



THE BULLETIN

Congregation Agudas Israel
Rabbi Emeritus Roger V. Pavey

715 McKinnon Ave, Saskatoon S7H 2G2 (306) 343-7023 Fax: (306) 343-1244
Hazzan Neil Schwartz

President: David Katzman

Heather Fenyes - Gerry Rose Volunteer of the Year Award Winner

Reflections

by Gladys Rose

Just a couple of short weeks ago it was my privilege to participate in a Canadian Regional Communities Yom Haatzmaut Israel at 60's Mission. I need to share with you what a wonderful experience that was – to be in Israel surrounded by good friends, helped by them when it was needed, but most of all – re-inspired by all that I saw. What a country! What magnificent achievements in only 60 years. After all, I remember when there was no State, when, if there had been a place where Jews could go, possibly the Shoah would have been avoided. A place, where if only so much energy and money did not have to be expended on military needs, even more would have been achieved. It was deeply moving to be in Israel for Yom Hazikaron (Remembrance Day) and Yom Haatzmaut (Independence Day). It brought a lump to my throat as I watched



our own Steven Goluboff help lower the Israeli flag to half-mast at the Day of Remembrance program – commemorating the men and women who gave their lives defending the State and Israel, and who continue to live with stress on a daily basis.

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A Response

by Heather Fenyes

By choosing to honor me tonight, you have given me the opportunity to share my passion in a hope that it will light yours. I have often been accused of wearing my Judaism on my forehead. I've been thinking about that since I learned about the generous recognition you've given me today. In fact, it's not completely accurate. It's not just my forehead that wears my faith so obviously. I wear it in my mouth – every time I make a conscious food choice. I wear it on my hands, when I turn the pages of a siddur, wrap myself in my talit, light my Shabbat candles, or bless my children. I wear it on my legs and feet as I sway in prayer, or as I barely manage to stand when Shira sings *le dor va dor*. I wear it in my eyes as I watch my children grow strong, passionate connected Jewish spirits. I wear

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Local BBYO Youth Lead North West Canada Region

Noah Fenyes - President; Zac Waldman - Secretary/Treasurer - See page 18



Jewish Pavilion FOLKFEST

AUGUST 14 Thursday 5:00pm - Midnight

AUGUST 15 Friday CLOSED

AUGUST 16 Saturday 8:00pm - Midnight

Returning after a year off, 2008 promises to be an exciting and informative two-day cultural event. The Saskatoon Klezmer Band will offer several sparkling new arrangements and they will be joined by the Tzahalah dance group. Cantor Neil will enliven the schedule with his amazing repertoire. Singers Susan and Carl Goerz from Hepburn and Susanne Kaplan will be participating and there will be a few surprises. With Ari Avivi back as M.C., with the Gift Shop in full array, and with the popular Display Room and Israel Room downstairs, the Jewish Pavilion offers much to the visitor. And of course there is our great food menu – sure to please.

The Ambassadors this year are Jan and Ron Gitlin. Our Youth Ambassadors are Mayah Holtslander and Zac Waldman. There is always a need for help at an event such as this so if you have some time come and join us. Give Joe Dawson a call at 931-6711 or 931-6629 and become a part of our efficient volunteer group.



Your CAI Community Survey was enclosed with this Bulletin.

Please return these anonymous surveys in the envelopes provided within one week.

This Page is Sponsored by Mickey and Lucille Narun of Toronto.

Deadline for the next Bulletin is August 10, 2008

Editorial



by
Steven Goluboff

SASKATOON AND ISRAEL

This is a rather remarkable Bulletin issue, and obviously dedicated to the close relationship our Jewish community and its members have with Israel and its people. As most of you would know by now, in the past few months, more of our congregation visited Israel than at any time in the past. About ten of our youth either participated in the March of the Living, Birthright, or travelled on other programs. As well, a large delegation (19), were the leaders of a UJA Mission – Israel at 60. For many of these travellers, this was their first visit to Israel with the unanimous sense that more will come sooner rather than later. There are many personal stories in this issue reflecting the impact that such a visit has had. We are particularly proud of our youth, who were true leaders on the March and have already given scores of talks to school children in Saskatoon since their return. None of us returned home feeling overly optimistic about peace prospects but did feel confident that Israel, in spite of its faults, is strong, vibrant and committed to a lasting peace. We were witnesses to the commitment that many Israelis have to ensure justice is delivered to all Israeli citizens including Arabs. Our UJA group made a contribution to Merchavim, a program supported by UJA dedicated to the improvement of opportunities for disadvantaged Jews and Arabs in Israel. Our gift was presented to Patsy (Buckwold) and Benny Landa, leaders of that worthy cause. We connected with every shlichim couple except Noa and Natan who are shlichim in Australia. They joined us for parties, personal visits and we were fortunate to have Lior and Karen Or host us at Palmachim air force base and for Yael and Yishay at their eco-Kibbutz on the northern border with Lebanon. On a personal note, the Goluboffs met new “cousins” in Israel, who through searching their past through genealogical channels and research, discovered us and became aware of our common great, great, great grandfather from Milawa Poland, born in 1804. These are all experiences and connections that will maintain and nurture our relationship with Israel for years to come.

