Tammuz / Av / Elul 5773 Vol. 23. No. 6 July / August 2013

# Website: http://agudasisrael.org

**Congregation Agudas Israel** Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky

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### Saskatoon B'nai Brith and CAI **Sponsor Inaugural Theatre in the Park**

by Joel Bernbaum, Artistic Director. Sum Theatre

B'nai Brith Lodge and Congregation Agudas Israel are key sponsors of this summer's Theatre in the Park production of Alice In Wonderland. Founded by Artistic Director Joel Bernbaum, Sum Theatre's core value is to make live professional theatre accessible to all. This summer, Theatre in the Park will tour to parks across Saskatoon. - offering the production for FREE. As a thank you to B'nai Brith and CAI -- Sum Theatre will be presenting a special preview performance of Alice in Wonderland in Rauol Wallenberg park on Thursday July 11th at 6:00 pm. Please bring a blanket or lawn chair and your imagination!

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Bernbaum and B'nai Brith Barbecue. We need garage sale donations and help setting up/running the sale! To volunteer (day before for setup or at the sale) or to donate

items please contact Lisa or Rosy (Lisashiffman@shaw.ca, rosykreindel@gmail.com) Donations can be dropped off on July 10th from 6-9p.m.

and July 11, 9-1p.m. Any remaining items after the sale will be donated to a community organization.



## Annual General Meeting - September 3 - 7:30 pm

#### **SLATE OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES - 2013-2014**

**OFFICERS** 

President: Marsha Scharfstein Immediate Past President: Heather

First Vice President: Harold Shiffman

Second Vice President: Treasurer: Grant Scharfstein Secretary: David Katzman

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Chevra Kadisha: Lesley-Ann Crone Hebrew School Committee: Marsha Synagogue Ritual Committee: Scharfstein

Financial Affairs Committee: Grant SISTERHOOD Scharfstein

House Committee: Steven Simpson Heather Fenves

Sisterhood President: Lisa Shiffman Horowitz, Kevin Sharfe

**MEMBERS AT LARGE: Jan** Gitlin, Seth Shacter, Randy Katzman, Perry Jacobson, Ralph Katzman, Jose Andres, Simone



## Folkfest 2013 Needs You

Thousands of Saskatoon's citizens will be entertained, educated and fed at our Jewish Pavilion, August 15<sup>th</sup> (5 to midnight) and 17<sup>th</sup> (8 to midnight). We must put our best foot forward so we need you and your friends to volunteer now! For two hours or two days, we are grateful for whatever you can do. Please contact David Katzman (955-3563, dl.katzman@sasktel.net) or Patricia Pavey, 668-7629, pavey@sasktel.net) today!

This page is spsonored by Ann & Debbie Diament (wife and daughter of former Rabbi Saul Diament), of Toronto

This page is sponsored by Naomi Rose and Stan Sinai of Toronto.

## Yom Hashaoah 2013

by Jan and Ron Gitlin

This year, Congregation Agudas Israel, the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission and the Saskatoon public and Greater Separate Schools planted some seeds of change. Five hundred students from Catholic, Public and the Misbah schools walked around the block of the synagogue. Marching with the students were Max Eisen a Holocaust Survivor, Eli Rubenstein, Director of the March of the Living Canada, Rabbi Claudio, members of our community, local police, politicians, and media. Inspired by the March of the Living, these students marched for change, for better, and for the future. Students were asked to consider what they would like to see changed or improved in their local or global worlds. They recorded their ideas on cards and carried them on the walk. On the back of each card was a removable globe made of seed paper. We collected the ideas, and the students left with their "seeds of change". The five hundred all retuned to the synagogue to hear Max's extraordinary story of suffering and survival. This group had the opportunity to ask questions of Max, and perhaps a highlight of the morning came when a student asked: "Max, could you please tell us the names of your family that died." Max, who has over the course of telling and retelling been asked every question imaginable, was surprised and moved by the request. His voice shook with emotion as he shared the names of his lost family members. There wasn't a soul left untouched in the room.

The "March" launched our usual outstanding Holocaust program. Thursday afternoon, and twice on Friday, Max and Eli spoke to groups of 500.

Sunday afternoon, our annual Holocaust service was attended by over 500. Along with dignitaries from all levels of government, Judge David Arnot, Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, Max and Eli were both recognized with Miklos Kanitz awards.

This year's program was yet again a credit to the dedication and commitment of a passionate Holocaust committee. An outstanding event was elevated to a whole new level with the introduction of the March. In the fall, we will follow up on our seeds and create opportunities for these particular students to act on their ideas. We intend for this walk, to not simply be "talk". As always we have raised the bar on Holocaust education and awareness along side our basic responsibility as Jewish people to continue with tikkun olam - repairing our world.

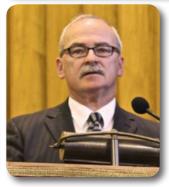












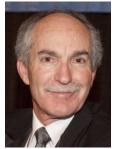












## Editorial by Steven Goluboff

Much has been written in this last Bulletin issue of our synagogue year about the accomplishments and activities of our community. We have a summer, if it every re-

ally comes, when we can relax and reflect on the past year, as we approach an all too early High Holiday season. A new Board of Trustees will be elected on September 3rd at our annual general meeting, with a focus on younger members on the Board, an imperative for future planning and energy. Rabbi Claudio and his family are finishing their first of hopefully many years in Saskatoon and his inspiration and leadership not only in our congregation but in the general Saskatoon community forebodes well for our future. We say shalom to our most recent and wonderful Shlichim, Tamar and Ari. They have left an indelible mark on our community and I have a sense they will continue to be close to us in the future. We will lose our Youth Editor, Mayah Holtslander, to her further studies in Victoria and I thank her for being a regular contributor over the last few years. I hope another young literary talent will come forth to spearhead contributions for the Bulletin from our younger members. I am also optimistic that we may have an Associate Editor for the New Year.

One of the religious challenges in Israel is the opportunity for non-orthodox Jews to have the rights and privileges to pray and celebrate Judaism in an unencumbered and free manner. We are all aware of the influence that Orthodox Judaism has in Israel and the manner in which non-orthodox Jews have barriers set in their way. The most dramatic example is illustrated by the Women at the Wall movement. Recently, the government of Benjamin Netanyahu seems to be committed to resolving the problem. Netanyahu has appointed Natan Sharansky to solve the problem. The Jewish Federations of North America and its Delegate Assembly overwhelmingly approved a resolution to support efforts to find a compromise to the issue of equal prayer access at the Wall. This has also been part of a strong mandate of Mercaz Canada and the Masorti Movement which is the arm of Conservative Judaism in Israel. In our own community, we hope to reintroduce a modest and voluntary membership in Mercaz Canada that will be attached to our synagogue dues. It is a way we can also lend support to the movement for a more egalitarian religious status in Israel.

I hope you all enjoy the summer, attend a few synagogue services, support the Sisterhood Garage Sale, B'nai Brith Barbecue and Theatre in the Park on July 11<sup>th</sup>, and help make the Jewish Pavilion at Folkfest another success on August 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### FROM OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

The Mission Statement of Congregation Agudas Israel Congregation Agudas Israel is a spiritual, religious, educational and social home committed

Congregation Agudas Israel is a spiritual, religious, educational and social home committed to deepening the quality of Jewish life in Saskatoon and district. We are an evolving link in the historical traditions of the Jewish people. We are a progressive, democratic and sensitive congregation responding to the widest spectrum of Jewish thought and practice.

Written at the 2002 Kallah by the members of Congregation Agudas Israel

#### MAZEL TOV AND CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**Dr. Josh Gitlin FRCP (C)** who passed his fellowship exams in Radiology. Yasher Koach to Josh, Nicky and Levi who will spend the next year in Hamilton doing further study before returning to Saskatoon next year.

**Dr. Cindy Cohen CCFP** who passed her certification exams in Family Medicine and will be practicing in Meadow Lake, Sask.

**Ari Avivi,** Senior Learning and Development Consultant at SIGA, has been awarded by the Canadian Society of Trainers and Developers with the designation of CTDP, which recognizes his professionalism and competency in workplace learning and performance.

**Rishona Avivi,** daughter of Ari Avivi who has earned a spot on the developmental roster for the University of Saskatchewan Junior Huskies Basketball team. It is at a club level that provides a higher level of basketball than would be found at the community level.

**Grant and Marsha Scharfstein** for becoming Lord and Lady Scharfstein of Glencoe as they have recently become landowners in Scotland, which came with the appropriate title.

**Abby Holtslander**, daughter of Gord and Francie, who was part of the Synchrotron Club from Evan Hardy Collegiate that won 1st Place in the Canadian Light Source Students on the Beamlines 2013 Poster Competition for their study "The Effects of Ascorbic Acid on Iron in Bread".

**Mayah Holtslander** daughter of Gord and Francie, for achieving her Bachelor of Arts Honours in English with High Honours from the University of Saskatchewan. She will be studying for her Masters of Arts degree this fall at the University of Victoria, BC.

**Dr.Mordechai McCarthy** on the birth of twin grandsons, Zane Philip AND Robert III in Virginia on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Jardena Gertler-Jaffe, daughter of Michael and JoAnn who just completed a successful run at Opera Nuova in Edmonton (www. operanuova.ca) as St. Anne of the Cross in Poulenc's Dialogues of the Carmelites, the understudy of Zerlina in Mozart's Don Giovanni, and a member of the chorus of Donizetti's L'Elisir



d'Amore (The Elixir of Love). Her full schedule during the six week festival also included performances in four concerts showcasing French art song, English language opera, the music of Broadway and music for contemplation.

**Elie Fenyes**, son of Les and Heather who will be representing Canada at the 2013 Maccabiah Games in Tel Aviv, and Saskatchewan at the Canada Summer Games in Sherbrook Quebec this summer. Elie will be competing in swimming competitions.

Cantor Neil Schwartz who was awarded his Master of Arts from the University of Saskatchewan.

**Skyler Munro**, daughter of Sarah Goluboff and Donnie Munro, who was accepted into the Provincial Soccer Program for children 12 and under.

**Jennie Bobowsky** for daughter Michelle Bobowsky in receiving her Masters of Nursing degree from the University of Manitoba on the topic of homelessness and tobacco smoking.

#### **UNVEILING FOR:**

Elizabeth Brewster will take place on Sunday, September 8th, 2013.

#### THE BULLETIN

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If you are happy with the Bulletin and enjoy reading it, please consider sponsoring a page (\$25/issue or \$130/year). Contact Steven Goluboff or Ron Gitlin.

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## **Person to Person**

by Marsha Scharfstein, President, CAI

"I believe that one of the most important things to learn in life is that you can make a difference in your community no matter who you are or where you live."

