



## Shem Tov Awards

Read about this year's nominees **P10**

## A rabbi's retrospective

Rabbi Selsberg looks back **P14**



# Hamilton Jewish News

THE VOICE OF JEWISH HAMILTON

SUMMER 2015 VOL 29:4/ SIVAN, TAMUZ 5774

AGREEMENT #40007180

## My Jewish Hamilton

by BARRY YELLIN, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

I cannot reflect on the York Street that I heard stories about during my childhood. About how my great-grandmother, Gitel Zucker owned a deli there; Or how my grandfather met my grandmother there; How people congregated there or at other places up and down a street that is now a boulevard that mirrors nothing of its past.

Nor can I reflect upon the Delaware Avenue Jewish Community Centre in its heyday. Unlike my mother and late father, and their kin and friends, I cannot

reminisce about how teenagers congregated there for dances, for social events, or for other activities. The JCC that I recall on Delaware was a far-away building that housed others' memories and the smell of must, rather than a vibrant social calendar of the Jewish community.

The Hamilton Jewish community that I tell my son about includes Sid the tailor, Curly the milliner, with special meals at Maxwell's when it was actually owned by Max.

See **My Jewish Hamilton** on page 18

## Collaboration drives the future

EDUCATORS REDEFINE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A COMMUNITY



"Team Jonny" stops at The Bean Bar at a cross-community limousine scavenger hunt to Jewish Hamilton destinations, a program designed by Beth Jacob and Temple educators Rina Rodak and Laura Wolfson. Photo by Rina Rodak

by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News

There's a quiet revolution taking place in Jewish education in Hamilton these days that is good news for children, their parents and those who worry about the future of Jewish communal life in our community. Spearheaded by Temple educator Laura Wolfson and Beth Jacob education director, Rina Rodak, who have come to the conclusion that, in these days marked by shrinking resources and shifting demographics, collaboration makes a great deal more sense than competition.

It's been a long time coming. For years, Federation leaders, concerned about duplication of services and a finite amount of funds available for allocation to beneficiary agencies, have been urging Jewish schools to share resources and implement joint programming as cost-saving and community-building measures. But while everyone involved seems to

be aware of statistics that show a declining interest among young Jewish families in synagogue affiliation and in placing their child's Jewish education above competing priorities, a deeply-embedded pattern of institutions looking out primarily for their own interests has prevailed over a willingness to look at the bigger picture. Until now, that is.

See Cover Story, Page 4



Photo by Wendy Schneider

## History preserved

Morley Balinson has every reason to smile. More than 50 years after the death of his father, the brilliant and irreverent publisher of this city's historic Yiddish language publication of the 1930s and '40s, the Jewish Voice of Hamilton, Henry Balinson's newspapers have found a permanent home at the Rose and Phil Rovenshein Museum at Beth Jacob. The Balinson archive, which includes newspaper copies, family papers, photographs and other artifacts will be featured at an upcoming exhibit. See page 8 for details.



## Kehila moves forward

School will offer junior classes

**P15**

**TD Wealth**

**Fowler and Associates**

TD Wealth Private Investment Advice  
Complete Investment and Estate Planning

**Scott Thomson**  
Investment Advisor

905-528-6349

**Dwight A. Fowler**  
Vice President,  
Investment Advisor

905-528-4254

**Shane Fowler**  
Investment Advisor

905-528-0113

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

**Fowler & Associates**



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.

**PERSPECTIVES**

RHODA E. HOWARD-HASSMAN



**The Charlie Hebdo Murders and Freedom of Speech**

The murders of 12 journalists from the French satiric publication, Charlie Hebdo, are the latest in a series of incidents that have rocked Western liberal faith in the importance of freedom of speech. Journalists, publishers, scholars and many others worldwide have debated whether Charlie Hebdo should have published its satiric cartoons about Islam and the Prophet Muhammad.

It is worthwhile considering whether one should cause offense to someone of a different religion, or whether good manners or “liberal civility” should prevail. I personally found some Charlie Hebdo cartoons about Islam to be gross, rude, tasteless and offensive. Nevertheless, I defend Charlie Hebdo’s right to publish them.

Some commentators on the murders argued that Charlie Hebdo’s cartoons about Islam are part of a long-standing French satiric tradition against King and Pope, starting before the 1789 Revolution. Charlie Hebdo resolutely defends French secularism and likes to mock all kinds of pretentious authority: it mocks Christianity and Judaism, not only Islam. But should this tradition of mockery be extended to Islam, a minority religion with little power in France? In my view, although French Muslims may have little power, Islam – as a spreading evangelical religion – is a powerful institution. It deserves to be satirized as much as Christianity was satirized in earlier centuries. But some Muslims – and others – argue that the Charlie Hebdo cartoons constitute hate speech.

There is a long-standing debate among Jews about freedom of speech versus hate speech, with particular reference to laws prohibiting Holocaust denial. On Jan. 29, 2015, the Canadian Jewish News published a debate about whether denial of the Holocaust constituted hate speech and should be banned. Marni Soupcoff argued that bad speech ought to be fought with good speech: bad speech should not be banned but refuted. By contrast, David Matas argued that there was a difference between blasphemy and hate speech. Incitement to hatred, as in anti-Semitism, had no truth-seeking purpose, Matas argued, while blasphemy did: thus, Matas supported laws banning Holocaust denial.

This debate has more than local resonance. Critics of Western “hypocrisy” often cite the laws in Germany and Austria that criminalize denial of the Holocaust, asking why this particular form of speech, pertaining to Jews, should be outlawed whereas blasphemy against Islam is permitted. The answer lies in the particularity of German and Austrian history: Germany was responsible for the Holocaust, while Austria participated in it. Moreover, the Holocaust denial laws do not prohibit criticism of, or blasphemy against, Judaism as a religion: they outlaw denial of the fact that Jews were murdered. Nevertheless it is, in my view, time to end these laws, and let good speech outweigh bad when any public figure denies that the Holocaust occurred.

We should remember the role that freedom of speech – including the right to blaspheme – played in enabling Westerners to achieve all the rights they now enjoy. Political activists fought centuries-long battles against state censorship in the West. We now have more to fear than state censorship. We have to fear non-state censorship, indeed lynch censorship, as well. Fanatical Muslim extremists are trying to stop all portrayals of Islam that they consider offensive, and we should be just as critical of these groups as we are of states.

I found some of Charlie Hebdo’s cartoons so offensive that I would not want to show them to any Muslim I know, except in the context of a discussion of freedom of speech. Nevertheless, I have to defend Charlie Hebdo’s right to freedom of expression. The alternative is too dangerous.

*Rhoda E. Howard-Hassmann holds the Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights at Wilfrid Laurier University. She is a member of Temple Anshe Sholom in Hamilton.*

**TEN STAR FINANCIAL SERVICES  
YOUR PARTNER FOR  
SUCCESS**



**TEN STAR Life Insurance Brokers Inc.**



**TEN STAR Life Insurance Brokers Inc.** has Advisors throughout Canada who are able to assist you with all of your life insurance needs as they have access to some of Canada’s largest life insurance companies offering a variety of life insurance options.



**TEN STAR Insurance Brokers Inc.**



**TEN STAR Insurance Brokers Inc.** provides business, home, auto and travel insurance to help protect your most important assets. We invest the time to understand your needs and work with you to help minimize your insurance costs and risks so there are no unexpected surprises at the time of a claim. For your peace of mind we deal with well-established and reputable insurers.



**TEN STAR Financial Inc.**



**TEN STAR Financial Inc.** provides you with one stop shopping for all of your investment needs. TEN STAR Financial Inc. is a mutual fund dealer and is a registered member of the Mutual Fund Dealers Association (MFDA).



**TEN STAR Group Benefit Specialists Inc.**



**TEN STAR Group Benefits Specialists Inc.** offers comprehensive group benefit plans, exceptional service and substantial savings. With our 35 years of experience, knowledge, understanding and unique inventive plans we are able to accommodate the diversity of your business.

**TEN STAR FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
95 HAMILTON ST. NORTH, WATERDOWN, ON LOR 2H0  
1-800-461-9501 • [www.tenstar.ca](http://www.tenstar.ca)

# Table of Contents

## HJN SUMMER 2015 IN THIS ISSUE:

- COVER STORY**  
**4 A QUIET REVOLUTION**  
 Collaboration is the new name of the game
- PORTRAITS IN GIVING**  
**10 THE SHEM TOV AWARDS**  
 Honouring our community's volunteers
- THE INTERVIEW**  
**12 A RABBI'S RETROSPECTIVE**  
 Rabbi Selsberg reflects on his years in Hamilton
- FEATURE**  
**19 REMEMBERING ANNE FRANK**  
 A childhood friend remembers



**PAGE 19**



Peals of appreciative laughter broke out among those assembled at Federation's Annual General Meeting last May during Rabbi Bernard Baskin's off-the-cuff closing remarks. Riffing off a midrash told earlier in the evening by Rabbi Selsberg, that had Moses sitting in the back of Rabbi Akiva's classroom not understanding a word that was being said, but feeling pleased to hear himself quoted as the source of Akiva's teachings, Baskin alternated between speaking seriously and delivering clever one liners with perfect comic timing, as in the following three examples: "I'd like to add my congratulations to all of you who have received awards and those of you who deserved the awards and never got them." "Our tradition teaches that those who work on behalf of the community, God will repay them for their efforts—I can't guarantee this, you know." "Like Moshe Rabenu, I don't know who you are and what you're doing, but I accept the wonderful things that you've done." Despite the rabbi's light-hearted remarks, there was no question that he was deeply impressed by the Shem Tov Award nominees. "I can hardly recognize the kind of community that we've turned into," said the rabbi. "So sophisticated ... so tremendous in terms of achievement; so concerned with volunteerism. So many people acting so beautifully on behalf of others." During an evening that highlighted by so many selfless acts of service, nothing left as deep an impression as seeing a great man, whose eloquence, wit and wonderful sense of humour remain undiminished after 95 years on this earth.

**WEB EXCLUSIVE:** Go to [hamiltonjewishnews.com](http://hamiltonjewishnews.com) to watch a video of Rabbi Baskin speaking.

### DEPARTMENTS

Guest Editorial	2
Table of Contents	3
Cover Story	4
Federation	5-7
Upcoming Events	8
Israel	9
Portraits in Giving	10,11
The Interview	12,13
Community	14-17
Feature	19

### COMING UP

#### ROSH HASHANA ISSUE

- Deadline for Booking Ad Space July 22, 2015
- Deadline for receiving editorial copy July 27, 2015
- Deadline for receiving ad copy Aug 7, 2015
- Estimated Date of Arrival

## Hamilton Jewish News

#### PLEASE RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:

P.O. Box 81203  
 1030 Lower Lions Club Road  
 Ancaster ON L9G 4X1  
 Agreement # 40007180

#### HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS

is published five times a year by Hamilton Jewish News Inc. and Wendy Schneider  
 Circulation 2,000

#### EDITORIAL POLICY

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

#### PUBLISHER

Hamilton Jewish News Inc.

#### EDITOR

Wendy Schneider  
[wshneider@jewishhamilton.org](mailto:wshneider@jewishhamilton.org)

#### TELEPHONE

905-628-0058

#### FAX

905-627-7099

#### HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION

PRESIDENT  
 Carl De Leon

#### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Larry Szpirglas

#### CEO

Barb Babij

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Yves Apel  
 Janis P Criger  
 Howard Eisenberg  
 Marla Frank Davis  
 Vadim Gershkovich  
 Mark Gould  
 Daniel Hershkowitz  
 Yael Reznick DeMarco  
 Ira Rosen

#### HJN ADVISORY & EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Aviva Boxer  
 Brenda Deskin  
 Wade Hemsworth  
 Celia Rothenberg

*Phil Leon* insurance broker inc.



