



P7



P12

▶ PJ Library and Jewish values • 7
 ▶ Saved by Wallenberg as an infant • 12
 ▶ New kids on the block • 13



P13

Hamilton Jewish

News

SEPTEMBER 2023 | TISHREI 5783

The voice of Jewish Hamilton

Stories of survival from the very few who lived

Exhibit highlights the recollections of 10 Holocaust survivors who settled in Hamilton after the Second World War

BY **WENDY SCHNEIDER**
HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

THE SMALL BOOKLET, so thin and nondescript as to be easily missed, was sitting on a shelf in the back stacks of the Hamilton Public Library (HPL) archives when Kaye Prince-Hollenberg happened across it

STORIES OF SURVIVAL
CONTINUES ON **P5**
LIVING HISTORY: 39 CZECH JEWS WHO FLED THE NAZIS TO FIND A HOME IN CANADA
SEE **P6**

towards the end of 2019. Its title, Holocaust Recollections, the stories of 10 Hamiltonians who survived, was of immediate interest to the HPL librarian, who also happens to be a professional genealogist with a special interest in Holocaust-related research. Prince-Hollenberg's first thought was to set up a rotating exhibit in the

library's Local History and Archives department to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day. She and an HPL colleague even pitched the idea to Federation CEO Gustavo Rymberg in February 2020. A month later, the world shut down, but Prince-Hollenberg never let go of her desire to share these stories.



PHOTO: WENDY SCHNEIDER, HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

Library exhibit showcases Holocaust stories

Kaye Prince-Hollenberg with the display she curated at the Hamilton Public Library's Central Branch featuring the booklet of recollections of 10 Hamilton Holocaust survivors as well as the library's Hamilton Reads pick: Nothing the Same, Everything Haunted, a novel by Gary Barwin.

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



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
Open 7 days a week

OLD BAGEL HOUSE

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



CIBC PRIVATE WEALTH
WOOD GUNDY

SHANA TOVA!
WISHING YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY
A HEALTHY AND
JOYFUL NEW YEAR.



For the past 30 years, the Apel Investment Group
has provided expert investment and wealth
management services for clients in the Hamilton
and surrounding area.

APEL INVESTMENT GROUP

21 King Street West, 6th 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. If you are currently a CIBC Wood Gundy client, please contact your Investment Advisor.

FEDERATION EDITORIAL

Supporting Jewish life in countless moments like this



Gustavo Rymberg

CEO
HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION

AS WE ARE about to embark on another new year, a new Annual Community Campaign, and, for me, six incredible years in Hamilton, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Hamilton Jewish community for your unconditional support and for strengthening and sustaining Jewish life in our city. Your generosity makes it possible for the Hamilton Jewish Federation to provide support in virtually every type of Jewish moment. In times of crisis and in times of calm, we're building community and changing lives.

This past year has not been without its challenges. Like many in our community, we are alarmed by rising political tensions in Israel and what it means for Israelis, as well as Jews worldwide. It's been important for us to remind the community that Jewish Federations' commitment to strengthening the ties between Israel and North American Jewry is an eternal one, and the bonds that unite our two communities are unbreakable. Our love and commitment to the Jewish State and people of Israel transcends any policy or government action. With the incredible turnout at our community's celebration of Israel's 75th birthday last spring, it's clear to us, that many of you feel the same.

Other memorable moments Federation facilitated over the last year include the Hamilton Jewish Film Festival, the Marvin Caplan Jewish Book Festival, Pride Shabbat to name a few. Federation's JWelcome Home Hamilton initiative is also having a significant impact. This initiative brought 44 young Jewish families to Hamilton between 2020 and 2022, and an additional 13 families in 2023. Federation's inaugural #no-moreantisemitism conference held last fall in downtown Hamilton inspired countless important and meaningful conversations about the disturbing rise in global antisemitism. It also served to put Hamilton on the global stage, raise awareness and inspire action against hatred and discrimination here in Hamilton.

Then there was the moment we understood that last year's Annual Community Campaign exceeded all our expectations, raising more than \$2 million, to make it possible for us and our agency partners are able to provide a safety net for our most vulnerable, a lively cultural life, education and camp experiences for our children.

The goal of the Hamilton Jewish Federation is to touch the lives of every member of our community and to connect them with each other, and with fellow Jews around the world. Together with our network of beneficiary agencies, Federation provides a safety net for our most vulnerable citizens and support services which vitally enrich their quality of life. We work to strengthen our community for now and for generations to come.

Our overseas partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), are on the ground when crisis strikes. They were there the day war broke out in Ukraine—assessing, adapting, and responding to the urgent needs on the ground, helping millions of people who were forced to flee their homes, communities, and countries to recover, resettle, and rebuild broken lives.

Your gift to this year's Annual Community Campaign will ensure that we can continue to meet the urgent, ongoing humanitarian and social service needs of Jews locally and globally, to strengthen our community's relationship with Israel, to grow Jewish education and identity, and to counter antisemitism. Fueled by donors like you, the Annual Campaign helps create countless impactful moments here in Hamilton and for people around the world. Moments to feel proud, moments to celebrate, moments to learn, to help and to get involved. Moments that keep our community going, moments that connect us to tradition and inspire the next generation.

At Federation we are committed to creating moments that build and sustain our flourishing Jewish community. We work to protect our Jewish community from violent antisemitism, securing our synagogues, day schools, and other Jewish institutions. We combat all forms of antisemitic and anti-Israel activity wherever they appear. And we raise our voices and advocate on City Hall and Parliament Hill for critical legislation and funding to protect ourselves and every group targeted by hate.

With your support, we can have an impact on countless more moments. Your renewed commitment to Hamilton Jewish Federation ensures that individuals and families who need us now more than ever can get the vital help they need in the moments they need it most.

Make this moment a special one.

Shana tova u'metukah to you and yours.

Ian Jones receives humanitarian award



PHOTO: WENDY SCHNEIDER, HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

Former principal of Milton District High School Ian Jones (left) with brother-in-law, David Cummings stopped by at JHamilton this summer to receive the Hamilton Jewish Federation Holocaust Education Committee Humanitarian Award. Voted one of Canada’s 30 outstanding principals, Jones was recognized for creating One School, One Voice, One World, a bold initiative that used the study of the Holocaust as a jumping off point to teach tolerance.

6	UPCOMING EVENTS
	Goldblatt lecture returns to McMaster
11	FEATURE STORY
	A different attic, a different ending
20	LIVES REMEMBERED
	Remembering Cecile Steinberg
26	ISRAEL TODAY
	Sar-El Canada reopens to volunteers

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
2	Editorial
5	Cover story
6	Upcoming events
8	Local news
11	Feature story
12	People and places
13	Special mentschen
16	Local voices
20	Lives remembered
22	Community pages
26	Israel today
	FEDERATION NEWS: 7, 14-15 & 17

NEXT ISSUE: **CHANUKAH 2023**
DEADLINES Booking ads: **October 3, 2023**
Advertising copy: **November 15, 2023**
Publication date: **November 29, 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
Ron Csillag, Julia Kollek, Kaye Prince-Hollenberg, Ruth McCrae, Helaine Ortman, Ben Shragge, Phyllis Shragge

CONSULTING ART DIRECTOR
John Bullock

PUBLISHER
Hamilton Jewish Federation

ADVERTISING
Wendy Schneider

HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION PRESIDENT
Jacki Levin

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

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

Shalom Village seeks Balabusta

The Balabusta will:

- ✓ work 15 hours per week on site, with flexible times and dates
- ✓ develop Shalom Village practices that support Jewish Life at Shalom Village.
- ✓ using your knowledge of a kosher home, and Jewish life in general, create respectful relationships, interact in meaningful ways with residents, staff and families and work alongside the teams in creating and delivering Jewish life observations
- ✓ assist our non Jewish staff and families to find ways to enjoy moments that matter, and honour their own values and traditions at home at Shalom Village.
- ✓ be an ad hoc member of our Jewish Life Committee and participate in orientation of staff and Board members.

To apply for this position, please send your resume to info@ShalomVillage.ca quoting the job title of “Balabusta Application” in the subject line.

INTERLUDE TOWNHOMES

The Spotlight Shines on Waterdown

Timeless Stacked Townhomes Starting from \$499,990

Coming October 2023

Register Now
interludetowns.ca

NEW HORIZON DEVELOPMENT GROUP



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.



"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!"

– Shirley L.

A Message for Rosh Hashana

Shalom Village extends our warmest wishes for this New Year, 5784. Rosh Hashanah marks the start of a New Year — a time of humble prayer, joyful celebration, and hope for a new beginning, as we each look within, and to one another to provide care and comfort to friends, family and community. During this season of renewal, we celebrate that spirit; we honour our fathers and our mothers; and rededicate ourselves to the work of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world. This year, we offer each of you our deepest wishes that this year be a year of blessing, good health, and peace for you and those you love. May you be inscribed for blessing in the Book of Life.



Special Thanks

We are very grateful to all our "If These Walls Could Talk" mural donors.

Your support is transforming our hallways and common areas to places of joy, filled with vibrant colours and streetscapes.

It's not too late to support Pat's Place on our Mural, and share your personal thanks with Pat. **To make your gift, please visit ShalomVillage.ca/Give-Today – or call Kathleen at 905-529-1613 X264.**

SAVE THE DATE

42nd Shalom Village Ladies Auxiliary Tea

Drive-Thru 2023 Edition

Wednesday October 25th, 2023

This year's Tea will honour our inaugural CEO Sheila Burman on the occasion of her 90th Birthday and many decades leading and supporting Shalom Village Seniors.

Watch your inbox and/or mailbox for more information.



“I was pretty excited after three-and-a-half years to finally put those stories out there.”

Stories of survival

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

THANKS TO HER resolve, a new display at the library’s central branch is bringing those stories to Hamiltonians.

It would take more than three years for Prince-Hollenberg to find the “appropriate time,” but holding to her vision has culminated in a new exhibit at the Hamilton Public Library’s central branch that pairs the Holocaust recollection booklet with the library’s 2023 Hamilton Reads pick, Gary Barwin’s *Nothing the Same, Every Haunted*. The exhibit includes two glass display cases located on the library’s third floor, the first highlighting the Holocaust experiences of four of the 10 survivors whose stories are included in the publication, the second showcasing Barwin’s book, alongside a 3D printed replica of the Wallenberg memorial in London, UK, and a paper suitcase, a nod to Barwin’s artistic collaboration on the Raoul Wallenberg Belongings art installation at Churchill Park.

A close look at the Holocaust Recollections booklet reveals it was sponsored by Hamilton Jewish Social Services in 1984 under the leadership of the late Carol Krames and made possible by a federal grant. Its authors, Sonia Halpern and Jack Joseph, university students at the time, write of the challenges inherent in persuading local survivors to speak about the horrors of their past in the publication’s foreword. Of 23 Holocaust survivors they initially contacted, only 10 agreed to participate in the project. Those individuals, who included Rena Freeman, Elizabeth Schwartz, Helen Gross, Maier Solomon, Helen Joseph, Sam Szpirglas, Helen Vine, Paul Bogart, David Schoenberg, and



The display case at the HPL’s central branch, featuring the stories and photographs of four of the 10 survivors featured in the Holocaust Recollections booklet.

WENDY SCHNEIDER PHOTOS, HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

Jack Rosen, agreed to sit down for a 90-minute interview, their stories summarized in each of the booklet’s 10 chapters. Their reasons for participating, explained Halpern and Joseph, were “to make public their invaluable stories in the desperate hope that the atrocities of World War II neither be forgotten nor repeated.”

The, booklet, which has now been digitalized, is freely accessible to anyone via the HPL’s Internet Archive portal (archive.org/details/hamiltoncollection) but the actual display, which includes additional biographical information and photographs, of Helen Vine, Jack Rosen, Paul Bogart and Rena Freeman that Prince-Hollenberg found in the Spectator archives is well worth a visit to the library.

It’s fair to say that without Prince-Hollenberg, this exhibit would never



have seen the light of day.

“I was pretty excited after three-and-a-half years to finally put those stories out there and allow everyone in Hamilton to read them,” she told the HJN, after contacting the newspaper earlier this summer. But it wasn’t only the upcoming HPL exhibit that

prompted Prince-Hollenberg to contact the editor. She was also interested in writing a regular column for the paper on Jewish genealogy, an offer the HJN enthusiastically accepted.

Prince-Hollenberg, who is not Jewish, says her 20-year interest in genealogy originates with big family reunions her grandmother would host. Her first foray into Jewish genealogy came about after investigating her Jewish in-laws’ family connection to the Ukrainian village of Korolivka, home to another Jewish family whose story of hiding in underground caves for 18 months is the subject of the 2012 documentary, *No Place on Earth*. Prince-Hollenberg has since become something of an expert in Jewish genealogical research and hopes her column (see page 19) will be a vehicle to help others.

Gary Barwin’s novel *Nothing the Same, Everything Haunted* is displayed next to replicas of a suitcase and the Raoul Wallenberg monument in London, UK.

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 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.



JEWISH LEARNING PROGRAM

A program open to all Jewish children in the Greater Hamilton Jewish community

215 Cline Ave. N.
Hamilton, ON
dacellison@anshesholom.ca
905.528.0121 ext 30
anshesholom.ca



Follow us on Instagram or on Facebook

A New School Year Begins September

Junior Kindergarten through Grade 12

TORAH & PRAYER
COMMUNITY
HISTORY
TRADITIONS
JEWISH VALUES

Saturdays
9:15 am to 12:15 pm
Wednesdays
4:30 to 6:30 pm

Register online



or visit anshesholom.ca/tas-religious-school



TOT-SHABBAT

Drop in for songs, stories, hands-on play
Saturdays from 11:00 am-noon
A Shabbat Experience for ages 1-4 and their caring adult

A FREE program open to all Jewish families
An inclusive environment for Jewish learning



TAS Religious School is generously supported by the Hamilton Jewish Federation

Living History: The 1938 flight from Nazi Czechoslovakia

Wilma Igger’s eyewitness account of how 39 Czech Jews were allowed safe entry into Canada on the eve of the Holocaust

BY **WILMA IGGERS**
SPECIAL TO HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

I JUST LISTENED to the podcast about the Loewith family and their Summit Station Dairy, and am very much impressed. I wanted to share with you some of the story of how they came to Canada.

