea, working out all kinds of details, plans, and formulas on how to make his seemingly wild dream a reality.

By sheer perseverance, Yekutieli was able to eventually persuade the Zionist leaders of the day that his proposal had merit and, in 1932, the very first Maccabiah Games took place in Tel Aviv. 390 athletes from 14 countries took part in the inaugural Games.

Communications in those days were obviously nothing like what we have today so, to promote the Games, Jewish motorcyclists set out from Tel Aviv and, after ferrying their bikes to Greece, they then drove almost 10,000 kilometres across Europe, visiting all of the larger Jewish communities and spreading the message of the 'Jewish Olympics'.

And while bringing athletes to Israel was one thing, providing them with facilities was quite another. But nothing would deter these devoted sports pioneers. They ran the shorter running distances on a makeshift track of crushed coal cinders provided by railwaymen, competed over longer distances through the streets of Tel Aviv and along the beach, and swam and played waterpolo in the port waters of Haifa in an area demarcated by rowboats and buoys.

The second Maccabiah Games, in 1935, attracted larger numbers than the first, with 1700 athletes competing. The third Maccabiah was planned for 1938 but with war clouds looming in Europe, a decision was made to postpone them.

The third Games eventually took place in 1950 - and were a bittersweet testament to both the tragedy and the resilience of the Jewish people. On the one hand, there was cause for celebration. These were, after all, the first Games held in an independent State of Israel.

But on the other hand, how could there be any celebration in the wake of the catastrophe that had just so recently befallen European Jewry? Only 800 athletes, from 17 countries, among them the first delegation from Canada, were in attendance. Gone was any representation from the previously huge Jewish communities of Central and Eastern Europe.

Because accommodations and resources were in such short supply at the time, athletes were housed in a tented recreation park - previously a British Army camp -- on the Tel Aviv seashore.

The Games of the fourth Maccabiah were held in 1953 and since then competitions have taken place at four yearly intervals, always scheduled one year after the summer Olympics. With each successive Maccabiah, up until 2001, the number of participants has increased.

However, the Games of 2001 reversed the trend - and regrettably so. With the Palestinian uprising at its height, the Maccabiah that was gearing up to set registration and attendance records almost didn't take place at all. But take place it did, even with drastically reduced numbers. Dubbed the "guts and glory games", the 2001 Maccabiah served as a showcase to the world. It sent a resounding message that Jews, regardless of where they come from, will not bow to anti-Zionist incitement or

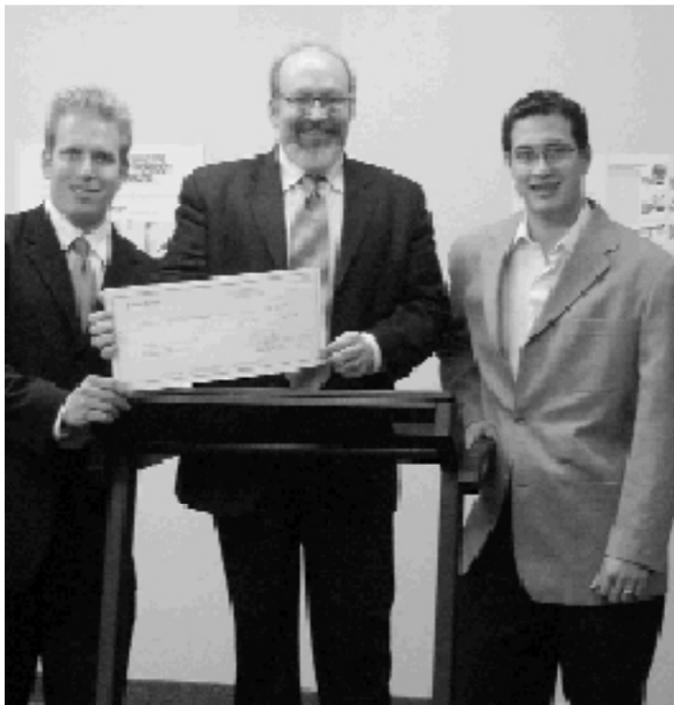
terrorist threats of any kind.

For the delegations that attended the Games of 2001, Canada among them, those ten days of competition will long be remembered. The sense of kinship, of Am Israel, was both powerful and energizing. Each of us left with a pledge to return in 2005 with the biggest and best teams we could possibly muster - to again demonstrate our solidarity with Israel and its people. Times would be better by then, we all hoped, and so they are.

