

# Hamilton Jewish News

SERVING HAMILTON WENTWORTH AND AREA

JULY 2008 VOL 22:5/ SIVAN 5768

AGREEMENT #40007180

## Federation passes allocation milestone

*Record breaking campaign means more funds for beneficiary agencies*

AS A RESULT OF THIS YEAR'S RECORD BREAKING CAMPAIGN, UJA Federation of Hamilton intends to allocate close to \$1,150,000 in support of its local beneficiary agencies, the Canadian national Jewish infrastructure as well as to needs in Israel and around the Jewish world. This is the highest allocation total in the history of the Hamilton Jewish community.

The recommendations of the Allocation Committee will be presented at the June Federation Board of Directors meeting for formal approval. A full allocations report, including the specific allocations to each agency will be provided in HJN in the "end of summer" issue.

The recommendations were guided by a desire to return beneficiary allocations to a level that met, or surpassed the allocation levels of 2006/2007. The committee recommendations were also guided, in part, by the results of the past year's planning process which identified Assisting the Vulnerable, Strengthening Jewish Education and Jewish Identity, Support for Israel and Continuing Community Development as the key

priorities requiring federation focus, attention and resources.

In response to those priorities, the committee recommended an allocation to the Beth Tikvah Foundation for the first time. Recommended allocations to day schools will rise by over 15%. In terms of Israel, Hamilton will not only meet its National Collective Responsibility through United Israel Appeal, but will allocate additional dollars to Israel directly to the Jewish Agency. These are significant decisions.

Committee members included Treasurer Jacki Levin who served as chair, Willy Steen, Leslie Lasky, Paul Roth and Dennis Schwartz as well as UJA Co-Chairs, Michael Kam, David Horwood, Lisa Morris and Debbie Strub.

Despite the record amount being allocated, it was clear that it did not come close to meeting the real financial needs in our community agencies. Allocation requests received totaled more than \$1.3M. Even at that level, most of our local beneficiaries would run operating deficits. This will be the challenge to the leadership and community for the UJA 2009 Campaign.

## Federation AGM highlights

UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON held its Annual General Meeting at Beth Jacob Synagogue on May 27th.

Although somewhat restrained in scope, the meeting fulfilled its objectives and provided the audience with an accounting of both achievements and challenges faced by our community's central communal agency over the previous twelve months.

Federation president Dr. David Somer acknowledged that "because of all the major events taking place in the community during May and June, a decision was taken to minimize the agenda of this AGM and not attempt to turn it into yet another competing major community event. There was no keynote speaker, volunteer awards or long speeches. Our audience seemed to appreciate that decision."

What the audience did hear was a beautiful D'var Torah delivered by Rabbi Dan Selsberg, a very positive financial report by past treasurer Willy Steen and the results of the nominations process delivered by past president Leslie Lasky. Of particular importance, UJA Campaign co-chair David Horwood announced a record closing total of \$1,150,000 for the 2008 campaign.

Somer used the meeting as an opportunity to highlight several of the major issues addressed by Federation during the past year:

### Planning / Volunteer Development

Planning workshops for the board, facilitated by UJA CEO

Please see AGM HIGHLIGHTS page 2

## To Israel with love



At this year's UJA Walkathon, Walk the Land, Temple Anshe Sholom educator and cantor, Laura Wolfson presented Shalom Village with a beautiful tile mosaic designed by Israeli artist, Chani Pinthus, and created by hundreds of hands across the community. The mosaic "Mitzvah in Motion" project involved the creation of two mosaic murals – one to stay in Hamilton and a replica to be presented to the Shechafim School in Northern Israel by Wolfson personally. Pictured with Wolfson is Shalom Village CEO, Pat Morden.

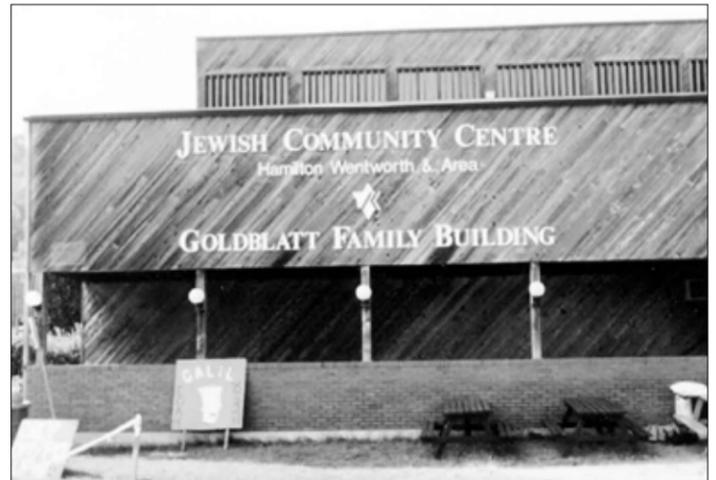
## Another step forward for the JCC Redevelopment plan wins qualified approval

THE UJA FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS has extended its support to the recently presented redevelopment plan for the JCC Site on Lower Lions Club Rd.

At its May 13th meeting, the Federation board passed a motion that supports the concept of the redevelopment of the Jewish Community Centre, subject to affordability. The motion directed the JCC/Federation Collaborative Committee to further refine the JCC's business plan to include all costs, ensure sustainability and explore all fundraising approaches.

This motion, plus the various letters of support received provide the impetus and framework to continue into the next stage of the process. Letters of support were provided by potential major donors, from community organizations that may be prepared to move their offices into a renovated building and from a wide range of cultural groups who were intrigued by the concept of the "JCC Friendship Center." The next stage of the process is to refine the plan into a professional document that addresses all the various questions still outstanding and that can be presented to donors.

JCC President Joel Feldman was very pleased with the result. "All we asked was for a chance to bring our redevelopment plan to donors. Everyone I speak to wants a vibrant and attractive JCC for themselves and their families.



The JCC on Lower Lions Club Road in Ancaster

I want to do everything possible to meet those expectations. To do less would be an abdication of my responsibility."

UJA Federation President David

use it and who is going to help pay for it." The plan presented, includes some very creative and positive elements. However, it doesn't really go far enough in

**The question is in determining what is feasible for a community like ours. Who is really going to use it and who is going to help pay for it.**

DAVID SOMER  
President, UJA Federation

Somer feels the decision was a good one, but also offered some caveats. "Of course I want a vibrant and attractive JCC – who doesn't? The question is in determining what is feasible for a community like ours – Who is really going to

answering those basic questions referred to in the motion. There needs to be a next step.

There seemed to be general agreement that the required next steps are beyond the capabilities

Please see REDEVELOPMENT page 2

**Teaching the Unimaginable**

See page 5

**Kehila celebrates 10th year**

See page 7

**A reunion to remember**

See page 8

*UJA Federation is proud to announce the return of its*

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- Registration deadline is August 15, 2008
- Early registration discount of \$50.00 if you register by July 30, 2008

## HAMILTON HEBREW HIGH: 2008-2009

Registration and opening class for all classes - September 2, 2008

### Hebrew Language: Grades 9, 11 & 12

- Grade 9 Monday s @ 3:15 pm to 5:15 pm
- Grade 11 Tuesday s @ 3:15 pm to 5:15 pm
- Grade 12 Thursdays @ 3:15 pm to 5:15 pm

If you don't use it... you lose it! Learn how to communicate with Israelis in Hebrew. Develop a proficiency in both oral and written Hebrew. These courses are designed to accommodate those who have a background in Hebrew language, either through a Jewish Day school, Israeli upbringing or the equivalent. Students registering for these courses might be asked to take a written or oral Hebrew Language assessment test.

### Grade 9 Community and Individuality in Judaism: Tuesdays 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Explore the importance and value of both the individual and the community from a Jewish perspective. Learn about the centrality of the Biblical and Jewish axioms of Chesed – Kindness, and Tzedakah – Charity, and develop an appreciation of the concept of “community”, the value of community leaders and a sense of communal responsibility. Open to Grade 9 students and qualifying students in Grade 8. Reach Ahead!

### Grade 10 Ethical Dilemmas: Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Be equipped to face the ethical challenges of modern life. Explore current ethical dilemmas in the realms of medicine, business and family dynamics from a uniquely Jewish perspective. This course is designed to probe the ethical foundations of Jewish belief and show their relevance for everyday life. Open to Grade 9 & 10 students

### Grade 11 Media Studies: Wednesdays 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Ready, set... ACTION! Create your own media works, learn the art of film production, and see “hands-on” how all forms of media can influence ideas. Open to Grade 10 & 11 students

### Grade 12 U Philosophy: Wednesdays 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Investigate the answers to some of life's most important and puzzling questions... with a Jewish twist! Why am I here? Is there objective good and evil? What is beauty? Open to students in Grade 11 or 12 with any university or university/college preparation course in social sciences and humanities, English, or Canadian and world studies

### FAQs

*What is Hamilton Hebrew High and what's in it for me?*

Hebrew High is an after school for-credit Jewish Studies program for public high school students in Grades 9-12. (Grade 8 students can take advantage of grade 9 course through the Reach Ahead Program.) Hebrew High offers you a great way to learn and earn credit with seven for-credit courses, amazing topics, exciting events, retreats, and, yes, food.