**David A. Leon, FCIP**  
 Vice President

Automobile Insurance      Commercial Automobile  
 Home Insurance      Retail, Office & Wholesalers  
 Home Based Business      Commercial General Liability  
 Personal Umbrella Liability      Professional Errors & Omissions Liability

Discount rates available for B'nai Brith members.  
 Plan underwritten by Novex Group Insurance

Bus: 905.525.0001  
[dleon@philleon.ca](mailto:dleon@philleon.ca)

1.800.734.6362  
 Fax: 905.525.1690



*"I'm so fortunate that my vet highly recommended McCann Professional Dog Trainers!"*

**McCANN**  
 PROFESSIONAL  
**DOG TRAINERS**  
 Serving Southern Ontario

Call **1-888-681-7877** or register online  
[www.McCannDogs.com](http://www.McCannDogs.com)

Now offering Doggie Day Care with a difference!

*More than 50,000 family pets and their owners trained! New sessions start every month.*

EXCLUSIVE  
 TECHNIQUES  
 DESIGN  
 IMAGINATION

**ALBERT SNOW**  
 HAIR DESIGN GROUP

1036 KING WEST HAMILTON  
 WESTDALE VILLAGE  
 905 525 0831

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



**20% Off**  
**All Services**  
**on Sundays Only**

**Open Sundays**  
**11am - 4 pm**

# A quiet revolution in Jewish education

Continued from page 1

It began, as these things often do, over coffee. Back in September 2013, Wolfson and Rodak got together to do some creative brainstorming around a joint program for Kehila, (where Rodak was board chair at the time) Temple and Beth Jacob students.

“We felt it was time for our kids not just to know each other,” said Rodak, “but to do activities together and learn how to be a community.”

The result of that meeting was the “Tri-TryAthlon-Tzedakathon” that had participants experiencing the process of allocating their tzedakah dollars to worthy causes.

“It was a good way for them to learn what it means to be a community, and better because we did it all together,” said Wolfson.

When Federation’s Allocations Committee heard about the program during the Temple’s annual request for funding, they loved the idea so much that they set aside a small pool of funds to encourage more collaborations of this nature.

“The opportunity was historic,” Barb Babij told the HJN. “All we needed was to walk through the door – and we did.”

Federation’s next step was to form a cross-community educational committee, made up of representatives from all the community’s Jewish schools, setting the stage for ongoing programs.

The brainchild of a subsequent Rodak/Wolfson brainstorming session was this past May’s Jewish Hamilton Limo Scavenger Hunt, a sold-out program that had students from Grades 3 to 8 filling up three “gleaming white, super-long limos with hulky big drivers dressed in hat and tie” in search of answers that could only be found at destinations around Jewish Hamilton.

“What I really wanted was for the kids to have a sense of community and a geographic connection,” said Rodak. “... to be on James Street and know what Jewish businesses used to be here, or that Bill Morris’s law firm, and Hotti Biscotti are Jewish businesses.”

What Wolfson wanted the children to take from the experience was that, regardless

of which Jewish building they walk into, there would be a sense of familiarity and belonging, allowing them to think, “This is my community.”

As a bonus question, each group was asked to identify five beneficiary agencies of the Federation. “The group with the most correct answers got to go first in the ice-cream line,” said Wolfson, “served by ice-cream lady, Barb Babij.” Learning about community was never this much fun.

What Rodak and Wolfson are trying to accomplish, however, goes far beyond one-off programs that take place once a year. The reality is that their students came together for a number of Shabbat and holiday programs last year.

One program that stands out for Rodak was “Read it like Rashi,” a Shabbat activity held at Beth Jacob, where students learned how the famous medieval commentator and rabbi would find significance in each individual word that made up a biblical verse.

During the exchange of ideas that followed, Rodak recalls feeling an exhilarating sense of unity.

“It felt very special because it was just ‘us.’ It wasn’t ‘us and them,’” she said. “It was just a whole group of us learning together and there was no fragmentation.”

Wolfson felt the same excitement during a joint Passover program.

“There was a kind of excitement among my students that came from watching how the Beth Jacob kids interacted with each other and with the teachers, that was different than the way they did,” she said. “I remember feeling a synergistic energy that was electric. Everybody there could feel it.”

Here’s another bonus to more joint programs between Hamilton’s two supplementary schools. Their “demographic bulges” complement each other perfectly, with Beth Jacob students predominantly in the Kindergarten, Grade 1 and 2 age group, while Temple students are more represented in Grades 3 to 7.

“All of a sudden, we had a fleshed out school population,” said Wolfson.



Rina Rodak and Laura Wolfson, in front of one of their regular meeting spots.

Photo by Wendy Schneider



It wasn’t ‘us and them.’ It was just a whole group of us learning together and there was no fragmentation.

Rina Rodak, director of education and family programming  
Beth Jacob Synagogue

Next year the two educators will expand their initiative by working towards use of the same Hebrew language curriculum. Beth Jacob’s teachers will be taking the training workshops required for them to teach the Hebrew Through Movement program that Temple teachers began to implement this past year. In addition, a series of joint professional learning sessions for their staff and respective executives will take place throughout the coming year. If this new spirit of collaboration is allowed to thrive, it bodes well for the future sustainability of Hamilton’s Jewish community.

“I feel that we can’t afford to have this fragmentation anymore,” said Rodak. “We have to see each other as one. So if the Temple needs money for something, it’s all of our responsibility to help them get there. We have to all support one another and consider ourselves a true community, because if our kids are not taught to see the importance of ‘us,’ we’ll have nothing.”

**Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW)**  
Helping Children. Improving Healthcare. Supporting Women.

Children  
Healthcare  
Women

Photo © Duveth

**Thank You!**

Thanks to your generous gift, you are ensuring that dreams become a reality for countless children, women, and families who depend on CHW projects each and every day.

**HELPING CHILDREN**

**IMPROVING HEALTHCARE**

**SUPPORTING WOMEN**

**Please give generously. Your Annual Campaign gift today...**

Protects a child at risk. Children will have a safe place to call home while receiving nutritious meals and snacks, ensuring they can focus on learning, playing and growing.

Helps heal a patient who has experienced a stroke. Patients will have immediate access to life-saving surgery and a chance for full recovery.

Supports a woman who is struggling day-to-day to feed her children. She will receive guidance and job skills training empowering her and her family.

**ABOUT CHW**

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) is Canada’s leading Jewish women’s philanthropic organization. Founded in 1917, CHW is non-political, volunteer driven and funds a multitude of programs and projects for Children, Healthcare and Women in Israel and Canada.

**TO GIVE OR LEARN MORE**

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW)  
TOLL-FREE: 1.855.477.5964  
E-MAIL: info@chw.ca  
WEB: www.chw.ca

Canadian Charitable Registration: 135506483RR0001

**JORDAN ZALTER**  
Sales Representative

**SARIT ZALTER**  
Sales Representative

*Wishing our clients & the community  
a Happy Passover*

**Westdale**  
(905) 522-3300

**Locke St.**  
(905) 529-3300

**Dundas**  
(905) 628-2200

www.judymarsales.com

# The impact of Holocaust Education



At the Hamilton Jewish Federation's annual Student Seminar on Holocaust Education held at Mohawk College; From l to r: Rhonda Kemeny, Anna Schafer, keynote presenter Doreen Rappaport, Elaine Levine and Anne Barrs. Photos by Wendy Schneider

## ELAINE LEVINE

Jewish Federation's Holocaust Education Committee's 17th annual Student Seminar on Holocaust Education took place on May 12 at Mohawk College with approximately 900 in attendance.

The three-hour program began with the fifth annual Sharon Enkin Awards, which honours local teachers who have demonstrated unique commitment and creativity in engaging students in Holocaust Education activities. James Enkin, whose mother Sharon, was a dedicated educator and philanthropist, presented the award to Patti Haygarth, a teacher at Dundas Valley Secondary School and Nicky Perri, who teaches at Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School.

Dr. Nadia Rosa gave a powerful and moving account of her experiences as a child during the Holocaust as the first keynote presenter.

The second keynote was given by Doreen Rappaport, an engaging speaker who traveled from upstate New York to speak on the topic of Jewish resistance. The author of "Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust," Rappaport captivated her audience with stories of individual and collective acts of Jewish



Dr. Nadia Rosa

“I appreciate your willingness to educate, inspire and challenge us to make a difference in the world.”

Student letter to Dr. Nadia Rosa

heroism during the war.

“How Jews organized themselves in order to survive and defy their enemy is an important but still neglected piece of history,” she said, adding that she travels far and wide hoping “to correct the damaging and persistent belief that Jews’ went like sheep to the slaughter.”

The following comments from student evaluation forms are representative of the seminar.

“I learned that it is my responsibility today to make courageous decisions in order to stand up to social injustices in modern society.”

“I learned about the strength and enduring power of the human spirit through the testimony of Dr. Nadia Rosa and through the courageous ventures of individuals participating in the Jewish Resistance.”

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

## Teaching the Holocaust Two teachers' perspectives

BY PATTI HAYGARTH

Education is about understanding. Understanding is the foundation of acceptance and inclusion. So why is it so important for students to learn about the Holocaust? It is important because informed students are far less likely to say hurtful things, especially unintentionally. Students today are very aware of social injustices and they thrive on gathering knowledge that helps eradicate prejudice. As an educator, it is my single greatest pleasure to watch students learn about injustices, understand why they are wrong, and offer solutions to fix the problem. Then, they share their findings with their peers in very creative presentations. It is an amazing thing to watch students teach each other lessons that will make this world a better place.

I'm sure that when people outside of education think of lessons on the Holocaust, they probably think of history classes. Certainly the grade 10 students study the Holocaust when learning about the Second World War. But there is so much more. Students read the literature of the Holocaust in English classes. Teenage students can relate to Elie Wiesel's experiences after reading *Night*. After my grade 10 class read *Night*, the students reflected on their learning. One boy summed it up the best, by simply stating that “It is important to learn about the Holocaust so that what happened will never happen again.”

As an educator, I know I have experienced something great with my students when a quiet boy reflected that “If this ever happens anywhere in the world, I will do something about it and I hope others feel the same.”



Dundas Valley Secondary School teacher, Patti Haygarth, with Federation CEO, Barb Babij.

BY NICKY PERRI

“We must never forget.” This statement has always resonated with me from the time I started teaching the World Religions Grade 11 program within the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board in 2005. Although there is only a paragraph mentioned about the Holocaust (Shoah) experienced by the Jews in the Grade 10 history programs and a few pages in the Grade 11 religion programs, Catholic teachers recognize they have a moral



Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School teacher Nicky Perri with Barb Babij and James Enkin.

obligation to enlighten their students about the truth of the Holocaust. It is a part of history we don't want to forget or repeat. Students are always shocked by the horrors the victims experienced, and appalled to learn how many individuals were bystanders.

Education is power. Through the teacher seminar that I gladly participated in, *Facing History and Ourselves*, I was saddened and alarmed to learn about the many genocides that have occurred before and after the Shoah. We need to analyse what makes humanity get to a genocide. Following this, I decided to participate in the The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program. Upon returning to school, I felt compelled to educate my students with the knowledge and experiences that were shared with me. I quickly realized that students need to be empowered to know that what they do matters. I appreciate the many opportunities that have been given to educators by the Hamilton Jewish Federation as well as the school boards.

*Dundas Valley Secondary School teacher, Patti Haygarth, and Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School teacher, Nicky Perri, received this year's Sharon Enkin Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education.*



Since 1965, Vine and Partners LLP has been providing comprehensive financial services and exceptional customer service to a wide variety of clients in Canada and the U.S. Our expert team of professionals partner with you to design innovative and comprehensive financial solutions to drive your business forward on all levels.

