

# Hamilton Jewish News

SERVING HAMILTON WENTWORTH & AREA

APRIL 2003 VOL 17:5

NISAN 5763

## Dates to Remember

*Happy  
Passover!*

**First Seder**  
evening of  
**Wednesday, April 16**

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### On The Town



at Na'amat's  
Women's Seder  
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Marcus Gee and  
Jonathan Kay come  
to McMaster,  
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and much, much

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## On the Threshold of \$1,000,000

As of this writing, the UJA 2003 campaign is within \$40,000 of \$1,000,000. Co-chairs Dr. Lester Krames and Dr. Paul Roth told the HJN that there are still a number of committed donors still to be reached whose combined pledges total over \$60,000.

"There are also several individuals to be canvassed who have not given in recent years. These numbers should add to \$1,000,000+ and we won't stop until we get there."

UJA Federation president, Dr. Bonnie Loewith, is delighted with the results thus far and is hopeful the goal will be reached before the UJA Federation Annual General Meeting in early May.

"Our campaign team has really been tireless in its effort to bring the campaign and the community to a new level of success. For their effort and dedication alone, they richly deserve to reach their goal."

UJA Federation executive director, Gerald Fisher, believes the goal will be reached.

"On the basis of the

### Teenagers take the lead in dialog with Muslim groups



These teenagers were among a group of 12 Jewish and Muslim students who engaged in a six-session dialog whose objective was to dispel myths and create tolerance between Jews and Muslims.

Pictured above from left to right are Lauren Mark, Sarah Cuneo, Naomi Klinghoffer and Rebecca

numbers alone, we have every reason to expect the campaign to hit seven figures. If, for some reason, we fall a little short, I would suggest the campaign team re-canvass those individuals who can

put us over the top. We have come too far and are now too close to miss this achievement".

Both the UJA Mens' and Womens' Campaigns have demonstrated real growth and development this year.

Fisher points to the early canvasser training as one major reason for the positive result.

"When I first arrived here, there was no budget for canvasser training. I felt  
cont'd on page 6

## Building a "New Jewish Future" for Hamilton

Over the last 12 months, UJA Federation has been taking steps to ensure the future health of Hamilton's Jewish community. Below are reports about two recent initiatives that bode well for the

### New Legacy Endowment Fund By-Laws in

UJA Federation president, Dr. Bonnie Loewith, has recently asked agency staff and volunteer leadership to take whatever steps are necessary to revitalize the community's Legacy Endowment Fund. As a first step in response, the UJA Federation board of directors has given its approval to a new set of endowment fund by-laws.

Now that the new by-laws are approved, Loewith hopes to quickly recruit senior community donors to provide leadership at both the organizational and philanthropic level.

Renewed interest in strengthening the Legacy Endowment Fund is the result of a growing realization that over time, only a strong endowment fund can best ensure the community's financial stability. That realization was spurred by the recent

loss of two major donors, who passed away before the community could approach them for their support to the fund.

According to Dr. Loewith, "the loss of these donors has significant ramifications for the future. It is inexcusable for those of us entrusted with the stewardship of the community to delay even one more day in taking corrective action".

UJA Federation executive director, Gerald Fisher, shares the president's sense of urgency.

"The Hamilton Jewish community is far behind most other Jewish communities in taking the right steps to address this extremely serious matter. We are late getting on board, but if the leadership takes this seriously we can still be successful."

cont'd on page 6

### Community Relations Report

Over the past few weeks, the UJA Federation Community Relations Committee has been quite active. Dr. David Somer, VP for Community Relations, provided the following information at a recent UJA Federation Board meeting.

International Concerns  
David explained that there was no compelling benefit for the Jewish community to take a public position on the wisdom of American action in Iraq. The community is, however, deeply concerned over the possibility that Israel might be attacked and drawn into the conflict. A great deal of effort has already been expended in preparing for that possibility.

Because of the long length of time between the suggestion of hostilities and the moment that the war actually began, the

Jewish community had an opportunity to prepare itself for a variety of scenarios. According to Dr. Somer, "It is encouraging to report that the national agencies, both in Canada and the USA, have done a very credible job in anticipating the news and preparing themselves with well-conceived policy positions, substantial background material, articulate talking points to the media etc. On the whole, the system is working much better now than it was a year ago."

The Federation office has been in communication with local media outlets regarding the Jewish community position on all related matters UJA Federation executive director, Gerald Fisher, said "Every media outlet has received a list of community spokespeople. Everyone  
cont'd on page 6

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## From the Director's Desk



Gerald Fisher

### UJA Federation strengthens local infrastructure

As stewards of community resources, most federation boards take an abiding interest in the effective use of UJA dollars. By working in useful partnerships with beneficiary agencies, Federations can best ensure that UJA allocations are wisely spent, meeting program and service needs that have been identified as genuine communal priorities. Currently, plans are being undertaken to address this serious leadership issue.

Over the next few months, the UJA Federation Community Planning Committee will undertake a series of related initiatives that will better define and strengthen the working partnerships between itself and its beneficiary agencies. Some of these initiatives include:

- Writing and signing a "partnership agreement" that defines roles and expectations of agencies and the Federation board

- Undertaking a community wide process that will identify broad communal priorities for funding.

- Establishing a specific framework for funding for each agency and school. These frameworks will provide specific approaches to implementing programs that meet established priorities.

- Developing an agency by agency "case for giving". Once we are able to better ensure that UJA dollars are really meeting community needs on a priority basis, we will be better able to motivate donors to be more supportive.

Dr. Judah Denburg, Chair of UJA Federation's Community Planning Committee, is optimistic that these steps will ultimately translate into a stronger and more coherent community infrastructure.

"We want every agency to experience greater success in meeting communal needs and we want every donor to better recognize how important every UJA dollar really is. We believe that working in partnership with our beneficiaries in addressing these matters will lead to a healthier and more effective approach to managing community resources.

UJA Federation board member, Marty Strub, is a member of the Federation Allocations Committee. He has considered the current UJA Federation approach to allocations and has been a long-time advocate for the establishment of overall communal priorities for UJA funding.

"Allocating UJA dollars without an established set of communal priorities and funding frameworks places an unfair burden on the Allocations Committee. Priority setting is a board responsibility. I believe the Community Planning Committee's approach will be very useful."

Good communities become better communities when federations and beneficiary agencies work in partnership to identify communal needs, communal priorities and communal approaches to addressing them.

The Community Planning committee is suggesting a process that can lead to a far more effective infrastructure and ultimately to a far more coherent message to donors in support of our efforts."

## Letters to the Editor

I am writing in response to an article in the February issue of the Hamilton Jewish News regarding the concerns of Jewish students on the McMaster campus.

Let me assure you that McMaster values and respects the cultural and religious diversity of the campus community and that we work diligently with students and other groups to promote tolerance, understanding and inclusivity.

The university community upholds freedom of thought and freedom of speech, including freedom of dissent, as core values. Living by these principles is not always easy, but it is fundamental to the traditions and the future of the university as a centre of intellectual development, informed discussion and education.

Education and tolerance go hand in hand. It is important that people have the opportunity to be informed, ask questions and challenge the views of others. Some recent public meetings addressing Middle Eastern political issues, held at the university, included some controversial speakers. Their visits were sponsored by recognized clubs and associations of the McMaster Students Union. Every campus visit or event is expected to be conducted in an orderly fashion that respects the rights of all members of the community. On rare occasions, the proceedings may challenge the boundaries of civil and courteous behaviour that normally characterize university events. Please be assured that we are informed about such events and visits and that we continue to monitor the situation.

I am concerned that some members of the community felt intimidated or unheard, but I am also very reassured that the egregious misconduct that has been observed at other universities in recent weeks has not been a factor at McMaster. I am also encouraged that many members of the Jewish community took the opportunity to attend and engage in the debate. Their questions and opinions created a much richer view of the issues than might otherwise have been the case.

McMaster is a diverse community representing dozens of cultures and countries, and we are proud of the contributions of these groups to our university. We will continue to promote and celebrate the diversity that helps to make McMaster a strong, vibrant community. We will work assiduously to strengthen the climate of tolerance and inclusivity that both ensures freedom of thought and expression and enables every individual to feel secure and respected. We trust that future events will observe these important principles.

Yours sincerely,

Peter George  
President and Vice-Chancellor

I have just finished reading the latest edition of Hamilton Jewish News and wish to express a few thoughts I had after reading "Israel Bashing at McMaster Runs Rampant."

I am not Jewish. I respect the people of Israel for what they have accomplished, and for their courage and ability to flourish despite the infernal and eternally-unjustified disrespect they seem doomed to live with.

Under no circumstances is Palestinian terrorism defensible. Under no circumstances is the Arab world's hatred of Israel legitimate, no matter for how many centuries it has festered.

