

Hamilton Jewish News

SERVING HAMILTON WENTWORTH & AREA

JUNE 2003 VOL 17:6

IYAR/SIVAN 5763

Dates to Remember

Join Jill Gaffe & Andrea Molot at this year's



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Summer's Coming See the back page for our Health & Fitness Section

Community Raises \$1,000,000

Hamilton UJA achieves milestone record campaign

UJA Federation President Bonnie Loewith took advantage of the recent Federation annual general meeting to announce that the \$1,000,000 goal for UJA 2003 had at last been reached.

"It has been many years since a figure like that has even been contemplated. For us to reach it at this time – in the framework of so many multiple campaigns, stands a real achievement for the four co-chairs and UJA Federation staff."

Men's co-chairs Lester Krames and Paul Roth and Women's Division co-chairs Lanie Goldberg and Beth Bandler shared her excitement.

"We want to give credit to all our canvassers, captains and divisional chairs for agreeing to work in a new and different format this year. We required more of our volunteers and many people stepped up to make this achievement reachable. We are very grateful to everyone for their patience, support and hard work."

UJA Federation executive director, Gerald Fisher, suggested that the seeds for this success were planted early in the campaign plan.

"In many communities, canvasser education and training are the keys to a successful campaign. Our experience this year only emphasizes the point. We provided first rate training that motivated canvassers and that resulted in the kind of success this community has long deserved."

Internationally respected trainer Jonathan Miller, shared everyone's happiness in hitting the magic \$1,000,000 number.

"When Gerry Fisher briefed me on the campaign's recent performance, we agreed that Hamilton would succeed, only if we aggressively addressed the existing 'culture of flat giving' and the complacency that seemed to define the community's attitude – right from top to bottom."

The evidence that we have turned the corner on "flat giving" is reflected in the 14% increase over the same gifts last year in both

the men's and women's campaigns. Another goal achieved was the expansion of the donor base. Almost 200 new donors made gifts to the UJA 2003 campaign.

As news of the campaign's success started to circulate, congratulatory calls were received from around the country. Maxyne Finkelstein, executive vice president of United Israel Appeal of Canada was the first to call.

"The entire Canadian Jewish infrastructure extends a heart felt mazel tov to the Hamilton community and to Federation executive director, Gerald Fisher, for the success, not only of the UJA 2003 campaign, but also for the remarkable Israel Emergency Campaign. In less than two years, Hamilton has raised close to \$2.5 million dollars for local needs as well critical needs overseas and especially in Israel. Your results have exceeded everyone's expectations. Your efforts are deeply appreciated by every recipient of the programs and services you generosity has allowed us to provide to Jews in need around the world. We thank you on their behalf."

Going forward, Lester and Paul, who have agreed to return as co-chairs for the UJA 2004 Campaign, are already considering

Hamilton's Asper Foundation Participants



16 Hamilton teenagers about to embark on a trip of a lifetime: The Asper Foundation Holocaust and Human Rights Studies trip to Washington D.C. For a report, read the article on this page.

Asper Washington Trip provides "Opportunity of a Lifetime"

Sixteen Hamilton teenagers recently returned from an opportunity of a lifetime – a 4-day trip to Washington, D.C. as part of the Asper Foundation's Holocaust and Human Rights Studies Program. The trip, subsidized by Winnipeg's Asper Foundation and Federations across the country, brought together 200 Canadian teenagers for an unforgettable learning and life experience.

Many individuals were responsible for the Hamilton program's outstanding success: Hamilton's participation in the Asper program was championed by Nadia Rosa, chair of Hamilton's Holocaust Education Committee, ably assisted by Michelle Finkelstein. The smooth functioning of every aspect of the program was due to the superb organizational skills of UJA Federation's Elaine Levine. The students participated in five pre-trip sessions, planned and facilitated by Aaron Orkin, Nancy Sullivan and Laura Wolfson. And finally, the students were chaperoned by the capable Aaron Orkin, Rachel Loewith and Melanie Vertlieb.

Below are reports from Aaron Orkin, a university student currently studying in London, Ontario, as well as from a number of the student participants.

Aaron Orkin, Facilitator:

The most notable thing I observed about the group, beyond what they learned about the Holocaust and the experience itself, was the way the group gelled together. It became such a strong learning and social group in a way I've rarely seen in that age group. I think it's a mix of the fact that they were both learning and doing social activities together. The classes were workshop style, very casual, and affected the way they participated. Although they came from different social groups, by the end of the trip, everyone was talking to everyone.

The Hamilton group really stood out, because, unlike some of the other groups who may have been pressured to come, in this case there was a self selection process. All of these students had to apply to be accepted. They were also the only group with the youngest chaperones. We gave them as much

cont'd on page 2

UJA Federation

Reflections on the Asper Foundation Holocaust and Human Rights Program

cont'd from

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PUBLISHER:
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EDITOR:
Wendy Schneider

MANAGING EDITOR:
Gerald Fisher

TELEPHONE:
(905) 628-0058

FAX:
(905) 627-7099

EMAIL:
wendy.schneider@
sympatico.ca

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Canadian Publications

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 MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2003

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responsibility as they could take on and they rose to the challenge. It was much more of a team effort – young people teaching other young people.

I would be really excited if, as a result of this trip, some of them became engaged in Human Rights and Holocaust-related issues. But even if some students don't become involved in that way, the trip still definitely had an impact. Even if it inspires some of them to read the newspaper, that's a big thing.

Sari Richter, participant:

Three chaperones and sixteen students left on Sunday morning not knowing what was going to happen to them in the next four days. Energized, apprehensive and maybe a little bit shy, the group bonded very well before we even reached the airport.

Highlights of the trip included visits to the Washington Monument as well as memorial sites for the Korean and Vietnam Wars. However, nothing could have prepared us for the Holocaust Museum. Floor after floor of different artifacts, hands-on information, mind broadening photographs and screens projected anything and everything that any person would want to find out about this event that changed the course of humanity forever.

Several speakers also found the time to enlighten us with their words, stories and experiences. We were acquainted with survivors, accounts of hiding, escape and bravery. Others helped us to better understand the way the government in the United States works, and how much of a difference one person can make to a nation and to the entire world.

Washington itself was an incredible city to behold. Houses, apartments and important office buildings loomed towering over the streets filled with taxis and tour buses. Intricate mind-boggling abstract statues and sculptures adorned the pavement, and poetry and quotes engraved in walls and flooring expanded the mind.

Meeting new people was a definitely prominent occurrence on the trip. Jews and non-Jews from London, Ottawa, Montreal and Hamilton interacted and made connections through e-mail and phone numbers, building relationships that could potentially last a lifetime. That's part of what made it so difficult to leave. Being with people made all the difference to the experience, whether it was in the bus, at the Smithsonian of Space and Aviation or just relaxing on a bench in the mezzanine at the mall are so hard to say goodbye to.

This trip made possible by so many generous people, who gave their time and energy to send a massive amount of teens to Washington D.C. will definitely stand out in my mind forever, as the Asper trip was one of the most superlative adventures that I and many others have participated in.

A Call To Service

The Hamilton Police Service seeks women and men to fulfill the honorable call to service as we meet the challenges and opportunities of our ever-changing demographics. This call to service demands women and men possessing enormous perspicacity, integrity, self awareness, self confidence and above all else the emotional intelligence to adeptly and adroitly provide Policing Service that meets and exceeds the needs of our population. This call to service demands individuals complete a thorough self-examination to ascertain their commitment to this journey. Once you begin this journey, be prepared to be challenged, motivated, deflated, frustrated, elated, and feel a sense of accomplishment and homage to duty that is unparalleled.