- Audit and Review Engagements
- Corporate Tax and Reorganizations
- U.S. and International Tax Services
- Business Transition Planning
- Personal Tax and Estate Planning
- Not-for-Profit and Charity Engagements

**VINE and PARTNERS LLP**

Chartered Professional Accountants

1 Hunter Street East, Suite 100 • Hamilton ON L8N 3W1 • (905) 549 8463 • vine.ca





At the Hamilton Jewish Federation AGM, Federation president Carl De Leon, Federation CEO Barb Babij and Community Campaign chair, Yves Apel present a cheque to the community from funds raised during the annual campaign. Photo by Wendy Schneider

# Where your dollars go

## Hamilton Jewish Federation Community Campaign

There is indeed a quiet revolution happening in Jewish Hamilton, and it is evident not only across the community, but in the recommendations of the Allocations Committee. Breaking with tradition, Beth Jacob and Temple Anshe Sholom afternoon schools were present for each school's presentation to the Committee. They then presented a special request together - they requested support to explore the possibility of even more joint educational programming. Their presentation was so compelling that the Committee decided to make a statement with a small allocation in support of joint programming. Families with children who have special needs will also benefit with some new initiatives and programming. A total of \$1,152,978 was allocated to the four pillars as follows (rounded to the nearest percent):

### Strengthening Jewish identity 35% (\$403,643)



The link between Jewish education and experiences, and strengthening Jewish identity is well documented.

Your dollars go towards:

- Jewish education at our day and afternoon schools
- Camp Kadimah bursaries
- Supporting Jewish students at McMaster
- Providing a better quality of life through kashrut services
- Holocaust education
- PJ Library

### Caring for the Vulnerable 22% (\$258,016)

*"The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members."* Ghandi  
Helping the vulnerable, from cradle "to 120."



Your dollars go towards:

- Supporting social services programs
- Feeding the hungry (45 families on a monthly basis)
- Housing adults with developmental disabilities
- Helping families who have children with special needs

### Securing a thriving Jewish Community 33% (\$378,516)



Tikkun olam and a sense of shared purpose are central to our notion of a thriving Jewish community. This requires commitment to cultural programming as well as an investment in infrastructure.

Your dollars support this continuity and sustainability by:

- Providing cultural programming like Yom Hashoah, Morris Black Public Speaking Contest, the Lag Ba'Omer picnic, and the Max and Stella Rotman Humanitarian Youth Awards
- Publishing the Hamilton Jewish News
- Providing a forum for community dialogue and leadership discussions
- Supporting transportation to Toronto for high school kids
- Fundraising through our annual Community Campaign

### Supporting Jewish communities overseas and Israel 10% (\$112,803)

Klal Yisrael and responsibility for one another is evident in our support for Israel and Jews in need around the world.

Your dollars go towards:

- Relief efforts through our support of JAFI (Jewish Agency For Israel)
- Israel advocacy in conjunction with our partner CIJA (The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs)
- Jewish Federations of Canada - United Israel Appeal
- Birthright and other Israel experiences
- Scholarships for other programs in Israel



## Mirror Images: Campaign and Allocations

**BARB BABIJ, CEO**  
HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION

Every fall, a group of very dedicated people come together to plan and execute our campaign; this is the Campaign Cabinet. Every spring, a group of very dedicated people come together to assess the needs of our beneficiary agencies; this is the Allocations Committee. Mirror images of each other, two of the things these folks have in common are dedication and commitment to making our community a better place.

The Campaign Cabinet devotes many hours to forming and implementing campaign strategy, identifying canvassers, training them, and planning events. During the months of campaign they spend countless more hours meeting with our donors, listening to their concerns, and inspiring them with the details of our accomplishments during the past year. Only then do they make "the ask". They participate in telethons so no donor gets left behind, and sometimes they



must call the same donor six or seven times before being successful. Some of our Campaign Cabinet members have been doing this for years. It can be a thankless task; it can also be a rewarding one.

The mandate of the Allocations Committee is to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees, who then review those recommendations in order to achieve a final result. The total amount of money to be allocated is based on the campaign total supplemented by other sources of income, including interest income from our

endowment funds. The process is rigorous. Over the course of three months, the Allocations Committee gathers information and generates recommendations. Because of this effort, they are ultimately in the best position to evaluate the broader community landscape, assess current needs, and address them in a strategic manner, targeting those areas of greatest need. After all, to quote Deborah Corber, my colleague from Montreal, "planning and allocating for the collective is core to our organizational DNA".

Both committees, like all Federation committees, consist of volunteers from across the community, and from all three synagogues. We'd like to thank the members of both the Campaign Cabinet and Allocations Committee for their dedication and commitment:

They both do sacred work, vital to nurturing the sustainability of Jewish Hamilton - Tzadikim, all.

## PJ Library comes to life!



Photo by Terry Babij

"Each month without fail, we get the packaged books or CDs in our mailbox. I can't begin to describe the excitement our four daughters have when they receive these! We read mostly PJ books in our house and play only PJ CDs in our car. In fact, the girls know all the songs by heart. This initiative has enhanced our routine so much, and has helped us bring our Jewish culture, faith and traditions into our family's daily life. Thank you!"

A Hamilton Mom

### Don't miss these upcoming PJ Library programs

**Monday, June 22, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

Enjoy stories, crafts and snacks at Dundas Driving Park (meet at Kitchenette #4)

**Sunday, July 26, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

Join us again for stories, crafts and snacks at Dundas Driving Park (meet at Kitchenette #4)

**Wednesday, August 26 at 6:00 p.m.**

Enjoy stories and crafts at the annual JCC Community Summer BBQ at 1030 Lower Lions Club Rd., Ancaster

Federation-sponsored PJ Library monthly events such as the ones pictured here are open to everyone. PJ Library is a gift to Hamilton area families with children from ages 6 months to 6.5 years old, from the Hamilton Jewish Federation, the Lions of Judah Division, the Shirley and Morris Waxman Family, an anonymous donor and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. To receive the PJ Library monthly e-newsletter, or if you have PJ Library books your family has outgrown, contact Elaine at 905-627-9922 ext. 24 or email [elevine@jewishhamilton.org](mailto:elevine@jewishhamilton.org).



Photo by Rina Rodak



Photo by Elaine Levine



# THANKS

## for living generously

### HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION IS GRATEFUL TO THESE DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

#### 2015 CAMPAIGN CABINET

Yves Apel, Carl De Leon, Steven Dembe, Sandy Fuss, Danna Horwood  
Harvey Katz, Jocelyn Katz, Lester Krames, David Loewith, Lisa Morris, Jay State, Liz Tick, Lawrence Yanover

#### CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS

Tishelle Adelman, Yves Apel, Steve Azmier, Barb Babij, Judy Bennett, Jerome Bergart, Rick Black, Howard Brown, Jack Brown, Jeffrey Brown, Shelley Brown, Marvin Caplan, Dolly Cohen, Lorraine Cohen, Carl DeLeon, Steven Dembe, Mark Eisenberg, Melvyn Enkin, Raefie Epstein, Gerry Fisher, Joy Foster, Irwin Fuss, Sandy Fuss, Elena Goldblatt, Haim Goldstein, Cheryl Greenbaum, Bill Halpren, Marcia Halpren, Janice Hastie, Danna Horwood, David Horwood, Harvey Katz, Jocelyn Katz, Rhoda Katz, Oded Klinghoffer, Louise Klinghoffer, Lester Krames, Molly Krimer, Elaine Levine, Mark Levitt, Sheila Levitt, Terri Lewis, Carl Loewith, Bonnie Loewith, David Loewith, Helen Metz, Shirley Molot, Lisa Morris, Sandy Morris, Andrew Orkin, Bev Orman, Jo-Ann Pomerantz, Maureen Price, Len Ritter, Lorne Rochweg, Judy Rochweg, Nadia Rosa, Louise Rotman, Fay Schmerling, Henry Schwarcz, Sandi Seigel, Anna Shkolnik, David Shore, Neil Silvert, Jay State, Cecile Steinberg, Kristine Stolar, Marvin Stringer, Andrea Stringer, Liz Tick, Stan Tick, Donna Vine, Sasha Weisz, Janet Weisz-Asa, Sandra Witelson, Allen Wynperle, Lawrence Yanover, Joel Yellin, Shirley Zucker

#### THANK YOU TELETHON

Lisa Morris (organizer) Volunteers: Annika De Leon, Ariel De Leon, Carl De Leon, Carl De Leon Jr., Augustina Gershkovich, Ester Gershkovich, Matthew Gershkovich, Samuel Gershkovich, Jonathan Gershkovich, Matthew Sampson

#### ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Yves Apel, Jeffrey Brown, Carl DeLeon, Steven Dembe, Danny Gruda, Jacki Levin, Sandy Morris, Jason Ohayon, Ira Rosen, Paul Roth

#### CROSS-COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rabbi Jordan Cohen, Rabbi Daniel Green, Peter Greenberg, Joanne McIntosh, Rina Rodak, Rabbi Daniel Selsberg, Laura Wolfson

#### HOLOCAUST EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Lois Freeman, Chair, Sima Aronowicz, Anne Barrs, Anita Bernstein, Lanie Goldberg, Sandra Katz, Geraldine Katz-Rose, Bev Lasky, Anna Schafer, Nancy Sullivan, Baya Vertes, Robin Zilberg. A special thanks to Dr. Nadia Rosa, who stepped in to help out at the annual Student Seminar at Mohawk College.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair, Hanna Schayer, Steve Arnold, Jason Ohayon, Len Ritter, Ira Rosen, Yonatan Rozenszajn, Janet Weisz Asa

#### SNAP COMMITTEE

Andrea Levy, Anita Bernstein, Chris Barone, Joanne McIntosh, Joy Zians, Karen Selsberg, Laura Wolfson, Marilyn Levy, Peter Greenberg, Rabbi Daniel Green, Rabbi Daniel Selsberg, Rabbi Jordan Cohen, Rina Rodak, Sandy Morris, Yael Reznick-De Marco

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO YOU, OUR DONORS!**

**WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL TOGETHER!**

**THANK YOU FOR CARING.**

## Upcoming Events

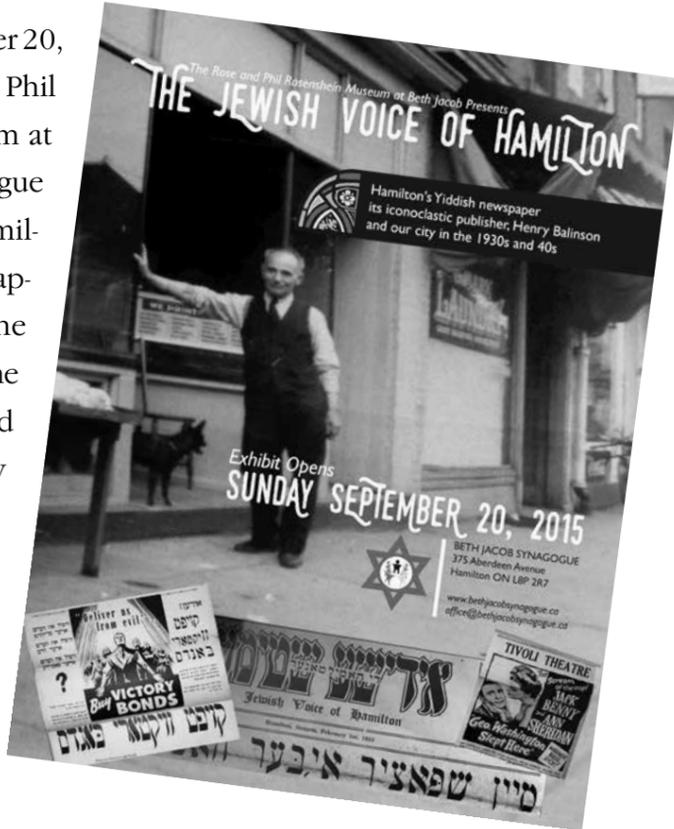
# ROSENSHEIN MUSEUM EXHIBIT

1930s and 40s Hamilton brought to life through exhibit highlighting city's forgotten Yiddish newspaper and its opinionated publisher

**O**n Sunday, September 20, 2015, the Rose and Phil Rosenshein Museum at Beth Jacob Synagogue presents The Jewish Voice of Hamilton, an exhibit that features a snapshot into the dynamic life of the city through the lens of its one-time Yiddish language newspaper and its iconoclastic publisher, Henry Balinon.