- Rosalynn Carter

As another fiscal year comes to a close and the new one begins, we must take a moment to reflect on how and what we as a community did this year. Personally, I think we were amazing! The number of events we accomplished this year was phenomenal! From the AGM last September till now, we have not slowed down for more than 20 minutes! Silver Plate Dinner, Hanukkah Fair, Pesach Seder, Silver Spoon Dinner, Holocaust Memorial Service, Shavuot discussion, Adult Education Classes, discussions about Israel, Hebrew School, the list could go on and on... We need to recognize the amount we do and welcome the summer as slower by comparison, but by no means quiet!

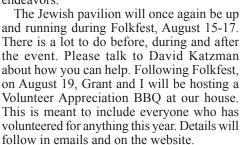
August 1 will mark the one year anniversary of Rabbi Claudio, Rosy, Amiel and Yoel joining our community. Rabbi Claudio brings a wisdom, knowledge and compassion for us all that can be felt everywhere in the building. There isn't an event or project that hasn't benefitted from his insights and

concern for his congregants. Sisterhood and Hadassah have definitely been grateful for Rosy's involvement as well. In some ways it feels like they have always been here, as our friends, advisors, confidants, spiritual advisors. In other ways, it is hard to believe that it has already been a year.

An exciting event sponsored in part by B'nai Brith and CAI will take place in Raoul Wallenberg Park on July 11. B'nai Brith will be having a BBQ for the community (hopefully the weather will co-operate) preceded by Alice in Wonderland in the park put on by Sum Theater (our own Joel Bernbaum). In conjunction with this there will be a Garage Sale in the parking lot from 1-6.

On July 20, we will be having a Kiddush lunch following services in honour of Hazzan Neil completing his Masters degree. This is also the last Saturday that Hazzan will be leading services while Rabbi Claudio is on holidays. Neil will be moving back to Minneapolis soon after, so please take this opportunity

to congratulate Neil, thank him for his five years of service to our community and wish him the best in his new endeavors.



On second thought, the summer is not slowing down much...we are doing what we do best...providing interesting, exciting, opportunities to get together and celebrate our community! See you there...



## Divrei Harav – Rabbi Claudio's Message Lessons on leadership

by Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky

During the past two months we have being reading in the Torah the book of

Bamidvar (Numbers) and I have to confess that even though a "good Jew" should not say that he/she prefers one book more than other, the reality is that this book of Bemidvar attracts me in a special way, and the reason is because its main theme is about the challenges of being a leader.

Through the chapters and verses of the Book of Numbers, we can see how Moses dealt with several revolts, uprisings and complaints from the Israelites, stories that highlight different models of leadership, its characteristics, virtues and flaws. Because these stories can teach us important lessons, I would like to share with you in this article some of the stories we were studying in the Synagogue during the past weeks, with the hope we can extract from them some lessons for our lives.

The first story that I bring is well known: Moses sends twelve spies to explore the Land of Israel, as part of the preparations for the conquest. Their mission was to watch the characteristics of the land itself, the people who lived there and to bring back some of the fruits of the land. They did so, but together with their report the spies added a message of pessimism, influencing the rest of the People on believing there was no reason to risk themselves for what to them was a lost cause.

The spies, who were important leaders from each of the tribes, found a good land with a strong population that was ready to defend their place at any cost. However, with the exception of Yeoshua and Caleb, the explorers thought they wouldn't be able to prevail

against the enemy, because in their words: "we seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them". The mission was too big for them: They were so paralyzed by fear that going back to Egypt or dying in the desert was much better for them than taking the minimum risk for a change.

The story of the spies teaches us that sometimes the fear for change can prevent us from moving on in life. We can become paralyzed thinking that it better is to preserve what we have, even if our current situation is not the best one, but it becomes better than to assume

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Last Meeting of Rabbi Claudio's Lunch and



## Time to say Thank You and Goodbye

by Hazzan Neil Schwartz

As many congregants know, I will be moving back to Minnesota during July, now that my Masters Thesis has been completed. Before expressing my

"Thank You" and "Goodbye" messages, here are two interesting "this-and-that" items to share with you.

During a shopping trip to the Centre Mall Safeway, I was speaking with the Head Cashier. I mentioned how grateful our Jewish community is for the variety of Passover foods each year at this store. She told me the story of how that came about, and I quote it here from her follow-up e-mail.

"In 1974, Safeway was managed by Donald

Bodrug. Mr. Bodrug had many friends in the local Jewish community, and he brought in the Passover foods for them. Passover foods have continued to be purchased, and the lineup has been expanded with new items relative to availability. The Cumberland Safeway managed by Waddy Scarrow also brought in Passover foods, but the main supply of these foods has now been centered at the Circle Park Safeway.'

I know that the current management team continues to do their best to provide us with all that we need. They expressed frustration that some items which they ordered were simply not shipped to them, and they tried repeatedly to obtain them for us. It will be interesting to see if this conscientious approach continues when Safeway becomes part of Sobey's.

The Cantors Assembly convention was held

in New Jersey and New York City during May. One of the highlights was a trip to the site of the World Trade Center, which has been turned into a very moving Memorial. There are cascades of water falling into two deep square pools, marking the "footprint" of each of the Twin Towers. Each pool is surrounded by the names of the over 3,000 people killed on September 11, 2001.

We met with a policeman who was one of the first responders on that terrible day. He described the horror of trying to move people away from the burning skyscrapers as bodies fell hundreds of feet to the ground around him. He mentioned one young couple who held hands as they fell, and one well-dressed man bleeding from falling debris who stayed and helped tend to people who were hurt worse

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## CIJA Fighting Antisemitism by Steve McDonald, Assistant Director of Communications - CIJA



I am Jewish. But, as my name suggests, I was neither born nor raised a Jew. In fact, by the time my mother took me to see Schindler's List when I was 11, to my knowledge I had

yet to meet someone Jewish. Thanks to a conscientious parent (and Steven Spielberg), I understood the horrific consequences of antisemitism – ghettoes and gas chambers – before I even knew what it meant to be a Jew.

I venture to say that my experience is not unique among Canadians who, likewise, have an understanding of the Holocaust even if they rarely interact with Jews. This experience, combined with a myriad of factors that make Canada a welcoming country for all minorities, means that most Canadians are rightly repulsed by the idea that one would hate Jews simply for being Jewish.

While we face challenges as a community when it comes to hateful rhetoric expressed against Israel (a convenient veil for some who hate Jews), we are fortunate that "classical" antisemitism garners little traction in Canada. Sadly, one cannot say the same of substantial parts of Europe.

In keeping with the legacy of the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) serves as Canada's official representative to the World Jewish Congress (WJC). This year's WJC Plenary took place in Budapest – a poignant choice given

current events in Hungary. The Jobbik Party, which earned more than 800,000 votes (16% of the electorate) in Hungary's 2010 elections. has spoken the language of classical antisemitism to a degree that would be unfathomable in Canada today. While CIJA and the Canadian delegation joined Jews from around the world to discuss ways to advance human rights for all, hundreds of Jobbik supporters gathered outside the WJC to protest the meeting. Jobbik's party chairman excited the crowd with a warning reminiscent of the worst excesses of historic European antisemitism: "The Israeli conquerors, these investors, should look for another country in the world for themselves because Hungary is not for sale."

The ugly side of politics in Hungary has found its counterpart in nationalist parties in the Ukraine, Greece, and elsewhere. Uncertainty over the economy and immigration trends can prove fertile soil for the politics of demonization. The contrast with Canada is palpable - and speaks to the need for our community to stand in solidarity with our friends and family in European Jewish communities. Jewish Canadians can be proud of the fact that Canadian parliamentarians, government and opposition alike, have vocally condemned these disturbing trends. In so doing, they have demonstrated that Canada believes antisemitism is ultimately not just a Jewish problem; it is a problem that threatens to undermine the very social foundations of post WWII-Europe.

In addition to our direct support of the WJC's efforts to counter antisemitism in

Europe, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs serves on the Advisory Council of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. An international body representing governments and organizations from some 31 countries, the Alliance works globally to strengthen Shoah commemoration and education, and is chaired this year by former Canadian Member of Parliament Dr. Mario Silva. Here in Canada, the Centre was proud to attend the site announcement of the new National Holocaust Monument – a project we have supported since its inception. Once completed, millions of annual visitors to our national capital (including thousands of students) will have an opportunity to access the Monument and learn the lessons of the Shoah.

National monuments are important, but they are no substitute for grassroots involvement when it comes to Holocaust remembrance. On this and other matters, we all have a role to play in building positive relationships outside the Jewish community – for which the Saskatoon Local Partner Council (a body of Jewish community volunteer activists working with CIJA) is a great starting point in making a difference.

As the community gathers every year to recall the destruction of European Jewish life. we would be remiss to overlook the extraordinary impact Holocaust education can have on our non-Jewish neighbours. Just ask this Jewish community advocate, who was once a wide-eyed 11-year-old Christian watching Schindler's List in a theatre in small-town

## **Shlichim Updates**



#### Ayelet Shiryon, Ido Weissler and Ora (2010-2012)

This is us on Ora's first birthday and the other is Ora looking forward to her food at the Yom Ha'atzmaut BBQ. We can't believe we have been back in Israel for almost a year! Ido is now doing a scientific act for children all over Israel and Ayelet is working at the Shlichim office at the Jewish Agency. We've just bought our first apartment in Jerusalem.

We are hoping it will be ready by September so we can be there for Rosh HaShana. We are saving an empty room for guests from Saskatoon (for those who are willing to climb three flights of stairs).



Yael, Yishay and Maya (2009-2010) are living on kibbutz Tzivon in the north and it even snows here occasionally!! (Editorial Note: Tzivon is an organic, co-operative kibbutz where many of the children are jointly home schooled on the Kibbutz. Kibbutznek's also work co-operatively with the Arab, Christian and Druze villages nearby). Maya is already 8 months old, Yael is with Maya at home and Yishay is a social worker in a rehabilitation prison and is doing his master's in social work with a specialization in trauma.

#### Lior Bachar (2002-2003)

Alma is 5 and half, enjoying kindergarten; Naomi is an 8 year old lady just about done with 2nd grade; Lior is still teaching civic studies and working in Elbit. Lior continues to write a column From Our Tel Aviv Desk (page 11).

## **Regional Policy Conference of CIJA**

by Bruce Cameron

At the first Regional Policy Conference of CIJA, held recently in Vancouver, Steve McDonald, Assistant Director of Communications for CIJA gave a seminar on how to deal with the tough questions we often run up against regarding Judaism and antisemitism, Israel, Canadian foreign policy toward Israel and the Middle East. He presented a number of specific guidelines for our members.

Three guiding principles for any Jew:

1) You are not normal - you know and care too much as a Jew;

we design and print...

