

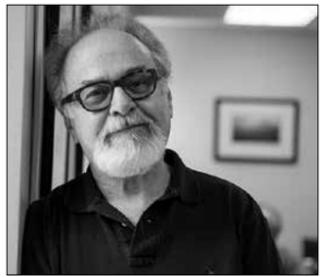


Shem Tov Awards

Two posthumous awards among this year's honourees **P8**

Special Mentschen

David Papernick nominated for "Senior of the year" award **P6**



Hamilton Jewish News

THE VOICE OF JEWISH HAMILTON

JULY 2017 VOL 31:4/ SIVAN/TAMUZ 5777

AGREEMENT #40007180

Federation names new CEO

The board of directors of the Hamilton Jewish Federation is pleased to announce that they have hired Gustavo Rymberg to succeed Barb Babij following her retirement later this year.

"I am excited about this opportunity to serve the Hamilton Jewish community as chief executive officer," said Rymberg. "I am eager to work with local leadership and all community members to build a strong, vibrant and enduring Jewish community in Hamilton, Israel and the Jewish world."

Gustavo Rymberg, with his wife and two children, were the first Argentine family to relocate to Winnipeg. Originally from Buenos Aires, Mr. Rymberg has

a strong background in marketing, community events, program development and fundraising.

Since moving to Canada in 1997, he has served the communities of Winnipeg, Ottawa and Toronto in various professional and volunteer positions for JCCs, Federations, and other Jewish organizations. Most recently, he has worked as director of marketing, special events and revenue development at the Schwartz/Reisman and Prosserman JCCs.

"We feel very lucky to have Gustavo join our community and lead the Hamilton Jewish Federation," said Hamilton Jewish Federation search committee member Jacki Levin.



Gustavo Rymberg



Photo by Wendy Schneider

Shem Tov Awards

A spirit of unity and community pride were on full display at Federation's AGM with the handing out of Shem Tov Community Volunteer Awards. Above, Beth Jacob president Matthew Ogus presents Judi Caplan with an award in honour of her late husband, Marvin Caplan, who died in January. **SEE PAGE 8**

Allocations committee faces tough choices

by JACKI LEVIN, Chair, Hamilton Jewish Federation Allocations Committee

Every year a very committed group of people wrestle with an extraordinarily difficult job: that of allocating a defined pool of money to more than 20 beneficiary agencies and programs across Jewish Hamilton. Our mandate is to ensure that all the needs of the community are equitably balanced against the four pillars of the Federation: Assisting the vulnerable; Strengthening Jewish identity through Jewish education; Supporting Israel; and Supporting the Jewish community through ongoing community development.

Each pillar is crucial to our community's well-being, but when funds are sparse we have to prioritize the needs. We give highest priority to assisting the vulnerable among us and the next priority to Jewish education.

Every year, each beneficiary agency is visited by one of our committee members to discuss challenges and opportunities in the past and coming year. The agency then makes a presentation to the whole committee as to the work of their agency and we review their financial statements as well.

Cont'd on page 4

Community Campaign results

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

Despite disappointing results from this year's Community Campaign, Federation's beneficiary agencies will receive a slight increase in allocations over last year, with Federation reducing its operations budget by \$22,000 in order to accomplish this.

"The Campaign is still ongoing, and we are hopeful that we will attain a level of giving that will allow us to meet these promises to our beneficiary agencies," said outgoing Campaign chair, Yves Apel.

Campaign dollars are allocated according to Federation's four pillars of assisting the vulnerable, strengthening Jewish identity, providing Jewish education and supporting Israel, and impact hundreds of individuals.

"Our donor base has shifted from business people to professionals," said Apel. "The good news is that this year more donors increased their gifts, though decreases outweighed increases by total dollars."

Apel believes the key to a more robust campaign lies greater engagement with the community.

"No successful organization runs based on the professional staff alone. We are going to need a lot more canvassers because that's the best way to reach more people."

On a positive note, outgoing Federation CEO Barb Babij reports that the Campaign cabinet is already working on next year's strategies and events.



The joy of singing

Chai Choir seeks new members

P7

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**FEDERATION
REPORT**

BARB BABIJ, CEO
HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION



Community is
working together

Over the past four plus years, the Hamilton Jewish Federation has accomplished a great deal. Our communications with our donors have expanded, and relationships with many of our beneficiary agencies have improved. We created two extremely successful cross-community projects, the Special Needs Action Project and cross-community education. Through our allocations, we feed the hungry, provide temporary financial assistance to those in need, support those with developmental challenges, strengthen ties to Israel and through Jewish education and PJ Library, instill Jewish values in our children. We fund camperships, publish the HJN and provide Holocaust education. Federation is strengthening its relationships with the Muslim community, working with police services and the City of Hamilton on anti-racism and anti-bullying, and with other social services agencies where we share common purposes. In short, we have become more visible and relevant. While we have achieved much, there is still much to do, and we need to become more strategic.

OUR CURRENT REALITY

Hamilton is growing and the face of Jewish Hamilton is changing. We are beginning to see an increase in young families moving to Hamilton and outlying areas such as Brantford and Stoney Creek, impacting the geographic centre of Jewish Hamilton.

Retirees are moving to Hamilton for economic reasons as well. According to the StatsCan 2011 census, the segment of the population that is growing the most is the 65 and over category. This has implications for the way we do business.

The bricks and mortar of synagogues are becoming less important as hubs of Jewish life as people are finding Jewish meaning in new ways. Young families are cherry-picking events and programs which are of interest to them. We see this in the schools either as a decrease in student enrollment or in an increase in the number of students whose families do not belong to synagogues. The preference among Jewish millennials not to affiliate extends to Federation; we need a value proposition that is compelling and one that touches their hearts and minds.

The Jewish businesses that powered our community in the past no longer power our community today, thereby changing the dynamics of our foundational funding model. The influx of professionals is outpacing new Jewish businesses, reshaping the nature of giving. Our community's needs are growing, but despite the committed efforts of an amazing Campaign cabinet and dedicated volunteer canvassers, the annual campaign has been stable for a very long time, impairing our ability to fund our beneficiaries and weakening the foundation of Jewish Hamilton.

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

We need to become more fiscally sustainable. A more fiscally sustainable Federation requires a multi-faceted approach: compressing the infrastructure which is Jewish Hamilton, allocating differently, and raising more money by diversifying our revenue streams.

Compressing the infrastructure may mean at one end of a continuum, programming together, and across the community. At the other, it may mean merging organizations together where it makes sense, or at the very least, sharing space, as we have done with both Beth Tikvah and the JCC. We can also work together to plan community-wide cultural events.

As stewards of community funds, we are positioned to care for the present and build for the future. We must be transparent and accountable to our donors. We need to allocate differently. This means allocating based on the impact beneficiaries have, revisiting how we define Jewish education and its impact, and partnering with organizations in the wider Hamilton community that are trying to accomplish the same things.

ENGAGEMENT

We have confused programming with engagement. Throughout the community three vibrant synagogues, a vibrant long-term care facility as well as other Jewish institutions plan and present incredible programs. Across the community, one could do something Jewish almost every day of the week, and there would even be some overlap. The fact that we have vibrant programming is the good news. The flip side is that it puts financial pressure on every organization that programs for the community. Engaging Jewish Hamilton is not simply a question of programming. It is a question of a creating a deeper and richer experience with our community members on an on-going basis, from cradle to grave. Almost half of Federation's new board are millennials, reflecting our belief that they are a critical component in ensuring the long-term viability of Jewish Hamilton.

A COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

I'd like to suggest that what is good for Hamilton in general is good for the Jewish community. We are too small to go it alone, and outreach will be key. We need to continue to partner not just with the faith-based communities, but with the wider social services community in Hamilton. Jewish Hamilton is brimming with hope, promise, and possibilities. The Federation board continues to dialogue about our community, its needs and potential solutions. With your input, all of us can have a say in how the future will unfold. Community is working together, and together we will create the future.