Israel bashing at McMaster, or anywhere in Canada, is deplorable and has no place. But when I read the headline for that article, I was expecting to read that non-Jewish students were harassing Jewish students, or that there was some sort of hit-and-run hate campaign going on, but your article didn't suggest that. Instead it spoke of a presentation by the head of the General Delegation of Palestine in Canada. Based on the accounts of a number of attendees from the Hamilton Jewish community, Munem's presentation certainly does seem to have been unbalanced. If it was, then it was unworthy of its academic venue. Palestinians need to remember that every time they point their finger at Israel, the other four fingers point back at themselves. But was it rampant bashing? Or could you crunch the two words together and call it, instead "ranting"?

I wish that Israelis and Palestinians were able to face

# On The Town

a glimpse of the comings and goings of members of the Hamilton Jewish Community

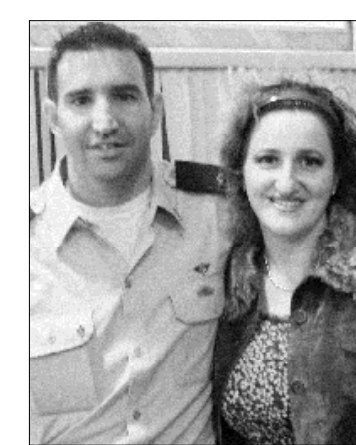
At the Hamilton Hebrew Academy's Maccabiah Games



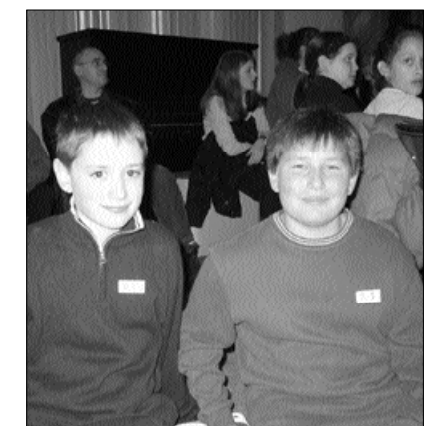
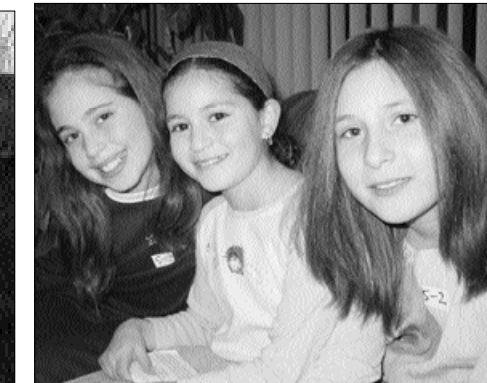
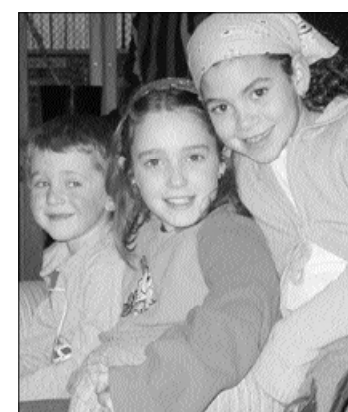
At Na'ammat Hamilton's Womens' Seder



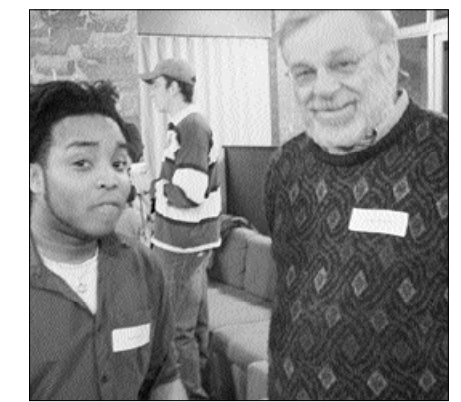
With Major Alon Harel at the JCC



At the JCC's Morris Black Public Speaking Contest



At an Open House sponsored by the McMaster Jewish Students Association



## UJA Federation

## 32 local teens raise over \$1000 for community!



UJA facilitator Jonathan Miller shown here with Johanna Greenberg, Aily Leibtag and Arielle Strub.

A record 32 local teenagers came out for a UJA teen-telethon last month that was co-chaired by Lynne Czutrin and Vivienne Epstein.

Commenting on the event's huge success, Vivienne Epstein said, "We wanted to make sure that the teens understood why they were there and the importance of their role in assisting their community in a recognizable and meaningful way."

"In his engaging and humorous way, facilitator Jonathan Miller got the kids practising and role playing in preparation for the telethon. They were wonderfully involved, and asked numerous questions. We were blown away at the way in which each person performed his/her role in the telethon. They were extremely competent, serious and effective."

Epstein said that the JCC was buzzing with enthusiasm throughout the evening, as participants would come running to report on successes.

At the end some teens expressed the desire to go for the "big givers." At the end of the evening, Men's Division co-chair, Lester Krames, tallied up

## GroHamilton Initiative revitalizes Welcome Wagon Project



A group of enthusiastic volunteers came together last month to create 33 gift packages for newcomers who have come to Hamilton over the last 12 months. The welcoming project came out of GROHAMILTON, a UJA Federation initiative, whose objective is to attract and welcome young Jewish families and individuals to Hamilton.

Members of the welcoming committee, pictured here, put together and delivered the packages with much warmth and good will. They are currently in the process of conducting interviews with newcomers to determine the reasons for their moving here so that the information can be used in developing future recruitment

## What's New at Midrasha?

## A Midrasha Purim Shpiel

This year Midrasha High school made a very big deal, and invited all of its students to the Purim festive meal.

Food for the food bank was the entrance fee, and shalach manot were brought to create mutual glee.

The guests did arrive precisely on time, and proceeded to the party room to dine.

The students were asked to dare and take a chance and play "who wants to be a Purim millionaire?"

Becca Schneider stepped up to bat, played a good game and got zero dollars for all that.

Ben Caplan was the host of the game - his acting was extraordinary. Move over Regis Philbin - He's gonna replace you on "Who wants to be a Millionaire?"

Ilana Ludwin wrote a fantastic d'var torah, and was hardly shy as she compared Vashti and Haman to Esther and Mordechai

The evening was fun, it was full of spunk. We won't mention that one of our teachers dressed like a punk.

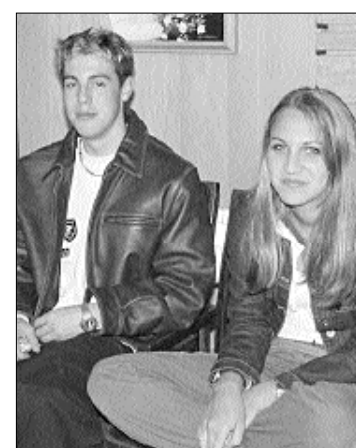
Next year we will host Purim 5764. But until then Midrasha watch out for lots more.



Jessica Kocsis and Naomi Klinghoffer



Rebecca Starkman and Ben Kaplan



Aaron Yanover and Jackie Katz



Alyssa Barrs, Carmel Jacob, Ilana Klinghoffer and Tamara Hoppe

Photographs by Becca Schneider

## Jewish Social Services

## Volunteer Opportunities at

Volunteers are needed at JSS to help serve and prepare lunches for our programs on Tuesday. Come to the JCC and meet old friends and make new friends. Please call Carol Krames 905-648-0605 for more information.

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Volunteers are needed at JSS to help serve and prepare lunches for our Tuesday programs. Meet old friends and make new ones! Call Carol Krames 905-648-0605 for more information.

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The JSS is looking for a volunteer willing to work on its archives. Call Carol Krames 905-648-0605 for more information.

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## Attention Teens!!!

Earn volunteer hours for high school credit by helping the Kosher Food Bank. If you like doing mitzvot, having fun with your friends, and being creative, this is the volunteer experience for you. We need your help to increase the awareness of the Food Bank. For more information call Carol Krames 905-648-0605.

## Meet the Staff at the JSS



Pictured above (from left to right) are Leon Karan, Louise Klinghoffer, Bea Matchen, JSS director,

Hamilton Jewish Social Services is a wonderful and caring agency, due to the warmth and caring of its staff and volunteers. The following are profiles of these very special people.