*Can I be a part of Hebrew High if I never attended a Jewish school?*

Yes! Hamilton Hebrew High is open to all Jewish public high school teens regardless of religious affiliation, background, or previous Jewish education.

*Do you offer anything else besides classes?*

Yes! Join us for weekend retreats, exciting teen events, a fully equipped Student Lounge - with pool, phoozeball, dome hockey, pinball, X-BOX, hot pizza & more. Hamilton Hebrew High brings its students special classes and guest speakers. Our courses also use TV shows, movies, and multimedia to initiate discussions.

*What do I need to do?*

In order to receive an Ontario Secondary School credit you will need to complete 110 hours. The vast majority of these hours are completed in class through weekly two hour sessions. The remaining hours must be completed through weekend retreats, book reports or Friday night dinner programs.

*When do we start?*

You can pre-register for Hamilton Hebrew High by completing the included form and returning it as soon as possible. Classes begin September 2, 2008. For more information visit [www.hhhmidrasha.ca](http://www.hhhmidrasha.ca) or call Lanie Goldberg at 905-524-2663.

## REDEVELOPMENT continued from page 1

of the current JCC-Federation Collaborative Committee. The committee has done what volunteers can do. They brought in consultants from UJC and JCCA. They conducted a number of focus groups. They conducted a community wide survey. They arranged for private consultations with potential donors. They interpreted the results of all this research. They drafted a plan and an operating budget. So what's next?

UJA Federation Executive Director Gerald Fisher has suggested that the work to move the process forward requires an experienced project manager. “We are all aware of the magnitude of redevelopment taking place at various sites within Jewish Toronto. The Toronto Federation, with all of its staff and volunteer resources, turned to professional consultants to refine their redevelopment plan for the purposes of preparing the information for potential donors, as well as for government and corporate sponsors. I believe we need to take the same step.”

Fisher's colleagues at the Toronto Federation have already volunteered to assist in

identifying experienced consultants that can refine the drawings, strengthen the numbers and advise on creating a strategic plan for a capital campaign. They may draw on the expertise of those who assisted the Toronto community process. Fisher reminds us the project managers don't come cheap. He suggested that perhaps those donors who expressed support for the initiative can be approached to float the costs of the project manager.

One firm decision taken at the Federation Board meeting was the decision to ensure that going forward this would be a true collaborative initiative. Both agency Presidents agreed that a project of this magnitude cannot be mired down in a “them and us” mentality. If this project is to be the beginning of a “new Jewish future for Hamilton” then it requires a whole new mindset to be successful.

As Dr. Somer suggested, “we can't guarantee right now that we will be successful, but a renewed commitment to work together is a wonderful start.”

## AGM HIGHLIGHTS continued from page 1

Linda Kislowicz led to the identification of four “Federation Pillars” that will provide the framework for our activity in the future:

- Assisting the Vulnerable
- Strengthening Jewish Education and Jewish Identity
- Supporting Israel
- Continuing Community Development

These four pillars will serve as the topics for a series of planned “Leadership Round Tables” that will engage lay and professional leaders from every Jewish institution in Hamilton.

### Support for Israel

Tangible support for Israel has been increased by a decision to allocate additional dollars to Israel for the core budget of the Jewish Agency. This is a new allocation, over and above our National Collective responsibilities through UIA.

In the past year, UJA Federation has formally adopted the Shechafim Regional Rehabilitation School near Kiryat Shmona and had already delivered additional dollars for specialized equipment and capital replacement needs.

### Advocacy

This year Federation

- arranged for formal meetings between all of the candidates in last year's Provincial election with leaders in the Jewish community.

- met with elected officials at least twice a year and maintains an ongoing communication to update elected leaders on matter of Jewish community concern.

- brought several high profile Israelis to Hamilton to speak to the community and also to meet with local media.

- reached out to establish relationships with local and national Christian organizations that are supportive of Israel.

- took significant steps to bolster support for the McMaster Jewish Students Association. The Campus Services Committee has established formal links between campus and various segments within the Jewish community. CSC, in cooperation with the CIJA University Outreach Committee launched the establishment of the McMaster Jewish Faculty Association.

### Financial Resources

Federation has just closed on its most successful UJA Campaign in history.

Special attention is being given to the re-establishment of the Hamilton Legacy

Endowment Fund in the coming year.

### Federation Staff

Meeting participants warmly greeted Federation Executive Director Gerald Fisher. Fisher delivered an impromptu “state of the staff” address, praising the professionalism of Christine Nusca, Elaine Levine, Wendy Schneider, Nelly Escandor and Kristine Stolar.

Using the example of the growth and development of the staff, Fisher illustrated how much the agency has evolved in the past few years, with greater capacity to develop and deliver programs as well as to play its rightful role in the growth of the UJA and Legacy Campaigns. He reminded the leadership that staff expansion came about through a UIA grant that will expire in another year. Between now and then, the community will need to find those additional dollars to keep the staff intact.

### Dialogue

The meeting closed with a brief update on the status of the dialogue initiative with the leadership of the local Arab and Muslim communities. Although it is not a major federation priority, the program seems to attract a disproportionate amount of attention because of the unending attacks against our participation coming from a small group of detractors.

Dr. Lorne Finkelstein, a co-founder and one of Federation's representatives to the dialogue, discussed both the current status and the achievements of the initiative.

Federation Executive Director Gerald Fisher brought the meeting's attention to a series of letters from community officials, praising the Federation for showing leadership in building bridges between communities.

Before adjourning the meeting, Dr. Somer took the time to express his appreciation to everyone who had worked hard on Federation's behalf during the past year. Special thanks were extended to Past President Leslie Lasky, VP for Financial Resources Shirley Molot, Past Treasurer Willy Steen, VP Administration Paul Roth, Treasurer Jacki Levin, VP Human Resources Vivienne Epstein, Holocaust Education Chair Nadia Rosa and Madeleine Levy and UJA Co-Chairs Michael Kam, David Horwood, Lisa Morris and Debbie Strub. Dr. Somer also brought special attention to the many years of dedication of Harold and Jo-Ann Pomerantz whose board terms are now ending.

**INSIDE** HJN JULY 2008



**COMMUNITY CELEBRATES ISRAEL'S 60TH**

It was an abundance of energy and enthusiasm that teens gathered at the UJA Federation office It was an abundance of energy and enthusiasm that teens gathered at the UJA Federation office It was an abundance of energy and enthusiasm that teens gathered at the UJA Federation office It was an abundance of energy and enthusiasm that teens gathered at the UJA Federation office It was an abundance of energy and enthusiasm that teens gather.



**UJA FEDERATION**  
**4 ISRAEL'S 60TH**

Community comes together to celebrate Israel at the Yom Ha'atzmaut & Walk the Land festivities



**UJA FEDERATION**  
**5 HOLOCAUST EDUCATION**

So much progress in the last 20 years

**JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**6 MAX ROTMAN AWARDS**

Members of Rotman and Brownstone families come to town

**COMMUNITY**  
**10 MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

Organizations' efforts benefit local community



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**COMING UP**

<b>ROSHA HASHANA ISSUE</b>	
• Deadline for booking ad space	<b>August 10, 2008</b>
• Deadline for receiving editorial copy	<b>August 15, 2008</b>
• Deadline for receiving ad copy	<b>August 29, 2008</b>
• Estimated Date of Arrival	<b>Sept 19, 2008</b>

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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 March 3, 2008.

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2008 UJA Walkathon "Walk the Land"

The community came together on May 8th to celebrate Israel's 60th birthday at a combined UJA Walkathon—Walk the Land—and Yom Ha'atzmaut grand event. "Walk The Land" was part of a global initiative involving hundreds of communities across the globe, all walking together to celebrate this important milestone.

The Israel@60 festivities began at Shalom Village with a presentation of a ceramic mosaic designed by local Israel artist Chani Pinthus. The mosaic was created by hundreds of community members as part of a fundraising project for the Shechafim school in Northern Israel, a school "adopted" by the Hamilton Jewish community earlier this year. Laura Wolfson, educational director and cantor at Temple Anshe Sholom unveiled the mosaic with the help of Shalom Village CEO Pat Morden. Laura will personally deliver a replica of the mosaic to the Shechafim School in Northern Israel.