I am the daughter of Karl Abeles, who organized the exodus of 39 people from Czechoslovakia, the first group arriving in November 1938 at a farm in the Hamilton area, and a second group in 1939.

At 102, I am the only one of the original 39 left.

The first group included my parents Elsa and Karl Abeles, my sister Marianne and myself, Wilma, as well as Ida and Leo Abeles, their daughters Minna and Hanna, Hugo and Martha Popper and their children Hanna and Karl, Alois and Hedda Popper and their sons Richard and Joe, Hugo and Jara Abeles (they later changed the spelling to Abeles) and their children Ruth and Petr, Karl and Anna Schleissner, Ludwig and Annie Ekstein and their daughter Anni, Frank Ekstein and Willy Ekstein, Alex and Marianne Lustig with little Eva, Otto and Gretl Hoenig with niece Liesl Zentner, and of course Joe Loewith.

Emil Lederer, an artist by inclination, his wife Edith Lederer and their daughter Doris, left the group in Montreal and initially tried to farm in Nova Scotia before coming to Ontario. A second group arrived in 1939.

Our group included at least two non-Jews: Arnold Schmoker, a Swiss cattle expert who worked for the Abeles and Popper farming “Kompanie”, and Jara Abeles, the gentle wife of cousin Hugo Abeles.

The first morning at the Wren Farm in Caledonia, we found apples and potatoes, and our first meal consisted of apple-sauce and potatoes. Everyone loved the meal, but eating apples and potatoes that had been on the ground and must have been frozen had digestive consequences that night for all five families.

In 1938, Canada would only grudgingly admit Jewish farmers as immigrants.

Every family had to bring to Canada a minimum of \$1,000 in hard currency. My father recruited some non-farmers who were able to cover those who did not have the money.

Our group included Abeleses and Poppers who were farmers in Czechoslovakia, and some who were close to agriculture, such as the Ecksteins who were cattle dealers, and others who did not actually have any farming experience. Joe Loewith was one of those who did not have farming experience, but became a successful dairy farmer in Canada. Rabbi Zwetschenbaum also had no farming background. My father convinced the Canadian authorities that those with limited or no farming background would be an asset to Canadian agriculture.

My father had made an exploratory



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIEL IGGERS, SPECIAL TO THE HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

trip to Canada, negotiated with the Canadian immigration authorities and the representatives of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Deputy Minister of Immigration, Frederick Charles Blair, with whom he met, who was notorious for saying about Jewish immigrants that “none is too many,” was impressed by my father and did not think that he seemed like a farmer.

Most of our group were not very observant; most celebrated the High Holy Days, weddings and funerals,

but were relaxed about keeping kosher. The Sabbath was not kept strictly or at all, and pork was a regular part of their diet. However, they were Jewish enough for the antisemites, and Jewish enough for Hitler.

Joe Loewith married my cousin Minna Abeles in Canada. Minna was the matriarch of the Loewith family. Their children and their grandson Ben work the dairy farm and are now building the Summit Station Dairy.

Wilma Iggers lives in Williamsville, NY

Wilma Iggers (far left) her father Karl, her sister Marianne, cousin Hannah Popper and her father Hugo Popper, in Antwerp, November 1938 on their way to Canada

UPCOMING **EVENTS**

Lecture explores new face of antisemitism

Professor Dov Waxman is the featured speaker at this year’s Lillian and Marvin Goldblatt Jewish Studies Lecture

BY **WENDY SCHNEIDER**
HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

THE ALARMING RISE in antisemitism may be incontestable, but there is no consensus on what antisemitism is and what causes it. Even in the Jewish community there is disagreement over what constitutes antisemitism, particularly concerning the thorny question of whether anti-Zionism is an expression of anti-Jewish racism.

Professor Dov Waxman, the featured speaker at this year’s Lillian and Marvin Goldblatt Jewish Studies Lecture, thinks Jews spend too much time arguing about what should count as antisemitism and too little time thinking about how to address antisemitic prejudice in the real world. His talk, titled, “How to Think about Antisemitism: Anti-Jewish Racism?” will take place at McMaster University in October.

The Goldblatt Lecture is an annual lecture series in Jewish Studies created in 2002 by the late Marvin Goldblatt in memory of his wife, Lillian. This year’s lecture, which is co-sponsored by the Hamilton Jewish Federation, is returning after a four-year hiatus.

Dov Waxman is the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation Chair of Israel Studies at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and the director of the UCLA Y&S Nazarian Center for Israel Studies. His research focuses on the conflict over Israel-Palestine, Israeli politics and foreign policy, U.S.-Israel relations, American Jewry’s relationship with Israel, Jewish politics, and contemporary antisemitism. He is the author of four books, most recently, “The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: What Everyone Needs to Know” (Oxford University Press, 2019).

In a Zoom interview with the HJN, Professor Waxman referenced the controversy over the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which has been endorsed by numerous countries and institutions around the world, but

has come under criticism for silencing Palestinian advocacy and censoring free speech. Waxman, who shares those concerns, was involved in drafting the Nexus Document as an alternative to IHRA, that outlines examples of when criticism of Israel is not inherently antisemitic, but said it would be a mistake to exaggerate the importance of any definition.

“Sometimes I think we put too much emphasis on these different definitions ... it’s not actually clear what practical effect those endorsements have.”

Waxman says he is much more concerned by expressions of antisemitism from white supremacists, which he calls, “the most threatening form of antisemitism today.”

The Goldblatt Lecture will take place on Monday, Oct. 23, 2023 at 7 p.m. at CIBC Hall, McMaster University Student Centre, 3rd Floor. Admission is free, but registration is recommended at hamiltonjewishfederation.regfox.com/goldblatt-lecture-series. For more information, please contact the Federation office at 905-648-0605.

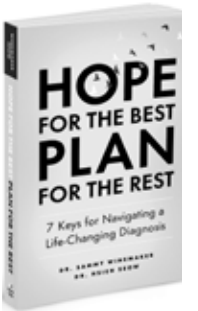


Co-authors
Hsien Seow
and Samantha
Winemaker

Book launch

MCMMASTER FACULTY, Dr. Samantha Winemaker and Dr. Hsien Seow, have released a new book called, Hope for the best, Plan for the rest: 7 keys for navigating a life-changing diagnosis.

Using their experience from thousands of patients, they uncovered the 7 keys patients and families need to know to have a better illness experience. Join them at a free public event on Thursday, Sept. 28 from 6 -7:30 p.m. at the Hamilton Public Library Central branch (55 York Blvd). The event will feature an interview with the authors, Q&A from the audience, and a book signing hosted by Cancer Assistance Program, 100% Certainty Project, and Epic Books. Register here: cancerassist.ca/events. Purchase book at waitingroomrevolution.com.



PJ Library brings the values of growing up Jewish to life

This free library program aims to spark meaningful conversation and provide opportunities to learn and celebrate Jewish life

BY **MAGGIE NORRIS**
PJ LIBRARY HAMILTON

MY HUSBAND and I were living in Youngstown, Ohio in 2011, while he was completing his residency program, and were ecstatic to find a small Jewish community with an active JCC, Jewish day school and several synagogues. In an effort to become more active in the Jewish community, I began working at the local JCC in its after-school program, where I incorporated Jewish themes and holidays into the almost non-existent curriculum. So I was thrilled to learn about PJ Library, a subsidiary of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, which provided free books for Jewish kids from infant to aged nine. We had an infant son, and I signed him up without hesitation. Before long, we started to receive age-appropriate Jewish books. We also signed up for a children's program held in the Youngstown JCC Library, and had a blast. At that time, I was not aware of how exactly PJ Library worked and who was funding this amazing endeavour, but I was immediately hooked on the whole idea.

When we moved back to Hamilton in 2013, our subscription to PJ Library moved with us, and we continued to receive numerous books for all of our children. So, you can see why, when I was offered the position of Program Professional for PJ Library Hamilton-Wentworth, I enthusiastically accepted.

In May of 2023, I was our community's representative at the international PJ Library conference, which



WENDY SCHNEIDER, HJN

PJ Library professional programmer, Maggie Norris reads to children in a session at J Hamilton.

was held in Massachusetts. The vibe was positive and supportive and the energy electric. I was inspired by the incredible philanthropy, community support, and unwavering commitment by so many professionals and parent volunteers in Jewish communities large and small across North America and overseas.

I returned to Hamilton with renewed vigour, committed to ramping up our programming, and finding a way to enroll any family who expressed interest in signing up.

PJ Library started off 2023 with a bang, as we re-introduced in-person programming after the pandemic. Over the next several months, we put PJ Library back on the map in Hamilton through fun offerings such as a movie and pizza night, Purim party, matzah baking with Chabad Hamilton, and more.

All our programs include story time with PJ Library books and crafts. We also make appearances at community

events, camps, and schools. It's been wonderful seeing many of the same smiling faces returning to PJ Library events and seeing children light up when they recognize the signature blue and white logo.

PJ Library is devoted to connecting families and providing children's books and programs focusing on fundamental themes and core values that are essential to growing up Jewish.

The best part? Last March, we were able to eliminate our wait list and almost double our enrolment, thanks to generous local donors and the Arogeti family grant we received from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. But, as word gets around about our excellent programming centred around Jewish values and holidays, our wait list is once again increasing. Sponsoring a family for a year of PJ Library books costs less than \$100, which goes towards receiving books and offsetting the cost of programming. Individual programs can also

be sponsored and goods donated for activities and crafts. Your support can enrich PJ Library in Hamilton and ensure that every child that wants to subscribe, can do so.

When I see the potential that PJ Library has in our community, I get really excited. When I see grandparents reading PJ books with their grandkids at our intergenerational programming, I see the value of this incredible organization. When I see children making friends and connecting to other Jewish kids, I feel hopeful that we can continue to help the next generation see the worth of Jewish learning through books and social engagement. Spread the word about PJ Library and see how you can contribute to the growth of Jewish learning for our children! For more information or to receive our monthly newsletter, email mnorris@jewishhamilton.org, visit pjlibrary.org or hamiltonjcc.com, or call 905-648-0605 ext 307.

“All our programs include story time with PJ Library books and crafts. We also make appearances at community events, camps, and schools.

Discovery of a shared Holocaust history

Georgina Rosenberg and Danna Horwood recently unravelled the desperate parallels in their families' Holocaust histories

BY **WENDY SCHNEIDER**
HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

GEORGINA ROSENBERG and Danna Horwood have been friends for 11 years, since Rosenberg moved here from Toronto to be with her partner, now husband, Benjy Katz. Rosenberg's recent discovery of new details surrounding her mother's Holocaust experiences has deepened that bond.

It began with a simple request that Rosenberg made to Federation CEO Gustavo Rymberg last spring. Rosenberg had recently received a document, written in German, from the Claims Conference based on

testimony her mother gave to the organization in 1967, and she was wondering if the young researcher Rymberg had hired to curate the main exhibit for the soon to be constructed Margaret's Legacy Holocaust Learning Centre could translate it into English for her. Cory Osmond would do that and much, much more. His research would reveal strikingly parallel fates suffered during the Holocaust by Rosenberg's mother and Horwood's grandmother, Margaret Weisz in whose memory the new centre is named.

Sura Rosenberg (née Weisel) was 13 years old when her family fled from Romania to Budapest in the weeks leading up to the Nazi invasion of Hungary in 1944. Margaret Weisz was a newly-wed 23-year-old desperately trying to avoid deportation.

In June, 1944, both women were deported to Auschwitz, and in the months that followed, both women were sent to the Gross-Rosen

network of Nazi forced labour camps in Czechoslovakia. In January 1945, both Margaret and Sura survived the horrendous death marches from Gross-Rosen.

Margaret would go on to be liberated by the Americans, while Sura spent the final months of the war at the Glabonz forced labour camp, where she was liberated by the Soviet army and forced to restart her life in Communist Romania. After the war, Margaret and Arthur Weisz would make a new life for themselves in Hamilton, with their son Tom, who was born in a DP camp. Rosenberg's parents would immigrate to Canada much later (her father refused to leave her grandmother behind in Romania), eventually settling in Toronto in 1965. Rosenberg remembers coming to Hamilton as a child to visit other Hungarian Jewish Holocaust survivors, but she never dreamed she'd be the one to close the circle on the parallel journeys taken by Sura



WENDY SCHNEIDER, HJN

Rosenberg and Margaret Weisz. “I’ve always believed everything happens for a reason,” said Rosenberg. “Here I am married to a man from Hamilton, in this incredible community that I actually now love, with this new friend, and this connection ... and now we find out that her grandmother and my mother were possibly side by side at the same camp at the same time.”

Georgina Rosenberg, left, holds a document containing details of her mother's Holocaust experience and Danna Horwood, right, holds her grandfather's autobiography.

CHANGES ON THE JEWISH PROFESSIONAL COMMUNAL SCENE

Meet the new CEO of Shalom Village, Marianne Klein

Klein embraces the leader’s mission and responsibility to serve others and advocate for those less fortunate in her new role at Shalom Village

BY **HELAINE ORTMANN**
SPECIAL TO HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

AS THE granddaughter of Holocaust survivors who gave up everything and suffered so much, Marianne Klein, incoming CEO to Shalom Village, felt compelled from a very young age to ensure that her grandparents were well cared for, especially as they grew older.

“Seeing my grandparents age had a life-long impact on me and fundamentally guided me in my career,” she said, adding, “their experiences shaped and motivated me in caring for vulnerable people.” Unlike others who need to search for their existential purpose, Klein understood early on her mission and responsibility was to serve others and advocate for those less fortunate and in need.

That is why her fit with Shalom Village is authentic and compatible.