We urge you to step forward and join this noble profession. Join the ranks of courageous men and women, who daily strive to serve with honor and to make our city a safe place to work, live and play. It is demanding work; it is at times mundane work, but always a call to serve. Rise to the challenge accept the call. Bring your talent, enthusiasm, your integrity and also your passion for service to humanity.

The mission of the Hamilton Police Service is to serve, protect and support in partnership with our communities. Our goal is to reflect the cultural, religious, ethnic, and racial composition of our diverse community. We take this opportunity to invite you to explore a career with our service.

Visit our website at www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca or contact our recruiter at 905-546-4855. You may also stop by any of our Stations and pick up a copy of our recruiting booklet. We look forward to welcoming you to this rich domain, where we strive to "serve, protect and support in partnership with our communities", wont you join us?

Hanna Strub, Participant:

I really feel privileged to have the chance to go on the Asper Foundation Holocaust memorial trip. It was unbelievable to meet over 200 kids from across Canada. The Holocaust museum in Washington is something that has changed me forever. I was stunned and speechless from the photos that I saw. The best part of the trip was being able to hear the heroic story of Charlene Schiff. I was so shocked by her incredible tale. She is the only living survivor from her town of Horochov, which was made up of five thousand people, before the war. This trip will be something which I will never forget. I hope many others will have the opportunity to go on this amazing voyage. It has been one of the best experiences of my life.

Jonathan Ennis, participant:

The Asper Foundation Holocaust Program was surely an experience I will never forget. The trip to Washington D.C. to visit the Holocaust Memorial Museum can not be described accurately with words. I strengthened friendships with old friends, and made new ones with other kids from all over the country. I learned about America's rich culture. The most important thing I got out of the trip was learning about the Holocaust. The time that we spent at the Holocaust Museum felt too short a time to even scratch the surface of the Holocaust, but in that time I saw almost more than I could handle. It was so moving, saddening, frightening, disturbing, and sickening all at the same time. It truly can not be described. One has to see it for themselves. I am

Letters To The Editor

Re: Interview with Edeet Ravel

I'm writing in response to Edeet Ravel's interview (www.jewishhamilton.org). The following excerpt was taken from Kibbutz Sasa's original Hagadah, written in 1949 by the young American-Canadian settlers, which included Edeet's parents and my Parents-in-Law who still live in Israel: "Why are we celebrating this holiday in an Arab village? Although herbs are sometimes bitter, in many instances they serve medicinal purposes. Our herb is a very bitter one and even if we should succeed in removing all other physical traces of it, its taste will linger.

Once there was an Arab village here. The clouds of Sasa floated high over others one year ago. The fields we tend today were tended by others -one year ago. The man worked their plots and tended their flocks while women busied themselves at baking their bread. The cries and tears of children of others were heard in Sasa one year ago. And when we came the desolation of their lives cried to us through the ruins they left behind. Cried to us and reached our hearts, colored our everyday lives. One day they were here and the next day they were gone, victims of war. So we search for justification for the right to be here"

I know very few civilizations, which cries over their bitter foes, and their souls are forever tortured by the struggle between "just" and "might".

Avner Reshef MD, Shoham (Israel)

Re: David Goldberg, first international USY president

Thank you for writing about me in April's Hamilton Jewish News. I am very appreciative. However, there were a few facts in the article which were incorrect. USY's membership is approximately 15,000 Jewish teenagers across North America, not 1,200. There were 1,200 USYers present at the annual International Convention held in Orlando, which I had mentioned during the interview. Rabbi Joseph Kelman's children are Tova Gutenberg, Rabbi Jay Kelman, and Rabbi Maury Kelman. His niece, Rabbi Na'ama Kelman, and nephew, Rabbi Levi Kelman, both reside in Israel. Both sides of my family are involved in the Jewish community, not just my mother's side. Genesis at Brandeis University is a program for students at any grade in high school. I happened to go when approaching Grade 11. In February of 2001, I was the Eastern Canadian Region of USY's representative on a 10-day leadership

UJA Walkathon 2003

A Taste of Summer... C A M P!

Give an Israeli child an opportunity of a lifetime!



Great Prizes!

Funds raised from this year's Walkathon will help send disadvantaged Israeli children to week-long summer camps

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2003

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Registration at JCC:	10:00 am
Walkers leave:	11:00 am

Join Rabbi "Z" as he leads the walk in his farewell walk about town

Lunch, Games & Entertainment with Toronto's

Mandell Extreme

after the walk



Visit our website at www.jewishhamilton.org

FOR SPONSOR FORMS OR TO MAKE A DONATION CALL CHRIS NUSCA AT EXT 306



Walkathon 2003 Co-Chairs: Jill Gaffe and Andrea Molot
A joint project of UJA Federation and the Jewish Community Centre



The UJA Campaign 2003 Team Thanks Our Donors

No Single Gift Saves More Jewish Lives



Paul Roth
Campaign Co-Chair

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UJA Federation

A report on "Imagine Montreal"

Canada's National Young Leadership Conference

Ten of your community members braved a freak snow storm to venture to Montreal for Imagine, Canada's National Young Leadership Conference from April 4-6, 2003.

Imagine Montreal. Imagine the city. Imagine the people. Imagine the experiences – not to mention the memories of a fun-packed weekend remembered by pictures and lasting friendships.

Imagine approximately 400 young adults converging in downtown Montreal bringing with them their Jewish values, beliefs and willingness to learn and grow. We were from across Canada, the United States, England and Israel, of course, represented by 40 engaging and inspiring delegates from Eilat and Beersheba.

The agenda of the Jewish Leadership Institute (JLI) a one-day pre-conference program for 90 outstanding individuals from across the country, was designed to empower the participants to become leaders in their respective communities. What was impressed upon us was the imperative to "think outside the box" and if our voices weren't being heard at the table, then, we were told, to find a new table with those who are willing to journey with us.

Thinking outside of the box was one of the themes emphasized to us during a session on how to be an agent of change in our communities and how to create a vision for the future. Over and over again it was impressed upon us that one voice can make a difference. The way things have always been is not necessarily a recipe for success today and for continued success in the future.

The conference itself, which began on the same evening that the JLI ended, was packed with well-



Hamilton "Imagine" participants included (back row) Larry Kahn, Lisa Morris, Elaine Levine, SimaGozlan, (front row) Debbie Sheinbaum Luba Apel and Yves Apel. Not shown: Jill Gaffe, Andrea Molot, Wendy

known speakers, break-out sessions, networking, and, the most important aspect of a Jewish event – FOOD, FOOD and more FOOD!

Don't get us wrong, there was still enough time left to socialize, swim, shop and attend the much publicized Mystery Ball, done in true Montreal fashion.

This weekend conference had an incredible balance of stimulating our minds, bodies and souls. There were a wide variety of sessions to accommodate everyone's palate, ranging from "The Secret Funding of Terrorism" by John Loftus to "Kosher Sex" by Rabbi Shmuel Boteach and everything in-between. The speakers themselves were dynamic, humorous and passionate about what they believed in. Dr. Ellen Cannon provided a motivation talk on "Living Leadership, Managing the demands of Community Work, Career and Family". She empowered us to come on board in ensuring that our Jewish communities stay vibrant for the sake of future generations.