Following a prayer led by Rabbi Bernard Baskin and greetings from Pat Morden and UJA executive director, Gerry Fisher, Shalom Village residents participated in their own Walk the Land.

Later that night over 300 community members gathered at the JCC where they enjoyed Israeli food, a live Israeli band and dance performances by Kehila and Hamilton Hebrew Academy students. Misha Apel, Kehila student was presented with a special award for her winning design for our community's Israel@60 logo. Following the Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities, everyone was invited to participate in the UJA Walkathon "Walk the Land", led by Rabbi Jordan Cohen and Moishe Chaimovitz and Misha Apel. The evening ended with a fantastic display of fireworks at the JCC.

Thank you for participating in Yom Ha'atzmaut & Walk the Land and raising funds for the Shechafim School

**WALK THE LAND CHAIRS**

Carolyn Molot & Denise Calman

**YOM HA'ATZMAUT CHAIRS**

Racheli Kirat & Moishe Chaimovitz

**WALK THE LAND SPONSORS**

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**YOM HA'ATZMAUT SPONSORS**

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**WALK THE LAND VOLUNTEERS**

Mitchell Vile, Jill Gaffe, Shirley Molot, Molly Kumer, Lorne Lerner, Andrea Molot, Samantha Richter, Talia Kollek, Rachel Fingerote and Jacob Houpt. As well, thank you to Pat Morden, Anne Pritchard and the staff at Shalom Village

**YOM HA'ATZMAUT VOLUNTEERS**

Julie Dembe, Yael Hart, Luba Apel, Nik Jaspan, Moriel Mesterman, Steven Schneider, Jared Mark, Elliott Raphael, Inbal Chaimovitz

Hamilton Lions go to Buffalo



This year's Lion of Judah co-chairs, Shirley Molot and Cindy Kam, recently arranged a trip into Buffalo to meet with the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo's Lion of Judah Division women. The day included a private guided tour of the Jennifer Steinkamp Exhibit with the Associate Curator of the Albright Knox Art Gallery and lunch in the gallery restaurant. This was a great opportunity for the women to discuss and exchange ideas from their communities. Hamilton's Lions look forward to welcoming Buffalo Lions to Hamilton in the near future. Pictured above (back row, l to r) are Rhoda Katz, Liz Tick, Sasha Weisz, Shirley Molot, (front row, l to r) Cindy Kam, Dana Weisz and Lisa Morris.

KOL HAKAVOD



Cindy Kam

UJA Federation salutes Cindy Kam and Sasha Weisz each of whom have raised the bar on leadership in the community.

Cindy Kam has recently stepped up to co-chair our community's Lion of Judah division together with Shirley Molot. UJA Federation Lion of Judah donors are women who give an annual gift of \$5000 to the UJA campaign.



Sasha Weisz

Next November in Jerusalem Sasha Weisz will be receiving the Lion of Judah Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award, awarded to women of distinction in communities across North America who exemplify the spirit of the Lion of Judah by continuous involvement and commitment to their communities and to Israel. Sasha, a passionate advocate of community cohesiveness and Israel, embodies the spirit and vision of Lion of Judah through a commitment to tzedakah and tikkun olam.



The JCC's Laura Laengerer with Yom Ha'atzmaut chairs Moishe Chaimovitz, daughter Racheli Kirat and her daughter, Ma'ayan



Gerry Fisher and Roberta Katz make a presentation to Israel@60 logo design winner Misha Apel



ABOVE: Children of all ages enjoyed both the Walk and Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities



Walk The Land co-chairs Denise Calman and Carolyn Molot take a moment to pose with UJA Federation staff Chris Nusca and Elaine Levine and volunteers Jill Gaffe, Molly Kumer, Shirley Molot and Andrea Molot.

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CELEBRATE 60!

Walk the Land



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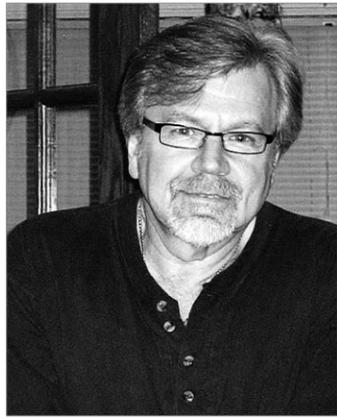
Walkathon Sponsorship Envelopes

If you didn't get a chance to hand in your sponsorship envelope at the walkathon please contact the UJA Federation office at 905-648-0605 ext. 306 or bring it to your school office. If you would like to make a donation to the Shechafim School, Hamilton's Coast to Coast partner in Northern Israel contact the UJA Federation office. All funds from the UJA Walkathon have been directed to meeting the needs of the severely handicapped children of this school.

# Teaching the unimaginable

*Holocaust Educator's passion for the topic inspires teachers*

WENDY SCHNEIDER



Dennis Nash

**DENNIS NASH IS ONE OF THOSE LUCKY INDIVIDUALS** who feel passionately about his work. Nash, a high school teacher who specializes in teaching the deaf and hard of hearing, has dedicated the last several years of his life to teaching the Holocaust. Last summer, he traveled to Israel to participate in a three-week intensive seminar at the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. A Jew by Choice, Nash has been involved with UJA Federation's Holocaust Education Committee since its inception in 1993. But the Yad Vashem experience had a profound impact.

"I learned so much from survivors, from historical documents, reference materials and visual stimuli," he said, describing how emotionally drained he felt after

actually seeing a boxcar used for transports and a mountain of shoes. But he came away energized with a renewed conviction to continue on the path and on his return, set about designing a workshop for teachers. The deliberately provocative title, "How to teach the Holocaust in 100 minutes," was coined by Nash and UJA Federation staff member, Elaine Levine, as a way to appeal to teachers who are often at a loss on how to condense such a huge topic into a few short lessons.

Last February, Nash presented his workshop to 30 teachers from both the public and separate school boards. His objectives were modest: to give teachers the confidence and resources needed to teach the Holocaust and provide them with an understanding of how to present it to students in a meaningful way. Nash himself designed much of the material, including step-by-step lesson plans for grades 7 through 12 and a DVD that highlights the five systematic steps employed by the Nazis against the Jews: legalization; isolation; starvation; transportation; and extermination. An important component of any Holocaust education unit is the teacher's ability to encourage students to relate the Holocaust to the world in which they live. Unfortunately there is no shortage of examples: Rwanda, Darfur and the recently

published poll that cites the three most perpetuated hate crimes in Canada (and Hamilton) are those against Blacks, Gays, and Jews.

When his Yad Vashem colleagues learned about Nash's work, they asked him to return to Jerusalem this July to present a condensed version of his workshop at the Sixth Annual International Conference on Holocaust Education, attended by an expected 800 participants from around the world. It's an honour that Nash modestly shrugs off. "I'm just happy to have the opportunity to teach the kids," he said, making a point of thanking Hamilton's Separate School Board for giving him time off to pursue his studies and his co-teachers for covering for him. Nash is also grateful to the Asper Foundation which provided funding for both trips.

Perhaps most fulfilling for Nash is the opportunity to witness how his convictions have impacted those around him. As a result of his workshop, a number of teachers struck an ad hoc committee that is currently working on a presentation to the Ministry of Education to request that more time be allocated towards teaching the Holocaust. A better outcome could hardly be imagined.

## MY THOUGHTS ABOUT THE MARCH OF THE LIVING

JACOB KRISZENFELD

**MANY PEOPLE TOLD ME** before this trip that you can never be prepared for it and to just embrace it. The March of the Living was absolutely the most unforgettable memory of my life.

The Poland segment was startling and unforgettable. We travelled all over the country, starting in Krakow and ending in Warsaw. We saw things people may never see. Whether it was the ghettos, Auschwitz, Treblinka or Majdanek they were all unforgettable and very horrific.

In Israel we shared many joyous moments which will live in my heart forever. The moment we landed in Tel Aviv, I felt a strong sense of who I was. Although we weren't able to travel on our own it didn't matter because I didn't need to travel all over Israel to love it, enjoy it, and make it feel like home. We went to many different places, including the Old City in Jerusalem, the City of David, the Dead Sea, the Kotel, several kitbutzim, the Jordan River, Yad VaShem, Mt. Herzl, and so much more. I felt proud to be Jewish and more confident to advertise it. I enjoyed being able to meet some of my family that I've never met. I saw and experienced some of the most memorable things of my life.