Lawrence Hart is National President of Maccabi Canada. He was chief physician to the Canadian team that attended the 1997 and 2001 Maccabiah Games. This year he plans to compete in the (masters) half-marathon. Other participants from the Hamilton area who have been selected to the Canadian team include Shauna Eisenberg (women's basketball), David Bender (junior baseball), Stephen Raphael (men's basketball) and Larry Kahn (triathlon). David Bromstein, a member of the National Athletics Committee of Maccabi Canada will also be accompanying the team, as chief chaperone for the juniors. Also selected to the men's basketball team is Ben Katz, a McMaster student and southwest Ontario universities' MVP in 2004.

Sending our team to Israel is a very costly, but enormously worthwhile, undertaking. Anyone wishing to contribute to the sponsorship of our Canadian national team can contact Dr. Hart at lawrh@aol.com or call the Maccabi Canada office in Toronto at 416.398.0515

B'nai Brith Sports Dinner Gift to purchase treadmill for JCC



B'nai Brith sports night committee representatives Kyle Foster (far left) and Brent Clifford (far right) are seen here presenting a \$3000 contribution toward a treadmill for the JCC fitness room. Accepting the donation is JCC president, Howard Eisenberg.

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ATTENTION SURVIVORS OF THE SHOAH

The Yom Hashoah committee is trying to compile a complete and accurate record of Shoah victims who have Hamilton affiliation. We plan to create a permanent record of these lost and beloved souls.

Please go to <http://jewishhamilton.org> and slide the mouse over the "Jewish Life" heading on the navigation bar on the left hand side in order view the current list and to check for any misspellings and/or omissions. Please use this form for corrections or additions and forward to: Lainie Tessier, Jewish Community Centre at lainietessier@yahoo.ca, call the JCC at 905-648-0605 or fax this form to 905 648-8388

Corrected/ Added Name of Victim:

Is this a: correction _____ or an addition _____

The Jewish Community Centre Page

jcc youth maccabi games fund

In Memory of

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

Community

Triage Mengele: Black Humour in the Emergency Ward

This month the HJN presents an essay by London, Ontario resident Vic Elias, whose poetry and prose have been published in literary journals and anthologies in Canada and the US. This particular essay appears in the collection, *Drinking with Old Men*, published by SouthWestern

Of course necessary, this sorting between treatment and the waiting room. A few get in through acting talent... so the triage nurse is something of a reverse talent scout. Some stay out through despair, and she knows there is little point wasting time on those who have given up already. Musselmen staring at late night television with monotonous sound, waiting sullenly for their names until they slump over in their chairs in unnatural poses. They are obviously in the right place after all, candidates for half-hearted revivals on the other side, for colour code announcements over the ER public address system that fool absolutely no one.

Ambulances line up, it's a busy night, and frightened cargo are admitted one by one, the fixable quick to be fixed, the bleeding quick to be passed from sight. Beeps, buzzers, electronic hums, fill the room, these mechanical sounds of life, absence. It is bright, never night here, but never really alive. Airport lounges always seemed to me to be a bit like this, with their vapid oversized televisions, though in airports death is necessarily believed to be much more remote. Dante understood waiting rooms; he was the first to write about one.

Then there is me, the big wet cougher, the lung cancer guy, panic symptoms all between his ears, not a good bet for the long haul, thinks the triage Mengele in her less than well pressed

nurse's uniform, since surgery, radiation, chemotherapy haven't even begun for this hacking spitting overweight fool with a leaky fluid nerfball sticking from his lung. Here's a receptacle for the sputum sir, please keep it off the floor if you can and have a seat by the TV.

Coughs are both fakeable and panic-driven, no blood is yet evident, just indisputable untreated lung cancer on the chart. Poor fellow, this panicker. We'll wait for serious bright blood to flow before letting him in. Code - what colour is that? Red (ha ha). Too close to shift's end to really care. No announcement really necessary for this guy.

At the check-in desk, the one for the plastic health cards and the wrist bands, Hebrew words come rapidly to my lips with false fluency but honest daily familiarity. Distress in another language (French of course excepted) by an ordinary white Canadian in a t-shirt and jeans is not easily triagable. The security cop is uneasy. The sputum is rolling precariously over the edge of the bowl I grip shakily. The waiting room denizens are perking up and interest in the television has vanished completely. I mean, this guy, me, is erupting in bursts of strange words and fluid.

The Hebrew works - I'm in - saved for one more night - by a strangled prayer of one who says it on a daily basis. Funny, though, what the words actually mean that pass my panic cough past triage Mengele: "My God, keep my lips from speaking guile. Which, of course, is exactly what my lips have done, at least for her. The words admit me to the other side where the cooling words of a nurse who used to do oncology, the comfort of a careful and professional throat and chest examination, the all-clear of a convincing expert prove

sufficient to stem the panic and the cough. I am thoughtfully provided with a short lesson how to fight such panic in the future. Because it was panic after all; the triage nurse is not fooled by acting talent, only prayer. She is clearly aggravated at my discharge. The discharged patient walks out the emergency room doors embarrassingly robust, to embrace the sounds of a summer night in place of the drones and beeps within the emergency room doors.