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THEIR SISTER'S LEGACY

Esther Alexander and Bella Muller were honoured guests at a special screening of a 2004 interview with their late sister, the much-loved raconteur, Helen Yellin. The program was part of the ongoing Treasures of the Jewish Hamilton Project, an ongoing series hosted by the Rose and Phil Rosenshein Museum at Beth Jacob Synagogue. The series offers the community a window onto the archive of Jewish Hamilton's oral history by presenting video footage that was not included in the Jewish Hamilton Project DVD that came out in 2009. In addition to Helen Yellin's sisters, the April 30 program brought out three generations of Yellin family members. Photo by Wendy Schneider

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COMING UP

ROSH HASHANA ISSUE

- Deadline for booking ad space July 17, 2017
- Deadline for receiving editorial copy Aug. 3, 2017
- Deadline for receiving ad copy Aug. 17, 2017
- Estimated date of arrival Sept. 6, 2017

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The HJN 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.

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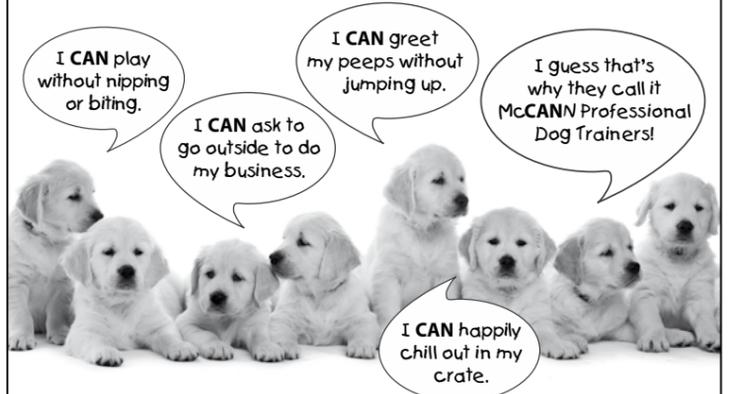
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MEET YOUR NEW FEDERATION BOARD

The Hamilton Jewish Federation is delighted to welcome several new members to its board of directors. Pictured above, left to right are Jacki Levin, Daniel Hershkovitz, Lester Krames, Janis Criger, Mike Dressler, Howard Eisenberg, Adam Norris and Sandee Smorden. Missing from the photo are Ben Levitt, Alice Mendelson, Josh Rauchwerger, Peter Smurlick and Laura Wolfson.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION



Above, l - r: Barb Babij, Sharon Enkin award recipient Aaron Puley, Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School principal Marco Barzelli, James Enkin, HWDSB director of education, Manny Figueiredo, St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School principal Sara Cannon, Sharon Enkin award recipient Stefano Giovannangeli, HWCDSB superintendent of education Toni Kovach.

Approximately 800 students and teachers from 20 Hamilton area secondary schools attended Hamilton Jewish Federation's annual student seminar on the Holocaust April 26 at Mohawk College. One of the highlights of the annual event is its recognition of local educators who demonstrate a commitment to teaching students about the Holocaust. This year's recipients were Stefano Giovannangeli, a teacher in the Canadian and World Studies department at St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School and Aaron Puley, department head of Canadian and World Studies

at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School. Dr. Eric Beck Rubin, a cultural historian and novelist, delivered a keynote address titled, Preserving History Through Works of Art and Fiction. Students also heard survivor testimony by Faigie Libman.

Hamilton Jewish Federation thanks Mohawk College, Cable 14, program volunteers, the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, Lawrence Enkin and family, Paratus Investors Corporation and the Erwin Jacobs Endowment Fund for their support.

Tough choices

cont'd from page 1

We do this because we consider it a fiduciary duty in managing the community's finances. After hearing from all of the beneficiaries we get down to the work of deciding how much money to recommend to the board of directors that each beneficiary should receive. It is the Board who makes the final decision based on our recommendations.

It is a task that the Committee does with dedication to the community. This year was no different. The total amount available for allocations was again based on a combination of pledges and cash received plus "reasonably assured" collections. I must say how difficult it is when beneficiaries are telling us that their need is great and the community just hasn't raised enough money. In fact, the amount of money raised by the community is virtually the same as that raised in the 1980s, which just isn't sufficient in 2017. Our agencies are suffering. Our community is suffering.

This year the allocations committee also discussed a number of issues including how we define Jewish education; how we determine the amount available for allocations; the relationship between Federation and the beneficiaries and at a very fundamental level, even what and how we should be funding. All of these conversations are on-going. In the coming year, the committee will continue to discuss these issues with the goal of making our process and mandate, and consequently Jewish Hamilton, even stronger.

Not receiving our emails?

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Museum exhibit explores Jewish immigrant stories

by SIMONE ROTSTEIN, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Jews have always moved and the Hamilton Jewish community has always received many new Canadians. Our community's most recent arrivals to Hamilton are the focus of a planned installation, Welcome to Canada: Jewish Immigrant Stories of Hamilton, opening Oct. 22 at the Rose and Phil Rosenshein Museum at Beth Jacob Synagogue.

Migration of Jews is well documented. The Biblical Assyrian conquest and the deportation to Babylonia established a pattern continued through to modern time; notably the Spanish Inquisition and the mass movement before, during and after the Holocaust of Jews who were able to leave. There are very recent displacements, particularly Jews leaving Arab countries, the mass movement of Russian Jews and the Ethiopian rescue. Other, smaller dislocations were due to pogroms, limits on the ability of Jews to work, restrictions on their freedom to worship and constraints on movement.

Arriving in a new country as either a refugee or an immigrant is challenging. Refugees fleeing persecution either due to war, religion or political opinion, or escaping a natural disaster, are forced to leave their home country. Fear or necessity drives them to seek a safe haven, frequently not knowing their final destination. They are forced to dwell in a migrant camp, unable or unwilling to return to the country of their birth. Coming to Canada assures them of some support for their first year, and then they are on their own.

Immigrants, on the other hand, choose to relocate to another country, as we see in the individuals and families featured in the upcoming exhibit. Typically, they have already secured employment, or have the means to live independently. Their motivations are often



Vivyan Salih, featured in the upcoming exhibit, discovered her Kurdish Jewish roots only after immigrating to Canada in 1996. Photo by Wendy Schneider

economic, or based on their hopes for a better future for their children. They are accepted to their new country after they have completed paperwork and are deemed suitable candidates.

Historically, the overriding reason that Jews choose to leave their country of birth is anti-Semitism. More than half of the eight families featured were unable to practice or display their Judaism openly. Their public faces and voices were guarded, as they were wary of their neighbours' reactions. In other places, state-sanctioned anti-Semitism restricted Jewish citizens' access to education, professional advancement and freedom to travel.

Political turmoil is cited as another reason for relocating. Watching arrests, torture and

assassinations forces people to assess their lives and to seek changes. Thinking of their children, they search for a place without compulsory army service and a home they can live in without being reported as subversive.

Receiving immigration papers and arriving in their new country are just the first steps. One of the first barriers a new Jewish immigrant to Hamilton faces is familiarity with English. Some functioning English-speaking newcomers have to navigate a different accent and new colloquialisms. Finding work to support their families is vital. Often, they accept menial employment as they learn new language and work skills. Lucky is the new arrival who has a profession and is able to work from the get-go. Starting a business in a new country

without any relevant banking history is fraught with difficulties. There is rarely backing for newcomers' endeavours.

In day-to-day life, immigrants must learn new cultural practices. They need to find a suitable home, preferably near other Jews. They need to navigate through bureaucratic mazes, such as opening bank accounts, getting a driver's license, accessing medical care and placing their children in school. They are far away from their families, devastating when the relatives left behind include elderly parents. Even when they find a home in the Jewish community, their different religious traditions become a barrier and at times, they experience the sting of having their Jewish identity called into question. New arrivals often feel lonely and isolated.