With almost 20 years of experience in health care, much of that with seniors, and her personal values to help, be kind and inclusive — “this is how we live our lives as Jews” — Klein feels the opportunity to serve Shalom Village and its community of residents, families, staff, volunteers and supporters as CEO is one of great honour; a mitzvah. “Shalom Village is a very special place and one that I truly just wanted to be a part of. The more I learned about it, the more alignment I began to see with who I am as a person,” she said.

Born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, spending time in Boston as a child, then emigrating to Toronto in the early 1990s; and benefiting from health care education in Canada and certification in public health, virtually, from a UK university, Klein has been exposed to diverse cultures and inspired by new ideas and best practices from a variety of sources.

Influenced by Ashkenazi grandparents who came from Poland and Hungary, she speaks fluent Portuguese, understands and speaks a little Spanish and Ladino, and can pick up some

Yiddish. With the support of her Sephardic husband, whose parents came from Yemen and Iraq, Klein is working to improve her basic Hebrew. Wanting to be part of the day-to-day life of the residents at Shalom Village, her language assets will no doubt open many doors.

Engaging, participating, listening and welcoming input are elements of Klein’s strategy to introduce herself to residents and their families. “I will be out there in the hallways, at activities, in the dining room, celebrating milestones; giving residents opportunities to have their voices heard and their autonomy respected to make choices over their own daily lives,” she said.

When asked to describe her style, Klein said, “I lead in a very flexible, easy-going way ... my door is open.” Embodying advice she has received from parents, teachers, leaders and mentors, to never stop learning and growing personally and professionally, she is developing herself into a “graceful leader,” one who understands when to take action and when to step back and let others lead. Just as she intends to invest in the lives and well-being of Shalom Village residents and families, she will be there for her staff. Reflecting on how she wanted people to feel after interacting with her, she repeated with conviction: “I want them to feel heard.”

Although it makes her family laugh, Klein shared that she had her own care plan “ready to go.” Imagining herself as a resident in long-term care, she says being physically active, participating in Shabbat services, helping with the Tea or serving on the residents’ council would all be important to maintain her independence. She’d be on the MilliMobile for field trips, and was quick to disclose she “would not say no to a trip to the mall.” When the subject of food came up, she said she would want food on the menu that was healthy and nutritious, but admitted she would never refuse babka or rugelach; foods that triggered memories of what her grandmother made for her at home.

Leading with kindness, grace and compassion; and making a positive impact on the Shalom Village community; this was clear and present in the words and tone of new CEO Marianne Klein.



“The more I learned about Shalom Village, the more alignment I began to see with who I am as a person.”

MARIANNE KLEIN



Cara Bensimon on her first day at work at Hamilton Jewish Family Services.

Cara Bensimon joins HJFS as new executive director

Bensimon places open, transparent communication and leading by example as her two most important leadership values

BY **CINDY MARK**
SPECIAL TO HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

The board of directors and staff at Hamilton Jewish Family Services (HJFS) are excited to welcome Cara Bensimon as our new executive director. Bensimon brings with her a wealth of experience from her business background and her time at UJA Federation in Toronto.

Bensimon and her family moved from Toronto to Greensville approximately five years ago, and have set down roots. Some of her extended family members have even followed her to Dundas.

The couple has built a family business, their two boys are in their teen years, and she feels that the time is right to start working within our community. We feel very lucky that this opportunity arrived at this point in Bensimon’s life.

Cara Bensimon is warm and welcoming, and her optimism is truly contagious. If you see her out in the community, please introduce yourself, as she is excited to meet everyone who has a link to this wonderful

agency that has evolved in our city. We feel that Bensimon’s vision for the agency will lead Hamilton Jewish Family Services to a sustainable future, as we continue to provide the vulnerable members of our Jewish community with a “hand-up.”

Bensimon’s leadership style is one of leading by example. She believes in keeping communication open and transparent, whether it be with fellow team members, the board of directors, stakeholders in the agency or other community professionals.

“I am absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to lead an organization whose values and vision I believe in so deeply,” said Bensimon. “My goal is to preserve and build upon the incredible history of Hamilton Jewish Family Services while simultaneously looking toward the future. With our committed board of directors, a knowledgeable staff with years of experience, and a community full of volunteers and donors, we are in line to serve the individuals and families in need within our wonderful community. I look forward to meeting many of you at the Hamilton Jewish Federation Carnival Kickoff on Sept. 10.”

We are looking forward to Bensimon’s brand of leadership at HJFS. If you haven’t already done so, subscribe to the newsletter at the agency to follow the path that our new executive director creates for our future.

SHANAH TOVAH !

FROM ALL OF US AT PLATINUM LION -
THE LARGEST REAL ESTATE
BROKERAGE IN DUNDAS.

PLATINUM
LION
REALTY INC.
BROKERAGE

PLATINUM LION REALTY INC.
301 - 104 KING ST W
DUNDAS, ON L9H 0B4
905-628-6765
PLATINUMLION.CA

Hamilton human rights scholar receives Order of Canada

Rhoda Howard-Hassman recognized for her scholarly contribution to international justice and human rights

BY ABIGAIL CUKIER
HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

Rhoda Howard-Hassmann was recently named a member of the Order of Canada, recognized for her scholarly contributions and commitment to the advancement of international human rights.

“I was extremely surprised when they told me,” Howard-Hassmann says. “I was delighted. I found out in mid-May and had to keep quiet about it until the end of June when it was announced. I am very pleased to have the honour.”

Howard-Hassmann attributes much of her interest in human rights to her father’s background, which included escaping from Germany in 1938 because the Gestapo was looking for him after he criticized Hitler at a company banquet.

Born Helmut Hassmann in Germany, he forged his passport and went on a journey that included stays in prisons in Yugoslavia and Italy and an encounter with a Swiss Quaker who protected him from deportation and helped him go to England. He married a Scottish woman, Mary Byrne, and they eventually immigrated to Canada.

In Britain, Hassmann changed his name to Michael Howard. Hassmann had been a German transliteration of his grandfather’s Russian-Jewish name, something like Chazman. Michael Howard was half Jewish but

this was something he hid for the rest of his life. “My mother told me and my sister that there were some Jews in our father’s family, but instructed us never to let him know that we knew,” Howard-Hassmann wrote on her blog in 2014. “Our father’s past was a taboo subject. My parents made a few Jewish friends: my mother would whisper to us that so-and-so was Jewish, so that we knew we could trust her. But at dinner parties we all had to pretend that no one at the dining room table was Jewish.”

When she was 15, her father told her he was half Jewish. But the family was still under strict instructions to hide it. Howard-Hassmann says it was only when she attended McGill University that she met Jews who were open about their identity.

Howard-Hassmann has lived in Hamilton for almost 50 years and is a member of Temple Anshe Sholom. She converted to Judaism in 2002 after changing her name from Rhoda Howard to Rhoda Hassmann in 1999.

She had wanted to change her name back for many years but could not while her father was alive, as she believes he would have been angry and afraid. On her blog in 2014 she wrote, “The profound effects of the Holocaust on my attitudes, thinking and scholarship at last have some tangible expression. I no longer bear a name adopted because of fear. It’s a bit late in the game, after 51 years with the other name: what if I die young, I asked myself last September, after all this hassle of making the change? But I decided that if I do die young, I want to die as who I am.”

Howard-Hassmann earned her PhD in sociology at McGill. Her thesis on colonialism and underdevelopment



“If I’m not willing to speak my mind in a democratic country, then I have no business being in my job.”

RHODA HOWARD-HASSMAN

in Ghana was published as a book in 1978 and reissued this year for its 45th anniversary. When she wanted to investigate why people became refugees, she moved into human rights. She wrote a book, Human Rights in Commonwealth Africa and then many more books, including Reparations to Africa (and Can Globalization Promote Human Rights?

From 1976 to 2003, Howard-Hassmann was a professor in the Department of Sociology at McMaster University, originating and directing its now-defunct undergraduate minor Theme School on International Justice and Human Rights, one of the world’s first undergraduate non-law programs in human rights.

From 2003 to 2016, Howard-Hassmann held a Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights at Wilfrid Laurier University. There she held a joint appointment in the Department of Global Studies and the Balsillie School of International Affairs until 2014, when her appointment changed to the School of International Policy and Governance and the

Department of Political Science. She retired in 2017.

“I’m known for defending universal human rights,” Howard-Hassmann. “A lot of people say human rights is a Western colonial imposition and it’s just absolutely not true. A lot of people say that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 was a Western colonial thing. And in fact, colonial powers opposed the universality of human rights. They didn’t want people in the colonies to have them, but they were voted down. Fifty-six countries took part in devising that document. It wasn’t just colonial powers. It was Latin America, countries like India and China, countries that were independent. I am known for defending the universality against these claims.

“As a tenured university professor in Canada, if I’m not willing to speak my mind, in a democratic country, where they defend freedom of speech, then I have no business being in my job. Other people all over the world when they say things like what I say get thrown in jail.”

The board of directors and staff of the Hamilton Jewish Federation are deeply saddened by the passing of

CECILE STEINBERG

Cele was a devoted volunteer with Federation over many years in her role as UJA Campaign Chair and Campaign Canvasser. She was a true leader, role model, and woman of valour. We extend our sincere condolences to her family.

May her memory be a blessing.



Hamilton's Oldest Synagogue

Welcomes everyone to celebrate the Jewish New Year!

ROSH HASHANAH

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH



5784

A great year to get to know each other better!

We welcome guests at all our services and programs.


FALL BRINGS NEW BEGINNINGS

905-528-0121

www.anshesholom.ca


We are the oldest Reform Jewish congregation in Canada and the progressive voice for Judaism in our Hamilton community. Offering classes for children and adults and many opportunities to explore and develop your Jewish life.

Temple Anshe Sholom | 215 Cline Ave N | Hamilton | Ontario



Dan MUYS

Member of Parliament for Flamborough-Glanbrook



Shanah Tovah u'Metukah

Wishing you and your family good health, happiness and peace.

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

PLUMBING TIPS FROM YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PRO

Tips, tricks and what you need to know to prevent those common household plumbing disasters

Plumbing is one of those things, like language, that varies depending on where it’s happening. A plumber in Florida is going to have different issues than another one working in say, the Yukon. Plumbing is affected by climate, by building materials, by the style of building and time it was built. Here in Hamilton, the main factors that affect residential plumbing are the weather – cold winters, rainy springs – and the advanced age of so many of the houses here.

THINGS THAT COULD GO WRONG IN ANY HOME

- Insufficient waterproofing can lead to basement leaks, for example. Outdated or old plumbing systems can have corroded pipes or mineral buildup, which can affect things like water pressure. Older parts of Hamilton may have aging sewer systems, which are more prone to backups and blockages.
- Mature trees are beautiful and add to any neighbourhood’s appeal, but tree roots can tangle around and infiltrate pipes, causing clogs and potential damage.
- Knowing what we’re dealing with allows us to get ahead of it and prepare. Issues can always arise, but preventing unnecessary ones is always for the best.

1. WINTERIZE YOUR PIPES

Frozen pipes are a common issue because of Hamilton’s cold winters. Because the damage from a burst pipe can be significant, you want to take every precaution to ensure this doesn’t happen to you. Parts of the home that are unheated will be more susceptible to burst pipes – so pay extra attention to basements, attics and crawl spaces. Be sure to disconnect outdoor hoses and shut off the water supply to outdoor faucets.

2. PREVENT DRAIN CLOGS

Insulating pipes and taking pre-

ventative measures like keeping consistent indoor temperatures and allowing faucets to drip during extreme cold can help prevent burst pipes. To avoid clogs in your pipes and drains, be mindful of what’s being put down there. Drain screens are great for catching hair and debris. And avoid pouring grease, oil, coffee grounds and large food scraps down your drains. Regularly cleaning them can save you a headache.

3. REGULAR MAINTENANCE

Regular plumbing maintenance checks can identify potential issues like leaks, corroded pipes or worn-out fixtures before problems get out of control. Catching issues early can prevent most costly damage from taking place.

4. KNOW YOUR WATER MAIN SHUT-OFF

The more you know, right?! Get familiar with your main water shutoff valve. We hope it never happens, but in the case of a sudden leak or burst pipe you want to know how to shut off the water supply quickly to minimize potential damage to your home.

5. WATER HEATER CARE

Flushing the water heater regularly removes sediment build-up that can reduce efficiency and ultimately its lifespan. This is especially important in areas like Hamilton, where water is hard. If you don’t have a mixing valve on your water heater currently, adding one not only brings you up to Code, but adds a layer of efficiency to the appliance.

6. BEST PRO TIP

Interested in insurance savings? You can save BIG on your annual insurance rate AND protect your home by installing a professional automatic water shutoff valve. If no one is home, the water won’t con-



JOSH MOSKOWITZ
P L U M B E R

tinue flooding into the house. This can prevent massive flooding and property damage. Water shutoff valves can be old, possibly broken and very difficult to turn off. The automatic ones save precious time when it counts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Reach Josh at:
jmo@jmoplumbing.com
or
416-839-3653
Wishing you Shana Tova!

Regular plumbing maintenance checks can identify potential issues like leaks, corroded pipes or worn-out fixtures before these common problems get out of control

A different attic and a different ending

Local high school student tracks down the Jewish siblings who were saved by his great grandfather during the Holocaust

BY **ABIGAIL CUKIER**
HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

When Matthew Lang asked his grandfather about his family history, he never imagined where it would lead—including a trip to The Netherlands to hear his maternal great grandparents, Johannes and Catharina Van Roon, be named Righteous Among the Nations.

In 2017, Lang was taking the Grade 11 genocide and crimes against humanity course at Waterdown District High School. For his culminating project, he looked into his family history.

“I talked to my opa and found out his parents had hidden two Jewish children during the Second World War, Ralph and Marion Berets,” says Lang, now 23.

“It was the first time I had heard this in my life. I decided I wanted to base my project on this and started asking a lot of questions.”

Lang found out that it had been more than 70 years since his grandfather, Tom Van Roon had spoken to the Berets family. Lang decided he would try to find them.