So the prayer I said for truth was an evident falsehood, an irresponsible ploy to flim-flam an overtired triage nurse, an unethical deceit that kept someone else outside under the oversized television longer than necessary, maybe too much longer.

But it was my prayer, and it was an answered one.

So you choose - better you than triage Mengele. A prayer against falsehood beguiled my way to competent reassurance. I came home with the same lung cancer I had at my entry, but otherwise healed. My lips spoke guile they prayed not to speak. To a God who saved me.

For one more night. If the cough comes again, I'll choose another emergency room. Triage Mengele does the night shift at St. Joe's, and she is on to me. In bad dreams I hear the emergency room TV drone endlessly, real and hard as soap.

Stone soap.

Vic Elias is a Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Western Ontario. A native Chicagoan, Vic immigrated to Canada in 1979 and has lived in London, Ontario since 1985 with his wife, poet/theatre person/singer D'vorah Elias.

The Jewish National Fund of Hamilton is proud to announce that the Keynote Speaker for the 2005 Negev Dinner will be

Alan M. Dershowitz

Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law at Harvard Law School.

The Dinner will be held on May 16, 2005.

A highlight for the evening will be a 60th Anniversary Tribute to the Survivors of the Shoah.

Watch for more information or call 905 527-5516



Quartet from Israel Coming in February

One of the most exciting quartets to emerge in the musical firmament to-day is the AVIV QUARTET from Israel.

The AVIV is being brought to Hamilton as part of Chamber Music Hamilton's 2004-05 Concert Series.

The Aviv Quartet was founded in 1997 in Israel. Since that time they have been the winners of countless international Music Competitions in Europe and Australia. The featured composers to be performed

in Hamilton are Beethoven, Prokofiev, MacMillan, and Tchaikovsky.

The concert on Saturday, February 26th, 2005 at 8:00 pm is at the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts Recital Hall, 126 James Street South, Hamilton. Tickets are \$27 regular, \$22 for seniors, and \$13 for students. For further information, contact Molly Ann Schwarcz at 905-521-8803 or schwarcz @ sympatico.ca.

Hamilton Hebrew Academy and Juvenile Diabetes co-sponsor Fred Penner fundraiser

Children's musical artist FRED PENNER will be appearing at Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School Theater, Hamilton, Ontario 130 York Boulevard Hamilton, Ontario on Sunday, April 10th 2005. The Fred Penner Concert for Children is sponsored by the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, with part of the proceeds to support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Fred Penner will be performing 2 concerts at 1:00 pm, and 4:00 pm, and will also be providing two special story time shows exclusively for

children with diabetes. Families with children who have diabetes will be provided with free tickets to the concert and the special story time. Ticket prices general for admission are \$18 for adults and \$15 for children.

Proceeds will support The Hamilton Hebrew Academy. Funds will also support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Canada. Call Anne Martin at JDRF (905) 333-4660 or Andrea Zians (905) 308 7647 to reserve free tickets for the concert and the private story session.

Legendary Platters & Friends to perform at Benefit Concert

The Legendary Platters, one of the most beloved singing groups of the 1960s, will be thrilling the audience with their glorious rhythms and harmonies, on Saturday, April 2nd at Hamilton Place at 8:00 pm, with all proceeds going to help patients at the McMaster University Medical Centre's fledgling Mitochondrial Disease Clinic.

Okay, okay, you know and love the fabulous tunes of the 60s, but what on earth is Mitochondrial Disease? May you never know it personally: it does to the human body what the Great Blackout of August, 2003 did to Hamilton: it can shut down up to half of one's energy-producing facilities, impairing the brain, dimming vision,, weakening the heart.

The man behind this concert is the remarkable Andy McDonald, who inherited his mitochondrial disease from his mother. He worships at Temple Anshe Sholom, and sees this fund-raiser as an act of Tzedakah in honour of his upcoming conversion to Judaism.

The host for the evening is Allan Gould, the Toronto-based humourist and author (www.allangould.com), whose books include *The Unorthodox Book of Jewish Records and Lists* (a loving, ethnic parody of the Guinness Books of Records)

Tickets for the show are \$37.50 (seniors 60+ \$27.00) and can be purchased by calling Andy McDonald at 905-524-1951 or email csaoandy@yahoo.ca.