G Brochures

Newsletters

Flyers

Posters

Presentation Folders

Laser Cheques

Stationery

Annual reports

Business Forms

Textbooks

Carbonless Forms

Family History Books

... to your specifications and satisfaction

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- 2) People are intuitive, not reasonable (think attack ads)
- 3) It is not so much about the issues as it is about positioning ourselves moderation versus extreme.

Humans tend to make gut-level decisions and then justify them around rational arguments. Add to this that anti-Israel arguments may be different from pro-Palestinian ones, and the fact that everyone loves an underdog, and we find ourselves seriously challenged to defend our religion and culture.

Most normal people want simplicity in discussing an issue - which means less information rather than more..

Peace or perceived peace offends no one, so people tend to avoid conflict, even in arguments about Jews and Israel. Normal people want to be seen as being good.

Our challenge as Jews is to present clear and concise arguments, while recognizing that we often find ourselves suffering issue fatigue, complexity, and prevailing myths taken as fact,

The following points may be helpful in dealing with anti-semitic and anti-Israel positions made to us:

 Make your arguments easy - one good reason beats many small reasons. Make your point as quickly as possible while responding to their level of knowledge continued on page 17



## New Kosher Wines available at Saskatchewan Liquor Stores!

Delicious, dry Chilean table wines that are Kosher for Passover and Mevushal. **Terroso Cabernet Sauvignon** is in the Chilean section

at a Saskatchewan Liquor store near you.

Norman Gladstone and International Cellars are proud to bring you Terroso Wines.

## My name is Elana Makoro

#### Intro by Patsy Landa

A few months ago, I told you about Amutat Alma, a Nes Ziona NGO whose goal is to enrich the afternoon activities of children at risk, those youngsters attending the municipality run clubs. You read about those children in need of a supportive framework for the long hours between school and their parents return from work. Elana Makoro was one of such children. This beautiful woman would like to share her story, one with a difficult, difficult beginning, but an inspiring ending. As giving individuals and communities, it's important to learn firsthand that we do have a longterm impact on those we support and touch. Thank you Saskatoon for supporting our wokr in Nes Ziona through your UIA dontions.



My name is Elana Makoro. I'm 28 years old. I've lived in Nes Ziona for the past 22 years.

In 1984, when I was two years old, my parents, four siblings and I, immigrated to Israel from Ethiopia during

"Operation Moshe". After living six years in the absorption center in Be'er Sheva, we moved to Nes Ziona.

We faced many challenges in the first years. My parents found it difficult to learn Hebrew and to adapt to Israeli culture. But, despite the hardships, they hesitated to request financial aid from the Social Services of Nes Ziona. As a child, I remember that my parents worked around the clock in the most menial work to ensure that we wouldn't feel that we lacked anything.

However, this led to serious problems. There was no one to watch over us, the children, at home. My two older brothers lived in boarding schools. My baby sister was in a daycare center. This left my brother and me without any supervision from the time we finished school, at 1pm, until my parents returned in the evening. So, with the intervention of our social worker, my brother and I entered the Ben-Zvi Moadonit, an after school framework run by the municipality.

To tell the truth, 18 years have passed since that moment and, while I don't remember a lot, I do have the sweetest memories of my times in the Moadonit. I was exposed to things I'd never known existed, such as daily routine schedules for mealtimes, homework and even playtimes. I made new friends from similar backgrounds to mine, something that I didn't always find at school. One of the things that I'll never forget was the day camp which filled our summer vacations. All the activities organized by the counselors were so much fun and thrilled me anew each day.

I can truly say that the Moadonit was like a greenhouse which surrounded us with love and warmth, every day after school. Thanks to our wonderful counselors, Haya and Ella, who guided us all those years with so much devotion, we were spared those negative experiences that existed outside. In retrospect, I think that the fundamentals and the framework that we received there, would have been impossible to acquire given the circumstances in our home.

Today, following the completion of my B.A. in behavioral sciences and human resources management, I work in the sales and marketing department of the Blum Co., a global company specializing in kitchen hardware fittings. In addition to my work, I'm a counselor at the Nurturing Group Moadonit run by the Nes Ziona municipality.

For me it's a privilege to give back to the place where I received so much. I enjoy seeing the children who arrive every day. I love the fact that they are happy and await each coming session. I think that only someone like myself who has experienced this place, can understand its strength and its importance in the life of a child.



## From the Library

by Patricia Pavey

I'm reading The Oxford Book of Hebrew Short Stories at the moment. This enjoyable compila-

tion, from our library, offers a taste of the rich imaginative diversity of Hebrew short fiction. Glenda Abramson, the editor of this collection, is the Schreiber Fellow in Modern Jewish Studies at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies and Cowley Lecturer in Post-Biblical Hebrew at the University of Oxford. As she says, "The development of Hebrew fiction spans less than two centuries, during which time it underwent many changes; it was produced in various geographical locations and in a minority language within different host cultures until its establishment in its own territory."

"It was not until the mid-nineteenth century, in Russia, that the first full-length work of imaginative fiction was written in Hebrew." This was Eugene Sue's Les Mysteres de Paris,

written in 1847.

This collection is in English translation and covers a period of about 70 years, 1920-1992. It includes works by the Lithuanian Mendele Mokher Serafim (S.J.Abramowitz); Yosef Hayyim Brenner, of the Ukraine; Polish Aharon Megged; Israeli Amos Oz and Yitzhak Oren of Siberia (later of China and Palestine), and many others who wrote in the Hebrew language.

A touching story is "Dora's Secret" by Ruth Almog (born in Israel to an Orthodox family of German descent). We learn that Dora is a Holocaust survivor – this is her secret. She converted to Christianity to "protect her children". Did she do the right thing?

"Cinema" by Israeli author Yitzhak Ben-Ner is a sad story of a character who escapes reality by watching movies at every opportunity. S. Yizhar tells us of "Habakuk", a talented violinist who attracts students to come and hear him play. Ukrainian Micha Yosef Berdyczewski brings us "Without Hope", a story of a young bridegroom, trapped in his orthodox world, who finds a way to escape.

It is indeed a collection of diverse tales and a very good introduction to Hebrew literature.





## The Moral and Spiritual Values of Judaism

AHAVAH and AHAVAT YISRAEL



by the late Rabbi Roger Pavey

In the year 2000, Rabbi Roger V. Pavey completed a manuscript intended for publication. It was never published, but <u>The Moral and</u>

<u>Spiritual Values of Judaism</u> was intended for students of Judaism and general readers interested in Judaism. Roger was looking at Judaism "from a new perspective and the application of Jewish concepts to modern issues."

#### Ahavah

There are three root forms in Hebrew that convey the meaning of the English word "love". Ahavah is the generic term, the others, nuances of that basic meaning. The other Semitic languages share the same root.

This value term is best illustrated in Lv.19:18, the famous Holiness Code. It proclaims that human beings are to be "holy", reflecting the nature of God, and concludes with the injunction "Ve ahavta le reyakha kamokha": "Love your neighbour as you love yourself." This immediately raises questions in the reader. How can anyone be commanded to love? Surely, love is an emotion that we either feel or we don't? Love must surely be spontaneous; we can not love to order! On the other hand, in considering the practicalities of our possible response to the command, what we are being told in this verse of Torah is not to feel love but to do what would ideally arise from the situation if we did feel love. Regardless of the emotions that we may or may not have about our neighbor, from love to neutrality to hatred; regardless of whether that neighbor is indeed lovable or not, we are to respond to our neighbor "as if" we loved. If we behave in practical terms in a loving way, respecting and honoring our neighbor's dignity and human worth regardless of our feeling toward him or her, we may learn in the doing of the act the attitude that ideally should arise from the relationship. We are required to behave with decency and justice which is love in action. If we learn to behave "as if" we love, then we may learn what love means, not only in action but also as the existential response to the other as person.

That is the ideal, but it does not really matter. The quality of a moral act is not in the least diminished by the attitude that we may feel toward the act or the person for whom we do the act. It would be good to love as well as to act in a loving way, but the loving act is itself sufficient. If we were to wait for the emotion to precede the act, the act might never get done. Better that good things are done for the wrong motive than they remain undone until the motive becomes right! A passionate love for humankind that

remains pure but also purely abstract and results in no practical effect in the lives of individual human beings is an irrelevant indulgence of no moral standing. The Talmud reminds us "Someone whose knowledge exceeds his or her deeds is like a tree with a lot of branches but not many roots. Any good wind that comes along will uproot it and blow it down.

Love has to be more firmly based than in the whims and fancies of ephemeral emotion. In Jewish terms, that firmer base is the quality of the moral deed that shows love in action: the "as if-ness" of the moral response. "If love depends on a specific thing, then once it is achieved, the love will go: on the other hand, love that is independent of a specific object will endure."

#### **Ahavat Yisrael**

The specific form of "love" that relates a Jew to a Jew is important because it teaches the essential importance of the community, and the maintaining of that community by the willingness of its members to relate to each other in the mutual respect and acceptance marked by the "as if" morality of Judaism Community is important because without the encapsulation of values in the group, those values remain abstract and not lived and subject to individual whim. It is the community that ensures the continuation of values by preserving them in the norms that it teaches through precept and example to its members, however far short of the ideal that the members of community may fall in practice. The community also imposes these values on the members as a condition of membership in

Differences between Jew and Jew will always be a reality, in belief and in practice. There will also be differences horizontally between communities of Jews in differing places, and vertically between communities of Jews in differing times.

The tendency of Jews to challenge the leadership and norms is a fact well attested in history. According to the Bible, Moses was continually challenged by the people. Jews are the archetypal nonconformists of history. The continuance of Jews as an identifiable group sharing certain values and patterns of living in response to historical experience rather than as an accidental closely linked group of individuals, has been ensured by the fundamental attitude of Jew for Jew summed up in Ahavat Yisrael.

Throughout history the Jewish community has also been strongly factious. Underlying unity has never been reflected in practical or even theoretical uniformity. There are divisions between secular and religious Jews; and among the latter between Orthodox and non-Orthodox Jews; and between Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist and Humanist Jews. The dif-

ferences have been transcended by an overriding unity, not of belief or practice (obviously so!), but of a sense of common identity and purpose, cemented by a feeling of Ahavat Yisrael. When that has broken down with a refusal to accept the implications of the essential pluralism of the Jewish experience, then Jews have done great damage to themselves from within and enabled enemies to do great damage to them from without. The opposite of Ahavat visrael is sinat hinam, pointless hatred. Ahavat Yisrrael can of course be merely a statement of some ideal rather than a real phenomenon; it can be, for example, a patronising tolerance of the non-Orthodox by the Orthodox who are convinced of their rightness and the misguided wrongness of the majority of their Jewish brothers and sisters. In that case it is merely a ploy in the task of conversion rather than a genuine respect for the other. What is needed is a realization and unequivocal acceptance that unity does not require monolithic agreement, even on matters of principle, so much as a basic attitude that extends total respect and dignity to fellow members of the family group.