The program ended with a heartfelt talk from Elie Wiesel on how impressed and honored he was to speak in front of so many young adults and his faith that the future is in good hands.

Join a large Hamilton contingent this coming November at a

National Mission to Israel

including an opportunity to attend the General Assembly of Jewish Federations in Jerusalem!

Depart Toronto on Sunday, November 9, 2003
Return to Toronto on Thursday, November 20, 2003

COST \$3100*

with a minimum UJA campaign gift of \$500

Includes: flight (Toronto-Tel Aviv), 5-star hotels, most meals & touring

*cost does not include add-on airfare

HIGHLIGHTS

- * includes 3-day General Assembly of North American Federations
- * Special Havdalah service in Jerusalem for all North American Missions
- * Major National Canadian event at the Palmachim Air Force Base
- * large North American Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel
- * Tour North and Central Israel, visit partnered P2K communities
- *UJC (United Jewish Communities) sponsored celebration at Haifa's port with the IDF and Israel navy

For more information and to register contact UJA Federation at 905-648-0605.

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UJA Federation - Jewish Social Services

UJA Federation Annual General Meeting acknowledges contributions made by Volunteers, Staff and Donors

There was plenty of good news at this year's annual general meeting of UJA Federation, as UJA Campaign 2003 co-chair, Lester Krames reported that the goal of raising \$1,000,000 has been reached.

In addressing the audience, Krames thanked the community for their generosity and confidence in Federation.

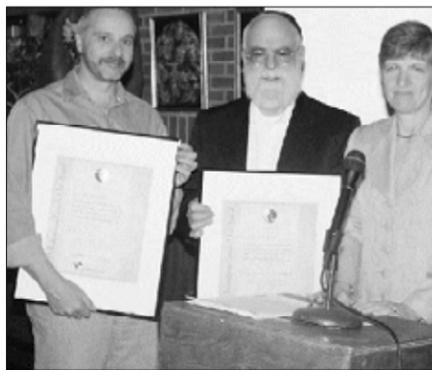
He reiterated the basics of which so many people are still unaware: that their UJA Dollar funds our communities most essential services, among them: the Jewish Social Services, that provides food and counselling for families in need; the McMaster Jewish Students Association, that provides support and programming for Jewish students, increasingly faced with virulent anti-Israel propaganda; the Genesis leadership program, which is developing this community's future leaders; subsidies to make Jewish education affordable to any child.

Dr. Krames also acknowledged the invaluable assistance of the UJA advisory board, the captains, canvassers, office staff, Christine Nusca, Elaine Levine, Cheryl Stevens, McMaster Jewish Students Association director, Judy Schwartz, and Hamilton Jewish News editor, Wendy Schneider. He thanked Dolly Cohen and Rick Kwitco, who volunteered their time to canvass those who had still not been reached, and, for the guidance

and leadership of executive director, Gerry Fisher.

The evening also provided the occasion for recognition of some of the community's unsung heroes, among them donors, volunteers and staff members. UJA Federation president, Dr. Bonnie Loewith, presented Cele Steinberg, a former UJA campaign chair, with a Lion of Judah pin (for women who's annual UJA gift exceeds \$5,000), praising her for her outstanding leadership qualities. Lester Krames and Paul Roth were presented with plaques and thanked for their exceptional devotion to the campaign, which reached its goal of \$1,000,000. And, Christine Nusca, whose pleasant demeanor and exceptional professionalism is known to many in the community, was honoured for completing her 25th year as a Federation staff member. Outgoing board members were thanked and incoming board members were welcomed, including, Liora Malka, Benji Katz, Andrea Molot, Carolyn Molot, Janet Weisz Asa and Allen Wynperle.

A special guest of the evening was United Way of Burlington and Hamilton Wentworth CEO, Winston Tinglin, who spoke about the City of Hamilton's Strengthen Hamilton Community Initiative (SHCI) and invited UJA Federation to become a partner in building bridges among



UJA Federation president, Bonnie Loewith, recognizes UJA Campaign 2003 co-chairs



Bonnie Loewith awards Cele Steinberg with a Lion of Judah



JSS Director, Carol Krames, with Paul Roth



Bonnie Loewith recognizes Christine Nusca for 25 years of dedicated service.



Volunteer, Helen Shlotter, with Guessel Karan and Boris Belfur from the Former Soviet Union and Carol Krames.



Warm Atmosphere prevails at Jewish Social Services AGM

By Carol Krames,
director, Jewish Social Services

The first Jewish Social Services annual general meeting celebrated staff, volunteers clients, board members and the Hamilton community. Jack Leon, stepping down as JSS chair after 18 years of service, was given a presentation for his outstanding commitment and devotion to his community. The board of directors was installed by Dr. Bonnie Loewith, president of UJA Federation. The occasion also marked the installation of incoming JSS chair, Susan Roth, who spoke about the challenges facing JSS in the future, including an aging population, high unemployment and a changing economic climate.

The evening was notable for its warm and intimate atmosphere, as JSS staff were recognized for their

dedication and veterans from the Former Soviet Union were honoured. Guest speaker, Miguel Libedinsky, a recent immigrant from Argentina, spoke about the changes involved in coming to a new country. He has written a book about his experience and we all await its publication.

Over the past few months JSS had been faced with a crisis, in that more funds were spent to help people with food and relief than had been anticipated. Thanks to caseworker Bea Matchen's hard work, our community has come through with donations that will help JSS meet their obligations for the rest of our fiscal year. This crisis has made us aware that we have to be prepared in the future for whatever problems come our way. We thank everyone who has



Leon Karan's Chai Choir performed at both functions.

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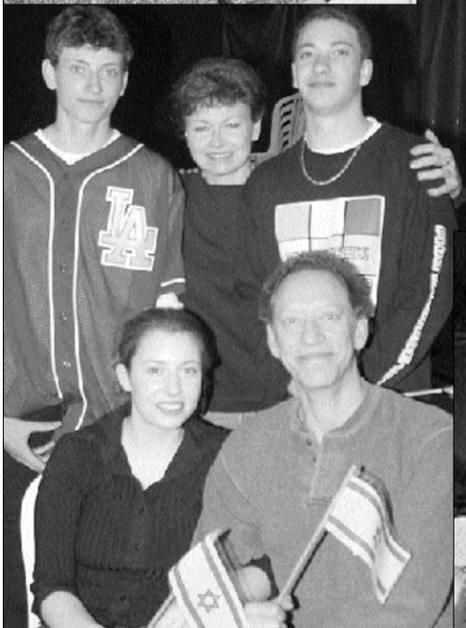
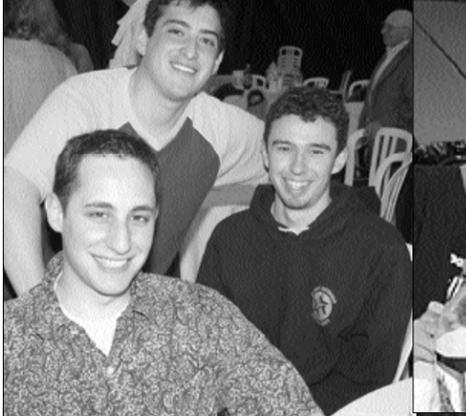
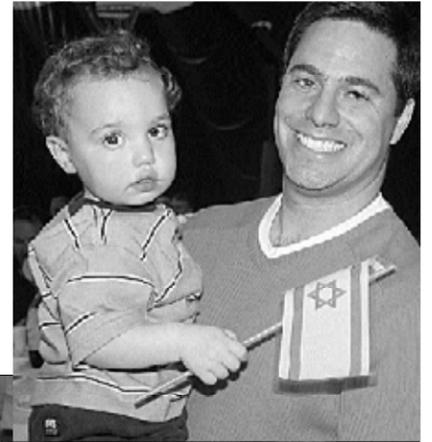
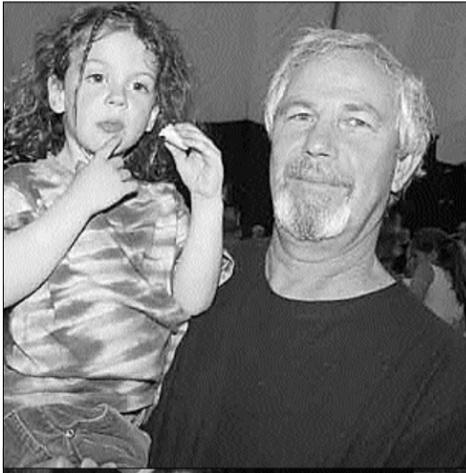
Alec Bukhman
 M.Sc., P.Eng., CFP
 CLU, ChFC, CFSB
 Top of the Table MDRT

