

Hamilton Jewish News

THE VOICE OF JEWISH HAMILTON

SEPTEMBER 2010 VOL 25:1/TISHREI 5771

AGREEMENT #40007180

No to joining new dialogue group

FEDERATION DECLINES INVITATION TO JOIN BASED ON ANTI-ISRAEL AGENDA OF SOME MEMBERS

WENDY SCHNEIDER

UJA Federation's Public Affairs Committee has recommended against participation in the new Hamilton Dialogue Group, a decision shared with the community in a broadcast email that was sent out in early August.

Among the founders of the new Hamilton Dialogue Group are Arab and Muslim members of the original dialogue committee that UJA Federation quit in January 2009, because of violations of that committee's policy of non-demonization. Eighteen months down the road Federation's Public Affairs Committee was asked to participate in the new group, which, according to facilitator Dr. Gary Warner, has adopted an expanded mandate and broader representation from the city's

cultural and religious communities.

However, according to UJA Federation Executive Director, Gerald Fisher "Our concern was that the Dialogue Group agenda would be continually exploited for their own purposes by people who hate Israel." In an interview with the Hamilton Jewish News, Warner said that while he understands the source of Federation's concern, he sees no possibility that the Group will become a forum for Israel bashing. "I would walk out if that were the case. That is not the purpose of the group."

Despite Dr. Warner's assurances, there is evidence to the contrary in the brief history of the new group. First is the fact that members of Independent Jewish Voices were asked to

See No To New Group, page 2

A New Look

CHANGE COMES TO THE HJN

Change is in the air. With the goal of making our community's newspaper more inviting, engaging and representative of the diversity of our community, the Hamilton Jewish News has engaged in a process of self-evaluation and consultation throughout the summer months. One outcome of these discussions has been the creation of a HJN Advisory Board and Editorial Committee made up of volunteer members of our community to assist the editor in implementing positive change and refining current editorial policies.

Over the next several issues you can expect to see some exciting changes, both in the realms of design and layout, as well as in content. The overarching goal will be that of making the paper more appealing, engaging and accessible.

Towards that end, both the print and online versions of future HJN issues will become the vehicle for the continuation of the Jewish Hamilton Project, an oral history of Jewish Hamilton that was launched a year ago. Appearing in this issue are two stories that came out of that project, but we know that there are many more that can be told. Please see page 5 to read about our partnership with the upcoming Jewish Literary Festival and how you can make a contribution to this important archive.

We welcome your feedback about this and upcoming issues of the paper. Please email us at wschneider@jewishhamilton.org with your comments and requests.



UJA Federation 75 years of caring

CAMPAIGN 2011 GOAL SET AT \$1.15 MILLION



This year marks the 75th anniversary of UJA Federation in Hamilton and seventy five years of UJA fundraising to build an enduring Jewish community in Hamilton, in Israel and around the globe. In honoring this milestone achievement, UJA leaders pledge to do everything possible to make this the greatest campaign year ever!

UJA 2011 Campaign Co-Chairs Lisa Morris and Danna Horwood have announced the goal for the new UJA Campaign to be \$1.15 million dollars. This represents an increase of \$80,000 or 7.5% over last year's total of \$1,070,000 and would bring the campaign back up to its previous high level, achieved in 2008.

UJA Federation President Larry Levin is very excited about the prospects for this year's campaign. "Our Campaign Cabinet has been meeting regularly to develop the campaign messaging, and campaign programming. We are very fortunate to have such outstanding individuals working hard to ensure our campaign is a success."

UJA Federation Executive Director Gerald Fisher commented that "our community and our community organizations have faced and met many challenges over 75 years. We can meet this one as well. I am especially confident because of the quality and commitment of our volunteer campaign leadership, and the support of our

community."

The Campaign Cabinet for 2011 is led by Horwood and Morris and also includes Andrea Molot, Cindy Kam, David Horwood, David Loewith, David Somer, Jay State, Joel Yellin, Larry Levin, Liz Tick, Mario Stolar, Michael Kam, Sandy Fuss, Sasha Weisz and Shirley Molot. Staff support is provided by Chris Nusca, Elaine Levine and Julie Dembe.

Morris told the HJN that "Achieving the campaign goal is critical if our community is going to rebound from the economic decline of the past two years. Like most communities, our Hamilton campaign encountered a significant loss in 2009. The most recent campaign (2010) showed modest signs of improvement but we need to do even better if we are going to be able to meet the needs of our local beneficiaries."

Horwood stressed the need to ensure that sufficient resources are available to assist the Jewish vulnerable in Hamilton. "Last year, UJA Federation needed to access emergency funds to support the critical needs of Jewish Social Services. Those funds are not available again. We can only fulfill our obligations through a significantly improved UJA campaign."

The fall campaign event schedule will be released in a special HJN Campaign supplement in the coming weeks.

vcuy vba

On behalf of the Board and Staff at UJA Federation
we wish you a Happy & Healthy New Year

NO TO JOINING GROUP

Cont'd from page 1

participate well before the organized Jewish community was even notified of the new group's existence. The Hamilton branch of Independent Jewish Voices is at the forefront of this city's anti-Israel activities, most notably Israel Apartheid Week at McMaster and the photography exhibit recently on display at the Sky Dragon Centre that demonizes Israel as the sole cause of the horrible suffering during the Gaza War. As a matter of policy, UJA Federation will not share a table with them.

Members of the new Dialogue Group were also responsible for attempting to exploit the Gaza flotilla affair by demonstrating in front of Effort Square and using media coverage of the event to announce how "Israeli aggression" has affected people living in Hamilton.

Warner said that the Dialogue Group was not a sponsor of the photography exhibit at the Sky Dragon Centre. But remarks made by founding Dialogue Group member Hussein Hamdani to the B'nai Brith Jewish Tribune, that the exhibit was discussed at the dialogue table for the purposes of "getting the word

out," appear to contradict Warner's assertion.

Over the summer Federation Public Affairs Committee members have engaged in a consultation with community leaders in a conscious effort to avoid the divisiveness that surrounded its participation in the earlier dialogue initiative. According to Public Affairs Committee co-chair Monte Levy "The committee has done its due diligence on this matter and is satisfied that the Jewish community's interests were best served by saying no to participation in this group."

UJA Federation President Larry Levin delivered the decision personally to Dr. Warner.

"Our assessment tells us that this new group was just not the best vehicle through which we could address a broad civic agenda," Levin told the HJN. "The Hamilton Jewish Community is a vital thread in the fabric of Hamilton civic life. We have experience, resources and the mandate to engage with any other civic group that wants to partner with us in building a Hamilton that is the best place to raise a child. When those genuine opportunities arise, we will be there."

Names of Holocaust Victims

Yad Vashem Archives are collecting the names of Holocaust victims and it is very important that the names of those who perished in your family are registered with their database. Registration forms are at the JCC front desk. For more information call the JCC at 905-648-0605.

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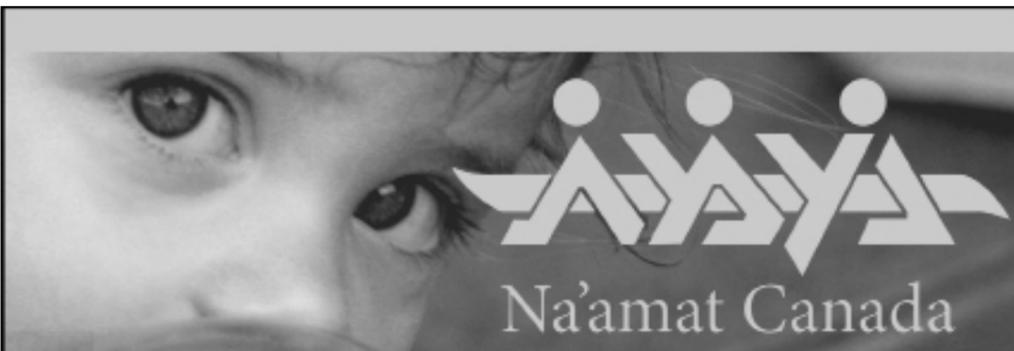
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Celebrating 85 Years!

In 1925, our mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers formed a Zionist organization. Back then, they were Pioneer Women collecting money for Palestine. Now, in 2010, we are Na'amat Canada fundraising to maintain vital social services for women and children in Israel.

The names may have changed, but the mission remains the same. With your help, we can make a difference for generations to come.

Happy Rosh Hashanah from Na'amat Canada

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STANDING WITH KULANU

PICTURED ABOVE: Hilton and Shirley Silberg, Carl Cuneo, Hanna Schayer and Cantor Eyal Bitton were among the hundreds of supporters who marched with Kulanu, Toronto's Jewish LGBTQ social group at Toronto's Gay Pride event last June.



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Hanna Schayer leaves OPIRG behind

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David Goldberg was a war hero extraordinaire

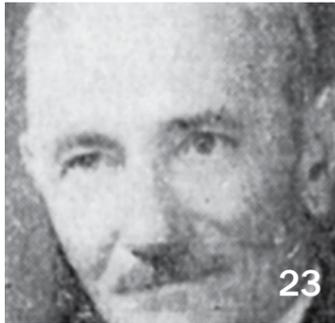
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The story of our community's Yiddish newspaper



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COMING UP

CHANUKKAH ISSUE

- Deadline for booking ad space **Oct 12, 2010**
- Deadline for receiving editorial copy **Oct 30, 2010**
- Deadline for receiving ad copy **Nov 3, 2010**
- Estimated Date of Arrival **Nov 17, 2010**

Hamilton Jewish News

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

Deadline for submissions: for the next edition of the HJN is October 20, 2010.

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Hamilton Community News

Today's Family and The Hamilton Jewish Federation present

Inside Hana's Suitcase Special Benefit film Presentation

Monday, October 4, 2010, 7:30pm



Hana's story has captured the hearts and minds of people the world over.

Now – for the first time ever – the incredibly stirring film 'Inside Hana's Suitcase' is coming to Hamilton Place Theatre. See it for yourself!

Don't miss this event which will promote meaningful discussions about the effects of prejudice, racism and intolerance, while at the same time serving as a testament to the power of hope and the strength of

the human spirit. We know that this will contribute to making Hamilton 'the best place to raise a child.'

Sponsorship opportunities and tickets now available:

Today's Family, 905 574-9344 ext. 101, email: info@todaysfamily.ca

or The Hamilton Jewish Federation, 905 648-0605 ext. 306, email: cnusca@jewishhamilton.org

General admission tickets \$20

Proceeds to support United Way literacy programs and Hamilton Jewish Federation Human Rights & Holocaust Education programs.

Hana's Suitcase travels to Hamilton

STEVE ARNOLD

Clutching her small and battered suitcase, the scared little girl stood on the train platform at Auschwitz and wondered what was going to happen. It was a frightening place, German guards shouting orders, vicious dogs snarling and straining at their leashes, adults crying, praying or simply staring ahead in dull resignation.