Being able to experience Yom Ha'atzmaut with my friends from Hamilton was great but to experience it with people I've never met before is amazing. I will never forget those people who will be forever in my memories and I will continue to stay in touch with them. This trip changed me physically, socially and emotionally. I am a completely different person today than I was before this trip. I've changed my religious beliefs, my feelings towards others, and have renewed appreciation for my friends, my family, my belongings and for the privilege of life. I have also begun to follow the rules of Kashrut.

I went on this trip with some great preparation and expectations but nothing could have prepared me for the feelings with which I was overcome. I am enjoying who I have become as a result of going.



2008 March of the Living participants

## Holocaust Education Committee has wide reach

NADIA ROSA

**IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE** that it was almost 20 years ago that three members of the Holocaust Remembrance Committee (Bev Lasky, Moura Wolpert and myself) decided to go to the Federation with a proposal of creating the Holocaust Education Committee. We understood that educating young people about what really happened in Europe was the most important way to honour the memory of the six million victims of the Holocaust.

Now after so many student and teacher seminars, Asper Foundation and March of the Living programs and two consecutive years of Holocaust Education Weeks we can look back with pride and satisfaction.

The Holocaust Education Committee has a very wide reach and has touched many young people of all backgrounds and faiths. We receive feedback from all kinds of sources, but the most valuable comes from students who write their anonymous assessments following the student seminars.

I recently attended a Teacher's Holocaust Workshop given by Dennis Nash, a graduate of the Yad Vashem Course for High School Teachers. Dennis was among those who attended the first committee meeting along with members of the school boards and others who supported

us wholeheartedly from the beginning. The 40 teachers who attended the workshop expressed their willingness to devote more hours towards teaching the Holocaust, bringing us a step closer to fulfilling one of our main goals.

The Holocaust Education Committee is delighted to welcome Gilda Ennis as its new chair. We always have space for more volunteers. Much of the work is done through email, which helps cut down on the frequency of meetings. If you would like to join the Holocaust Education committee, please contact Elaine Levine at 905-627-9922, ext 24.

### Royal Doulton Judaica for Sale



"Celebration of Faith" collectible plates by Royal Doulton for sale. These are a set of 4 numbered 10 1/2" plates by James Woods reminiscent of monastic art. There were only 7,500 (each of four plates) worldwide in their original bound box. Will only sell as a set. Asking \$2000.00. Only interested buyers should call and leave a message at 905-627-7476.

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# The Jewish Community Centre

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Living it up at the JCC



The last few months at the JCC have been jam packed with programs. During the Passover break we held a babysitting course run by the Red Cross. May was very busy, with four programs. **Yom Hasboab** took place on May 1 with a strong program that featured Consul General Amir Gissin. Special thanks to the Adas Israel and especially to Rabbi Tabover. We could not have done it without you!



Elianne Junger lights a memorial candle with her grandson

A week later we celebrated **Yom Ha'atzmaut** with a live band, dinner, dancing and fireworks. For the first time ever all families were invited to UJA Federation's Walk The Land, before the fireworks. Special thanks to the Adas Israel for letting us borrow tables, to Charles Kravetsky for our delicious cupcakes, to Shalom Village for helping us pick up the tables, to our sponsors and volunteers and to Chani Pinthus for designing and creating the Kotel.

On May 25th we celebrated **Lag BaOmer**, with all proceeds going to this year's JCC Maccabi Games athletes. Thank you to Rabbi Golan Amar for leading us in a great sing song. And thanks to Ollie Laengerer, So-Low Sales and to Ira Greenspoon for donating prizes for our draws. Special thanks to the Maccabi families for all your help and support, and to Jared Mark and Ollie Laengerer for taking care of the bonfire.

On May 27th **Morris Black Public Speaking Contest** winners gathered together for a trophy ceremony. We are very proud of all their hard work and accomplishments and we look forward to next year.



Joel Feldman

### President's Message

The importance of the Federation Board meeting on May 13th should not be taken lightly. The resolution to support the concept of the redevelopment of the Jewish Community Centre is a vital step towards making this effort a reality.

I thank David Somer and Gerry Fisher, for all their hard work and support through this process and I thank the Federation Board for their diligence and their collaborative effort. I also want to thank those who provided letters of support for the JCC and the concept of redevelopment. It is motivating to find that so many of you feel the same level of commitment to the JCC as our Board and staff.

Although this is a vital step, it is only the beginning. If it is true that everybody wants a vibrant and attractive JCC, there should be nothing that stands in our way. Communities all around the world are embracing the concept of making the JCC a central part of the community. The success of this project will be a direct result of the generosity and vision of individuals and corporations from both inside and outside our community.

This is a time for the leaders of the Federation, Jewish Community Centre, the synagogues and the Jewish Day Schools to play a vital role in making this community strong and vibrant for generations to come.

When asked whether this project is feasible and whether we can afford it I ask how we can afford not to do this. What does it say about our future, if we cannot support a Jewish Community Centre. When asked who will use it, I say that JCC is a place for every single member of our community, no matter what age. There are programs being offered for all ages. If there is something that is not being offered, please get involved and talk to the Laura. I must stress again the importance of joining the JCC. Becoming a member is an opportunity to show your support for the JCC and play a part in shaping the future of our community.



We are thrilled to announce that we will be sending 7 athletes from Hamilton to participate in the Maccabi games this year in Detroit. We are continuing the legacy of the late Allen Harris, who volunteered his time for many years. Allen was the driving force for this program. As part of our efforts to help send our athletes to Detroit we have been raising funds such as selling paper running shoes at \$2 a piece, found at the front desk. On May 25th the JCC held its annual Lag BaOmer program, with all proceeds going to the support of our athletes. Below is a letter written by Mr. Schoenberg who's daughter Lauren will be attending the games.

The reason I am writing you today is that Clareta and I are involved in the fundraising event for the athletes of the Maccabi Games. This event is being held in Detroit, MI the week of August 17th, 2008. Our daughter Lauren is participating in the dance competition. There are seven athletes representing the Hamilton contingent in various sporting events.

For over twenty years, our area athletes have been competing in the North American Youth Maccabi Games, which has become the largest event of its kind in the world.

Without the help we receive from community minded people like yourselves and the important corporate sponsorships, many of our kids would be denied the opportunity to compete in the games. Our son, Jessie competed in table tennis back in 2005 at the Richmond, Virginia Maccabi Games. I can tell you from our family's experience we have never witnessed anything quite as exciting and motivational for both for the athletes and their families. We would like to ensure that this event remains as high spirited and motivational for those participating this upcoming season and for many years to come. This can only happen with your financial support.

This year's delegation is being headed by Laura Laengerer with the assistance of David Bromstein. It is costing approximately \$675.00 per athlete. As in past years, we have athletes whose parents are not in a financial position to pay this amount.

I hope I can count on you to support this great program by helping sponsor one of our athletes. Any contribution (large or small) would be greatly appreciated. Your cheque should be made payable to JCC, with MACCABI GAMES 2008 written on the MEMO LINE. For your convenience VISA, AMEX and MASTERCARD are also acceptable. A charitable tax receipt will be issued for the entire amount. Clareta and I along with the Maccabi families and the Hamilton JCC thank you in advance for your generous support.

With my best regards,

Jacques Schoenberg  
Participating Parent



ABOVE: Rabbi Golan Amar leading a singsong at the Lag Ba'Omer barbeque

BELOW: Morris Black Public Speaking Contest winners at the trophy ceremony

### CAMP KADIMAH

There are only a few weeks left of school, have you made plans for your children for the upcoming summer? If not, Camp Kadimah begins on June 30th and we are still taking registrations. We have a dynamic team this year and they are all looking forward to meeting your kids. Our team of Directors have been working really hard at creating a new and exciting adventure for this summer.

#### ALLAN FEIN: CAMP DIRECTOR

Believe it or not, Allan Fein, formerly of camp New Moon, has recently moved to Ancaster with his wife Ilana and daughter Thea. While at New Moon from 1991 to 2006 Allan's positions included Junior and Intermediate Section Head, Head of Swimming and six summers as Program Director. Allan also has extensive experience working with children, both young and old, as a coach, swim instructor and administrator. His training includes courses from the Red Cross, Lifesaving Society of Canada, and the National Coaching Certification Program. Allan holds a Master's Degree in Health Promotion from the University of Alberta. He is currently working on his PhD in Physical Education and Health focusing on the physical activity behaviours of children and youth. We are thrilled to have Allan on board with us at Camp Kadimah.

#### MICHELLE KATZ: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Michelle grew up in Dundas and was a camper at Camp Kadimah. She returned as a Senior Counsellor in 2001 and has recently joined the team as an Assistant Director. Michelle recently graduated from McMaster University with an Honours Degree in Communications and Religious Studies. Currently, she is a Teacher's Assistant at McMaster. Our campers are in for a real treat as Michelle brings her passion for both dance and drama to Kadimah.