Along with his mom Karin, his grandfather and some of his friends, Lang searched for any information he could find. All they knew was that one of the children had moved to the United States after the war. They only had the children’s last name. And it was spelled incorrectly.

“I was up every single night on the



PHOTO COURTESY KARIN LANG

Karin and Matthew Lang with the medal and certificate he received from Yad Vashem posthumously recognizing Lang’s maternal great grandparents as Righteous Among the Nations.

computer, searching with my opa or with my mom. I thought if there is a glimmer of hope that I can do this, I am going to go for it,” Lang says. “There were definitely moments where I thought it would not work. This is one person in seven billion.”

Around that time, Lang contacted Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust memorial, to see about having his great grandparents recognized as non-Jewish individuals who risked their lives to aid Jews during the Holocaust.

“I had heard about Yad Vashem but I did not know how important it was. It’s a recognition from the entirety of Israel,” Lang says. “I don’t think my great grandparents really wanted recognition. They just did it because it was the right thing to do. But I thought they should be recognized.”

After more than two months of searching, Lang’s team found a testimony Ralph had recorded five years earlier that was posted on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website. Was Ralph still alive?

They contacted the museum and staff put the family in touch with Ralph. They also learned that Marion was living in the Netherlands.

Van Roon made the first call to Ralph. “My dad was over the moon about it,” Karin says. “He liked to talk. He liked people. He was so happy to reunite with somebody he remembered from when he was little. The first time he talked to him on the phone, he phoned me seconds later and he was just over the moon about the whole thing.”

Lang’s family had a trip planned to Washington, DC to visit the Holocaust Museum and found out Ralph lived only 30 minutes from their hotel. They convinced Van Roon to join them on their trip.

During the reunion with Ralph, the family learned what happened after the children stayed with Van Roon’s family. He had been seven years old when his parents brought two children into their home and warned him and his six siblings that they were never to speak of the guests.

Their hiding place was an attic space above the apartment’s back bedroom. The arrangement lasted three weeks before one of Van Roon’s sisters let the secret slip at school and the resistance decided to move them.

Initially, they hid in a forest cabin until they were betrayed by a neighbouring child. After hiding in a ditch, they eventually hid in a chicken coop with a dozen other people. The space was so crowded, the occupants had

to take turns lying down. That’s where they were hiding in May 1945, when Canadian soldiers liberated the Netherlands.

After the visit, Van Roon and Ralph became friends, sharing regular phone calls and emails. Sadly, Van Roon died at the end of 2021 and Ralph died in the fall of 2022.

Following a two-year process, including testimonies from Van Roon, two of his brothers, Ralph and Marion, Lang was notified in 2019 that his great grandparents would be recognized. But due to COVID-19, the ceremony was repeatedly postponed. On May 3, 2023, Lang’s family travelled to the Netherlands. The family received a medal and certificate marking the honour in a ceremony at the Israeli Embassy in the Hague. Marion and her husband and two of her children also attended.

The medal and certificate will be part of the new Margaret’s Legacy Holocaust Learning Centre at the JCC and will be shared with the Waterdown high school museum.

“It is important this is in a museum,” says Karin. “History repeats itself. These things keep happening. I think the more we teach the younger generation, the more hope we have that things can change.” This is why Karin is fundraising to house the Waterdown high school museum permanently at the local Royal Canadian Legion. It is currently an occasional museum, which now takes up three classrooms.

“I think a lot of young people see history as boring. But every time the classroom museum is running, every single student is engaged,” Lang says. “It is very engaging to have this hands-on version of history.”



EFFORT
TRUST

The Effort Trust Company
wishes our wonderful
Jewish community a

Happy and Healthy Rosh Hashanah!

efforttrust.com

Saved by Wallenberg as an infant, a Toronto artist reclaims her past

Yvonne Singer was 34 when she discovered her Jewish identity and connection to Second World War hero Raoul Wallenberg

BY **RON CSILLAG**
SPECIAL TO HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

AS AN artist herself, Yvonne Singer can well appreciate the es-
thetic merits of the open-air monu-
ment to Swedish Second World War
hero Raoul Wallenberg that was un-
veiled over the summer at Hamilton’s
Churchill Park.

Though she had not, as of this writ-
ing, viewed the installation, dubbed
Be:longings, Singer spoke admiringly
of the 10 bronze-cast suitcases dis-
persed along a path adjacent to the
Hamilton aviary. She knows one of
the project’s creators, Simon Frank,
and is aware that suitcases have been
a potent symbol of the Holocaust.

“I like the fact that the suitcases are
scattered,” Singer, a well-established
visual artist and teacher in Toronto,
said in an interview over lemon tea in
her sun-drenched kitchen.

“I think the imagery and symbol-
ism are very effective in conveying
the idea of displacement and emigra-
tion.” The old-timey valises evoke not
just Wallenberg, noted Singer, but all
victims and survivors of that terror-
stricken era.

The outdoor project is also “min-
imal, which I like. I don’t like public
sculptures that scream at you or are
 clichéd.”

Singer connects to the installation
on a whole other level. The 78-year-
old resident of Toronto’s Cabbage-
town neighbourhood is Wallenberg’s
goddaughter. She was born on his
bed.

It’s a Hollywood-worthy tale that
evolved over time, in a series of
eye-popping twists, turns and co-
incidences—all amid Singer’s own
personal voyage of self-discovery.

The backstory is its own block-
buster: The non-Jewish scion of a
wealthy Swedish industrial and bank-
ing family, Wallenberg, then just 32,
was recruited by the U.S. War Ref-
ugee Board and dispatched to Bu-
dapest to assist and rescue as many
Jews in the Nazi-occupied Hungarian
capital as possible.

He arrived in July 1944, just as the
Nazis had shipped some 440,000 Jews
from the countryside to Auschwitz.
They now set their sights on the Jews
of Budapest.

Accorded diplomatic status, Wal-
lenberg famously set off on a fre-
netic pace. He designed, printed
and distributed thousands of the
“Schutzpass”—an official-look-
ing document that placed the holder
under the protection of the neutral
Swedish Crown. He also scoured the
city for buildings to rent, finding 32,
and crammed in as many souls as

possible.

The “safe houses” flew the yel-
low-and-blue Swedish flag and were
declared protected by diplomatic
immunity.

Known for his bluster and bravado,
his greatest coup came when he per-
suaded Nazi commanders to call off
the liquidation of Budapest’s Jewish
ghetto, with its 70,000 inhabitants. In
all, Wallenberg is credited with rescu-
ing more Jewish lives during the war
than any single government.

By January 1945, the Red Army was
laying siege to Budapest, and Wallen-
berg was taken into custody, suppos-
edly on suspicion of being a U.S. spy.
He promptly vanished into the gulag.
A Soviet report in 1956 stated he had
died in July 1947 of a heart attack in
Moscow’s notorious Lubyanka prison,
but supposed eyewitness sightings
and stories of contact with him from
former inmates continued well into
the 1970s.

But back to Singer.

On the night of Nov. 3, 1944, a des-
perate Tibor Vandor, who worked
for Wallenberg as a courier and liai-
son to the underground, needed help
for his wife, Agnes. She was in labour
and had been turned away from Buda-
pest’s hospitals, which barred Jews.
Wallenberg allowed the couple to use
his own room, while he slept in the
corridor.

The next morning, he was called
in to see a newborn girl. Asked by
the grateful parents to name her, he
chose Nina Maria Ava (Nina was his
half-sister’s name, Maria his moth-
er’s). The couple changed the first
name to Yvonne, and Wallenberg
agreed to be the child’s godfather.

Singer knew nothing of this until
she was 34 years old.

It was October 1979 when she read
an article, reprinted from a U.S. news-
paper, in the Toronto Star about Wal-
lenberg’s plight. The story included
a reference to Singer’s unusual birth
taken from a Hungarian book on the
Swedish hero written after the war.
The baby with the Toronto connec-
tion, the parents, the godfather—
were all there, mentioned by name.

When she read the piece, “I burst
out crying,” she told the Star after
contacting the paper. Her story
spilled forth a week later in a large
Saturday article headlined “Swedish
hero saved my life: Metro woman.”

Singer is still struck by “the incred-
ible coincidence of it all. Here I am in
Toronto in 1979, reading the paper ... it
boggles the mind. I could have easily
gone through life not knowing the
story. Suddenly, I had a connection
to this man, who sounds like he was
fascinating.”

Her parents had not told her the
story. And there was another miss-
ing piece of the puzzle—their
Jewishness.

At war’s end, the Vandors went to
Switzerland and Holland before set-
tling in Montreal in 1949, where the
parents shed their Jewish identities,



PHOTO BY RON CSILLAG, SPECIAL TO HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

Yvonne Singer
with a photo of
Raoul Wallenberg.
Singer discovered
the circumstances
surrounding
her connection
to the Swedish
humanitarian as
an adult.

doubtless seeking to forget. Tibor
Vandor even became an elder in the
United Church.

“I always pressed them for more in-
formation, and they always refused,”
even following the revelations in the
Toronto Star, Singer recalled. “They
told me very, very little.” Her parents
never revealed being Jews. Their si-
lence encompassed “anything to
do with the war. They were just not
forthcoming.”

Singer graduated from McGill Uni-
versity and went on to teach English
and French at local high schools. She
converted to Judaism to marry her
husband, Ron Singer, a theatre direc-
tor and educator, in 1966.

A few years later, a cousin in Eng-
land recalled being a flower-girl at
Yvonne’s parents’ wedding, which she
said took place in a synagogue. The
parents denied it but their daughter
believed it.

Singer’s feelings of alienation as an
immigrant child would evaporate on
discovering that she had been born
Jewish, whether the knowledge came
from a cousin or the Toronto Star. “I
felt like I’d come home, part of a his-
tory that goes back thousands of
years. I no longer felt rootless.”

The Singers moved to Toronto in
1971, where Yvonne later began a
prolific art career in various media
and teaching visual arts at York

“I always
pressed them
for more
information,
and they
always
refused ...
They told me
very, very
little.”

YVONNE SINGER

University. Raising three daughters
and a busy life meant there was little
time to get involved in the Wallenberg
file (though she was pleased when he
became Canada’s first Honorary Citi-
zen in 1985).

It’s little surprise that Singer’s art
has explored themes of identity, his-
tory and memory. The outsider status
she felt in her early life “is what made
me think about ways of express-
ing that, either through language or
visual imagery. So you go to what you
know when you’re an artist.”

In 2016, the Swedish government
declared Wallenberg officially dead,
but to Singer, that offered no final-
ity. “From what I learned, the Swedish
government is not exempt from blame
for trying to get Wallenberg out. I
cannot reconcile the fact that [Wal-
lenberg’s family] could not exert any
kind of leverage over the Russians to
find out what happened to him.”

She considers the godfather con-
nection to Wallenberg an honour, “but
I’m also very sad that I never met him.
I think he would have been a fascinat-
ing person to talk to. The story is just
very, very tragic.”

The grandmother of nine sighed.
Over the decades, the story for her
was obviously very personal, “and I
was still processing it. Maybe I’m still
processing it, for a long, long time.”

Meet four newly-minted Hamiltonians

What better time to feature newcomers to our community than in celebration of a new year. Over the last few years, Hamilton’s Jewish community has seen the arrival of many young families from across the globe. These recent arrivals represent the Jewish community’s next wave of entrepreneurial talent and skilled tradespeople who have chosen to make Hamilton home.



Josh Moskowitz

WHO HE IS
Plumber, father, people person

WHERE HE’S FROM
Toronto

FAMILY
Married to former journalist and realtor, Jessica Hume, the couple have two children, a daughter, 6 and a son, 4.

WHEN THEY ARRIVED
July 2022

WHERE THEY LIVE
They live in the St. Clair/Blakely neighbourhood near Gage Park.

HOW HE GOT INTO THE BUSINESS
“I love trade work and I just wanted to focus on one trade. To be honest I got into plumbing because it’s kind of like a mystery. It takes a certain kind of person to be a plumber. Plumbers don’t give up.

HOW IT’S GOING
It’s going well. Moskowitz has four full-time employees. Most of his business is still in Toronto but he would like to expand more in Hamilton.

WANTS YOU TO KNOW
Moskovitz has what he calls a “community-based work ethic.”
“I learned my business ethic from my dad, a lawyer who was mostly involved in real estate. He was really good to people. My whole thing is my honesty. I care a lot.”

IMPRESSIONS OF HAMILTON
“I love it. People are really easy to get along with. I like how there’s younger kids on the street without adult supervision all over the place. I don’t see that in Toronto. It’s like all over where I live. My area is all young families.”

CONTACT
jmo@jmoplumbing.com
416-839-3653



Nadya Eremenko

WHO SHE IS
Teacher, mother, sensory kit creator

WHERE SHE’S FROM
A native of Ukraine, Eremenko made aliyah to Israel as a teenager. She met her husband in Israel.

FAMILY
Eremenko and her husband, Shlomi Linoy have two daughters, ages 6 and 3.

WHEN THEY ARRIVED
The couple immigrated to Canada seven years ago. They moved to Hamilton from New Brunswick in December 2022 to be closer to a Jewish community.

WHERE THEY LIVE
Dundas

HOW SHE GOT INTO BUSINESS
Eremenko received her Bachelors of Education in Israel and is currently employed as a “casual supply” educational assistant with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board. About a year ago she started an online business selling sensory bins, which she’s found helped build fine motor skills, promoted sensory development and imagination in her own children. Each of Eremenko’s bins comes with a filler made of coloured rice or chickpeas, colourful scoops, tweezers and accessories according to themes. She also offers custom orders.

WANTS YOU TO KNOW
For all children, but in particular for those with special needs, sensory bin play is “ a very calming activity,” she said.
“The main thing is unstructured activity, let your children do whatever they want. You just want to keep them safe and to have fun.”

CONTACT
Instagram: @happy_childhoodgoods
Email: eremenko1386@gmail.com
Phone: 506-588-0927



Soraya Chusyd

WHO SHE IS
Clean beauty advocate, mother

WHERE SHE’S FROM
Brazil

FAMILY
Married to Fabio Chusyd, a financial advisor. The couple, who are featured in Federation’s JWelcome Home promotional video, have two daughters, ages 4 and 5.