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FROM OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

The Mission Statement of Congregation Agudas Israel

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



Petty Landa
and David Katzman

THANK YOU AND YASHER KOACH TO:

Petty Landa who has made a major contribution to the Saskatoon Jewish Foundation creating the Dr. Sam and Petty Landa Fund. Petty has moved to Toronto to be with family. She will be missed by our community after spending more than seven decades in Saskatoon.

THANK YOU TO:

The Family of the late Dr. Arthur and Julie Singer for a major gift to the Congregation Agudas Israel, sponsoring the new major gift board hanging in the Foyer of the Synagogue

MAZEL TOV AND CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Gladys Rose who celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on June 14th as part of a group of adult women members of Darchei Noam, the Reconstructionist Synagogue in Toronto.

Simonne Horowitz and Dwight Newman on their recent wedding on June 15th, 2008.

Rebecca Simpson and Jordana Jacobson, owners of Cravings Maternity and Baby Boutique who captured the Sabex awards for Service and New Business Ventures, edging out Arnie Shaw's Centennial Plumbing, Heating and Electrical in the service category.

Heather Fenyes who was the 2008 Recipient of the 9th Annual Gerry Rose Volunteer Award.

Connie Rossmeisl upon her graduation from the College of Education with a BEd.

Joel Bernbaum, son of Mel Bernbaum and formerly of Saskatoon, who will perform in the 2008 Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan Festival. (see article).

The Saskatoon Hebrew School Class born in 1948 who celebrate their 60th birthdays this year along with the State of Israel: **Cheryl Ames, Neil Brans, Ian Buckwold, Irene Blum, Bernie Conn, Barbara Davidner, Janice Buckwold, Larry Gelmon, Steven Goluboff, Risa Gropper, Patty Landa, Elaine Landa, Michael Pollock, Alan Rosenberg, Janice Schacter, Howard Staniloff, Sheldon Shore, Alan Torchinsky.**

Cal Shapiro, son of Danny Shapiro and Marie Lanoo, who was accepted into the College of Medicine at the University of Western Ontario in London

Miriam Katzman, daughter of David and Susan Katzman, who was accepted into the College of Medicine at McMaster University in Hamilton.

Shira Fenyes who was accepted into the College of Science at the University of Western Ontario.

Maxim Gertler-Jaffe who was accepted at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario.

Andrea Scharfstein who was accepted into the College of Arts and Science at the U. of S.

Kyle Katzman who was accepted into the College of Arts and Science at the U. of S.

Simonne Horowitz who was accepted into a tenure tract position as Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the University of Saskatchewan.

Jack Sandbrand on the birth of a grandchild, Rebecca Brooke, daughter to David and Diane Sandbrand of Calgary, on May 15th, 2008, and upon being presented in Vancouver with the 2007 International President's Elite Award by Coldwell Banker Canada, awarded to the top 2% of over 126,400 Sales Agents.

Bruce Cameron on the birth of a grand daughter, Madison Germann, born on June 11, daughter of Alice and Doug.

The Grade 12 Graduates of 2008: Shira Fenyes, Maxim Gertler-Jaffe, Andrea Scharfstein and Kyle Katzman

Noah Fenyes, son of Heather and Les Fenyes, who was elected President of the Board of the Northwest Canada Region of BBYO.

Zac Waldman, son of Shannon and Ron Waldman, who was elected Secretary of the Board of the Northwest Canada Region of BBYO. He is also responsible for the regional newsletter.

David and Susanne Kaplan on the Bat Mitvahs of their grandchildren, Hana and Sarena, daughters of Sarah Kaplan and Carlos Cortez.

Maxim Gertler-Jaffe and Joel Entwistle, who have won the Kaleidoscope Video Contest for their video “Love to Love You Landfills”. The contest awarded \$1000.00 to the best Saskatchewan video (produced by kids 12-18) that illustrates one of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Their video concerns issues of environmental sustainability and can be viewed at www.youtube.com. It now goes on to compete with the winners from other provinces and territories. Congratulations to Maxim also for winning a provincial Loran (Canadian Merit) Scholarship.

Yishay Lerman who received a scholarship from the United Israel Appeal of Canada to continue his studies in social work in Tzfat.

GET WELL WISHESTO:

Pauline Laimon

CONDOLENCES TO:

Gary Lefebvre and family on the death of his wife **Anita Lefebvre** of Melfort, Sask.