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Community

Beating the Winter Blahs at the HHA

by
Andrea Zians

I awoke to the chanting of "Think Pink, Think Pink". My house was in an uproar. My son in grade 6 was looking for any item of clothing that was red. My 9 year old was looking through her brother's things for something green.

"What is going on?" asked my incredulous husband.

"It's Maccabiah!" came the resounding reply.

It has been absolutely freezing outside. The days have been short, gray, and cold. All of us have been dragging just to get through the day. I can barely get my kids out of bed in the morning to face another day of knee high snow in -25 degree weather. My kids are sick of math tests and book reports.

This week it will be different. This week the winter blues will be banished. My kids will rush to get up so they can get to school on time for Maccabiah. There will be constant singing of team songs at the breakfast table and on the trip to school. Their voices will be hoarse from cheering, and I will

have to do laundry every night so that my children can wear their team colors to school every day.

If you venture into the Academy this week you will not hear the sounds of winter. You will think that you have been transported to a summer camp. You will notice and become amazed by the amount of kids all color coordinated to match their teammates. You will hear loud cheering and, sing song. You will see kids playing sports, matching wits during relay races and joining together in team meetings. Step into the HHA and you might get knocked over by the ruach, and excitement.

But don't think Maccabiah is just about screaming, singing and running. At the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, Maccabiah is so much more. I heard my son in grade 6 tell my other children that he was helping the grade 1 students on his team learn the words of the team song. My daughter in grade 1 told me that her team captain from grade 8 was the best captain, and now her friend. Maccabiah brings the entire school together in a fun, organized manner. Teams

function as a unit with students ranging in age from 5-13.

Maccabiah is also about good sportsmanship. My children told me the rules. You can say your team is the best. You can even say your team will win, but DON'T EVER SAY SOMEONE ELSE'S TEAM IS BAD!!!!!! Bad sportsmanship might cost your team points. Fair play, and sportsmanlike behavior is developed and fostered during Maccabiah.

Maccabiah at the HHA is about creativity. Songs, cheers, and skits are created and performed by each team. Each team is given a color and a specific Jewish theme. The teams generate ideas and perform throughout the week for each other.

I remember my days at the HHA when I was young. Maccabiah was my favorite time of year. I can relate to my kids' excitement. I don't mind washing their pink, or green, or red t-shirt each and every night of this week. After all how often does the dead of winter get to seem so summery?

Chazak v'ematz, an outreach Jewish support group has been established for amputees to receive chizuk and to help potential amputees adjust to life. We meet twice a year at Baycrest cafeteria for a light meal and discuss new products and prosthetic devices that come to the market. For confidential support, call Ruth Eva Strauss in the evenings at 416-783-3717 or email ruthestrauss@yahoo.com.

Lives Remembered

AARON LAX

Born, February 13, 1950 in Hamilton.
Died on November 12, 2004 in Hamilton.

Aaron was best known in the community as the bearer of the Israeli flag at the annual UJA Walkathon. He loved sports, especially basketball which he played regularly at the JCC and the YMCA. He could whip most of us at free throws or twenty-one and one of the highlights of his career was a Cable 14 televised game of our Old-timer's game where he was featured driving for a lay-up and breaking the ice for his team.



The JCC was an important part of his life and for over twenty five years he proudly attended the annual Max Rotman Youth Award Ceremony to hand out trophies. He was equally proud of his connection with the Adas Israel Shul where he regularly attended and many times walked over in foul weather when called upon to make a minyan. Even when his eyesight deteriorated he somehow managed to walk on his own to synagogue.

As with the rest of his family he was a very strong supporter of the State of Israel and would pass on to his friends the news events of the day. It is befitting that upon his death Aaron was buried beside his parents on a hill overlooking Jerusalem.

As a young man Aaron worked with his father, the late Morris Lax, at his scrap yard and took pride in his role in assisting with deliveries where he could use his fine strength. When his health deteriorated he continued to work at a workshop at Allan Candy and would proudly call us to report on his daily production. He had a terrific sense of humour and enjoyed kibitzing with his friends. He loved playing the lottery and had uncanny luck with his tickets.

He worked hard every year to raise money for the UJA Walkathon. Each spring he would start calling early, looking for the sponsor sheets and would take great pleasure in reporting on his total pledges as the day of the walkathon drew near, and almost always raised the most funds. On the day of the walkathon he proudly led the way, carrying the Israeli flag, rarely resting, even in recent years when we wondered how he could complete the walk let alone carry the flag. At this past year's walk he was extremely tired and was finally forced to take a ride when he neared the end. He was so upset; however, that he was allowed to get back out of the van in order to finish on foot.

Aaron taught us much about courage, determination and pride and his memory should be an inspiration for us to carry on when we don't think we can go any further.