And that is the analogy: with family. All families are to some degree dysfunctional, driven by disagreement and disharmony. What keeps the family alive as the fundamental building block of human society is that the dysfunctionalism has been normally transcended by the uniting factor of family love, the "blood is thicker than water" syndrome. Where this has not been the case, the resultant family is not so much dysfunctional as psychopathic.

This family analogy should not be taken literally as implying a genetic unity of the Jewish community. There is no such thing as a Jewish "race" or ethnic group. People from every conceivable "racial" or ethnic background have entered the Jewish people throughout history, either informally by assimilation or formally by conversion to Judaism. Judaism has never given any support to racism, nor could it by the logic of its values and faith. Jews are a group identifiable through a shared response to historical experience, a shared understanding of ultimate meaning, purpose and values. There is a shared pattern of living and thinking and responding derived ultimately from the acceptance of sources seen as being in some way of transcendent value, what would have been viewed in the past as a revelation of the will of God. Those who join themselves voluntarily to this group by acceptance of this pattern of doing and thinking become Jews just as fully as those already members of the group. There is no distinction between a Jew by birth and a Jew by choice. Ideally, all Jews should be Jews by choice.

## **Changing Times = Transitioning to New Homes**

by June Avivi

In February 2012 the Government announced that Valley View Centre (VVC) in Moose Jaw, home for over 200 intellectually handicapped persons which opened in 1955, would be closed in 2016. Residents will be transitioned into homes around the province. My son David has been a resident since 1968 after living at home until age 12. For many years I had been chair of the VVC Family Group and although I had been anticipating the decision since 2002 when admissions to the VVC were stopped, the reality was still a shock. Several days prior to the announcement I was invited to meet with the Minister of Social Services (MSS) and other Government officials and informed of the decision. I was invited to represent families on the Transition Steering Committee (TSC) together with MSS staff and the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living (SACL) which serves as the advocacy organization for intellectually handicapped persons. Most provincial residences have or are in the process of closing. What is unique about Saskatchewan is that the Families and the Advocacy organization have equal status to the MSS and that the VVC Family Group chairs the Transition Steering Committee. In most provinces the MSS has not invited families to the table. In the late 50's and early 60's the population of VVC was over 1000, by 2012 the number was 200 many with high medical needs, behavioral needs, or a combination of both. The buildings, because of their age, are difficult and costly to maintain and expectations of the community at large have changed. Since February 2012, I have been on a steep learning curve. As part of the TSC I have been learning about government processes, establishing the many protocols required, meeting with many people both in and out of the province and establishing many sub committees required for a multimillion dollar project. I have been part of groups that visited alternative residential sites in Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer,

Winnipeg, Brandon in addition to homes around Saskatchewan. We have been meeting at least twice a month, sometimes weekly, often flying to Regina because winter 2012/13 driving conditions have been so difficult. Every family has been invited to participate in long term planning – and for those who have no family, we have hired two advocates to serve their needs as well as those of families wishing additional support. A staff person has been hired to research residential options in addition to our onsite visits. All residents will have a an 'individualized person centered plan' which recognizes their day programs needs, physical, medical and recreational needs so that their 'lives will match their current programs and, hopefully provide enriched programming'. The majority of residents have chosen to remain in the Moose Jaw area so

they can live with their peers and have access to the well trained workforce available. Others have chosen Regina, Saskatoon and several out of province. We have consciously chosen to take the time to do the appropriate planning so that we can, hopefully, make as few errors as possible. We presented our initial report to the Ministry in February of 2013 and in May 2013 presented a multi page document with major recommendations www. gov.sk.ca or www.sacl.org. -VVC Transition Planning Recommendations. We anticipate the Minister's response in a few weeks. The months ahead will present many challenges. Once the recommendations are approved, the hard work of creating new homes, developing ancillary, crisis and respite programs will be the next challenge!!

#### As my father planted for me before I was born, So do I plant for those who will come after me.

from the Talmud

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gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

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This page is sponsored by Lois & Walter Gumprich, with Susanne, Daniel, Michelle, Abigail and their families.

## Hillel - A Year In Review



by Daniel Katzman, Outgoing President

This year has been very successful for our local chapter. There has been great leadership from within our organization, but we have enjoyed great

sponsorship from our local community and outside members.

This year the Sharfe family generously donated some much needed funds for advocacy and Jewish programming. This greatly excited our board as we have had little opportunity to help send our members to conventions, but we now have this ability. In addition most funding available to us is for Israel advocacy, so we had trouble getting funds for Jewish related activities. This donation gave us an opportunity to give a Jewish experience for our Hillel community. We hope that through these new actions we can create ties to larger Hillel organizations as well as attract new members. Thank you for your sponsorship, it was much needed and hugely appreciated.

We have also experienced a new dynamic with BB Men. Harold Shiffman has been our main point of contact. He has made every effort to convey to us what BB Men expected of us, and even helped us draft the necessary documents so that it would meet BB Men's expectations.

We must also thank BB Men for all their time, effort, funding and most of all we thank them for their patience. We are all learning on our board, so sometimes things don't happen the way they should, but they were always willing to give us a chance to make the necessary changes. We also could never have put on such a successful Purim if not for the help of the BB Men. We also had the

great benefit of having the BB Men sponsor the "Screamin' Chickens" Soccer Team. We appreciate everything this generous group of individuals does for us, and we very much understand the sacrifices they make, both with their time and their sanity helping to mold us as responsible adults. We thank you very much for what you have done.

"Screamin' Chickens" got its first taste of limited success, and let me tell you it was everything we thought it would be. We won four games this year, a record high. We enjoyed support from many returning members and we also managed to trick a few more to join our ranks. We also enjoyed the Scharfstein cheering section. We invite all members to come watch, or play-should your wives allow.

I must also thank Daniel Fine the head of "Hillel Canada" for all he did for us this year. He has gone out of his way to help us find some funding for more Jewish related events.

We would also like to thank Rabbi Claudio for all his help this year. As well as helping us prepare for leading services, we spent some learning time in our new program "Lunch and learn". I particularly enjoyed the discussion on Jewish customs surrounding the carnal acts. It was very interesting. His wealth of knowledge was very much enjoyed, and it was very easy to talk to him about anything one would like to know about.

Rabbi Katz was also another great contributor to our chapter. He helped educate our members on many Talmudic events and beliefs. I for one learned a lot about Jewish customs and observances that I was unaware of. Thank you for your guidance and tutelage.

Lastly I must thank those directly involved in the running of our chapter. Sarina Gersher

as Vice President had a huge impact on our board. Her tireless effort to try and organize stressed out students was very much appreciated. She also was essential in opening new lines of communication with BB Men. Without her on the board I know this year would not have been the success it was. David Hilger as Treasurer was a great contributor as usual. He is one of the main reasons Purim turned out to be such a success this year. His ability to be able to not only balance our books, but also be able to be constantly in the know about everything surrounding our board is just amazing. We all thank you for your huge effort. Anna Mosolov as Secretary was a great wealth of new ideas. With her background in leadership she was able to bring to our attention many overlooked details. She very much helped shape the structure of our meeting and proceedings. Without her a great many things would have gone undone and over looked. Matthew Feldman was a great source of leadership and experience. His efforts on the board this year were extremely helpful. He has a lot of energy and experience and his undying effort to try and expand Hillel to become a larger campus group is exactly what we needed. Corey Bacher and Jonathan Katzman were also very involved in helping our board program. They both did whatever was asked of them and helped contribute whenever they could. Thank you two for your time. Finally the Shlichim's contributions cannot be understated. On more than one occasion they pulled board members aside to make sure that they could handle their position and responsibilities, myself included. They were always there to guide us, and never had anything but time and energy to give us. They galvanized this board into what it now is and without them we would not have done one tenth of what we did. The funding they brought in, the events they planned, the time they spent setting up and taking down the Hillel events, it blows my mind. Anyone who came into contact with them was better for it. They were the foundation on which this board was built and they deserve more than recognition for that, but unfortunately this is all I can give them.

We hope to see all of you next year at one of our events. We hope that you will enjoy them as much as we will.

#### Rescheduled for Friday, August 9th

## **Shabbat Family BBQ Service**

Come and share an evening of hamburgers, hot dogs, nice food and desserts at the park next to our Synagogue.

Following the Barbeque we will do the Shabbat Service in the Park.

Friday, August 9th, 6:00 pm



## Our Shlichut (or "Mission") Begins Here

by Tamir and Ari

A little over a year ago we were in a Jewish agency convention for future shlichim. In the opening of this convention we participated in one of the most inspiring talks that we had the pleasure of being a part of.

This was with a young conservative rabbi of a community in the south of Israel in a small city named Omer. Her name is Tamar Elad-Epelboim and she revealed to us what was going to be a milestone in our approach to this Shlichut.

We did not know at that point (march 2012) that we were going to be Shlichim in the middle of Canada in a little town-like city called Saskatoon. We knew nothing about the amazing people here and the extremely lively Jewish community which is small but acts as if it were fairly large. We did not know of the huge place that this community will create in our hearts. But we did know one important thing- this Shlichut will affect our lives forever and for the better.

While we don't mean to sound dramatic, we do feel it is important to emphasize at this point.

Rabbi Elad-Epelboim said the following: "your Shlichut does not start when you get to your community, nor does it start when you have had your first successful event or when you do good and important Hasbarah (Israel advocacy). Your Shlichut begins when you get back to Israel after experiencing a different perspective of Jewish life and relation with

Israel, with greater knowledge, and a deeper yearning to make a change for the better".

At first we were puzzled by this conclusion, but as time went by and we gave more thought to this statement, it appeared to make a lot of sense. And yet, still being in Israel - learning about Jews in the diaspora, about Canada and eventually learning about Saskatoon's Jewish community – it still wasn't entirely clear what she had meant by this.

After a few weeks here we suddenly deeply understood what she was saying - this was not going to be merely "a pause" from our lives in Israel. Not just an opportunity to strengthen the bond between Israel and North America, meet new people, make new friends, and learn about a different culture. This was going to be a year that will affect the way we see our country and our lives as Jews and as Israelis.

So much of what we had observed and learned this year has changed us forever - learning about liberal Judaism and seeing how you live it here. Understanding what a big part Israel has in your life, how its decisions and actions affect you and what it symbolizes in such a faraway (only in distance!) place. Seeing Israeli flags in the building. Knowing that we always have to be super updated in the news since you all always were. Hearing Hebrew so much of the time!

