



P4



P7

- ▶ Federation's new president • 4
- ▶ Loewith family realizes a dream • 7
- ▶ Remembering Raoul Wallenberg • 14



P14

Hamilton  
Jewish

# News

JULY 2023 | TAMMUZ 5783

The voice of Jewish Hamilton

## Holocaust learning centre in the works

Margaret's Legacy provides the seed funding for new centre, which will be a key feature of JHamilton renovations

STORY BY **WENDY SCHNEIDER**  
HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

GUSTAVO RYMBERG was not sure what he was looking at when he first came across the welded steel sculpture of two figures framed by barbed wire lying on its side in a JCC storage facility. The Federation CEO was being shown around that day by former JCC president Lowell Richter, who told him the sculpture was a memorial to victims of the Holocaust that once occupied pride of place at the Delaware Avenue and Lower Lions Club Road JCCs. Rymberg was taken aback. "This cannot be here," he said. "We have to find a place for this."

**HOLOCAUST LEARNING CENTRE** CONTINUES ON P5

“I see the centre as an opportunity to explore intergenerational trauma.”

**DANNA HORWOOD**  
FOUNDER, MARGARET'S LEGACY

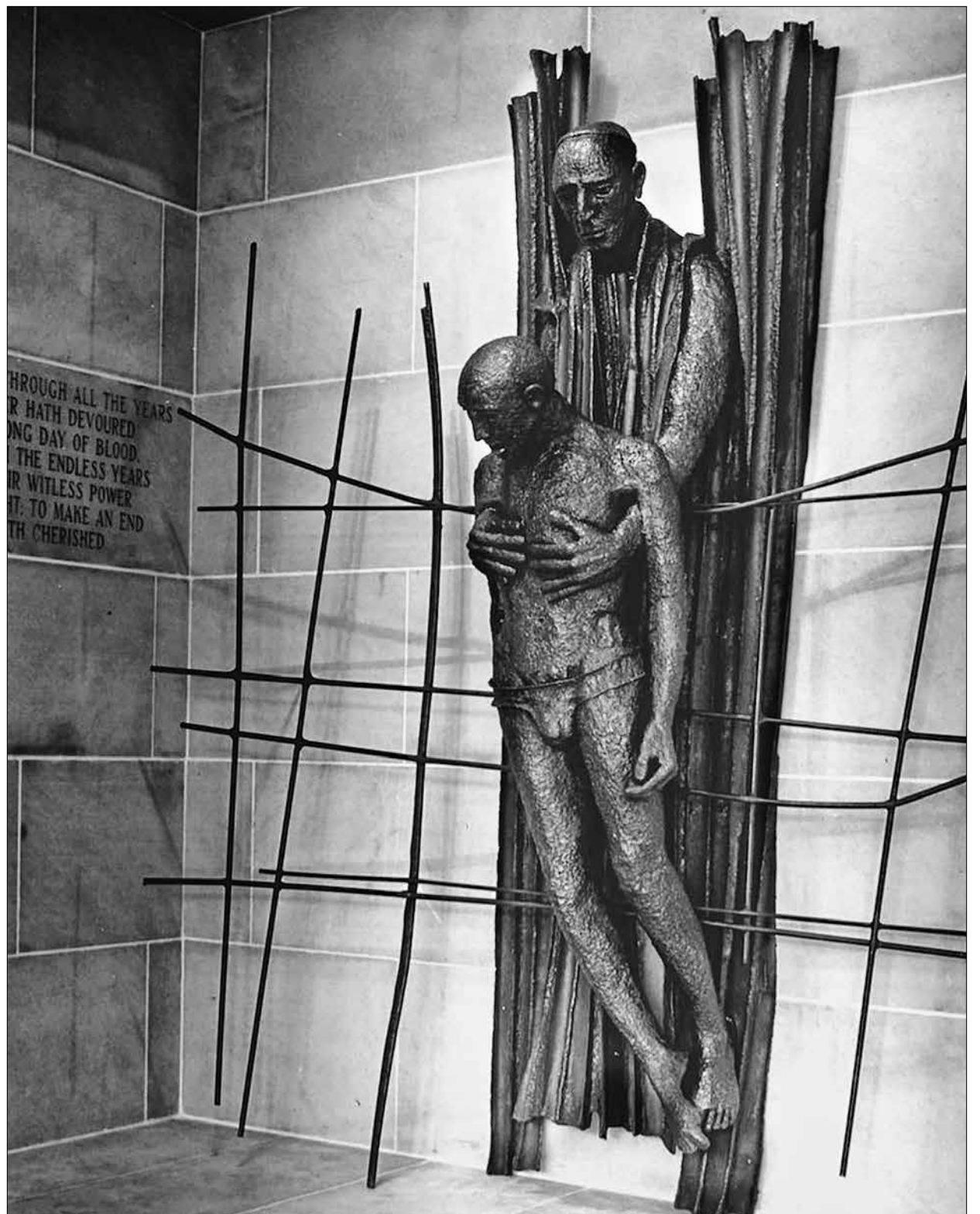


PHOTO BY HERMAN DEBRUYN

**Memorial to the Victims of the Holocaust** in its original location at the Delaware Avenue JCC. The sculpture by local artist George Wallace was commissioned by Hamilton Holocaust survivors in 1966. Put into storage after the Lower Lions Club JCC was sold, the sculpture will find a new home at the future Margaret's Legacy Holocaust Learning Centre.

Hamiltonjewishnews.com

Hamilton Jewish News is funded in part by a generous gift from the Allen and Milli Gould Family Foundation.



**Hamilton**  
Jewish Federation

JEWISHHAMILTON.ORG

PM AGREEMENT 40007180



# Fowler and Associates

TD Wealth Private Investment Advice  
Complete Investment and Estate Planning

**Scott Thomson**  
Investment Advisor

905-528-6349

Toll Free: 1-800-775-0037  
Fax: 905-528-6897

**Dwight A. Fowler**  
Investment Advisor

905-528-4254

**Shane Fowler**  
Investment Advisor

905-528-0113

**Fowler & Associates**

**TD Wealth**



Fowler and Associates consists of Dwight Fowler, Vice President and Investment Advisor, Shane Fowler, Investment Advisor and Scott Thomson, CFA, Investment Advisor. Fowler and Associates is part of TD Wealth Private Investment Advice. TD Wealth Private Investment Advice is a division of TD Waterhouse Canada Inc., a subsidiary of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. TD Waterhouse Canada Inc. — Member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund. All trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ®/The TD logo and other trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank or a wholly-owned subsidiary, in Canada and/or in other countries.

## GUEST EDITORIAL

# Canadian faculty join forces against antisemitism



Deirdre Butler and Cary Kogan

CO-FOUNDERS, **NETWORK OF ENGAGED CANADIAN ACADEMICS**

CANADIAN CAMPUSES have become a battleground for Jewish students, faculty, and staff. With anti-Jewish attitudes and actions on the rise around the world, Canadian faculty and students are seeing a growing number of troubling incidents that undermine the safety of Jews on campus. Faculty need support to address the realities of anti-Jewish activism that occurs at every level of university life: at the governance level where Jews simply aren't considered in questions of equity, diversity, and inclusion; in the classroom, where professors provide biased accounts of the Israel/Palestinian conflict; in everyday campus life, where Jewish students and faculty increasingly do not feel safe to express their Jewish identity, and at the union level with resolutions that shut down the Jewish community's right to define their own lived experience of antisemitism. Faculty are joining forces to support each other by forming the Network of Engaged Canadian Academics (NECA) to confront these new realities.

NECA recognizes that many faculty members from diverse disciplines may not possess the needed knowledge and skills to confront antisemitism, particularly in its more insidious anti-Israel forms. All faculty, regardless of their political views, confront these issues, because of the ways in which all Jews are collectively held responsible for the actions of Israel while being denied their historic connection to the only Jewish state. As faculty face increasingly professional and well-organized campaigns that target Jewish identity, we need to respond strategically and effectively.

### The role of professors in university administration

Faculty members often find themselves without the knowledge necessary to contend with Jew hatred. This is particularly perverse when such normalizations are justified under the cover of academic freedom at the same time that Jewish perspectives about their identities are delegitimized. When faculty members are excluded from expressing their own experiences of antisemitism, it undermines the principles of academic freedom. They need each other's support.