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

JCC Pages

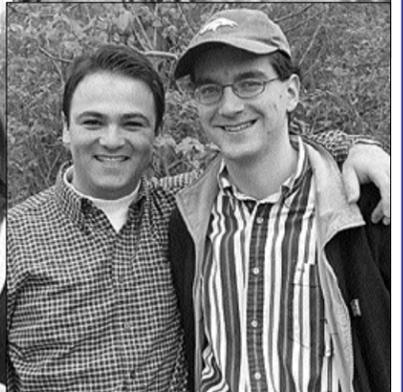
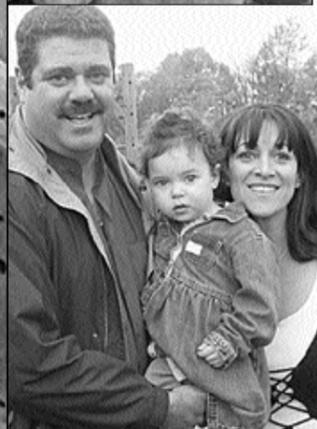
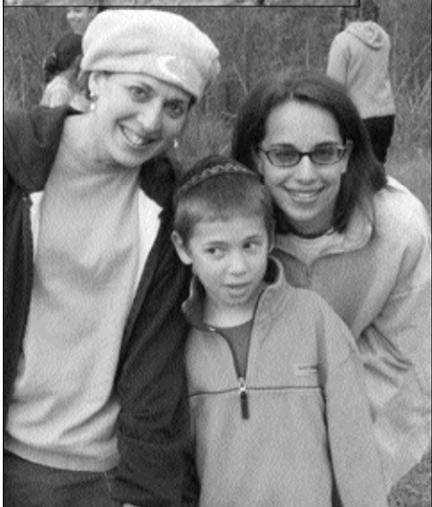
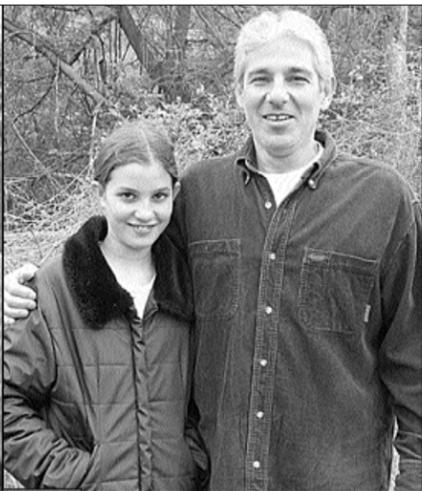
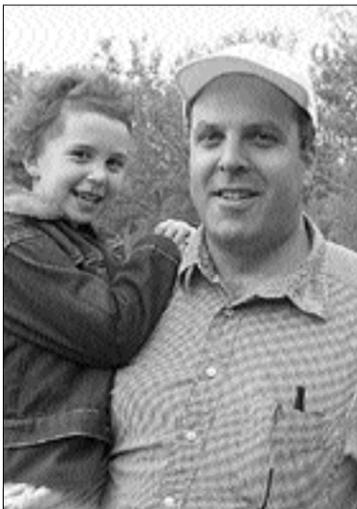
The Community Celebrates at the JCCs Yom Haatzmaut

Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's 55th year of Independence was celebrated at the Jewish Community Centre with Israeli-style food and a street dance. Hundreds of community members turned out to enjoy these celebrations, showing strong support for Israel and community. Thanks to Moishe Chaimovitz for making this all happen, Dorina Chaimovitz for her delicious baking, Aubrey Friedman, Larry Szpirglas, Rhonda Dahan and Louise Algranti for their help with set up, Eva Khrin, Genya Satovsky, Nadia Varantyan for cutting vegetables and Sam and Ahuva Soifer and Rhonda and Hyla Kemeny for their help at the registration table. Thanks also to Strub brothers for their donation of pickles and to the Rikudiah dancers who delighted the crowd with their excellent dancing.

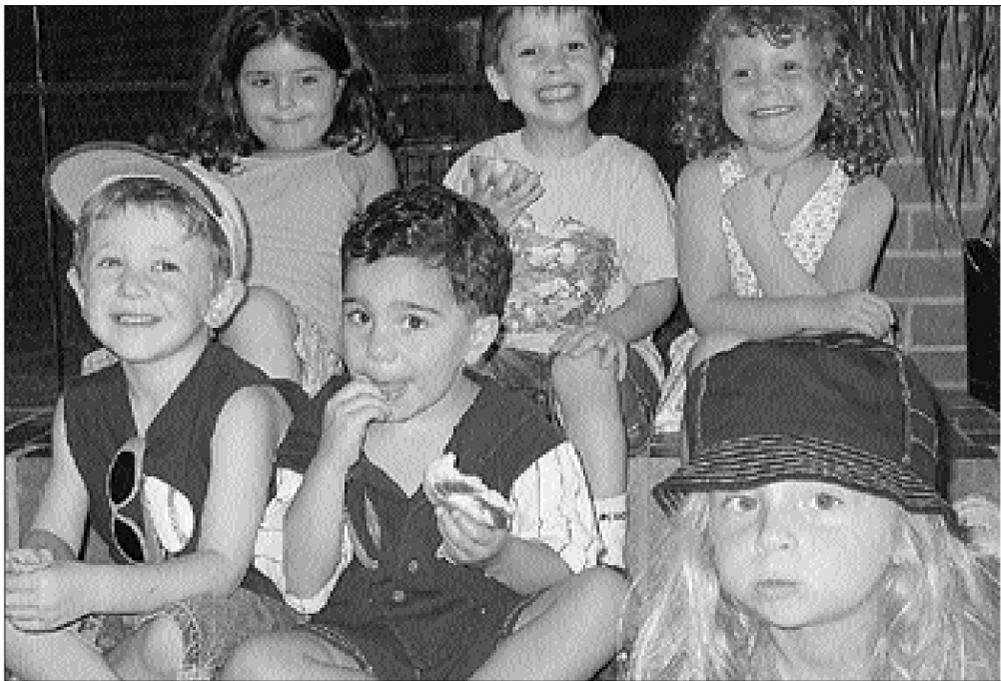


and at the annual lag baomer picnic

Once again organized by the Hamilton Hebrew Academy's Mr. Frank Samuels, the third annual Lag Ba'Omer picnic featured a barbeque, a bonfire and a fabulous fireworks display at the JCC firepit on May 25. Community members of all ages came out to enjoy the fun!