These new things we learned will affect us in whatever we think of doing. Both of us are very interested in Israeli politics, law,



NGO's, liberal Judaism, community life and educational programs. What we experienced here will have an enormous influence on how and what we choose to do in the future – and we have you to thank for it!

We wish to thank you for allowing us to become so immersed in this community and giving us a chance to see many different aspects from up close. This has been an amazingly educational, exciting, meaningful, eventful and memorable year.

Thank you for giving us a place in your hearts - we know you have a huge place in ours!

Looking forward to the beginning of our Shlichut in Israel and keeping in close touch. No doubt you all have many homes of previous Shlichim you can (and should) always visit, and now you have one more!



## From Our Tel Aviv Desk

by Lior Bachar - (former Shlichut)

Summer brings the sounds of war drums every few years (or is it every year...? Have we become numb...?). This year, not too much is new in this sense. True, the Middle East has become a more unpredictable arena than ever, but how many times can we hear and read the headlines that a conflict is near. We're way after the "wolf, wolf" story in which the call is repeated, causing apathy. As Israelis we somehow have no choice rather than ignore, up to certain point, the press and politics that feed us with anxiety. No place in Israel does this better than the "First Hebrew City", as it is named, Tel Aviv.

Tel Aviv was my home town for five years, more than a decade ago, before our shlichut in Saskatoon. Yes, much water has flown in the Jordan River since, as we say in hebrew (although hardly any flow of water runs between the Kinneret and the Dead Sea anymore). However, Tel Aviv always seems to surprise once again. A short stay in the city immediately points out that here life goes on, at its

best. The city never stops, it vibes, dominated by the young, usually lightly dressed (not to say provocatively), full of bars, cafes, high class cuisine, gay parade, and so on. It does, of course, suffer from illnesses that most big cities do - traffic, parking, old infrastructure, bad urban planning, crowding, pollution. The city is also pretty much divided between north - rich, well kept, green, clean; and south - mostly poor, neglected, congested, dirty. Like many other north-south division around the world...

One of Tel Aviv's greatest challenges right now is dealing with an estimated 50-60 thousand foreigners, mostly from East African countries (South/Sudan, Eritrea) and also from West Africa. Their status varies: legitimate or illegitimate foreign workers, refugees, asylum seekers. One of the major problems is that the authorities are failing to verify each person's status, leaving it for the "street" to decide. Thus, as important as their status may be, the result of their stay in Tel-Aviv's



Alma, Lior and Naomi

southern, weaker neighborhoods is social tension. On the one hand, there are foreigners who should be treated as decently as possible (those whose status is known are to be given all the rights they have by law - as refugees, foreign workers, etc.); on the other hand, there is a revolt of the citizens who suffer from the difficult conditions brought by such an influx of foreigners. Inevitably, many of the African foreigners are forced to live in harsh condi-

continued on page 16

## Journey To A Bat Mitzvah

by Katie Dawson

I began studying for my bat mitzvah a year ago; the journey has been long and tough. Somehow it was accomplished- but not through average study sessions. We chose to take the technological route, so I could have my bat mitzvah with my Jewish family here in Saskatoon. Through Skype sessions with the rabbi, I learned the songs with recordings. It



honestly felt like something out of Star Trek. At the beginning I wasn't sure if long distance study was going to work, but I'm glad to say it worked out beautifully. I feel I've come a long way and it was challenging learning when there were technical difficulties. I love the help I received from others, especially Mora Marsha and Rabbi Claudio. They tutored to

help me get up to speed. Marsha was even kind enough to meet me at the airport for our lesson. I am proud to be Jewish and will be able to lead and participate in services and in all aspects of the community. It has been a great learning experience. Having a bat mitzvah makes me feel so awesome and special, I'm sure any boy or girl who has had a bat/bar mitzvah, knows what it feels like.

Before my bat mitzvah I remember feeling scared that I was going to mess up but then I thought, it's all going to be okay. Believing in myself was key in this situation. Some songs needed work, but after I practiced it turned out well. It was a good feeling to know the service was going to be awesome, and nice. Having a bat mitzvah is a very emotional event, and it's a very big milestone, considering that I haven't been on this earth very long. I wish my friends in Arizona could have been at my bat mitzvah too, it would be even better! But that's okay. I've grown up with the community in Saskatoon, and I'm most happy to share it with everyone here.



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For more information please contact:

<u>Marsha Scharfstein</u>

Hebrew School Principal
mk.scharfstein@gmail.com

or

<u>Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky</u>

rabbiclaudio@gmail.com



Congregation Agudas Israel
Jewish Community Centre

#### **Hebrew School**

by Marsha Scharfstein, Principal

Summer is upon us once again and the Hebrew School year is over! We have had a wonderful year with Ari, Tamar and Rabbi Claudio teaching so many interesting and creative lessons. We will miss Ari and Tamar as they return to Israel in August and thank them for all the

fun they created with the children. In almost the same breath, we are excited to meet the new shlichim couple, Daniella and Yovel who will be joining us in September.

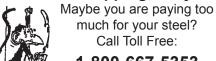
In September, the Hebrew School will be launching a new program. For the first time in many years, we will be offering a Preschool. This new class will be on Wednesday only, 4:15-6:00 and will be open to children 3-5.

We chose to have it at the same time as regular Hebrew School for a few reasons. If you are already bringing a child to Hebrew School, this will be easy for you. Also, being around other Jewish children will be a positive experience for the little ones. Please contact Rabbi Claudio or myself for more details.

Kindergarten will also be on Wednesday 4:15-6:00. Please contact me if you have a child entering either public school Kindergarten or Grade 1.

This year we say goodbye to Katie Dawson who has just had her Bat Mitzvah and has graduated from Hebrew School. Katie helped to bring technology into the school by having all her classes via Skype! Mazel tov, Katie!

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## Yisrael in a Nutshell

## Top 5 'Made in Israel' Apps

- 1. <u>Waze</u> a unique GPS system that crowd sources traffic.
- Fooducate using the phones camera, scan bar codes at the grocery store and get a nutritional profile of the product in question.
- 3. <u>Touchoo</u> quiet your kids without guilt with this interactive children's books app (in English and Hebrew)
- iOnRoad turns your Smartphone into a road danger warning device.
- Viber integrates into your contact list and allows to make free calls to other users across the globe.



iOnRoad's snapshot

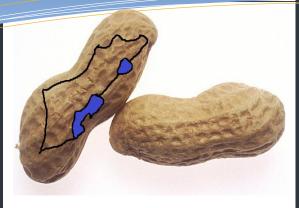
#### Recommended

#### Link -

http://www.youtube.com/wat ch?v=hkKytHCHCYI



A preview of "*Jerusalem*", a 3D IMAX movie about the holy city, to be released in September 2013



#### Israel's Largest Gay Pride Parade

Friday [June 7] in Tel Aviv, was the 15th annual gay pride parade, which was the largest ever, with an estimated participation of some 100,000

Tel Aviv is one of the few places in the Middle East where gays feel free to walk hand-in-hand and kiss in public. It has been praised as one of the world's best destinations for gay travel.



## First-ever Ethiopian Miss-Israel crowned

Meet Yitish Aynaw, 21, born in Ethiopia and made Aliyah with her family when she was 12. She served as an officer in the Israel Defense Forces and, not long ago, was voted by a quarter of all Israeli TV viewers as the first Ethiopian Miss Israel for 2013.

As one of the most diverse countries in the world, over the years Israel has voted winners from many different descents including - Arab, Russian, Romanian and Chinese.



#### Event of the month -



Watch it here http://video.ferrari.com/

Doing 200 km/h in front of 60,000 spectators, Giancarlo Fisichella, along with his Ferrari F60, were the stars of the first Jerusalem Peace Road Show, an event organised under the auspices of the Jerusalem City Council

## Canada and Israel leading the chart for most educated countries

Based on a study conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 24/7 Wall St. compiled a list of the 10 countries with the highest proportion of college-educated adult residents. Topping the charts is Canada — the only nation in the world where more than half its residents, 51%, can proudly hang college degrees up on their walls.

Snagging the number two most-educated spot was Israel, which trailed Canada closely with 46%.

Here is the rest of list:

3. Japan 45% 6. South Korea 40% 9. Australia 38%

4. U.S. 42% 7. U.K. 38% 10. Ireland 37%

5. New Zealand 41% 8. Finland 38%

#### Business-led Peace Bid Unveiled in Jordan

A group of 300 leading Israeli and Palestinian businessmen unveiled a new business-led push for Israeli-Palestinian peace. Its aim, they said, was to "send the message" to the respective political leaderships that peace was an urgent imperative.

The key Palestinian figure involved, Munib al-Masri, a billionaire member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, told The Times of Israel that he and other Palestinian leaders who have put their names to the initiative are taking a personal risk, given the animosity to Israel on the Palestinian street, and said "I have to speak my conscience."



For more information regarding any of the contents please contact -

Areivim.Sask@gmail.com

## **Biography of the Month:** Theodor Herzl

by Stan Schroeder

Believe it or not (it's hard for me to believe). I've been writing these biographies for Shir Notes for over five years now, and I haven't written about perhaps the most important man whose ideas, dedication, and hard work eventually led to the fruition of his dream, the State of Israel.

Theodor Herzl wrote in his utopian novel Altneuland (The Old New Land) in 1902, If you will it, it is no dream, and his will prevailed 46 years later. This phrase was chosen as the theme of the 2010 Israel Independence Day celebration. And appropriately, the celebration started with the annual program at Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

Herzl was born in Pest (Budapest) May 2 1860, the second child of Jeanette and Jakob Herzl, who were German-speaking, assimilated Jews. As a child he was a precocious daydreamer who wanted to follow in the footsteps of Ferdinand de Lesseps, builder of the Suez Canal. He had minimal interest in Judaism, consistent with his parents' lax adherence to the Jewish tradition. His mother relied more on German humanist Kultur than Jewish ethics. Instead of a bar mitzvah. Herzl's thirteenth birthday was advertised as a "confirmation."

In 1878, after the death of his sister, Pauline, the Herzl family moved to Vienna, Austria-Hungary. There, Herzl studied law. After a brief legal career in Vienna and Salzburg, he devoted himself to journalism and literature, working as a correspondent for the Neue Freie *Presse* in Paris, occasionally making special trips to London and Constantinople. Later on, he became literary editor of Neue Freie Presse, and wrote several comedies and dramas for the Viennese stage.

His early work did not focus on Jewish life.

As the Paris correspondent for Neue Freie Presse in 1894, Herzl followed the Dreyfus Affair, a notorious anti-Semitic incident in France in which a French-Jewish army captain was falsely convicted of spying for Germany. He witnessed mass rallies in Paris following the Dreyfus trial where many chanted "Death to the Jews"! The next year brought a rise to power of the anti-Semitic demagogue Karl Lueger in Vienna. These events changed Herzl's view of the fate of Jews in Europe.