### University leadership

University faculty and administrators are not equipped to understand the unique challenges faced by Jewish Canadians on campus. They must be prepared to speak out against antisemitism in its various forms, including subtle expressions and coded language that draw on historic stereotypes and tropes. These more subversive forms of antisemitism too often go unnoticed by non-Jewish campus members but are felt acutely by Jewish faculty and students who feel unwelcome and unsafe. University leaders need to use all of the tools at their disposal to publicly repudiate antisemitic statements and incidents. They need unbiased information from fellow academics that is grounded in the best scholarship. They need education, training, and resources.

### Why a faculty network?

The Canadian Jewish community is fortunate to have strong organizations addressing antisemitism in our communities and providing support for Jewish students in public schools, campuses, and public service sectors. However, Canadian faculty are not well represented. Spearheaded by Ottawa faculty members Cary Kogan (University of Ottawa) and Deidre Butler (Carleton University), NECA is dedicated to "promoting free expression and academic freedom on campus, countering all forms of antisemitism, supporting research and education on Judaism and Israel, opposing the denigration of Jewish identity, and ensuring a welcoming campus environment for Jews and others, including those for whom Zionism is an integral part of their identity."

NECA serves as a symbol of solidarity and support for faculty members combating antisemitism on campus as well as a trusted organization that will develop unbiased resources by academics for academics. NECA is a non-partisan and fully independent association that takes no specific political position other than its commitment to educate and combat anti-Jewish racism. Just as Canadian campuses embrace diverse thoughts and opinions, NECA is an inclusive initiative that welcomes faculty members from diverse backgrounds while standing united against all forms of antisemitism.



**THE RICHTER GROUP**  
Proudly serving the Greater Hamilton Area since 1957



**Experience the trust, dependability and accountability that the Richter Group stores have provided for over 50 years**



**Hamilton Hyundai**  
324 Parkdale Ave N  
905 545 5150  
hamiltonhyundai.ca

**Eastgate Ford**  
350 Parkdale Ave N  
905 547 3211  
eastgateford.com

**Bay King Chrysler**  
55 Rymal Rd  
905 383 7700  
bayking.ca

**CSN Collision Centres**  
230 Lansing Drive  
350 Parkdale Ave N  
eastgateford.com



HHA celebrates its graduating class



Hamilton Hebrew Academy principal, Rabbi Yaakov Morel and Grade 8 teacher, Lila Strub, stand proudly with the the Grade 8 graduates at its 55th annual Commencement Ceremonies. The Hamilton Jewish Federation recognizes the vital importance of our community’s Jewish schools in helping to foster Jewish identity and in developing our leaders of tomorrow.

COVER STORY

Holocaust Learning Centre in the works

7

FEATURE STORY

Loewith farm opens on-site dairy

10

LOCAL VOICES

Making a difference by volunteering

14

PLACES AND PEOPLE

Churchill Park art installation

15

LIVES REMEMBERED

Remembering Mary Louise Beecroft

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Editorial
- 4 Local News
- 5 Cover Story
- 6 Upcoming Events
- 7 Feature Story
- 10 Local Voices
- 12 Community Profile
- 13 Sponsored Content
- 14 Places and People
- 15 Lives Remembered

FEDERATION NEWS:  
8, 9

NEXT ISSUE: ROSH HASHANA 2023

DEADLINES   Booking ads: July 17, 2023  
Advertising copy: Aug. 22, 2023  
Publication date: Sept. 7, 2023

HJN

The Hamilton Jewish News is published six times a year by the Hamilton Jewish Federation

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Hamilton Jewish News invites members of the community to contribute letters, articles or guest editorials.

Written submissions 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.

CIRCULATION  
2,000

EDITOR  
Wendy Schneider  
wschneider@jewishhamilton.org  
905-628-0058

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
Abigail Cukier

DIGITAL EDITOR  
Ben Shragge

HJN CONTRIBUTORS  
Helaine Ortmann, Ben Shragge, Phyllis Shragge

CONSULTING ART DIRECTOR  
John Bullock

PUBLISHER  
Hamilton Jewish Federation

ADVERTISING  
Wendy Schneider

HAMILTON JEWISH  
FEDERATION PRESIDENT  
Jason Waxman

CEO  
Gustavo Rymberg

BOARD MEMBERS  
Howard Brown  
Howard Eisenberg  
Romy Friedman  
Jacki Levin  
Adam Norris  
Josh Rauchwerger  
Jamie Richter  
Lowell Richter  
Lorne Rochweg  
Rabbi Ben Shefter  
Laura Wolfson

Kehila Heschel  
School

ecoschools  
écoécoles  
CANADA

ARE YOU READY  
TO INSTILL A LOVE  
OF LEARNING IN  
YOUR CHILD?

Now is the perfect time to consider what would be the best school choice for your child.

**YOUR CHILD BELONGS AT KEHILA HESCHEL**  
**"WHERE EVERY STUDENT SHINES"**

Kehila Heschel School  
215 Cline Ave. N.,  
Hamilton L8S 4A1  
Tel: (905) 529-7725  
Email: office@kehilaschool.ca  
website: kehilaschool.ca

- Enhanced Ontario curriculum
- Immersion-style French and Hebrew starting in JK
- Integrated curriculum through a Jewish lens
- Heschel educational philosophy focus on
- Social action, environmental stewardship
- Judaic values of respect, kindness and community
- Enrichment through outdoor education
- Eco school, art and drama

Generously supported by The Weisz Family Foundation  
and the Hamilton Jewish Federation

# Knowledge and experience matter.

Barry Yellin

Jeffrey Manishen

Brad Wiseman

With over 130 years in business, Ross & McBride is Hamilton's largest, oldest full-service law firm. Our team builds on a proud legacy of being a strong voice for our clients and giving back to our community.

## Lawyers in your corner.

www.rossmcbride.com  
1 King St. W, 10th Floor, Hamilton ON, L8P 1A4

# Jason Waxman steps into Federation presidency

At 36, Waxman is youngest Federation president in recent memory

BY **WENDY SCHNEIDER**  
HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

JASON WAXMAN is one of those people who can't have unread emails in his inbox. Whether work- or volunteer-related, Waxman thinks of himself as a highly organized person who will put in the time to address issues as they come up.

But Waxman's attention to detail and due diligence, impressive as they are, were not what his colleagues on the Federation board believed made him the ideal person to succeed Howard Eisenberg as Hamilton Jewish Federation president.

"Gustavo really felt that they wanted somebody younger at the helm, who's a stakeholder in the community with a different perspective on things," said Waxman, an active member of the Adas Israel who, in addition to sitting on the Federation board, is a past vice president of the JCC and a member of Shalom Village's finance committee.

Asked to comment on that perception, Waxman had much to say. "I have my hands in a bunch of different pots and I think that's beneficial to have a more holistic view of the community rather than something that's really narrow and you're in your own lane and not seeing what other areas of the community are doing," he said.

Furthermore, having four young children at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, allows him "to see on a day-to-day basis certain things in the community that maybe people don't have the vantage point of seeing. And I'm also actively shaping my own Jewish life in Hamilton as things go rather than looking in a rearview mirror."

At 36, Waxman is a self-described "Hamilton lifer" and the youngest person in recent memory to occupy the president's position of the Hamilton Jewish Federation. Waxman comes by his volunteer commitments honestly. He was born and raised in a family with deep roots in this city. His grandfather, Morris Waxman, was president of the Adas Israel Congregation for



PHOTO BY WENDY SCHNEIDER, HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS  
**Federation president Jason Waxman**

many years and one of the community's most generous philanthropists.

When considering Waxman's new position, Federation CEO Gustavo Rymberg points to a 2021 HJN article that profiled a group of millennials, Waxman among them, who made up 50 per cent of the Federation board that year. "This is phase two, I would say. From that half, a new leader has emerged."

Rymberg especially values Waxman's objectivity. "He sees the bigger picture and he has a good vision about what Jewish life in Hamilton should be."

Waxman shared that vision in an interview with the HJN in May, when he said he hoped his presidency will foster greater community cohesion, communication and sharing of resources so "whatever we raise will go further." Overall, he sees the community as being "in a great place," pointing to the growing number of young Jewish families moving to Hamilton. Waxman was delighted to see many of them turn out for Israel's 75 anniversary celebrations at the Ancaster Fairgrounds in late April.