Camp Kadimah/Gadna 2003



Send your child to Camp Kadimah
to make lifelong Jewish friends • fall in love with and learn about nature and camping • share values and strengthen bonds • support your JCC

Send your child to Camp Gadna
to learn about Jewish Leadership • to learn about the Kibbutz experience

- to feel pride in your Jewish Community • to take amazing day trips
- to strengthen your family's roots in your community

Leaders In Training at Camp Kadimah/Gadna
For the 3rd year this ever-evolving Leader In Training program will offer an interactive hands-on summer of fun, working with the camp director and assistant director and experienced counsellors. The LITs will receive instruction on working with young campers in how to plan and implement programs and Red Cross training.

Still Hiring Camp Counsellors
If you are a mature, fun-loving university, college or high school

Yom HaShoah



This year the Yom HaShoah program took place on Monday, April 28, 2003 at the Adas Israel Synagogue. Yasher Koach to Celia Berlin, the Yom HaShoah program chair, for all her hard work and creativity in bringing this meaningful program to the community. Thank you to the committee Irene Albert, Gilda Ennis, Anita Bernstein, Leia Ger Rogers, Lila Strub, Hanna Schayer for their continued dedication.

Yasher Koach

- to Harvey Katz,; Lowell Richter, Barry Zaitchik, Howard Eisenberg, who organized the JCC Casino Nite Social on April 5. Everybody enjoyed the outstanding refreshment table created by Gwen Gordon. Thanks to Harpers Nursery for decorating the bubble with their beautiful trees.
- to Joel & Nicole Feldman, winners of the JCC Lottery to the JCC lottery committee for selling tickets.
- to Howard Katz and the JCC for recognizing Max Rotman Humanitarian Youth Award recipients on June 1, 2003 at the Hamilton City Hall.

Dont miss these Upcomijng jcc Events

The Herb and CeCe Schreiber Family Foundation,
The Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton & Area and
McMaster University
invite you to a

BEN MEYER MEMORIAL LECTURE

Wednesday, June 4 at 8:00 pm at the JCC
by
Shaul Katzenstein

Dying Once, Dying Twice: Reflections on the Deaths of Jewish and Buddhist Teachers

The death of one's teacher is a crisis point in all religious traditions, sometimes compared to the passing away of a parent. As such, depictions of the death of teachers contain within them some of the most important values and messages of religious traditions. This lecture compares portraits of the death of in Judaism and Buddhism.

Shaul Katzenstein received his MA in East Asian studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He is completing a doctoral dissertation at McMaster University on Dying Masters in Chinese Buddhism.

Lecture and refreshments gratis

The Jewish Community Centre
of Hamilton & Area
and the

Beth Tikvah Foundation

invite you to

The 8th Annual Golf Tournament June 19, 2003

at the

Beverly Golf and Country Club

Join Stan Tick, Sheldon Frank, Larry Szpirglas, David Walman, Stephen Foster, Ira Greenspoon for a fabulous day on the greens.



JCC TRIBUTE CARDS

In Memory Of

Father of RAEFIE EPSTEIN: Abe, Gina, Jeff & Joanna Szpirglas
Elaine Friedman: Abe & Gina Szpirglas
Benjamin Karp: Joy Foster
Father of LOUISE KLINGHOFFER: Larry, Fern & Matt Szpirglas
Mother of ROSENFELD FAMILY: Rochelle Waxman
SONIA SCHWARTZMAN: Pearl & Irvine Waxman & Family
Condolences to
GERT GOLDBLATT: Rochelle Waxman
Mazal Tov
VIRGINIA MENDES DA COSTA & ROBERT MURDOCH (Tyler's' Bar Mitzvah): JCC Board of Directors & Staff
Steven & Sandy Silver (birth of grandson): Joy Foster, Henry & Donna Vine

Thank You

HARPER'S GARDENING CENTRE: JCC Board of

Local Events

Good News for Jewish Day School Students

by
Yves Apel

Short of calling it a miracle, Equity in Education Tax Credit, is a profound change in the government policy directed at correcting the discriminatory preferential treatment of Catholic schools at the expense of all other independent Ontario day schools.

Equity in Education Tax Credit (EETC) is now law in Ontario and all parents paying tuition in Jewish day schools for studies in 2002 and 2003 immediately benefit. Those filing 2002 personal tax return should expect \$500 to \$700 per child, and the credit should double this year.

Two key highlights of the EETC are that the EETC is received in addition to the charitable donation credit (in fact charitable donation credit is not impacted by the EETC); and that you get the EETC even if you have no tax to pay (as long as you file a tax return).

EETC is very important to our community. It makes Jewish day schools more affordable for parents, and adds to financial viability of the schools. By making schools more affordable, the need for on-going bursary subsidies will decline. Both Kehila and HHA require hundreds of

thousands of dollars every academic year to bridge the gap between what it costs to educate the children and what net tuitions bring in. Bursary obligations put an additional strain on our schools.

Combined charitable tax credit and the EETC bring the actual cost of Jewish education within the reach of many.

Let's consider an example of a typical school with an \$8,000 annual tuition. Assume that a charitable tax receipt is issued for 80% of the actual tuition paid. This will result in the following tax treatment:

\$6,400 charitable receipt issued (in this example, 80% of the tuition). \$2,970 is the tax benefit produced from this receipt (\$6,400 x 46.4% = \$2,970). \$558 is the EETC, which this year is 10% of the "net tuition" (calculated as \$8,000 less a fixed charitable benefit) NET COST TO THE

PARENT: \$8,000 - \$2,970 - \$558 = \$4,472

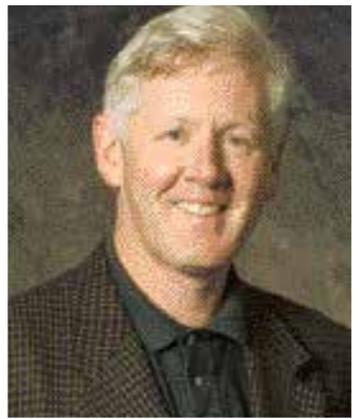
There is better news. If the next provincial government does not abolish EETC, and both NDP and Liberal leaders have promised to do away with it if they come to power in Ontario, the EETC will rise from 10% of "Net Tuition" to 50% by 2006. Using the figures above, NET COST TO THE PARENT should become as follows: \$8,000 - \$2,970 - \$2,792 = \$2,238

Imagine what this can do for the improved financial health of the schools if fewer families require bursary assistance. Imagine what this can do for school enrolment (or even a birth rate), when not just one child, but two or three children in the family, would receive Jewish education.

It's hard not to make this a political issue, because both NDP and Liberal party

Bob Rae to speak at Negev

Among the highlights of this year's JNF Negev dinner that will honour McMaster University president, Dr. Peter George, on Sunday, June 15 at the Hamilton Convention Centre, is a keynote address by former Ontario premier, Bob Rae.



the Rt. Honourable Bob Rae

During a recent interview with the HJN, Rae said that he was delighted to be asked to speak at the dinner. His ties with the Hamilton Jewish community run deep: Harry and Etty Perell of Dundas, are uncle and aunt to his wife, Arlene Perly and the Raes have visited here often. Rae is well known as a long time supporter of Israel and has visited the country

on a number of occasions, including a highly publicized human rights fact-finding mission in the fall of 2001.