Most of the immigrants featured in the exhibit say it took 10 to 15 years before they felt at home. Usually it was their children and the school that helps them become comfortable. For some, the synagogue or another Jewish agency extends helpful hands.

Building friendships, belonging to a community, hard work and perseverance are all important steps to becoming a Canadian. Finally, it is to their children that they turn to measure their success. Those children have an abundance of choices, the environment to achieve as well as the freedom to practice their Judaism. At that point, an immigrant becomes a Canadian.

Simone Rotstein is a member of the planning committee of the upcoming exhibit at the Rosenshein Museum at Beth Jacob Synagogue.

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MAN WITH THE PLAN

Story and photo by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

The reimagining of the Westdale Cinema as a state-of-the-art cultural centre is being driven by a former New Yorker with a love for art-house cinema and a passion for social justice. Fred Fuchs is an internationally renowned film and television producer who moved to Dundas in 2014 to live closer to his wife's family. He and his wife, Mary Pat, met in the 1970s when the small Vancouver-based production company she was working for hired Fuchs as its L.A. location manager. Their whirlwind courtship culminated with a "very complicated Jewish-Catholic" wedding held at McMaster University's chapel. Fuchs said he could never have imagined then that he and Mary Pat would ever find themselves living just minutes from that chapel, with the added delight of having a daughter and grandchildren living in their neighbourhood. Beyond his activities as a founding and active member of the Westdale Cinema Group, Fuchs, raised in a family steeped in Yiddishkeit (his sister is a rabbi), devotes much of this time to serving on the board of the Hamilton Conservation Foundation and the Immigrants Working Centre. Blessed with vision and passion together with the ability to recruit, raise money, and change the world, Fuchs epitomizes what it means to be a mensch.



Dundas resident Fred Fuchs is the driving force behind the reimagining of the iconic Westdale Cinema.

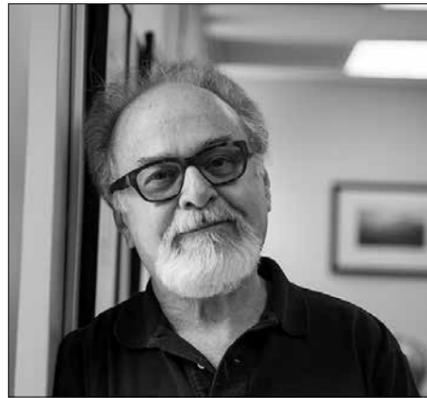
HONOURABLE Mentschen



The Hamilton Jewish Federation and the HJN congratulate Dr. Larry Levin for his recent appointment as president of the Canadian Dental Association. Levin was also a 2017 recipient of an Award of Distinction by the University of Toronto's Faculty of Dentistry, for his visionary leadership and patient advocacy

that has left "an indelible impression on the practice and organization of dentistry in Canada." The award cites Levin's decades-long involvement with the local, provincial and national organizations and his passionate advocacy on behalf of Canadians' universal right to have access to the best dental care. On a local level, Levin practices what he preaches — his dental office is known to have opened its doors to low-income Hamiltonians for pro-bono dental work.

Hamilton's Jewish community has also been a beneficiary of Levin's passion for community service. A past president of the Hamilton Jewish Federation and Shalom Village, Levin also ran the UJA Campaign for several years. "I like giving back to the community," he said. "Anytime I feel that I've made a difference, it makes me feel good and I want to do a little more."



Yashar Koach to David Papernick, 71, who was one of 35 Hamiltonians nominated for Hamilton's 2017 Senior of the Year Awards. Papernick was nominated by Shalom Village, where he has been a volunteer for the last 20 years, playing piano and entertaining residents.

In his youth, the multi-talented Papernick was a professional musician — the top-notch jazz/pop pianist also plays guitar and sings — but he left the business in 1971 "to be a father and reinvent myself" to open Ottawa Street's Quality Bakery with his father-in-law Henry Haren. Weekends, however, would find him pursuing his art in a trio playing Bar Mitzvahs and weddings around town, courtesy of legendary caterer Max Mintz.

Since retiring from the bakery business, Papernick spends nearly every day of the week sharing his love for music, whether it's through his performances at seniors' centres around the city or through his leadership roles with the Jewish community's Chai Choir or Dundas's Local Vocals.

"Music is very helpful for people," he said. "You're high without a pill, without alcohol. There's no ego. It's just expression coming out

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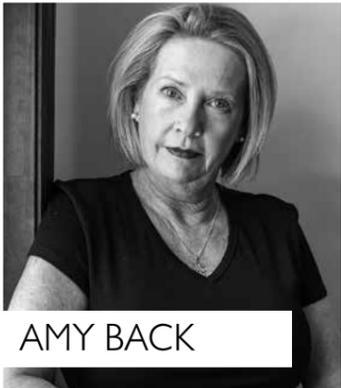


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Encore ENTREPRENEURS

Amy Back and Debby Stroud on the joys of a midlife career change

Story and photos by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News



AMY BACK



DEBBY STROUD

HOW SHE STARTED

Amy Back started her business Computer Help for Adults two years ago, after recognizing that her senior citizen friends had nowhere to turn when seeking computer help. "I realized that while there were businesses that did computer repairs, nobody was coming to the house to help you if your solitaire game froze, or if you wanted to learn how to attach a photo to an email."

BELIEF IN HERSELF

New entrepreneurs might have some background in the sector that they want to operate in, but there will always be a certain degree of knowledge deficit. Back found this to be the case with her first two clients, who were seeking help on specific digital projects. "Whatever I knew was more than they knew," she told herself.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Giving free presentations to seniors' groups on the basics of social media, is something Back always makes time for. Her passion for expanding the world of older adults through technology was undoubtedly a contributing factor in Back's being awarded YWCA Woman of Distinction award last March, in the category of business leadership and entrepreneurship.

ON THE RECORD

"My learning curve over the last two and a half years has just been through the roof because I never know what I'm going to have to do. It makes my day interesting and I'm learning all the time."

HOW SHE STARTED

After working for 35 years as an optician, Debby Stroud decided to turn her lifelong passion for baking into a small home-based gourmet bakery business back in 2009. In 2011 Stroud opened Hotti Biscotti in Westdale Village. Before long her signature soft biscotti were being sold in café's and restaurants throughout Hamilton. Today Hotti Biscotti is a full-service catering company at a new location on trendy James Street North.

FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

As part of James Street's booming food scene, Hotti Biscotti has made a name for itself for its innovative flavour combinations for its classic biscotti and wide range of other handmade goodies. The shop's walk-in traffic includes the four-legged variety, who regular drag their owners to its front door to help themselves to strategically-placed dog biscuits. It's a goodwill gesture that Stroud, a dog lover, began back in her Westdale Village days. Being part of the mutually supportive community of James St. North "foodies" has been good for Stroud personally and great for business, and she doesn't hesitate to send customers across the street if she doesn't have what they're looking for.

ON THE RECORD

"I love what's happening in Hamilton. if you ever told me years ago I'd be moving to James Street, I would have thought you were crazy. Now that I'm a part of the foodie group, it's wonderful."



The Chai Choir at a recent performance. Pictured above, top row, l to r: David Papernick, Donald Hitch, Sid Shumacher, Victor Abraham. Middle row, l to r: Magda Guzner, Emmy Singer, Diana Abraham, Vera Barany. Front row, l to r: Ella Kagan, Ida Shuman, Maureen Mansfield, Bev Lasky, Marilyn Bar-Or. Standing in the back is choirmaster Leon Karan. Photo courtesy of Leon Karan

LOVE TO SING? JOIN THE CHOIR!

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

If you want to live a long, healthy life, there's a place for you in Jewish Social Services' Chai Choir. Singing in a choir has been associated with a myriad of physical and mental health benefits, a statement with which Chai Choir members, many of whom are well into their 80s or 90s, wholeheartedly agree.

"It's good for your voice, it's good for your health, and it's good to be out with good company," said Ida Shuman, an energetic nonagenarian who has been with the choir since the very beginning.