#### JARED MARK: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

We are thrilled that Jared, a Dundas Native, will return to Camp Kadimah this summer, only this time as an Assistant Director. Jared is currently studying Criminal Justice at Guelph University. Jared is very passionate about Camp Kadimah. He is amazing with the campers and is an excellent team player. His gift of guidance will be an asset to Camp Kadimah this summer.

### MUST HAVES FOR CAMP KADIMAH... CAN YOU PLEASE HELP?

Tents - Soccer Nets - Picnic Tables - Shed - Sand  
- Hula Hoops - Coolers - Costumes/Old Clothing for Drama - Board Games - Arts and Crafts supplies - Small Soft Footballs - Small Gazebo



Justice Harvey Brownstone with his parents, Sam and Odette Brownstone at the Max Rotman Humanitarian Award ceremony

**The Max Rotman Humanitarian Awards** took place the first week of June at Temple Anshe Sholom. Max Rotman was the physical education director of the JCC on Delaware Street and the co-director of Camp Kadimah. Max Rotman's objective in life was to help people, particularly young people. This year over 50 recipients received this prestigious award, that represents what Max endeavoured to instill in the youth of the community. Special guests of the evening included keynote speaker, Justice Harvey Brownstone, his parents Sam and Odette Brownstone and many of Max's family members, including his daughter Sylvia Laale and his sisters Marian Bach and Bessie Goldblatt. The evening was a great success. Special thanks to Howard Katz and Larry Szpirglas for helping out at this event.

The **Barry Foster Memorial Golf Tournament** took place at the Beverly Golf and Country Club on June 19th and **Camp Kadimah** begins Monday, June 30th. We look forward to seeing many families at the JCC over the summer and we will continue to provide fun and exciting programs in the months to come!

Laura Laengerer

# UJA Dollars at Work

## ▶ KEHILA JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL



Barb Kramer teaches a Grade 3 science class at Kehila

In this issue the HJN introduces a new series, designed to help community members understand how their donations to the annual UJA campaign are having an impact on our local community. Each issue will focus on a different beneficiary agency that receives funding each year during the UJA Federation budget and allocation process. This month we focus on Kehila Jewish Community Day School, which will celebrate its tenth anniversary this coming September.

WENDY SCHNEIDER

**KEHILA JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL** will be celebrating its tenth anniversary this coming September, a milestone that bodes well for the school's long term future, said principal, Leia Ger Rogers. The anniversary is especially significant, as it coincides with the addition of a Grade Six class, the first step towards establishing a middle school, one of the original goals of the school's founders.

Kehila JCDS was founded in

population. The school has also embraced the recent partnership between Hamilton's Jewish community and the Shechafim School in northern Israel. Ger Rogers, who will be in Israel this summer on a program for Jewish Day School principals at Bar Ilan University through the Lookstein Centre for Jewish Education, will be visiting the school and offering her services as an Educational Consultant.

Ger Rogers cites the academic

bursaries and along with our UJA allocation, it becomes our board of directors' and PTA's challenge to fundraise for those bursaries," she said. "Further, there have been misconceptions about Kehila within our community – we are not a Temple Reform School, we are a community school providing education to students from all Jewish denominations. Currently we have students representing all of our synagogues and a wide range of religious observance. Kehila is an independent Jewish Community Day School and Temple Anshe Sholom graciously provides us with rental school space".

Asked to comment on the perception that the community cannot support two Jewish day schools, Ger Rogers said, "Our community cannot afford not to have an alternative Jewish day school because Kehila is actually a draw for new families coming into the community from larger cities with more educational options – especially those coming out of progressive Jewish day schools – for whom a similar Jewish day school setting would be their choice."

And ten years from now, will Kehila still be around?

"Absolutely," she said. "I think our school is here to stay. The first ten years of a school are its most challenging. The fact that we made it through the most challenging time says a lot for our longevity and our families' commitment to our program."

**Our community cannot afford not to have an alternative Jewish day school because Kehila is actually a draw for... families coming out of progressive Jewish day schools**

LEIA GER ROGERS  
Principal, Kehila Jewish Community Day School

September of 1998 as an alternative Community Hebrew Day school with a mandate to offer an arts-based academic curriculum that fully integrated both secular and Judaic studies.

Social action and community outreach are other key aspects of the school's philosophy. Kehila students make monthly visits to Shalom Village, engage in fundraising activities on behalf of less fortunate students in the local community, take part in a global educational initiative with children in Kenya and Tanzania and have partnered with the McMaster Student Outreach Service by providing food and clothing to Hamilton's homeless

achievements of both its current student body and the first generation of Kehila graduates as proof that the school is fulfilling its mandate. "We've been doing standardized tests and overall we've scored above the 90th percentile across Canada", she said.

But she speaks frankly about the school's challenges. Among them: being seen as a unique and viable educational choice in Jewish education and meeting funding requirements. "Our mandate is to offer a Jewish education to any family or student who wants it – regardless of their financial backing. We have a number of students on

## JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

### JSS Fun Fair

The Generation Gap was non-existent on Sunday, May 4, 2008 at the Hamilton Jewish Social Services Fund raiser for the Kasher Food Bank. The idea was easy – Families come to the JSS for a Fun Fair, paying an admission of \$25 in cash or food vouchers for the Kasher Food Bank. of Food or money for the Food Bank.

The Volunteers were numerous and ranged in age from seven to 75. Everybody worked together to ensure that the Food Bank will have funds to continue to purchase food. A special thank you to Ashlee Woolfson who conceived of the idea for a fun fair and to her friends who came out to help and organized games, contests, bingo and prizes. We also thank Hershey Latner, who brought his electric train station for all to enjoy and the JSS board, who volunteered their time and donations.

It is not an easy task to keep the Food Bank filled and we can always use donations. You can donate by contacting Carol Krames 905-627-9922 ext 21 or email Carolkramesjss@hotmail.com

### Hamilton Kasher Food Bank

This Year many people in our community were able to have an enjoyable and kosher Passover thanks to the Toronto branch of National Council Of Jewish Woman. Every Year they organize 3000 Passover orders for over 10,000 people. In the past they have most generously given Hamilton donations of extra Passover products. This year, with their help, we were able to buy many products at wholesale prices and were able to stretch our dollar further and help our clients with more products. We also thank our Hamilton donors for supporting the food bank during the holiday and encourage community members to think of us during your shopping expeditions. We can always use donations of jam, tuna fish, cookies, crackers, soap, toothpaste, instant coffee and cereal. All donations are tax deductible provided a receipt is included with your contribution. For more information carolkramesjss@hotmail.com

### Thank you

Hamilton Jewish Social Services wishes Marcia Levy a very happy and healthy birthday. Marcia celebrated a special birthday with friends and family and asked all her guests to give a donation in her honour to the Hamilton Kasher Food Bank.

If you would like to donate food, money or if you are having a party, and would like to know how to have your guests donate to the Food Bank please call Carol Krames at 905-627-9922 ex 21 or E mail carolkramesjss@hotmail.com. Every donation helps.



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## Max Rotman continues to inspire



The following letter was recently sent to Larry Szpirglas and Howard Katz, organizers of the JCC's annual Max Rotman Humanitarian Youth Awards. PICTURED ABOVE: winners of this year's awards; INSET: Max Rotman doing what he loved best.

It was my privilege to attend the Max Rotman Awards last week with students from our school. One of our recipients was a muslim young woman. As I sat there I thought what an amazing country Canada is: a muslim student attending a Catholic secondary school is receiving a service award from the Jewish Community Centre in a synagogue. Where else in the world would there be this kind of respect and appreciation for others regardless of religion? This event really emphasized for me that the great religions of the world do have so much in common: love of God and the belief in service to others. Thank you for all of your efforts to continue this award in memory of Max Rotman. God bless you.

John Nixon, Student Services Head  
St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School

## A reunion to remember

*Child survivors reunite 60 years after the War*

WENDY SCHNEIDER

**NADIA ROSA WAS WAITING** for a document. The document, that would verify her internment at the infamous Theresienstadt concentration camp, was required to receive compensatory funds from the Slovakian government. Upon its arrival she took a moment to scan the list of names of those who had arrived on the same transport. When her eyes came across the names of Dora and Edita Brody, her mind was immediately flooded with memories of her mother and herself crammed into tight quarters with two other mothers and their daughters. Edita Brody, she suddenly remembered, was the name of the nine year old girl with whom she, six years old at the time, and a three year old, were imprisoned. Propelled by curiosity, she contacted a colleague of her husband, a mathematician based in Montreal by the name of Brody, asking if he, by any chance, had a relative by the

arms and cried," Nadia recalled. The two reminisced about their months in the camp and about their lives following the war. They attended the same school together in Bratislava but did not know about each other.