Rae staunchly supports Israel's right to security, while, at the same time, supporting a future Palestinian state. Alluding to the virulent

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Special Mentschen

A Season for Farewells

by
Wendy Schneider

It is a bittersweet time for Rabbi Irwin Zepowitz as he prepares to say goodbye to many dear friends and congregants of Temple Anshe Sholom after 14 years in Hamilton. The rabbi is moving to a Long Island community where, as senior rabbi, he will head up a team of five clergy, four of them, including himself, new to the congregation, and four of them, including associate rabbi, rabbinic intern and two cantor – women. Although very excited about the opportunity to work as part of a team in a growing and vibrant community, he is, nevertheless, finding it very difficult to contemplate a future that does not include those in the Hamilton community he has come to know as friends.



Rabbi Irwin Zepowitz

“Rabbi Z.” appeared on the scene 14 years ago, after the end of a 5-year contract in Chicago. He was immediately impressed with Hamilton and the community that hired him after one weekend’s audition, and pleased to be close to his former hometown of Niagara Falls, New York.

One does not need to look far to gauge the impact the rabbi has had on his synagogue and on the community – Evidence of the Temple’s centrality can be found in the level of activity in the building. On any given day of the

week, the Temple is buzzing with the voices of young children who attend one of three schools operating on site. Adult and teenagers are seen just as frequently, attending youth group meetings, Muslim-Jewish dialog groups, adult education classes, committee meetings and a variety of interest group gatherings, including an Alcoholics Anonymous chapter. In addition, every second year is marked by dozens of people from across the community spectrum attending weekly rehearsals for Temple Players musical productions.

The rabbi is particularly proud of the Temple’s strong lay leadership and the independence they demonstrated during his sabbatical year. He also mentions the Temple’s own, recently published siddur and the fact that last summer, as many as 30 Hamiltonians attended Camp George, Canada’s Reform Movement summer camp.

Throughout his tenure

many have observed that Rabbi Zepowitz has never shied away from taking unpopular positions on controversial issues – a sign of a strong leader. But the rabbi underplays this quality.

“I have never thought of these things as being gutsy,” he acknowledged, adding,

“I don’t play it safe and I am, by nature, a risk taker and that has been both good and bad.”

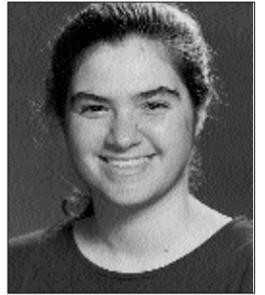
Perhaps the best testimony as to Rabbi Zepowitz’s impact can be found in speaking with those who were closest to him. Hanna Schayer, a long time Temple member commented on the rabbi’s enormous compassion and the respect with which is regarded in the community at large.

“He’s taught us to be visionaries,” she said, “to think of what is possible and to reach for things we thought were impossible.

“He has an extraordinary wonderful ability to capture our imaginations. One of the most profound things was his attempt, in situations where there was conflict between Jews and Palestinians, to find a way to talk to each other. He didn’t let us be complacent. He made us tackle the tough issues because he tackled the tough issues. He took positions that may not have been popular but which he thought were moral and ethical. In that sense he was a leader in the most profound sense.”

HONOURABLE MENTSCHEN

Rachel Desoer is one of Hamilton’s best kept secrets. She is an 18 year old cellist who began studying cello at Hamilton’s Suzuki School at age 5. She is known across Canada in musical circles as she has been a winner in national competitions and has played with two orchestras as winner of their young artist competitions. Rachel also played beside Yo Yo Ma at the opening of his music garden in Toronto in June of 1999. Chamber music is Rachel’s passion and she has studied with some of the best groups in North America such as the St. Lawrence Quartet. She loves Klezmer music and has played for our community Yom Hashoa remembrance ceremony for the past two years. Now she is off to learn more about music as an



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Shalom Village

South African Serenade



A crowd of over 400 people were entertained recently by a men's a capella choir at the Adas Israel Congregation's second annual South African Shabbat dinner, featuring delicacies cooked by members of the South African Jewish community.



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We are family

by Pat Morden



Pat Morden

Shalom Village is fortunate in receiving feedback on our quality of care and services from many different sources. An unexpected, and powerful message came recently at the United Hebrew Memorial Chapel. This was at the funeral of a man who had called Shalom Village home, first with his wife and then as a widower, for the past ten years. Quietly he lived a meaningful life, centred firmly on the tenets of Judaism and all that this meant to him. He looked to Shalom Village as a resource to help him live a Jewish life. When his wife could no longer manage to kosher their home for Passover they would move to Shalom Village for eight days and as they needed more help they changed their full time address to Shalom Village. When the vagaries of age made it more and more difficult to interact with others and make a difference - Shalom Village introduced him to a member of our extended family with whom he could speak, share, and through whom he could remain connected to life and his community. It was listening to this volunteer, giving a heartfelt eulogy to his friend of six years that I heard as well a beautiful tribute to Shalom Village. This was a tribute that said loudly that for many people, we are truly a change of address - a place to call home - not as many might believe 'a dreaded nursing home'. When parts of life got difficult - Shalom Village made these parts easier - supporting this person in staying connected to his life and all that had meaning to him.

The impact of this six year relationship, which began as a 12 year old boy did his bar mitzvah project at Shalom Village, is one in which we as a greater community can take great pride. This young man, supported and encouraged by his family and Shalom Village learned that volunteering can be a synergistic process, where both give and both learn. For two men, both at times in their lives when perhaps others paid less attention to their thoughts and ideas, they were given the chance to share of themselves in the context of a commonly held set of beliefs, values and respect.

Honouring our fathers and mothers is truly our mission. This commandment goes well beyond bricks

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The Arts

The End of Innocence

Ten Thousand Lovers

By Edeet Ravel

Headline Book Publishing, 373 pages. \$24.95

Reviewed by
Wendy Schnedier

Edeet Ravel's *Ten Thousand Lovers* is a small gem of a novel that succeeds in portraying a moment in time: Israel in the 1970s, still basking in the euphoria following its exhilarating victory in 1967's Six Day War, and enjoying a period of prosperity and political calm that gave both its citizens and Diaspora Jewry a sense of comfort, freedom and entitlement.

This was a time when hundreds of North American Jewish students flocked to Israeli universities for a year abroad, revelling in their new-found freedom and travelling the length and breadth of a country that they viewed as their own private playground.

Ravel's heroine, Lily, is an Israeli-born Canadian student. As the novel opens we find her, short on cash, but long on youthful confidence, standing at a soldier's hitchhiking station on the outskirts of Jerusalem, trying to catch a Friday afternoon ride to Tel Aviv. She is picked up by Ami, who tells her he works as an interrogator of Palestinian war prisoners and persuades her to join him for lunch on Dizengoff.

Their relationship, as it unfolds, presages the end of Lily's innocence, which parallels, the author seems to suggest, the end of the innocence of the country itself. For Lily's growing discomfort at hearing about the goings on behind the walls of the country's detention centres is matched by Ami's increasing inability to deal with a tortured and schizophrenic existence stemming from a personal life completely at odds with his chosen profession.