WHEN THEY ARRIVED
The Chusyd family immigrated to Winnipeg in 2016, and moved to Hamilton in 2018.

WHERE THEY LIVE
Hamilton Mountain

HOW SHE GOT INTO BUSINESS
Chusyd first heard about the Clean Beauty Movement in Winnipeg. “It really shocked me how toxic products are and how there’s no legislation to regulate it,” she said. Chusyd began slowly switching to greener personal care and cleaning products. Six months ago Chusyd started her own online business with Beautycounter, a company that specializes in selling non-toxic beauty supplies.

WANTS YOU TO KNOW
“One of the things I love about Beautycounter is how ethical they are socially and environmentally. They also track their sources to make sure there is no child labour involved in mica mines, which is a product vastly used in cosmetics and it’s a huge issue.” Chusyd says her business is doing well, particularly among Hamilton’s large Brazilian community, but she’d like to expand her reach.

IMPRESSIONS OF HAMILTON
“Hamilton is a great city. I love that it is close to bigger cities, and also big enough to have its own character. Our favorite place to visit is the Royal Botanical Gardens.

CONTACT
beautycounter.com/sorayachusyd
instagram.com/sorayachusyd/



PHOTO BY IDAN EREZ

Caroline Erez

WHO SHE IS
Principal of Caroline Erez Design

WHERE SHE’S FROM
Toronto

FAMILY
She is married to an Israeli lawyer, who practices in Toronto. The couple has three small children and two miniature dachshunds.

WHEN THEY ARRIVED
2018

WHERE THEY LIVE
Hamilton’s Durand neighbourhood

HOW SHE GOT INTO THE BUSINESS
“A lifelong love of art and architecture led to studies at University of Toronto in art history. But I felt a strong desire to create for myself; once I began interning at some prestigious firms in New York and Los Angeles, I could see interior design at its best. Being exposed to all the resources those cities had to offer, I was hooked! I quickly transitioned into working for myself and haven’t looked back.”

WANTS YOU TO KNOW
“Good design makes life better. Beauty is nourishing, and with design intent we can live more functionally too. I’m here to help make that happen!”

IMPRESSIONS OF HAMILTON
“Hamilton quickly became home for us. The number of hikes, waterfalls and nature trails surrounding the city has been wonderful to discover too. Most importantly, the creative possibilities of the city are starting to reveal themselves to us as well—the restaurants, the art galleries, festivals, events. We’re happy here and the children are thriving.

CONTACT
416.566.3121
Caroline@carolineerez.com
instagram: @carolineerezdesign

CAMPAIGN 202.4M

jewishhamilton.org/donate

Together, we will reach our \$2.4M goal

Hamilton Jewish Federation provides support in virtually every type of Jewish moment- in times of crisis and in times of calm- we are building community and changing lives.

We are there the moment a child enters Jewish pre-school and the moment they learn their first Hebrew song. We are there, on a high school campus, the moment a young person uses their voice to advocate against spreading antisemitism. And we are there the moment a Holocaust survivor no longer feels alone.

Your support is vital- it enables us to continue building, strengthening, and protecting our Jewish community. With your gift to Hamilton Jewish Federation, you help create lasting moments for new generations and help us tackle the issues facing our 21st century Jewish world. In this and every moment.

It's moments like this made possible by Federation & you.

- When we feel proud to be Jewish.**
- When we feel safe to pray and celebrate.**
- When we all feel part of our community.**
- When we can raise our voices against hate.**
- When we all feel united.**



For more information contact the Campaign Director Elaine Levine at ellevine@jewishhamilton.org | 905-648-0605 x303

Carnival Kickoff

& Welcoming Newcomers

Sunday, September 10 | 12-3pm

Loewith Dairy Farms | 1399 Powerline Rd W, Lynden, ON | L0R 1R0

RAIN OR SHINE

Bring your own blanket & umbrella!

AA Pizza on Wheels
Planted in Hamilton
Nabulu Coffee Trailer
Mr. Iceberg Ice Cream

Live entertainment by Comedy in Motion
Inflatable obstacle course
Arts & Crafts with PJ Library
Enjoy tasty bites from local kosher restaurants

FREE EVENT | EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Register & Preorder food: bit.ly/carnival-kickoff
For more information contact Maggie
mnorris@jewishhamilton.org | 906-648-0605 x 307



Hamilton
Jewish Federation

For more information contact Maggie Norris at
mnorris@jewishhamilton.org | 905-648-0605 x307

Tackling Hamilton’s growing homeless crisis

Every person you see panhandling or living under a tarp in an encampment or asleep on a bench has a story of human hardship to tell



BY **JULIA KOLLEK**
SPECIAL TO HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

HOW CAN WE sleep at night knowing people are homeless?

That’s what I asked myself two cold winters ago as I crossed a snowy railway bridge near my home. I looked down through the railings and saw someone’s bare leg. They were trying to sleep hidden in the shrubs along the train tracks.

Tiny shelters were approved to be set up on city-owned land by Hamilton City Council on August 14. **Far right**, the exterior of a typical tiny home. **Right**, the interior of the tiny home.

“Today our food bank, Carol’s Cupboard, serves more than 200 people — more than double the usual number from past years.”

With the rising cost of rental housing, many people are experiencing homelessness for the first time in their lives. And every person you see panhandling at a stop light, or living under a tarp in a park has a story.

Becoming homeless can begin with losing a job, untended mental illness, or a personal tragedy. At a recent meeting about encampments, one man in his 30s described how five years ago, he thought he had a perfect life. He and his wife had jobs and a nice apartment. Then their baby daughter died, the marriage broke down, and things spiralled badly from there.

In a private conversation, a young woman in her late teens whispered to me that she was a street worker and had nowhere to live. Could I find her a place to stay?

That same wintry day I crossed that bridge, I read that a group in Kitchener had built tiny homes for those living rough.

HATS (Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters) was born soon after with the goal of providing homes (up to 25 to start with) for those sleeping



PHOTOS COURTESY JULIA KOLLEK

unsheltered. The plans include on-site wraparound social service supports, washrooms, a kitchen, a communal meeting space, and a place where residents can meet privately with support staff.

Programs like this across Canada are designed as a short-term measure. Permanent, supported housing is still the best answer, and local organizations (such as Indwell) are successfully building and operating homes with the long view in mind.

HATS has attracted dedicated professionals who volunteer their leadership; breaking the stigma around homelessness remains a tougher challenge.

So here are some myth-breakers:
1. They’re all on drugs and they’re dangerous
Yes, substance use is an issue, and it can lead to psychotic incidents. But not everyone takes drugs. Living on the street, makes you vulnerable and constantly on the alert, fearful of personal safety. Most are simply exhausted from lack of sleep.
2. They could just go to a shelter
The current underestimated number

of people living rough is more than 1,600; there are presently 515 shelter spaces in the city, not enough to meet the need.

Aside from this, shelter providers cannot accommodate couples, or those with pets. Animals are a big comfort, and surrendering them to the SPCA for a bed is not a choice.

A good night’s sleep isn’t even guaranteed. Shelter dorms can be noisy, theft is common, with bed bugs and exposure to COVID-19 or ‘flu some of the additional challenges.

About a third of those on the street identify as Indigenous, and are at additional risk of discrimination; homophobic and transphobic violence is a major barrier to accessing shelter services for those who are LGBTQ2S.

When it comes to our own community, we imagine homelessness happens to other people. Sadly, this may not be the case. A couple of years ago, Hamilton Jewish Family Services told me they had run across homeless Jewish individuals in our city.

Our most recent report on poverty was commissioned nearly 20 years ago in 2004 by UIA Federations

Canada. The shocking finding was this:

Hamilton has the highest poverty levels of any Jewish community in the country, with one in five children living in poverty.

Today our food bank, Carol’s Cupboard, serves more than 200 people — more than double the usual number from past years. And we don’t know how many Jewish families among us are struggling to keep a roof over their heads.

Maybe we can start finding a way to address our own largely hidden dilemma.

Meanwhile, HATS has found a home. At the time of writing, Council approved city-owned land, and if all goes according to plan, we can set up our program before the snow flies this winter.

We can’t help everyone that needs it, but providing a warm, safe place to heal for a small number is a good start.

Visit our website, hamiltontinysshelters.ca to learn more.

Julia is the founder and past President of HATS (Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters). As well, she is a professional writer and academic editor.





Proudly Serving The Greater Hamilton Area Since 1957

From our family to yours - for 66 years, we have been part of the fabric of Hamilton and area and use this as the foundation for trust and dependability in our business and our commitment to our community.





eastgateford.com

hamiltonhyundai.ca

bayking.ca

therichtergroup.ca

McMaster University Department of Religious Studies and the Hamilton Jewish Federation invite you to

The Lillian and Marvin Goldblatt Lecture in Jewish Studies

with guest lecturer
Professor Dov Waxman
(UCLA)

How to Think about Antisemitism: Anti-Jewish Racism

Antisemitism is a confusing and contested concept. This talk will explain the reasons behind this, how the meaning of the term has changed over time, and will present a multi-level framework for understanding antisemitism.



Professor Dov Waxman is the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation Chair of Israel Studies at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and the director of the UCLA Y&S Nazarian Center for Israel Studies. His research focuses on the conflict over Israel-Palestine, Israeli politics and foreign policy, U.S.-Israel relations, American Jewry’s relationship with Israel, Jewish politics, and contemporary antisemitism. He is the author of four books, most recently *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford University Press, 2019).



MONDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 7 P.M.
CIBC Hall, McMaster University Student Centre, 3rd Floor

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS LECTURE. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.
Please register before Monday, October 16
<https://hamiltonjewishfederation.regfox.com/goldblatt-lecture-series>
or call Jackie Stirling at 905-648-0605.



A time for remembering

Visiting the graves of her loved ones is a cherished custom



Helaine Ortmann

ON THIS Thursday morning, white clouds set against a bright blue-sky canvas, we visit our Hamilton family.

Our first stop is Temple Anshe Sholom cemetery where auntie Anne and uncle Butch (Al) Gluckstein, forever in our hearts, rest; steps away from my husband's parents, Bertha and John Ortmann. Muscle memory takes us to their grey-black stone. In 1980, after a brief illness, John passed away, two years after we married and three years before our first son was born; Bertha in 2008, loving grandmother to our two sons.

John met Bertha, a Holocaust survivor, in England during the Second World War. She followed him back to Canada, first living in Saskatchewan. Bertha, an educated cultured Berliner, was a stranger in a strange land on that remote rural prairie and the couple decided to move east. First to Brampton where John worked as an aviation mechanic in the government's ill-fated Avro Arrow jet-fighter program, then to Hamilton, to rebuild their lives.

Our second stop is the Ohev Zedek cemetery on Upper James to visit my maternal grandparents, Bessie and Harry Kessler, who fled "White Russia" (Belarus). A cabinet maker by trade (he made the pews that were relocated from Hess Street shul to Shalom Village chapel), Harry passed away in 1950, at age 65, from a heart attack. My mother, then in her early twenties, was heartbroken; a loss that went unresolved throughout her lifetime. Bessie, as soft and gentle as her given name "Pessl," passed away in 1964. As if for the first time, I note her age, 77, on their pink-coloured stone. How could it be that my white-haired Yiddish-speaking bubba was only seven years older when she passed than I am today?

Our third and fourth stops are the Grand Order of Israel (GOI) cemeteries on Snake Road. Across the bridge, we visit the shiny black headstone of my father and mother, Syd and Ethel Levy. Last fall, armed with shovels and mulch, my sister and I planted rose-coloured sedum with

white variegated leaves at the sides of their stone. Clusters of flowers blooming in spring and lasting for the whole season would please our garden-loving mother, complementing the spray of three roses (one from each of her devoted children) engraved at the foot of her side of the stone. At the bottom of my dad's side is a bar of music: the first notes of a love song that he wrote. Our mom never liked it; it embarrassed her.

Syd was a storyteller, entertainer, singer and bandleader. With that wavy black hair, charm, flair for dance (at age three, he won the city's Charleston championship) and his ability to speak Ladino (a mélange of Spanish, Turkish, Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, French, Bulgarian and Italian), he was our Ricky Ricardo. Ethel (Levy, not Mertz) was always there for him; until two or three in the morning when he got home, flushed and excited, from the *simcha* he and his band had just played; or as his steadfast caregiver over the five years of decline brought on by a series of strokes soon after he retired.

Auntie Betty and uncle Joe Levy are beside my parents; a location we cousins know serves them well. For years, these four (plus siblings and closest friends) played poker, rotating houses and hospitality, every Saturday night. As they got older, these penny games became more competitive, and nerves frayed. Telephone calls to their children (us) on Sundays sounded like Leonard Cohen's version of *Unetaneh Tokef*; intoning who cheated or tried to, who didn't throw their money in, who was too slow, or who didn't know what made a winning hand.

Four or so rows behind them are paternal grandparents Vinucha and Uziel Levy who emigrated from Romania and Bulgaria. At the time, they were the only Sephardic family in the community, speaking Ladino in the house and cooking foods that were different from their East European neighbours. At the back of the cemetery is aunt Rose Rena Levy, 49, who passed away in 1965; a time when breast cancer was not talked about openly, well researched or fundraised for. We finish our visit remembering auntie Mary Mayer, auntie Rae and uncle David Oppenheimer; all loyal friends and confidantes.

Helaine Ortmann is a lifelong Hamiltonian

A permanent position

Unlike a job position, fatherhood is forever



Ben Shragge

EVERY OTHER DAY, LinkedIn prompts me to congratulate someone on their new position. A promotion to Associate Director, Partnership Outreach & Engagement is certainly worthy of a thumbs-up emoji. But that title is unlikely to appear (or fit) on a tombstone. As human beings, we want to be remembered for our most important and defining roles, which don't typically include a three-year stint associate-directing partnership outreach and engagement. As the saying goes, "No one ever said on their deathbed, 'I wish I'd spent more time at the office.'"