The exhibit will showcase many items on public display for the first time: several editions of The Jewish Voice of Hamilton newspaper, local letterpress printing artifacts, photographs and other valuable historical and genealogical documents, all part of the Balinon Family Archive, a recent acquisition to the Rosenshein Museum.

Issues of the newspaper on display will provide a fascinating snapshot of 1930s and 1940s Hamilton, through its advertisements, features and the provocative editorials of its editor and publisher, Henry Balinon. This unusual exhibit offers the public an opportunity to gain an understanding of the Jewish community in Hamilton during a time of significant social, cultural and economic developments as well as the compelling story of Balinon and his Second World War-airman son, Alex, who was killed in Malta in 1942. The family-friendly official opening on September 20 will feature guest speakers and children's activities. For more information, please visit <http://rosensheinmuseum.webs.com>.



## Klezmer in the Park

Touch of Klez will be performing as part of the Concerts in the Park series sponsored by the City of Burlington on Wednesday, July 8, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Central Park Bandshell, 2311 New St. west of Guelph Line. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair!

### The Hamilton Jewish News now offers ONLINE ADVERTISING

#### Sidebar (all pages):

\$800/year, \$300/three months (if web only)  
\$500/year, \$300/three months (if already print subscriber)

#### Lead banner (lead ad on main page + inside lead sidebar)

\$1500/year, \$800/three months (if web only)  
\$1000/year, \$500/three months (if already print subscriber)

Contact [wschneider@jewishhamilton.org](mailto:wschneider@jewishhamilton.org) for details about both print and online advertising.

*Wishing you a safe and wonderful summer*



Jordan Guest  
Sales Representative



Tanis Hall  
Sales Representative



Jack Levy  
Broker



Judy Rosen  
Sales Representative



Larry Szpirglas  
Broker

Helping you is what we do.



905.648.4451

1122 Wilson Street West  
Ancaster, On L9G 3K8

# A start-up for the Start-Up Nation

Supporting Israeli tech-sector just got easier

by JOSHUA BLACK, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

Israel is beginning to define itself and gain recognition as a nation of entrepreneurs, innovation and creative business. Since the 2011 publication of Dan Senor and Saul Singer's book, *Start-Up Nation*, Israel is increasingly living up to that moniker, with a thousand new startups launching every year, and big-name companies such as Google, Microsoft and Facebook buying out startups and opening offices of their own.

Since my arrival to this entrepreneurial mecca a few weeks ago, I have heard numerous socio-psychological theories explaining this phenomenon that range from centuries of persecution of the Jewish people to Israel's being a tiny, arid country in a hostile environment that created an impetus to innovate. Either way, there is no doubting the exponential growth of startups in the Holy Land.

I recently made the acquaintance of Assaf Luxembourg, a dynamic Israeli entrepreneur and creator of Crowdmii (from "crowd made in Israel"), a new crowdsourcing website that makes it possible for Israel supporters around the world to donate directly to a start-up of their choice. Crowdmii features various start-ups who share an underlying theme of *Tikkun Olam* – making the world a better place.

"This is the best response to those who say we should boycott Israel, or that Israel only does bad things," said Luxembourg, who is passionate about promoting products and services that have the potential to benefit people



Assaf Luxembourg at his Crowdmii office located at the Wework building in Herzliyah, Israel devoted to enterprising start-ups. Photo credit: Josh Black

around the world.

One of the featured start-ups is "MyMDBand," a medical bracelet that can be scanned by any smartphone to provide paramedics and medical practitioners around the world with instant access to a patient's select medical details and emergency contacts. In the event that someone is travelling to another country, the information will be automatically translated to the host country language and drug names will be updated for that country as well.

"There are tens of thousands of (patients in the U.S.) who die in the ambulance every year because of a lack of critical medical information," said Luxembourg, who said that the start-up created by a team of Israeli paramedics, is a good example of the quality of products and services that can be found on the Crowdmii website. Crowdmii will also be running

a simultaneous campaign that seeks to raise money to provide a free MDBand to 1,500 Holocaust survivors throughout Israel.

Overall, the level of excitement about Israeli start-ups is palpable and is evident everywhere you look. Scanning the Tel Aviv skyline and seeing the world's largest companies investing in Israeli innovation, it's impossible not to feel inspired. It only makes sense then, to see a start-up help connect others to the Start-Up Nation.

*Joshua Black is currently on placement at the Pears Challenge in Tel Aviv working with Israeli entrepreneurs developing agricultural innovations for smallholder farmers in the developing world. He has a B.A from York U's Glendon College in International Studies and a M.Sc in Integrated Water Resource Management from McGill.*

# Israeli orphanage values dignity above all else

by SARA MIZRACHI, Jerusalem, Israel  
Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

"There's only one thing that's more important than giving, and that is preserving the recipient's dignity," said Avraham Adam, project manager of Diskin Orphan Fund of Israel. Such simple words, and yet so difficult to accomplish.

Every year Diskin distributes more than 1,000 sets of clothing for children whose childhood was shattered by the death of a loving parent. Diskin provides clothing as part of its massive campaign to assist and support orphans throughout the year, year after year, as it has been doing for 135 years.



The historical Diskin's Orphanage, built in 1927, located at the entrance to Jerusalem. Photo Studio OTOT, Jerusalem, Israel

The name Diskin has been synonymous with the term, "father of orphans" dating back to 1880, when Rabbi Yehoshua Leib Diskin, z"l, opened his humble home to the orphaned children of Jerusalem, and ever since, has served as a source of comfort and hope for orphans, widows and others who lack familial support.

During the first hundred years of its existence Diskin was a classic orphanage, wherein children received a warm home, loving care, schooling, and an environment that truly prepared them to become responsible adults. But over the past 35 years Diskin has provided a more broad-based program, supporting thousands of orphans in their own family homes, a far more natural and healthy approach. Diskin provides clothing, sponsors bar mitzvah celebrations and other family events, provides hot meals, tutors, educational and emotional counseling, medical care and more. Diskin staff go to great lengths to offer their services with discretion, preserving the dignity of the orphans and their families. This is their number-one concern: when it comes to matters of dignity, there is no room for compromise.

In the spirit that characterizes all of Diskin's projects, last Pesach, 1,516 orphaned children received gift certificates for the finest clothing and shoe stores. In this way, each child could choose clothing suited to his own taste.

"We hope we can be the next-best thing to a real family," said Adam, "and we try helping just as a father or mother would have done."

For more information about the Diskin Orphan Fund of Israel visit [www.diskin.org.il](http://www.diskin.org.il) or call 1844 780 1414.

*American born Sara Mizrachi is a Jerusalem-based journalist and translator.*

## Wishing the community a summer filled with family, friends and joy.



Brad Wiseman

Hon. David Steinberg

Barry Yellin

Jeffrey Manishen



**Ross & McBride LLP**

1 King Street, 10th Floor Hamilton, ON L8P 1A4

TEL: 905.526.9800 | FAX: 905.526.0732

[www.rossmcbride.com](http://www.rossmcbride.com)

Lawyers in your corner.

No other law firm in the city offers as many practice areas or services to our clients. If you have any questions about what we can provide you, feel free to contact us.

p o r t r a i t s



2015 s h e m t o v a w a r d s

**1. BETH TIKVAH FOUNDATION - DANNY DAVIDS**

After joining the Beth Tikvah board a few short years ago, Danny Davids stepped right into the role, taking on many responsibilities always with a very positive attitude and with grace and charm. Danny has contributed on so many levels to our operations, and is an absolute delight to have on our board.

*Danny Davids: "Volunteering is an important part of life in both the general and the Jewish community. I think that I gain more than I could possibly give by giving my time and effort as a volunteer."*

**2. ADAS ISRAEL - JEANNIE (CHANA) LAVIN**

Jeannie Lavin possesses not only a keen eye for decor but, more importantly, a giving and charitable heart. As a professional event planner, her immense gifts and talents enable her to uniquely capture the spirit of the moment. Jeannie's dedication to the Adas Israel, volunteering her time and resources, is boundless and inspiring.

*Jeannie Lavin: "I feel volunteering is like helping my family, the whole Hamilton Jewish community feels like my family."*

**3. JNF - JOHN MOKRYCKE**

John has been a volunteer and contributing JNF board member for many years. In addition to being involved in fundraising for many Negev Dinners, he has also helped on many programs and even involved his children. He is always ready to help and has a sincere love and appreciation of Israel.

*John Mokrycke: "I was introduced to JNF in 1997, when I was asked to help with a Negev Dinner. Seventeen dinners later, with two JNF trips to Israel, and with many new friends along the way, I continue to be impressed by and learn from JNF's work in the area of sustainable development, in Israel and around the world. If I can assist in any way to help with current and new projects, then I have invested my time for a great cause."*

**4. SHALOM VILLAGE - MARMIE WOLFSON**

Marmie Wolfson became involved as a volunteer when Shalom Village first opened. Marmie does one-on-one visits

with the residents, accompanies residents on outings and to appointments, assists in Bubbie Bessie's Café, assists with the monthly Shabbat Services, as well as assists with entertainment programs. The residents and staff love when Marmie brings her tap shoes and entertains them. Shalom Village appreciates this amazing, and dedicated volunteer.

*Marmie Wolfson: "I feel fulfilled after a day of volunteering. I enjoy volunteering with the residents, staff and my fellow volunteers."*

**5. KEHILA - CARRIE SNIDERMAN**

For many years, Carrie has graciously shared her skills, time and dedication. She has been a leader amongst our "kehila" as a board and PTA member, and can always be counted on to volunteer for chauffeuring and chaperoning field trips, helping out in the office, hot lunch preparations, supporting the teachers with classroom projects and with so many other aspects of school life. Carrie skillfully and gracefully served as the co-chair for our spring fundraiser, "SABABAH."

*Carrie Sniderman: "I've heard it said: volunteers are not paid because they are priceless - the same can be said of volunteering; the opportunities I have had while volunteering at Kehila are truly priceless. Our school is an amazing place and I am deeply grateful to be involved with the many spectacular people who work tirelessly to make Kehila a beautiful environment for our kids."*

**6. NA'AMAT HAMILTON - DORA FISCHER**

Dora Fischer has been an active and enthusiastic member of Na'amat for the past 25 years, and has served in many leadership positions including treasurer (twice) and co-president. She has co-chaired the Women of Inspiration evening as well as concert fundraisers. Dora was selected to attend a Na'amat leadership seminar in Israel. She is a passionate advocate of Na'amat's mandate to help women, children and families in Israel and Canada.

*Dora Fischer: "Na'amat provides daycare for over 18,000 children in Israel, legal aid*

*for women, shelters for battered women and children, educational opportunities for youth at risk... how can I not be involved? What makes it easy to be involved is the group of women here in Hamilton, who open their homes and wallets, and give of their time selflessly."*

**7. TEMPLE ANSHESHOLOM - KEVIN SAMPSON**

In his position as chair of the TAS house committee, Kevin has been diligent in seeing every detail addressed in a timely manner and is undeterred by the challenges of maintaining an aging building. Kevin serves an example of what great volunteering is. In his humble and quiet way, he works for the betterment of our Temple and our congregants on an ongoing basis.

*Kevin Sampson: "Being entrusted to help look after the building, along with other committee members and staff, is very important to me. I have a real sense of accomplishment when things get done and put in place at the Temple, whether they are big jobs or small ones. Volunteer work allows me the opportunity to meet people at the Temple and develop working relationships and friendships with members and this makes me feel part of a bigger Temple community."*

**8. JCC - CHARLES KRAVETSKY**

No matter how busy he is, Charles Kravetsky is always a phone call away. He guides us when we have questions; he bakes, cooks and fries delicious food for our events. He makes stops in Toronto to pick up food from Sobey's and Elite Salads and so much more. Charles is a mensch and would do anything for the JCC.