With more than 400 people in attendance and five or six kosher food vendors, Waxman described it as "probably the single best event that Federation's ever put on." "It was really a great example of community cohesion and unity," he said, "and I think the overwhelming majority of people that came felt the same way."

## Gary Barwin's Holocaust-themed novel voted 2023 Hamilton Reads selection

GARY BARWIN'S latest novel, *Nothing the Same, Everything Haunted: The Ballad of Motl the Cowboy*, has been voted the 2023 Hamilton Reads selection. The book was favourably compared by Quill and Quire to the 1997 Italian film, *Life is Beautiful*, "in daring to find humour and tenderness in the Holocaust."

In a promotional video released by the Hamilton Public Library, Barwin spoke about an incident that took place at his wedding, when a videographer interviewed various members of the family. Aware that his words were being recorded for posterity, Barwin's grandfather stared into the camera and "with an intensity I'd never seen, spoke of the horrors of the Holocaust in his birthplace of Lithuania and of his family, neighbours, whole communities, and of an entire world that was extinguished."

Barwin is the author of 26 books. His novel, *Yiddish for Pirates*, won the Leacock Medal for Humour and the Canadian Jewish Literary Award, was a finalist for the Governor General's Award for Fiction and the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and was long listed for Canada Reads.

While the Holocaust forms the backdrop to his latest novel, which tells the story of a middle-aged Jewish man who fantasizes about being a cowboy, and goes on an eccentric quest across Europe after the 1941 Nazi invasion of Lithuania, Barwin says he tried to tell his story with humour, believing it to be "a powerful tool to deal with adversity and take agency even in the midst of the most difficult times."



## Pride Shabbat at JHamilton



**Ginny Levine** led the Shabbat candle blessings at Hamilton Jewish Federation's Pride Shabbat dinner and celebration. The event was attended by 55 people, including members of all three Hamilton synagogues.

### JWELCOME HOME INITIATIVE

## Our community is growing

BY **LAURA WOLFSON**  
JWELCOME HOME COORDINATOR

WHEN ELAD and Adi Shemesh found out that they would be coming from Israel to live and work in Hamilton starting in 2025, they had important questions: What is the average cost of rent in Hamilton? Where are the best and safest neighbourhoods for their family? Where do most Jewish families live? What are their options for schools for their three children? They reached out to our committee to ask these questions. After a Zoom meeting in which we tried to answer all their questions, they felt more prepared for what was ahead of them.

Through the JWelcome Home Hamilton initiative, 44 new Jewish families settled in Hamilton between 2020 and 2022. Between the beginning of January and the end of August 2023, an additional 13 new Jewish families will have arrived. Primarily, they have come from Israel, South America, the U.S., and other cities in Canada.

Formerly known as "Grow Hamilton," the JWelcome Home Hamilton initiative works to attract newcomers to Hamilton in

order to revitalize our Jewish community.

We reach out to potential newcomers in a variety of ways: through social media, information webinars and one-on-one Zoom meetings with people who want to know more specifics about our community. If they come to visit, we take them on tours of the city and Jewish points of interest. We provide airport pick-up, assistance in finding housing and employment, and personal introductions. Our volunteers reach out personally to give a warm welcome, and each year we hold a welcome party to introduce newcomers to each other. These are just a few of the reasons why new Jewish families are choosing to settle in Hamilton. If you know of any Jewish people considering a move to Hamilton or already making plans to move here (or even someone who has recently arrived), please let us know, so that we can invite them to one of our information webinars, and/or roll out the red carpet and give them a great Jewish Hamilton welcome! You can reach us at [welcometohomehamilton@jewishhamilton.org](mailto:welcometohomehamilton@jewishhamilton.org).

## Leadership changes at Jewish Family Services

BY **CINDY MARK**  
HJFS CHAIR

THERE HAVE been some changes at Hamilton Jewish Family Services. Our executive director, Heather McLean, has chosen to take a position at another social service agency. We are thankful for the insight, hard work, and warmth that she brought to HJFS.

We have been very fortunate to hire Sherry Parsley as our interim executive director, a professional who works with non-profit agencies as an interim leader. Parsley will be sharing her wealth of knowledge of how other agencies function in our current economic climate. She

will also help guide us in choosing the next leader of the agency.

Many agencies like ours are changing their leadership structures to suit the current times, and we see this as an opportunity to research different models.

For our wonderful clients and program participants, nothing will change and there will likely be an opportunity for growth. We will continue to support our dedicated and hardworking team in managing the agency in a supportive work environment.

Our goal is to ensure that our strong ties with the community remain first and foremost. We are thankful for your support and look forward to moving from strength to strength.



“We expect everyone visiting our centre will gain a better understanding of the dangers of hate.”

Holocaust Learning Centre

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Rymberg would have to wait another four years before seeing the fulfillment of that intent, but his vision will finally become reality in the spring of 2024 with the opening of the Margaret’s Legacy Holocaust Learning Centre. The new centre is a result of a confluence of factors that unfolded within the space of the last year. The first was Federation’s hosting its inaugural international conference on antisemitism last November, an ambitious year-long project for which Rymberg collaborated with global leaders in Holocaust education Yad Vashem, The Claims Conference, the Azrieli Foundation, and other organizations at the forefront of the fight against antisemitism.

The second factor was former Hamilton resident Madeleine Levy gifting Federation with the Harriet Smiley Memorial Holocaust Collection, named in memory of her mother. In viewing the collection of antisemitic books, posters, pamphlets, magazines, and other items that track the Nazis’ rise to power, which had been previously on loan to McMaster University, Rymberg found an eerily similarity to the antisemitic tropes widely circulating today on social media.

The educational potential for a display of this archival material was enormous, and, with renovation plans for JHamilton in their early stages, he knew just who to approach.

At the funeral of her grandmother in 2009, Danna Horwood’s 11-year-old daughter asked her mother why she didn’t know anything about her grandparents’ Holocaust stories. That was the impetus behind Horwood creating Margaret’s Legacy, as a way to memorialize the Second World War experiences of her grandparents, Arthur and Margaret Weisz.

Since then, the non-profit has developed an innovative, multidisciplinary approach to teaching middle school students about the Holocaust. Horwood spent three-and-a-half years doing presentations in schools around the area about her grandparents’ lives, but the pandemic got Horwood thinking about a permanent space, where teachers and students



PHOTO BY WENDY SCHNEIDER, HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

could visit to learn the lessons of Holocaust. Horwood told the HJN that she and Rymberg had many discussions over the years “about something that people could come to and where could that be.” So, when Rymberg approached Horwood and her father, Tom Weisz about providing seed funding for a Holocaust learning centre, the answer was an enthusiastic ‘yes.’

In June, Rymberg received the additional good news of a \$250,000 grant from the Claims Conference, an international organization that supports projects which promote Holocaust education, documentation and research.

With seed funding in place, the next steps fell into place quickly. An architect was hired to design the centre, which will include both core and rotating exhibits, and a multi-purpose auditorium that can seat up to 300 people. The renovations, scheduled to begin this fall, will also include a community kosher kitchen.

Working with Margaret’s Legacy, Federation put together a committee of educators who will be responsible for curriculum development and hired a curator/researcher tasked with integrating the Harriet Smiley material with Arthur and Margaret Weisz’s wartime experiences.

Curator Cory Osmond, 28, who holds a master’s in political science from the University of Toronto, has

spent several summers studying the Holocaust in Poland, Berlin and Vienna. In designing the core exhibit, Osmond will work in consultation with the Yad Vashem International School of Holocaust Education, which will also assist with curating temporary exhibits on the wartime experiences of other local Holocaust survivors.

What most excites Rymberg about the project is the opportunity to work with Yad Vashem on the exhibit, curriculum development and professional training for teachers interested in deepening their understanding of the Holocaust. He has no doubt that the centre will become a hub for smaller communities throughout the region that lack the resources that the centre can offer.

Those resources will include survivor testimonials and Second World War artifacts, which Rymberg sees as critically important for future generations who will never have the opportunity to hear directly from a survivor. “We expect everyone visiting our centre will gain a better understanding of the dangers of hate and prejudice, and have a comprehensive educational and emotional experience,” said Rymberg.

Rymberg used the occasion of Federation’s Annual General Meeting on May 30 to officially unveil plans for the new centre and publicly thank Danna Horwood and Margaret’s



PHOTO BY WENDY SCHNEIDER, HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

Legacy for their shared commitment to Holocaust education, remembrance, and combatting antisemitism. Those in attendance responded with enthusiastic applause.