Terry Nyp is our comptroller and has been with the JSS for 9 years. He is always available and can solve any problem. He always brings a smile to everyone's face. Bea Matchen, our caseworker, has been with the JSS for 18 years. Bea lights up community members during hospital visits and at JSS outings. Christine Nusca, our office manager, is our youngest staff member and, at 25 years, has been with us the longest. Chris lights up the office with a warm word and a smile for everyone. Louise Klinghoffer has taught newcomers to our community English as a Second Language for the past 11 years. When you hear beautiful music on Tuesday mornings you are hearing the harmonies of Leon Karan and the Chai Choir. Over the last five years Leon has lovingly developed the choir of 25 participants, who entertain at community functions, bringing music and joy to everyone. Suzanne Goldflus is the new kid on the block. She has been teaching ceramics and literacy for two years. Among Jewish Social Services' longest serving volunteers are Eve

You are invited to attend the

## Hamilton Jewish Social Services ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 14, 2003  
7:30 p.m. at the JCC

- Jack Leon, JSS chair, will be honoured for 18 years of service
- Presentations to staff for many years of service
- Entertainment by the Chai Choir
- Installation of new board of directors

Reception and dessert following the meeting

## JSS Theatre Club

Thursday, May 8  
A Day in St. Jacobs - Cost: \$18

Thursday, May 22  
Four Aces, a musical - Cost: \$37

Tuesday, June 10  
The King & I at Stratford - Cost: \$80

Thursday, July 3  
Menopausal at Port Dover - Cost: \$34

Tuesday, July 8  
On the Twentieth Century, a musical, at Niagara on the Lake - Cost: \$70

Thursday, August 21  
Suds, The Musical at Erin Ont.  
Cost: \$32

Wednesday, September 3  
Memories of the Rat Pack  
Port Dover - Cost: \$34

Tuesday, October 7  
Gigi at Stratford - Cost: \$55

All trips leave at 10:30 am and return at 6:00 pm depending on traffic. If you would like to join the club and be on the mailing list please call Carol Krames at 905-648-0605.

## Become a Partner with JSS for Passover



As you fill your cart with your Pesach goods take some time to ensure that every Jewish person in Hamilton will have a Seder. The Kosher Food Bank will accept donations of either food or money. We need, kosher for Passover matza, matza meal, jam, gefilte fish, grape juice, tuna fish, cookies, oil, sugar, ketchup, applesauce, cookies.

And while you're clearing out your cupboards we will also take your chometz: cereals, cookies, pasta, spaghetti sauce, tuna, salmon. For your convenience you can leave your donation at the Westdale Delicatessen, Hamilton Kosher or the Jewish Community Centre.

**The Kosher Food Bank Committee of the Hamilton Jewish Social Services wishes you a very healthy and happy Passover.**

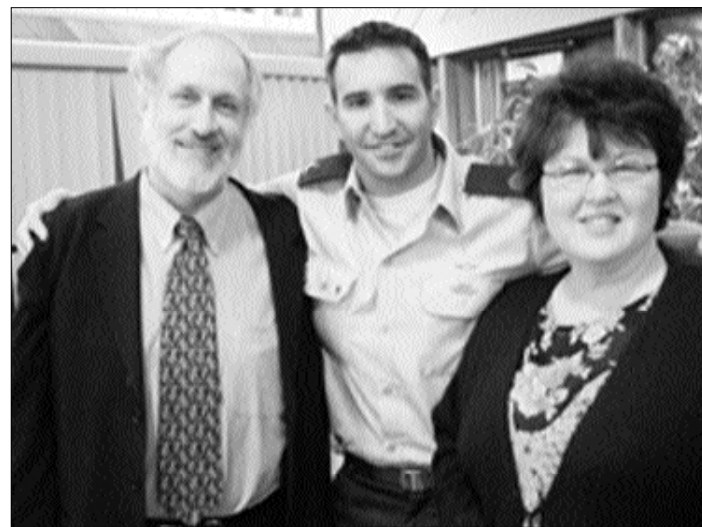
For more information call Carol Krames, director of Hamilton Jewish Social Services at 905-648-0605.

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## UJA Federation

## Israeli Officer Receives Warm Welcome



Brian and Nancy Somer pose with Major Alon Harel of the Israel Defense Forces (see story, page 7)

## Legacy Endowment Fund By-Laws

cont'd from p 1

Josh Bach, who consulted with the original Legacy Endowment Fund committee in the drafting of the proposed by-laws was present at the recent meeting to "walk the board" through the document and answer any questions related to them. Dr. Loewith expressed her gratitude for his hard work and forbearance during this protracted process.

The urgency over the Legacy Endowment Fund is also a matter of demographics.

According to statistics from the National Jewish Population Survey (1994) six billion dollars in assets will be transferred from one North American Jewish generation to another over the next twenty years. There are few indications to suggest that the

generation receiving these assets is likely to be as Jewishly committed, or as generous to the Jewish community as the generation preceding them.

Decisive action must be taken with that older generation now to ensure that at least some of these assets are endowed to the Jewish community in perpetuity. Otherwise, both the aspirations and the generosity of an entire generation will be lost to a community that now has fewer available alternative sources of finance.

Fisher emphasized that "Planned Giving as a philanthropic mechanism is not only for older people.

"It is a misconception to assume that planned giving mechanisms are only of interest to retirees. Gifts of insurance, appreciated

## On the Threshold of \$1,000,000

cont'd from p 1

it important to convince the leadership that it be undertaken. In retrospect, it was the best possible decision and best investment this community could have made."

All the campaign leaders agree. According to Beth Bandler, Womens' Campaign co-chair, the training provided by Jonathan Miller was not only entertaining and instructive.

"It was highly motivational. It gave every participant the feeling that they could be more successful as campaign volunteers if they followed the lessons provided in the

training."

Jonathan Miller, world class canvasser trainer, was very succinct about his goals for the Hamilton campaign.

"The figures don't lie. The Hamilton campaign has been essentially flat for ten years – ten years during which there was an unprecedented growth in the economy and in the personal wealth of many in the community. It was just unacceptable for the philanthropic leadership in Hamilton to continue to allow this community to tread water while the rest of the Jewish world was moving so quickly ahead. \$1,000,000 is just the first step in the effort to

bring this community's level of giving up to a level where we can see some growth and development in the ability to really meet local community needs – not to mention the increasing pressure from overseas and Israel."

Lanie Goldberg, UJA Womens' Campaign co-chair was pleased to report that the Womens' Campaign resulted in a 14% increase on a card for card basis, over last year. This was equal to the increase in the Mens' Campaign.

In closing, Fisher commended the campaign leadership, especially since this achievement has taken place during a period of

## Community Relations Report

cont'd from p 1

on that list has been receiving almost daily updates on the evolving situation as well as up-to-date talking points. So far, both Lawrence Hart and Rabbi Baskin have been extensively quoted."

Campus Activity

On March 14th, JSA participated in a community-wide forum on anti-racism, co-sponsored by the City of Hamilton. A special session was conducted that explored the experience of Jewish students on campus since 9/11. The program was well attended and well organized.

A delegation of JSA student leaders recently participated in a round table discussion sponsored by the chief of police. The discussion focused on how to ensure public safety and security on campus in the event of war in Iraq. Other participants included leaders from the Muslim

and Arab student associations.

The UJA Federation office was contacted after the meeting. The chief wanted to express his admiration for the Jewish students' presentation and for their success in creating the working mechanisms required ensuring civil relationships and a safe environment with the other campus groups.

On Monday, April 7th, McMaster JSA will host a series of programs with representatives of Israel@Heart. This is a delegation of young Israelis, touring Canada, with the intention of spreading a vision of Israel that is normal, healthy and interested in peace. The sessions will be co-sponsored by the campus affiliate of Christians for Israel. The group will also be interviewed in the Spectator and on CH TV.

Dialogue with Muslims

As a result of the continuing meetings with the chief of police, the Hamilton Muslim Association has contacted UJA Federation through the chief's office. They are interested in establishing contact with the Hamilton Jewish community. The Public Affairs committee has reviewed the matter and has given a tentative go-ahead to explore this.

SHCI

A representative leadership group from the Jewish community attended the recent "Strengthening Hamilton Community Initiative" (SHCI) interim round table report. The delegation included Drs. Lawrence and Sharon Hart, Rabbi Baskin, Rabbi Daniel Green and Lorraine Cohen. It is our intent to ensure that the Jewish community is better represented and involved as this major initiative evolves.



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## UJA Federation

## Federation and Bonds partner in bringing Israel speakers to Community

State of Israel Bonds and UJA Federation recently arranged for Yossi Olmert, a spokesperson for the Israeli government and Major Alon Harel, an officer

by  
Wendy Schneider

State of Israel Bonds, UJA Federation and the McMaster Jewish Students Association recently co-sponsored an event that brought Yossi Olmert, brother of former Mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, to Hamilton. Mr. Olmert spoke on March 15 at a luncheon for community leaders and professionals at the Adas Israel Synagogue and later that evening at McMaster University.

His appearance came in the wake of the last Israeli elections which, he said, demonstrated "a massive vote of non-confidence in the Oslo accords."

The election results did not, however, indicate support for a particular right wing agenda. Under Ariel Sharon's leadership, he said, the Likud party is still prepared to make "painful concessions that may ultimately lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state, an idea which Sharon says he supports.

In reference to Iraq and the build-up of tensions leading up to the U.S. invasion, Olmert stated that "regimes like Saddam Hussein's are illegal, illegitimate and ought to be removed." If the allied leaders had dealt with Hitler the way the United States is dealing with Saddam Hussein, he said there would not have been



Yossi Olmert

a Second World War or a Holocaust.

"People have to understand that those who are opposed to the war in the gulf, in the end of the day, will strengthen one of the most evil regimes that is committed to the destruction of the State of Israel."

He told the audience that they should prepare themselves to face increased anti-Israel propaganda as many try to blame the war on Israel and the Jewish lobby.