*Charles Kravetsky: "Volunteering within the Jewish community of Hamilton, started long before I arrived here. It has to do with an example set forth by my parents back when I was growing up in Winnipeg. When I first arrived in Hamilton, I found the JCC to be a warm and welcoming place. This welcoming spirit made me want to give something back. The JCC has always made everyone feel welcome, and that's why I am happy to volunteer here."*

**9. HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION - SANDY MORRIS**

Sandy has been an exceptional volunteer at Hamilton Jewish Federation for many, many years, filling a variety of roles. She serves on the Special Needs Action Project committees, and is also a captain on the canvassing team and a former Women's Division Campaign Chair for our Annual Campaign. And she is always willing to take a few more cards. We know that whatever Sandy is working on will get done with the utmost excellence while somehow putting a smile on our faces every time. Sandy is a valued member of Federation, a joy to work with, and a worthy recipient of the Shem Tov award.

*Sandy Morris: "Federation is a multi-faceted organization, so as a volunteer one is exposed, and touched, in many different ways. Many of those you meet become friends, and so enrich your life even more."*

**10. BETH JACOB - JERRY GOLDBLATT**

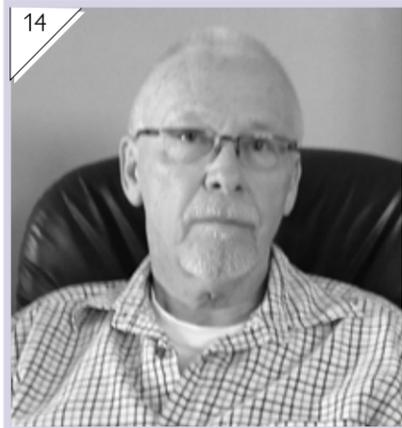
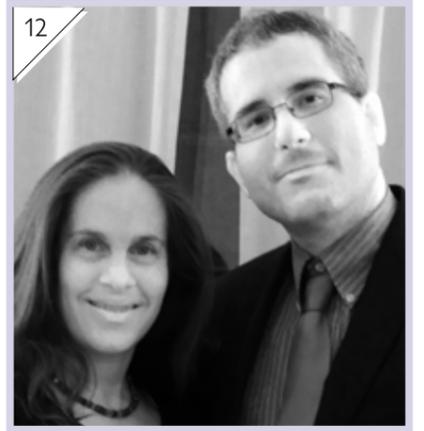
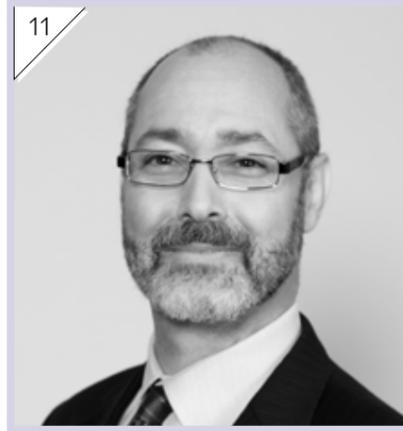
Jerry Goldblatt is Beth Jacob Synagogue's handymensch. No stranger to paint cans and power tools, Jerry can often be found wielding both though generally not at the same time. If he finds a crack in the wall - he will fill it. If a bathroom needs renovations he will find the resources and personnel to fix it. His love of Beth Jacob is evident in every brush stroke, every kind gesture to staff and every laugh he shares with minyanaires. Jerry is currently helping Beth Jacob upgrade its security system and, with Jerry at the helm, you know you're in good hands.

*Jerry Goldblatt: "My volunteer work at Beth Jacob has always been done with a sense of pride and accomplishment. It is my shul, where my family has worshipped for over 100 years. I care about the building and I care about the people who are part of this congregation. I want to make sure it is there for future generations to enjoy."*

**11. SHAAREI BETH EL - PHILIP MENDES DA COSTA**

Philip has been a leader at Shaarei-Beth El Congregation for more than two decades. What makes Philip unique is that even after serving as president, he then continued

i n g i v i n g



# Honouring our community volunteers

to participate in all sorts of leadership positions, on committees, helping with fundraisers, serving as an usher, gabbai, and advising the financial committee. Philip is also a behind-the-scenes advisor, financial supporter and visionary guide and so we are delighted to honour him as our Shem Tov nominee.

*Philip Mendes da Costa: "As we live outside of the major Jewish areas, our synagogue is not just a place of prayer but the heart and soul of our Oakville Jewish community. Over the years, I have learned the importance of giving back to the community and ensuring that the community remains vibrant and welcoming. My commitment of time has earned me a sense of fulfillment and a genuine feeling of being "home" when I walk into the synagogue."*

**12. HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY - DALIA AND ELLI ROSENBERG**

For more than three years, Dalia and Elli have enriched the lives of our community, in general, and the students of the HHA in particular, as both educators and facilitators. In one of their more subtle, but profound, contributions, they have taken upon themselves to provide for the emotional and material needs of our school's Israeli volunteers in many different ways. In addition, Dalia has been a dedicated and talented teacher at the HHA and Elli has inspired our community with thought-provoking addresses on the topics of the State of Israel and the Israel Defense Forces. As they return to Israel, we wish them continued success.

*Dalia and Elli: "We had the privilege to be involved in helping out at the HHA. It was the natural thing to do for an institution that has granted our children so much. And what we have received through this involvement is way beyond what we have given!"*

**13. JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - BRENDA RISHEA**

In 2009 Brenda joined the JGS and volunteered to be the newsletter editor which allowed her to use her skills in graphic design to benefit all of our readers. The newsletter, "Treasured Times", serves as a major communication point for the

group's members, offering stories of triumphs and trials and as a research tool to assist others in their own quest for information. In her role as editor, Brenda helps other researchers network and share information.

*Brenda Rishea: "I find it very gratifying and rewarding to give my time and effort to such an important cause as genealogy research, enabling me to benefit the Jewish community at large. I hope to motivate members of the Jewish community to search out their missing relatives and discover their exciting family history."*

**14. JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES - GEORGE CSEPLO**

Every Wednesday George makes up food bank orders and delivers them to clients who are unable to make the trip to our offices. George is always on the lookout for bargains, and keeps our shelves stocked, orderly and clean – all this with a smile. We can rely on George's discretion and good judgment.

*George Cseplo: "I am honoured to be selected as a Shem Tov nominee. I want to help people less fortunate than me and give back to the community."*

**15. MCMASTER HILLEL - LINDSAY STITT AND SEAN HABER**

Under Lindsay Stitt's leadership as McMaster Hillel president, Hillel's membership has continued its exponential growth. Lindsay oversaw extremely successful and meaningful programming throughout the school year. As president of McMaster Israel on Campus, Sean Haber oversaw several extremely successful programs, campaigns and initiatives and built many meaningful relationships on campus for the pro-Israel community. Sean inspires other Jewish students to develop rich and meaningful relationships with Israel.

*Lindsay Stitt: "During my time at McMaster, the Jewish community has become like a family to me and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to be Hillel president. Through McMaster Hillel I have gained new experiences, learned new lessons and had new opportunities."*

*Sean Haber: "My commitment to Hillel and Israel on Campus have changed my four years at McMaster. This community has given me incredible opportunities to take on leadership roles, which have caused me to thrive at Mac as a Jewish student."*

## CeCe Schreiber Volunteer Leadership Award

### Morley Balinson



Hamilton has a lengthy history of military support for Canada and Morley's long service to country personifies that support. Morley's service began when he ran away at the age of 18 to join the army. He continued to serve during the Korean battle in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, 2nd Battalion. During his time in the Korean War, his Regiment and Battalion served admirably and for one significant battle, the Battle for Kapyong, distinguished themselves and received a U.S. Presidential citation for their courage. Shortly after returning home, Morley joined the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders (PL) Canada, Hamilton's esteemed Highland Reserve Regiment where he served until an age-forced retirement. As a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 343 of the Maccabees, he often volunteered to distribute poppies and the money the members raised annually supported many charitable organizations in Hamilton, including Shalom Village. Morley believes very strongly that like the remembrances for Yom Hashoah, we must never forget the sacrifices our own veterans have made. The Hamilton Jewish community is honoured to have a man like Commander Balinson. He is a true Canadian hero and his actions continue to reflect on an individual who for most of his life has been dedicated to serving our country and community in this unique manner; he has made a difference in many lives. In a year touched by more than one attack on patriots, it is fitting that this year's CeCe Schreiber Award be presented to someone who has served his country so long and so well.

**16. HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION PRESIDENT'S AWARD DAVID AND BONNIE LOEWITH**

The President's Award is presented to those who have shown exemplary, longstanding volunteer service to the Hamilton Jewish Federation. David and Bonnie Loewith have been instrumental in moving forward board agendas in the community, consulting, advising and assisting the Hamilton Jewish Federation's board of trustees and living the values of k'lal yisrael. Bonnie and David have been active in the Jewish community for a very long time. In 2002, Bonnie assumed the mantle of Federation President and served with distinction. David has been a long-standing member of the Federation Campaign Cabinet for longer than he'd like to admit. And both Bonnie and David are canvassers. Bonnie and David are truly a unit in terms of their service to the Hamilton Jewish community.

# A rabbi's retrospective

After nine years as spiritual leader of Beth Jacob Synagogue, Rabbi Dan Selsberg, his wife Karen, and their three young sons will move back to the United States this summer. Below, the rabbi reflects on his tenure here, and offers insights into the Hamilton Jewish community and how it can meet the challenges ahead.

Story and photos by WENDY SCHNEIDER, the Hamilton Jewish News



The Selsberg twins had just turned two when the Selsbergs first came to Hamilton in 2006.

**How did starting off your rabbinical career here in Hamilton shape the professional you've become?**

Hamilton, on a personal level, was a soft landing. From the moment we arrived, the folks in the synagogue had cleaned up the house, cleaned up the yard and planted flowers. It set a tone, we are here, we want you to do well. We want you to succeed. We want you to be comfortable. We want you to be happy. That has never left. Professionally, similarly, Hamilton has allowed me space to grow. People have been incredibly supportive. People ask how long a rabbi's honeymoon lasts and I really have no answer to that because people were patient with me in the beginning and seem to continue to be so. And for me it's been pretty impressive that folks have acted like this. It's allowed me space to be who I am.

**To someone unfamiliar with Hamilton, how would you describe this city's Jewish community?**

It's small, and in many ways, tight knit.

I'd say that Hamilton punches above its weight in having three active synagogues, a mikvah, butcher, JCC, day schools, and all the things that are going on here. But there are two main things that go on. There's a cadre of folks where everybody knows everybody, and at the same time, there's more here than just that cadre, and part of the challenge is trying to expand that circle – making sure that there's a continual bringing people in. So if I was describing it to a colleague I would say that we have a good core but a hard time imagining how we should look tomorrow that's different from yesterday.

**Is Hamilton a good place to raise a Jewish child?**

Yes, but there are pluses and minuses to it. We live in the shadow of Toronto here. In a city like Toronto, there are more Jewish resources available without a doubt. In many ways, though, it's less affordable, so it's out of reach for a greater number of people. Here, both the housing and Jewish education are more

affordable so they're more in reach for a greater number of people if they choose to avail themselves of it. So in that way it's a good place to raise a Jewish child. I'm not convinced that we have the critical mass of educated Jews who are engaging in instruction for kids to really fulfill the promise of the relative availability of Jewish education here. I can envision a higher quality of teachers and educators. The people who are doing it are generally good at it, but we need more of them. I think that it would be a better place to raise a Jewish child if we make sure that our resources were used in a more forward thinking way. If one were to drop in from Mars or even from Toronto and look at how we're educating our kids and how we're allocating our resources to this institution or to that one, and how those institutions are set up, it clearly wouldn't be ideal. I think there are better ways to do it, but there are political and religious turfs that end up trumping a better way

that would see more kids getting a deeper and more complete Jewish education.