Each remembered different things about their months in the camp. Nadia asked if her friend recalled seeing a big production at the Theresienstadt theatre "Fireflies". Edita could not, but when Nadia started to sing a song from the show, Edita remembered.

"We spoke of our mothers," Nadia said, "and of the third little girl, whose name neither could recall."

Miraculously Edita had saved precious mementos: a photograph of Nadia and her mother taken after the war, a "savings institution" card and a food card from Theresienstadt and, unbelievably, Nadia's yellow Jewish star.

On Nadia's next trip to Bratislava, she brought her husband



ABOVE: Nadia's yellow star, food card and savings institution card from Theresienstadt, kept for 62 years by Brody

LEFT: Nadia Rosa (left) and childhood friend, Edita Brody, reunited after 62 years

**It's a strange thing because I'm constantly reminding myself I didn't know anything about her for 62 years and still there is a bond as if we are sisters.**

NADIA ROSA

name of "Edita". When he replied in the affirmative, adding that she lived in Bratislava, Slovakia, Nadia could barely believe her luck. Nadia is a frequent traveler to Bratislava where she still has family and friends. It only took minutes to track down Edita Brody's phone number.

"I called and introduced myself and I said 'If I tell you my name is Nadia Fried will that mean something to you?' There was total silence on the other side. And suddenly she said, 'You were with me in the camp.'"

The two women made arrangements to meet on Nadia's next trip.

"We fell into each other's

and daughter to meet her long lost friend.

"It's a strange thing because I'm constantly reminding myself I didn't know anything about her for 62 years and still there is a bond as if we are sisters."

Now that they had rediscovered each other, both women felt the need to make an attempt to track down the third little girl. Although all they had to go by was the name of the town she was from, they eventually were given the name of a female physician, who was thought to have been imprisoned at Theresienstadt and who was currently practicing in the town of Presov. Quite remarkably, the doctor turned out to

be the same little girl, a woman named Katka Hrehorcakova. Katka, with whom they are now in regular contact by Skype, told Nadia and Edita that she remembered her mother telling her about the two little girls with whom she played in the camp, although her own memories had vanished. The three will reunite next September.

For Nadia Rosa, who is deeply involved in Holocaust education, the story of how three little girls imprisoned together in a concentration camp came to find each other 60 years down the road, is a welcome addition to her collection of memories.

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# HONOURABLE Mentschen

THE HJN CONGRATULATES the following community members for their outstanding achievements:

☐ to **Madeleine Levy**, for being awarded the City of Hamilton's annual Athena award. Levy was recognized for mentoring, strengthening the community's fabric, making a difference in the lives of others and engaging youth in learning and leadership opportunities in human rights and Holocaust education.



Madeleine Levy

☐ to **Larry Levin** who has been elected president of the Ontario Dental Association, a voluntary professional organization representing 80 percent of dentists in Ontario. Levin's highest priority is educating people on how important good oral health care is to their overall health.



Larry Levin

☐ to **Nomi Cuneo**, a grade 12 student at Highland Secondary School, for winning the YWCA 2008's Young Woman of Distinction award. Cuneo was recognized for spearheading an operation that gathered toiletries for women's shelters from fellow students, for organizing a lecture series on the Holocaust and for arranging lunches to recognize Anti-Racism Week. She also raised awareness and funds for HAVEN, a school group that promotes non-violence and provides support for third-world countries.



Nomi Cuneo

☐ to the **McMaster Jewish Students Association (JSA)** and JSA director, **Judy Schwartz** on the occasion of the JSA winning the McMaster Students Union Cultural Club of the Year Award.

☐ to **Jo-Ann Pomerantz**, for receiving a Service Award for Geriatric Excellence (SAGE) at an awards gala at the Burlington Convention Centre on May 9th. The SAGE Awards are presented by the Regional Geriatric Program central to individuals and organizations in recognition of their contributions to improving the lives of older people in the Hamilton, Brant, Haldimand Norfolk, Halton, Niagara, Waterloo and Wellington/Dufferin regions. Jo-Ann, who has been a key volunteer at Shalom Village for more than 25 years, won in the Volunteer category.



Jo-Ann Pomerantz

☐ to the Honourable Madam Justice Kim Carpenter Gunn who was recently appointed as a judge of the Superior Court of Justice.

## "Meshuggena Warriors" paddle again!



Come out to cheer for the leaders and members of our Jewish community when they paddle their hearts out to raise money for the Ralph Travis Israel Experience Fund! Sunday, August 17th, at Kelso Conservation Park, at the Oakville Charity Dragon Boat Festival. Sponsor our team by contacting Chris Nusca at UJA Federation, [cnusca@jewishhamilton.org](mailto:cnusca@jewishhamilton.org) (905)648-0605 or anyother member of the Mishuggena Warriors team. Our goals: 1) Help the Travis family send as many of our community's teens to Israel as they can, 2) Pull the community together for an important common cause, and 3) Have lots of fun! See you at the Festival!



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NA'AMAT HAMILTON

WENDY SCHNEIDER



Na'amat members with author Nino Ricci

Photo by Lynda Morris

NA'AMAT HAMILTON RECENTLY HELD its Celebrity Author Luncheon at the Adas Israel Synagogue, an annual event that has been raising funds for Na'amat projects in Israel since its inception 23 years ago. While Na'amat is associated with Israel in the minds of most people, few realize that the event has had a tremendous impact on the local scene. The luncheon attracts a large and loyal following of individuals from both the Jewish and general communities as well as a number of local high schools who reserve tables each year for a group of their senior students. Na'amat members have long noticed that some of the most probing questions during the question period after guest authors' formal remarks come from students and special efforts are

In an interview with the HJN, Behiel said that this year's luncheon was especially rewarding. The students hung on Ricci's every word as he spoke about the day-to-day realities of a writer's life and the process of writing.

"All the kids commented on how moved they were by Nino Ricci's words and the everyday experience of writing. They're so interested in pursuing writing themselves," he said.

A good portion of Behiel's students are ESL students – Sir John A. MacDonald's student base is made up of 50 nationalities and 50 languages.

"We have Muslims, Hindus, every kind of religious background and they all soak up the cultural atmosphere of the synagogue

**We have Muslims, Hindus, every kind of religious background and they all soak up the cultural atmosphere of the synagogue and the surroundings.**

DAVE BEHIEL  
Teacher, Sir John A. MacDonald

made to publicize the event among area high schools.

Three years ago, author luncheon committee member Jan Hastie received a phone call from Dave Behiel, a teacher at Sir John A. MacDonald, who told her that he would love to bring some of his students to the luncheon, but as an inner city school, the \$17 cost of admission was simply too high. Hastie was more than happy to oblige and sent him ten tickets. When he asked for 15 tickets the following year to hear Noah Richler, he was equally accommodated. But for this year's event that featured author Nino Ricci, Behiel hesitated before inquiring. He had 25 students in his Grade 12 Writers Craft course who had been asking him for months when they would get to go to the synagogue to hear an author speak. But it seemed like a huge imposition to ask for so many tickets. He sent an email to Jan Hastie and Na'amat co-president Tory Metzger. Their reply came back immediately: "We'd love to have you there."

and the surroundings," he said.

The students had some extra time to enjoy the synagogue surroundings when they were given the use of the Waxman Social Hall following the lunch to do some of their course work and presentations.

"My kids saw Ricci eating lunch after most of the audience had left," said Behiel. They were a little shy [to ask questions] in such a large group but now were able to ask a few questions one on one. One girl was particularly moved by what he said... and his advice was so inspiring to her."

Behiel also noticed one of his students, a Muslim girl wearing the hijab, who appeared to be deeply moved by the photographs of the Kotel that line the walls of the room.

Behiel made a point of searching out Hastie and Metzger at the lunch to personally thank them. Little did he know that the sight of his students reaping so much benefit from their hard work was all the thanks that they needed.

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BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE is proud to announce the launching of its major capital campaign to build a "Shul within the Shul". For years Beth Jacob congregants have recognized the need to renovate and rejuvenate the synagogue and create an updated fully accessible sanctuary that is better suited to the needs of a generation that is markedly different from the generation that built this shul in the early 1950s.

Building on the momentum and renewed optimism created by an exciting new Rabbi and a dynamic leadership team, the Board has seized the opportunity to undertake this project at this time.

Campaign funds will be directed towards the construction of a new multi-purpose space in the area now occupied by the upper social hall that will be intimate, natural lit, energy efficient and accessible through a new grand entrance off the

Cottage Street parking lot. At the same time, the current sanctuary, social hall and school will undergo a long awaited facelift.