Her name was Hana Brady. She was 13 years old and she died that very day at the Nazi murder factory in Poland. The tiny suitcase she carried on that final journey, however, has become a symbol of that horrible time – a symbol that will soon become a tool to teach the children of Hamilton about the horrors of hatred.

Through a partnership between Today's Family and The Hamilton Jewish Federation, co-chaired by Today's Family CEO Marni Flaherty and Federation's Holocaust Education Committee co-chair Madeleine Levy, replicas of that travel bag, filled with copies of the book Hana's Suitcase, teacher aids and other tools, will be placed in the city's public and Catholic schools. The material will be suitable for students through the high school years but committee co-chair, Madeleine Levy, hopes it will be used especially in the grades 5-8 range. "It's best to start there and introduce these

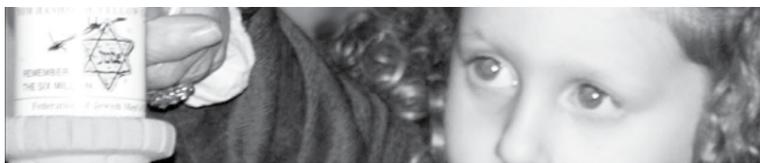
to be of use to the Nazis, survived the war. After the war he returned briefly to their hometown and then came to Toronto where his grandfather's brother lived. Hana's story might have ended there, just another footnote in a terrible time, if not for the fascination it ignited in a Japanese educator more than half a century later.

In 2000 Fumiko Ishioka was director of the Tokyo Holocaust Education and Resource Centre. Searching for a way to bring that dark chapter of history alive, she asked the Auschwitz Museum for the loan of some artifacts. Among the items she received was an empty suitcase marked in white paint with the name Hana Brady, a birth date and the German word "Waisenkind" or orphan. The relic intrigued her and when the Auschwitz museum could provide nothing more on the little girl who had carried it Fumiko set herself the challenge of finding the story behind the suitcase. The journey took her to the concentration camps and finally to an emotional meeting with George.

Fumiko's effort was chronicled in a 2001 CBC radio documentary, followed in 2002 by an award-winning book and a 2009 award-winning documentary film.

A premiere screening of the award winning movie will take place in Hamilton on October 4th at 7:30 pm at

Replicas of that travel bag, filled with copies of the book Hana's Suitcase, teacher aids and other tools, will be placed in the city's public and Catholic schools.



Holocaust Education Week 2010

The Hamilton Jewish Federation Holocaust Education Committee presents its 5th Annual Holocaust Education Week.

Our theme this year is the Righteous among the Nations.

Monday, November 1, 2010 @7:30 p.m. at Westdale Theatre
1014 King Street West, Hamilton

NO.4 STREET OF OUR LADY

(Award winning Film) \$10 adults; \$8 students/seniors



If your neighbors were being hunted down and came to your door begging for help, would you risk your life to save theirs? This film tells the remarkable, yet little-known, story of Francisca Halamajowa, a Polish-Catholic woman who rescued 16 of her Jewish neighbors during the Holocaust in Sokal, a small town in Eastern Poland, while cleverly passing herself off as a Nazi sympathizer.

Tuesday, November 9, 2010 @7:45 p.m. at Adas Israel Synagogue
125 Cline Avenue South, Hamilton

NICHOLAS WINTON: THE POWER OF GOOD

(Award winning documentary)



The National Center for Jewish Film

A gripping documentary about courage and determination of a young English stockbroker who saved the lives of 669 children. Between March 13 and August 2, 1939, Nicholas Winton organized eight transports (one airplane and seven trains) to take children from Prague to new homes in Great Britain, and kept quiet about it until his wife discovered a scrapbook documenting his unique mission in 1988.

themes to students, so they have an understanding of what bullying and hatred can do to a society and the dangers of remaining silent and indifferent in the face of the oppression of others," she said.

Hana's Suitcase is well suited to the job on many levels. "This is a project that fits in nicely with the social justice theme we have next year," said Pat Rocco, superintendent of education for the public school board. "It will teach respect for people, tolerance and things of that nature."

Although not as well known as that of Anne Frank and her famous diary, the story of Hana Brady and her suitcase is every bit as compelling. Born in a little Moravian town, Nove Mesto na Morave, Hana and her brother were part of the one of the few Jewish families in the town. Their parents ran the general store and the family lived in the flat upstairs.

That life vanished with the arrival of German troops. In the spring of 1941 the Gestapo took their mother away. In the fall their father was deported and the children were sent to live with a Christian uncle. In May of 1942 they were rounded up and sent first to Terezin for two years and then, in October 1944, to Auschwitz on one of the last ten transports to the camp.

George, who was 16 and old enough

the Hamilton Place Theatre. The evening is designed to raise awareness of the Hana's Suitcase project now underway in the Hamilton Public and Catholic School Boards. Funds raised from this event will be donated to support a special literacy project of the United Way and the Hamilton Jewish Federation's Holocaust and Human Rights Education Programs. Over 2,000 area students will view the film in the morning.

"On one level this story is about one girl facing the Holocaust, but it's also about respect," Levy said. "The Holocaust started with words and ended with the gas chambers. 1.5 million children were murdered because they were Jewish. Learning the lessons from this painful past, we must now work together to build a better world for our children".

"Hana wanted to be a teacher, and with this project she will be," she added.

A special pre-screening reception for sponsors of \$180+ will include two tickets and an opportunity to meet George Brady and Fumiko Ishioka. Tickets for the film screening are \$20. Sponsorships and tickets are available through UJA Federation by calling 905.648-0605 ext. 306 or emailing cnusca@jewishhamilton.org.



Letters and Pictures from the Old Suitcase

Pinking Shears Publications (Ellen Jaffe and Lil Blume) and the Jewish Hamilton Project are joining forces to share our passion for historical stories. While the Hamilton Jewish News is building an archive of our community's history, Pinking Shears Publications is planning a literary anthology focusing on family history. This anthology, a sequel to the volume we published in 2009, will be launched at Temple Anshe Sholom on June 12, 2011. Our launch hopes to include readings, a showing of the Jewish Hamilton Project documentary and other activities to be announced. Hamilton Jewish News will keep you informed as this event develops.

Over the next year, the HJN will publish

selected submissions to the anthology on the Jewish Hamilton website.

For an example of a submission click on the Jewish Literary Festival link at www.jewish-hamilton.org.

In addition to the literary pieces the HJN will feature stories about the parents and grandparents of Jewish Hamiltonians that include details about how they came to Hamilton and built their lives here. Elements from these stories will be featured at this year's UJA Campaign closing event. If you have stories you'd like to share or if you have an interest in videotaping stories of Jewish Hamiltonians please contact the editor at wschneider@jewishhamilton.org.

Pinking Shears Publications Call for Submissions

In conjunction with a Jewish literary festival in Hamilton to be held June 12, 2011, we are preparing an anthology of contemporary Canadian Jewish writing on the theme

Letters and Pictures from the Old Suitcase

- Find and scan an old photograph and**
 - describe the people or place in the picture
 - imagine the lives of the people in the picture,
 - speak to them, engage them in conversation, or speak in their voice
- Find an old letter, postcard, or document (diary, recipe, contract, immigration paper, Yahrzeit list) and**
 - write about the item -- perhaps include the words of the item in your piece; or
 - transcribe the letter and add notes and context
- Find and photograph an artifact (wedding ring, menorah, watch, pinking shears) and**
 - write a poem or story in which the item is significant
 - Imagine that these pictures, letters, or items were left for you to find. What is the author or owner telling you?

If the notion of digging into old suitcases throws you into a panic:

- Talk about the feelings that emerge in thinking about or approaching the old suitcase. There are old suitcases, trunks, or boxes that wait in our parents' basements or travel with us from home to home -- suitcases that we can neither open nor throw away. How do these items link you with the past?

We're sure you get the idea. Feel free to send previously written or previously published material that explores these ideas providing you are the holder of the copyright. If previously published, please cite the reference.

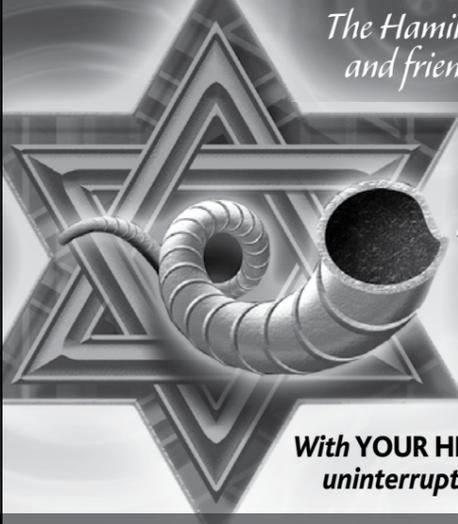
Guidelines: We prefer poetry no longer than 60 lines and short literary non-fiction prose pieces (i.e. memoir, reflection, recollection). If possible we'd love to see your old pictures attached to the literary piece. We prefer that pictures be scanned directly onto your page. We will be printing in black and white, so please scan in black and white. Please include a 30-50 word bio with your submission.

Deadline:
Chanukah, 2010

Submission Procedure:
Email submissions to pinkingshearspublications@gmail.com
Use one of the following formats:
a preVista version of WORD • WordPerfect • rtf

Notice of Inclusion:
Passover, 2011

The Hamilton Chapter wishes all our donors, families and friends a very Healthy and Happy New Year.



Shana Tova - 5771

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Hilda Rosen, Ambassador

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WINTER 2010

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April 16 - April 30

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BETH JACOB RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Beth Jacob is offering a wonderful educational program starting this fall. It's an approach that is dynamic, engaging and welcoming.

The program is based on our belief that if children are going to learn about being Jewish in a synagogue, the most enriching way is if it includes a Shabbat experience. A weekly program will be offered every Saturday morning from 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

Students will learn about Jewish history, religion, ethics, prayer, life-cycle events, the calendar year, and more. Participants in the program will then take an active role in Shabbat services. The experience they stand to gain from this approach is immeasurable.

Cantor Eyal Bitton can remember singing in – and then leading – a youth choir at Montreal's Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue. Some were more observant than others. Some less. Some ate kosher. Some didn't. But they all loved this experience and gained so much from it. They all learned,

at an early age, to take possession of their Judaism. They were entrusted with ongoing responsibilities in the synagogue and that gave them both leadership tools and a very tangible understanding of Jewish practice. Also, and perhaps key, was that this was all done in an environment filled with music and socialization. In other words, it was fun!

But our educational program goes well beyond that. We will continue to offer Hebrew language classes for all ages – adults as well – on Wednesday evenings.