Describing Ehud Barak's concessions as "stupidity that can only be done by intellectuals of the left," he said that a Likud government would be prepared to make "exacting and exhausting" concessions to the Palestinians, "but no 97%, no partition of Jerusalem and all those reckless proposals that were offered to Arafat at Camp David."

During the question

period that followed Olmert's presentation Rabbi Morton Green said that Sharon is being politically correct when he says he supports a Palestinian state and that "We should not fool ourselves that this is going to happen."

Olmert agreed that the Likud party does not support a Palestinian state, but would "have to accept it as a last resort"

A week after Olmert's appearance State of Israel Bonds and Federation arranged for Major Alon Harel, a member of Operation Maccabee, a program that brings Israeli soldiers to North America to present their eyewitness accounts of the current



Major Alon Harel

war with the Palestinians, to Hamilton.

Israel is in a fight for its very existence, said Major Harel, with all of its resources being mobilized towards the war against terrorism.

The gathering of community members who had come out to the JCC to

hear his presentation say transfixed, as Major Alon described the perils faced by Israeli soldiers in the battle that took place in the streets of Jenin last fall.

"This was not the Yom Kippur war with open space and tanks," he said, describing the unfathomable tension of walking through the narrow streets and apartment blocks of the refugee camp, knowing that at any moment a sniper could cut them down.

At the same time, the soldiers had to contend with television cameras following their every move. What the media constantly overlooks, he said, is the Israeli army's

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UJA FEDERATION OF HAMILTON  
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MEETING

Sunday, May 4, 2003

Community BBQ 6:00 pm  
Proceedings Begin 7:00 pm

at the

**Jewish Community Centre**  
1030 Lower Lions Club Rd. Ancaster

- Entertainment provided by the JSS Choir.
- Special presentations to community volunteers
- Introduction of our 11 members



UJA Federation of Hamilton  
We're Building a New Jewish Future for

Choosing Hamilton

In continuing our focus on the Hamilton Jewish Community and all it has to offer this issue of the HJN features another article in our "Why We Love Hamilton" series

I felt more at home here... in a short time than I had for years

by Ellen S. Jaffe

When I moved to Hamilton in 2000, several people asked me "why?" At that time, I was moving here from Woodstock, Ontario, a small city firmly grounded in the south-west Ontario farmland.

My odyssey, however, had begun as far away from Woodstock as possible, in New York City, where I was born and grew up.

After university, and

some travelling in the U.S., I was awarded a fellowship to travel and study in England for a year, and wound up living and working there for seven years, mainly in London. It was there I met my future husband, a Canadian, and we returned to live in Woodstock (Ontario, not the more famous one in New York), where he helped his family in their business. "A few years" there turned into almost two decades. I stayed even after

the marriage ended, to make things easier for my son, then in elementary school. During this time, I made friends and professional contacts in various places - Toronto, London, Hamilton. While working with women in Hamilton on several writing projects, I realised this city was a place I could see myself living. I even tried a brief move here when my son was in high school. Logistically, that didn't work out - but the



Ellen Jaffe

move did lead to getting to know the city better, making friends I still have, connecting to a writing group, and even beginning to feel part of a neighbourhood, on Locke Street.

I also began thinking more and more about becoming part of a Jewish community, something I had been missing.

When my son started university in London, I decided to move here again, and this time the move worked out easily. A few store-owners on Locke Street thought that I lived here already, since I had been frequenting their businesses, and after only a month, another store-owner greeted me as a "regular." I felt more at home here, on my own and in a short time, than I had for years.

One reason for this, I'm sure, was finding a Jewish community, after years of not being involved in Jewish life. My parents (now just my mother) still lived in the U.S., and I have no siblings and a small extended family. As I was growing up, we celebrated the High Holy Days, Pesach, and Chanukah, and my family was very interested in Jewish culture and history, art, literature, and political affairs, but we were not involved as a family in Temple activities.

So being welcomed by Temple Anshe Sholom has been a major aspect of feeling at home in Hamilton. Learning more about the Torah, about the worship, prayers, songs and services of Reform Judaism, has been very important. So, too, has been finding a community

of people interested in books, in education, and in world affairs - especially in these critical times. Helping create, organize and coordinate the "Celebration of Jewish Writers and Writing" at the Temple in May 2002, was an opportunity (which succeeded beyond our dreams and hopes) of sharing my interests in writing and writers with this community, of bringing together a fascinating group of people, and of making and strengthening friendships and connections.

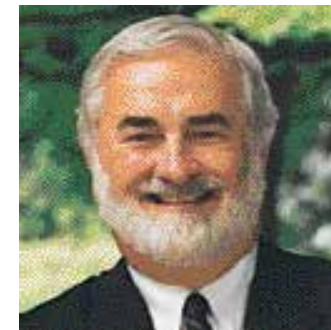
I also, however, enjoy the diversity of people and cultures in Hamilton. The intricate web of connections in this diversity seems to be the heart of why I like living here. So often, I meet people in one context, who turn out to be related or connected to other people or groups that I know, and our lives intersect in richer, more complex and more familiar ways. Six degrees of separation often seems like two or three. In addition, I find that the friendships and connections I am making are deep and alive, creative and compassionate, always growing. There are even some links with my past (for instance, a university friend of mine from Denver asked me to give her regards to Rabbi and Marjorie Baskin; it turns out that her mother and Marjorie Baskin were close friends in Denver.) And there are days I can simply sit in the Locke Street Bakery, and, unexpectedly, meet one friend after another. Life is never boring! I even find it easy to drive in Hamilton, to find my way around; a friend, also a relative newcomer to the city, confirmed that she feels the same way. The size seems manageable, and people are generally helpful. I've found work in and around Hamilton, and have been able to write and publish. And it is much greener than people

Negev Dinner pays tribute to McMaster President Peter George

by Wendy Schneider

Tom Weisz, co-chair of the 2003 JNF Negev Dinner, expects this year's to be one of the most successful in its 50th consecutive year in Hamilton.

Weisz said that this year's honouree, Dr. Peter George, president of McMaster University, is sure to attract a large turnout. Other highlights of the dinner will include an address by former Ontario premier, Bob Rae, and a memorial tribute to Ilan Ramon and the astronauts whose lives were tragically lost during the Columbia Space Shuttle Disaster. Roberta Bondar, a graduate of McMaster university and a personal friend of Peter George, has agreed to be the chair of the memorial tribute. Jane George, daughter of the honoree, will co-chair the dinner along with Tom Weisz. Funds raised from the dinner will be directed towards the reforestation



Dr. Peter George, C.M. President and Vice-Chancellor, McMaster University

of Mount Scopus.

Commenting on the decision to hold a memorial tribute, JNF emissary, Effie Zussman recalled the conversation that took place between Ilan Ramon and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon just days before the disaster, when Ramon, speaking from space, called for the planting of over 13 million trees (one for each Jew in the world), within a year from date of Columbia's launching. Zussman said that those who donate to this year's project "will be

McMaster president "delighted and honoured" to be chosen

by Wendy Schneider

In the waiting room outside of president of McMaster University, Peter George's office, is a pile of postcards, prominently displayed and free for the taking. The image, designed for a Hamilton anti-racist coalition by a local graphic artist in response to the burning of a Hindu Temple in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center, features a satellite photograph of the earth surrounded by symbols of various religions with the words "An attack on one of us is an attack on us all." It comes as no surprise to hear that the postcards, sponsored by a group on campus calling itself "McMaster Students Against Hate" were produced with funds supplied by Peter George's administration.

Nor is it a surprise that this soft-spoken gentleman, a member of the Order of Canada, has been chosen to be this year's Negev Dinner honouree.

Dr. George said he was "astonished", then "delighted and honoured" when asked to be the Negev dinner honouree, saying he'd attended many of the dinners over the years and that it had

never crossed his mind that he would be on "that list."

Dr. George's understanding of issues dear to the heart of Canadian Jewry were deepened in 1999, during a 10-day trip to Israel for presidents of Canadian universities by Irving Abella. The tour included visits to Israeli and Palestinian universities, a shabbat dinner on a rooftop in Tel Aviv, tours of the Golan Heights, the Sea of Galilee, Massada and Jerusalem. He was particularly moved by the Christian holy sites of Jerusalem, the impact of the encounter staying with him throughout the years.

Dr. George said he came away with a better appreciation for how the small size of the country has created, what he calls, "a forced intimacy between the Palestinian and Israeli populations and the difficulty in trying to keep people separate in order to ensure individual safety." The complexity of the situation was reinforced by the visit, he added.