An emerging line of research in Holocaust education involves exploring how historical and cultural traumas affect survivors’ children for generations to come. Holocaust researchers called this phenomenon “intergenerational trauma,” an area of particular interest to Horwood.

“I see the centre as an opportunity for people from different backgrounds to relate to the Holocaust’s impact on future generations,” said Horwood, going on to describe how students during her presentations were most engaged when she spoke about the effects of her grandmother’s trauma on other members of the family. “So many kids are suffering from anxiety and depression,” she said. “I want to bring in experts who can talk about this.”

As for the memorial sculpture, Rymberg has learned that it was commissioned by a group of Hamilton Holocaust survivors in the 1960s as a memorial. The artist, George Wallace (1920-2009) was an Irish-Canadian artist who specialized in printmaking and sculpture and taught at McMaster University. “It was always my dream to have a special place for that statue,” Rymberg told the HJN. A dream that is finally coming true.

**Above left:** Researcher Cory Osmond displays Nazi propaganda posters from the Harriet Smiley Memorial Holocaust Collection.

**Above right:** Margaret’s Legacy founder Danna Horwood takes a moment to pose with Federation CEO Gustavo Rymberg at Federation’s AGM in May.

Wishing the community  
a safe and wonderful summer



 **COUNSEL LAW**  
— Ira Greenspoon • Lawyer —

#1 – 1603 Main Street West  
Hamilton, ON L8S 1E6  
Tel: 905-902-9018  
Fax: 1-877-397-8447  
ira@counsellaw.ca

Wishing our  
Jewish clients  
a safe and wonderful  
summer

**Sokie & Co Hair Boutique**  
1036 King St. W. Hamilton  
905.525.0831  
info@sokieandco.ca  
sokieandco.ca





## One Bedroom Apartments Available Now!

Come and move closer to care,  
while still living life on your terms!

### Onsite Amenities Include:

- ✓ Full Kitchen
- ✓ Kosher Café
- ✓ Frequent Outings
- ✓ Accessible Gardens
- ✓ Free Fitness Club Access

Shalom Village Apartments are ideal for seniors looking to live independently, while also enjoying the benefits of health care services specifically tailored to seniors—in an environment that celebrates and honours Jewish traditions.

For more information or to book a tour,  
call Maddi Steller-Cain at 905-529-1613 x391  
or email [Apartments@ShalomVillage.ca](mailto:Apartments@ShalomVillage.ca).



"I have a wonderful view from my lovely apartment. It is very entertaining, lots of windows and so much activity going on every day. I appreciate Shalom Village and all the wonderful people who make it feel like home."

– Wilma W.



"I have lived in the apartments for more than 10 years. I wouldn't live anywhere else. I love it here!"

– Shirly L.

## IF THESE WALLS Could Talk SPRING APPEAL



## Let's Give Them Something to Talk About

YOUR STORY.  
OUR STORY.  
THE SHALOM VILLAGE STORY.

Join us and become one of our wonderful storytellers.  
Donate today and have your name in the project.

For more information please visit [www.ShalomVillage.ca](http://www.ShalomVillage.ca),  
call Kathleen Thomas at 905-529-1613 x264  
or email Laurie Pringle at [Foundation@ShalomVillage.ca](mailto:Foundation@ShalomVillage.ca).





# Loewith family realizes dream of on-site dairy

Summit Station brings back home delivery of farm-fresh products and seeks to become a major agritourism destination in the area

BY **WENDY SCHNEIDER**  
HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

BEN LOEWITH LIKES TO dream big, just like his grandfather Joe. Joe’s dream of freedom propelled him to flee Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia 75 years ago, claim previous farming experience to Canadian immigration authorities and purchase a parcel of land and 16 cows. Joe’s sons, Carl and Dave transformed that parcel of land into one of Canada’s most respected and best-managed dairy farms.

Now it’s Carl’s son, Ben who is proving himself a worthy heir to the family legacy by fulfilling the dream of processing and bottling their own milk with the much-anticipated opening of Summit Station Dairy and Creamery.

The Loewiths began thinking about expanding their offerings not long after the 2018 NAFTA talks, which concluded with Canada being forced to eliminate a milk pricing system that shielded Canadian dairy farmers from foreign competition. But the pandemic’s arrival in 2020, which brought about increased demand for local food and farm tours, helped them see tremendous potential for growth in diversification.

It was around this time that Ben’s wife, Jennifer Howe got involved. At the outset of their marriage 23 years earlier, she let her husband know she was not interested in milking cows or waking at 4 a.m. But Howe could not help but be caught up in her husband’s dream.

“Carl had just retired; Dave was on the verge of retiring and Ben had these grand plans,” she said. “One, you’re going to need help; two, you’re going to talk to me about it constantly, so I might as well be involved.”

It’s been a steep learning curve for Howe, who initially saw herself working on marketing and branding. But it wasn’t long before she was designing HVAC systems.

“A project of this scale requires different skills than Carl, Dave or I have,” said Ben. “There’s a tremendous amount of organization that has to be done and that’s where Jen really came in. Quite honestly, it wouldn’t have been possible without her being part of the management team.”

The Loewith farm has a long tradition of interacting with the public at its popular open houses and farm tours, but Summit Station, marketed as “Hamilton’s only family-run, on-farm dairy” promises to make the farm into a major agritourism destination. That’s why they designed their new 10,000-square-foot facility to include an airy retail space with

enormous viewing windows through which people can view the pasteurizing and bottling process, and a large room for tour groups to gather.

Designed to resemble the original Summit Station, a stop on the corner of Powerline Road and Highway 52 on the old TH&B Railway line, the facility is scheduled to open in October, although home delivery of farm fresh milk, cheese curds and yogurt begins this month.

Environmental sustainability being a long-held Loewith family core value, Summit Station milk will be delivered in returnable glass bottles (they’re aiming for a minimum of 20 uses) strictly to destinations within a half-hour radius from the farm. Plans are also in the works for a solar energy panel that will supply three quarters of the energy for the entire farm.

Carl and Dave Loewith let Ben and Howe do most of the talking during the HJN’s visit to the Loewith farm last April, but the expression on the brothers’ faces left no doubt about how they’re feeling about handing over the reins to the next generation.

“If it wasn’t for the energy of these two,” said a beaming Dave Loewith, “it wouldn’t have happened.” But over and above their palpable excitement at seeing their company dream become reality, Dave and Carl are filled with a sense of wonder and gratitude.

“It’s been such a wonderful experience, first of all to learn a bunch of new things. Second of all, at 70 years of age, meeting a whole cadre of new people,” said Dave. “Certainly, there have been a lot of hurdles to get over but all the people doing their own processing have been incredibly open in telling us mistakes that they’ve made.”

And that, said Carl, has been the nature of the dairy business for the last 100 years. “You go to a farm and they’ll tell you what works and doesn’t work.”

It’s equally clear that Carl can’t wait for October, when he and his brother will be responsible for conducting weekly farm tours, a welcome opportunity for dispelling misconceptions some people have about animal agriculture and dairy farming. “It’s going to be a great educational tool for the average consumer to come out here and actually see what goes on behind that bottle of milk, how we treat our animals,” he said.

Nothing makes Ben and Howe happier than hearing Carl and Dave wax enthusiastic about the project to which the four have devoted so much time and energy over the last three years.

“Everybody knows Carl and Dave. Here Carl is 76 years old and Dave is 71 ... It’s been such a joy in retirement to have this new thing to be excited about,” said Howe. “So, even though they’re not getting up at 4 a.m. to milk the cows, they’re going to be in there helping with cheese curds or greeting people in the store. This is the next chapter for them.”



PHOTO BY WENDY SCHNEIDER, HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS



PHOTO BY WENDY SCHNEIDER, HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS



PHOTO BY JENNIFER HOWE

**Above,** l to r, Dave Loewith, Ben Loewith, Jennifer Howe and Carl Loewith pose in front of Summit Station, scheduled to open in October.

**Left:** Jennifer Howe and Ben Loewith on either side of the viewing windows at the still-under-construction Summit Station.