Jewish Genealogical Society

The Jewish Genealogical Society – Hamilton and Area is starting 2005 with a new website. It can be seen at www.jgsh.org. Not even a year old, this group is working hard to grow in ways that will assist their members to pursue their family history research. It seems they are doing something right as the membership has grown to the current 32 members. The plan is for the website to grow as well and links and information will be added throughout the year. The group's membership in The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) gives them access to additional resources worldwide.

The March 9th meeting will feature speaker Barry Rosen who will give us a multi-media review of one of the key books of Jewish Genealogical research, Jewish Roots in Poland by Miriam Weiner.

At each meeting, and at the conclusion of each speaker's presentation, the group's "panel of experts" will give any research

questions a go. Perhaps they'll be able to help you!! Meetings are held at Temple Anshe Sholom and begin at 7:30 with a Meet & Greet which is followed by announcements and then the speaker. For more information call Hazel at 905-524-3345.

Sari Richter

There's No Business Like Shul Business

Work is going on behind the scenes for the Beth Jacob sponsored community production of There's No Business Like Shul Business. Performance date is Wednesday June 15 at 7:30 pm at Beth Jacob. A second round of auditions will be held in March and then rehearsals will begin! Any questions please contact Amy Back 905 527-7897

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Community

HHA Raises Funds for Tsunami Relief



Yashar Koach to Hamilton Hebrew Academy students, who raised approximately \$700 for the UJA Federation Tsunami relief fund. Pictured above (left to right) are: Rafi Zians, Samara Strub, Melissa Woolfson, Josh Friedland, Chava Starkman, Tova Lavin, Ariel Lavin and Reid Waxman.