Asked about the intensity of activity on campus this year, around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Dr. George

cont'd on p 17

Local Events

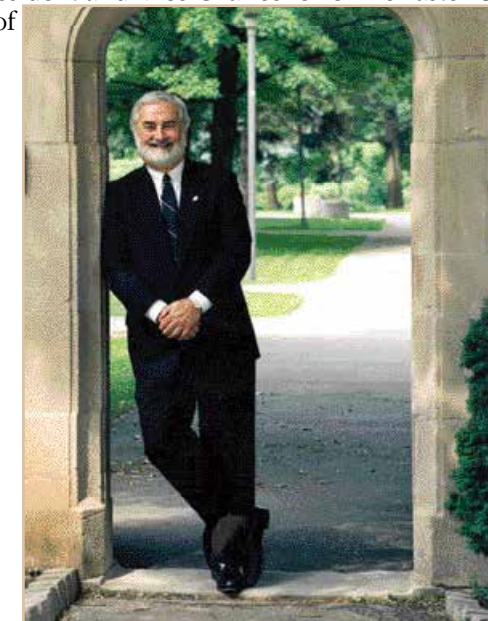
The Jewish National Fund of Hamilton

in conjunction with State of Israel Bonds cordially invites you to attend the 50th anniversary Negev Dinner Tribute, 2003

in honour of

Dr. Peter George

President and Vice-Chancellor of McMaster University In recognition of support of the Jewish



Special Guest Speaker

The Honourable Bob Rae, P.C.

Memorial Tribute

Col. Ilan Ramon and fellow Columbia crew members

Memorial Tribute Honorary Chair

Dr. Roberta Bondar

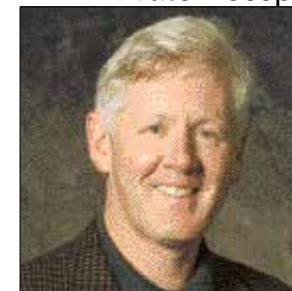
Father's Day

Sunday, June 15th, 2003

The Hamilton Convention Centre

1 Summers Lane Chedoke Rooms ABC

Private Reception: 5:00 p.m. Reception: 5:30 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m.



Hon. Robert Keith Rae, P.C., O.C., Q.C., LL.D.



IAF Col. Ilan Ramon

RSVP by returning the enclosed form by May 20th, 2003

Business Attire - Jewish Dietary Laws Observed

THE GREENING OF MOUNT SCOPUS

Proceeds from the 2003 Hamilton Negev Dinner will go toward The Greening of Mount Scopus. One of the most beautiful sites within Jerusalem, with its peak soaring to 2,736 feet, Mount Scopus is located on the northernmost part of the ridge of the Mount of Olives. The afforestation of the once barren Mount Scopus hillside has been an integral part of Jewish National Fund of Canada's programs, one of which is to create a series of forests and parklands surrounding Jerusalem. This year, dinner proceeds exceeding the amount targeted for the reforestation project will go towards student exchange programs

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Creative table arrangements for Passover. Gray's Florist, 22 King St. West, Dundas, Tel: (905) 465-6325

### JCC Honours Its Volunteers and the winners of the Morris Black Public Speaking Contest



Allen Harris is presented with a plaque the JCC annual General Meeting in recognition of his tireless devotion to the Maccabi games.



Joy Foster and JCC president, Aubrey Friedman, present Howard Katz with an award of recognition for his dedication to the JCC.

Photos by Laurie Yanover



Grade Four Winners: Aaron Barwin, Alysse Overholt and Avi Zians.



Grade Five Winners: Tamar Livingston, Chava Starkman and Eli



Grade Six Winners: Ashlee Woolfson, Sari Morris and Jesse Schoenberg



Grade Seven Winners: Lisa Friedland, Nathan Zeplovitz, Samuel Starkman and Jennifer

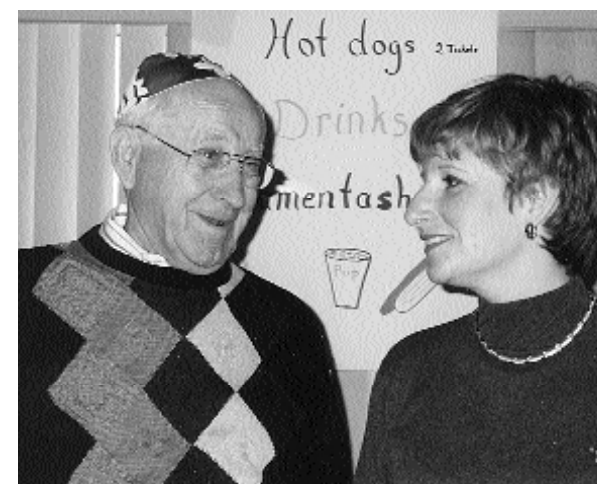


Grade Eight Winners: Emily Schneider, Samuel and Jonathan Yellin



Grade Nine Winner: Lenny Loewith

### TO EVERYONE WHO HAS VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND COMMITMENT



Barbara Abrahams, Elena Baev, Katherine Baev, Brandon Banner, Jordan Bennett, Michael Berens, Josh Black, Sonny Caplan, Sari Chaimovitz, Jonathan Ennis, Danna Epstein, Natalie Epstein, Vivienne Epstein, Jonathan Fleisch, Alycia Fridkin, Samantha Friedland, Eryn Gains, Danielle Geva, Jennifer Gilbert, Susan Gilbert, Gwen Gordon, Richard Gorrin, Alex Gorodskoy, Mark Gould, Jill Greenspoon, Julia Guest, Mia Hershkowitz, Joelle Jackson, Jory Katz, Sasha Katz, Hyla Kemeny, Rhonda Kemeny, Ilana Klinghoffer, Louise Klinghoffer, Naomi Klinghoffer, Jenny Kohanzadeh, Elaine Levine, Lauren Levine, Shirley Levine, Erin Levinson, Jonathan Levy, Naomi Levy, Rachel Levy, Lenny Loewith, Kenny Mariasin, Sari Meyerson, Brad Michell, Matt Michell, Sherry Michell, Stephen Michell, Jessica Miller, Kayla Morgenstern, Amanda Murdoch, Sasha Pinkus, David Russell, Sari Richter, Cindy Richter, Eric Sabbag, Adina Samuels, Hannah Samuels, Romi Samuels, Charles Schneider, Evan Schneider, Lawrie Schneider, Tanya Schneider, Steven Schneider, Michael Shkolnik, Sonia Shumacher, Ron Spillett, Rebecca Starkman, Whitney Thornborough, Shoshana Walfish, Falyn Waltman, Eric Waxman, Jodie Waxman, David Zhirtomirsky, Danielle Zur.

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For Adults and Kids of all ages...  
Come Find Out at the Camp Geshet and Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton & Area

## ISRAEL DAY FESTIVAL!

Sunday, April 6 2:00 pm at the JCC  
Discussions, Games, Rikud, Israeli Food and Movies

### Youth 3-on-3 Basketball

Sunday, April 13 at 1:00 pm

Age Groups:  
Born 1987/88 - 1989/90 - 1991/92 - 1993/94

Each team must have four (4) players on the roster and be registered prior to the entry date.  
Registration deadline April 7, 2003: \$50 per team  
Registration after deadline (if available): \$60 per team  
Maximum 8 teams per division  
Strict dietary laws apply


Call the JCC at 905-648-0605 for more information

hold the date for these Other Upcoming Events

**SUNDAY, MAY 25**  
Annual Lag Ba'Omer Picnic at the JCC Firepit

**SUNDAY, JUNE 1**  
The Max Rotman Youth Humanitarian Award


### Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton and Area Leadership Training



For the 3rd year this ever evolving Leader-in-Training program will offer an interactive hands-on summer of fun, working with director Matt Szpirglas, assistant director Tamar Klinghoffer and experienced counsellors. The LIT will receive Red Cross training and instruction on working with young campers in how to plan and implement programs.

Discover your leadership potential!

For those entering Grades 7, 8, 9 & 10 this is your opportunity to work with both campers and counsellors - 2 week sessions only  
JCC Members \$40.00 Non JCC Member \$60.00



Employment Opportunities at Camp Kadimah/Gadna  
If you are a mature, fun-loving university, college or high school student (turned 16 in year 2003) and up or if you are in a physical fitness or kinesiology program and would like a leadership role in Camp Kadimah/Gadna ... or if you are specializing in ECE training or have an interest in art, music and any other activity that would benefit our camp ... we want to hear from you!  
Call the JCC 905-648-0605 or email Hamiltonjcc@cogeco.ca for your

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Casino Gaming only - \$25 at door not entitled to lottery draw

## TO THE NINES

April 5, 2003 8:00 pm  
Lottery draw 9:00 pm

Dress Casual Elegant

"The first Yom HaShoah..."