Now in its 25th year, the choir was the brainchild of the late Goldie Robbins, a one woman force-of-nature, who single-handedly recruited as many as 30 members along with choir director Leon Karan, a classically trained pianist and music educator from the former Soviet Union.

Inevitably, the years have seen the choir's numbers decline to half that amount, and Chai Choir members would dearly like to see a return to their glory days.

David Papernick, 71, is one of the choir's youngest members – "a pisher," he jokes – as well as its part-time musical accompanist and co-director.

"In a group like this you're always trying to recruit because many people pass on," he said. Papernick fell in love with the choir four years ago and can't say enough about its uplifting effects.

"Singing in a group is very therapeutic," he said. "It's a high ... working together, hearing a tone, the breathing."

Proper breathing is the foundation for both good singing and good health, said a beaming Karan as he recalled the day that Ruth Fine, 86, called the JSS offices from her hospital bed one Tuesday morning just to tell Karan and her fellow choir members how the breathing exercises they do every week helped her recover from a bout of pneumonia.

Aside from the physical benefits, the Chai Choir offers its members a valuable form of social support, as well as introducing them to the rewards of performing before a live audience.

"When we go to the nursing homes and see the residents interact and sing the songs of their youth, you can almost see them transcend back into their youth," said Maureen Mansfield. "I feel a sense of happiness and calmness. It's like doing yoga, you're just transcending to another world."

Need to Know

What: Jewish Social Services' Chai Choir
Who: The recently retired and anyone who loves to sing.
Where: Rehearsals take place Tuesday mornings at 30 King St. E. in Dundas.
Contact: Leon Karan at 905-387-0345 or email leon_karan@hotmail.com.

Wishing the entire Community a safe and happy summer



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2017 Shem Tov Awards

POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

MARVIN CAPLAN, Z”L
 NOMINATED BY BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE
 (photo #14)

RYAN LOBB, Z”L
 NOMINATED BY KEHILA JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL
 (photo #15, back left)

If Marvin Caplan had a motto, it was a question, “How can I help?” Marvin was the genuine embodiment of Tikkun Olam. Volunteering permeated all aspects of his life, whether formally, through Beth Jacob Synagogue’s board of directors, Rotary, the Out of the Cold program, the Syrian Refugee Committee, the Social Planning and Research Council and many others, or informally, as a mentor in business, life and Jewish culture. Less than an hour before his death this year, he was making phone calls to see how Hamilton’s Jewish community could do more to support the Muslim community after a tragic shooting that left six dead in a Quebec mosque. That was our Marvin. And we miss him. Our kids miss the lollypops he would hand out on Shabbat and the adults miss his wise counsel and irreverent sense of humour. We all miss his mandlebroit and chocolate chip cookies. Marvin Caplan was an extraordinary human being and our community was blessed for his having been a part of it.

Ryan Lobb saved our school. On the evening when the board decided we could not go on, he refused to accept this decision, and, through pure force of will, kept the dream alive. Ryan’s unwavering commitment to education in our community was astounding. On every issue, regardless of how large or small, he saw a positive outcome and applied his full effort to achieve it. His involvement as an active board member – initially as treasurer and then as chair – has left a lasting impression on the institution, the community, and each family at our school. Although sickness took Ryan too soon, he will always be remembered as a dedicated individual with a good name. We are honoured to honour him posthumously with this year’s Shem Tov award.

Our community's dedicated VOLUNTEERS

1. ADAS ISRAEL - RYAN GRIVER

Ryan Griver is throwback to a time when business was fueled by the strength of relationships. Ryan is a consummate giver who would do anything for someone in need. The stories of Ryan Griver's acts of kindness are legendary. His dedication to community knows no bounds.

2. SHALOM VILLAGE - DONNA VINE

Donna Vine has been a volunteer at Shalom Village for 23 years. For the past 11 years she has volunteered at Bubbi Bessie's Café, preparing food and serving and greeting customers. Donna's patient and kind demeanor makes others feel welcome and comfortable around her. We are very fortunate that Donna is a part of our team.

3. HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION ANITA BERNSTEIN

Insightful, compassionate, and knowledgeable are all words which describe Anita Bernstein. As chair of the Special Needs Action Project committee, she combines passion, skills and knowledge, making a difference in the lives of children with special needs. She works tirelessly planning professional development days, ensuring that the topics we present are relevant and timely. We are proud to present Anita with this year's Shem Tov award.

4. JNF - ISRAEL VUKMIR

Israel Vukmir embodies the Jewish ethical teaching that all Jews are responsible for one another. Israel has been helping at the JNF for almost 20 years; no task is too difficult, too menial or insignificant. At any JNF event, Israel can either be seen in the background, quietly working away, or right up front, making sure community members' needs are met. We have been truly blessed to have Israel in our lives.

5. JCC - MAGGIE NORRIS

Maggie's love for volunteering and her commitment to the community have made her invaluable to the JCC. She is always very eager to help – constantly offering to reach out to community members, run and organize programs, and volunteer her time for community projects. The JCC is so grateful to have such a passionate person involved in our organization and in the community.

6. NA'AMAT HAMILTON BARBARA SZECHTMAN

Barbara Szechtmann has been a dedicated member of Na'amat Hamilton for more than 30 years. Barbara has assumed many responsibilities in the organization, most significantly, coordinating ad sales for the annual author luncheon program books, and warmly encouraging members to solicit ads, year after year. She is diligent and reliable in any task she undertakes and models warmth, sincerity and dignity in all aspects of her life.

Stan Tick receives President's Leadership Appreciation Award



Every once in a while someone special comes forward who truly exemplifies all of the values and qualities of commitment, dedication, leadership, skill and love for Israel. The President's Leadership Appreciation award was created to honour just such a person, and this year Federation presented the award to Stan Tick. Stan Tick is the epitome of a mensch. He has been a steadfast supporter of Federation, literally for decades, as both a past president and a member of the campaign cabinet in many roles. Stan willingly shares both his vast knowledge and experience whenever requested. Asked why he lives so generously, he says, "it's just simply the right thing to do."

Phil Rosenshein receives CeCe Schreiber Volunteer Leadership award



It is with great delight that Hamilton Jewish Federation presents the CeCe Schreiber Award to Phil Rosenshein. Established in 2007, the CeCe Schreiber Award is our community's most prestigious volunteer leadership award, named after one of Hamilton's most respected and accomplished volunteers. Phil has been a key figure in the Hamilton Jewish community for decades. He's raised millions of dollars for Jewish charities around town. His tireless dedication has made a difference in so many lives. Federation recognizes Phil for his steadfast commitment and leadership within our community.

7. HHA - SONJA KOFMAN

Our tradition values anonymity regarding the performance of good deeds. In the most subtle and understated way, Sonja has created a legacy of loving kindness. Countless individuals have been touched by her relentless commitment to their needs. At the HHA, this dedicated mother of many young children spends each morning feeding the children of dozens of others.

8. JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HOWARD GOLDSTEIN

Howard is one of JGSH's newer members but has found a way to contribute from day one. He is currently serving as secretary on our board of directors and has a keen eye for detail. An active researcher of his own family history, Howard uses his expertise to assist others with their searches. His giving nature makes him a clear choice as our nominee for the Shem Tov award.

9. JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES DINA HONIG

Dina's charming and sunny disposition has helped her in her work and relationships. She helps clients prepare their resumé's, get ready for job interviews, and look for employment. She offers them creative suggestions and is always encouraging.

10 & 11. MCMASTER HILLEL BEN BUCKLER & MICHAL CORET

As president of McMaster Hillel, Ben managed a 20-person executive and was the face of Hillel in the McMaster community. He worked diligently in ensuring that there was kosher food on campus for Jewish students and made sure that events big and small were happening on campus.

Michal served as president of Israel on Campus this year. She managed an eight-person executive and led her team in planning events showcasing Israel. Michal has a love for Israel which she shared with great wisdom and passion with her fellow students and community.

12. TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM MARTIN AND CARRIE SNIDERMAN

Martin's volunteer work at the Temple is primarily directed toward our cemetery. He has chaired our cemetery committee for the last nine years. As chair of Temple's religious school committee, Carrie devotes her efforts to provide the best Jewish education and youth programming opportunities for all of our families and young people.

13. SHAAREI BETH EL CAROLYN MENKA

Carolyn Menka has tirelessly served our synagogue in many ways behind the scenes, whether it is as our recording secretary for board meetings, suggesting great ideas for social action projects or helping ensure our events will always be successful.



I volunteer because of my love of and commitment to the survival of the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

*Israel Vukmir
Volunteers for the JNF*

Volunteering, for me, brings together the opportunity of working with others and contributing to the community.

Achievement of common goals is a source of strength and satisfaction of giving back to society.

*Barbara Szechtmann
Volunteers for Na'amat*

I believe volunteering to be my responsibility as a member of my Jewish community. This responsibility is one I hope to instill in my children, so that they too can give wholeheartedly to a community that has done so much to shape me as a person.

*Maggie Norris
Volunteers for the JCC*

My association with Bubbi Bessie's as a volunteer brings me so much pleasure and personal satisfaction.

*Donna Vine
Volunteers for Shalom Village*

My volunteer work enables me to give back so that it may be as meaningful to my children as it has been to me.

*Martin Sniderman
Volunteers for Temple Anshe Sholom*

I am glad to be able to use my expertise to guide anyone who needs the services that this agency provides.

*Dina Honig
Volunteers for Jewish Social Services*

Hillel has become my most important community at university.

*Ben Buckler
Volunteers for McMaster Hillel*

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Shalom Village

www.shalomvillage.ca

Memorable moments in the Front Porch Garden

It was a picture-perfect afternoon on Friday, June 2, as Shalom Village donors, residents, staff and community members came together to celebrate the grand opening of the Shalom Village Front Porch Garden, generously supported by our wonderful community and our naming donors, Stan and Elizabeth Tick, in honour of their siblings, Bernard, Marilyn, and Theodore.

"My siblings loved it here," said a beaming Stan Tick. "Supporting the Front Porch Garden was a perfect opportunity to honour my family and bring joy to the residents of Shalom Village."

Green and outdoor spaces have the potential to improve the health and well-being of seniors. Bonding with Mother Nature makes people feel more alive and

can lead to an increased sense of vitality and energy.

"Going outside can easily break up the daily routine and offer mental and spiritual relief for our residents," said CEO Jeanette O'Leary. "This inspirational and beautiful space is an ideal respite and an immeasurable gift for our residents."

Growing it forward

The Front Porch Garden idea came from one of our residents, Jim Kennelly, "I love being out here, and I saw the potential for this to be a great outdoor community space," he said.

Unfortunately, what should have been a lovely green space, wasn't quite as green and welcoming as we would have



Stan and Elizabeth Tick, right, celebrate the grand opening of the Front Porch Garden with CEO Jeanette O'Leary



Shalom Village residents enjoying a moment in the beautiful surroundings of the Front Porch Garden.

wished, nor was it accessible enough to accommodate all those who would have liked to use the space.

The Shalom Village Charitable Foundation loved the idea of championing this need, and led an extraordinary fundraising campaign to make this beloved project a reality, resplendent with beautiful plants, benches and an accessible walkway.

"What a wonderful response we had to the appeal," said Kathleen Thomas, executive director of the Foundation. "Our heartfelt thanks to all of our generous donors, Stan and Elizabeth Tick, and the Shalom Village family for supporting this magnificent project."



A view of the Front Porch Garden

36th Annual Shalom Village Ladies Auxiliary Tea

Join us July 5 for the premiere event of the 2017 summer social season!

Friendship and food

Enjoy a social afternoon of friendship and food, including party sandwiches, fresh fruit, and our famous scones. We hope to see you at our incredible Double Chai milestone!

Support a great cause

Just after 4 p.m. on Aug. 14, 2003, a widespread power outage occurred throughout Ontario and parts of the United States. Hospitals, long-term care facilities, and retirement communities struggled to keep the necessary equipment running.

Shalom Village was challenged to maintain the safety and well-being of our residents and participants. Fortunately, our old backup equipment stood the test of time and propelled us through the outage, with everyone receiving optimal care.

Today, more people rely on technology for critical health support such as breathing equipment. It is crucial we upgrade our equipment to remain capable of meeting their needs.

This year's Tea will raise urgently needed funds to upgrade our generator and ensure residents continue to receive exemplary care. The Ladies Auxiliary is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone in our home but we can't do it without you!

To add your support to the "double Chai" anniversary of the Ladies Auxiliary 36th Annual Tea, please visit www.ShalomVillage.com and click on the Donate link at the top of the page. Alternatively, you can email or call Julia Mantle at Julia.Mantle@ShalomVillage.ca or 905-529-1613 X356.!

Thank you!

On behalf of the residents and participants who benefit from the programs and services provided by Shalom Village, thank you for your support!

Shalom Village is also especially grateful to the many Ladies Auxiliary volunteers whose efforts made this remarkable event possible.



The Shalom Village Ladies Auxiliary Tea is a time of celebration, friendship, and joy where residents and the community come together to support an important cause

Thank You

Shalom Village is grateful the families of **Al Foreman, Margo Singer, Anne Hanutin, Henry Kafka, Judy Levine, Frances Lewis and Saul Eisenberg,**

for requesting donations to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers.

Memorial donations support the *Possibilities Fund* at Shalom Village, making many special programs and services possible for our residents.



Shalom Village

www.shalomvillage.ca

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Hamilton, Ontario L8S 3S1

P: 905-529-1613 F: 905-529-7542

E: info@shalomvillage.ca



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June is National Seniors' Month!

June 2017 marked the 33rd annual Seniors' Month. This year, the theme was Living Your Best Life. Shalom Village celebrated our residents for Seniors' Month with special events and projects that celebrated Shalom Village helping our seniors to live their best lives.

Please visit our website and Facebook page to see stories and photos from Seniors' Month 2017 celebrating the wisdom, experience and joy our residents bring to Shalom Village and the community.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, Shalom Village is able to provide the care and services that enable our residents to live their best lives year round! To support Shalom Village and our residents, please visit our website at www.shalomvillage.ca or contact Julia Mantle in the Foundation Office at 905-529-1613 ext 356 or email julia.mantle@shalomvillage.ca.

Honouring Our Fathers and Our Mothers

Making Possibilities Possible

Israel in their hearts



Rabbi Yaakov Morel conducts a moving performance by the Hamilton Hebrew Academy choir to mark the 50th year of the reunification of Jerusalem. Photo courtesy of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy

Evangelical group hosts Israel love fest



Attendees wave Israeli flags at People's Church event. Photo by Ray MacDonald

by GERRY FISHER, Special to the Hamilton Jewish news

A crowd of more than 350 people came together at Peoples' Church on Mohawk Road on May 18 to enjoy an evening of rousing song and dance, speeches and prayers honoring 69 years of Israeli independence.

According to lead organizer Ray MacDonald, the program had three major objectives: to celebrate Israel's birthday, to educate the audience about the work of Leket Israel – Israel's national food bank – and to provide an opportunity to demonstrate the depth and sincerity of evangelical Christian support for Israel to the local Jewish community.

The audience was treated to words of greeting from the Israeli Ambassador to Canada, Nimrod Barkan, Israel Consul General Galit Baram and local MP David Sweet. In addition, a number of local people who participated in the recent Leket Canada Mission to Israel gave moving reports on how the trip affected their lives.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Steven Samuel, Chair of "Drs. Against Racism and Anti-Semitism." Dr. Samuel, who is Israeli born, discussed the dangers of the unending scourge of anti-Semitism; not only as it is expressed in contemporary Arab society, but within the western medical profession as well. His

organization was founded in response to a virulently anti Israel – anti-Semitic article published in The Lancet. Among other things, he spoke glowingly of the value and meaning of Christian support for Israel and the Jewish people. His remarks drew a long, standing ovation.