**Left:** Ben Loewith takes a break from his farm chores to cuddle up with an affectionate bovine.

LISTEN TO  
**THE SHPIEL ON THE LOEWITH FAMILY FARM ON THE SHPIEL ON HAMILTON PODCAST SERIES**



# Together, we went forward

& surpassed our campaign goal of \$1.8M



Now, let's keep going and create more #momentslikethis

# Carnival Kickoff

Join us to celebrate the 2024 Annual Community Campaign  
& welcome newcomers to Hamilton's Jewish community



Sunday, September 10 | 12.00 - 3.00pm

FREE EVENT | EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Loewith Farm | Rain or Shine | Register today at [bit.ly/carnival-kickoff](https://bit.ly/carnival-kickoff)



# 2023 Shem Tov & Leadership Awards



**CECE SCHREIBER VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARD**  
BONNIE AND DAVID LOEWITH



**HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION PRESIDENT’S AWARD**  
BBYO HAMILTON CHAPTER



**ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION | LEN KOFMAN**



**BETH JACOB RELIGIOUS SCHOOL | FAY SCHMERLING**



**HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY | RABBI BEN SHEFTER**



**HAMILTON JFS | KAREN AND JORDAN BAILEY**



**HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION | HELEN METZ**



**JEWISH NATIONAL FUND | LOUISE COWITZ**



**KEHILA HESCHEL SCHOOL | SIMON MENDELSON**



**Hamilton**  
Jewish Federation

#momentslikethis



**NA'AMAT HAMILTON | ADRIAN JASPAN & ANITA BERNSTEIN**



**SHALOM VILLAGE | JEAN GULAK**

The community came together to recognize and honour individuals who embody the essence of a “shem tov”—a good name or reputation. “Shem tov” is more than just a title; it represents a person’s character, their values, and their unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on our Hamilton Jewish community.



**TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM | GILLIAN BURMAN**



# Finding my way

Volunteering is fulfilling my dream to make a difference



Helaine Ortmann

IT’S EARLY Tuesday afternoon, and I return home, wickedly exhausted from my four-hour volunteer shift. It’s all I can do to sip at a bowl of homemade carrot-leek soup, while I roll a frozen bottle of water under my heels to soothe the plantar fasciitis that has flared since I took on this new assignment. But it’s more than worth it.

My husband jokes that you can turn me around on our front porch and I’ll get lost trying to find my way back. Such is my sense of direction. How ironic that I’ve recently graduated the process to become a people-guiding volunteer at Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre.

I’m part of the uniformed GPS team that waits inside the front doors to greet patients, family members, friends and assorted other visitors. We don’t point; our mission is to escort people to inpatient (ward) units, outpatient areas like diagnostic imaging for X-rays, ultrasounds and bone density scans, the Fracture Clinic, their surgeon or oncologist for follow-up, or the specialized clinics in the cancer centre.

Like friendly sentries, we’re stationed behind towers of medical masks and hand hygiene dispensers. We wear lime-green lapel buttons on our navy-blue vests that say ASK ME. If they don’t, we do: “May we help you? Do you need directions from us today?”

Some know their way, saying “Thanks. We’ve been coming here for a while now.” For those of us volunteers with the lived experience of a loved one who has been ill, we trust our nod and smile will signal understanding, establish an unspoken bond, and convey our heartfelt wish that all will be well.

Others welcome the help. That is when we GPS volunteers engage; gently probing to get the information to guide them to their location. We match our walking pace to theirs, or find and manoeuvre a wheelchair if needed.

As per our training, we are diligent about making sure the brakes are on

when people get in or out of it, explaining that their safety is paramount on our “watch.”

We accompany them through the maze of halls that seems endless and labyrinthine, past porters pushing patients on stretcher beds, alongside staff on their way to meetings or their next patient, in and out of slow-moving elevators, to finally arrive at their loved one’s room or the clinic registration area where they need to check in for their test or procedure.

What we do is simple, yet important. Way more than way finding, we become companions for a shared moment. At times, we chat; weather, parking, and our facility’s escarpment view are always innocuous topics. On occasion, so involved in the thrall of connecting, I almost forget our destination, only to recover with great relief in the nick of time. This avoids me having to ask them again and perhaps

“We accompany them through the maze of halls that seem endless and labyrinthine, past porters pushing patients on stretcher beds ... to finally arrive at their loved one’s room.”

cast doubt on just how competent a GPS volunteer I am!

At other times, we stay quiet. Equal parts respectful and concerned as they anticipate a diagnosis to explain their worrisome symptoms; joyous when they pick up a loved one after a hospital stay or surgery; serious as they visit their family member in intensive care; optimistic as they attend yet another round of chemo or radiation during their course of treatment. Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre is the workplace I retired from, based

on site for most of the years I worked in the Foundation, “raising friends.” I knew from watching GPS volunteers in action—the first impression of a friendly face, a warm smile and a welcome greeting—that this was the next “job” I aspired to. Where better to apply the interpersonal and communication skills and talents I had honed over my career? Where better to realize my dream: to make a difference, keep my head in the game, and get in 10,000 steps a shift?

“Thank you for being here. Thank you for doing what you do,” says someone each and every week. How humbling and abundant: the experience of this mitzvah.

Helaine also volunteers at the Dundas Valley School of Art and the Hamilton Jewish Federation.

# Bringing maps to life

My childhood fascination with maps may have secured my fate



Ben Shragge

BEFORE THERE WAS Google Maps, there were maps. No, not the Maps app on the iPhone, but physical maps of places.

As a kid, I was fascinated by maps. I collected my dad’s road maps, when they were still a thing, and pored over my children’s atlas until the pages fell out. By Grade 4, I could name most of the world’s capitals, with my favourite being Brasilia, Brazil’s planned city in the tropics. Through sheer overuse, both the spine and cover came off of my atlas, but never has a book been so lovingly destroyed. A globe, too, took pride of place on my nightstand, transfixing me with utopian-sounding place names like Greenland.

But as the saying goes, “the map is not the territory.” Greenland isn’t green, and looking at representations of places is no substitute for hitting the road. My curiosity about the world was tempered by too much attachment to the comforts of home. I went to university nearby, in southern Ontario, and neglected opportunities to study or roam abroad. I kept the old globe in my bedroom while living, studying, and working in the horseshoe-shaped coast of the westernmost tip of the smallest great lake.

Toronto has been nicknamed the “Centre of the Universe” for how its residents see themselves in relation to the rest of Canada. Though I grew up in Hamilton, its doomed rival, I absorbed the same sentiment. Other Canadian big cities were too distant, while the United States border, though only an hour away, sealed off that land of opportunity. I tried to make a go of it in Hamilton, but the professional and romantic options were limited. It was less that I imagined myself moving to Toronto, and more that I couldn’t imagine moving anywhere else.

Travel widens your perspective. Your idea of the “Centre of the Universe” shifts when a Spaniard wonders where you’re from, then follows up by asking if Ontario is the French-speaking part of Canada. You start to picture yourself living in other places, because you’ve actually experienced what life is like in other places. As my travel evolved over my twenties—from traveling with a parent, to traveling on a group trip, to traveling with a friend,

to traveling alone—so did my outlook on myself and on where I was capable of going in life. After my dad died, in particular, I felt the urgent need to become more independent, which travel embodied and fulfilled.

If I could travel alone, I could also move somewhere alone, without a network of friends or family. I’d been to Boston on business while working for a Canadian company. By researching work visas and speaking with open-minded employers, I discovered that borders were not so insurmountable after all. So, when I was looking for a new job, I widened my filters to include not just the Greater Toronto Area, but all of Canada and Boston, too.

I soon discovered that, in my industry, there were more job postings in Boston than in all of Canada. Although I almost moved to British Columbia, Boston’s density of opportunities convinced me to accept a job offer in the United States. Worst case scenario, it would be an adventure and a chance to gain more life and work experience. After all, if I ended up moving back, employers in the “Centre of the Universe” would be more impressed by a stint in a big American city than they were by my Hamilton address.

But beyond the reasons I accepted a job offer in the United States, there was the widened perspective that allowed me to seek out such opportunities in the first place. I had felt the isolation and anxiety of being alone in a new country before, and had overcome those emotions to experience openness and wonder instead. I could no longer be overly attached to the comforts of home because that home was no longer there. Mortality struck, the house I grew up in was sold, and family and friends evolved in their separate ways.

Now I have a new home of my own in the greater Boston area, somewhere I barely thought of visiting, and never imagined living, when I was younger. How I ended up here, of all places, has a lot to do with chance and opportunity. But it’s also intimately connected with my childhood love of maps (including the globe that still sits on my nightstand) and my belated drive to experience the places they represent. In 2019, I finally made it to Brazil, and someday I hope to visit Greenland, too.