## Yom HaShoah

Monday, April 28, 2003  
Adas Israel Synagogue  
125 Cline Avenue South, Hamilton

7:00 pm Seating  
7:15 pm Musical Prelude  
7:30 pm Program will begin

Candles in memory of the Six Million  
Candle representing all Jewish Veterans  
Recitation of names of our Departed Loved Ones

In order to respect the solemnity of the evening,  
we ask that you observe the appropriate silence in the Sanctuary

Coordinated by  
the Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton & Area

A community celebration

## Yom Haatzmaut at the JCC

celebrating Israel's 55th Year of Independence

Tuesday, May 6, 2003 6:30 pm

Israeli style food and a street dance

Price: \$45 Immediate Family  
\$15 per person, \$5 per child under 10, \$10 per student

The award will be presented to young people who have "volunteered their time and service to help an organization or individual for the benefit of the community, conducted themselves in a manner bringing honour to their community, family and self, maintained a cheerful dedication to serve the needs of their fellow person and who show the potential of being a future leader within their community" Applications available at the Jewish Community Centre

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8**  
UJA Walkathon

**SUNDAY, JUNE 19**  
Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton & Area and Beth Tikvah Annual Golf Tournament

### JCC TRIBUTE CARDS

In Memory Of  
Helen Levy: Barbara & Harry Laskin, Harvey & Shelly Waxman, Abe & Gina Szpirglas, Shelly & Ira Greenspoon. Selma Maclin: Rochelle Waxman  
Father of Steve Silver: Abe & Gina Szpirglas  
Thank You  
Larry Kahn & Debbie Sheinbaum (In appreciation): David & Melanie Bromstein  
Speedy Recovery  
Anne Barrs: Harvey & Shelly Waxman Bert  
Blokker: JCC Staff  
JCC Youth Maccabi Games Fund  
In Memory Of

## Special Menschen

## Local Teens lead the way in Jewish/Muslim Dialog

by  
Wendy Schneider

common a history of experiencing prejudice and discrimination in society."

The group met twice a week for a three week period over the winter months, with sessions on life-cycle events, holidays and discussions on shared personal experiences ranging from topics of prejudice, intermarriage, family ties and living as a minority in a predominantly Christian culture.

The HJN recently conducted an interview with four of the Jewish students who participated in the program, including Sarah Cuneo, Naomi Klinghoffer, Lauren Mark and Rebecca Starkman. Some of their comments appear below.

Their thoughts leading up to the first encounter...

Rebecca: Driving over, we were asking ourselves what we were getting into. I was not prepared to sit in a chair and have myself attacked... but it was nothing like that. I was excited from the minute we got there. Everyone was just so interesting.

Naomi: I felt totally comfortable right from the first meeting.

The meeting they enjoyed the most...  
Lauren: Probably the last one we did with all the role-play situations because we went into smaller groups. The discussion was very good and you could really get close to each other. People started talking about more

personal things.

Rebecca: My favourite was when we were talking about marriage rituals in both religions - it was hilarious. We were laughing and talking over one another. There were a lot of parallels between our tradition and theirs.

Naomi: I enjoyed the first and the last one the most. The first because we developed a level of comfort. It was so open to discussion and we could basically ask them anything we wanted. And we heard very entertaining stories, like someone's father was stopped because he looked like Osama bin Laden.

Tense moments...

Naomi: I remember during the second meeting when we were talking about holidays, we started

talking a little bit about Israel and I remember the Imam said, "We call it Palestine and we acknowledge it differently."

Sarah: I thought it was nice that we weren't yelling at each other and that we could just have this open conversation.

I remember that after the Imam pointed that out, Rabbi z. steered us away from that topic. He said, "It's only our second session. We're not ready to talk about this yet."

What most surprised you?

Naomi: I was surprised to hear about the racist remarks that they're exposed to. There's a lot of antisemitism in the world but I had never directly experienced it. One of them got detained

cont'd on page 17

## Bat Mitzvah "Club" sends Pizzas to Israeli soldiers

by  
the Adas Israel Bat Mitzvah

As teenagers looking forward to becoming Bat Mitzvahs, we enjoy getting together every Saturday evening, at the Adas Israel Synagogue, to learn for our upcoming events. At the Bat Mitzvah course, we are studying "The Book of Ruth." We are very interested about learning how Ruth gave up all her family's beliefs to become a Jew. The eight of us also participate in chesed (kindness) projects to help improve our community. Our most recent project was to help raise money to send pizzas to the brave soldiers in the IDF (Israeli Defense Force.) We were able to raise \$869.50



Pictured above are (from l to r) Bess Katz-Martin, Vanessa Sahayek,

Rivky Green, Samara Strub, Devorah Leah-Lavin,

towards this wonderful organization. We thank all of you who contributed to this needy cause. We are sure that we have touched the lives of those soldiers. We are also looking forward to doing our future projects such as decorating our synagogue with beautiful flowers and finishing our rughooking project with Rebecca Price. The Bat Mitzvah course consists of the following people: Ashlee Woolfson, Bess Katz Martin, Devorah Leah Lavin, Elliesheva Selevan, Lisa Friedland, Rivky Green, Samara Strub, and Vanessa Sahayek.

We would like to thank Rabbi Dani Green, Rebecca Price, and Fagie Green, who are responsible for making the Bat Mitzvah course possible. We would also like to thank the parent volunteers who donated one Saturday evening each to help us with our thoughtful projects. We know that without all of you we would never have been able to acquire the



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## Special Menschen

## Local student makes history in being elected first Canadian International President of USY

by  
Wendy Schneider

David Goldberg, 17, an articulate and confident young man, recently made history by becoming the first Canadian USY international president in the organization's history. He was elected to the top position at a convention held in Orlando last December.

USY, the youth arm of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, has a membership of 1200 teenagers from across North America. As both regional (Eastern Canada) and international president, David's role includes intensive communication with regional presidents, facilitating programming, planning conventions, facilitating leadership weekends and traveling to Israel and Europe to visit



David Goldberg

various North American USY groups.

David has had many role models for leadership within his family, the most notable of whom are his grandfather, Rabbi Israel Silverman, Beth Jacob Synagogue's rabbi for 30 years and his grandmother, Gloria Silverman, who was a highly-regarding and dynamic force during her years as principal of Beth Jacob afternoon school. His grandparents are also highly respected and influential faculty members at Camp Ramah in Canada.

In addition to his immediate family, David's extended family also includes a high proportion of rabbinic leaders, including his great uncle, Rabbi Joseph Kelman of Toronto, whose children Rabbi Levi Kelman and Rabbi Na'ama Kelman, have pulpits in Israel. Each of his maternal aunts are also deeply immersed in Jewish activism and education.

David's own leadership path began when he joined USY at the end of grade 8

and immediately became part of Hamilton chapter's executive. Since then he has taken a number of leadership programs, including the USY annual leadership institute, a JCC leadership program, a leadership camp run by Highland Secondary School, and Genesis, a summer leadership program for Grade 10 students at Brandeis University. In the summer of 2001 he was the USY Eastern region representative in a leadership seminar to Israel and Eastern Europe.

Asked what was the biggest challenge he faces as international president, the teen said it was trying to reach out to Conservative Jewish teenagers from across North America "from my living room", by working through regional and chapter presidents, and "getting teenagers to see the purpose of hanging out with other Jewish teenagers in their spare time and deepen their connection to Judaism."

David said that getting involved with USY provides "a chance to be Jewish in a totally different way, a way you can't be at home. Shul can be boring, but when teenagers lead services in an unstructured environment, it's a totally different experience."

He would also like to see more teenagers participate in Israel awareness educational programs, which he sees as



The HJN congratulates Pat Morden, CEO of Shalom Village, for having been voted the Canadian Public Relations Society's Award for Leadership for 2002. This award is presented every year to "the lead manager of an organization who has demonstrated a commitment to and belief in the value of public relations as an effective business strategy. The award recipient will have established public relations as a high level priority in creating business plans, and will have empowered personnel in the

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## Lives Remembered

## LILY WOLPERT

Born in Germiston, South Africa, July 14, 1916;  
Died January 23 in Hamilton, Ontario.

Gentle. Dignified. Generous. Sincerely interested in others. Uncomplaining. Immaculately groomed. Elegant. Charming.

These are some of the many words used to describe the late Lily Wolpert. Lily lived in Dundas for only seven years, yet made many connections. In her quiet and gentle way, she made a strong impact on many people.

Lily was the daughter of Lithuanian immigrants and the oldest of three girls. Her mother was widowed when Lily was ten years old, and had to look after her young daughters from then on. From her, Lily learned to be resourceful, efficient and organized. One of the ways that her mother coped was by taking in various family members, and the extended family was a significant part of her world growing up. So when Lily came to Dundas to join her daughter Adele Wolpert-Zur and her young family, she was re-creating a scene she had lived with as a young girl, being surrounded by a noisy, demanding and loving family. Family remained central to Lily all her life.

Lily married Solly when she was 23 years old. Together they had four children, built up a family business and were very involved in the Germiston Jewish community. Lily was an extremely hard community worker. She was committed to volunteer work and became chair of the Women's Zionist League. Among the many tributes that poured in from South Africans following her death were those that spoke about Lily's early morning telephone calls to check whether tasks had been completed. Lily was also known to be one of the first to call people on special occasions, whether birthdays, anniversaries, achievements or less happy events.

The other almost universal comment about Lily was what a good friend she was. People really valued her careful listening, her amazing ability to remember the detail of their narratives, and her non-judgemental attitude. She was never heard to say a harsh word about anyone.