The audience was also addressed by Joseph Gitler, founder and Israeli director of Leket; Israel's national food bank. Joseph provided an in-depth insight into the kinds of needs that Leket addresses in Israel and how deeply Leket values the support of its Christian friends in Canada and around the world. Joseph also expressed his appreciation to Leket Canada director Ray MacDonald, the Peoples' Church and all the volunteers who made the event possible.

Program organizers were quite aware of Jewish sensitivities in attending a program held in a church sanctuary. At significant expense, an immense Israeli flag was procured to cover over the fourteen foot tall crucifix hanging on the church altar. Although Jewish attendance at the event was not especially large, everyone involved felt the effort was a valuable step forward in bringing Jewish and Christian supporters of Israel together.



Beit HaLochem event honours Israel's wounded

JUDY MENDELSON

In a moving show of unity, representatives from Hamilton's three synagogues came together on June 14 to honour 10 disabled Israeli veterans at a fundraiser for Beit Halochem Canada.

The evening highlighted Beit Halochem's rehabilitation services to more than 51,000 disabled Israelis veterans and victims of terror. The audience showed great appreciation for the veterans who risked their lives for Israel.

The evening included a serenade of Yiddish and classical melodies by local musicians Miriam Wallbridge and Piotr Gawek, the singing of Canada and Israel's national anthems by Hannah Byrne-Wolfson and much mingling between attendees and the Israeli veterans.

Many thanks to Beit Halochem committee members Elissa Press, Yael Reznick DeMarco, Inbal Chaimovitz, Rabbi Chanan Weiser, Barbara Orvitz, Bettina Zanella, Irwin Rodin and all the volunteers who helped plan and set up this amazing night.

Pictured above: an IDF veteran poses with Hilda Rosen, a stalwart supporter of the Jewish State.

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Ode to my father on Father's Day

I've been thinking about personas lately—who we are and who we are perceived to be; how people only ever see slivers of our lives, and how everything that we are, or have been, is hidden from view.

In my father's art room (my old bedroom), there is a montage poster which his staff created for him when he retired. Among others, it includes a picture of him as a young bandana'd-dude playing bongos with an ecstatic look on his face. Another depicts him playing soccer, superimposed with images of "the director of city planning".

Whenever I visit, I find myself contemplating that poster. To my sister and me, Dad was a quiet, slightly mischievous guy who was well-respected and honourable to a fault. We never really thought about what he did for work because he never brought it home. We saw oil paintings with his name on them from the sixties in a closet, but, you know, that was before we were born, so, who cared?

To us children, he was a great dad who allowed us to explore life knowing that we could always go home again. That was it. And then, the poster. There was a man who loved sports, sports cars, jazz, visual arts, architecture, reading, and traveling - what happened?

Us, Jordan and Ramona.

He became the perfect family man: Put his brushes down, bought a house and a station wagon. He started going to synagogue with us and helped us to see a larger world.

He didn't just fool his family. He fooled everyone. His colleagues had no idea that he could paint or use an SLR camera. Nobody at Beth Jacob Synagogue knew about the Datsun sports car or the Volvos that he owned, when they were so rare that owners waved at each other on the streets. His Bene Israel community in Toronto didn't know he played the bongos and the wood flute.



Jordan Abraham

The sports cars, soccer balls, and bongos may be gone, but the art remains. By now, most of the Beth Jacob community has seen Dad's Chinese brush art with the vibrant colours and messages of hope, the lighthouse paintings – depictions of lone beacons in the darkness and turmoil. I wanted to show something different.

The simple landscape on display at Beth Jacob Father's Day exhibit speaks to me because he based it on a shot I had taken at Coote's Paradise early one morning. The photograph is dark and, frankly, boring, but in that landscape, Dad imagined rich colours, textures, and atmosphere.

In a way, it is an example of how I perceive our father: always finding the extraordinary – even in the mundane. Thanks, Dad, for teaching us to experience every moment of our lives in colour and for (finally!) allowing us to see beyond the personas.

Jordan Abraham is a founding member of the klezmer group, Touch of Klez. His father, Victor Abraham, is a stalwart and long-time member of Beth Jacob Synagogue.

Thinking of writing for the Hamilton Jewish News?
Simply want to get more out of reading newspapers?

Learn the building blocks of reporting

Journalist Wade Hemsworth will be teaching a three-night course in the basics of reporting, including: Effective interviewing, clear writing and self-editing. Students will learn how to put a story together, with real-world examples, and an assignment that can be published in the HJN.

When: Monday Nights, September 18, October 2, October 16

Time: 7 – 9 p.m.

Location: Beth Jacob Synagogue

The course is free, but there will be a \$20 fee for course materials. All are welcome. Please register by Sept. 5 to allow for preparation of reading packages. Questions? Email Wendy Schneider at wschneider@jewishhamilton.org or call 905.628.0058.

In search of dog and home

My dad "had" a dog named Kelev. I put "had" in quotation marks because Kelev belonged to the neighbourhood, not any one family. I might also put "Kelev" in quotation marks, because Kelev isn't really a proper name, but the Hebrew/Yiddish word for dog. So, to complete the deconstruction: my dad "had" a dog named "dog." He spoke of Kelev fondly. I think of Kelev, roaming the streets of Winnipeg with the local kids, as a sort of canine patriarch: legendary ancestor of the dogs I've known.

The dog I knew best, if not quite the best dog I've known, was a scoundrel named Toby. I use the term "scoundrel" with affection, but also as an honest description.

Toby was cute, almost absurdly so; small and puppy-like into his golden years, with silky Blenheim fur, a lolling tongue, and exquisitely floppy ears. But strangers drawn in by his cuteness were rebuffed by a twitching upper lip, followed by a snarl, followed sometimes by worse. When kids asked, "Can I pet your dog?" we, his walkers, had to sorrowfully respond with a no. At best, in his later years, he would sullenly endure a stranger's stroke.

Toby jumped on the table and ate my sister's Passover dinner twice in a row. He left strategically placed excrement as revenge for us leaving him alone too long. He tore apart my guide to Super Mario Brothers 3. He humped the side of a chair long after being neutered. He ran down the street when we opened the door. He brought a dying bird into the house. He snatched used pajamas, towels, and clothes, and hoarded them under my parents' bed. He ate toothpaste and tinfoil.

But Toby stole our dirty laundry because it smelled of us. As bad as he was in the objective sense of being a badly behaved dog, Toby was a loving creature. He cuddled with us, he howled with us, he licked us, and although he barked and raged at our guests, he did so to protect us, even if his intent was woefully misguided and his actions wholly ineffective.

When my dad got home at 4:30 in the morning after working in the hospital all night, Toby was there to greet him. When I was lying on the mudroom floor, nursing a broken hip, Toby was there to comfort me. He peed out of



Ben Shragge

happiness when we came from home from a trip.

Milan Kundera wrote that dogs were never expelled from paradise. Even when Toby was bad, which was often, he was bad in an innocent way. He made business on my parents' bed because he didn't want us to leave him; he jumped on the kitchen table because he wanted to join our holiday dinners; he brought a dying bird home because he wanted to give us a present; he humped the side of a chair because . . . well, you can't spin everything.

I see a "Toby"—a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (a breed which, contrary to Toby's example, is supposed to be easy-going and friendly to strangers)—on the streets of Boston sometimes, and I'm momentarily taken back home. I smile and think of all the wonderful and terrible things he did. More than that, I think of where he did those things—my family's old, now-sold house in Hamilton, each room alive with blessed memories—and how great a part of it he was.

I have an apartment now, and fish. But I don't really "have" an apartment. I'm renting one, alongside a host of anonymous strangers. And as much as fish are fun to watch, and livelier than plants, they don't greet you or sit on your lap or steal your pajamas. I'm not home yet, in other words.