**What was your vision for Beth Jacob and was it fulfilled?**

Regarding our role in the community, I have always wanted Beth Jacob to be a place that anyone who could conceivably join a Conservative synagogue would think this is a good place to be, because I'm not convinced that 10 years ago it was. And now it is. So I think we do do a good job of delivering on that, in that we seek to conserve the preponderance of the Jewish tradition, without compromising our ethical values; which is to say that if you hold something as an ethical value, you don't have to check that at the synagogue door and say that, well I believe this out in the world, but Judaism is different. We also offer equal opportunity to men and women. I think that is hugely important and something that the congregation is properly proud of.

**Can Conservative Judaism meet the needs of today's young families?**

**ISRAEL 2015-2016**  
 COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES  
**BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA**  
[www.israelfamilytours.com](http://www.israelfamilytours.com)

**Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours**

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony included All-inclusive deluxe hotels More days of sightseeing A true family itinerary	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter Break</b>
	Jun. 28 - Jul. 9, 2015	Dec. 20, 2015 - Jan. 3, 2016
	July 5 - Jul. 15, 2015	<b>March Break</b>
	Aug. 2 - Aug. 13, 2015	Mar. 10-21, 2016
	Aug. 16 - Aug. 27, 2015	<b>Passover Break</b>
		Apr. 19 - May 01, 2016

**Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child FREE\***

\* Included in Family Rates. Excluding Air

Call Kathy 905-886-5610, ext 345

---

**ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS**  
 WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay MORE for LESS!  
 Don't be tempted by a guide, a one-man operation  
 We employ the most experienced guides in Israel  
**Free -Exclusive \$2,000,000 Liability Insurance**  
 TICO Insurance (Not available to a one man operation)  
**We do all the work!** We help you design your own exclusive itinerary  
 We plan according to your budget and preferences  
 Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!  
 WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony

Greater Toronto • Golden Horseshoe • Kitchener-Waterloo • Niagara

**WB**  
Wilson  
Blanchard

Condominium  
Management  
with Experience  
and Integrity

**ACMO**  
ACMO 2000

PROFESSIONALLY MANAGING:  
Condominiums  
Office & Retail Buildings

CONSUMER CHOICE AWARD  
2013  
BUSINESS EXCELLENCE  
HAMILTON  
3 YEAR WINNER

Wilson, Blanchard Management Inc.  
701 Main Street West, Suite 101, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 1A2  
Tel. 905.540.8800 800.999.7419 Fax. 905.540.4450  
[www.wilsonblanchard.com](http://www.wilsonblanchard.com)

25th Anniversary  
**PEERLESS**  
 YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY

**UNIGLOBE**  
 Travel  
 Partner Agency

905.886.5610  
 800.294.1663  
 416.485.9455

[tours@peerlesstravel.com](mailto:tours@peerlesstravel.com) [www.peerlesstravel.com](http://www.peerlesstravel.com)

I would say that the future also should involve making sure that we remain accessible to the Jews in front of us, however their families are constituted. To let folks know that there's a place that is delivering the wisdom of the ages in a way that is applicable to the differing and constantly changing situations of today and making sure that we're doing that in the idiom they understand. There are some things that the shul will always do – prayer services in Hebrew, for one, but there needs to be an effort to make sure that what's being taught is in step with people's lives and something that can enrich people's lives. That means having the conversations, teaching sessions and programs where people will be able to connect with each other, with themselves, with their families, with their past, with their future, with God and with the Jewish people everywhere.

**What are you most proud of having accomplished during your time here?**

When it came time to renovate this place, we stepped up and now that I see other places that have struggled with that, I'm amazed that it happened here. I've seen synagogues where they renovated and spent the next decades in debt because they overspent by millions. And we didn't. We scaled back actually, to make sure we weren't mortgaging the future of this congregation. But, we also didn't sit on our tuchases and say, 'well it's a risk, so why bother doing it?' Part of it was working together and making sure we maintained the Jewish vision that you are never satisfied with the way things are, but you think about what could be. The Torah is the story of a journey to the promised land, and it ends before you get there. It's about being on that journey to a better place and at the same time not thinking that everything will turn out okay. Not having the sense that, no matter what we'll be fine. But taking care and making prudent and reasonable decisions. I think that's my nature and it turns out it was this community's nature and I think that



**We've been good at making sure there have been the bricks and mortar to serve the needs of the community, but making sure there are people who are inspired to be in that space is even more important.**

it served me well to be here where people were willing to work in partnership. We built on what was and if I had asked somebody the day I arrived, what will Beth Jacob be in nine, 10 years, they would not have described the building I'm sitting in right now. How it looks. How it feels. Who's in it. And I'd like to think that I did that here. I definitely did not do it alone. It only works because there were a number of really dedicated, intelligent and good-hearted people who bought into the same vision and wanted to build the same thing and that's what Jewish communities are for.

**What insights can you share with us about the Jewish community you've come to know so well.**

This community has been good at making sure that it has the bricks and mortar to serve the needs of community. While having building space is nice, making sure that there are people who are inspired to be in that space is even more important. I think in the future, the Hamilton Jewish community has to make sure that it's ready for changing Jewish demographics. It's going to be important to ensure that the needs of interfaith families are being met and that they're helped to make choices that will serve them well and serve the Jewish community well. It will be important to create educational programs that will maximize the depth for the amount of time that families will commit to Jewish education. Just like all the separate wicks of a havdalah candle blend together to create a flame that's taller than any one candle can do on its own, the same is really true for the community.

**What will you miss most about Hamilton?**

The people. There's a privilege in this job, in that many people invite me into their lives, and I'm there with them at difficult times and happy times. And they'll say things to me that they wouldn't say, maybe,



Nine years later, a highly-regarded community leader.

if I didn't have the title before my name. It creates a relationship and a bond. When I arrived here nine years ago, I looked out at the sanctuary on the High Holidays, and there were hundreds of people – a crowd shot. Now when I do that, it's individual people out there, and I know the story of pretty much everyone in the room. And I know which seats are empty. Because somebody didn't make it this year and I know which seats are occupied because somebody's been added and, as the prayer says, I know who's lived and how they've lived, who's waxed rich, who's been brought low, who's been raised up, and it makes a difference. That's what I'll miss. The individual people, that's what's really joyful. It says in the Torah, "b'tselem elohim", that we're all created in the image of God – that little spark of uniqueness and divinity, I've really seen that in this place. That's what I'll miss the most.

**WEB EXCLUSIVE**

**WATCH** Rabbi Dan Selsberg's complete interview with the HJN at [www.hamiltonjewishnews.com](http://www.hamiltonjewishnews.com)

NEW HORIZON DEVELOPMENT GROUP PRESENTS  
**HAMILTON'S PREMIER CONDO COMMUNITY**  
 SALES CENTRE AT 85 ROBINSON ST | ANYTIME BY APPOINTMENT | TEL 289.389.1734

**CITY SQUARE**  
**HAMILTON'S TRUE ADDRESS OF DISTINCTION**  
**FEW UNITS REMAIN**

SUPERIOR LOCATION IN THE PRESTIGIOUS DURAND NEIGHBOURHOOD  
 DISCOVER THE ULTIMATE CONDO LIFESTYLE  
 GEOTHERMAL COOLING AND HEATING

**NEW HORIZON**  
 DEVELOPMENT GROUP  
 NEWHORIZONHOMES.CA



On April 23 the community came together to celebrate Israel at 67. Attendees enjoyed a taste of Israel and took part in the vendors shuk, the Coffee House, Airbounce Inflatables, face painting and much more. Thank you to Gila Mesusany, Ricky and Alon Shakked and Michal Amsili for creating a new look for our program.

## Another Dynamic Leadership Team!



DL Lavin



Camp always has the unique ability to create a lifetime of powerful experiences and memories. I am beyond excited to be joining the Kadimah family this year, together with an ALL-STAR team ensuring that every single camper has the most incredible summer of their lives.

Teddy Kravetsky



I'm very excited to be back this summer as part of the camp leadership team. I plan to help make it a great experience for all.

Rachelle Zalter



I am excited to be working alongside Teddy and DL this summer! This will be my third year working at Camp Kadimah and as hard as it's going to be to top the last couple years, I am going to put all my energy into making this the most enthusiastic and fun summer yet.

## Camp Schedule

**WEEK 1 - JULY 6-10**

Adventure Village and Fire Station

**WEEK 2 - JULY 13-17**

Silver City and SPCA

**WEEK 3 - JULY 20-24**

Museum of Steam Technology and Lil Monkeys

**WEEK 4 - JULY 27-31**

Earl Haig and Police Station

**WEEK 5 - AUGUST 4-7**

Emerald Lake and Loewith Farm

**WEEK 6 - AUGUST 10-14**

Overnight to Camp George

**WEEK 7 - AUGUST 17-21**

Dundurn Castle and Bowling

**WEEK 8 - AUGUST 24-28**

Bingemans and Special Guest

To register, email [jchamilton@gmail.com](mailto:jchamilton@gmail.com) or call 905-648-0605 ext 307.

## Sponsor Some Sunshine!

Help send a child to Camp Kadimah



Every summer, the JCC and Hamilton Jewish Federation provide camperships to many children whose families are financially unable to manage the cost of day camp. For many of these children, attending day camp provides them with their only contact with the Jewish community. Your support, in any amount, will allow us to continue and expand this proud and important tradition of helping children in our community. Corporate donations welcome. Please contact the JCC at 905-648-0605 if you would like to help or send a cheque directly to the JCC at 1030 Lower Lions Club Rd. Hamilton, PO Box 81203, L9G 4X1. On behalf of our campers, we thank you.

## Everyone is welcome at the Annual JCC Community BBQ

Wednesday, August 26 at 6:30 pm



This program is a great way for the community to come together and finish off the summer with a bang.

Free hot dogs and veggie dogs  
Carnival games • Face Painting

Visit representatives from the community's Jewish organizations.

We hope to see you there!

## TAS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

"Whose decision was it to make Temple Anshe Sholom and why? What was the original location of the Temple? How did they advertise for people to go there? How large was the congregation the first year? Was the congregation always a Reform Jewish congregation? What was the Hebrew school like?" These were among the list of questions recently generated by our Grade 7 students as they began what will be a year-long inquiry into the rich history of our congregation. In conjunction with our 165th Anniversary celebrations, our students will learn about the history and traditions of Temple Anshe Sholom, as well as the history of the Hamilton Jewish community. Their explorations will include interviews with adult congregants, visits to the Temple's cemetery, internet, library, and community research to access information about Hamilton's Jewish population in the 1850s and later, and delving into the Temple's archives. The final products of their research will include a video to be shared with the community, as well as an informational display to be exhibited at the Temple.

In addition to the 165th anniversary Temple History Project, our students have begun to make a gift that they will present to the congregation in the fall: new



Sydney and Alyssa working on their tallit project. Photo by Laura Wolfson

beautiful, handmade tallitot for the main sanctuary. They dyed the fabric in a colour-dyeing workshop, and then added written brachot and decorations. Finally, they will learn to tie tzitzit on them. We look forward to the finished product!

For next year: we will be accepting new students in the fall, and we are starting a new Drop-In program for 2.5-year olds to JK on Shabbat mornings: for more information about this or about Temple Anshe Sholom's religious school please contact Laura Wolfson, [lwolfson@anshesholom.ca](mailto:lwolfson@anshesholom.ca) or visit our website [www.anshesholom.ca](http://www.anshesholom.ca) (click on Education to access religious school information and application forms).

## BETH JACOB HEBREW SCHOOL

Beth Jacob offers in-class weekly classes which focus on the understanding of Judaism, as well as experiential opportunities which focus on the "doing" of Judaism.

On Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. children from Kindergarten to post B'nai Mitzvah learn with a combination of teachers. We also offer Shabbat and holiday learning experiences that are open to everyone, a mix, that enhances the learning process and expands social interaction between our Hebrew school students and those not registered. The in-class time is used to prepare students for their out-of-class experiences that take place on Shabbat, Jewish holidays, Shalom Village visits and the L'Dor V'Dor program. This past year, more than 15 Beth Jacob children participated in our congregational Megillah reading. As well, the songs and prayers that Cantor Eyal teaches during his Wednesday classes are chosen carefully and presented

in the grander practical context. We strive to develop the children's independence, competence and confidence in their Jewish activity, not solely their understanding of it.