Ben Shragge is the HJN’s digital editor. He lives in Boston with his wife and daughter.

## Darren Enkin and Katia Reisler, Your Canada to Florida Luxury Real Estate Connection Miami | Miami Beach | Bal Harbour | Fort Lauderdale | Boca Raton | Palm Beach

Darren Enkin is now partnering with Katia Reisler. Katia is a member of the Sports & Entertainment division with years of experience in the luxury residential and new development real estate market. Katia offers a unique perspective to the Florida home buying process through elevated services and exclusive connections.



Darren Enkin  
Sales Associate  
Douglas Elliman Real Estate  
M 305.978.8188  
darren.enkin@elliman.com



Katia Reisler  
Sales Associate  
Senior Director of Luxury Sales  
M 561.801.8250  
katia.reisler@elliman.com



© 2022 DOUGLAS ELLIMAN REAL ESTATE. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY 444 EAST PALMETTO PARK ROAD, BOCA RATON, FL 33432. 561.245.2635.



# Staying young at heart

It’s hard to beat my mother’s example of aging with grace



Phyllis Shragge

TENNIS. SWIMMING. Tap dancing. Line dancing. Aerobics classes. Walking and walking and walking. My energizer-bunny mother was a proponent of exercise long before the benefits seemed to become a universal truth.

My mother lived a relatively healthy life until she died 15 years ago just a few months before her 100th birthday. She was adamant that physical activity was a major factor to her well-being and she tried to convince everyone close to her to get on her exercise bandwagon. I was reluctant, preferring to be somewhat of a sloth in my younger years.

My mother was the force behind my parents’ daily walks. They wouldn’t miss a day trekking through the streets of Winnipeg, even during the blusteriest of blustery winters. When my parents asked me to join them on their daily excursions, I declined, vigorously. I’m now a walker, trying to make up for lost time before my knee and hip joints rust.

A couple of bouts of breast cancer (in her 50s and later in her 70s) slowed my mother down, but just briefly. She lived well and she had a positive outlook as she aged. Did exercise contribute to her well-being? Absolutely.

Although exercise kept her vibrant both physically and mentally, it was just part of the reason she stayed young at heart. I credit another factor, an offshoot of her tennis playing that had nothing to do with endurance, flexibility, or agility. It was a surprising friendship with young women.

As she advanced into her mid-80s, my mother was unique among her contemporaries, physically active when most of her friends were sedentary.

Refusing to give up tennis, she decided to play with women who were much younger than her, some even younger than her children.

She became friends with these women beyond the tennis court. They invited her for lunch and coffee, including her in their get-togethers despite the difference in their ages.

As my mother became elderly, she needed a walker and could no longer play tennis. She expected her tennis friends to forget her, but they didn’t. They continued to welcome her into their social circle.

When she was in her 90s, she moved from her apartment into long-term care. She was thrilled when her younger friends still reached out to her.

Apparently, these women saw past my mother’s age. They recognized her for who she was: a woman with intellectual curiosity; a woman who cared about others; a woman who also happened to be good company.

Being with these friends seemed to transform my mother into her younger self: the tennis-playing, walking-through-blizzards, the no-one-can-hold-her-back self.

When she was with these younger women, she didn’t see herself as a frail old lady. Her physical state was just a glitch; it didn’t define her.

My mother was complicated. She challenged herself by staying on top of current events, but she also valued looking good. Even as she became elderly, she wouldn’t dream of going out without lipstick. And throughout her life, she loved fashion, especially vibrant colours. In many respects, she brightened up the room she was in.

With her 100th birthday just months ahead, she wanted a party to celebrate. She went into planning mode, compiling the guest list, picking the venue, and determining the format. Her children had little to say about the arrangements. That’s the way it had always been, and that’s the way she wanted it. Unfortunately, she didn’t make it to her milestone birthday.

Her vibrancy and optimism endured through the years. Her younger friends deserve part of the credit.

So now with my old age looming ahead, I’m looking for young women who might consider being my friends.

The only prerequisite: they must be a good 20 to 30 years younger than me. I’ll be checking my email for applications.

Phyllis Shragge is a local writer, mother of five, and grandmother of five.

# Antisemitism internalized

It’s time we work on healing the collective scars of the past



Miriam Sager

I’VE BEEN reflecting on Gustavo Rymberg’s thought-provoking essay in the April issue of the HJN about the need to rethink antisemitism. While I, too, prefer the term anti-Jewish oppression, I feel that the term antisemitism is still useful because it is broadly recognizable.

As captured in the Haggadah, even in times of quiet and safety, we know that anti-Jewish hatred has gone dormant, and that “in every generation” more or less “they” will rise up against us. When antisemitism manifests only in relatively minor, though still hurtful, ways, we know it will rear up its head at some point, but for gentiles, it’s harder to remember that Jews have never been guaranteed a secure existence. This is a point Deborah Lipstadt discusses in her book, *Antisemitism Here and Now*, when she describes how many people equate antisemitism solely with the Holocaust, and since the Holocaust is in the past, (or, for some, it never even happened), they believe Jews have nothing to complain about.

One aspect of antisemitism is the seeding of the population with stereotypes and conspiracy theories. This is the basic mechanism that has prepared the ground for blaming and attacking Jews when those who wish to maintain or seize power, be they Polish landowners, despotic governments or political parties, are in need of a distraction or a scapegoat.

Today, antisemitic conspiracy theories have become rampant in popular culture and social media, leaving even our would-be allies vulnerable to buying in to negative portrayals of Jews and the demonization of Israel.

The general population is thus primed to join in small or big attacks, coming from both the left and the right. It can even come in the form of placing Jews on a pedestal, or of loving Israel for religious, financial, political or military ends. Often, antisemitism is weaponized in feuds and struggles that are not about us at all. We need to understand this

underlying dynamic and be able to explain it to our potential allies. Antisemitism must be opposed not only because it is bad for the Jews, but because it’s a violation of human rights. It is in everybody’s interest to oppose and eliminate it because it is a powerfully manipulative tool.

Even when antisemitism goes underground, its intergenerational effects can still harm us. We can seem, even to ourselves, a little crazy, mistrustful, obnoxious, pushy or self-pitying. These are expressions of “internalized antisemitism,” ways that our mistreatment has impacted our minds and feelings. For 2,000 years we have been blamed—for the killing of Jesus, epidemics, the rise of people of colour against white supremacy, etc.

It’s no wonder we can be vulnerable to becoming defensive, extra cautious and apologetic, or blaming each other. After millennia of persecution and attempted genocide, and always living with a sense of impending doom, it’s no wonder we can fall victim to fear and feel an urgent need to anticipate danger. Even the strong push for upward mobility is, at least in part, a search for safety.

We can live full lives and be very loving and funny despite it all, but the oppression messes with our sense of self, belonging, and safety in the world. Our relationships with both gentiles and Jews are undermined. Arguably, the worst impact is how we have been separated from, even pitted against, one another.

My extended family is filled with people who would not talk to each other until their death. I believe this is not unique to us. Just as antisemites divide us into good Jews and bad Jews (depending on who serves their purposes), we ourselves can be guilty of shunning those whose views differ from our own, whether it be in the realm of religious observance or politics, particularly as it concerns Israel.

It seems pretty clear that healing these divides within our own people is one of our challenges, and I wonder if this needs to happen before we can successfully eliminate antisemitism in the broader society.

Miriam Sager is working towards building a united front that can take on the issues of our time.

## In just a few weeks your dog becomes a *well-behaved* family member!

- Online Classes or In Person Classes
- We have online students in 29 countries around the world – including Israel!
- Put an end to Barking, Nipping, Chewing, Jumping Up, Pulling on the Leash
- More Than **500 Free Educational Videos** on our YouTube channel



### McCannDogs.com

We’ve helped more than 100,000 dogs become well-behaved family members. And we can help yours too...online or in person. Contact us today!



## Proud to support the wonderful work of the Hamilton Jewish News

### JOSH SALMON



# Hamilton’s BBYO chapter is my second family

Liav Yakov on how joining the teen-led organization helped shape him into the person he is today



BY **LIAV YAKOV**  
SPECIAL TO THE  
HAMILTON JEWISH  
NEWS

I AM a member of Mishpacha BBYO, the only BBYO chapter in Hamilton, the next closest one being about an hour drive from here.