Additionally, we will run dynamic family programs once a month on Sundays. Last spring, we ran a highly successful pilot program entitled Prince of Egypt. The session, run by Rabbi Dan Selsberg and Cantor Eyal Bitton, combined music, theatre, and study.

Our dynamic and out-of-the-box approach is right for the times and may well be right for you. Come on in. The door is always open.

TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

It's time for another great year at the Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School. As the summer ends it may be tempting to mourn the end of summer camp, summer vacations, and summer freedom, but here at the Temple we are, instead, looking forward to a fabulous year full of fun, learning, and community. Aside from our normal programming of Hebrew, history, and culture, we will also be starting out on an exciting new project: the Temple Anshe Sholom

Youth Choir. Keep your ears open for some beautiful music to come from our kids! We would love to include you in any of programs. Please contact the Temple for information about our religious school, our adult education program, High Holiday Services, Family Shabbat Dinners and Jam Band Services, special programs, or any questions you may have. Whew! It looks like it's going to be busy around here! Busy but good.

THE FLORENCE MELTON ADULT MINI SCHOOL

A project of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Sponsored in Memory of Margaret Weisz & Rose Swaye

A joint project of the Adas Israel, Beth Jacob Synagogue, the JCC and Temple Anshe Shalom

Beginning in October 2010, Melton in Hamilton will offer both years of a 2-year program of study with the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School. Each year of the program will consist of two consecutive one hour classes that will run for 30 weeks.

Year 1

The Purposes of Jewish Living: What do we believe? What makes Judaism unique? Probe Judaism's animating concepts and values as they unfold in the Bible and other sacred texts.

The Rhythms of Jewish Living:

Why do we do what we do? Discover the sources and deeper meanings underlying Jewish holidays, lifecycle observances and customs.

Year 2

The Ethics of Jewish Living:

How do Jewish ethical principles apply to our lives today? Explore issues of social justice, end-of-life, sexuality, family and community relationships through the study of Jewish wisdom texts.

The Dramas of Jewish Living:

What can we learn from our past? Survey the most important dilemmas in Jewish history from which we seek lessons and insights for our times.

Schedule: (both 1st & 2nd year classes will be taught simultaneously)

Mondays from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the JCC

Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:30pm at the Adas Israel

Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00pm at the Temple Anshe Shalom (winter) & Beth Jacob Synagogue (spring)

For more information and inquiries contact Marty Strub, Director of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School in Hamilton (905) 523-5978 or e-mail meltoninhamilton@gmail.com



HHA class of '94 reunion. Just one of numerous classes to organize their own small scale reunions.

HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY

There's something unique about the bonds between childhood friends. But when childhood experiences are forged in the setting of a small town those bonds often become unshakable.

For alumni of Hamilton Hebrew Academy many factors made their years in school unforgettably nostalgic: the friends, the caring staff and Rabbis, the nurturing atmosphere and the community. For all these reasons, and more, the vast majority of alumni cherish the memory of their years at the Academy.

In an attempt to recreate some of the past magic, a group of HHA Alumni are organizing an Alumni Network culminating in an annual alumni reunion event that is being planned for May 2011.

The development of an Alumni Network will help rekindle past connections, acquaint alumni with current school life, and foster a sense of school pride among current students and families.

Debbie Diamond (née Schwartz), Class of '74, reminisced how one of her few regrets in life was how her children couldn't experience their childhood years in Hamilton at the HHA. "Toronto is a wonderful community with so much to offer," she commented, "yet despite all the amenities there was something so unique and special about

my formative years at the Academy. Those can't be replicated anywhere."

As a precursor to the formation of an Alumni Network, Kenny Cohen, Class of '86, took matters into his own hands. At the HHA Gala Tribute Dinner this past June, rather than just participating as a dinner guest, he used the opportunity to reach out to his former classmates. Mr. Cohen filled a table at the Tribute Dinner with his classmates in celebration of their upcoming 25th anniversary of their graduation. For the many graduates like Kenny Cohen the development of an Alumni Network is an important and long overdue initiative.

As an alumnus himself, Rabbi Daniel Green, Class of '84, commented on the exciting developments: "As a former student, current parent, and Dean, I have no greater joy than watching my own children and the children of our community experiences the opportunities I had attending the HHA. It's time to create the bridge between generations."

The Alumni Network will be convening a meeting in Hamilton, on October 25th at 7:30 pm in the HHA Library and in Toronto, on October 24th at 7:30 pm at JUMP (Jewish Urban Meeting Place) 1992 Yonge Street, Unit 103. Please RSVP at alumni@hamilton-hebrewacademy.ca

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HAMILTON HEBREW HIGH

When Jason Renard began working at TSN, on the show "Off the Record," the last thing he anticipated was a career path that would lead him to Hamilton teaching Jewish high school students. Renard worked in sports news at the FAN 590 and 680 News. Yet, his idealism led him back to the Jewish community in an effort to channel his knowledge and skills towards inspiring young Jewish teenagers. Midrasha - Hamilton Hebrew High has become his latest beneficiary. Mr. Renard will be teaching Grade 11 Media Studies at Midrasha this coming semester teaching media and film production and how all forms of media influence ideas. This will all be achieved by utilizing a unique Jewish "lens" and conveying relevant ideas from our traditions.

In addition, Midrasha is pleased to announce the launch of a brand new Grade 12 course on Food and Nutrition Sciences. The course, taught by our resident nutritionist Shira Morel, will not only educate students on how to make appropriate dietary choices but will also explore the history and significance of great Jewish food.

A Grade 10 class in Ethical Dilemmas, a Grade 12 U course in Philosophy, Grade 9 & 11 courses in Hebrew Language, and a Grade 9 course in Community and Individuality, open to qualifying Grade 8 students will also be taught. See below for details.

HAMILTON HEBREW HIGH COURSE SCHEDULE

HEBREW LANGUAGE: GRADES 9 & 11

Grade 9 Tuesday @ 4:30 to 6:45 pm

Grade 11 Monday @ 3:30 to 5:45 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, 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 Wednesday @ 7:00 to 9:15 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 principles 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

Tuesday @ 7:00 to 9:15 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

Wednesday @ 7:00 to 9:15 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 - FOOD & NUTRITION SCIENCES

Tuesday @ 7:00 to 9:15pm

Discover the factors (nutritional, psychological, social, cultural, and global) that influence your food choices. Learn how to make appropriate dietary choices. Explore the history and significance of great Jewish food. 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.

GRADE 12 U PHILOSOPHY

Wednesday @ 7:00 to 9:15 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?

All Hebrew language classes take place at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy. All other classes take place at the Jewish Community Centre. **Get the EXTRA credits you deserve!**

To register or for more information visit hhhmidrasha.ca.

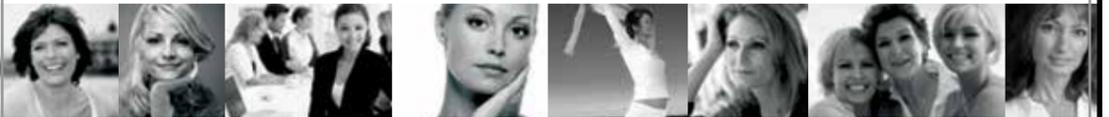


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TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

For over fifty years, members of Temple Anshe Sholom and the community have gathered on Sunday mornings in the Mandel Auditorium to share breakfast and the presentations of outstanding speakers, teachers and artists. "Breakfast Club," as this program has come to be known, meets for fifteen sessions a year, divided into fall, winter and spring series. Each session provides a delicious breakfast for a moderate price and a free lecture or presentation that is always thoughtful, often inspiring, and certainly entertaining for all present to share. It is a great opportunity to meet others in a welcoming and enriching environment.

This year's series of Breakfast Club speakers promises to live up to the best presentations of the past. The 2010 Breakfast Club series begins on Sunday, October 24 with renowned motivational humourist Judy Suke who will offer a presentation entitled, "Let Laughter Lighten the Load" - a humorous look at techniques to handle the stress of our hectic world. Other highlights of the fall series include genealogist and historian Henry Wellisch speaking on, "Three Great Jewish

Communities: Prague, Vienna & Budapest," our own Rabbi Emeritus Bernard Baskin who, presenting on the Global Day of Jewish Learning and during Jewish Book month, will speak on, "Great Jewish Books," and Jordan Abraham who will give a musical presentation on Klezmer Music and Culture. Later in the year playwright and director Marcia Kash will speak on Yom HaShaoh about her new work, "For This Moment Alone," a post-Holocaust tale set in Toronto which is based on a true story, which will be making its world premiere next spring at Theatre Aquarius. We will conclude the year on June 12 with a morning of readings from the writers, poets and authors involved in the Hamilton Jewish Literary Festival.

Breakfast is available at 10:15am for \$7.00 and the free presentations begin at 11:00am. Everyone is welcome and all are invited. For more information about Breakfast Club and the many other adult learning opportunities available at Anshe Sholom, contact the Temple Anshe Sholom office at 905-528-0121 or visit www.anshesholom.ca.

MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Hilda Rosen thanks the Hamilton Jewish community for the generosity that made it possible for our community to purchase an ambulance and two first-aid scooters. The MDA fleet of 100 scooters must be maintained in top conditions. Of the 800 MDA ambulances 10% must be replaced annually and the other 90% require regular maintenance and restocking of supplies.

With your help and support Israel's second line of defense will go further... Magen David Adom must now replenish all its depleted medical equipment and supplies for paramedics, volunteers and ambulances in Israel.

This year Hilda has set a campaign goal of \$5000 to purchase a defibrillator for Magen David Adom. To make a tax deductible donation please call Hilda Rosen at 905 529 4824.

A MESSAGE FROM HAMILTON JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES & THE KOSHER FOOD BANK

We receive many requests asking what people should buy for Hamilton's Kosher Food Bank. Below, we've listed items that would be very appreciated by our clients. Please clip out the following and keep it with your shopping list. Thank you for your support.

Paper Products and Toiletries

toilet paper, tissues, napkins, paper towels, dishwashing liquid (Palmolive or Sunlight), liquid soap or soap bars, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant.

Kosher Products

Peanut Butter, jam, K string beans, apple juice, orange juice, soups, boxed or canned, grape juice, ketchup, mustard, tuna fish, canned salmon, peaches, pears, peas, corn, mixed fruit, coffee, crackers, candy, tea, saltines, sugar, cookies, Manishevitz or Goodmans soup mixes, cold cereals (Cornflakes, Cheerios, Oatmeal), tomato sauce, salad dressings, Tang orange juice, Tradition Cup of Soups, Maccaroni and cheese (Kosher only).

You can find the above Kosher products at Fortinos, Metro, Westdale Delicatessen and Hamilton Kosher Meat Market. If you have any questions please call Carol Krames at 905-627-9922 ext. 21 or email carolkramesjss@hotmail.com.

BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE



John Levy and Ira Greenspoon at Beth Jacob's wildly successful "Big Night" last Spring

Beth Jacob's "Big Night", held last spring, was a huge success, attracting hundreds of community members who loved this triple hitter: great comedian, fabulous silent auction and a chance to win a wonderful holiday. (Watch for Big Night 2011 next spring).

This autumn, Beth Jacob Synagogue will host Inauguration 2010, a series of exciting events to celebrate its new sanctuary.

On Sunday, November 21 we are proud to present the dedication of our new "Shul within a Shul" that will include a gala concert featuring the Hamilton premiere of Journey to Jerusalem. This powerful oratorio, with music, lyrics, and script by our very own Cantor Eyal Bitton, recounts the epic 5000-year journey of the Jewish people. The work was originally composed and performed as an official

Jerusalem 3000 Event in Montreal and was also performed at Toronto's Beth Tikvah Synagogue in 2006. The Jewish Tribune dubbed it "a commendably ambitious, impressive achievement" and the Canadian Jewish News called it "the musical event of the year."

The much anticipated completion of Beth Jacob's new "shul within a shul" is the culmination of a process of renewal in which the congregation embarked several years ago. This coming year will feature a full range of offerings at our shul, including classes with Rabbi Selsberg, Hebrew reading classes with Natalie Sobel, our annual Israeli Film and Art festival and exciting services led by the always innovative Cantor Eyal Bitton.

Watch for more details about our inaugural activities on the Beth Jacob website at www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton & Area

The JGSH meets monthly from September to June at Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Avenue North, Hamilton. We begin with our Meet & Greet at 7:30 pm, followed by a guest speaker.

Please check our website, www.jgsh.org, for our line-up of exciting events, or contact Hazel Boon by e-mail at president@jgsh.org or by phone 905-524-3345.

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ADAS ISRAEL



Adas Israel congregants bonding over United Shabbat prep

United Shabbat (US) at the Adas Israel has been “joining together” a cross-spectrum of our Jewish community celebrating the diversity of our heritage by highlighting Jewish cultures across the globe.

While United Shabbat has “joined together” close to 400 members of our community each month by bridging geographical divides, in 5771 the historic initiative will aim to break the barriers of time.

The Adas Israel is pleased to announce United Shabbat “Back to the Future.” These themed Shabbat mornings programs and complimentary luncheons will not only feature unique Jewish cultures but will do so through the prism of great historic figures of our past.

United Shabbat will highlight the lives and stories of legendary figures such as: Maimonides and 12th

century Spain ; Rashi and 11th century French Jewish culture; The Maharal of Prague and Jewish life in 16th century Czechoslovakia.

Through guest speakers, vibrant youth programs, services led by our chazan Yaakov Morel, and succulent cuisine, the program should satisfy participant’s spirit, intellect, and palate.

United Shabbat has not only transformed our community but has inspired other communities throughout North America to launch similar initiatives. In fact, United Shabbat marketing pieces are prepared at the Adas for use at other congregations in major Jewish urban centres.

“Join together” with US for the relaunch of United Shabbat on October 16 followed by November 13th. For future dates and themes please visit www.adasisrael.ca.



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As Jewish people around the world come together to celebrate Rosh Hashanah it is a chance to look to the New Year with hope and faith.

Alnut and I send our best wishes for a blessed Rosh Hashanah, L'shanah tovah.



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Fill 'em up! Bring 'em in!

October is **BLUE BOX COLLECTION** month

Ben & Becca are trading their full Blue Box for a new, empty one



If you need it, we'll even come pick 'em up from you

The Blue Box ... your connection to the Land of Israel

Feel free to drop off your box ahead of time at the JCC, Temple, Beth Jacob, Adas Israel or call Roberta at 905 527-5516 or email at hamilton@jnf.ca





Shalom Village

shalomvillage.ca

To sleep, perchance to dream

29th Annual Ladies Auxiliary Tea buys special beds

What rolls with ease, can recline, raise or lower at the touch of a button and provide safety and comfort to both residents and staff? At Shalom Village the answer is beds!

Project Beds

The money raised at this year's Ladies Auxiliary Tea has been earmarked to continue *Project Beds*, started last year with the goal of providing state-of-the-art hi-low electrically powered beds to all of our residents.

These beds, each costing more than \$2,000, are manufactured by Carroll Healthcare Inc. and are specially designed for long term care. They are fully adjustable, not only for comfort, but also for the safety of residents and staff.

Safe Transfers

"They're great for residents who are at risk of falling out of bed," says Burgette Culley, a PSW who often helps residents transfer in and out of bed. Burgette demonstrates how the bed can be lowered almost to ground level. "When you combine the low setting with a specially designed mat on the floor, there is less chance for them to be hurt if they roll out," she explains. The variable height settings can also make it easier for residents to get in or out of bed without having to bend too low or climb up. This increases independence and reduces injuries.



Shalom Village PSW Burgette Culley demonstrates a hi-low electric bed

Counterbalanced

The beds also include side-rails that are counterbalanced, making it much easier to raise and lower the rails. The rails nest underneath the deck of the bed, making it less institutional looking and, more importantly, reducing the possibility of skin tears or bruising while getting in or out of bed.

Easily moved

The beds also roll easily and can turn in a small area when unlocked. This is extremely helpful to staff when making up or cleaning around and beneath beds.

Thank you!

Thank you for making it possible for our residents to enjoy a good, safe night's sleep!



Co-Chairs Jo-Ann Pomerantz, left, and Rochelle Waxman led the team of volunteers at the Tea



The Bake Sale is always a popular stop for Tea guests.

Supporting the Tea is just one way you can help

The Ladies Auxiliary Tea is just one of the ways that the Shalom Village Charitable Foundation raises funds to support the programs and services that enrich the lives of our residents. Other ways you can help include buying tribute cards, sponsoring a program, event or facility, dedicating a plaque or just making a general donation.

To learn more please call Kathleen Thomas at (905) 529-1613 ext. 264 or send an e-mail to kathleen@shalomvillage.on.ca.

Shalom Village Tribute Cards

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

IN MEMORY: Claire Latner, Lou Latner, Audrey Evans, Bunny Borovoy, Elizabeth Burton, Elmer Farkas, Stella Waxman, Moishe Appleby, Ruth Snider, Len Gooblar, Lilian Theilheimer, Esther Greenblatt, Milli Albert, Natalie Strub, Ron Cullum, Frances Stein, Roman Chorkawyj, Dorothy Shekter, Sam Habscher, Seymour Rosenfeld, Chaim Markowitz, Lou Bain, Mr. Hemberger, Erika Brodati, Shelley Ann Hill, Ada Stock, David Redner, Frances Silver, Milt Shuman, Mr. Cohn.

THINKING OF YOU: Donna Vine, Hershey Latner, Lee Ginsberg.

GOOD LUCK: Joan Ulrich.

GET WELL: Norma Matchen, Ruth Goldberg, Gilbert Heffern, Yetta Weiner, Sadie Feldman, Leon Price, Denise Yanover, Hannah Faulkner, Ethel Levy, Evelyn Silver.

MAZEL TOV: Jo-Ann & Harold Pomerantz, Rae & Marvin Michaels, Mr.

& Mrs. Lloyd Sherman, Sandy & Steve Silver, Vivienne Epstein, Bert Frankel, Rachel Shore, Dottie & Ernie Mason, Ben Sauder, Jeanette Nathan, David & Esther Levy, Dr. R. Sender, Sid & Anita Redner, Judy Fox, Marcia & Stephen Barrs, Joy Rochweg, William Morris, Hynda & Murray Halpren, Norman & Blanche Levitt, Pearl Waxman, Norma Jack.

BIRTHDAY: Bella Applebaum, Edythe Rochkin, Ray Rosenberg, Dorothy Rosenthal, Lotti Redner, Aaron Shiffman, Millie State, Rose Fleischer, Marsha Sandler, Daisy Jacobs, Helen Katz, Bev Mann, Rose Levine, Henry Muller, Pat Morden, Andrea Stringer, Rose Levin, Shirley Gold, Ruth Slopen, Carl Lieberman, Sylvia Katz.

Anniversary: Fran & Herb Binder, Ernie & Dottie Mason, Arthur & Shirley Gerry, Frances & David Hoffman, Dr. Larry & Marla Kobetz.

THANK YOU: Sasha Weisz, Melissa Cummins, Anne Pritchard, Mike Mandy.

NEW HOME: Lee Cohen.

A Rabbi Grows in Brooklyn

Shalom Village's Rabbi in Residence has New York roots

As the first words leave Rabbi Selevan's lips, you know he is not from these parts. Shalom Village's Rabbi in Residence grew up in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, and his accent leaves no doubt about his origins.

After earning a Bachelor of Economics degree from New York's Yeshiva University, he attended Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary where he received his Rabbinic ordination Yoreh Yoreh in 1987 and Yadin Yadin in 1990. He taught at Yeshiva University for seven years before coming to Hamilton in 1994 to teach at the Yeshiva School here.

At Shalom Village

The opportunity to build relationships with residents, family members and staff is one of the things Rabbi Selevan loves about his work at Shalom Village, where he assumed the role of Rabbi in Residence in 2004. "It's all about connections," he says. "When you build trust people are receptive. The trick is to keep it on a social level while you sneak in a little education."

In addition to guiding our observance of Jewish holidays and customs, Rabbi Selevan provides pastoral care to residents of all faiths. He facilitates monthly non-denominational church services, coordinating with visiting clergy or sometimes leading the services himself. "People have a lot in common," he observes. "We are all created in the image of G-D. We're all human beings with the same challenges."

It is a challenge for Rabbi Selevan to maintain balance in his life. His busy schedule keeps him away from his family more than he would like. He is often at the side of residents and their families at the end of life, a familiar face at a difficult time.

"It's not a nine-to-five job," he notes. "I can get a call from a nurse or a family member needing assistance at any time."

Leadership

Rabbi Selevan is integral to the team of coaches who provide leadership at Shalom Village. Each week, the Coaches meeting begins with a discussion of the Parasha, or "portion" taken from one of the five books of the Torah. Even though many on the team are not Jewish, the allegory and the symbolism drawn from the stories contained in the Parashas



Rabbi Aaron Selevan in the Zoltan and Yetta Freeman Family Chapel at Shalom Village

never fails to ignite a powerful discussion about how the lessons discovered can be applied to our daily lives at Shalom Village.

KosherTube

When you think of professions that embrace technology, Rabbi is probably not at the top of the list. Yet Rabbi Selevan finds that his iPhone, video camera and the internet are invaluable tools to help him in his role as a teacher. Many of his lectures can be seen on-line at kosherTube.com. He video-tapes lessons as he presents them at Adas Israel Synagogue, here at Shalom Village or in Toronto as a member of Nishma's Circle of Scholars. Sometimes he records audio on his iPhone and posts them on-line as MP3s.