In 1896 Herzl wrote Der Judenstaat (The State of the Jews), published in Vienna, and when the English translation appeared, he became the leading spokesman for Zionism. Herzl complemented his writing with practical work to promote Zionism on the international stage. He visited Constantinople in April, 1896, and was hailed at Sofia, Bulgaria, by a Jewish delegation. Although he was received coldly in London, he was granted

the mandate of leadership from the Zionists of the East End of London. Within six months this mandate had been approved throughout Zionist Jewry, and Herzl traveled constantly to draw attention to his cause. His supporters, at first



few in number, worked night and day, inspired by Herzl's example. In 1897, at considerable personal expense,



he founded Die Welt (The World), a weekly newspaper in Vienna to be used for Zionist news and promotion. In August, 1897 he held the first Zionist congress in Basel, Switzerland, attended by about 200 delegates from 17 countries. Herzl was elected President, an office he held until his death in 1904. The Congress stated, "The aim of Zionism is to create for the Jewish people a home in EretzIsrael secured by law." In 1898 he began a series of diplomatic initiatives intended to build support for a Jewish country. He was received by the German emperor on several occasions, one of them in Jerusalem, and attended The Hague Peace Conference, enjoying a warm reception by many other statesmen. In 1902–03 Herzl was invited to give evidence before the British Royal Commission on Alien Immigration. The appearance brought him into close contact with members of the British government, particularly with Joseph Chamberlain, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, through whom he negotiated with the Egyptian government for a charter for the settlement of the Jews in Al 'Arish, in the Sinai Peninsula. His attempts to enlist support from the Vatican were rebuffed. Although Herzl foresaw a far more idealized State than circumstances allowed, thanks to the continued hard work of his followers and the dedication and sacrifice of those who made Alivah, his vision was indeed realized. In 1949 his remains were moved from Vienna to be reburied on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

Editor's Note: Stan Schroeder is the Editor of Congregation Shir Ami's "Shir Notes" in Los Angeles which also won a Gold Medal for "Bulletins." He writes biographies of famous Jews and has offered to share them with us. This article was first published in the Shir Notes June, 2010.

#### FOR YOUR INFORMATION: We have created a BABYSITTERS LIST

for members of Agudas Israel. If you are looking for a babysitter, please call

the office and speak to Myla or the Shlichim and they can help you find a sitter to match vour needs! If someone wants to be added to the babysitters list, they can visit

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#### Divrei Harav... from page 4

any possible risk for failing. In the case of the spies this attitude could not be tolerated. In order to fulfill her/his mission, a leader has to learn how to overcome the challenge of fear. While fear is important because it can help us to act responsibly, when it paralyzes us we end up forgetting the mission and transforming responsibility in an end in itself.

The second story I would like to review with you is Korach's revolt. Korach organizes a rebellion against Moses and Aaron, arguing that nobody has given them the power to lead the Israelites to the Promised Land. He convinced renowned people and together they tried to take over the leadership of Israel.

What was Korach's strategy? The Rabbis tell that he went one by one, complaining about how selfish Moses was, making all the decisions on his own, not sharing power and not letting anyone be involved. By the end, God came to rescue Moses showing that Korach's arguments were unfair and punishing him together with his company.

Before starting his revolt, Korach was already a well-known leader of the Israelites as he tried to use his position in order to achieve his goals. But what is interesting here is that the Rabbis in the Talmud explain that were if not for the revolt, Korach was going to get one of the most important leadership roles in front of the people, if not being Moses' successor. But instead of waiting patiently, learning from his master, he started to complain with his fellows saying: "When it will come the time for Moses and Aaron to die and give us their positions? Now it is our turn!"

Korach's real intentions were not serving the congregation but his own selfish interests, and that is why he tried to push the transition of leadership, instead of waiting for a natural process of learning and gaining experience. His revolt, creating trouble and dividing the people, demonstrated who he really was. By the end, Korach died tragically but his punishment was according to his sin: As he wanted to see Moses' death soon, God punished him hurrying up his death.



The lessons of Korach's revolt are many, some of them connected to our personal lives and the way we relate with parents and relatives, and other ones are connected to the leadership positions we have in our community or in any organization. Leadership comes as a consequence of many years of hard work and sacrifices, not through complaints or revolts. There is an historical chain of leadership which is passed on from generation to generation, where potential young leaders start learning and gaining experience and only then become more involved, assuming leadership roles at the proper time and with responsibility. Together with that, the more experienced ones assume the role of teachers and tutors, sharing with them their experience. This process of transition is essential for the accomplishment of the institution's goals, including its continuity for the future. The opposite is precisely what happened with Korach: He damaged the People and his selfish revolt could not succeed.

And the third story I would like to mention is about Moses himself: The Israelites were thirsty in the desert and they complained, asking for water to drink. Moses speaks with God who accepted the complaint and asked from our leader to speak to a rock, in front of the congregation. Moses gathered the people as God requested, but as you probably know, instead of speaking to the rock he hits it twice with his rod, making God angry. And the consequences of this episode are tragic for our leader: God decided he should die in the desert, not being allowed to enter the Promised Land.

It becomes really difficult to understand why Moses received such a severe punishment for this apparent mistake. After all, Moses was God's loyal and closest prophet! That is why since the early times of the Rabbis until today nobody has been able to give a conclusive answer to this question. But from all of the possible interpretations, I would like to share with you the one that I like the most. When we study this story of Moses hitting the rock, we sometimes forget that this was not the first time God asked Moses to do something with a rock in order to give water to the people. In the book of Exodus, just after they left Egypt, the People went to Moses with the same complaint and in order to calm their thirst God commands Moses to take his rod and to hit a rock, so that water would come out of it. And what is the difference between this story, in the Book of Exodus, and the one we are studying in Numbers? That while in the first one Moses was asked to hit the rock and he hits it, in the second time Moses was asked to speak to the rock, but he hits it as he did the first time.

According to this interpretation, Moses failure was the same that many leaders have done in the past and continue doing until today: Thinking that new challenges are the same than the ones in the past, and reacting to them with the same old formulas, believing that because they worked in the past they will continue working in the future. Moses thought he was going to give water to the people hitting the rock because that is what he did the first time and it worked! But now it was a new reality: A new generation of Israelites, a different type of complaint. And even though God Him/Herself told him to react in a different way, he could not move from his old habits.

If we follow this interpretation we can easily conclude that Moses did not commit any sin nor was punished by God. Moses showed that it was the proper time for him to step aside, and God just told him "It is time for you to stop". Finally it was the proper time for the transition, with an experienced Yeoshua who has been waited patiently, learning from his master Moses.

What is the lesson that Moses gives us here? That dynamism, vision and willing to change when it is required, are essential conditions for leadership. A leader has to know how to adapt to new realities, applying her/his experience in order not to repeat old formulas but to create new ones, taking into account the changes that are imposed from the outside. While lack of vision and resistance to change are the best combination for extinction, adaptability is the necessary condition for survival (and Jews we are experts on that!).

The Book of Bemidvar (Numbers) shares with us powerful messages about leadership, and because every one of us is a leader to a lesser or greater extent, these lessons apply to all of us. Courage to move on and change, risking but with responsibility, willing to learn from the experienced leaders in order to become one of them but in the proper time, conscience about the importance of teaching and sharing experience, having vision, and understanding the need of adapting to new realities through innovative approaches, are just a few of lessons we can learn from these stories.

As we approach the next High Holidays, a time for reflection and introspection, let's try to think on how to improve our leadership skills for the next year, learning from the old wisdom of our eternal Torah. Let's propose that each of us will be successful in our leadership roles, in our families, businesses and in our community, because the future of what is the most cherished depends only on us and the decisions we make.

B'bracha, Rabbi Claudio

#### Goodbye... from page 5

than he was.

He especially emphasized the heroism of non-uniformed people - bankers and cooks alike - who helped rescue people, brought food to the uniformed responders, and even went back into the burning buildings to try to save people. In his opinion, these were the "real heroes" of 9-11, as much as the police and firefighters. We promised to bring his story back to our congregations all over North America, and to share his moving words.

Now it is time to say Thank You and Goodbye to all of you. It has been an amazing six years being part of our small but vibrant Jewish community. I can only hope that I have touched your lives with even a small portion of the impact with which you have touched my life. This opportunity to be your clergyperson for five years included my continuing Rabbi Pavey's interfaith work, and that in turn led to obtaining my Master of Arts degree.

Some of the main areas in which I worked with you include religious services, pastoral care, education of adults as well as *B'nei Mitzvah* and Hebrew School students, and in general trying to be a good representative of Agudas Israel within the larger community. Some aspects of this work succeeded better than other aspects, and I thank you all for your patience as I learned to balance all aspects of being a "*Kol Bo*" sole clergyperson.

There have been other activities also, such as teaching Torah Trope and Jewish Liturgy online for Hebrew College (Boston), and notating the music of our prayer-chants for new teaching software (*Kinnor.com*). This past

year I supervised a young grad student via the online program of Hebrew College while I was finishing my own graduate degree. Once I am settled in St. Paul, the first major task is to turn my Masters Thesis into a textbook.

For those of you who would like to stay in touch, here are the particulars of my new contact information. My e-mail address will remain "cantorneils7@aol.com" but my cellphone will change to (423) 902-5325 after July 21st. My new street address will be: 1330 St. Paul Avenue, #102, St. Paul, MN, 55116, USA.

While I pack my books and prepare to leave on July 21st, I will also lead services on July 6th, 13th, and 20th during Rabbi Claudio's vacation. My apologies, I will not be here for *Tisha B'Av* on Monday evening, July 15th, but I will be here for a "Goodbye" on July 20th. The last two weeks of July are filled with two conferences, and I will be presenting a workshop on my Masters Thesis research during one of them.

When one attempts to say "Thank You" to a large group of people, there is the danger of inadvertently leaving out some people who should be thanked. To avoid this concern, I am going to give my thanks to groups of people, and I will mention only one person by name.

Thank you to: the three synagogue Presidents with whom I worked, the Board of our synagogue and its committees, for your advice and compassionate concerns; B'nai Brith Men, Sisterhood and Hadassah for your support and involvement; the Board of

Multi-Faith Saskatoon and the Multi-Faith Chaplains Association of the University; the Religious Studies Faculty, Libraries Staffs, and my Graduate Advisory Committee at the U of S; the B'nei Mitzvah, Hebrew School, and Adult Education students with whom I both taught and learned in return; the dedicated crew of our *FolkFest* Cultural Display Room; the families who accepted my pastoral care for both happy and sad life-cycle events; the families who provided hospitality in your homes for various occasions; the crews who helped me move (some more than once); those who have provided me with housing, medical care, and legal services; the congregants who shared advice when needed, and who helped me learn how to best serve this congregation; all of the Shlichim who have been here since 2007; and Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky for his skilled leadership this past year, and for making me feel as a welcome member of our synagogue extended family. My apologies to anyone who is deserving of my thanks, if you are not in one of these groups.