I live within a short walk of my town's Old Burying Ground, which contains graves dating back to 1736. Among the inscriptions are references to parents, children, spouses, siblings, and, in the case of a memorial obelisk, martyrdom in the American Revolution. Throughout the centuries, the dead have been memorialized for their positions in a family, for their relationships with other people, and, occasionally, for their participation in history. That is how they wanted to be remembered, or how their loved ones thought they should be remembered. So it was long before 1736, and so it still is today.

In late 2021, I became a father, which is one of those defining, tombstone-worthy roles. I also have a job position, of which I am proud. However, unlike my LinkedIn title, my role as father cannot be eliminated as part of a restructuring, vacated for a more lucrative opportunity, leveraged for a promotion, or replaced by artificial intelligence. It is that rarest of opportunities: a job for life. It is even, as tombstones indicate, a job that goes beyond life. I'm now a permanent part of a new family, which is a permanent part of who I am and how I'll be remembered.

Of course, the biological fact of fatherhood (or motherhood) isn't the same as the social, physical, emotional, financial, psychological, and even spiritual role of being a parent. There are many parents who, by choice or circumstance, aren't

a part of their children's lives. My own father was raised from infancy by a widowed mother. He would sometimes question how he was doing as a dad, since he didn't have an example from his own childhood to draw upon. He inherited his father's surname and DNA, but had no paternal memories, life lessons, or traditions to carry forward.

Now, as a father myself, I sometimes think not just of my dad's loss of a parent, but of my grandfather's loss of the opportunity to be a parent. Less than six months after having a son, he died in a car accident. My dad gave me a few of his possessions—some business cards, a keychain—but they are mementos of a person neither of us knew. Holding them, I feel grateful that I'm here for my daughter, able to make the kind of memories I'm sure my grandfather would have wished he could have made with his son.

I'm less than two years into being a father, so I won't claim any great insight or expertise. But I can say how nice it feels to be reading my daughter a book and to know that there's nothing more important I could be doing at that moment. Or how the weeks and months are imbued with meaning when they bring on new milestones from smiling back to taking first steps. Or how priorities shift, and old worries seem remote, when someone's whole being is dependent on your actions. By looking beyond yourself, you end up changing for the better.

Both personally and professionally, there are few permanent positions anymore. Our memories and our news feeds are filled with former friends and colleagues, those we've moved on from and those who've moved on from us. Social media sells the illusion of lasting connection, but really just reminds us of all the people we're out of touch with. One of the joys of having a child is that you're forced to put away your phone and focus on who really matters. Despite all the swiping and ghosting, automation and outsourcing, some permanent positions still remain. Being a good parent and spouse, a member of a family and a community, is what will endure when the latest status update is forgotten.

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

Wishing our Jewish clients
*A Happy and
Healthy New Year*

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

*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

A complex indulgence

My love for chocolate is complicated

Phyllis
Shragge

CHOCOLATE: SILKY-SMOOTH melt-in-your-mouth goodness that everyone loves. Well, almost everyone.

Our relationship with chocolate is confusing, often complicated by our life experiences. Eating chocolate should be a simple sensory delight, but it can be skewed by our upbringing, or by our relationships or by our sense of ourselves as we progress through the years.

I'm not going to divulge my chocolate-eating regime, but I do admit that chocolate is dear to my heart. I consider it one of the main food groups. It's as necessary to my day as vegetables and fruit and all those other healthy items, but I won't detail my personal history regarding chocolate here. Instead, I will throw this thesis into the fiction realm.

Here goes:

Picture a 30-something female whose boyfriend has dumped her. She's tried drowning her sorrows in too much wine. She lamented her misery with her girlfriends. Eventually, she seeks comfort from something that always gives her pleasure, chocolate. Her heart goes pitter-patter when she thinks about chocolate balls in shiny wrappers, especially the milk chocolate ones in red tinfoil.

She discovers a sale on these chocolate balls, but only if bought in large quantities. She has no choice but to buy a huge bag, right? Initially, she's delighted with her purchase, but later she feels guilty about buying so much. Then she has an idea. She'll donate most of the chocolate to women who need cheering up way more than she does. She keeps an assortment of chocolate balls for herself, then heads to a local women's shelter to donate the rest of the bag. The receptionist laughs but admits the women there will be thrilled. For the first time in weeks, she feels her tension easing. It seems that chocolate, especially if you give a lot of it away, can be good for your mental health. But what made her share her goodies? It wasn't just altruism. She has a right to all the chocolate she wants,

doesn't she? She knows she wouldn't eat it all in one day. But she can't get over that nagging uneasiness about chocolate. It was rationed when she was a kid. She goes home and scarves down five chocolate balls.

Now, picture a six-year-old boy who hates broccoli. He takes a few bites, just because his mom's glaring at him, but he finds it revolting. "This stuff is awful," he screams.

His mom's old-fashioned. She touts chocolate as a reward. "There's chocolate cake for dessert," she says, "but only if you eat your broccoli." When she turns away for a minute, the boy grabs a handful of broccoli and stuffs it into his pocket. His mom thinks he ate it all and she rewards him with the cake.

He devours it, but he's upset that he deceived his mom. When he's all grown up, he has a love/hate relationship with chocolate. He feels guilty every time he eats it.

And now, picture an elderly woman who eats dark chocolate every afternoon. She loves chocolate. She always has. And she's sure she read somewhere that dark chocolate is healthy.

One day, when she reaches into the kitchen cupboard for her chocolate stash, she discovers there's no more chocolate. She would love to run out to buy some, but her car is being serviced and it's too cold to walk to the store. As the afternoon passes, she realizes all she can think about is chocolate. Is she addicted to it? Can you be addicted to it? Is chocolate her drug of choice? Is she going through withdrawal?

She decides to cut back on chocolate. Chocolate will always be her comfort food, but she wonders how comforting it is when it takes control of you.

She will make dinner now, and whatever she cooks, the meal will include broccoli. No one has ever been addicted to broccoli. It's comforting to know that.

For many of us, chocolate seems to have the power to mess up our heads, yet it's the best thing ever. Just try to enjoy it.

And follow my lead as I wolf down some chocolate chip pancakes. I will not regret a single bite.

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

Paper trails, paper roots

First steps to tracing your family history



Kaye Prince-
Hollenberg

I MADE MY first family tree when I was 13 years old (while simultaneously creating a tree for 19th century German composer Johannes Brahms because what 13-year-old hasn't) and have been researching ever since. Now, on top of being a full-time librarian, I'm a professional genealogist specializing in Jewish genealogy and Holocaust research. I'm also the curator of the Margaret's Legacy Holocaust Learning Centre set to open in Hamilton in Spring 2024.

My genealogy journey has taken me from local libraries to cemeteries in Scotland (and all over the internet). I began working as a professional genealogist about five years ago; what started as a fairly standard practice working with mainly Jewish families and helping the occasional adoptee via DNA has evolved over the years so that the bulk of my work now focuses on Holocaust research. Often this is working with the children of survivors to trace their family trees or to learn the fates of relatives, but has also included research for a book, a travelling exhibit, and even a legal case. It's difficult work, emotionally taxing at times, but it is also extremely rewarding. If I can give someone back their family, then it was worth it.

A couple of months ago, I approached Wendy Schneider, editor of the Hamilton Jewish News, about writing a genealogy column and she was enthusiastic right from the start. So here I am. I'm sure the column will evolve over time, but the general idea is that I'll share stories from my own genealogical journey, tips and tricks for research, and some Hamilton Jewish history as well. I'll also take questions—if you have questions about genealogy, Jewish history, or a place where you're stuck in your own research, you can write to us, and if I'm able to help we'll publish the question and my answer in a future edition.

In this column, we'll also do some myth-busting! So here we go: It is a common and persistent myth in Jewish

genealogy that most Jewish records were destroyed in the Holocaust. This is simply not the case. Jewish records from Europe are abundant, although there are unfortunate cases of towns and cities where few records have survived. Some records remain locked in archives, but increasingly these records are being digitized and posted online. These records can be scattered across various websites and agencies, and of course the language barrier is persistent with many records captured in Cyrillic, Polish, German, Romanian, Hungarian, and a multitude of others. Records for Sephardic Jews are harder to access as very little has been made available online, and the archives holding this material tend to be less centralized with varying degrees of access restrictions.

The first step to finding Jewish records online is to utilize the JewishGen website (jewishgen.org), a non-profit and free to use website. Its resources include multiple databases with indexes to millions of records, as well as Yizkor book translations, educational resources, a family finder utility, and so much more. It is a truly amazing endeavour encompassing the work of thousands of volunteers, but it's only the first step. There are so many websites, indexes, digitization projects, and people willing to spend their time to make records and resources available. Social media has really been a gift for Jewish genealogy with the members of groups such as Tracing the Tribe on Facebook helping people to locate records and sharing their knowledge with each other.

Your first mission, if you choose to accept it, is to begin compiling your family notes. Write it all down. Interview members of your family and ask questions—what family stories have they heard, what were relatives' Hebrew and Yiddish names, the cities and villages their ancestors came from. Ask it all and ask it now.

If you would like to submit a question or have some Hamilton Jewish history to share, please email wschneider@jewish-hamilton.org and we may publish it in a future edition.

Kaye Prince-Hollenberg is a professional genealogist specializing in Jewish genealogy and Holocaust research.

MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Israel's National Emergency Response since 1930

ISRAEL'S LIFELINE DEPENDS ON YOU



Shana Tova 5784

Healthy and Happy New Year to all our donors, families and friends.

HAMILTON CHAPTER

Debbie Strub, Chair
E: debbiestrub@gmail.com | Toll Free: 1-888-858-2632



Canadian
MAGEN DAVID ADOM
Canadien

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube icons

TO DONATE: WWW.CMDAI.ORG | @CANADIANMDA



Reaching Excellence, Together.

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



TAYLOR LEIBOW LLF
ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS

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

taylorleibow.com




CECILE STEINBERG, 82

A woman of the world. A small-town girl

BY **TINA STEINBERG** AND **ELLEN HOLLEND**

QUIET. FASTIDIOUS. Warm. Caring. Professional. Contributor. Helper. Organizer. Learner. Wife, mother, friend. A woman of the world. A small-town girl.

Cecile was all of these things and more. A true woman of the community—a Hamilton community she called home for more than 57 years.

Cecile was born in London, Ontario. The youngest daughter, the third out of four children, she was surrounded by her huge and lively family from London and nearby St. Thomas. Cecile’s mother ensured her house and dinner table were open to all, including soldiers returning from the war. The daughter of a pawnbroker, she learned the value of a dollar—and was always eager to give a hand up to those who were in need.

Our mother had more pens, pads of paper and personalized return envelope stickers from organizations she donated to. She never met a charity she didn’t love and she championed fundraising. While asking for money from others makes many uncomfortable, our mother was never afraid to canvas others to donate to causes. She was a committee person—involved with the PTA, Beth Jacob Synagogue, UJA, Hamilton Jewish Federation, United Israel Appeal, and the list goes on. We always admired how our parents constantly gave their time and their energy ensuring the community ran the way it should. It was normal for our mother to be out in the evenings attending a committee meeting after she spent a day at work.

Cecile was passionate about her career as a psychometrist at McMaster Hospital, and proud of the education she sought and the road she took to practise her profession, balancing work and family, and it is no coincidence that she chose a profession where she could help and care for others.

She and our father travelled to Israel on various missions, taking the time to get to know the country and to instill their love of Israel and Judaism in their family home. Their travels didn’t stop in Israel. Our parents spent a few weeks every year travelling to a different country after the High Holy Days, becoming citizens of the world. Judaism was a driving force in Cecile’s life. Keeping a kosher home, belonging to a synagogue and being involved in the community was always paramount in



Cecile Steinberg

her life. Sending us to Beth Jacob Hebrew School was a priority and sending us to Jewish summer camp was a true gift as our Mom was never given the opportunity. Cecile was second to none in bringing family and friends together during the Jewish holidays. She set the table as if to welcome royalty, her attention to detail and

perfection evident with each place setting. Making the best chicken soup was second nature to her, and keeping the family together and connected was equally important.

While community support was her concern and passion, family is where she loved and cared most deeply. From a young age, she was tasked to take care of various family members. While her life wasn’t easy, she took her role of caregiver from childhood to her last days. While she had a fulfilling career and raised two independent daughters, Cecile’s caregiving was a source of pride for her. Young and old — anyone in her family and friend group knew that they could count on our mother in a time

While community support was her passion, family is where she loved and cared most deeply.

of crisis or in a time of joy. She remained close with her cousins, grandchildren, nieces and nephews until the end.

Not one to judge anyone, Cecile was open and understanding of the people around her. She championed egalitarianism, women’s rights, freedom of expression and other human rights when those ideas weren’t exactly popular.

She and our father shared their perspective on life; they were the perfect complementary couple. David and Cele worked hard and played hard! Supporters of the arts and of the Blue Jays and every restaurant in town, they were rarely home once the kids moved out. They have been so fortunate to share incredible friends who have been like family to them and to us.

The pandemic slowed them down, but their love of life, family and friends never wavered. More than once, our mother never gave up when she became ill, kept looking forward, kept a positive attitude and a balanced perspective on life.

Cecile’s legacy lives on in her two daughters and their spouses, five grandchildren, three great grandchildren, friends, family and community, all positively influenced by her giving nature, her care and devotion.

Ellen Hollend and Tima Steinberg are the daughters of Cecile and David Steinberg,

October Is Blue Box Month

Drop off your
Blue Box and pick
up a new one!