Next year, our two-pronged approach will remain. In addition, we hope to introduce an intensive Hebrew Language program that all families can opt into. A teacher trained in Hebrew Language study will be hired to lead this class, which will be offered twice a week.

The school's growth, along with the enthusiasm and commitment of our families inspires our entire congregation. When the service is full of children, everyone wears a bigger smile and davens with a stronger voice!

For more information about our school, contact Rina Rodak at [school@bethjacobsynagogue.ca](mailto:school@bethjacobsynagogue.ca).

## HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY

We live in a world where endless information is at our fingertips. Consequently, the function of a teacher is no longer to supply facts but rather to provide the skills so students can become independent, empowered, lifelong thinkers. The HHA Learning Commons will be an open, collaborative, learning space that empowers students with the 21st century tools for self-directed research and real world skills. The commons will serve as a hub of learning, innovation, and knowledge creation. The planning committee includes: Anita Brooks Kirkland, a past-president of the Ontario Library Association, who has a wealth of experience in guided inquiry and digital fluency. In addition, Giselle Whyte, a past faculty advisor at Brock University's School of Education is pro-

viding support and consultation to the project. Whyte was also the program consultant responsible for all school libraries in the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

The establishment of the HHA Learning Commons will require the partnership of visionary donors who share the importance of this transformative initiative – one that will reposition our school as a regional educational leader. The project will entail the repurposing of the existing school library, with its current high ceilings and skylights, into a 21st century learning environment. Upon completion, the Learning Commons will be an advanced, digitally equipped setting with comfortable sofas and work stations that can accommodate several classes simultaneously.



Piotr Gawek shows Kehila students how to play the violin.

Photo courtesy of Kehila

## KEHILA MOVES FORWARD

After extensive discussions with new parents and potential donors, Kehila has decided to move forward. The 2015/16 academic year will see a redeveloped curriculum that builds on the strengths of our existing curriculum. Students will enjoy enhanced conversational French and Hebrew immersion instruction on a daily basis in each language. The second development concerns enhancements of our music program – Kehila has always had a strong program that includes teaching students recorder, ukulele, and singing. In the coming year, Piotr Gawek, a concert violinist with 25 years of teaching experience, will direct our music program, ensuring an excellent experience. Kehila will continue to offer the highest standards in academic excellence, as the education committee expands its role in the day-to-day operations. We are committed to offering JK, SK and Grade 1 classes next year, and are currently working on plans to expand the school to include Grades 3-5. A final decision on the upper-year program will depend on additional fundraising commitments. If you believe in enhanced academic education for our community, consider contacting the school with your pledge at 905-529-7725.

**BAX SECURITY**  
**\$15.00** PER MONTH  
 FROM **NO LONG TERM CONTRACT**  
**1-866-401-6848**  
[www.baxsecurity.ca](http://www.baxsecurity.ca)

Diskin Orphan Fund of Israel, Passover of 2015	
1,516	orphaned girls and boys
496	families
38	cities and towns in Israel
3,419	sets of clothing and shoes from the finest stores, for the holiday
All this adds up to...	
Countless	smiles on orphans' faces
Countless	eyes shining with delight
Countless	tears of joy on the faces of suffering widows

In the name of all of them,  
**Thank you!**  
 As your agents, and through your donations, we were able to make this happen.

**They need us now!**  
 Tutors, educational and emotional counseling, bar mitzvah and other family events, hot meals, medical care and more.  
**They need the generous hearts of every one of us!**

For more information and donations:  
 call us at: 1844-780-1414  
 Website: [www.diskin.org.il](http://www.diskin.org.il)  
 Mail to: 2823 Bathurst st. Toronto, ON M6B 3A4



**KEHILA**  
JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**  
 Tel: 905-529-7725 OR [office@kehilaschool.com](mailto:office@kehilaschool.com)  
[www.kehilaschool.com](http://www.kehilaschool.com)

---

**Launching September 2015:**

- Enriched Trilingual Programming
  - Featuring Immersion Style French Starting in JK
- Enhanced Music Education
- Affordable Tuition Model - **\$5000.00 for JK to Grade 5**

**Continued Commitment to:**

- Excellence in Secular & Judaic Academics
- Integrated Curriculum
- Small Class Sizes & Increased Individual Attention

DAVID SWEET, M.P.  
905.627.9169 | [davidsweet.ca](http://davidsweet.ca)

Say goodbye to winter!

Wishing you a *fresh and joyful* start to the spring and summer seasons!

Representative for Ancaster - Dundas - Flamborough - Westdale



For more than 25 years, Pettinelli Mastroluisi LLP has provided auditing, accounting, income tax and estate planning services to clients in a variety of industries, including manufacturing, construction, healthcare, retail, service and automotive. Pettinelli Mastroluisi LLP is committed to helping clients grow their businesses profitably. Through its affiliate, Pettinelli Mastroluisi Valuations Inc., the Firm provides valuation and litigation support services including expert testimony in court.

T. 905-522 6555 F: 905 522 6574 6th Floor, One James Street South, Hamilton ON

## Lawyers and Trade Mark Agents

### OUR TEAM

Our team combines the wisdom and ingenuity of our partners with the energy and enthusiasm of our associates. We're a hard-working client focused firm with a can-do culture.

### CONFIDENTIALITY / DISCRETION

We emphasize absolute confidentiality and discretion on behalf of our valued clients.

### PRACTICE AREAS

We are as close to a full-service law firm as you will find in the region. We cover many areas including purchase and sales of businesses and property, commercial leasing, shareholder agreements and disputes, land development and corporate restructuring.

### OUR REPUTATION

We are a mid-sized law firm that has earned an enviable reputation for excellence.

## Joseph G. Speranzini

Business and Real Estate Law



SCARFONE HAWKINS LLP

1 James St. S., 14th Floor

P.O. Box 926, Depot 1

Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3P9

Phone: 905-523-1333

Fax: 905-523-5878

Email: speranzini@shlaw.ca

www.shlaw.ca

## ADAS ISRAEL HEBREW SCHOOL



Adas Israel Hebrew school students enjoyed Aleph Champ Hebrew Ulpan in the kitchen. Thank you to Naama Ansbacher, Michal Lieberman, Mindy Chapman and Max Schwartz for running the program with Rabbi Tsaidi. For more information about our Hebrew School contact Rabbi Barak Tsaidi at ayo@adasisrael.ca or call 905-528-0039.

## JNF Negev dinner will be a celebration for the books



Wedding ceremony of David Leibman and Goldie Balinson at the original Beth Jacob Synagogue on Hunter and Park Streets, 11 Oct. 1953. Ontario Jewish Archives, item 1915.

### SUZY POLGAR

On June 24, the Jewish National Fund will hold its 63rd Annual Negev Dinner. This year's dinner will be no ordinary event. It will celebrate 70 years of life in Jewish Hamilton from 1945 until today. The evening will feature an awe-inspiring display of all things Jewish in Hamilton ... featuring videos of some of the community's well known personalities, as well as a wonderful tribute book that illustrates examples of the changes in the community over the years.

With the understanding that much of what we are today is because of those who made their lives in Hamilton over the last seven decades, the proceeds of the evening will be allocated to a project focused on Jewish Ethiopian elders in Israel, whose traditions and culture have been all but forgotten. The purpose of the project is to help restore their dignity and self-respect through an agricultural initiative that will see the elders teaching younger

generations the culture and history of Ethiopian Jewry through the Replanting Roots project.

Although the theme of "celebration" was central to this year's Negev Dinner, the purpose of the evening was also to celebrate our love for the cherished Land of Israel. Cantor Bitton and Michele Tredger will entertain us with a moving medley of songs about Eretz Yisrael bringing tears to our eyes and pride in our hearts.

No celebration would be complete without a few good laughs. Andrea Martin and Seth Rudetsky are a great team with outrageous comedy and song, and we are thrilled that they can help round out our evening with their outstanding partnership and entertainment.

Videos and stories abound and there is so much more to tell. Our evening and our tribute book show mere snippets of our vibrant community and we invite everyone to keep talking, keep telling stories and keep celebrating!



**Shalom Village**

shalomvillage.ca



## Faye Leibtag honoured

Faye Leibtag a'h, was honoured by the Ladies Auxiliary of Shalom Village at their 34th Annual Chai Tea, held this year on June 24. For nearly 30 years, Faye called friends and family to encourage contributions in support of Shalom Village and the Tea, and she loved the job. Her outstanding success was clear evidence of her enthusiasm for the project and passion for the work of Shalom Village. Over the years Faye's efforts for the Tea provided funds for many critically important projects at Shalom Village. Sadly Faye passed away at the age of 90 in July of 2014, and to recognize her

longstanding and extraordinary contribution, the Shalom Village Charitable Foundation will establish an endowment fund in her honour and the interest earned will be added to the funds raised at the Tea each year. This way Faye will always be part of the Tea; she will be missed but never forgotten. Shalom Village would like to thank all the callers, bakers, VIP donors, corporate sponsors, attendees, the Ladies Auxiliary and especially the Tea Committee, the volunteers, and the staff teams who helped to honour Faye's memory and make the 2015 Chai Tea a huge success.



Ben, Milli and Mark Gould in front of the new MilliMobile

Shalom Village residents and staff had an opportunity to thank Milli, Ben and Mark Gould for the wonderful new Millimobile. The accessible bus offers room for four wheelchairs and 15 seats and has been in use since March. On June 4th grateful residents told the family just how much the gift means to them, especially those from long term care, for whom

the bus means access to a world beyond Shalom Village. Their personal testimonials made it possible for Milli and her family to see and hear for themselves what a difference their support has made. Our whole Shalom community thanks the Goulds for their continued support of Shalom Village and the Millimobile!

## Club Fitness Centre wins award!



Shalom Village is proud to announce that The Club Fitness Centre was the winner of the Team Award at the 12th Annual Service Awards for Geriatric Excellence (SAGE). SAGE is a unique program that celebrates the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations committed to providing the highest quality of care to older adults in our communities to ensure they can age with optimal health, independence and dignity. The 12th Annual Service Awards for Geriatric Excellence was held at Liuna

Gardens in Stoney Creek on Friday, May 22. Fifteen teams were nominated from six different regions across Southern Ontario. The Club Team was one of two winners in the Team Category. Greg Almas and Kwabana Beckles (pictured above) accepted the award on behalf of the extended Club Team. "We are honoured, humbled and delighted to WIN the Team Award representing the Club Fitness Centre team for Shalom Village at this year's event," said head coach Almas.

## Congratulations to Marmie Wolfson Winner of a 2015 Shem Tov Award!



Pictured above, l to r: Debbie Ginsberg, volunteer coordinator, Marmie Wolfson, Jeanette O'Leary, CEO, and Yael Arnold, president, board of directors, Shalom Village.

Shalom Village congratulates Marmie Wolfson on her winning nomination from Shalom Village for the 2015 Shem Tov awards. Marmie is a long-time and dedicated volunteer at Shalom Village. Her volunteer work spans across many of programs, and we are particularly delighted when

Marmie brings out her dancing shoes and entertains our residents. Her presence at Shalom Village always brings smiles, joy and laughter to our residents. Mazel Tov and grateful thanks to Marmie for her continued dedication to our residents, staff and our Shalom community!