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HELENCHEESEMAN: Bill Forester. HILDABLUESTEIN: Gerry Quitt. MELDULBERG: Mrs. Troy Liser; Joe & Anne Scardonnajilia; Harold & Jo-Anne Pomerantz and Family; Ida Shuman; Lorraine & Alan Kudlats; Sidra Rosen. MALKARATNOFF: Anita Smurlick. CARROLWASSERMAN: Harold & Jo-Anne Pomerantz. DR. ELLARDEPPEL: Brenda & Sol Sandberg. AL OSSEA: Shelia & David Burman; Ida Shuman; Dorothy Rosenthal; Minna Loewith; Bessie Goldblatt; Jack & Barbara Katz; Myrle Cwitco; Joan Silverman; Didi Dulberg; Ernie Tarr; Lily Buchalter; Frances Minden; Esther Orsey; Molly Aron & Sam Yanover; Ethel Levy; Jerome & Maureen Bergart; Myrna & Gordie Goldberg; Ida & Ben Sussman; Mel & Dorothy Cohen; Marcia & Gord Brandes; Gloria & Les Roefe; Gary & Ieta Waxman; Anna Taylor. JERRY COOPER: Staff & Board of Directors at Shalom Village; Pat Morden; Joan Silverman. GRANDMOTHER OF JEANETTE O'LEARY: Staff & Board of Directors at Shalom Village. LOTTE CONLON: Staff & Board of Directors at Shalom Village; Pat Morden; William & Denise Mason; Carmen Gocante; Prof. Brian Merrilees; Norman & Doris Lane; Nils & Ursula Hawssmann; June Edith Johnson; Lind & Suzanne Crosta; Karl & Jolanda Dinner; Elaine Couper; Marlene & Bernie Gelber; Ruth Blumstock; Rosalind Homer; Eva Foster; Geoffrey & Judith Briggs; Dr. Paul F. Botheroyd. BEATRICE LANDGARTEN: Staff & Board of Directors at Shalom Village; Pat Morden; Oded & Louise Klinghoffer; Jo-Anne & Harold Pomerantz; Harry & Malka Rosenbaum. MOTHER OF MARY MCCONNELL: Sally Lax. NATLIEBERMAN: Anita Smurlick. FATHER OF KATHY AUSSEM: Helen Goldstein & Liz Lesser; Miriam Lebow; Abe Latner; Vicky Bach; Marsha & Bill Halpren; Joan Silverman; Barbara Katz; Ruebe & Mary Levy; Frances Silver; Edie Rochkin; Yetta Krakower; Dorothy Adler; Aaron Shiffman; Lou & Sophie Berenbaum. NANCY KATZ: Harvey & Shelley Waxman; Tanya Mayer; Marcia & Gord Brandes. HENRY WEINBERG: Ethel Levy and Family. MOTHER OF ROD RODERICK: Pat & Doug Morden and Family; Residents & Staff of Shalom Village. MOLLY EPPPEL: Gloria & Les Roefe. FATHER OF FROY THORNE: Shelley, Tammy & Lisa - Goldie's Place; Staff & Residents of Shalom Village. MOTHER OF HENRY & PAUL ASHEDLASKY: Marlene Ziser; Marcia & Stephen Barrs. MOTHER OF DR. ALEX & MARGIE KROENWALD: Marcia & Stephen Barrs. SONNY WACHMAN: Edie Rochkin; Barbara Katz; Rose Fleischer; Dorothy Adler; Yetta Krakower; Lil & Harry Silverstein. ARNOLD SANDLER: Friends and Colleagues of Dr. Samantha Sandler at the Department of Medicine, Scarborough General Hospital. KEN KELMAN: Lotti & Dave Redner; Joan Epstein. AARON LAX: Lily Silverstein; Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village; Staff & Members of Goldie's Place; Pat Morden; Jack & Barbara Katz and Family; Michael & Pam Taylor; Marcia & Gord Brandes. MOTHER OF GAIL & STEPHEN VICTER: Jacki Wasserman. IRWIN LYONS: Evelyn & Lew Ross. HILDA JESSEL: Evelyn & Lew Ross. MICHAEL LEVINSON: Pat Morden; Staff & Residents of Shalom Village; Board of Directors of Shalom Village; Soula; Joe & Joy Rochweg; Molly Beube Schweid; Abe Latner; Lorraine & Alan Kudlats; David & Norma Wright; Jerry Quitt. JACK ROSEN: Paul & Helen Hanover; Yetta & Zollie Freeman; Fanny & Ben Davine; Jack & Barbara Katz and Family; Didi Dulberg; Edie Rochkin; Ruby & Al Berns; Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village; Gert Goldblatt; Yaffe & Fisch Families; Jo-Anne & Harold Pomerantz; Lore Jacobs; Alan & Lorraine Kudlats; Emil Black; Frank Lebow; Norman & Blanche Levitt; Charlie Eber; Susanne Slansky; Shirley Weddum; Sam Yanover; Ruth & Sam Rosenblatt; Natalie Strub. ROBIN HERMAN: Jack & Barbara Katz and Family. DOROTHY BECKHAM: The Benjamin Foundation. GORDON DOYLE: Cathy McDowell; Ray Rosenberg; Lee Cohen; Didi Dulberg; Jack & Barbara Katz and Family; Dorothy Rosenthal; Merle Cwitco; Bess Goldblatt; Dorothy Adler; Gert Goldblatt; Colleen Clementi; Claire Bloom; Anita Smurlick. ROSE KAY: Harry & Anne Kwitco. MOTHER OF SONIA JACOBS: Ron & Ann Barrs. HANNA FELDMAN: Donna & Henry Vine; Sheila Katz & Hart Katz; Lexie & Bob Rego; Annette Wunder & Gloria Wunder; Ann & Richard Seymour; Lois Levy & Nancy Levy; Honey & Gary Chertkoff; Al & Ruby Berns; Yetta Krakower; Irma & Philip Perelgut; Gwen & Harvey Schwab; Anna Taylor; Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village; Shirley & Hilton Silber; Roz & Jerry Zikman; Mark & Patricia Morgenstein; Regency Travel; Ron Berenbaum; Aaron Shiffman; Rose Fleischer; Anne & Richard Seymour; Rose Halpren; Hynda & Murray Halpren. SAM CHERNS: Frank Lebow; Honey & Gary Chertkoff. NORMAN ANKER: Rose Fleischer; Rita Parent; Bernice Astrum; Sophie Berenbaum; Esther Alexander; Mary & Reube Levy. RACHEL NADOLNY: Susan & Judah Denburg. SALLY LEES: Miriam Lebow; Jack & Barbara Katz and Family. ALAN FRANK: The Benjamin Foundation. RELATIVE OF LARRY SONNENBERG: Joan & Shelley Silverman. FLORENCE YAFFE: Lil Cohen.