The synagogue has retained the services of Quadrangle Architects Limited, a Toronto firm whose projects include Toronto synagogues, Darchei Noam and Beth Tzedec. In addition, fundraising consulting firm, Philanthropy Touch, has been hired to oversee the "Once in a Generation...for Generations to Come" campaign.

"We are excited that this project, a once in a lifetime opportunity, is now becoming a reality and that Beth Jacob will be here for generations to come", said co-president John Levy. "Hamilton's Jewish community needs real options in order to continue grow and attract new members to our city and a strong vibrant Beth Jacob is central to assuring this success".

TEMPLE PLAYHOUSE

WENDY SCHNEIDER



Temple Playhouse students singing "Little Girls" while practising for the play "Our Annie"

A PRE-SCHOOL IN WESTDALE is making an enormous difference in building tolerance among different cultural groups in Hamilton. While Celia Berlin's Temple Playhouse, located in Temple Anshe Sholom, is generally thought of as a Jewish pre-school – in actual fact, the school is decidedly multi-cultural both in its mix of students and its curriculum. Approximately 100 students with flexible hours, are a mixture of Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Chinese, Japanese and Korean, from the ages of two to five years are divided into preschool, JK and SK. In addition to teaching about Jewish holidays and traditions, the inclusive curriculum also covers Ramadan, Divali, the Chinese New Year, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Black History Month, etc.

In the Judaica classes children participate in units connected to the Jewish holidays, traditions, Israel, and Hebrew. The JK and SK children take part in global education, where units focusing on a different country or region each month explore various cultural traditions. Some of the work included South Africa, Mexico, Antarctica,

Alaska, Greece.

The highlight of the school year is the annual production, often based on a Broadway play or Disney movie, held every May/June.

The names of the productions imply a mini version of the original. Past productions included "Our Fiddler on the Roof" and "Our Mulan". This year the children sang and danced in a production of "Our Annie". The plays are directed by Samantha Berlin Bromstein, and attract an audience averaging 350 people.

Among the attendees at this year's production was Sasha Weisz, whose granddaughter, is a student in the school as well as two other grandchildren who have already graduated from Temple Playhouse.

"The whole assembly hall was filled with children and parents and families of all religious backgrounds," she said. "It was very heartwarming to see people from all walks of life intermingling in a Jewish environment. Celia, her daughter and her staff are doing a wonderful mitzvah."

## HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY

MOLEIGH WIESENTHAL

I FIRST HEARD THE HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY CHILDREN'S CHOIR at a Chanukah dinner in December 2005. I remember the expression of excitement on the children's faces and the amazing sound of their voices. I could sense at that moment that greatness was soon to follow.

The choir master, Rabbi Golan Amar, was a natural "Pied Piper" who introduced our children to many innovative and diverse experiences. I knew that with him the HHA Choir would be one more of these amazing adventures.

In a school environment already rich with extracurricular activities, including championship sports teams in the Hamilton Wentworth School Board, any new activity would need to compete to capture the imagination of the students. Rabbi Amar did just that. In a short time, the choir coalesced as a major force within school life, adding a new-found depth to the educational experience.

The absolute highlight for the choir was their performance in conjunction with the National Academy Orchestra under the direction of Boris Brott on June 2. The children were given the opportunity to perform at Hamilton Place, alongside the orchestra and a world class cantor, at the historic gala in honour of Rabbi Mordechai and Sylvia Green. After weeks of preparation they arrived at the concert hall and their performance was the talk of the town.

After their recital at the community wide Yom Hashoah commemoration in May, a decision was made by a group of parents to record a CD.

For the young students the intensity of recording a CD for a full day was challenging but thoroughly exhilarating. Jordan



Hamilton Hebrew Academy Choir

Abraham from Studio J commented on their outstanding focus and determination. "Recording with these kids was so much fun and their energy was so great the entire time," he said.

At the recording, Rabbi Amar shared how he never imagined, when the choir began two and a half years ago, that they would reach the level of proficiency that they are at today. "The children took upon themselves the responsibility to succeed," he said, "and they allowed their true greatness to come out."

The Hamilton Hebrew Academy Choir CD will include seven singles and will be available for purchase for \$18 in early summer. To place your orders please call 905.528.0330 or visit [www.hamiltonhebrewacademy.ca](http://www.hamiltonhebrewacademy.ca).

## TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

LAURA WOLFSON



Temple students hard at work

A SPECIAL ONEG SHABBAT in honour of the Temple's religious school teachers and teaching assistants was held this past May at Temple Anshe Sholom. The teachers, whose years of teaching in the religious school have ranged from 1 to 18 years, were also invited up to the bimah for a special presentation during the service.

A story was told of Moses coming down from Mt. Sinai after having spoken with G-d, and saying to our ancestors "G-d wishes to give us a most precious gift, called the Torah. But we must promise something in return. We need a guarantor, someone or something to offer G-d in return for the Torah." As the story goes, the people first offered all of the riches that they had, and then the loyalty of their great leaders Moses and Aaron. But G-d declined, saying "My Torah is more valuable than all the riches in the world, and I already have the loyalty of Moses and Aaron."

The people finally the people asked themselves, what do we cherish more than anything else in the world? Of course, the answer was the same for every person: our children. And so they offered their children to G-d as guarantors, saying "if You give us the gift of Torah, we will teach it to our children, and they will teach it to their children." G-d agreed to this, and gave our ancestors the Torah.

Ever since that day, the Torah has been taught from generation to generation. This is arguably the most honourable thing a Jew can do, because it is the fulfillment of the covenant between G-d and the Jewish people made on Mt. Sinai generations and generations ago, that we still hold at the core of our hearts today.

Standing in front of the congregation, these people were given honour and thanks for the work that they do on all our behalf to ensure the passing of Torah from one generation to the next: Jeffrey Price, Inbal Chaimovitz, Dora-Ann Cohen, Leah Bender, Zehava Chaimovitz, Lorraine Cohen, Suzanne Goldflus, Nomi Cuneo, Michelle Urbanek, Sophie Rosen, Megan Minuk, Sam Bader, Josh Malka, Eli Minuk, Aaron Korman-Stone, and Ryan Goldflus. They were thanked for thinking up the games to make the learning fun, for singing the songs that bring the lessons of Torah alive, for telling the stories of our people, and for mentoring and encouraging and instructing the children.

Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School has 75 children, ranging in age from kindergarten through high school. For more information or to register your child, please visit [www.anshesholom.ca](http://www.anshesholom.ca) (click on Education, click again on Religious School).

### Thank you Hamilton!

This July we are returning to Israel. Five years ago we came to the warm community of Hamilton. As shlichim (emissaries) of the Jewish Agency our mission was to inspire our new community with the meaning of Jewish traditions and the importance and centrality of Israel.

Ironically we were the ones who would be most inspired.

Never could we imagine how powerful our experience in Hamilton would be. Any new immigrant experiences the challenge of adjusting to a new culture (and in our case, new weather). Yet, with the amazing support from our new community, Hamilton quickly became our home. We can't describe how grateful we are for the special influence you had on us. We will forever cherish the relationships that we developed with the children and parents across the Jewish community.

Two years after our arrival, we were joined by Rabbi Golan and Limor Amar and their family. Their talent and passion infused our community with a new vitality. Amidst their immense creativity the Hebrew Village emerged, (the Adas Sunday school program) energizing youth programming. Suddenly learning Hebrew and Jewish traditions become fun and exciting utilizing the arts and music.

This past year two young Israeli Sherut Leumi volunteers, Ilana and Rikki joined our team. The spirit of Israel and Judaism came alive as a result of their creativity and enthusiasm. Suddenly the children of Hamilton began to speak Hebrew with the accents of native Israelis! They assisted with Hebrew and Judaic classes at the HHA, and on weekends they were involved with Shabbat youth programs, Sunday's Hebrew Village, and the Wednesday Hebrew Ulpan.

My family, the Amars, Rikki and Ilana, are all returning to Israel but we are taking part of Hamilton with us. We know that the Hamilton community will continue to grow with the arrival of Rabbi Shmuel and Tali Bloom, soon to be arriving from Israel, as well as Chana Bordovitch and Inbar Alafi who will serve as our new B'not Sherut volunteers.

When Ayelet and I made the decision to return to Israel it was not simple. We are full of appreciation for the unique warmth of this community and how quickly it became our home. We hope to be able to see everyone when you visit Israel (or move there). We know that Hamilton will always be in our hearts strengthening us wherever we go and in everything that we will do.