Drop off at
1605 Main Street West

Monday - Thursday
9AM-5PM
Friday
9AM-3PM



Bring in a full blue box and enter for a chance to win a ticket to the 2024 Hamilton Negev Dinner



Join us on October 29th for Blue Box Day as we partner with the Kasher Food Bank’s food drive. Volunteers are welcome!

jnfhamilton.ca
905.527.5516
hamilton@jnf.ca

L’Shana Tova

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year
from Ross & McBride



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

THE SECRET IS OUT ABOUT HAMILTON



BY **Jessica Hume**
AGENT, KELLER WILLIAMS COMPLETE REALTY

When I moved to Hamilton from Toronto more than a year ago, I noticed a phrase written on mugs, shirts and posters. “Hamilton hates you too” is probably not intended to be ironic, but I find it so, because, I think it’s safe to say that the people who live in Hamilton love it here. It’s hardly surprising why.

Why people who live in Hamilton love their city

The quality of life in Hamiton is high. The city is safe, relatively clean and more affordable than many of the regions that surround it. It’s growing quickly, but still has the services to support its population. With roughly half a million people, it’s small enough to have a true sense of community and identity, and large enough that there’s diversity of ideas and enough space to always find something new. Traffic may have grown over the past five years, but you can still get around reasonably almost any time of day. If you doubt this, just ask anyone from Toronto.

Hamilton’s current real estate market is not what you think

As a realtor in Hamilton, I am often working with first-time homebuyers who have come here from other regions to find a home on a budget that can’t get them close to what they want in their market. The range of housing in Hamilton is broad. The cheapest house sold in the past 30 days went for \$212,000 – which was still 95 per cent of asking price. It was a 750-square foot detached bungalow in the Homeside neighbourhood in Hamilton east. The most expensive house was a five-bedroom, 4,100-square foot mansion in Ancaster, which sold for \$3,050,00. The average home price in Hamilton in August was just under \$850,000 – a 5.5 per cent increase from this time last year.

Beyond the numbers: economic opportunity and a strong rental market

People choose Hamilton for its quality of life. For many, Hamilton provides economic opportunity that simply doesn’t exist where they are. Hamilton’s economy has been diversifying, with growth in sectors such as healthcare, education, technology, and manufacturing. A growing job market can contribute to increased demand for housing, positively impacting property values and rental demand.



“Hamilton is only going to become more of a destination as time goes on.”

The university and colleges are both factors in the city’s very strong rental market. The steady, annual in-flow of students helps support the rental market and incents the city the provide them with the professional opportunities they seek when they graduate and choose Hamilton as the place they’ll put down roots.

A bright future awaits both investors and residents alike

Savvy investors have favoured Hamilton for years, understanding the immense potential for appreciation of property values in a city whose rapid growth is underway. Hamilton is only going to become more of a destination as time goes on.

This city has seen significant urban renewal and revitalization efforts recently, including improvements in infrastructure, public spaces and amenities. As this city continues to grow as a destination for young families, students, professionals and investors, it will enrichen the economic and cultural life of the city, in turn attracting more families, more businesses, more public and private dollars.

A bright future awaits both investors and residents alike

Hamilton’s proximity to Toronto and the surrounding regions have long made it a destination for commuters. Today, the drive between the two is objectively one of the

worst commutes in North America in terms of traffic congestion. But for those for whom it works, the addition of the Hamilton Go Train stations enhance connectivity between the two, and can enable living in one city and working in the other. As work becomes increasingly remote, more people are choosing not to live where they work, but instead, where they want to be.

Let’s talk

Whether you’re looking to get into the real estate market for the first time, or you’re a seasoned investor looking for a healthy and reliable return on your investment, there is so much opportunity in Hamilton. Ask me for a free home evaluation today.

Learn more

Call or text Jessica Hume at:
647-226-8042
Email: jessicahume@kw.com



BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE

Meet Rabbi Beni Wajnberg

JO-ANNE BROWN AND
BRENDA BURJAW

TRANSITION is defined as “the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another.” As many of you know, Beth Jacob Synagogue has been in transition for more than a year. We’ve experienced significant changes to clergy, and staff, but what has remained the same is the board’s steadfast dedication to our synagogue.

We have been in a deep search for the next rabbi of the Beth Jacob Synagogue. We are privileged to announce that Rabbi Beni Wajnberg and his family have agreed to move to Hamilton from Singapore, to take on the religious leadership role and help to rebuild a strong and vibrant conservative congregation here in Hamilton.

Until his official start date, being Jan. 1, 2024, we continue to offer programs and services, created and led by our amazingly engaged members and lay leadership.

The most recent addition to the team is our synagogue manager, Jo-Anne Brown. Jo-Anne comes to us with many years of synagogue experience and is happy to join us as we embark on an exciting journey of growth and engagement.

Before long, the High Holy Days will be upon us, and we are pleased that Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services will be held a little bit closer to home, at McMaster Innovation Park at 175 Longwood Rd. S. Once more,



PHOTO: COURTESY RABBI BENI WAJNBERG

Rabbi Beni Wajnberg and his family will move to Hamilton in January 2024.

Rabbi Russo, Cantor Benjamin Z. Maissner, Harvey Bitterman and Brian Albert will provide spiritual leadership. It is wonderful that after the pandemic we are once again gathering as the Beth Jacob family.

There is programming for everyone from the young to the young-at heart. The Chesed and Education Committees are fast at work preparing fun and innovative programs. Please subscribe to our weekly newsletter Chai-Lites for more information. Hebrew School enrollment is now open. We welcome members and non-members and offer all a chance to let your children learn about our culture and traditions in a uniquely interactive format. If you have any questions, please email Joanne@bethjacobsynagogue.ca.

KADIMAH JCAMP

What a wonderful summer we had!



WENDY SCHNEIDER, HJN

MP Filomena Tassi received a warm welcome during a visit to Kadimah JCamp this summer

IVAN CHERNOV

Kadimah JCamp hosted more than 100 campers and employed 14 staff members for one of its best summers ever.

At Kadimah JCamp, our primary focus is on ensuring our campers have a great summer.

That’s why our staff doesn’t hesitate to switch to an activity campers prefer if they notice a scheduled activity is not working as well as they’d expected. The activity our campers seemed to enjoy most was, “choose your own adventure,” where they were empowered to pick an activity from four different options. Our field trips to African Lion Safari, Flying Squirrel, Tree-top Treking, and Wonderland were also a big hit.

Many families who had planned for their children to attend several different camps over the course of the summer decided to re-enroll their children in Kadimah JCamp based their positive experiences. Naturally, we were always happy to


accommodate the needs of every family.

As Kadimah JCamp’s director, I believe that listening to the needs of the Hamilton Jewish community is the key to our camp’s success year after year.

With the community expanding, Kadimah JCamp has also opened its doors to eight newcomer families this summer. In previous years, camp registration was closed at 32 campers per week; This summer our average was 40 campers.

Kadimah JCamp is a rewarding experience and an inclusive space for the children of the Hamilton Jewish community. All are welcome. We also provide scholarships for families in need of support.

Stay tuned for Kadimah JCamp programming during PD days and winter break. We are also open to working with families and trying our best to meet all their expectations. For more information about Kadimah JCamp all year round, please contact Ivan Chernov at ichernov@jewishhamilton.org or call 905-648-0605, ext 300.



שנה טובה


SHANA TOVA

Wishing you and your family a year filled with happiness, good health, and prosperity.

Happy Rosh Hashanah!

~ Moishe, Eli & Gabe Chaimovitz & their families ~






Hamilton East
1104 Barton St. E.
905.545.5585



TOOLS & MACHINERY

Hamilton Mountain
1361 Rymal Rd. E.
905.388.0784

TEGSTOOLS.COM





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

HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY

Embracing inclusion at the HHA

HHA STAFF

SINCE ITS establishment in 1962, the Hamilton Hebrew Academy has welcomed thousands of children through its doors. Yet, during these six decades, the school's campus had a physical obstacle—five steps. These steps separated students from their playground during recess and stood in the way of strollers, toddlers, and individuals with physical disabilities.

Recognizing the need for change, the school embarked on a journey towards inclusivity by developing its Inclusive Campus Plan. Collaborating with a team of architects and engineers, a visionary masterplan was crafted and approved by City Hall's building department. At the heart of the plan was installing an elevator, making all school levels accessible to everyone and the removal of five steps from the front of the school. The redesigned school entrance also features an inviting welcome centre, a new parent drop-off zone, and an upgraded playground area.

To turn this vision into a reality, the initiative required champions and heroes. At the school's recent gala dinner, a new parent and community member was deeply moved by the school's vision and chose to dedicate the project in memory of his late mother, Rivka Ben Rina a'h. Rivka lived an inspiring life of selfless dedication to her family, community, and those in need. Her granddaughter (and namesake) who currently attends the school, will be able to learn and thrive in a nurturing and inclusive educational environment dedicated to her grandmother.

The construction firm hired to take on this ambitious project, Concur Construction, is owned and operated by Alen Zlatic. Beyond his professional expertise, Zlatic brought his own incredible story



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HHA

Alen Zlatic is overseeing efforts to make the Hamilton Hebrew Academy fully accessible.

of resilience and optimism to the table. A decade ago, he faced a debilitating injury from a car accident that left him in a wheelchair. Instead of letting this define his life, Zlatic reinvented his approach and, through sheer determination and intensive therapy, reclaimed his place in the construction field.

Today, Zlatic leads his team with unwavering inner strength and a contagious positivity that permeates every aspect of the project. He arrives each day, transferring himself from his pickup truck to his wheelchair to the seat behind the excavator wheel. Defying the obstacles, Zlatic embodies the true power of the human spirit, literally breaking down barriers and paving the way for future generations.

As the school's vision becomes a reality, the stories of these visionary figures inspire us to dream. We look forward to seeing who will be the next champion and hero.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

A Night of celebration and unity



DONNA WAXMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

JNF Hamilton president Haim Goldstein waves an Israeli flag during a parade of desserts at the 2023 Negev Dinner.

SUZY POLGAR

THE SPIRIT OF celebration filled the air as the annual JNF Hamilton Negev Dinner took centre stage at LiUNA Station in honour of Israel's 75th birthday. Our mission was not only to celebrate Israel's milestone but to support the construction of a new ensemble room at the Clore Centre for the Performing Arts in the Upper Galilee, a beacon of hope and talent, bringing together high school students from all religious and ethnic backgrounds in northern Israel. As the only music school in the region, it provides a platform for young artists to nurture their passion close to home. Truly, this centre fosters harmony, bridging divides with the power of music and dance.

The night commenced with an array of hors d'oeuvres in the foyer. The doors to the ballroom opened, revealing a stunningly decorated space, thanks to the décor committee headed by the creative Cynthia Mintz and Luba Apel. It was the perfect setting to celebrate a night dedicated to the arts, unity, and the love for Israel.

Emcee Jeff Paikin kept the night professional, fun, and engaging. The true stars of the night were the talented students and teachers from the Clore Centre, who graced us with passionate performances. Guest speaker, Jason Greenblatt then enlightened us by sharing insights about the Abraham Accords. To conclude the evening, the LiUNA staff, led by JNF Hamilton president, Haim Goldstein, waving the Israeli flag, paraded a gorgeous display of desserts into the room. Everyone joined in singing Happy Birthday to Israel, followed by a celebratory hora.

As the night drew to a close, the feeling of pride for what Israel has accomplished in her short 75 years lingered in our hearts. The 2023 Hamilton Negev Dinner left everyone with a renewed commitment to support the people of Israel. It is with immense gratitude that we thank all the wonderful volunteers, generous sponsors and donors, and supporters who made this magical evening possible. Here's to many more years of harmony, music and unity!



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





Wishing the community
a Happy & Healthy New Year

WESTDALE OPTICAL

boutique

www.westdaleoptical.com

1050 King St. W. Hamilton | 905.525.0788

SEPTEMBER 2023 • HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS 23

TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

Celebrate Jewish life with us



Temple Anshe Sholom’s Havdalah with friends.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM

RABBI JORDAN COHEN

THE TEMPLE Anshe Sholom community is gearing up for another wonderful High Holy Day season and a great new year of worship, learning and celebration. Our historic and vibrant congregation is enjoying a growth spurt, welcoming many new individuals, couples and families who recently joined the Anshe Sholom family. We are blessed by many young families who are drawn by our dynamic Jewish learning program for kids, youth activities, and family enrichment opportunities, spearheaded by our Director of Religious Education, Dora-Ann Cohen Ellison. Dora-Ann will be leading a wide range of youth activities and family services and programs throughout the Days of Awe.

Cantor Baruch and Rabbi Cohen are excited this year to institute some liturgical

and ritual innovations to encourage more lay involvement in service leadership and provide opportunities to learn from one another. If you are interested in helping to lead a service or sharing a D’var Torah, please let us know. Of course, joyful music will continue to be at the center of all of our engaging and meaningful worship experiences.

Our summer “Havdalah with Friends” programs have been hugely successful, bringing together newer and veteran congregants at a member’s home for an enjoyable evening of socializing, song, great food, and a meaningful Havdalah service. These Havdalah events will continue into the fall. Many other wonderful social events and celebrations are being planned for the year ahead. Come on out and get to know us. Everyone is welcome. Celebrate Jewish life at Temple Anshe Sholom!

ROSH HASHANAH GREETINGS

Greetings from Marianne Klein



BY MARIANNE KLEIN

SHALOM VILLAGE extends warm greetings and wishes to the entire community as we approach Rosh Hashanah! As we

enter the Jewish New Year, I am overwhelmed by the unity, and closeness of the Shalom Village family. This is a special Rosh Hashanah for me, with my own new beginning at Shalom Village, making this new year even more meaningful for me and my family. This year will be a sweet new year celebrating the year to come, here at Shalom Village.

At Shalom Village, we cherish the traditions which bring a sense of joy and optimism as we gather around the table with loved ones, sharing festive meals and blessings for the year to come. We are also grateful for our many donors, including those who take advantage of our Tribute Card program to support Shalom Village residents, while also sending greetings and good wishes to their friends and family. In our prayer services, the shofar is blown, its powerful blasts calling us to self-reflection and awakening our spiritual introspection. Each unique blast conveys a profound message of repentance and serves as a reminder of the covenant between God and the Jewish people.