Congratulations

ARTHUR WEISZ - INDUCTION TO GALLERY OF DISTINCTION: Board of Directors & Staff of Shalom Village; Eric & Marsha Slavens; Michael & Pam Taylor; Joe & Joy Rochweg; Pat & Doug Morden; Dr. Chris Bart; Judy Rosen; Molly (Beube) Schweid; Herbert & Marti Marcus. BENSUSSMAN - FOR GOOD WORK IN VOLUNTEERING: Marlene & Bernie Gelber; Minna Loewith, TOM & SASHA WEISZ, DAVID & DANNA HORWOOD - BIRTH OF GRANDCHILD: ROCHELLE WAXMAN - JAY'S ENGAGEMENT TO SHEILA: Jo-Anne & Harold Pomerantz, EDIE ROCHKIN, SHELLEY & HARVEY WAXMAN - JAY'S ENGAGEMENT TO SHEILA: Jo-Anne & Harold Pomerantz. CORRINE & HARRY GLANZ - BIRTH OF TWIN GRANDSONS: Yetta Krakower. DR. IAN SPENSER - HONORARY DOCTORATE AT MCMASTER: Pat Morden; Board of Directors of Shalom Village, LORISCHINDEL MARTIN - DOCTORATE: Aaron Shiffman. RALPH & BEVORMAN - MARCI'S ENGAGEMENT: Jo-Anne & Harold Pomerantz, DENNIS & JUDY SCHWARTZ - ORA'S ENGAGEMENT: Jo-Anne & Harold Pomerantz. PHYLLIS BAKER: Gert Price. HENRY & MARY SELDON - 50TH ANNIVERSARY: Richard & Doris Popper. AARON & BECKY STIGLICK - 60TH ANNIVERSARY: Hanna Popper; Frank Lebow. RUTH & HERB TOBIS - 50TH ANNIVERSARY: Edie Rochkin. DOROTHY & NATE SHERMAN - 60TH ANNIVERSARY: Didi Dulberg; Jack & Barbara Katz and Family; Frances Silver, MICHAEL EPSTEIN - BECOMING A JUDGE: Joan & Shelley Silverman. BETTY ANN COHEN: Jack & Barbara Katz and Family, ADELINE COHEN: Bev Sobel & Goldie Robbins, JEREMY GOLDBERG & KAREN SAPERSON AND FAMILY: Ron & Ann Barrs.

Thank You

BARBARA KATZ: Sonny Caplan, DIDI DULBERG: Sonny Caplan, MINNA LOEWITH: Ida & Ben Sussman.

Birthday

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Get Well

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Community

Kehila Jewish Community Day School

Faculty, staff and of course students at Kehila have been very busy for the past couple of months. Tradition carried on when we held our annual Hanukkah party in December and invited many from the larger Hamilton Jewish community to celebrate with us. Our students put on a fantastic show involving many songs, skits and interactive questions for the audience. The students integrated the English, Hebrew, French and Art curriculum into a fabulous program thanks to the dedicated teachers and staff of the school.

Everyone was very impressed with the amount of hard work and dedication that went into making this event a huge success. We were pleased to have so many parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles and cousins present to cheer on the students. All one had to do was

count the number of camcorders and cameras to see that extended families were out in full force! We were especially happy that so many residents from Shalom Village and representatives from the UJA Federation were able to attend. Afterward everyone really enjoyed the delicious Hanukkah treats including authentic Sufganiyot imported from Toronto!

On a more somber note, in response to the recent Tsunami tragedy in South Asia, Kehila students launched a campaign to collect clothing, food and toys for the children affected by this enormous tragedy. The Tsunami Disaster was covered in the classroom and students have learned about the scope of this disaster and the responsibility to help those in need.

Kehila students will open an Israeli street at the school on

February 23. We will also have a presentation by the JNF on the Negev and students will present their Avigail Projects at the same event. Please join us!

Kehila, in coordination with Yves Apel and the T.D. Bank, recently donated 20 computers to the Jewish community at large. The recipients of the computers included the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, Shalom Village, the JCC and Federation. Kehila will continue to work together with all community agencies to enhance a united Hamilton Jewish community.

Mark your calendars now, as preparations are well under way for Kehila's 5th Annual Movie Night to be held on May 15th. For tickets, advertising and sponsorship information please call 529-7725 or visit Kehila's website at www.kehila.school.com

Tu Bi'Shevat and Greening the Negev

Tu Bi'Shevat is a celebration that coincides with the 15th day of Shevat. Symbolically, the 15th of Shevat corresponds to the end of the rain season and the beginning of the growth season. As Jews in the Diaspora, to celebrate Tu Bi'Shevat, we have taken to purchasing trees which are then planted by school children in Israel on Tu Bi'Shevat. On January 16th, a number of volunteers came out for our annual JNF Telethon.

Led by Jonathan Fleisch, the

volunteers received commitments to plant almost 300 trees. Callers were warmly greeted by many in the community who were expecting their annual call. On the phones were our regulars ... Archie Lieberman, Sharon Hart, Shirley Zucker and Jeaninne Sternberg. Others chose to make calls from their homes, including Sara Agulnik, Tishelle Adelman, Rhonda Ingroff, Hilton and Shirley Silberg, and Kathy Adelman.

However, the enthusiasm

of the community's students, including David Kravetsky and EllieSheva Selevan from the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, Yael Hart from CHAT and Carmel Jacob from Midrasha, and Brandon DeSilva and Harriet Dreezer from the Jewish Students Association at McMaster added a new dimension to the telethons.