I said publicly when I began in 2007 that I would try my best to be a "Mentsch" in all that I would do here. I hope that I somewhat succeeded in being a Mentsch for all of you, as you certainly have been for me. I know that Agudas Israel has a great future ahead, and I look forward to hearing about your many activities. Thank you for a great six years!

#### Tel Aviv Desk... from page 5

tions, especially due to the city (and national) authorities' failure to supply infrastructure - social and physical - resulting in beggars roaming the streets, sleeping in parks, turning to violence for survival. Add to all these the racial issue, yes, let's not allude ourselves, between black and white. Considering the fact that most of the Israeli citizens living in these parts of town (mostly Sepharadi, north african Jews - "Mizrachi") often suffer from



discrimination from the other social groups - only complicates things further.

In other words, political correctness aside, the citizens basically say that they are victims of discrimination from the higher Israeli society (mostly Ashkenazi); that if the foreigners roamed the streets of Northern Tel Aviv they would have been dealt with very harshly - by the same authorities who neglect them; that all the Israeli human rights activists who rally for better conditions for the foreigners, for abiding by international law, against discrimination - would not have acted different from the original citizens of southern Tel Aviv if the problem was on their doorstep. So, we are torn between the Talmudic saying "Aniyei Ircha Kodmim" (Charity begins at home - the poor of your city take precedence) on one side and the fact that we, as a people who were denied entrance to so many countries when persecuted by the most harsh discrimination possible, can by no means allow for such policies here in Israel. We are torn between the will to help people, improve their living conditions, give asylum - and the fact that a small country like Israel cannot solve the enormous distress of hundreds of thousands of Africans seeking refuge, just because we're the closest "western" country to them, the easiest to reach.

That was the main drive for building a proper border with Egypt in the last few years. As strange as it may seem, the border with Egypt was very wary, hardly a barbed wire fence. In some areas, the sand had covered most of it, allowing for anyone who wished to just step over it. The IDF did not consider it a real danger, until terrorism also became an issue, originating in Gaza, coming through Sinai. Now, there is a very impressive fence and the influx of refugees/foreign workers has plummeted from more than two thousand a month to basically zero. But the problem still remains, as those who made it through deserve to be given all their rights, and hopefully even more than that. Let's just hope that our society, and policy makers, can navigate between the two values mentioned above in the most humane manner to all sides.

Have a wonderful summer, Lior

Editor's Note: Lior is teaching civic studies and working in Elbit.

## Vahvtzoits

14mmzei	
July 5/6	<b>Tammuz 27/28</b>
Lena Kassen	July 6/28
Nekhama Stone	July 6/28
Ruth Stoffman	July 7/29
Frances Dashefsky	July 7/29
Nina Fogel	July 7/29*
Farhad Hebron	July 7/29*
Helen Teskey	July 7/29*
Ettie Wiss	July 7/29*
Vera Helfgott	July 8/Av 1*
Lloyd Landa	July 8/1*
Dolphy Neuman	July 8/1
Frances Paul	July 8/1
Margret Poplack	July 8/1
Lucille Katzman	July 9/2
Wilma Katzman	July 9/2
Joseph Volansky	July 9/2
Barney Kutz	July 10/3
July 12/13	Av 5/6
July 12/13 Ruby Rosenberg	<b>Av 5/6</b> July 12/5*
Ruby Rosenberg	July 12/5*
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Edward Churchill Anna Rabkin	July 24/17* July 24/17
Moses Berekson	July 24/17
David Sonnenschein	July 23/16*
Anthony Lehrer	July 23/16
Nettie Rabinovitch	July 22/15
William Landa	July 22/15*
Estella Ginsburg	July 22/15
Rita Collins	July 22/15
Lillian Claman	July 21/14*
Claire Mendel	July 20/13
Ezra R. Avol	July 20/13*
Max Wormann	July 19/12*

Dillian Ciarrani	U 031 y = 1/ 1 .
Rita Collins	July 22/15
Estella Ginsburg	July 22/15
William Landa	July 22/15*
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Moses Berekson	July 24/17
Edward Churchill	July 24/17*
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Louis Gelmon	July 26/19*
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Alon Founcs	JULY JUL 23
Pearl Adilman	July 31/24
Solomon Livergant	Aug 1/25*
Chaim Wolfe	Aug 1/25*
August 2/3	Av 26/27
Freda Claire Purkin	Aug 2/26
Jack Sandbrand	Aug 3/27
Miriam Lily Green	Aug 4/28*
Mollie Sklar	Aug 4/28*
Harry Sklar	Aug 5/29
Samuel Shore	Aug 6/30*
Fannie Gropper	Aug 6/30*
M. Trugman	Aug 6/30
Abram Katz	Aug 7/Elul1
Harry Landa	Aug 7/1*
Leonard Landa	Aug 7/1*
Rae Richman	Aug 7/1*
Gertrude Weiner	Aug 7/1

David Diament	Aug 8/2*
Neil Livergant	Aug 8/2*
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August 9/10	<b>Elul 3/4</b>
Fanny Feigenbaum	Aug 10/4
Rena Shatzer	Aug 11/5
Masha Zaitlen	Aug 11/5*
Joseph Sandbrand	Aug 12/6*
Max Berenbom	Aug 13/7*
Betty Aarons	Aug 14/8*
Pauline Macarthy	Aug 14/8
Mary Pollock	Aug 14/8
Eva Teplinsky	Aug 14/8
Rabbi Saul Diament	Aug 15/9
Josef Goldstein	Aug 15/9
Philip Raichman	Aug 15/9
Sarah Richman	Aug 15/9*
Rebecca Tabachnicoff	Aug 15/9
August 16/17	Elul 10/11
Herschel Diamond	Aug 17/11 <sup>3</sup>
Simon Korber	Aug 17/11
Rae Aarons	Aug 18/12*

Aug 8/2\*

Alvin Buckwold

August 16/17	Elul 10/11
Herschel Diamond	Aug 17/11*
Simon Korber	Aug 17/11
Rae Aarons	Aug 18/12*
Edith Blumes	Aug 18/12
Greena Gelmon	Aug 18/12*
Baby Gonick	Aug 18/12
Gertrude Helfgott	Aug 18/12*
Charles Kaplan	Aug 19/13
Yocheved Abelevsky	Aug 20/14*
Rose Gellman	Aug 20/14
Benjamin Cohen	Aug 21/15*
Lily Ludwig	Aug 21/15
Louis Schulman	Aug 21/15
Yosil Tzalkovich	Aug 21/15
Minnie Fogel	Aug 22/16
Celia Ida Greenblat	Aug 22/16
Eastwood Landa	Aug 22/16

August 23/24	Elul 17/18
Rebecca Claman	Aug 24/18*
Anne Pavey	Aug 24/18
Katherine Cantin	Aug 25/19*
Clara Friedman	Aug 25/19
Ben Brandt	Aug 26/20
Louis Ditlove	Aug 26/20*
Moses Levitsky	Aug 26/20*
Isaac McCarthy	Aug 26/20
Ida Rushkin	Aug 26/20*
Anna Bellas	Aug 27/21
Sophie Cohen	Aug 27/21*
Beila Duba Cooperm	an Aug 27/21*
Idy Leonoff	Aug 27/21
Harry Wine	Aug 27/21*
Freddie Winocour	Aug 27/21
Jacob Chertkow	Aug 28/22*
John Ellison	Aug 28/22
Isaac Chotem	Aug 29/23
Ken Epstein	Aug 29/23*
Harry Hallis	Aug 29/23
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August 30/31	Elul 24/25
Leo Bernbaum	Aug 31/25*
Hersh Freifeld	Aug 31/25
Seigfried Gumprich	Aug 31/25*
William Caplan	Sept 1/26
Rachel Clein	Sept 1/26
Paul Landa	Sept 1/26
Samuel Pollock	Sept 2/27*
Joseph Barsky	Sept 3/28*
Meyer Melamede	Sept 3/28

#### Seymour Buckwold Sept 4/29\* Sept 4/29 Alex Pollock Esther Adilman Sept 5/Tishrei 1 Morris Brook Sept 5/1\* Leib Cooperman Sept 5/1\* Sept 5/1 Sofie Steir Maz Zaitlen Sept 5/1

#### Regional Policy Conference of CIJA... from page 6

(not myth). Don't inundate people with details - you'll lost them.

- 2) Be reliable and show you care. Don't use negatives or negative non-verbal signals. Likewise don't use sarcasm or exhibit frustration or superiority. Demonstrate humility: "Who is honoured? One who gives honour to others" - Ben Zonna
- 3) Make your arguments relevant. Explain why it matters to Israelis and their communities. Frame the question or the issue and avoid such things as "everyone knows, "it's always been" and "authority says".
- 4) Make your point quickly. It's always easier to remind people of something they already know than to teach them a new concept. Use icons in your arguments, such as: Muslim and Arab women are stoned for minor infractions of their law in Muslim countries; Women are stoned to death if they have been raped since it is seen as adultery on their part; people are hanged publicly in the streets. Is this the way in which a democracy cares for its citizens? 5) Tell stories. Share meaningful experi-

- ences, not abstract facts. Tell them about the trauma fo children going to bed and being awakend by rockets fired into their towns; tell them about bomb shelters in every elementary and high school in Israel.
- 6) Assume that people to whom you are talking are ignorant of the true facts. Give them some context of the size of Israel within the middle East. Compare it to the size of your own province or city. Tell them the size of Gaza or the West Bank
- 7) Avoid documentation. In selling Israel, you are first selling yourself. The people you are talking to must first figure out how they feel about YOU. Demonstrate an open mind and suggest ways forward for the other side. Make the people you are talking to part of the conversation; find reasons to agree and disagree without being demanding.
- Be flexible. Avoid certain battles which may be traps to take you in a direction you don't mean to pursue. Broaden the lens of the issues, but be simple, not simplistic. Present people with questions such as "what do you feel it will take to.....?

- Try to take their arguments off the table.
- 9) Provide a soft landing pad for the other person, so that both sides go away feeling the argument or discussion has been a win-win situation. Make it clear that the argument is about VALUES, not sides. Define the opponents. For example Hamas and its war crime of firing rockets into civilian populations as being unacceptable
- 10) Present your arguments as clearly and honestly as possible and don't become argumentative or shrill. You will lose them immediately. Always get back to the key argument. Remove their arguments of Israel as the oppressor and point out that Israel is a democracy - in fact the only one in the Middle East.