**Shalom Village**  
shalomvillage.ca  
70 Macklin Street North  
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 3S1  
P: 905-529-1613 F: 905-529-7542  
E: info@shalomvillage.ca

## Kehila thanks our Sababah Donors!



### CORPORATE DONORS:

**Platinum +:** Effort Trust - The Weisz, Asa & Horwood Families

**Platinum:** Posner Metals Ltd., Daniel Kollek - Medicine Professional Corporation

**Gold:** MacMaster Investments Limited

**Bronze:** Premier Recycling, Assante Wealth Management

### INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY DONORS:

**Platinum +:** Yves & Luba Apel, David & Danna Horwood

**Platinum:** Abe & Barbara Shore, Carrie & Martin Sniderman Gold: Jacki & Larry Levin, Trudy & David Shore, Niv & Pat Sne

**Silver:** Elliot Biro, Sondrea & Allen Dressler, Joel Feldman, Rabbi Dan & Karen Selsberg, Maria & Harold Stover

**Bronze:** Leonard Bernstein, Paul Bresnahan, Tova, Noah, Jonah & Elijah Dembe, Laurence and Jean Kelly, Virginia Mendes da Costa & Robert Murdoch, Lisa Morris, Sandra Morris, Helena Posner, Judy Rosen, Diane Sandler, Hanna Schayer & Carl Cuneo, Kristine & Mario Stolar, Alissa Williams

**Special Thanks to Hamilton Jewish Federation for their support.**

Dependability,  
Accountability  
& Trust



THE  
**RICHTER**  
GROUP

350 Parkdale Ave. N, Hamilton  
905-547-3211 | therichtergroup.ca

## My Jewish Hamilton

Continued from page 1



The Effort Trust baseball team, circa 1996 at Churchill Park

Photo by Wendy Schneider

I share my Sunday morning memories of the early '80s through the '90s with my son, my reflections often bringing up pangs of sadness – my father dutifully schlepping me to Switzer's for some of Joel and Bernice's fare and not exactly excellent service, before that establishment was sold, then sold again, then sold again. No matter who the owner, the Buffalo buns remained consistent – large, sprinkled with granular sugar, and served warm, with butter.

Sunday mornings didn't end at Switzer's. The kibitzing with stalwarts Butch and Mort, with our neighbours, the Bromsteins, with my parents' friends, the Harrises and Shapiros, and many others who are now gone, was only a prelude for what can best be described as the "Field of Screams" down at Churchill Park, where much of the community descended upon sandy, sometimes muddy fields for Sunday morning baseball.

Parking at Churchill Park was sometimes difficult to find, particularly if you had an 11 a.m. game. The baseball games took place at the same time as Temple Anshe Sholom's Breakfast Club, where many members of the community engaged in intellectual seminars over hard-boiled eggs, bagels and coffee. I was far too young to appreciate the erudite discussion inside the Temple where the small, yet robust Alice Sorger, and the friendly and funny Mel Gunns of the world stood as the foundation of a congregation to which my parents once belonged.

The rules of these baseball games were modified to meet the needs of the players. Early on, when each team was known as the Royals and differentiated themselves only by the colour of their shirts, attempts to tag runners out at home plate were allowed. Shortly after my father had his elbow shattered, during a collision at home plate, (among other now forgotten incidences with – or between catchers and runners), the rules were modified to include a line over which the runners scored. On-field cigars were absolutely permitted, to accommodate Bill Morris, who always had one dangling from his mouth while catching the ball at first base.

Initially, registration was modest. But as the Toronto Blue Jays' popularity and success grew, so too did Sunday morning baseball. Team jerseys now featured sponsors' logos, and there were no longer enough fields for the amount of teams, a sign that head organizer, Harvey Waxman, solved by scheduling two consecutive rounds of games, one set beginning at 9 a.m. and the second at 11 a.m. Convergence



Barry Yellin and son Aaron on their way to a Blue Jays game. Photo by Jacques Schoenberg

occurred at around 10:30 a.m. when second-round players showed up to warm up.

Sunday morning baseball allowed families to get together. It fostered a set time for fathers to play a game with their sons, brothers to play with brothers, uncles to play with nephews, cousins to play with cousins, and grandfathers to play with their grandsons. The games also brought the community together. Rabbis from one synagogue played with congregants from another.

And the league had its stars. For example, play on any given diamond came to a complete stop when Marty Katari stepped up to the plate. His home runs were so impressive, that they could disrupt an entire game on another side of the park. Fleet-footed Phil Cohen manned centre-field like no other. Joel Goldberg's infield glove-play was so talented, he was nicknamed "Tony" after the acrobatic major league short stop Tony Fernandez.

At the end of the regular season there were play-offs. This is when everybody tried harder, and where the injuries lasted longer – the moans and groans coming from the benches not only a reaction to lacklustre plays, but from pulled hamstrings and groins. The season culminated in a championship game, where players from teams that didn't make the play-offs, nevertheless came out to watch. People were interested.

Over the years, what started out as a dynamic league made up of many teams dwindled down to only a few. Players got older. Priorities changed. Some sponsors went out of business. Some moved away. Others did not live to see another season. As time marched on, so too did the desire to congregate at Churchill Park.

For me, these recollections of a time and place where people knew you, where we spent a few hours together every week over the summer, will always be precious. I can only hope that my son will have his own memories of what this Jewish community provided him during his childhood years.

# Childhood friend recalls last days with Anne Frank

Local woman discovers her cousin's Anne Frank connection

by CHRISTINE NEETER, Special to the Hamilton Jewish News

**G**rowing up in England, with parents who both rebelled against being Jewish, although I knew I had relatives who had been in the Holocaust, I was not really aware of my history. I moved to Canada in 1973 and met Peter Smurlick when we both worked at The Banff Centre....Peter was the first Jewish man I had dated. We married in 1983 and our son Daniel (D.A.) was born in 1984.....we moved to Hamilton in 1987 and soon thereafter I became involved with Hadassah-WIZO, and was sent to Israel in 1980 for an international young leaders' conference. That was an eye opener for me and I suddenly wanted to know more of my Jewish heritage. I sourced a paternal family tree and saw Nanette's name amongst other Dutch relatives. By this time, Nanette had been living in Brazil for many years.

Through some co-incidences, I learned that a relative, Nanette, was one of Anne Frank's friends! For several years, Nanette, husband John (in Sao Paolo) and I exchanged Yom Tov e cards, basically our communication.

That changed after seeing a video "Childhood friend tells of last days with Anne Frank" - it was my relative! I emailed Nanette, and sent the link to my English cousins. Nanette wrote that her mother and my paternal grandmother were cousins, and that Nanette and I are second cousins.

The following is from her 2009 presentation to Chapel School (a Sao Paulo Catholic school), and from her opening the Anne Frank exhibit (Calgary):

I was born in Amsterdam, Holland into a happy, upper middle class Jewish family. My father was a bank manager of the Amsterdamsche Bank. In autumn 1940, the Nazi occupation demanded all Jewish civil servants/bank employees be dismissed. Due to my father's position he had to ask for his own dismissal for the "well-being" of the institution. In March 1941, we had to register with the Jewish Council, denoting my four Jewish grandparents. We did not know it then, but this became our death warrant.

Anne Frank's family story is part of the fate of the Dutch Jewish community. However, Otto Frank had time to prepare the hide out, the means to support his family and people of his company willing to help while in hiding.

I first met Anne in October 1941, at the Jewish Lyceum in Amsterdam, one of 25 schools established to accommodate Jewish students, no longer allowed to attend normal schools. Of the 30 students in my class the first year, only 14 remained for the second year. The Lyceum functioned until September, 1943, when Holland was considered to be free of Jews.

I was present at the birthday party in June 1942, when Anne



A 1941 photo of the author's cousin, taken at the Jewish Lyceum, and eerily similar to the famous photograph of Anne Frank in the same position. Photo courtesy of Christine Neeter

first got her diary. She wrote in her diary that I gave her a brooch for that birthday.

When Margot had to present herself to the authorities in July, 1942, meaning deportation, Otto decided to go into hiding immediately, because all members of the family would be hostages. They left a rumour that the family had fled to Switzerland, but when I met Anne in Bergen Belsen, she told me what had really happened.

I first saw Anne through barbed wire in January, 1945 but could barely recognise her. Like me, she looked like a walking skeleton. In February I found that the barbed wire had been removed and went to find her. Anne was still hopeful that she would be able to use her diary as the basis of a book she wanted to write after the war. We had last seen each other just before the family went into hiding in July 1942 and the shock of seeing her in this emaciated state was indescribable.

After liberation, I contracted typhus and later that year I went to the provincial sanatorium in Santpoort, remaining for three years to recover from tuberculosis, quite common after the concentration camp.

Otto Frank wrote to me on October 29th 1945, asking whether I was allowed visitors, as he wanted to know what I could tell him about his daughters. I replied that there was a girl in hospital, in the bed besides mine, who had been with his daughters ever since Westerbork. There was also another girl in the bunk above his daughters, also in the same ward with

me. I told him that my friend had gone with his wife and daughters to Birkenau and that Anne and Margot had arrived in the beginning of November in Bergen Belsen. My friend got to Bergen Belsen in January, 1945, telling the girls that she had spoken to their mother in Birkenau. This had cheered them as they had had little hope their mother had passed the selection where they were split up from her.

When Mr. Frank visited, he said he was thinking about publishing the diary. In 1947 the diary was published and he sent me a copy of the first edition published on newsprint, the only kind of paper available. Unfortunately the book, given in safekeeping to my uncle, was never returned. When I read it I was really touched, feeling very closely connected to her story.

Anne was a girl like all the others I knew. While living with my aunts in London, corresponding with my future husband who went to Brazil to live with his family, he wrote in 1952 that reading Anne's diary, he feels he was hearing me speak.

In September 2001, at a Jewish Lyceum reunion, I met students I hadn't seen for almost 60 years. Some survivors didn't attend, finding it to be too emotional, others like me came from abroad. Most of the survivors of my class keep in touch occasionally. For this occasion I contributed a copy of my picture taken in the same place as the one of Anne in the diary. This picture is now in the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam.

**TAYLOR LEIBOW LLP**  
ACCOUNTANTS AND ADVISORS



Beyond Bean Counting...

Accounting, audit, tax, business valuations, insolvency and business advisory services.

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

taylorleibow.com



# JOIN US

FOR A NEW  
PARENT & TOT DROP-IN  
FOR 2.5 YEAR OLDS to JK

Hebrew, Activities,  
Torah Tunes  
SATURDAYS 11 a.m. to Noon

Contact Laura Wolfson  
lwolfson@anshesholom.ca  
for more information

Starts  
Sept 19,  
2015



**Hamilton Hebrew High Courses 2015 / 2016**

GET THE CREDIT YOU DESERVE!  
All courses (aside from Hebrew) are on  
Mondays @ 5:00pm - 7:30pm

**Grade 9 Hebrew Language**  
Schedule Available on Request  
Open to qualifying Grade 8 & 9 students - Reach Ahead!

**Grade 9 Community & Individuality**  
Open to Grade 8 & 9 students - Reach Ahead!

**Grade 10 Ethical Dilemmas**  
Open to Grade 9 & 10 students

**Grade 12 U Philosophy**  
Open to Grade 11 & 12

In addition to exciting events, Shabbat dinners, and retreats, H3 offers a great way to learn and earn high school credits with courses in Jewish related topics for students in grades 8-12. (Grade 8 students attend through the Reach Ahead Program.)

H3 approaches everything with an open and honest mind and lets you draw your own conclusions. Programs are open to all Jewish high school students regardless of affiliation, background, or previous Jewish education.



Hamilton Hebrew High

for more info visit  
www.hebued.ca  
or contact Racheli Kirat at  
905-528-0039 or e-mail  
racheli@hhmhidrasha.ca

# 3 GREAT DEALERSHIPS



**parkway**  
**NISSAN**  
OF STONEY CREEK



[www.parkwaynissan.com](http://www.parkwaynissan.com)



**Red Hill**  
**TOYOTA**  
**SCION**



[www.redhilltoyota.ca](http://www.redhilltoyota.ca)



**UPPERJAMES**  
**TOYOTA**



[www.upperjamestoyota.ca](http://www.upperjamestoyota.ca)

# 1 FAMILY

## OVER 100 HAMILTONIANS STRONG

### PROUD SUPPORTERS OF [JEWISHHAMILTON.ORG](http://JEWISHHAMILTON.ORG)