Many thanks go to all the volunteers who have contributed to making this year's Tu Bi'Shevat campaign so successful.

Temple Fundraiser Features Norene Gilletz

Temple Anshe Sholom's Deborah Sisterhood is hosting Norene Gilletz for a cooking demonstration on Sunday, April 3rd, from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Fast, Fabulous & Healthy Cooking with Norene Gilletz, will include an opportunity to taste Norene's cooking, many cooking-related door prizes all donated by local businesses, a delicious dessert reception, and an opportunity to buy Norene's cookbooks, including her latest cookbook "Healthy Helpings: 800 Fast and Fabulous Recipes for the Kosher (or not) Cook".

Norene is a food consultant, food writer and columnist, cooking teacher and lecturer. She is the leading author of Kosher cookbooks in Canada. Her books include: The Food Processor Bible, MealLeaniYumm! (published as Healthy Helpings in the USA), MicroWays, Second Helpings Please and the Pleasures of your Food Processor. Dog-eared and food-stained, Norene's books can be found in kitchens around the globe, including Australia, Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates, Israel, South Africa, Nunavut, Mexico, New Mexico, New Zealand...and of course, Hamilton! She strongly believes in people helping people, using her cookbooks and demonstrations as fundraising tools for many charitable



Norene Gilletz

organizations.

Because of her love 'a-fare' with food, Norene can usually be found within close range of a kitchen (not always her own)! She will be giving a cooking demonstration entitled:

Norene's motto is "Food that's good for you should taste good!" Visit her website at <http://www.gourmania.com> for more information about her cooking classes, recipes, articles and cooking tips. "

The event is a fundraiser for children's programs at the Temple, including the Grade 9 trip to explore Jewish Montreal this spring. Tickets are on sale now at the Temple office, and cost \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door. For more information call 905-528-0121.



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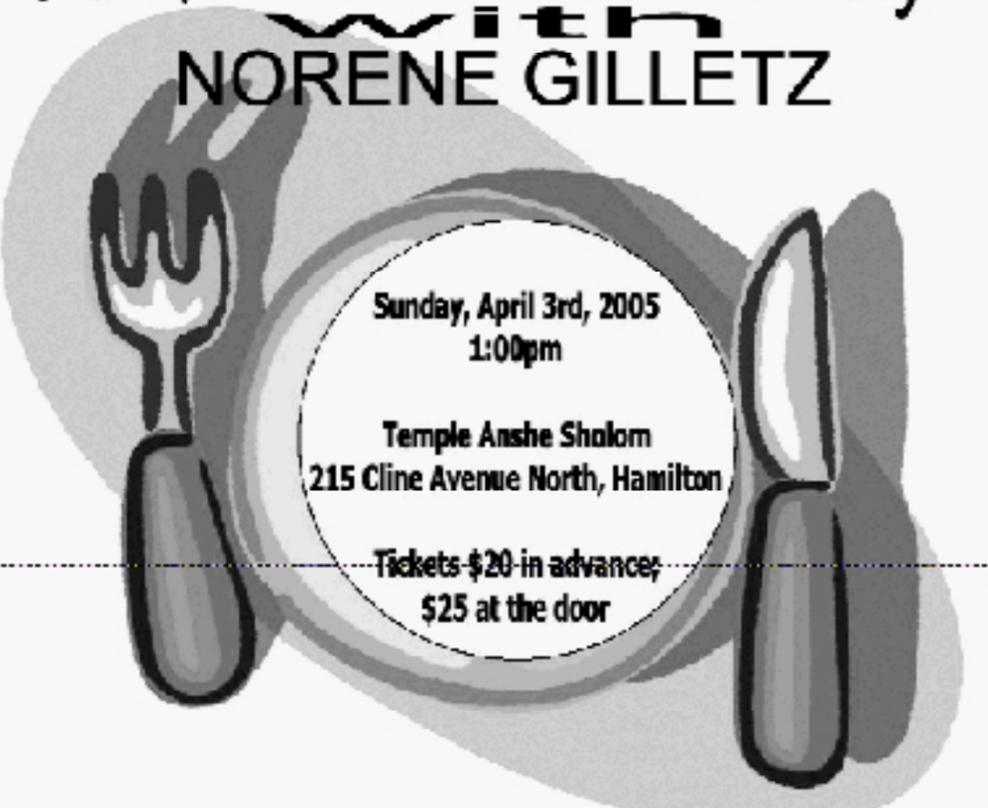
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To purchase tickets or for more information call 905-528-0121 or email: office@anshesholom.ca or log onto www.anshesholom.ca/tickets

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