BBYO, which stands for B’nai Brith Youth Organization, is a non-profit, teen-led Jewish organization for Jewish youth. BBYO is spread across the whole world, and they have at least five chapters on every continent. Each chapter, region, and even the whole organization is led by teens

From my experience of BBYO, which has been almost a full year now, I can truly say that it is a unique organization. I was a part of Mishpacha BBYO’s chapter board, and I oversaw bringing people to events and helping them register to become BBYO members.

I can testify to how much fun it was to start a chapter with just an average of four members at every meeting in the beginning. The pride I got from watching my chapter build up with my friends could be compared to the feeling of getting a high mark on a project you worked on. It was stressful, but the result is splendid.

At the beginning of the year, there was an event for BBYO where we got to go meet people and eat ice cream. Naturally I called my friends and we went together, and it was a fun event.

BBYO continued to have more events that were very appealing to me and my friends, but I wasn’t able to go to all of them. Eventually, I was able to consistently attend events, and it was a bit awkward at first.

As I came to more events I got more comfortable, and BBYO started to feel more like a family for me.

“It’s a place where I can hang out with other Jewish teens and have fun, eat food, and there are no restraints so you can be Jewish in your own way,” said Itamar Lawton, one of our members. Another member, Leerum Chaimovitz, says, “I just go there to chill and have fun.”

At the end of December, we held elections for our chapter, and I ran for a position. I got the position I wanted and with that, the beginning of my BBYO life really started.

Throughout the year I worked with my fellow chapter members and we created tons of events, went to conventions, and eventually went axe throwing!

Over the course of my year of BBYO I have made tons of new friends and gained experience in volunteering and such.

Maggie Norris, the JCC program coordinator, gave me her take on the impact of BBYO.

“It’s a great way for Jewish teens to get together and to learn from one another, and it will help them develop the leadership skills they need for high school and for their whole life.”

I also interviewed the man who



PHOTO BY WENDY SCHNEIDER, HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

started it all, Jack Rosenbaum. Jack is our advisor, meaning he is the adult who makes all this possible and keeps us in check. When I asked Jack how BBYO Hamilton got started, Jack replied, “We started by making connections with Jewish teens and ensuring they felt welcome at our events. It was important to me for BBYO to become a safe space for all teens, so that they would feel comfortable getting out of their comfort zone.”

Gustavo Rymberg, the CEO of the Hamilton Jewish Federation, is excited for the future of BBYO. “It will

take time to build up, but I know that you will leave a great impact on the Jewish community, and especially in leading the younger generation towards a better future.”

In conclusion, Mishpacha BBYO has given me, its members, and the Jewish community a new type of Jewish programming, and in turn taught us how to become better leaders. I love my chapter with all my heart, and I hope to see how it will grow and embed itself in the Jewish community in Hamilton.

**Above:** BBYO members pose with outgoing president Howard Eisenberg and adviser Jack Rosenbaum (front row, left) at Federation’s Shem Tov awards ceremony, where they were honoured with the President’s Award.



244 James St. N.  
Hamilton, On L8R 2R3  
(289) 396-0662

Take Out, Delivery, and  
Catering available!

All our products are  
made in-house and  
all our chicken is locally  
sourced and free run.

Our chicken is cooked  
fresh over a flaming bed  
of hardwood charcoal to  
deliver that **delicious**  
“Charred” flavour in  
every bite.

Join our mailing  
list for your chance  
to receive a FREE  
meal every month!

SCAN ME



Follow us:  
@charredrotisserie



# Sun Spectacular!



Enjoy  
\$100 off  
prescription  
sunglasses

## WESTDALE OPTICAL

boutique

www.westdaleoptical.com  
1050 King St. W. Hamilton | 905.525.0788



SHALOM VILLAGE APARTMENTS

The feeling of home



Pat Morden

A SMALL GROUP of wise people listening to their parents and friends in the late 1970s turned what they heard into the reality that is Shalom Village. Inspired by their loved ones’ desire to live life on their own terms, these community leaders worked towards building a trusted, welcoming home. Long before the notions of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion they were guided by a mission and values to create a Jewish home that welcomed people of all faiths and backgrounds.

That wisdom lives on today at Shalom Village, where we strive to help our residents, staff and visitors feel at home. Despite the challenges of regulatory changes resulting from COVID-19, we have evolved, through focused leadership and commitment, into an organization which lives this vision today.

As world views change and our interconnections increase, our ability to be a home for people from all cultural backgrounds has become increasingly complex. But Shalom Village, with our long history of welcoming, is uniquely placed to find ways for people to live life on their own terms.

Our assisted living apartments continue to provide seniors who don’t require nursing care with privacy, independence and all the comforts of home, while also providing access to a host of care, services and amenities. Surrounded by natural beauty and close access to city life, our village has a vibrant internal landscape as well, including a café, art studio, music studio, health club, all of which contribute to building relationships. A recent initiative with Westdale’s Branch Design, is giving people moving to Shalom a chance to add a personal touch to their new home.

Our apartments’ wonderful staff continue to provide the assurance of a home that is flexible and responsive to our tenants’ changing needs over time,

building confidence and connection with their unique warm caring, knowledge, and skill. We are home to many wonderful people enjoying our unique offering of independence with the choice of ready access to support and social interactions.

We are thrilled to announce that, thanks to the help of the Hamilton Jewish Federation, we will be adding a Shalom Village *balabusta* to our team, who will be responsible for building relationships with our teams, residents, and families, so that all can find ways to flourish. Our *balabusta*, a Yiddish word meaning homemaker, will have a unique role in creating that sense of home for all who live and work here. We will be spending the next months looking for just the right person.

At Shalom, we know that “home” is both a place and a feeling. We are working to help our residents feel at home in their bodies and spirits, which often requires more courage and new tricks. Deteriorating health can limit our capacity to find the right words and be independent in our daily activities. These complexities are why Shalom Village is here. We can help you find your way around these life changes with meaning and connection.

To commemorate June Seniors Month, our Club Fitness Centre offered free fitness assessments to encourage more seniors to experience the amazing side benefit of increased physical fitness.

Shalom’s streetscape is a friendly space to wander when days are long and you seek a bit of social connection, sit down with a jigsaw puzzle, answer emails in our café, shop in our Corner Store, join a discussion group with our rabbi, sign up for an art class, register for an activity, view an apartment, or have a meal. you are welcome to explore our home. You can do all of these things by registering on our website or giving us a call.

Shalom Village is a village within a community within a city. A dream from long ago, still vibrant and caring today.



WELCOMING THE FUTURE AND HONOURING THE PAST

An announcement from the Shalom Village board of directors

THE SHALOM Village Board of Directors is pleased to announce that after an extensive search, Marianne Klein will be joining the Shalom Village Family, as our new CEO, beginning July 17.

Marianne spent her career in the senior’s sector and is passionate about advocating for seniors and exemplary care. She brings 17 years of progressive leadership experience in healthcare and long-term care. With her proven track record in leading strategy, performance improvement and quality, we are confident that Marianne’s leadership will allow us to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future, while remaining focused on resident and family-centred care. The full announcement can be found at shalomvillage.ca.

As we prepare to welcome Marianne into the Shalom Village Family, we must also acknowledge and thank our interim CEO, the incomparable Pat Morden, for her numerous contributions to Shalom Village that span across four decades. She has shared and embraced our values, and traditions, and served our residents, family members and



Marianne Klein

staff with dedication and commitment.

You really can’t talk about the Shalom Village history, without talking about Pat Morden. To acknowledge and thank Pat, we are customizing and dedicating a section of the “If These Walls Could Talk” mural to Pat. This will include a custom scene of Pat, with her dog Franklin, and her famous camper “Wildthing 2.”

To allow everyone to participate, the Foundation will accept donations to the “Pat’s Place” section of the mural.

Upon completion of “Pat’s Place,” we will host an unveiling and reception where we will present Pat with the plaque and messages of thanks. This will give our stakeholders an opportunity to personally thank Pat and meet Marianne.

More information will be sent via email and in our Newsletter, so please watch your inbox and mailbox for details.

We also want to thank you, our community for your continued support over the years. We know you will make Marianne welcome as she transitions into her new role.