As a mother, she was devoted to her four children, Maurice, Rhona, John and Adele. Each one remembered being able to "volunteer" Lily to do baking, schlepping, accompanying on school trips or just giving time and effort wherever it was needed. In South Africa, Lily was affectionately known to her grandchildren and their friends as "Waddy". Lily also took in Solly's nephew, when his parents died. He lived with the family throughout his high school years and had a particularly special relationship with Lily.

All her nieces and nephews adored her. Lily was known to all to have a house full of delicious candy available to anyone. This was one of the traits she brought with her to Canada. Her grandchildren and their friends used to go to Lily's room regularly to select their favourite candy, which she always ensured was at hand.

Coming to Canada alone at the age of 79, after having lived such a privileged life in South Africa, and starting a new life, was a courageous act. She left behind two sisters, who were very important to her, a large family and a significant social life.

Lily understood that the only way of integrating into her new reality was by making an effort to involve herself in activities, and by making friends. She was an active and well-liked participant in the Community Outreach Program at Shalom Village. She joined the Saturday Nites, enthusiastically attending many of their outings and shows. She had a special appreciation of classical music, dance, ice-skating and playing kaluke. She derived enormous pleasure from watching her grandchildren and their friends perform or participate in various activities. In the Morris Black Speech Contest following her death, many commented on her absence.

Lily's determination was witnessed in her remarkable recovery from her broken hip in 2002. With a positive attitude and brave resolve, she forced herself to walk



Lily Wolpert

## room for dessert

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Pat Morden

### I heard it through the Shalom Village Grapevine "Why Bother?"

This week Shalom Village had its national survey by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation. This is a voluntary process we undertake to ensure that the care and services we are providing to you meet the nationally established standards. A senior health professional from another province, with many years of experience and education as a surveyor and as a professional working in long term care and acute care came to do the review of Shalom Village. Prior to her visit and under the leadership of Kathleen Thomas teams of staff have been working for over one year to prepare the written materials for this event. The surveyor met with the teams, read the hundreds of pages of documentation they had prepared and met with members of the community, families, staff and residents for focused evaluation of Shalom Village. This process was hours of work and several residents asked "Why we would bother?"

The "Why" is part of the reason that, as the surveyor said, "this is a very very special place" ... what I have experienced here is beyond anything I have seen elsewhere and I believe is ahead of anything published in the literature. People truly are "at home, at Shalom Village". She went on to say that to achieve what we have is an incredible amount of work, passion and commitment. We did this, for the same reason we do everything at Shalom Village - we work to ensure that you, our community, can depend on us. This process was an external review of all we do, an important check for you and for us. Our teams here have one goal - to create an address that you can confidently choose to move to. We know that when you choose us that you are likely also coping with significant changes in your health. We also know that a move to Shalom Village requires leaving an address that holds many memories and meanings for you. What we want you to know is that when you move you can be assured that Shalom Village has in place the care and services that meet or exceed the national standard. In fact we are leading the way in setting some of these standards - we are raising the bar. We know that long term care has in the past not had a stellar reputation - we want you to know that we are working to change that and in this national review and each and every day we have demonstrated that we do.

We bother because we care. We care about you

## Sarel: A Meaningful Way to Experience Israel Today

By Sylvia Jacobs



Sol & Sylvia Jacobs

Recently my husband Sol and I returned from a six-week visit to Israel and I would like to share with you a part of our trip which was meaningful to us. Since we were going on an extended period this year we were looking for some way to make a contribution, other than as a visitor or a tourist. We noticed an advertisement in the Canadian Jewish News for the Canadian Volunteers for Israel and decided to make some inquiries. We had some concern about our age (76 and 80) but they assured us that at this time, "we need everyone we can get!"

Following a physical checkup, a medical report and a subsequent interview, we found ourselves accepted in the Sar El programme.

Sar El is the acronym for "Sherut L'Yisrael" service to Israel. The Canadian Volunteers for Israel is the Canadian branch for Sar El. We learned that Sar El has been in existence since 1982 and is represented in 20 countries. The members of our group, in fact, reflected this diversity for they came from Finland, Italy, Spain, South Africa, Germany, Australia, Holland, Canada and the U.S.A. There were a number of non-Jews participating as well. They spoke not as Christian evangelists but as passionate Zionists who believe that Israel has a moral and legal right to

exist and deserves to be treated equally like other nations. It was refreshing to know that we have friends outside the Jewish world.

Let me profile some members of our groups:

a) Kevin, from Melbourne, Australia.

b) Enzo, a geo-physicist from Italy, born in Libya

c) Fred, non-Jewish, an ex-military man who runs a bed and breakfast in Victoria, B.C. He described himself as a history buff who has read everything he could on Israel.

d) Philip, a developer from Miami, Florida.

f) Harold, owner of a small business from Connecticut, who recently lost his wife. Sar El, he said, "has brought meaning into my life again."

g) Meyer, originally from Texas, is a retired conservative rabbi with a wonderful sense of humour and a broad range of stories.

h) Andy, non Jewish, from Germany. He was knowledgeable about Israel, expressed strong feelings and is interested in converting to Judaism.

i) Esther, a former teacher from New York. She lost her husband recently and attempted to

cope with her grief by travelling extensively. This program, she said, has been the most healing for her.

We numbered about 30 volunteers, ranging in age from 46 to 80. However, the generational differences, the diverse backgrounds, culture and language were no barrier to the bonding of the group. We shared a common purpose, a genuine desire to help Israel.

We were stationed on a military base called "Matzrap", one of eight military bases which comprise the big camp of Tel Hashomer and is located in the centre of Israel near the city of Tel Aviv. We lived in army barracks, where men and women were separated. There were six cots in my barracks and toilet facilities were outside. There was considerable snoring and I, for one, was glad that we were advised to bring earplugs. Men outnumbered the women in our group. We women were six. There were two married couples in our group, including Sol and myself. Most of the men came

without their spouses. Perhaps the "outside" facilities were discouraging the these were clean, well lit and easily accessible.

The madrichim, our liaisons, were two young female Israeli soldiers of Russian background. (It's interesting to see how many Russians have integrated into Israeli society.) They arranged for our work, barrack assignment and uniforms. Yes, we wore the green, from hat to boots (but only on the base)

Matzrap is the most important medical equipment centre of the IDF. The base is in charge of checking, selecting, packing and distributing medical supplies and medicines to the different bases all over the country (like to India after the earthquake) And this was our work. We packed, sealed, labelled and sorted various medical syringes, surgical gauze, tubing, sponges, stropene (anti-anthrax medication) as well as other medical accessories and medicines. These had to be sealed individually for insertions into the medical packs of the soldiers.

Although the work was tedious and repetitive we knew it was important and felt gratified to be able to do it.

As you know the country was on high alert. Reserve soldiers were brought in to work as well, working through the night. One incident which brought the possibility of war quite close was a practice drill where we were required to evaluate the workshops while a search for any biological or chemical presence in the area took place.

The work day began at 6:45 a.m. with a wake up, breakfast at 7:15 a.m. was followed by flag raising at 7:40 a.m., where we participated with the soldiers. This came to be a moving experience. Our work began at 8:00 am and ended at 4:00 pm, with breaks and lunch in between. Part of our programme required us to take our turn at cleaning duty (i.e. showers, toilets, canteen room, barracks... does this sound like camp?)

Evening activities took the form of lectures, which were balanced and stimulated lively discussion

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Israel in the Media

Globe's Marcus Gee and National Post's Jonathan Kay speak to Mac students

by Wendy Schneider

Antisemitism and anti-Americanism are "ugly prejudices" that must be combatted, said Globe and Mail columnist, Marcus Gee, in an address that took place at McMaster University last month that brought together Gee, the National Post's Jonathan Kay and Jody Aberdeen, a columnist for the university newspaper, the Silhouette.

Gee said that many people in the world today are accusing U.S. as being the greatest threat and that, no matter what its government does, it is cast in a negative light.

"In the eyes of the world, Americans are seen to be grasping, greedy, after money, outsiders, parochial, arrogant and rootless," he said, pointing out the similarities between anti-American and antisemitic rhetoric.

Blind hatred of the U.S., he added, poisons legitimate dialog, calling for the need to expose anti-Americanism "the same way we expose antisemitism."

In his remarks, Jonathan Kay spoke about differing perspectives on the Middle East among the Right and the Left.

Kay said that, while the Right was galvanized after 9/11, the Left was in

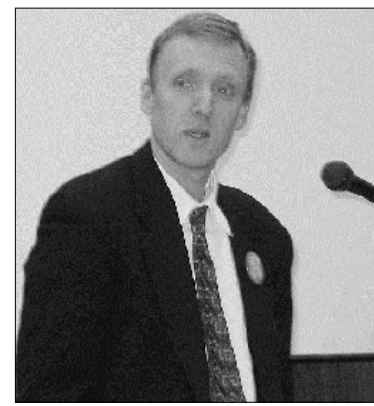
confusion, unsure, at first, how to distance themselves from Osama bin Laden's visceral hatred of the U.S. For the Right, militant Islam is seen the enemy, while Israel is seen as "the bulwark against militant Islam and the clash between civilizations."