From the President's Keyboard

The View From Saskatoon

by David Katzman, President Congregation Agudas Israel

It is an honour and a pleasure to serve as your President. The position allows me to interact with outstanding persons and attend inspiring family events. Last month, Jim Scharfstein and I were invited to a meeting in Ottawa hosted by the Canadian Jewish Congress. We met with the leadership of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to discuss everyone's relationships with David Ahenakew. The federal and provincial governments were clear and unequivocal in their condemnation of the reappointment of Mr. Ahenakew to the FSIN Senate. Indeed, I received phone calls and letters from First Nations leaders and members that also expressed their shock and disappointment. The CJC and our congregation would be pleased to assist Mr. Ahenakew in whatever educational experiences he wishes to consider and choose. We would also be able to provide resources as he chooses what he wishes to do to demonstrate his sincere remorse. These discussions, however, occurred over one month ago and we have not had any communication since then.

I believe that we ought to consider property redevelopment of our community center and grounds. It is quite possible that we will decide that the current arrangement is the very best. However, we own a very large and aging building situated upon a significant amount of excellent real estate. Our membership income is not growing (yet) and we rely heavily on the income from the Silver Plate and Silver Spoon Dinners. Any decision to significantly alter our current arrangements will be one much discussed, analyzed and decided by the entire community.

I am hopeful that we will have a large and enjoyable Annual General Meeting. Please plan to attend the 7 p.m. meeting on Wednesday, September 24th. CAI has identified two major goals that will take several years to address. Firstly, we must grow our membership. As Saskatoon experiences unprecedented growth, it is likely that many Jewish families will move to our city. We must anticipate what they will need and want. Fortunately, Simonne Horwitz is the chair of this committee and I am sure she will do some great things. I urge any members who want to make a

difference to contact Simonne and offer your assistance.

From my very limited experience with the business sector (and more probably from watching too many movies) I picked up the phrase, "What would it take to make this deal happen?" What would it take for you and your family to attend services about once per month, assuming you attend less frequently right now? Heather Fenyes is our Synagogue and Ritual Chairperson and she would appreciate hearing from you.

Finally, I cannot recall our Board systematically collecting the perceptions of all our members on a variety of topics. We hope this will become an annual event. Please mail your anonymous replies to the Board by using the envelope provided with this Bulletin.

A huge Mazal Tov to Heather for her well-deserved selection as the B'nai Brith Volunteer Award winner. This was richly deserved for many years of service to our Hebrew School, to our Shlichim, to our children, and to our Ritual Committee. Our heartiest Mazel Tov also goes out to Simonne Horwitz and Dwight Newman on the occasion of their wedding.



Hazzan's Notes: Torah as "Signposts"?

by Hazzan Neil Schwartz (from his Installation Service)

In his commentary on P a r a s h a t B ' h a a l o t ' c h a (Numbers 8-12) this June, Rabbi Matt Berkowitz wrote the following for the Jewish Theological Seminary's D'var Torah:

"Learning and living words of Torah is yet another way that God guides us today.

Simply by opening our sacred scripture, we are blessed with a direct link to God.

We raise our consciousness and become more attuned to God's words and world.

They in turn become the signposts by which we may live and enrich our lives."

Does this approach work for us? How can we reconcile the concepts which Rabbi Berkowitz articulates above with what we have learned about how the Torah came to be written and the contents it presents?

On the one hand, the Torah is presented as a record of our ancestors' encounters with God during the formative years of the Jewish People. On the other hand, modern scholars tell us that there may not be very much in the Torah which can be considered factual history as we understand that

concept now.

As someone who has deep faith in God and much personal experience with God working in my own life, I am OK with this built-in contradiction. However, there are also some people who do not have a strong sense of God's presence in their lives. How can the Torah function as our "link with God" if it was written by humans?

My current approach is NOT to say "There was no Abraham or Moses, no Exodus or Mt. Sinai" as some archeologists and Bible scholars do, but rather to say "We have not YET found any external hard evidence of these people and events, and the Bible was not written to be a history book in the first place."

The Torah and the Hebrew Bible were written as a source of religious and social instruction, not factual history. The word

"Torah" is usually translated as "Law", but in fact it is better translated as "Teaching". The fact that our ancestors felt a sense that these teachings were commanded by God is that "link with God" which we seek.

The idea that God inspired the human authors of the Torah and Bible is part of how I consider these to be our "Sacred Scripture", even though they may not reflect "factual history" as such. Whether or not the Biblical events actually happened as written is secondary to the important lessons we can learn from them.

Rabbi Berkowitz refers to the Torah as a "way that God guides us today" and as "the signposts by which we may live and enrich our lives." The lessons which we derive from the Torah, regardless of its historicity or how it came to be written, are for me those "signposts" of which he is speaking.