VINE and PARTNERS LLP  
Chartered Professional Accountants

- Audit and Review Engagements
- Not-for-Profit and Charity Engagements
- Corporate Tax and Reorganizations

A Partner to Grow With

Brock Whitwell, Partner, CPA, CA, B.Comm  
(905) 549-8463 Ext. 243 • brockw@vine.ca

vine.ca



Providing accounting, audit, tax, business valuations, insolvency and business advisory services for 75 years.

TAYLOR LEIBOW LLP  
ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS

Effort Square, 105 Main Street East, 7th Floor, Hamilton, ON L8N 1G6 • 905-523-0000  
Taylor Leibow Building, 3410 South Service Road, Ste. 103, Burlington, ON L7N 3T2 • 905-637-9959

taylorleibow.com







BE:LONGINGS ART INSTALLATION, CHURCHILL PARK

# Honouring a hero for our times

BY **WENDY SCHNEIDER**  
HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

A FRIDAY MORNING in late June saw dozens of community members gather at Churchill Park for the community celebration of Be:longings, an art installation created by local artists, Gary Barwin, Simon Frank and Tor Lukasik-Foss that honours the memory of Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat in Nazi-occupied Hungary who led an extensive and successful mission that saved the lives of nearly 100,000 Hungarian Jews.

Comprised of 10 bronze-cast suitcases along a path adjacent to the Hamilton aviary, Be:longing, in the words of its creators, “considers what it means to escape, find refuge, seek safety or new

opportunity, and to pursue freedom from oppression, persecution and privation.”

The ceremony began with artists Gary Barwin and Tor Lukasik-Foss sharing their artistic vision, followed by moving remarks by Dr. Steven Gerend, whose grandmother was saved by Wallenberg, and Ernie Mason, whose entire family was saved by the Swedish diplomat. Mason’s recollection of a harrowing encounter between his younger self and his father with Nazi officers on their way to their Swedish-protected apartment had the audience on the edge of their seats. The memory of that encounter was triggered, Mason explained, by his first glimpse of the Churchill Park suitcases. “Yes,” he said. “Suitcases were very much part of the Holocaust.”



**Above left:** Ernie Mason poses for a photograph next to a commemorative plaque honouring Raoul Wallenberg.

**Above right:** Tor Lukasik-Foss, Gary Barwin were among the large gathering in attendance at the official opening of the Be:longings art installation.

**Left:** A bronze briefcase resting next to a park bench is meant to evoke curiosity about its contents and the fate of its owner.

PHOTOS BY WENDY SCHNEIDER, HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS



*Proud to Support Hamilton's Jewish Community*



**Dan MUYS**  
Member of Parliament for Flamborough-Glanbrook

Dan Muys, M.P. | 905 689 1115 | 905 692 2917  
Dan.Muys@parl.gc.ca



**NEW HORIZON**  
DEVELOPMENT GROUP

**Rental suites  
in Cambridge  
leasing soon**

**nhdg.ca**



MARY LOUISE BEECROFT, 76

# She towered above others in a way that mattered

BY PHYLLIS SHRAGGE

I BELIEVE IT was in the early 1990s when I first saw Mary Louise Beecroft from a distance. I was with my family in our usual seats near the back of the sanctuary at Beth Jacob Synagogue. Mary Louise was sitting way up in front.

Right from the start, I knew Mary Louise must be special. She had to be since she scored a place of honour beside Gloria Silverman at this and almost every Shabbat service. Gloria was not only the rebbetzin, the wife of the synagogue's long-time rabbi, Israel Silverman, she was a scholar and teacher in her own right. Gloria, principal of Beth Jacob Hebrew School, was known for her brilliance and her leadership. Who was this woman Gloria selected as her seatmate?

Several weeks passed before I had a chance to introduce myself to Mary Louise, who was attractive, statuesque, and elegantly dressed in a conservative, well-put-together way. She seemed confident, yet approachable. When we began chatting, our conversation was easy. Within minutes of talking to her, I was won over by her obvious warmth and good nature.

When Mary Louise divulged the fact that she wasn't Jewish, I was puzzled. She attended Beth Jacob regularly; she seemed knowledgeable about the intricacies of the services, and she seemed devoted to Judaism.

As we became friends, I realized that Mary Louise, who didn't convert to Judaism but who held Judaism close to her heart, was committed to the faith. A trip to Israel with her husband Dennis had ignited a spark, and from that point on, she rekindled the flame by studying all she could about Jewish traditions and values. In recent years, Mary Louise joined a Torah study group and became an active participant.

Her thirst for knowledge and culture was broad. She was an avid reader, a classical music devotee, and a theatregoer.

But from my perspective, the best thing about Mary Louise was her kind heart. Many years ago, she befriended a Beth Jacob congregant. This woman had no close family, other than her husband, and when he died, Mary Louise stepped in. She and Dennis took on the responsibility of caring for the woman, even though she was living in St Catharines. As she aged and needed more help, they supported her emotionally and practically. And when she could no longer live alone, they helped her sell her house and



Mary Louise Beecroft

transition to long-term care in Hamilton. They become family.

By all rights, I should have been a bit intimidated by Mary Louise. I was a stay-at-home mom, run ragged with five children, and she was a former teacher, now a nurse, who worked as a clinical research coordinator. But Mary Louise had the innate abil-

ity to make the person she was with feel comfortable. She could talk to anyone about anything. She was vivacious. She drew people to her, and as far as I could tell, everyone liked her. Why wouldn't they? She obviously cared about people. You can't fake that.

As we became close friends, we were able to share our personal joys and angst. She talked with obvious pride about her wonderful sons, Doug and Michael, and later when Michael got married, about her treasured daughter-in-law, Courtney. When her husband Dennis's name came up in conversation, Mary Louise had a twinkle in her eye. I knew Dennis was the love of her life.

Mary Louise and Dennis were devoted to each other during 55 years of marriage. They loved being together at their Brookview Court home in Ancaster. They appreciated dining out at both casual and fine restaurants. They enjoyed going to concerts and the theatre, and traveling to far-off countries.

There were medical ups and downs, but Mary Louise seemed to deal with every health challenge with fortitude. I couldn't detect a whiff of self-pity on her part. She had a let's-get-on-with-it attitude, taking one day at a time.

When I think about Mary Louise, I remember her strength and her goodness. She was a wonderful friend.

And when I remember her as Gloria Silverman's seatmate at Beth Jacob services so long ago, and when I think about how Mary Louise and I were occasional seatmates in recent years, I know my company didn't do her justice. I had little to offer Mary Louise in the way of religious knowledge or insight. Upon reflection though, maybe she was okay with the bit of levity I provided. I don't think she minded a brief interlude from serious praying. She almost let herself laugh out loud when our conversation turned silly, like when discussed our height. How was it that we were taller than most of the other women attending the service?

Mary Louise towered over others in the way that mattered, with exemplary character and a caring soul. I will miss her.



## Authentic Montreal-Style Bagels



Try our delicious Lox, Chopped Liver, Smoked Meat, Tuna and Egg Salad Sandwiches Assorted Platters & Pastries Knishes, Latkes & Cheese Blintzes Matzah Ball, Chicken Noodle and Minestrone Soup Freshly baked Challah

Save Time. Order Online or order through Skip the Dishes or Uber

Old Bagel House

University Plaza, 101 Osler Dr #120, Dundas (905) 627-5299 oldbagelhouse-ontario.com



CIBC PRIVATE WEALTH

## PRESERVING YOUR LEGACY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME



As an individual or family that has accumulated significant wealth, your goals to enhance, preserve and effectively transfer your wealth are paramount. Let our experience in managing, building and protecting clients' legacies be your guide.

### APEL INVESTMENT GROUP

21 King Street West, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Hamilton, Ontario 905 523-9433 | yves.apel@cibc.com | apelinvestmentgroup.com

CIBC Private Wealth consists of services provided by CIBC and certain of its subsidiaries, including CIBC Wood Gundy, a division of CIBC World Markets Inc. The CIBC logo and "CIBC Private Wealth" are trademarks of CIBC, used under license. "Wood Gundy" is a registered trademark of CIBC World Markets Inc.



# PARKWAY MOTORS

H A M I L T O N

FAMILY OWNED. EXCELLENT SERVICE. COMMUNITY ORIENTED.



2023 Toyota Crown

2023 Nissan Rogue











[parkwaymotorshamilton.com](http://parkwaymotorshamilton.com)