Throughout much of the novel, the reader experiences a sense of foreboding about what the future might hold for the couple and for Israel itself. Many of the passages leave the reader with a sense that the seeds of today's impasse between Israelis and Palestinians were tragically sown during this very period. In the following passage that sees Ami return home from a particularly gruelling interrogation, his words have a haunting resonance:

"Things are deteriorating very fast now. I've watched them deteriorate over the years... The people on top are getting more desperate, there are more and more prisoners coming in, ridiculous numbers of prisoners, and there's more pressure to get information faster, growing paranoia, growing panic. I see where it's headed. It can't stay like this, the dam's going to burst one of these days. But they think they can shore up that dam. They think the solution is to get more and more frantic, step up everything, hire more guards, more interrogators, set up more detention centres, get increasingly brutal with the prisoners, make their stay in prison more unbearable, if that's possible. It's straight out of a Russian surrealist play, except that it's real. And no one in this country seems to be aware of what's going on. They don't want to know, or they know but they pretend they don't, and the people who make all the decisions seem to be sleepwalking too."

The kibbutz is another icon of Israeli society, whose traditional image is called into question by the novel. On a day during which Ami accompanies Lily to her childhood kibbutz, she is haunted by painful memories of abuses she witnessed in the children's house. As the afternoon progresses, she reveals to him what she knows about the kibbutz's establishment on the site of an abandoned Arab village, whose inhabitants had fled during the 1948 War of Independence, and how its founders were confronted with the difficult decision about what to do with the mosque they left behind.

"They were in a quandary, they didn't know how to get out of it. They didn't know how to think about things. Before forty-eight they were in favour of one state, you know, Arabs and Jews together. But after forty-eight the policy changed. 'ki lanu lanu erez zot,' I sang. Because it's ours, it's ours, this land. 'They were so elated, you know?



Edeet Ravel

There was such elation about having this little piece of land with a mosque in the middle of it. My father kept saying, 'Finally, a place that's ours, a Jewish government, Jewish police, the end of being a despised minority, finally a place where you don't have to worry about Nazis getting into power of not being allowed to attend university.'"

Somehow, despite Ravel's dark revelations, the reader never questions the author's deep love for Israel and its people. In fact, all of the novel's characters are endearing – Lily's aunt Bracha, who takes great pride in her niece's found "catch", Lily and Ami's friend, Ibrahim, an Israeli Palestinian who works as a mechanic in Tel Aviv and whose family live in an Arab village in the Galil, Ibrahim's militant son – bored, frustrated and angry, with none of his father's equanimity about the status of Arabs in the

Pinking Shears Productions Present "THE GOLDEN AGE OF MONSTERS"

By Barry Bender, Ellen Jaffe,
and Lil Blume

The Fringe Theatre Festival is coming to Hamilton in June 2003 for the first time. One of the plays will be of special interest to our community because it grew out of last spring's "Celebration of Jewish Writers and Writing" held at Temple Anshe Sholom.

In May 2002, Ellen Jaffe and Lil Blume organized Hamilton's first Jewish literary festival, which brought together a diverse group of writers for an exciting three-day event. Among the writers was JJ Steinfeld from Prince Edward Island. At one of the weekend's activities, JJ met Barry Bender and learned that he had recently acted in the Temple Players, production of *Annie*.

"I have a one-man play for you," JJ told Barry. "I can imagine you playing the character Stuart." JJ warned him that the play was only a first draft and had not been workshopped or even read aloud by an actor. Barry asked to see the script, and the project was born.

JJ is a fiction writer, playwright and poet who lives in Charlottetown, P.E.I. He has published a novel and nine short story collections, the most recent being *Would You Hide Me?* (Gaspereau Press, 2003). He has won an array of awards, including the 1990 Toronto Jewish Congress Creative Writing Award, Theatre PEI's annual playwrighting competition (ten times!), and, most

recently, Regina Little Theatre's 2003 National Playwriting Contest for his play *Past Artistry*.

Barry was intrigued by the original title of the play, *My Father Gave Me Hannah Arendt's EEichmann In Jerusalem*, for My Twentieth Birthday. Like the character Stuart, a criminal lawyer, Barry appreciated Arendt's subtitle for her book, *A Report on the Banality of Evil*. One of the play's themes is that evil does not always appear as a recognizable monster; it can "creep up on us" in our daily lives.

Ellen Jaffe and Lil Blume jumped in as co-producers. They knew and thought highly of JJ and wanted to build on the energy generated at the literary festival. They organized several informal reading/workshops for small groups of friends. Each reading was followed by a discussion of the play: its themes, character, structure, focus, and impact. All viewers were engaged by the play's humour and moved by its emotional depth. Since a pair of pinking shears are a significant symbolic object in the play, they named their company Pinking Shears Productions.

As the play begins, we find Stuart in his study, troubled by his current case – a triple murder apparently committed by a suspect who is "ordinary, bland, pasty-looking... and polite, offensively polite." During the previous week,

cont'd on p 16

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An open letter to the Hamilton Jewish Community From State of Israel Bonds

Dear Friends,

On June 24, 2003, State of Israel Bonds Canada will be closing its Hamilton office.

In these hard economic times for Israel, Israel Bonds has had to make some difficult decisions. Many have been more painful than the closure of an office in our history, and almost certainly.

As a joint agent of the Israeli Ministry of Finance, Israel Bonds cannot remain immune to the current economic realities in Israel. Necessary budget cuts have led to these structural changes within the Israel Bonds program.

- Please be assured that we remain dedicated to serving your needs through our Toronto office. Simply dial our toll free number at 1-800-771-8901.
- Current rates, purchase prices and more are also available on our new web site which we have designed to serve as your 24/7 Israel Bonds resource centre.
- Please sign up for our free email bulletin, which is the quickest way to receive information and financial help paying bond of the month. Visit www.israelbonds.ca
- We are committed to maintaining a presence in the Hamilton community through meetings and mailings, and will continue during the high Holy Day period. We wish above all to ensure that the Hamilton Jewish community will always be part of the Israel family, unity and love. We opportunity to help the people of Israel by investing in their future.

Indeed, this comes at a time when the Israel Bonds organization has been mandated to raise more funds than ever before. Our mandate is to now raise over 50% of Israel's total foreign currency needs for the forthcoming year.

The need for Israel Bonds has never been greater and we will answer the challenge with the kind of passion, vigor and love for Israel that is every day in our legal battles.

All this time, we also proudly acknowledge the expert professional work of Nancy Warner, as well as her longtime predecessors, Barbara Hainigan and Elaine O'Brien. All have made a significant contribution over the years and their efforts are now an indelible part of the fabric of their local COMMUNITY.

On behalf of State of Israel Bonds, we thank you for your understanding and love for Israel in a very important and continuing relationship with our great community in Hamilton.

Sincerely,



Lawrence A. Walker
Executive Vice President



Organizations

Kehila Jewish Community Day School Students Explore the Story "Hana's Suitcase"

by
Anita Granat

The children at Kehila spent an active month exploring the sensitive history of the Holocaust in a unique and moving way. The events of the Shoah are often difficult for adults, let alone children to comprehend. To teach the story requires a skilled and sensitive touch. It also ensures that children learn about our past so that they can understand its impact on the future.