Loves teaching

"Anyone can teach good kids" says Rabbi Selevan, who has a soft spot for his more challenging students. "When I was young I didn't take school seriously, so I can relate to those kids now." He feels that his easy-going manner and his love of sports make him more approachable and help him establish rapport with people. "They think if I play sports I must be normal," He says with a laugh.

Those who have had a short conversation with Rabbi Selevan are in the minority. One point leads to another, and often a two hour class becomes a five hour discussion. He feels it is important to maintain a high level of learning. "I force myself to give a lot of classes," he says. "I get as much satisfaction from the preparation as from the presentation." "Real love is teaching."



E-mail newsletter

You can get regular updates by e-mail about happenings at Shalom Village. Simply visit our web-site at shalomvillage.ca and submit your e-mail address to join our mailing list.

We will respect your privacy and your e-mail address will not be shared. Sign up now and stay informed!

Shalom Village

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Shalom Village, where you'd like to be...

Camp Kadimah

Building off the success of kayitz 2009, new specialties and activities contributed to making kayitz 2010 the best yet.

Chanichim (campers) mastered independent use of different media types, sources, and effects; they created beautiful art by recycling & reusing, making what is old new again; and in Teva they brought the outside world in, personalizing the olum (world) we inhabit. Gaga remained the Sport favourite but special guests brought special opportunities and football, soccer, and baseball certainly shared the Gaga limelight. Visits from The Reptile Guy, a very magical magician, and trips to circus school, sailing school, and Adventure Village (among many other destinations) added to the already incomparable camp ruach (spirit).

We are also very grateful to our many Shabbat and Tisha B'Av guests for their songs and stories - providing that little bit of additional Yiddishkeit to our community camp.

The madrichim (cabin counselors) and moomchim (specialists) were, of course, in the frontline every day and it is because of their commitment and ruach that the chanichim arrived each morning - and left each afternoon - smiling and exhausted.

"Next year in Jerusalem" may be true for some, but here at the JCC, we are singing "Next year at Kadimah" and hope you all are too!



Living it Up at the JCC Fall Programs

FALL PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE & REGISTRATION
 Wednesday, September 15th from 5:00 - 7:00 pm

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Tennis Lessons, Camps & More!

FREE trial group tennis lessons starts every 30 minutes

JCC ARTS AND SCIENCE PROGRAM

For children in kindergarten to Grade 4 from October 5 to November 30

Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 pm with counsellor Max Katz

Cost: Members \$45 Non Members \$63

AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAM

including Gaga, floor hockey, soccer, baseball and more!

for children in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 5 from October 7 - November 25.

Thursdays 4:30-5:30 pm with counsellor Max Katz

Cost: Members \$40 Non Members \$56

PRIVATE GUITAR LESSONS FOR STUDENTS 7YRS +

Mondays anytime after 4:30 beginning September 13th, 2010

Lessons run a half hour and are instructed by Paul Penney

To set up your lessons please contact the JCC at 905-648-0605 ext 308

Lessons will run on a week to week basis and must be paid for one week in advance.

Cancellations must be made 24 hours in advance

Check out our new JCC Blog at: jcchamilton.blogspot.com

and our website at: www.jcchamilton.com

JCC ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Thursdays 8:00 - 9:00 pm for adults over 30

Fee: \$200 per team plus the cost of shirts

Registration night: Thursday, October 7th, 2010 at 8:00 pm

League runs: October 14th to December 16th

The Jewish Community Centre presents the 4th Annual Hamilton Jewish Film Festival

An annual presentation of international films showcasing Jewish people, culture and events

Wednesday, November 24 @ 8:00 pm: Watermarks

Watermarks is a 2004 documentary directed by Yaron Zilberman that features women from the Viennese Hakoah swim team during the rise of fascism in 1930s Austria. The film describes the women's success as athletes leading up to the Anschluss of 1938 when the swimmers fled Austria to disparate locations in Palestine, England, and the United States. The documentary ends with some of the women from the swim team returning to Vienna sixty-five years later for a reunion at their old swimming pool.

Saturday, November 27th @ 8:00 pm : Disengaging Democracy & My Flag

Disengaging Democracy, from award winning documentary filmmaker Igal Hecht, takes a rare and provocative look at what happened to Israeli democracy before, during, and after the historical Gaza Disengagement of 2005. Filming began three months prior to the Disengagement and followed the lives of Gush Katif residents and their supporters as they attempted to block the pullout. Demonstrations, the illegal actions taken by both parties, and the misuse of power are all showcased in the film through compelling never before seen footage.

On the eve of Israel's 60th birthday, Canadian/Israeli filmmaker Igal Hecht travels from one end of Israel to the other for a period of six months asking Israeli's one simple questions. 'What does the Israeli flag mean to you?' In this comedic heart felt documentary, Hecht explores the crisis of identity that many in Israel are now facing and offers an insight into what the future holds for the Nation of Israel.

Filmmaker Igal Hecht will be in attendance

All films will be screened at the Westside Concert Theatre 434 King Steet West, Hamilton

For tickets and more information call the JCC at 905-648-0605



YAD HAMILTON HAMILTON.ORG




UJA Federation's YAD Hamilton is a group of energetic and passionate people between the ages of 23 and 45 who know that they hold the key to the future of our Jewish community. YAD Hamilton members live generously by giving of their time and sharing their skills and resources in a myriad of ways: through their volunteer and leadership roles in our community's organizations, through their involvement in the group's social and networking activities, and through their ongoing participation in Jewish communal life.

Last year YAD Hamilton enjoyed a number of successes: its social and networking events attracted a large turnout from across the community spectrum; its well-attended leadership program, Genesis, received rave reviews, and YAD Hamilton representation at Pump Up

the Volume a national leadership conference geared to small and mid-sized Jewish communities that was held in Calgary last May, was the largest of any other community other than the host community of Calgary.

YAD's exciting plans for the fall include the creation of a Jewish Chamber of Commerce, speakers' series and community vision plan among its regular offerings of fabulous social events and the Genesis Leadership Program.

If you are interested in participating in any of these or other YAD events please contact Elaine Levine at 905-627-9922, ext 24 or email ellevine@jewishhamilton.org.

You can also join YAD Hamilton on facebook or visit our website at www.yadhamilton.org for information about our events.

Hope to see you soon!

UIA Federations Canada's

Pump Up the Volume

LAUREN MARK

Eight delegates from Hamilton attended UIA Federations Canada's Pump Up the Volume conference in Calgary last May, a conference specifically geared for small to mid-sized communities across Canada.

The conference covered a range of topics from fundraising advice to learning how to recruit effective volunteers.

A highlight of the weekend was a visit to the Little Synagogue on the Prairie, located within Calgary's Heritage Park. We were inspired to hear how the restoration of the 1913 synagogue, now one of the Park's most popular attractions, became a collective project in which the entire Calgary Jewish community became involved.

We also attended an inspiring panel discussion by young successful Jewish Calgarians at the Calgary Jewish Community Centre, where we learned that six of Calgary's "Top 40 Under 40" are Jewish, an impressive accomplishment given the city's relatively small Jewish community.

Initially I was hesitant to attend the conference; I was worried that at 24 I was going to be considerably younger than the rest of the attendees. Well, all my hesitations were proven to be needless. I had the most fabulous time! There was quite the contingency of delegates who were in my age group and we all got close over the course of the weekend. So close that I went back to Calgary to visit them and go to the Stampede together. Although most of them are originally from Ontario it has been great to bond with other Jewish people and find out what they have been doing to keep in touch with the Jewish communities in which they live and work.

While this was my first UJA conference, it certainly will not be my last. I am so thankful that I was able to learn so much which will benefit me in future volunteering roles and meet so many great new people. I would recommend to anyone that is eligible for or invited to a conference to jump at the chance, you definitely will not regret it!

PRESIDENT'S report

In the life of a community there is a constant stream of issues, and understandably not everyone in the community agrees on all of the issues. One of the aims of my presidency has been to encourage all voices to be heard. However there comes a time when a decision has to be made.



One controversial area is Public Affairs (PA). When I took office, there was no PA committee and I am proud to report that we now have a dedicated group of people who manage Public Affairs issues for Federation. One such issue has been the consideration of whether to become involved with a new Dialogue Group. (see **No to Joining New Dialogue Group** on page 1) Our decision was to not join.

Public pronouncements of some members of the new Dialogue Group express contempt towards the Jewish community's most sensitive issues, i.e., a consistent refusal to recognize the right of Israel to exist. One such participant group is Independent Jewish Voices, a small group who are stridently anti-Israel. Under the guise of 'dialogue', other members of the new Dialogue Group promote a very clear, consistently biased anti-Israel agenda.

For example, a recent Gaza Photo Exhibit, clearly intending to demonize Israel, was hosted by a member of the new Dialogue Group and was promoted by other members. These few examples alone indicate the true intentions of some members of the new Dialogue Group: demonization and delegitimization of the State of Israel.

Although this behavior is contrary to the stated objective of the new Dialogue Group it is apparent to us that the group agenda will continually be abused by those who intend to use the dialogue table as yet another mechanism to express hatred for Israel and contempt for the Jewish community.

Nevertheless, we do want to improve and increase our communication with other community groups and we have demonstrated our intentions and good will in many ways.

UJA Federation has shown leadership in support of Human Rights Education for all through its community partnerships that produce, among other events, the Asper Foundation Program, the U.N. sponsored International Day of Holocaust Remembrance, Holocaust Education Week and the Student Symposium. These mechanisms demonstrate our empathy and understanding with the struggles of others and provide the environment through which others can become more sensitive to the struggles we face both here and in Israel.

The Hana's Suitcase project, co-chaired by Madeleine Levy on behalf of UJA Federation and Marnie Flaherty on behalf of Today's Family, will be presented to thousands of young students, of every religious and cultural background, from around the Hamilton area on October 4. In addition, the evening program will bring together a full house at Hamilton Place to celebrate the success of this unusual education initiative and to contribute to the ongoing efforts of UJA Federation, United Way and Focus on the Family, in our various efforts to ensure that Hamilton becomes the 'best place to raise a child'.

As important as Public Affairs is in our community, it is but one aspect of the important work that Federation does. To accomplish all that we want and must do, to keep our community healthy vibrant and Jewish, we must ensure a strong, successful UJA campaign.

The United Jewish Appeal Annual Campaign is the bedrock on which the foundations of our Jewish Community services, locally, nationally and globally are built. Our recent campaign results have been affected by the global economic downturn.

However, we are confident that with your appreciation of the urgency, your support will increase, allowing the campaign to be able to meet our goals.

Our UJA 2011 goal is \$1.15 million dollars... a level we reached two years ago and one that we can and must reach again... and with your increased support we will do that and more.

As Rosh Hashanah approaches and we join our families and friends near and far, let us remember also the needs of our local Jewish community and be generous when your UJA canvasser calls to help ensure our Jewish future in Hamilton.