I'm wandering, dog-less, in search of a place and a kelev I can call my own, hopefully one that is as full of love, if not as full of trouble, as Toby.

Ben Shragge, currently living in Boston, is the digital editor of the Hamilton Jewish News

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CAMP KADIMAH

Every summer, the JCC, Hamilton Jewish Federation and the Spectator Summer Camp Fund provide camperships to many children whose families are financially unable to manage the cost of day camp. For these children, attending day camp provides them with significant connection with the Jewish community during the summer. Your support, in any amount, will allow us to continue and expand this proud and important tradition of helping children in our community.

HAVE YOUR LOGO PLACED ON OUR CAMP T-SHIRTS

Corporate donations are welcome. For donations of \$360 or more, your business logo or name will be on the back of our staff and campers' t-shirts. If you would like to help, please email hindy@hamiltonjcc.com or call 905 648 0613. You can also send a cheque payable to 506-105 Main St. E, Hamilton ON L8N 1G6. On behalf of our campers, we thank you.

CAMP SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 - JULY 3-7

Wild Water Works & Special Guest

WEEK 2 - JULY 10-14

Butterfly Conservatory & Lil Monkeys

WEEK 3 - JULY 17-21

African Lion Safari & Adventure Village

WEEK 4 - JULY 24-28

Emerald Lake, Special Guest and Pottery

WEEK 5 - JULY 31-AUGUST 4

Wild Water Works & Movie

WEEK 6 - AUGUST 7-11

Earl Haig & Splitville

WEEK 7 - AUGUST 14-18

Lil Monkeys, Fire Station & Trolley

WEEK 8 - AUGUST 21-25

Bingemans and Special Guest

To register, email hindy@hamiltonjcc.com or call 905-648-0613.

HAMILTON HEBREW HIGH

Hamilton Hebrew High (H3) offers exciting events, Shabbat dinners, and retreats. H3 offers a great way to learn and earn high school credits with courses in Jewish related topics for students in Grades 8-12. H3 approaches everything with an open and honest mind and lets you draw your own conclusions. Programs are open to all Jewish high school students regardless of affiliation, background, or previous Jewish education. For more info, visit www.hcubed.ca.

2017/18 COURSES

Community & Individuality
Open to Grade 8 & 9 students

Grade 10 Ethical Dilemmas
Open to Grade 9 & 10 students

Biblically Speaking
Open to Grade 10 & 11 Students

U Philosophy
Open to Grade 11 & 12



YOU TALKED. WE LISTENED.

How Hamilton's Jewish millennials want to engage in Jewish life and what they want from the organized Jewish community will be the focus of a JCC program being held at the home of Lowell and Cindy Richter at 164 Chancery Drive in Ancaster, on **Wednesday, July 26 at 7 p.m.** If you, or someone you know, falls into the "under 40" category, the JCC invites you to an evening of meaningful and engaging conversation about the kind of Jewish community you envision for yourself and your family. Whether you're new to Hamilton or have been here for awhile, this evening will provide you with a great opportunity to meet people, share your views about the community and imagine your Jewish future in Hamilton. Kosher refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to info@hamiltonjcc.com by **Tuesday, July 18**. We'd love to see you there!

Genealogy group offers help in uncovering hidden Jewish roots

STEVEN BROCK, JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Throughout history, certainly all the way back to Moses, there have been cases where people of Jewish ancestry have had their heritage hidden, unbeknownst to them. Because of anti-Semitic oppression over the centuries, many Jews either converted or masqueraded as Christians to avoid persecution.

In Europe, during the Second World War, many Jews tried to hide their identity or sent their children to live with sympathetic gentile families to protect them from the Nazis. Consequently, they were raised and treated as gentiles for the duration of the conflict. In cases where their birth parents perished and were unable to reclaim them at the end of the war, many retained their Christian identity for generations afterwards. Their descendants were often unaware of their Jewish legacies.

Earlier this year, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton and Area hosted a screening of York University professor Julia Creet's film *Mum*. In this touching documentary, Dr. Creet details her relentless quest to discover the Jewish ancestry that her mother tried so hard to conceal from everyone, including her Christian-raised family.

These days, people whose families had kept their heritage secret are suddenly rediscovering that they have Jewish roots. Many are fascinated by these revelations and are now delving into the depths of their Jewish family trees. We have several such cases, even in our local group, and we strive to help members who were brought up as non-Jews to trace their Jewish line(s). People are realizing that, these days, it's not a stigma to have had Jewish ancestry, as negative associations from past centuries are slowly fading away.

For more information regarding the JGSH's upcoming 2017 - 2018 season, please check our website www.jgsh.org. You can also contact Hazel Boon at 905-524-3345 or email jgshamilton@gmail.com.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

GERALDINE KATZ-ROSE

Marking its 115th anniversary, the Jewish National Fund is refocusing to meet changing needs in Israel. Although trees and the environment remain the bedrock of JNF, new projects will encompass a wider variety of needs to benefit all Israeli citizens.

It is estimated that half a million new residents will be moving into the Galilee in northern Israel, and close to a million new residents will be settling in the Negev and Arava regions in the south over the next few years. JNF will help accommodate these new residents by creating infrastructure, helping to strengthen local economies through tourist and recreation sites, constructing housing for students at various colleges and universities, and helping to build housing for young couples and families.

In addition, there will be an increase in JNF assistance to facilities and programs that benefit victims of domestic abuse, children and adults with special needs, the elderly, and the economically disadvantaged.

Helping Israel to serve as a "light unto the nations," JNF funds scientific research and development to combat desertification, water management and desalinization, and high-tech methods of agriculture for greater sustainability. Results and findings are shared with developing countries around the world.

Moving forward, JNF, with the partnership of donors around the world, continues to lead with innovative projects that are more relevant than ever.

JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

CAROL KRAMES

Right here in Hamilton, there's an active group of seniors enjoying wonderful activities together. The Chevra Club meets once a month on Sundays at Jewish Social Services for interesting programs and a delicious lunch. The group's activities include summer day trips, Mahjongg games, musical entertainment, and presentations by guest speakers on a variety of relevant topics. There is no membership fee and programs are modestly priced. Why sit at home when you can be involved in an active, stimulating group? For more information email chrisnuscajss@gmail.com or call 905-627-9922 ext. 23.

BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE

Hold the date Sunday, Oct. 15 for "Spice up Your Life", a Beth Jacob Synagogue fundraiser featuring award-winning cookbook author Bonnie Stern. The event takes place from 1 to 3pm. Tickets for the event are \$36. Invite your family and friends to what promises to be a great day for learning, tasting and celebrating life! For more information call 905-522-1351.



BETH JACOB HEBREW SCHOOL

RINA RODAK

At Beth Jacob we offer both weekly classes, which focus on the understanding of Judaism, and experiential opportunities which focus on the doing of Judaism.

Our school meets on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:15 p.m. September through May. Our curriculum's focus is on teaching our students to read and write Hebrew, understand and recite prayers, and to learn about Jewish holidays and Jewish history, with a particular focus on the family histories of members of Hamilton's Jewish community. There will be more singing, dancing, crafting and baking. We will also have special guest teachers who will introduce us to new ideas and exciting new topics.

This past year, our students participated in multiple family-focused Shabbat morning services. From leading prayers to carrying the Torah, to preparing the weekly sermon, the students were the true leaders. We strive to develop the children's independence, competence and confidence in their Jewish

activity, not solely their understanding of it.

Next year's new offerings include an intensive Hebrew Language program, and a post-Bnai Mitzvah volunteer opportunity program which will allow students experience volunteering with various organizations throughout Hamilton, both within and outside of our Jewish community. These hours can count towards the high school curricular requirement for community involvement.

Children who are not enrolled in our Hebrew school are welcome to attend Shabbat and Jewish holiday services and events.