In summary, Steve reminded us that it is a long game. Engage people in the question using the U.N. 41.

Next Bulletin I'll write about Ambassador Ross and his thoughts as the Middle Eastern advisor to the past four presidents.

## Silver Spoon Dinner 2013



by Linda Shaw, Co-chair

The sun, the moon and the stars must all have been perfectly aligned on May 6<sup>th</sup> for this year's Silver Spoon Dinner because everything was absolutely perfect. The 1050 women who at-

tended all agree with me. I know that I always overdo the superlatives when I write about the Silver Spoon Dinner but I can't help it if I love this project. We do very well fundraising for our community and CHW, Interval House and the Crisis Nursery, but our success goes well beyond the financials. Silver Spoon Dinner is a success because it's fabulous fun! Our committee has found the exact formula for combining lavish pampering, incredible prizes, delicious dining, gorgeous surroundings, serious subject matter and celebrity entertainment to produce an unforgettable evening.

Henry Winkler (a.k.a. The Fonz) was fantastic as our guest speaker. He had the perfect balance of humour and message. He spoke of his expansive career in TV and film, his family, and his colleagues and he also opened up about his challenges overcoming dyslexia and his parents' constant put-downs. I thought his timing, his jokes and his amazingly expressive face made him the ultimate entertainer. Add to that how he worked the room schmoozing

with hundreds of women and then stayed at the end of the evening posing for pictures with even more ladies and you'll see why I thought he was a total mench. He seemed to enjoy the evening as much as we did.

Once again, the whole evening flowed extremely smoothly. The Champagne & Welcome Reception (sponsored by Saskatoon Processing & Saskatchewan Blue Cross) and Martini Bar (hosted by staff from The Hub at the Holiday Inn) and the non-alcoholic "Mocktail" Bar (sponsored by Cravings Maternity & Baby Boutique) and After-Dinner Liqueurs (courtesy of Geoff Rathgaber, RBC) got all the women into a very happy party mood. Once again C95's Shauna Foster did an amazing job as our MC. In her adorable yet professional way, she guided us through a feature-packed evening. Judy Zelikovitch from Toronto brought greetings from National Canadian Hadassah-WIZO. We used the video on the big screens to highlight the work of Interval House and the Crisis Nursery – two of the four charities Silver Spoon supports. Air Canada Rep, Berni Viczko, presented the "Air Canada Trip for Two" to Shellie Bryant, the Balloon Pop winner. The 50/50 jackpot was a whopping \$7429. It was won by Rhonda Sage and Cyndi Tesch, who generously chose to donate part of it back to Silver Spoon. Lisa Dutton (Global TV) drew the winning ticket for TCU Place's Premier Wine Festival tickets for Lea Hause. As usual the major feature of the evening was the presentation by Chantel Huber, CTV Evening News Anchor, of the Sterling Award for Volunteerism to Brenda Richards. Brenda volunteers long hours working at the SPCA with the cats & kittens and then spends her "free time" making hundreds of special pillow beds for the animals there. Her hard-work and dedication to such an important local charity make her a perfect choice as the 2013 Sterling Award recipient.

The Silver Spoon Dinner continues to attract sensational support from the Saskatoon business community – great door prizes, amazing Silent Auction and generous sponsorships. Thank you to them all. Special thanks to Picatic for selling our tickets on- line for us and saving us hundred of volunteer-hours.

I'd also like to thank our illustrious committee: Co-chair, Heather Fenyes, Robin Sasko, Rebecca Simpson, Jan Gitlin, Marsha Scharfstein, Shannon Waldman, Allison Stromberg, June Avivi, Aviva Zack, Kerri Nestorik, Lezlie Goudie-Cloutier, Janet Erikson, David Katzman, Wendy Ditlove, Lisa Shiffman, Zoe Litman and my terrific family who once again gave their all to make this 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Silver Spoon Dinner an overwhelming success. Thanks to all our hundreds of prize sponsors and donors, all the gorgeous women who attended and to all our hard-working volunteers.

Another gigantic success! Linda Shaw, Co-chair

#### Sum Theatre... from page 1

Community has a range of meanings. I have only begun to understand the importance of all of them. For me, the Saskatoon Jewish Community has always been a place of warmth and nostalgia. When I come to services I walk past the front lawn and remember playing football at Hebrew school recess, or loading into a bus to attend a BBYO convention. In the sanctuary I remember my Bar Mitzvah. In the hall I remember doing a presentation after March of the Living, and many fun Folkfests. As I get older, I look back on these experiences and realize that they were all products of community. The Saskatoon Jewish Community gave me the opportunity to learn, grow, travel and celebrate.

When I founded Sum Theatre in 2011 with my fellow actor/playwright Kayvon Kelly, I had a strong desire to use live theatre as a community building glue. We chose the name "Sum" Theatre because we wanted to literally bring people together. The live theatre experience is the sum of a great many parts. While working across the country as a theatre artist, I have seen variations of the Theatre in the Park model work to great success in bigger cities. For years I have been thinking about

bringing Theatre in the Park to Saskatoon. This summer, thanks to the support of the B'nai Brith Men and Congregation Agudas Israel this dream has become a reality. I have been overwhelmed by the support from my Jewish community.

When received the news from the Saskatchewan Arts Board that Sum Theatre would be receiving a project grant for Theatre in the Park, one of my first phone calls was to David Katzman. I wanted to pick his brain about contacts at community schools -- in order to make sure we were able to take our Theatre in the Park production to a diversity of communities around our city. I was grateful when he suggested that I should also approach B'nai Brith as a potential sponsor. I am both thankful and proud that B'nai Brith Men were the very first sponsor to come on board for this inaugural season of Theatre in the Park. Other sponsors have followed suit, but there is something empowering about ones own community offering the first pledge.

The generosity has not ended there. Marsha Scharfstein kindly arranged space in the centre for us to build and paint our set and to rehearse. It is a pleasure to be able to visit the

building and recall these positive memories I have of community -- while we prepare for a production that will bring communities together. I now see that community in its essence is not solely celebration or learning or any one activity. Community truly means support, which translates into pure opportunity -- for collaboration and innovation.

This Alice in Wonderland is set (both literally and figuratively) in a park. In our production, Alice falls asleep while picnicking with her family. The things she sees before she falls asleep manifest themselves into her wondrous dream - as picnic tables, garbage cans, umbrellas and soccer balls become much more than they seem. At its heart, Alice in Wonderland is a story about the power of imagination, and this production will invite the audience to imagine along with Alice what an average park might turn into.

A sincere thank you to B'nai Brith and to the entire congregation for giving us the opportunity to produce a play that will cultivate community in parks across the city. I hope to see you on July 11th for the special preview performance of Alice in Wonderland!





















































July 2013 • Ta	ammuz / Av 57 Monday	73 Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Tammuz 23 OFFICE CLOSED	2 Tammuz 24	3 Tammuz 25	4 Tammuz 26	5 Tammuz 27  Candle Lighting 9:11pm 6 pm Service Potluck * Jose Andres	6 Tammuz 28 BIRKAT HAHODESH MATTOT MASE  * Simonne Horwitz Havdalah - 10:41pm
7 Tammuz 29	8 Av 1	9 Av 2	10 Av 3	11 Av 4 Garage Sale 1-6 pm Sum Theatre's Alice in Wonderland 6:00 pm B'nai Brith BBQ to follow	12 Av 5 Candle Lighting 9:06pm	13 Av 6 D'VARIM  * Lesley-Ann Crone Havdalah - 10:35pm
14 Av 7	15 Av 8	16 Av 9	17 Av 10	18 Av 11	Candle Lighting 8:59pm 7 pm Service	20 Av 13  VA'ET HANAN  Kiddush Lunch for Hazzan Neil  * Marsha Sharfstein  Havdalah - 10:28pm
21 Av 14	22 Av 15	23 Av 16	24 Av 17	25 Av 18	26 Av 19 Candle Lighting 8:50pm	27 Av 20 EREV  * Heather Fenyes Havdalah - 10:18pm
28 Av 21	29 Av 22 Av / Elul 577	30 Av 23	31 Av 24			
		1				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday  1 Av 25	Friday  2 Av 26 Candle Lighting 8:39pm	Saturday  3 Av 27 BIRKAT HAHODESH RE'EH
			Wednesday		2 Av 26	3 Av 27 BIRKAT HAHODESH
			Wednesday  7 Elul 1		2 Av 26 Candle Lighting 8:39pm  9 Elul 3 Candle Lighting 8:26pm Shabbat Service & Barbeque 6 pm	3 Av 27 BIRKAT HAHODESH RE'EH  * Harold Shiffman Havdalah - 10:07pm  10 Elul 4 SHOFTIM  * Seth Shachter
Sunday  4 Av 28	Monday	Tuesday		1 Av 25	2 Av 26 Candle Lighting 8:39pm  9 Elul 3 Candle Lighting 8:26pm	3 Av 27 BIRKAT HAHODESH RE'EH  * Harold Shiffman Havdalah - 10:07pm  10 Elul 4 SHOFTIM
Sunday  4 Av 28 Raoul Wallenberg Day	Monday  5 Av 29	Tuesday 6 Av 30	7 Elul I	1 Av 25 8 Elul 2	2 Av 26 Candle Lighting 8:39pm  9 Elul 3 Candle Lighting 8:26pm Shabbat Service & Barbeque 6 pm  * Lisa Shiffman  16 Elul10 Candle Lighting 8:12pm  23 Elul 17 Candle Lighting 7:58pm Service 7 pm	3 Av 27 BIRKAT HAHODESH RE'EH  * Harold Shiffman Havdalah - 10:07pm  10 Elul 4 SHOFTIM  * Seth Shachter Havdalah - 9:54pm  17 Elul 11 KI TETZE * Michael Gertler
Sunday  4 Av 28 Raoul Wallenberg Day	Monday  5 Av 29  12 Elul 13 C.A.I. Volunteer Appreciation Barbeque	Tuesday  6 Av 30  13 Elul 7 AGM Reports Due	7 Elul I  14 Elul 8	1 Av 25  8 Elul 2  15 Elul 9	2 Av 26 Candle Lighting 8:39pm  9 Elul 3 Candle Lighting 8:26pm Shabbat Service & Barbeque 6 pm *Lisa Shiffman  16 Elul10 Candle Lighting 8:12pm	3 Av 27 BIRKAT HAHODESH RE'EH  * Harold Shiffman Havdalah - 10:07pm  10 Elul 4 SHOFTIM  * Seth Shachter Havdalah - 9:54pm  17 Elul 11 KI TETZE * Michael Gertler Havdalah - 9:40pm  24 Elul 18 KI TAVO  *Steven Goluboff