Shana Tova.

Dr. Larry Levin, President, UJA Federation of Hamilton

Thank You

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 and a strong community can achieve what an individual
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When home is no longer home

HANNA SCHAYER LEFT CAMPUS ORGANIZATION BECAUSE OF INCREASING ANTI-ISRAEL SENTIMENT

WENDY SCHNEIDER

Human rights has always been a Jewish issue. Historically, Jews have been at the forefront of countless human rights battles on a global level. Throughout the 20th century, to be Jewish was, to a large extent, to be a Liberal or a Democrat, Socialist or even Communist, to stand against injustice directed against minorities, to identify with the underdog. Today, however, in the face of an alarming rise in global anti-Zionism, much of it championed by the Left, many Jews whose hearts have always aligned with left-wing causes are struggling to find their place in a transformed landscape that presents Israel as the cause of all the world's evils.

Hanna Schayer is one of those rare individuals whose

supporting their activism on, issues around human rights, anti-violence, poverty and the environment. It would seem to have been a perfect fit, except for the fact that Schayer was unwilling to leave her principles at the door.

At OPIRG "we were supposed to work within a conflict resolution, consensus based paradigm", she said, but over the last few years, Schayer noticed a disturbing double standard. "I felt that model wasn't being applied to issues involving Israel and Jews. We were supposed to be all about human rights and what I was finding was that when it came to issues around Israel and Jews, that application wasn't necessarily being extended."

The problem was not so much within the McMaster office, said Schayer, but in the



Hanna Schayer at Beth Jacob Synagogue, where she currently works

"knee-jerk," with "the level of analysis... so primitive and unrefined and politically motivated that it no longer had any value."

"On a university campus you hope for something a little more thoughtful," she added.

After much soul searching Schayer left OPIRG in February of 2009. She began working at Beth Jacob the following month in an administrative capacity and she currently holds the position of Executive Director. It has been a welcome change of scene.

Despite everything, Schayer maintains a belief that Diaspora Jewish communities should be more open and accepting of a diversity of opinion when it comes to Israel.

"We're impacted by what Israel does and I feel we have an obligation to talk about that openly within our community. We are really diverse and we shouldn't be afraid of that diversity. It's a healthy thing."

Healthy or not, with Israel-bashing becoming more mainstream many Jewish social activists of an earlier era are searching for their place.

Arguments against Israel were often 'knee-jerk,' with the level of analysis... so primitive and unrefined and politically motivated that it no longer had any value....

On a university campus you hope for something a little more thoughtful.

Hanna Schayer

sense of compassion extends well beyond her family, friends and community to include anyone she perceives to be a victim of injustice. A long-time advocate and activist for social justice, the Israeli-born child of Holocaust survivors, Schayer worked for 13 and a half years for McMaster University's OPIRG office. OPIRG, an acronym for Ontario Public Interest Research Group, is a campus-based, non-profit, volunteer driven organization that works on issues of social justice and the environment. Schayer's responsibilities included office administration, financial oversight, programming and supervising students' research, and

larger provincial OPIRG of which they were a part. The situation was further exacerbated by the fact that the union of which she was a member (CUPE) had come out with a very anti-Zionist resolution and pamphlet, the basis of which was intended to impact and influence programming.

While Schayer didn't shy away from raising the issue, she was troubled that no one else in the organization seemed to independently raise concerns. "As an organization I felt we had a mandate to stand up for everyone's human rights and it shouldn't have been only up to me to bring attention to those issues when they came up regarding Israel

and anti-Semitism."

It was also painfully obvious to her that when it came to discrimination against other groups, there was a different set of rules.

"... if a problem came up with homophobia, racism or sexism, it didn't have to be pointed out by people within those groups," said Schayer. "We knew enough, and we were committed enough, to

point them out because we were a community of human rights activists."

Taking a hard look at the anti-Zionism activity on campus, Schayer, like many others, became increasingly uncomfortable with the blurring of boundaries between legitimate criticism of Israel and outright anti-Semitism.

Arguments against Israel, she observed were often

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Prescription for peace?

DR. ABUELAISH PRESENTED A UTOPIAN VISION FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

WENDY SCHNEIDER

Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, or the “Gaza Doctor” as he is better known around the world, was the guest speaker at an event hosted by the new Hamilton Dialogue Group in downtown Hamilton on July 8. Currently serving as the Michael and Amira Dan Professor in Global Health at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto, Dr. Abuelaish spoke to a packed house at the Lincoln Alexander Centre, in which he outlined how the devastating loss of three of his daughters and a niece during the war in Gaza in January of 2009, strengthened, rather than turned him away from his life’s purpose to promote peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Over the course of the evening Abuelaish told of how he rose above the squalor of a Gaza refugee camp to become a respected gynecologist and obstetrician with medical degrees from prestigious overseas institutions; how he came to be affiliated with Israel’s Tel HaShomer and Soroka hospitals; and how his frantic phone call to an Israeli journalist – a call that was broadcast live on Israeli television on the night of his daughters’ deaths – led to a dramatic mobilization of resources and evacuation of another wounded daughter and nephew to safety in Israel.

How did Abuelaish arrive at such an unwavering commitment to pursue peace with his people’s sworn enemies? In a conversation with the HJN earlier in the summer, the Doctor provided some insight into that question when he revealed that his softened attitude towards Israelis was set in motion years ago when his eldest daughter, Bessan, who had been profoundly



Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish was the featured speaker at the Lincoln Alexander Centre

influenced by a summer program for Israeli and Palestinian girls in which she and two of her sisters had participated, persuaded her father that seeing the humanity in the other was the key to finding a lasting peace between

portrayal of Israeli society and by the strong statements he made against hatred. “Hate is a fire, a poison...that destroys the owner and the one who carries it”, Abuelaish said at one point, adding, “Who am I supposed to hate? My Israeli

Hate is a fire, a poison...that destroys the owner and the one who carries it

Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish

Israelis and Palestinians. (see “Peace and the Ripple Effect” in box on this page)

Abuelaish would come to adopt his daughter’s values, (Tragically, Bessan was among those killed in the attack) routinely sending very ill Palestinians for medical treatment in Israel, “because,” he told the HJN, “I wanted the people of Gaza to be exposed to Israelis, the way they live, and who they really are [sic]... and I wanted the Israelis to get to know the Palestinians, who they are beyond the war and violence.”

Included among the audience at the Lincoln Alexander event, was a small representation from the Jewish community. Judging from comments made after his talk, most appeared to be pleased by the speaker’s generally positive

colleagues and friends? The children that I delivered. The mothers that I helped to get pregnant? [sic]”

When, towards the end of his talk, Abuelaish likened Israelis and Palestinians to “conjoined twins with one heart and one brain,” with the well-being of one inextricably linked to the well-being of the other, one could only wonder how many in the audience took that view of the conflict to heart. When, following Abuelaish’s presentation, the audience was invited to view the “Human Drama in Gaza” photography exhibit at the Sky Dragon Centre, it was sadly evident that organizers of the event saw no conflict between Abuelaish’s message and an exhibit that was clearly designed to demonize Israel.

Peace and the ripple effect

In his many speaking engagements Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish often references the innovative peace program for Palestinian and Israeli girls located in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to which he sent his daughters Bessan, Mayar and Shatha over two consecutive summers.

Creativity for Peace is a women’s leadership organization, the idea for which, according to Creativity for Peace director Dottie Indkye, was conceived around a kitchen table shortly after the outbreak of the second Intifada. In an interview with the HJN, Indkye described how at that meeting co-founders Rachel Kaufman, a psychotherapist and artist and filmmaker Debra Sugarman despaired “that if it was left up to the people in power there would never be any change.” The two women envisioned a summer program for young Israeli and Palestinian girls that would develop the next generation of female leaders and peacemakers.

What distinguishes Creativity for Peace from other co-existence programs is in its placing equal emphasis on intensive long term follow up activities as well as its summer camp. During the three-week summer camp program the girls participate in daily three-hour dialogue sessions in which they learn to speak authentically and listen compassionately.

“Through dialogue,” said Indkye, “the girls are given an opportunity to speak about the pain they’ve suffered, often for the very first time... When they look around the circle of girls and [see that] everyone is crying for them in compassion ...that is a very profound thing for them who grew up thinking the other side is the mortal enemy.” In that moment, said Indkye, stereotypes are shattered and real communication becomes a possibility.

Following the three-week summer program campers continue to meet at gatherings that include dialogue, artmaking, outdoor adventure, and social time. In addition, several in-depth training workshops are offered to young leaders.

“Some people feel the work we do is on too small a scale... but the power of the work is that it has a strong ripple effect,” said Indkye, explaining that through sharing their experiences with parents, siblings, teachers, classmates and religious leaders, the program’s alumni become agents for change.

“Our work is based on the idea that every person can have a major influence,” continued Indkye. “As the girls get older and have families and careers, they will be raising their families with a completely different set of beliefs than [those with which] they were raised.”

Whether that prediction will stand up to reality, only time will tell. But one takes comfort in the fact that such efforts are being made.



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Forest fires rage through Israel

EFFECTS ON ISRAEL'S FRAGILE ECO-SYSTEM CAN BE DEVASTATING



Hundreds of KKK-JNF workers have been struggling with dozens of fires all summer. Pictured above: a fire in Beit Shemesh.

Israel's Mediterranean climate is typified by warm dry rainless summers. When temperatures are high and hot dry winds blow, fires start easily and are hard to extinguish. KKL-JNF has always played a major role in preventing and extinguishing wildfires. When forest fires break out, KKL-JNF uses all its resources to put them out. This summer has been particularly devastating for Israel's forests.

Hundreds of KKL-JNF workers have been struggling with dozens of fires all summer. Since the Second Lebanon War, Israel has not experienced so many fires in one day. The largest of the blazes took place in the Beit Shemesh region in Israel's central region, where the IDF also participated in fighting the fires as well as cordoning the area off. The fires consumed more than 3000 dunams (300 hectares/750 acres) of forests and open spaces and 300,000 trees went up in flames.

Fires also raged elsewhere in the country. At Rosh Ha'ayin, dozens of KKL-JNF workers and firefighting vehicles, together with Israel's Firefighting Services, fought the fire until the late hours of the evening.

There were large scale fires in the north at several locations.

A brush fire broke out at Berko Park in Tiberias as well as a fire in an olive grove at Sde Trumut in the Beit She'an Valley. Due to the fires, Highway 90 had to be closed to all traffic for a while. Six firefighting crews worked to control a fire at the Carmel Park near the Muharakah. Around Jerusalem, about 450 acres of mainly 'planted' forests, went up in flames in the forest fire in the Ora-Aminadav area. 100 KKL-JNF staff from the entire Central District, 9 fire trucks and 5 firefighting aircraft participated in the extensive operation. The fire spread towards nearby Hadassah Hospital, but fortunately no people had to be evacuated, although 20 vehicles in the hospital parking area were burned. The fire was successfully controlled during the night and put out.