Thank you!  
Yoel and Ayelet Tahover

<p><b>Precious Things N More</b> 140 Locke Street South Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4A9 905-578-0192 <a href="http://www.preciousthingsnmore.com">www.preciousthingsnmore.com</a></p>	<p>Tea Forte</p>	<p>ELLE</p>	<p>PANDORA Jewelry</p>
<p>The Spode Judaic Collection</p>	<p>AMARO FRUIT GALLER SEASONS</p>	<p>VIETRI IRRESISTIBLY ITALIAN</p>	<p>Trollbeads</p>
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## Pat Chat — Shalom Village Life Assurance



Pat Morden,  
Shalom Village CEO

So ... have you got your Shalom Village Life Assurance plan?

I am sure as each of us sends our monthly payment for car insurance we do so for peace of mind. We are glad of the assurance that if the unavoidable happens we will not be overwhelmed with the worry of how we will manage the costs. Many of us take such steps in other areas of our lives as well, planning

ahead, for known and unknown eventualities and possibilities. The trip well planned is a trip full of anticipation and adventure.

Why then, when life itself is at risk – when daily chores sap the joy from each moment, and our hours are coloured by loneliness unrelieved by visits from family and friends – and our children are sleepless with worry – do we resist exploring the Shalom Village –the life assurance plan?

Increasingly, members of our community are finding that life would be so much better if they could move to Shalom Village. They know that at Shalom Village they can get re-connected to people, their energy – help is a quiet ask away – and their life can go on. Nurses, doctors, physiotherapists, dieticians and more provide support and encouragement along with highly skilled and knowledgeable treatments and care. They have visited friends and seen that they are happy at Shalom Village; even thriving. They know that when faced with amazing challenges our friends are able to get the

care they need to enjoy many special moments in each day.

At Shalom Village if life throws us a curve ball – there are the staff and volunteers to hold our hands, help us and our families find our feet again – or simply to be there when treatment and words are no longer needed or helpful

And the food – who can say more – its too salty, its bland, its no good, it is fantastic – just like home! And just like home the table is surrounded by love, kibitzing and compassion.

If you think that Shalom Village might be an option that you would like to have to choose from in the future – give us a call now. We want to create Shalom Village as a possibility for you if you choose at some time to have us in your life. Although we are a great and loving team who can move mountains – give us a chance and get your name on the list – save our backs and perhaps yourself some anxious moments! If you would like to talk about an apartment give Colleen Clementi a call at 905-528-5377 ext 370, or come to talk with me about long term or convalescent care, respite or Goldie's Day Program and Goldies2Home. Remember we have an active convalescent care program now for as much as 90 days or outpatient services for a maximum of 30 days to help you recover and be safely home again.

Insurance is a good idea – why not include us in your planning for the future? If we never see you but at Samuel's restaurant, The Club and at community celebrations – we both rest easy knowing that you made a plan and we simply weren't a longer stop on your way. Hope to talk with you soon.

## Wake up the gardens

### You helped make it happen!



Last year at *Light up the Future Too* you helped us raise almost \$40,000 to refurbish the gardens at Shalom Village. Now that the long winter is finally over the transformation made possible by that support is evident as you walk through our gardens.

Residents, staff and volunteers came together on May 21<sup>st</sup> to "Wake up the Garden", transforming our outside spaces into a magical place to enjoy the sunshine, feel the earth and smell the flowers. New garden furniture and umbrellas are now in place and flowers are blooming everywhere.

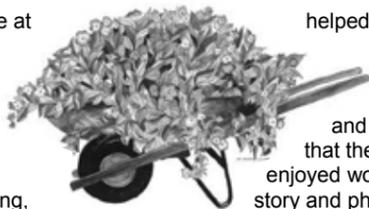
There is more to come. Plans have been made and a contractor has been hired to create an accessible space on the north side of Shalom Village near the Goldie's entrance. Watch for details.

You can see a video of our "Wake up the Garden" day by going to our website at [www.shalomvillage.on.ca](http://www.shalomvillage.on.ca) and clicking on the "Videos" button on the left side of your screen.

## Thank you for supporting Shalom Village at Negev Dinner

Thank you for supporting Shalom Village at the 2008 Negev Dinner on June 15<sup>th</sup>. You are helping us make possibilities possible every day!

Shalom Village would especially like to express our appreciation for the efforts of our dedicated co-chairs, Michael and Shirley Molot. Their long hours of planning, networking and fundraising and their attention to detail



helped ensure the success of this wonderful event.

We would also like to thank the team at JNF for their vision and hard work. We are honoured that they selected Shalom Village and enjoyed working with them. Watch for a story and photos in the next issue of the Hamilton Jewish News..

## Shalom Village Tribute Cards

Thank you to the families of Bernice Astrom, David Wright, Rae Oppenheimer, Sophie Steinberg and Marcia Hebscher for choosing to honour their memory with donations to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers.

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

### IN MEMORY

Ester Hands; Sally Praiser; Fred Houston; Sari Vaisler; Lazar Rosenfeld; Helen Welkovich; Lily Knight; Gerald Winer; Leiba Lauer; Leon Blevis; Sydney Dain; Ann Seigel; Daughter of Bernice Wilson; Father of Maida & Harvey Rossman; Gertie Gerber; Rae Oppenheimer; Robert Rochkin; Max Beer; Pearl Cohen; Ruth Hurvitz; Sophie Steinberg; Lynn Ackerman; Dr. Sam Pozner; Marcia Hebscher; Daniel Speigel; Jack Zippan; Elizabeth Sattler; Ruth Shogilev; Father of Mr. Mark; Member of the Charach Family; David Kachuk; Mother Of Ellen Miller; Mother of David Ross; Brian Mercer; Ruth Elison; Claire Ridker; Millie Somer; Jerry Schussler; Murray Pollock; Sylvia Goldberg; David Wright; Margaret Sugarman; Grandmother of Cantor Ben Sharpe; Isaac Hecht; Dora Greenberg; Charlie Davidson; Bernice Astrom; Alan Konikoff; Brother of Judy St James.

### THANK YOU

Cathy & Volunteers at Shalom; Kathie, Judy, Arlene, Anna & Emmy; David Papernick; Harry's Workshop; Mr. & Mrs. Elliott Raphael; Michelle Yellin; Jeanette O'Leary; Cathy McDowell; Aaron Shiffman.

### MAZEL TOV & CONGRATULATIONS

Minna Loewith; Bonnie & David Loewith; Carl Loewith

& Sandi Katz; Loewith Family Ironman Award; Murray & Tishelle Adelman; Rabbi Bernard Baskin; Eugene Levy; Rabbi Morton & Sylvia Green; Jo-Anne Pomerantz Sage Award; Brian & Laurie Katz; Kim Carpenter Gunn; Larry & Sharon Cohen.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Fanny Davine; Raye Lebow; Dorothy Sherman; Anita Smurlick; Mrs. K. Conway; Mr. B. Albert; Milli Gould; Marilyn Blacki; Max Mintz; Lena Rothberg; Mel Enchin; Adel Grossman; Yaakov Goldberg; Susan Swanson.

### GET WELL

Barbara Pollack; Sylvia Katz; Anette Magder; Elinor Nadler; Naomi Metter; Ruth Goldberg; Elaine Seigel; Bernie Sherman.

### NEW HOME

Goldie Robbins; Frances & David Hoffman; Ethel Levy.

### HAPPY PASSOVER

Debbie Redner & Benjamin Applebaum; Lotti & David Redner; Minna Loewith & Family; Mr. & Mrs. Marek Sutriewicz; Mr. & Mrs. Manny Leder & Family; Mr. & Mrs. Philip Swartz & Stacy, Shayla & Ashley; Dorothy Sherman; Annette Wunder; Mr. & Mrs. Morris Gold; Irvine Rosenberg & Family; Eve Rosen; Mr. & Mrs. M. Rosen & Family; Harold & Sarah Rochweg & Family; Ray Rosenberg & Family; Mr. & Mrs. Brian Albert; Steven Yanover; Maurice Mishkel; Mr. & Mrs. Larry Rosenberg; Mr. & Mrs. David Yolles.

A complete list of card senders can now be found on our web site at [www.shalomvillage.on.ca](http://www.shalomvillage.on.ca). Thank you for your support.

## Walking the land

### Shalom Village celebrates Israel at 60



Rabbi Bernard Baskin and Rabbi Aaron Selevan led Walk the Land at Shalom Village on May 8<sup>th</sup>



Laura Wolfson and Pat Morden unveiled a beautiful new mosaic at Shalom Village as part of our celebration of Israel at 60. A matching mosaic will hang at the Shechafim School in Northern Israel.

**Together we make possibilities... possible!**