The school's growth, along with the enthusiasm and commitment of our families, inspires our entire congregation. To register for any of the above learning opportunities, or if you have questions, please contact Rina Rodak at school@bethjacobsynagogue.ca or call 905-522-1351.

Beth Jacob's Rosenshein Museum receives \$2,000 Canada 150 grant

The Rose and Phil Rosenshein Museum at Beth Jacob Synagogue is celebrating a \$2,000 grant from the City of Hamilton Canada 150 Projects and Events Funding Program. The grant money will be used to fund its upcoming exhibit titled, Welcome to Canada: Jewish Immigrant Stories of Hamilton.

The exhibit and a related traveling exhibit will feature the stories of eight Hamilton Jewish families, all of whom immigrated to Canada after 1975. Its aim is to show not only the diverse points of

origin of the Hamilton Jewish community, but also the diversity of reasons for choosing Hamilton.

"This grant is great news for our museum and for Hamilton's Jewish community," said Wendy Schneider, who chairs the Rosenshein Museum committee. "Since immigration is a part of most Canadian families' history, we feel that this topic has a universal appeal. This fund will make it possible to create a travelling version of the main exhibit that we can take into Hamilton area schools."

TAS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



Kindergarten students Evelyn W. and Evie E. "touch the flag" in Hebrew Through Movement class.

Photo by Dora-Ann Cohen Ellison

DORA-ANN COHEN ELLISON

At a recent school kiddush, I saw Grade 5 and 6 students helping our youngest children with their lunch, Grade 4 students laughing and chatting with Grade 7 students, and Grade 3 students helping a new Grade 2 student find his way. I was overwhelmed by the looks of joy on all of the students' faces. The students genuinely enjoy each other's company.

Over the past few years at Temple Anshe Sholom, there has been a gradual shift in the boundaries and division of grades. These multi-grade learning opportunities are intentional, and are implemented with the goal of creating a community of students. Students who are learning to be caring and knowledgeable Jewish members of the greater community of Hamilton. Twice a

week, students engage in experiences in Hebrew language, prayer, Jewish history, traditions, Torah, ethics, and community.

Our teaching assistants work with small groups on reading, vocabulary and fluency skills. Our students are eager participants and help each other discover something exciting and enjoyable about the learning each week.

Religious school is offered on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings. We are currently accepting student registrations for next year. If you are interested in more information please email dacellison@anshesholom.ca. I look forward to welcoming new and returning students on Wednesday September 13, 2017. Wishing you an adventurous and enjoyable summer!

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For more information contact Dora-Ann Cohen Ellison at dacellison@anshesholom.ca or (905)741-2886

TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

STEVE ARNOLD

Temple Anshe Sholom's major annual fundraiser will tee off Aug. 10 at the Piper's Heath golf course in Milton.

The Going for Green tournament, now in its ninth year, has raised close to \$200,000 for the synagogue and its partners. This year's event will share proceeds with Camp Trillium – a recreational facility for children with cancer.

Sean Davis and wife Marla Frank-Davis lead the annual effort.

"We started this when I was new to the Temple and didn't know anybody," Davis said. "I wanted to do something for the Temple, but I wanted it to be something I was good at."

The first effort in 2009 drew 104 golfers. Annual attendance now averages 130.

"We try to keep improving the event and the outcome every year," Davis added. "We want to make this an event that golfers don't want to miss."

Highlights over the annual event include on-course beverage and food service throughout the day, a barbecue lunch and dinner, silent auction and other prizes.

"We had seven or eight drinking stations on the course last year and we hope to have as many food stations this year," Davis said. "We want to offer something different from all the other golf tournaments."

A new feature is recognition for someone deemed to have made outstanding contributions to the Temple and Jewish community. That honour goes this year to former Temple president Steven Dembe.

"We decided to do the honour so people would stop for a second and tip their hats to



Steve Dembe (right) with his son Michael.
Photo courtesy of Temple Anshe Sholom

people who have really made a difference to the community."

The fee for this year's event is \$250. That includes 18 holes, two meals plus beverages and snacks throughout the day. For more details contact the Temple office at 905-528-0121, Sean Davis at 647-402-7030 or Phil Krisenfeld at 905-902-7799.

Camp Trillium (officially The Trillium Childhood Cancer Support Centre) offers year-round recreational experiences for children with cancer. It has facilities at Rainbow Lake, near Waterford, Ontario and OuR Island, near Picton, Ontario. It also operates a day camp program at several locations, including Churchill Park in Hamilton.

KEHILA JCDS

ANNA LILLIMAN

Kehila Jewish Community Day School is a school that finally got it right. I've always wanted to be a teacher, and I've always felt that schools were doing it all wrong. There was either too much structure, or not enough. People were segregated into one-year cohorts, interfering with the way kids usually learn. Kids were routinely underestimated, but at the same time, no support was provided for kids who were struggling.

Private schools were, in my opinion, the worst, because they combined the warehousing of kids, turning them into numbers, with elitism, cliques, bullying, overcompetitive situations, and forced learning. I know many kids who decided to have nothing to do with Judaism after private Jewish schooling. "I never want my kids in private school," I'd say. I had my kids in public schools and sometimes it worked and sometimes it didn't, and sometimes we took the kids out and home-schooled them for a year or so. Then I came to Hamilton and my kids went to Kehila.

Kehila is so much the way that I had always dreamt a school should be – it's small, kids pay attention to each other, kids get the respect and help they need. Every kid, regardless of skill level, has the opportunity to shine, and this puts them way ahead as far as the skills they can attain. Watching the children perform at the Avigail presentation, and seeing the quality was so much above what one would expect from students of those ages, seeing their proficiency in English, Hebrew, and French, and noticing their growing comfort with research, organization and presentation was heartwarming but not surprising. This is the level of quality I have come to expect from Kehila and I was thrilled to see it.

What fills me with awe is the respect and dignity that students gave each other, the warmth and closeness that the kids display and the sense of community that the school projects. These kids take belonging to a Jewish community and caring for each other seriously. They are a family.

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OUR TEAM

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YOUR OPINION MATTERS

Whether you're new to Hamilton or you've been here for awhile, this is a great chance to meet people, to share your views about the community and to imagine your Jewish future in Hamilton.



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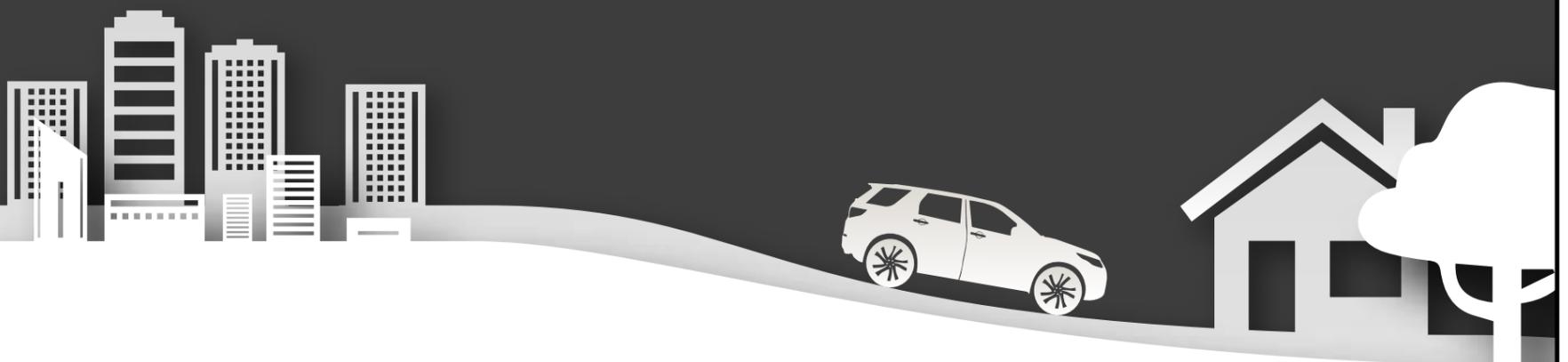
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