Throughout the 1990s the Left searched for an ideological framework with which to articulate their hatred of the U.S. At first anti-globalization was a unifying cause among the various factions of the Left. Ultimately, however, "an ideological cross-fertilization" between anti-globalization and the



Jonathan Kay

Palestinian cause. Israel is labeled as "racist" and "imperialist" and antisemitic language began to seep into left-wing rhetoric. The Left argument is that Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein may be bad, but Bush is worse and the



Marcus Gee

United States is seen as a greater threat to world peace than either one of them. Furthermore, poverty, American support for Israel and Israel's oppression of the Palestinians are seen as the root causes of terrorism.

"The Left piggy-backs emotionally onto the anti-colonial and anti-imperialist rhetoric of the Palestinian movement", and chooses to overlook that which contradicts this convenient equation.

The media is also guilty of "a perverse selection of subjects", as it fixes its attention on the West Bank and Gaza, while choosing to ignore human rights abuses in countries such as Sudan, Algeria and Chechnya.

As for the Left's "poverty as a root cause" argument, Kay called it "bunk", arguing that "there are no terrorists in Bangladesh".

The ultimate irony, he said, is that the Right is now seen as supporting socialist, liberal-

Peter George honoured

cont'd from p9

explained that the speakers who were brought in to speak about these issues are sponsored by student organizations under the auspices of the McMaster Students Union (MSU). The MSU, as a separate corporation, is independent of the university, but regularly communicates with the university administration.

"I have met with the heads of the Muslim Students Association and the Jewish Students Association and I have been very much reassured by the quality of student leadership. The leaders of these organizations are moderates and talk to each other regularly. They worry about the activities of splinter groups - and splinter individuals."

Dr. George believes

that the task of maintaining civility on campus ultimately resides with the moderates.

Given the heightened emotions and tension created by the Middle East situation, he feels that McMaster students have conducted themselves, for the most part, with respect and tolerance.

"It's not up to the president of the university to decide who shall and shall not speak on campus. I think that would be an intolerable infringement on our core values. My job is simply to remind us all that this is a university community does have some core values around freedom of speech, freedom of dissent and the obligation to provide a respectful audience, to encourage

Organizations

Teenagers lead the way in dialog group

cont'd from p12

at the border for about three hours.

Sarah: What surprised me was hearing that there are people in Hamilton asking them what they're doing, that there's a Jewish conspiracy. That was a little scary.

Rebecca: I was under the impression that all Muslim women are oppressed by their husbands and by their societies. And I was told that because there are so many Moslems all over the world, that when honour killings take place

it's not a reflection of Islam but of the society in which they live.

How they know they made a difference...

Lauren: Just today, someone stopped me at school and said, "I saw you in the newspaper. You should be really happy about what you're doing. It's a good thing."

Rebecca: I've had people say to me, I want my daughter to do what you're doing.

Sarah: I was really

pleased with the feedback we got from the newspaper article. There were all these editorials and letters to the editor. Random people would write us letters saying, 'Wow, this is an amazing thing you're doing. We're so proud of you.'

What message do you have for the Jewish community?

Rebecca: I hope to start a group up like this one wherever I go to university

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## Organizations

## Hamilton Hebrew Academy to host Open House

by  
 Rabbi Daniel Green

Sandwiched between the excitement of Purim and Passover, the Hamilton Hebrew Academy will host an Open House, on Tuesday, April 8th at 8:00pm, for prospective preschool and grade one parents.

This past year the HHA launched an expanded preschool program with integrated Montessori

components. With a team of six core teachers, and five specialty teachers, the program has created a dynamic learning environment. In addition to the general curriculum the program includes athletics, art, music, drama, computers, geography, biology, botany, and zoology. A strong emphasis is placed on providing each child

with an appreciation for Jewish life, Jewish holidays, and the Hebrew language. The full educational experience provides a stimulating learning environment of exceptional quality in every respect.

Boosted by an enrollment that doubled in size, and newly renovated facilities, the HHA preschool has created an air of excitement within the community.

The Montessori directress, Mrs. Andrea Marc, has designed a program to help the children acquire the skills, knowledge and behaviours to facilitate their optimum physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. Practical life exercises instill care for self, for others, and for the environment. Activities include many of the tasks children see as part of the daily routine. Through these and other activities, children develop muscular coordination and the ability to appreciate and explore their surroundings. The Montessori learning tools for mathematics help children to understand important concepts in concrete terms and through sensorial activities. This exploration provides the children with a solid understanding of basic mathematical principles and prepares them for abstract reasoning.

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## Purim Fun at the HHA!



Hamilton Hebrew Academy principal, Mr. Frank Samuels, with his daughters, Hannah (8) and Adina (5), dress up for

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## Organizations

## Kehila Jewish Community Day School

by  
 Anita Granat

While the current press is full of news about the educational inadequacies in our system with overworked teachers and students struggling to learn, the children at Kehila have become the exception to the current educational woes. With the standardized testing results now in, the Kehila students have been performing at one to two years above the provincial average! Four separate tests were used, and the findings were recorded across the entire school. These results of high achievement are indicative of Kehila's effective teaching methodology. This is indeed, another positive achievement for which our students should be proud.

Kehila has also been a busy place recently. There has been a flurry of new activities to augment the curriculum. Chess is now being introduced to all grades and has been well received by students and



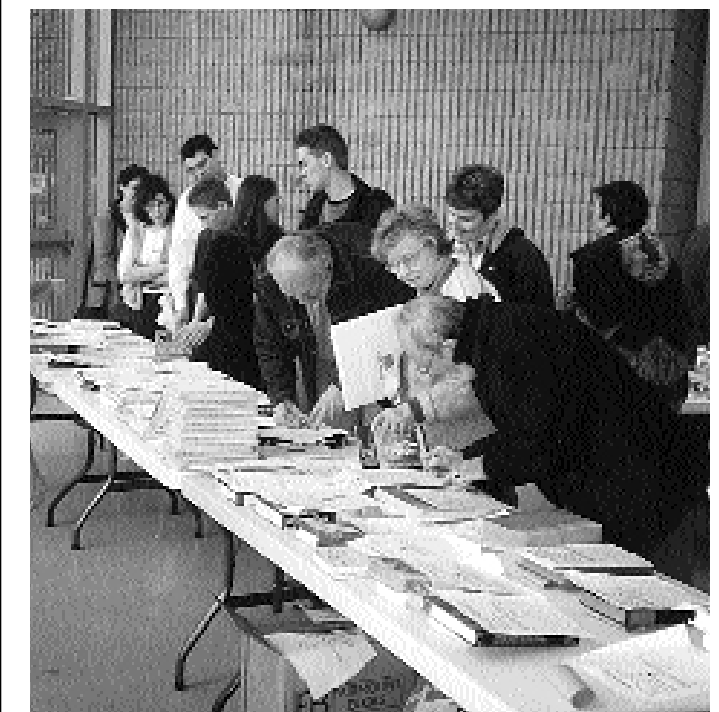
Kehila's Primary Chess Group

staff alike. The physical education programme has been brought to life with the addition of gymnastics (taught by national and Olympic trainers) and yoga. Science projects involving botany as well as a visit by "The Mad Scientist" have given the students the edge in learning about how science works and, more importantly, that it can be a fun-filled adventure. Kehila has always practised a hands-on approach to learning.

Part of the exceptional curriculum delivery involves field trips that bring subjects to life for the children. The teachers dedicate extensive hours to create meaningful and educational programmes that contribute to each child's success as well as stimulating their natural curiosity about the world around them.

Kehila School has and will continue to seek out innovative ways that the students can learn. Programmes are

## Kehila Book Sale Sells Out!



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**3.79**

Billy Bee Honey  
**3.79**  
 500 g Squeeze Bottle

Western Sour Cream  
**1.49**  
 500 Regular or Light

Aviva Sunflower Oil  
**3.19**  
 1 liter

Strub's Full Sour Dill Pickles  
**3.99**  
 2 Bonus (33% More)

Mastrani Noblesse  
**1.99**  
 100 g NET WT 3 1/2 OZ

Fresh • California "Premium" Strawberries  
**1.99**  
 pint  
 Product of U.S.A. No. 1 Grade

Ontario Grown English  
**1.99**  
 1 lb.

Grade 'A' Chai Fresh or Frozen Turkey  
**1.99**  
 1 lb.

Fresh Horseradish Root  
**1.99**  
 lb.  
 4.39/kg • Product of U.S.A.

"New Crop" Red, White or Yukon Gold Potatoes  
**.79**  
 lb.  
 1.74/kg • Product of U.S.A. • No. 1 Grade

Fresh Whole White fish  
**2.99**  
 6.59/kg • Dressed

**WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD!**

**MANISCHEWITZ or STREITS MATZOS, CANDLES or KEDEM GRAPE JUICE**

Fresh Rainbow Trout Fillet  
**6.99**  
 15.41/kg