The effects on Israel's fragile eco-system can be devastating. When trees burn, entire ecosystems are destroyed. Plants and the animals that feed on them, small wildlife that burrows under leaf litter, birds that nest on trees, rodents that burrow in the ground – the

list goes on and on – and we may never know the true extent of the damage done by the wildfires that plague Israel every summer. Reptiles (tortoises and lizards) fleeing the fire were killed by vehicles while trying to cross roads and jackals were caught in the flames. The entire system is vulnerable to fire – even in areas that are usually "protected" – closed to people – rampant fires invade even the remotest corners of the forest.

Once a wildfire spreads it can destroy thousands of acres of forests and woodlands. Rehabilitating the burnt areas is a complex, extended process – even when the trees grow back it can take many more years for the ecosystem to recuperate and return to its former state.

...even when the trees grow back it can take many more years for the ecosystem to recuperate and return to its former state.

In order to fight fires, KKL-JNF maintains a fire fighting structure that is comprised of forest watchtowers, firefighting vehicles, communication systems and fire alert teams. KKL-JNF's modern firefighting vehicles can traverse tough terrains and thick forests. These were purchased with the support of friends of KKL-JNF worldwide.

KKL-JNF invests more than \$5,000,000 annually in fighting fires in Israel's forests and open spaces. This sum includes maintenance and operation of KKL-JNF's firefighting services which includes 22 firefighting vehicles, dozens of fire fighters on duty 24 hours a day and 30 fire watchtowers in forests throughout the country that are manned around the clock. KKL-JNF also operates a forest fire risk forecast service as well as participating in the management of the aerial firefighting fund and forest fires investigations.

For more information on Israel's forest fires and how you can help, please log on to ontario.jnf.ca.

The meaning of friendship

SHARI LEVINE RAISES \$13,800 IN RELAY FOR LIFE

When Shari Levine told her friends last February about her recent thyroid cancer diagnosis, the very next day they came up with a plan to participate in the Ancaster-Dundas Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life, a fundraiser created by Vicky Wylson Sher and Lorna Pennie.

"The support from her friends was unbelievable," said Shari's mother, Elaine Levine.

All told, Shari and her team of fifteen Grade 10 girls raised over \$16,000 for cancer research. The experience of preparing for the relay "gave Shari a focus on making a difference in others' lives and gave her something to look forward to while she was going through a very very trying time," said Elaine.

On the night of June 18, Shari and her team took turns walking the track at the Ancaster Fairgrounds from 7:00 pm on until 7:00 am the following morning. "There was such



Shari Levine (far right) with friends Dana Kriszenfeld and Karen Thompson

a wonderful envelope of love and support from her friends and everyone else who was there..." said Elaine. Weeks after the event Shari was exactly where she wanted to be: on a bus heading towards Camp George. Her family is anticipating a complete recovery.

Where are they now?

Ariel Shaffir, 28, son of Hamilton Hebrew Academy principal Rivka Shaffir and Billy Shaffir, is making a name for himself as a screenwriter and producer. In 2008 a movie script he co-wrote with his friend Kyle Hunter called Camp Sawyer was purchased by Paramount Pictures, with his mentors, Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg lined up to produce it. Ariel, who currently lives in Toronto, was associate producer of a movie "about a young guy who gets cancer and how he deals with it..." that will be coming out next fall. Ariel, is hoping to move to L.A. to be "more in the centre of where movies get made." No doubt we'll be hearing more about Mr. Shaffir in the future.

Evgenya (Jane) Shkolnik, 34, daughter of Anna and the late Leonid Shkolnik has taken stargazing to a whole new level. An astrophysicist with degrees from Dalhousie, the University of British Columbia and the University of Hawaii, where she did post-doctoral work for NASA, Evgenya is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at Washington, D.C.'s Carnegie Institute of Technology. Evgenya is currently researching "extrasolar planetary systems and circumstellar disks", according to her impressive website at evgenyashkolnik.com.

It's all in the family for David Goldberg, 25, who is following in the footsteps of his grandfather, the late Israel Silverman, by attending the Jewish Theological Seminary's rabbinical

school. David, son of Lanie and Joel Goldberg, took a year of absence over the last year to study at Manhattan's egalitarian Yeshivat Hadar. He spent this summer leading a group of university students on a volunteer service trip to Uganda under the auspices of the American Jewish World Service.

Aaron Orkin, 28, is currently completing a Masters in history and philosophy at Oxford. He also has a BA/BSc and an MD from McMaster University. Before attending Oxford Aaron spent two years as a medical resident in Thunder Bay and this fall, he will begin studies at the University of Toronto studying Community Public Health. As if all that were not enough for a young man who, according to his father, Andrew Orkin likes "knowing stuff", he and a friend spent the summer of 2009 on an unprovisioned 1200 kilometre canoe trip from Lake Superior to Hudson's Bay, where he and a friend "carried or caught everything they ate," according to Aaron's father, Andrew Orkin. "It was an amazing navigation and athletic feat," he said, adding, "All our children in their different ways are wonderful and making wonderful contribution. It takes a village to raise a child and this is a rather good village...."

Jon Feldman's Toronto-based band Zebrina is gaining a lot of attention these days. Jon writes

and arranges all the music played by the Klezmer Fusion band that mixes Eastern melodies with jazz, funk, reggae, and other Western grooves. Jon told the HJN recently that Zebrina is set to release their first full length cd, "Trail of the Hunter-Gatherers" at the Ashkenaz festival on Sunday September 5, 5:00 pm, on the Sirius stage at Harbourfront.

The HJN congratulates Lucas Waxman and Shari Levine for winning the Youth and Philanthropy Challenge at Highland Secondary School last spring, earning \$5,000 for Out of the Cold. The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative is a one-of-a-kind educational program that gives young people hands-on experience in social change and empowers them to participate in the development of their communities.

If there is someone who you would like to see featured in the next issue, please email the editor at wsbneider@jewish-bahamilton.org.

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From a spark to a fire

CELEBRATING CONGREGATION BINA

HANNA SCHAYER

Participating in the 30th Anniversary Celebration of Congregation Bina, comprised of East Indian Jews who call themselves Bene Israel, I reflected on two things: The joy experienced in embracing Jewish diversity and the Canadian Jewish



Victor and Diana Abraham

community's collective ignorance of the depth and breadth of that diversity. We reflect, with some notable exceptions, an Ashkenazic mind set and point of view. In fact, Canadian Jewry is made up of Jews whose cultural traditions and countries of origin represent a rich mosaic of Jewish observance and commitment to the land and the people of Israel.

According to their web-site, Congregation Bina is a "...non-profit organization whose aim is to maintain Indian Jewish religious, social, cultural and educational activities; foster fellowship and safeguard Jewish ideals, by planting a love of Jewish traditions in the hearts of our community"

Bene-Israel are thought to have been exiled from the Land of Israel in the second century BCE. Seven men and an unknown number of women survived a shipwreck near the Konkan coast south of Bombay, establishing a community which eventually numbered tens of thousand. Despite their relatively small numbers, they managed to maintain their distinctive monotheistic practices including circumcision, kashrut and Shabbat observance because of the separation enforced in India through a caste system which forbade marriage across caste lines. Today, approximately 5000 Bene Israel remain in Bombay and surrounding small towns; the majority having immigrated primarily to Israel.

In 1979 a small number, including Diana and Victor Abraham of Hamilton, organized their first Rosh Hashana service at the National Council of Jewish Women's facility in Toronto. Today, hundreds of members from Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal and New York state participate in High Holiday, Chanukah, Purim and Pesach celebrations. Though members of other shuls, they are intent on maintaining a connection to their Jewish Indian roots manifested in religious practices infused with a virtual masala of spiritual traditions and joyful observance which can only serve to strengthen the Jewish people as a whole.

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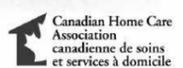
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Every stone has a story

STEVEN BROCK

As you walk through the grounds of the new military section of Hamilton's Woodland Cemetery you may come across the grave of the late Group Captain David Goldberg. The DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross) designation on the otherwise nondescript headstone lays testament that this Jewish Hamilton native is part of an elite group of heroic Canadian WWII fighter pilots. Although the cold marker cannot tell the tale of the person buried beneath, every stone has a story.

In the latter part of the 19th century ten year old Harry Goldberg immigrated with his family to Cleveland from Poland. Harry eventually moved to Hamilton, and working in the hotel industry Harry, in time bought the King George Hotel on the corner of McNab and Market Streets. Harry did business with Frank Gerstein, who fixed him up with his younger sister, Sophia. Harry and Sophia married and had four children born and bred in the Kent and Stanley area of Hamilton. David was the oldest, born in March 1917; followed by Irwin, Ruth and finally William.

After graduating Westdale High School, Dave went on to earn a degree in Business Administration at Boston University in 1939. When war broke out in Europe, he returned home and immediately went to enlist in the Canadian Army. After being refused, Dave joined the Royal Canadian Air Force a year later. He earned his wings at the Service Flying Training School in Saskatoon and the RCAF flight training base in Dunville, flying vintage style World War I era bi-planes. Dave quickly proved himself to be a talented and instinctive pilot. As his skills were recognized by his superiors he graduated to the newer fighters. Although Dave was anxious to go overseas, he was assigned to be a testing officer for other pilot trainees.

Finally in December 1942, Dave got his wish. He was

sent overseas for advanced Spitfire fighter training in England. In the summer of 1943 he was attached to 416 Squadron and positioned in southern England to carry out operations in France.

Over the next eight months, Dave flew 79 missions with the 416th and later the 403rd Squadrons. Dave and his comrades wreaked havoc on the Nazi military machine positioned across France. On March 8, 1944, during his 80th mission, Dave was strafing a Luftwaffe air field near St. Andre-lez Lille just south of the Belgian border. Flying in at low altitude, Dave's plane was hit by German ground fire. Struggling to retain control of the plane he was quickly faced with two options – bail out or attempt a landing. Having run this scenario through his mind many times before, he had long ago decided that in such a case he would do his best to come down with his aircraft. Dave had a great level of confidence not only in the aircraft's construction, but also in his own flying ability. The thought of bailing out just never appealed to him.

Using all his strength and skill, Dave selected an open field out in the countryside and brought his crippled Spitfire in. As the plane hit the ground it overturned and caught fire. He scrambled out of the burning aircraft totally unscathed. He knew the Germans saw the plane go down and would quickly be on-site looking for him. Being Jewish, Dave was fully aware of what his fate would be if he was captured by the Nazis. He quickly buried his dog tags and made a run for it. Within less than an hour, German troops with dogs were scouring the area looking for the Canadian pilot, but by then Dave was long gone.