Rosh Hashanah also encourages us to engage in a period of introspection and repentance. It is a time for honest self-evaluation, seeking forgiveness from both God and our fellow human beings. As individuals, we acknowledge our mistakes and commit to personal growth and improvement in the year to come. Through our prayers and actions, we set the foundation for a better and more meaningful life.

As we celebrate Rosh Hashanah this year at Shalom Village we are reminded that this holiday is not only about personal reflection, but also about the importance of community and togetherness.

At Shalom Village, we embrace our community and are grateful for the honour to care for one another.

As the New Year dawns, let us reflect, repent, and strive for a future filled with love, compassion, and understanding. Shanah Tovah from all of us at Shalom Village!

May this Rosh Hashanah be a blessing for you and your loved ones, bringing joy, peace, and abundant blessings throughout the year ahead.

Shana Tova Umetukah from Shalom Village!

ADAS ISRAEL

Hebrew language Sunday School

ADAS STAFF

STEPPING INTO the vibrant world of Shorashim, children are instantly embraced by an atmosphere of warmth and excitement. Designed for learners from kindergarten through Grade 5, this inclusive Hebrew school program breathes life into education, making learning a fun-filled adventure that children eagerly anticipate each Sunday.

Shorashim sets out to kindle an enduring love and connection to Israel and Jewish life. Central to the Shorashim experience is the development of Hebrew language proficiency. The program is designed for students of all Jewish backgrounds and denominations, for both fluent Hebrew speakers as well as beginners.

Hebrew language creates an attachment to Israel and the Jewish People. Through an immersive language curriculum, children will hone their reading, writing, and speaking skills in an interactive and enjoyable way, and the learning journey doesn’t stop there. The school instills a deep connection with the Israeli experience, integrating elements of Israeli history, geography, and culture into the lessons. Classes also capture the joy of Jewish holidays through hands-on activities and family celebrations, ensuring each festivity becomes an immersive and memorable learning experience.

At the heart of Shorashim are two experienced and nurturing educators, Morah Sivan Lihachov-Sinai and Morah Gila Messusany. Both teachers are known for their warmth and innovative learning techniques. With her creative



Shorashim teacher Gila Mesusany helps a student with her artwork.

flair, Morah Gila spearheads our art-based curriculum. Making whatever the children learn come to life instills the idea that true knowledge is also about creativity and expression.

Shorashim isn’t just a school—it’s a hub of creativity, learning, and fun. Equally as important, it fosters a sense of community, particularly for Israelis, and other newcomers, who recently arrived in the area. Through engaging activities, Shorashim offers students and their families opportunities to strengthen their bonds with one another and the wider Jewish community. As the fall semester approaches, the anticipation for the opening of Shorashim continues to grow, promising an enriching experience for all families involved. Don’t miss out on this chance to be part of a dynamic educational journey! Classes will be held on Sunday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., beginning on Oct. 15. Shorashim classes will take place at the school at 125 Cline Ave. S., Hamilton. For more information, please visit shorashim.ca or email info@Shorashim.ca.

A MESSAGE FROM BETH JACOB’S NEW RABBI

Greetings from Rabbi Beni Wajnberg



BY RABBI BENI WAJNBERG

HOW DOES a second-generation Brazilian rabbi, of half-yekke and half-galit-zianer ancestry, serving a congregation on the other

side of the world, in Singapore, end up selected by (and selecting) a congregation in Hamilton? In one word—destiny.

When my wife and I decided that we were ready to look for a community in which to settle roots, and a congregation for me to serve as rabbi, we had a tall order, and what seemed to be a hard-to-deliver wish list. I wanted the synagogue to be filled with mensches, with a thirst for study, welcoming, traditional, egalitarian and a deep sense of yiddishkeit.

As a family, we wanted to make sure it would be a place in which we saw both of our young sons growing up. We wanted the area to be surrounded by natural beauty, filled with incredibly nice people and ideally a big small town. We also wanted to be close to our families. We thought it was impossible, until we intuitively knew, within perhaps the first half hour of our visit over a Shabbat, that Beth Jacob and Hamilton were it.

I believe that the Jewish people is a family, a community where each of us is accepted as we are. There is a place for each of us around our family’s table, in

times of ease and of distress. Davvening, learning, and schmoozing should always be positive experiences. However, they can be more than that—they can be transformative. I cannot wait until January, to roll up my sleeves and continue Beth Jacob’s legacy as a place of positive transformation, where each person is part of a vibrant fabric of relationships. A true family.

I am lucky to never have had a single job in my life, but a calling. My shlichut, the mission to which I am sent, is to be Beth Jacob’s rabbi. In my eyes, that makes me the luckiest rabbi in the whole world. We, as a family, are appreciative of everyone who has already been so welcoming to us. We look forward to seeing you at Fortinos, in a coffee shop, or perhaps even at shul. I will be the tall, kippah-wearing person discussing passionately either the joys and sorrows of real football (soccer) or Jewish philosophy, or pointing out the hidden Torah wisdom that emanates from lyrics of The Beatles, or the gastronomical secrets of vegetarian Southeast Asian or South American cuisines. I am eager to have a cup of tea with you, but more than that, to hear what’s really going on in your life. But above all, I will be the person with the biggest smile you’ve ever seen because indeed I feel like the luckiest rabbi in the world.

KEHILA HESCHEL

Experiential learning at its best



Kehila Heschel students sing together during Kabbalat Shabbat.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KEHILA HESCHEL

ANITA BERNSTEIN

KEHILA HESCHEL School is dedicated to the values that characterized Rabbi Heschel's life: the integration of Jewish learning, Jewish ritual and social justice within his philosophy of inclusivity and support of the diversity of Jewish expression. Our interdisciplinary programming seamlessly blends the richness of Jewish tradition with an enhanced Ontario curriculum. The school's innovative tri-lingual programming promotes academic excellence by integrating experiential learning, technology, artistic expression and environmental stewardship.

Our school welcomes Jewish families from diverse backgrounds, levels of religious observance and expression. Through the Shabbat box program, students are encouraged to share at home what they have learned at school about Shabbat, and in turn, share details of their own family's rituals.

Jewish values and ethics are seamlessly woven across academic subjects. Each month students learn and practise

particular Jewish values. Kehila Heschel students learn through experience the impact each person's efforts can make while participating in the outdoor education program, practising Tikkun Olam, taking care of the earth and helping others through *tzedakah* and justice. The school's teaching gardens are a vehicle to achieve learning goals within the curriculum such as measurement, eco systems, science, literacy, Indigenous history, nutrition and art. In addition, students learn about their civic duty to help others by donating all produce to the kosher food bank. They develop leadership and collaborative skills by identifying shared goals that are responsive to the needs of the community.

Our interdisciplinary curriculum aims to inspire students, in the words of Rabbi Abraham Heschel, to develop a sense of "wonder and awe" as they "build a life as if it were a work of art." For further information visit kehilaheschel.ca. To book a tour contact info@kehilaschool.ca.

TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Family-friendly High Holy Days



B'yachad students assemble a garden project for Shalom Village.

PHOTO BY DORA-ANN COHEN ELLISON

DORA-ANN COHEN ELLISON

SHANAH TOVAH! I am so excited to welcome students back to a new school year on Sept. 13 at a local apple orchard. As we prepare for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur together, we are planning several meaningful opportunities to gather families together at Temple Anshe Sholom, as well as at our beautiful parks and beaches! Our family-friendly programs include Rosh Hashanah evening and morning services, a family beach walk on the second day, Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur family programs, Teen Torah Talk, and Torah on the Trails.

After the holidays, I hope your children will continue to learn, celebrate and explore all things Jewish with us through our Jewish Learning Program which opens on Sept. 13. Drop-In Tot-Shabbat resumes on Oct. 14 at 11 a.m., meeting weekly during the school year. Our teachers are planning engaging Shabbat morning and Wednesday evening classes for kindergarten through Grade 7. All

Grade 8-10 students are invited to join our Thursday evening class: B'Yachad - Making a Difference in Your Community. Students will also have the opportunity to travel to Montreal in November with other Toronto, Mississauga and Oakville teens!

This year, we are expecting to engage at least 65 youth from toddlers through Grade 12 in educational and social Jewish youth programming. Our youth groups, led by Yael Morais, are active with monthly social and social action programming. In addition to our potluck Family Shabbat nights, we have plans for family hikes, skate and bowling. We hope your family will join in our learning, social, and ritual programs, renewing connections and engaging with other families. I invite you to register your family for the many engaging holiday opportunities. Visit anshesholom.ca to register for The Jewish Learning Program for kindergarten through Grade 10, as well as all our other activities.

ANTISEMITISM FACE FIGHT IT

LET'S MAKE 5784 THE YEAR WE FACE & FIGHT ANTISEMITISM. TOGETHER.

JOIN US OCTOBER 16 & 17, 2023
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.FIGHTIT.CA



FIELDGATE FAMILIES

PRESENTED BY CIJA & CANADA'S JEWISH FEDERATIONS



Sar-el Canada reopens to overseas volunteers

For Ruth McCrae, her time as a Sar-el volunteer on an IDF base was the most meaningful way to experience Israel

BY **RUTH MCCRAE**
SPECIAL TO HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

It was on a UJA Walk With Israel last summer that I first heard about Sar-El. My cousin's wife and I had been swapping travel stories- She was telling me about her travels through France and I was telling her about my recent tour of Israel that had been a long-anticipated retirement gift to myself. I expressed my desire to visit Israel again, but without the traditional tour experience.

That was when she told me about her mother's involvement with Sar-El. It sounded like exactly what I had been looking for —time in Israel, plus the ability to support the country in a meaningful and tangible way while allowing me the time and flexibility to explore the country on my own. That was when my investigations began.

After searching Sar-El on the internet, watching related Youtube videos and reading reviews, it seemed ideal. I would be able to choose my date and length of stay- from one to three weeks. In return for my labour on an Israel Defence Forces (IDF) base I would be provided with room, board, a uniform, educational experiences, as well as the opportunity to meet other like-minded individuals from around the world and of varying ages.

It was at this point that I made contact with Vera at Canada's National Sar-El office, based in Toronto. She proceeded to send me contact information for the local area rep. in order to arrange for a face-to-face interview. After receiving approval from him I completed the online application form, passed a physical from my family physician, then eagerly awaited acceptance from Sar-El in Israel.

Upon receiving confirmation of acceptance, all further communications with Sar-El Canada staff were helpful and timely. This was reassuring for an inexperienced traveler like myself. I decided on the two-week option. What I actually experienced



PHOTO COURTESY RUTH MCCRAE

surpassed my expectations. Shortly before my start date I received a meeting point, a packing list as well as a schedule of volunteer dates and time on my own. I was able to pre-plan my stay in Israel, taking advantage of

Ruth McCrae in uniform on her first day as a Sar-el volunteer.

new sights and destinations as well as allowing me the opportunity to revisit adventures from the previous year.

We met at the predetermined location at Ben Gurion Airport where we were introduced to our Madrichah-the soldier who was responsible for our group for the coming week. From there we were bussed to our designated army base. Women and men were housed in barracks on separate floors where we shared a room with two or three others from our group. After an initial orientation, we settled in for work the next day. During the two weeks that I spent with the program, we volunteers completed tasks ranging from sorting and filling ration bags, rewiring combat helmets, organizing and loading skids, packing medical supplies, and more.

Working next to my fellow volunteers led to wonderful new experiences and challenges and a strong sense of comradeship. Each week we met a new group of people from diverse backgrounds, making friends and creating a bond as we all worked towards a similar goal while fulfilling our own personal hopes and goals in the process. "Would you do it again?", I was asked. Without hesitation my answer is, "Yes."

Ruth McCrae is a retired teacher, living in Burlington. For more information, visit sarelcanada.org or call Gord Garshowitz at 905-906-6900.






Shana Tova



Andrea Horwath

email: mayor@hamilton.ca
phone: 905-546-4200

City Hall, 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

  @AndreaHorwath
 facebook.com/AndreaHorwathHamilton






The Office of
MAYOR ANDREA HORWATH
CITY OF HAMILTON


Join Hamilton's Biggest Book Club

GARY BARWIN

NOTHING THE SAME, EVERYTHING HAUNTED


THE BALLAD OF MOTL THE COWBOY





hpl.ca/Hamilton-Reads

Author Talks, Concerts, Book Clubs and More.
Do the Tic Tac Toe Challenge and Get a Prize.



PARKWAY MOTORS

H A M I L T O N

Happy Rosh Hashanah
WE WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.



2023 Toyota Crown

2023 Nissan Rogue

FAMILY OWNED. EXCELLENT SERVICE. COMMUNITY ORIENTED.



DISCOVER ROSH HASHANAH

SHANA TOVA שנה טובה



7.99 lb
17.61/kg
Marvid Kosher boneless skinless chicken breast
20068193_KG



10.99 lb
24.23/kg
Shefa pickled corned beef
20113297_KG



15.99 lb
35.25/kg
fresh Kosher Atlantic salmon fillet tray pack
21029025_KG



1.99 each
Gefen red beets 500 g or Crown tuna 170 g selected varieties
20104490_EA/21028955_EA



5.99 170 g
Nature's Best sliced cheese selected varieties
21079835_EA



15.99 907 g
Schtark shredded cheese mozzarella or pizza
21289850_EA



1.99 80-200 g
Berman cookies selected varieties
21031838_EA



1.99 each
Mini Man wafer bites 200 g or Snappy Snax pretzels 425 g selected varieties
20299018001_EA/21087176_EA



1.79 100 g
Galil all-natural rice or corn cakes selected varieties
21209626_EA/21209628_EA



2.49 250 mL
Pierre Bonne jam selected varieties
21174021_EA



6.99 375 g
Crown natural pure honey
21543933_EA



2.99 30-60 g
Wissotsky tea all varieties
2065832001_EA



2.99 750 mL
Kedem sparkling juice all varieties
20034185006_EA



3.99 1.89 L
Kedem grape juice all varieties
20314022001_EA

FORTINOS®

Prices effective at 1579 Main St. W. Hamilton location only until Wednesday, September 20th, 2023.