Hana's Suitcase, by Karen Levine, is a timeless and true story about the travels of a young girl's suitcase. From a blissful childhood in a small town in Czechoslovakia, to the terrors of Auschwitz to the Japanese museum the suitcase has brought the story of Hana into the public eye. It is a story of courage, love and hope with an almost mythical end. It is unique in that it allows young children of all ages to understand the Holocaust from a child's perspective. Further, it tells the story of the determined journey of Fumiko Ishioka, the Japanese museum curator as she pieces together the story of the suitcase that she received from Auschwitz. Her determination to find the clues missing from the ordinary suitcase become a mission to tell the story to the children in Japan and around the world.

Hana's Suitcase was read to the children by Deborah Glogauer, a parent and teacher at Kehila. It was much more than a simple storytime as the children became involved in reliving history. Sensitive to the ages of the children, Mrs. Glogauer was patient and gentle, encouraging their questions and answering them in a warm and caring way. The children identified with the horrors that Hana had to endure in her short life. But much more importantly, they learned



Yom HaShoah display board with letters and drawings for

lessons in love, self-respect, and the power of good over-coming bad.

An integral part of the programme involved the older children writing letters to Fumiko Ishioka and the 'small wings' children in Japan, telling them the impact that this story had on them. These letters were translated into Japanese and an international communication has developed with the children of Kehila and children half a world away. The children put together a display of their letters and drawings that they had made. The display was part of Yom HaShoah studies and is extremely

moving to see. As the story of Hana's Suitcase has the ability to bring the bleakest part of our history to life for children, it is a lesson for adults as well. The project is another illustration of how parents, staff and children work together to bring a valuable lesson to life. Here is truly innovative and multi-dimensional teaching at its best.

On a final note, as the school year begins to wrap up, the students are busy working on their projects for the Avigail Awards. This is an annual school endeavor that allows the children to research and display knowledge that they have learned on a

Hamilton Hebrew Academy Dancers Excel at Toronto Rikudiah Festival



Hamilton Hebrew Academy students dance at the JCC's Yom Ha'atzma'ut Festivities

Holding their heads proudly, dressed in beautiful blue and white with contrasting kerchiefs, the 18 girls of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy's Rikudiah team marched into the York University's gymnasium to take part in the 33rd Israeli Dance Festival in Toronto.

Mr Frank Samuels, principal, said that the girls' participation in the Rikudiah, a festival of dance, was a clear indication of the respect that the Academy gives to its parents. Samuels gives full credit to Mrs Amy Katz Martin for encouraging the school to enter the festival. In addition, the trainers were also both parents, Ms Yael Greenberg, whose daughters Mira and Tamar both danced in the team and Mrs Zians who is not only a parent, but also our Senior Kindergarten Jewish Studies teacher and whose daughter, Ari also performed!

Samuels commented that participation in the Rikudiah was part of the Academy's holistic approach to education. "Dancing is a clear expression of kinesthetic intelligence," said Samuels, referring to Howard Gardner's theories of Multiple intelligence. "We believe that every 'intelligence' should be developed at school and this opportunity allowed us to bring the multifaceted talents of our students to the surface."

Sitting on the packed bleachers in the York University gymnasium, it was so exciting to see how proud our girls were of what they had achieved. And so they should be!

Mrs Zians reported that several audience members



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Upcoming Events

■ TEATRON Presents **THIS NIGHT:** a Play in Two Acts by Robert Majzels. From award-winning Canadian author and playwright Robert Majzels comes This Night, a play that explores the dilemma of children of the Holocaust, saddled with a memory they can never entirely call their own. Presented in association with the first annual Hamilton Fringe Festival, **This Night runs from June 6 to 15 at the Aquarius Studio.** Performances: Saturday June 7 (10 p.m.), Sunday June 8 (8 p.m.), Monday June 9 (9 p.m.), Wednesday June 11 (10:30 p.m.), Friday June 13 (12 noon), Saturday June 14 (10 p.m.), Sunday June 15 (10 p.m.) Tickets: \$8.00. For individual tickets call **905-297-0170.**

■ **The 12th Annual Canadian/American Havurah Shabbaton** will take place at the Canterbury Hills Conference Centre in Ancaster, Ontario, from June 20 - 22, 2003. The event features spirited davening, singing and dancing, stimulating study sessions and good fellowship in a peaceful, relaxing setting in the heart of Dundas Valley. A full children's program is also provided. Brochures are available at Beth Jacob Synagogue, Temple Anshe Sholom or at the JCC. For more information call **Yael Greenberg, Alan Livingston (905-524-2687) or Barry Walfish (905-572-6254).**

The Golden Age of Monsters

cont'd from page

coincidentally, a number of personal events have occurred that "prod" Stuart's memory, and these memories affect his ability to work on his murder case. Mary Blum Devor, Hamilton psychologist, says the play is "a powerful and gripping presentation depicting the burdens of children of Holocaust survivors."

As the play continued to develop, Lil, Ellen and Barry returned to one of JJ's earlier titles, The Golden Age of Monsters, keeping the longer one for the subtitle.

Props, sets and sound effects were added, as well as music from diverse sources, including monster movie themes, Jewish music of the Holocaust, and Yiddish lullabies. Two public staged readings took place in November 2002. The first was held in Hamilton in Lil's living room with 60 folding chairs borrowed from Temple Anshe Sholom, and the second as part of the Toronto Jewish Book Fair at the Leah Posluns Theatre studio space. JJ was in attendance at both. The play

was chosen (by lottery) for both the Toronto and Hamilton Fringe Festivals. The Golden Age of Monsters will have eight performances in Hamilton between June 6 and June 14 and seven performances in Toronto between July 2 and July 13.

JJ will be on hand for the Hamilton performances on June 6 and 7. He will also be reading in Hamilton on Sunday, June 1, 7:30 p.m., in the Lit Live Reading Series at the Junction Café.

Ellen noted that Pinking Shears Productions



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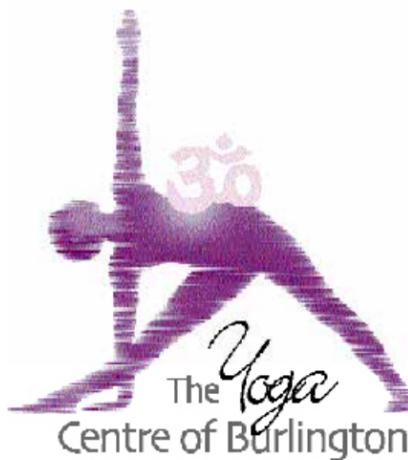
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EITZ CHAIM - THE TREE OF LIFE Gala Cantorial Concert

Sunday, June 22, 2003 at 7:30 pm Reception to follow Cantor Shneur M. Bielak Cantor David Edwards Cantor Sidney S. Dworkin Cantor Ben Silverberg

Accompanied by Nathan Rosen - Piano Call 905-522-1351 for further information



Yoga Classes Meditation Teacher Training Pre-Natal Yoga Yoga for Children Gentle Yoga

541 Brant Street Unit 8 Burlington

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The Ice Cream Ride

Join us Sunday June 22nd for a fun new spin on group rides.

Leaving the stadium 1:30 pm, our guides will lead you on a leisurely ride on some of the area's scenic bike paths and rail trails. When you're done, we'll buy you an ice cream cone from the finest local bakery.

More information about the ride is on our website.

If you need a bike, we have the same old selection of Canyon and Hybrid bikes. We even have a few new ones!

For more information or to book a bike, call us at:

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