Never knowing who was friend and who was foe, Dave evaded capture for two days by hiding in ditches and haystacks along the Lille countryside. He eventually came to a farm where he observed a farmer and his son working the fields. Once he

had watched them for long enough to convince himself that they were not in collusion with the Germans or the Vichy French, he approached them and asked for shelter. The farmer took him in, fed him and offered him their only bed to sleep, which he did for the next twenty-four hours. The farmer had connections with the French Underground and contacted the Maquis, a rural guerrilla band of the Resistance, who developed a plan to get Dave out of France and into neutral Spain.

Over the next few weeks, the Maquis hop-scotched Dave across the country. Traveling to Paris and down through Toulouse, he finally arrived in the foothills of the French

Pyrenees Mountains. There, the underground organized groups of escapees to climb over 2,400 metres across the mountains. They provided a highly skilled French guide to direct them through the rough terrain and worse weather, but who ended up deserting the group before they reached their destination. Luckily, they made it with the help of a young boy who knew the way into northern Spain.

Even though Dave was finally out of the grasp of the Germans, he was still in constant danger. Although formally neutral, the fascist General Francisco Franco maintained a close alliance with the Nazis. As Dave later recalled, he always felt that the possibility of being arrested in Spain was greater than anywhere else. In fact, Spain was the only country where he was ever stopped and asked for his papers. Although he didn't know it at the time, the Maquis was in regular contact with British Intelligence, who knew that Dave had not only survived

the crash, but was making his way to Barcelona. When he finally showed up at the British Consulate two months after being shot down, he was met by the mysterious Miss Collins who ran the entire intelligence operation in northern Spain. With typical British demeanour, she greeted him with, "It's delightful to see you. Would you like some tea?" Once back in British hands, Dave was spirited down to Gibraltar from where he was sent back to England.

Back in those days of war, because of the severe shortage of experienced men, fighter pilots had no defined service periods. They stayed overseas for as long as they could fly and fight effectively. As

Never knowing who was friend and who was foe,
Dave evaded capture for two days by hiding in
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Pyrenees Mountains.

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Dave recounted, in fighter command, it was usually left up to the officer in charge to decide when a pilot tour had ended – there's a time when you just have to say to someone, "I think you've had enough."

However, Dave hadn't had enough at this point. After a month's leave, he coincidentally met up with a friend of his from Hamilton who asked if Dave would be willing to accept another posting. In late 1944, the RCAF only had one squadron in Italy – the 417 "Windsors" of 244 Wing of the Desert Air Force – which was severely lacking in experienced pilots. Dave accepted, and with his effervescent personality and enthusiasm, the 417 under his leadership was transformed into a top performing unit in the final months of the war.

By this time the Allies ruled the skies and the German Luftwaffe had been pretty much decimated. The 417's flight operations mostly involved ground attack in the area near the eastern Italian town of Ravenna, just off the coast of

the Adriatic Sea. In one notable mission, Dave noticed a team of three horse-drawn vehicles loaded down with hay. The way they ambled along the road just struck him as curious. Finally, after closely watching the odd manner in which the carts negotiated around a corner, Dave was convinced. He swung his Spitfire around and strafed the vehicles, destroying three German tanks camouflaged underneath the hay.

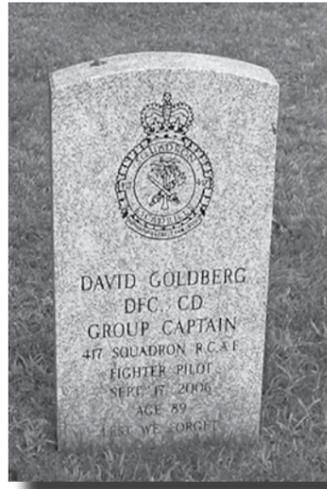
Dave remained with the 417 as Squadron Leader until the German forces in Italy surrendered on May 2nd, 1945. By then he had personally flown a remarkable 155 missions in Italy, for a grand total of 235 throughout the course of the war. Dave was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his bravery, gallantry, and especially for his work with the 417.

Returning home, Dave took care of some unfinished business. He travelled back to the States to find Alice Dickey, a girl he dated while studying in Boston. After locating her working in New York City, he swept her off her feet and they were married in Alice's home town of Terre Haute, Indiana on June 3, 1947. The newlyweds moved back up to Canada, and were later blessed with a daughter, Mary.

Back home, Dave studied law at Osgoode Hall in Toronto, where he was called to the bar in June 1949. He then embarked on a fifty year career practising commercial and corporate law, the last twenty of which was spent at Ross & McBride in Hamilton.

Dave continued to practice law until he retired from Ross & McBride in 1999. He peacefully passed away on September 17, 2006 at the age of 89.

As one generation passes into the next we are slowly losing our World War Two veterans who forfeited everything in order to preserve our freedom. The greatest tribute we can pay to all our fighting men and women is to never forget the great sacrifices they have made on our behalf.



David Goldberg during the war from Wayne Ralph's Aces, Warriors & Wingmen - Firsthand Accounts of Canada's Fighter Pilots in the Second World War



Henry Balinson in the office of International Press, 246 King St. W. in the late '30s



The voice of Jewish Hamilton

HENRY BALINSON'S "JEWISH VOICE" PROVIDES SNAPSHOT OF 1930'S HAMILTON

WENDY SCHNEIDER

It was a wholly unexpected but welcome discovery. The revelation that in the 1930's, there had been a locally published Yiddish language newspaper was exciting news to the creators of the Jewish Hamilton Project. Further investigation brought them to the home of Morley Balinson, whose father, Henry was the editor and publisher of the "Yiddishe Shtime deHamiltoner" or the Jewish Voice of Hamilton.

Henry Balinson immigrated to Canada from Russia in 1911 at the age of 23. His political education was nurtured in the city of Odessa, where his work as a typesetter led to his becoming active in the labour movement. In Hamilton, he was among the founders of the Arbeiter Ring, or Workmen's Circle, a strongly socialist, labour oriented Jewish organization. His business, International Press, was located at 246 King Street West, and, like many immigrants of the time, he lived with his family directly above the shop. Henry, according to his daughter-in-law, Joan Balinson, was an extremely well educated man who wrote plays and poetry and loved to talk politics. "I was 19 when I met him. He was fascinating, brilliant... with pale grey piercing eyes. That was his pose, his posture. [referring to the photograph above] When he

looked at you like that he was totally with you. He had the ability to bring you right in, as if he was totally interested in you."

Unlike her husband, Henry's wife, Sarah Garshowitz, "was a very simple peasant," who was patient, quiet, and well loved for her work on the Hevra Kadisha.

Fond memories of the rich fabric of early Jewish Hamilton notwithstanding, the fact is that for many immigrants, life was a constant struggle. Well educated and highly literate, Henry stood out among the Jewish immigrants of his day, and a particular source of bitterness was the success of these "proster yidn" while he struggled to make a living.

"He worked very hard raising five kids and putting two through university," said Joan. "He couldn't talk to these immigrants who had no education....Who did you talk to if you were argumentative and opinionated?"

It was the pages of the Jewish Voice that served as an outlet for Henry's opinions and observations, particularly in the paper's signature front-page column, "Mein Shpat-sir iber Hamilton" (My stroll around Hamilton). According to his son Morley, Henry used this space to provide his readers with a colourful commentary on Jewish Hamilton one that was just as likely

of children in the alley behind their shop. Another son, Reuben, succumbed to Diphtheria. But the event from which Henry never recovered was the death of his son Alex, a CAF wireless air gunner who, at the age of 24, was killed in an air raid in World War II on the island of Malta.

Henry railed against his son's untimely death in a eulogy on the front page of his newspaper that included these bitter words, "...when you took my son, you gave me a

age of five was collating jobs in the shop. The eldest son, Bob had his own medical practice. He had obtained his degree at the University of Toronto but had to intern in the United States due to quotas against Jews in Canadian hospitals.

In 1961, Henry Balinson passed away at the age of 75 from a stomach hemorrhage that was most likely brought on by excessive drinking. His daughter-in-law is convinced that he was



Alex Balinson, in uniform, before he left for the war—circa 1940. He was killed in 1942.

to receive praise as to raise hackles.

In addition to the Jewish Voice, International Press attracted business from a number of other immigrant groups because of its ability to typeset in Polish, Cyrillic, Russian, Ukrainian, Hungarian, and Latvian. A frequent visitor was the Catholic Polish priest from St. Stanilus Church who would engage Henry in long and heated discussions in Hebrew about the Talmud. And, if he stopped by on a Friday, he was treated to homemade gefilte fish from Sarah.

The year 1925 marked the beginning of a string of tragic events that would set off a downward spiral for Henry and Sarah. The life of their four-year-old daughter Ann ended tragically when her dress caught fire while playing firecrackers with a group

... I return to the Hess Street shul to attend a lecture concerning the Zionist Campaign at which the well-known Poalei Zion leader...supported the position of Hamilton's Zionists to organize a separate campaign. His talk was filled with praise over the manner in which Jewish Hamiltonians responded so warmly with their contributions, and he came to the conviction that Hamilton Jewry are the finest Jews, the face of this generation....

My Stroll Around Hamilton
from the Jewish Voice of Hamilton, November 1, 1942, 9th year, No. 194

free hand. I am promising to give up writing anything that is false. I break off my ties with the world..."

According to Joan, those words turned out to be prophetic. "He continued to live but he never made a recovery," adding, "I think family units either fell apart with that sort of situation or they became stronger. And it was much more difficult to become stronger." Morley was taken out of Westdale school to help run the business, with help from his younger siblings Victor and Goldie, who at the

clinically depressed. "Today, [Henry] would have been seen as one who was suffering from the disease of depression and it got in the way of life, which it does in people... I think he must have been a tormented soul."

The history of a community is only as interesting as its inhabitants who have lived, loved, suffered and rejoiced within its streets and alleys. By this benchmark Henry Balinson can be said to have been one of this community's most interesting personalities.

Hear David Goldberg speak about his WWII escapades and Morley Balinson reminisce about his father at www.hamiltonjewishnews.com



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	5.99 SAVE \$2.00 each Central Epicure gefilte fish meat or turkey breast		2/\$5 700 g Leshner's challah bread frozen, unbaked refrigerated in store
	3.49 each Osam cakes selected varieties		4.99 SAVE \$2.00 1 kg Trane sliced cheese selected varieties
	1.99 SAVE .70 each Milkmaid pull pastry dough frozen		2.79 SAVE \$1 1.68-2.04 g Osam milk cookies varieties
	3.99 SAVE \$2 1.68 L Milkmaid's Oats 100% grape juice		2.99 SAVE \$1 1 kg Osam milk cookies varieties
	1.29 SAVE .30 1 kg Milkmaid's Raisin Oats cereal		4.99 SAVE \$1 1 kg Osam milk cookies varieties
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