Board of Trustees Nominations

Additional nominations to any office or as a member of the Board of Trustees may be made, in writing, by three members of the Congregation. Such nomination shall bear the signature of the person or persons nominated consenting to the nomination. The nomination shall be delivered to the chairperson of the Nominating Committee (Susanne Kaplan) at least twelve (12) days prior to the Annual General Meeting, September 24th, 2008. (from the CAI Constitution)

Israel at 60: A Unique Perspective

by Betty Ann and Wade Heggie

Between May 1st and May 11th, 2008 we joined 26 others on a Regional Communities Mission to Israel organized by the United Israel Appeal of Canada. Our group consisted of eight couples from Saskatoon, one from Vancouver, two from Kingston and one from Toronto, along with Gladys Rose our senior statesman and UIAF representative Perry Romberg. There were two other couples besides us who were not Jewish. We had an active schedule beginning in Tel Aviv, visiting the Gallilee, the Golan Heights and culminating in the "Israel at 60" celebrations in Jerusalem.

More than once we heard Tel Aviv described as "a bubble" and the description is apt with its sunshine, beaches and trendy restaurants. Patsy (nee Buckwold) and her husband Benny Landa generously hosted the entire group in their home for a 60th celebration party catered by Israel's top chef. The party alone was worth the trip. It was a wonderful introduction to the country and a great way to begin the mission which only improved from there. We had informative speakers (from the Haaretz daily newspaper and Palestinian Media Watch), were warmly hosted by former Saskatchewan Shlichim (at Palmachim IDF Air Force Base and Eco Kibbutz Tzivon) and were moved by one-on-one encounters (with Yitzhak Hanasi School Children in Kiryat Shmona and March of the Living Participants in Mini Israel). Throughout all of this the group bonded, sharing thoughts and feelings about Judaism, its religion, race and stories with one another. By the time we arrived in Jerusalem for the Memorial Day ceremonies and Yom HaAtzmaut celebrations we felt we really had participated in the Jewish experience of community.

Every day brought new educational opportunities. Some were very uplifting such as watching the fervor and commitment with which children of Russian immigrants sang the National Anthem. And their delight at seeing people from Canada, who they believe have been the savior of their school. Others were inspiring as we heard about the "Valley of the Tears" and then Israeli soldiers' heroic stand against Syria in the Yom Kippur War. It demonstrated their resilience, a key component in the national identity. And some were very disturbing, such as the description of the hateful ads the Palestinians are putting on their TVs' for young children to watch encouraging them to become suicide bombers in the future.

The siren to begin the Yom Hazikaron ceremony seemed to pierce your inner being. The empty chairs named for those who have been killed since last year's ceremony was a startling reminder of war, but the ceremony itself with a bereaved mother describing the loss of her son and how they were both called to act on the instructions of their "commander" was very powerful. We were inspired by the idea of having the Remembrance Day tied to the national day of celebration. It is more meaningful, a reminder that one is tied to the other. Liberation comes with sacrifice. And what a celebration it was with uninhibited dance participants from Chile, Brazil and Panama to name a few. The Saskatoon contingent weren't shy on the dance floor. We represented you well! We were captivated by Israel's warm embrace: how the country is culturally non-hierarchical, how passionate those are who have made Aliya and how the country is a mini planet with all its diversity. The constant threat of danger has left them almost desensitized. For us there were many reminders: armed guards traveling on our bus; the homes and schools we visited had shelters and the kid's picnic in the park included military equipment to play on and demonstrations of how dogs attack terrorists. Part of our tour included a stop at the Lebanese border (only in Israel would a war zone become a tourist attraction) and an opportunity to shoot Israeli Defense Force guns. We observed a shepherd herding his goats through a field clearly marked DANGER-MINE FIELD. This was in sharp juxtaposition to the emotion displayed by the Hasidic Jews as they rocked and prayed at the Western Wall and to the commitment displayed by the Jewish people who treasure their heritage, their culture and their homeland,



never taking any of it for granted.

We concluded our trip with some short heart-felt speeches over dinner. People talked about re-connecting with their Jewish identity, how proud their now-deceased parents would be to see them in Israel, ("They always asked why I never came") the realization that it is important to have a country for Jews (it must be defended, yet it is difficult to maintain), how unexpectedly moving it was to be there for the 60th anniversary, how much it meant to be there in the community. In the words of our Shabbat dinner speaker Avraham Infeld "Judaism is not a religion, it is a culture of the People" Two close friends acknowledged the common bond it provided as they prayed at the Western Wall while the other touched the stone at Calvary. For those of us on the mission, Jewish or not, it gave us an opportunity to experience the culture, to believe it in the mind, to feel it in the heart whether or not it is carried in the blood.

To all of you, thank-you for being open enough to include us "goys" in your mission.

Ed. Note: Betty Ann Heggie is a retired senior executive of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan and her husband Wade Heggie, a retired financial and insurance planner.

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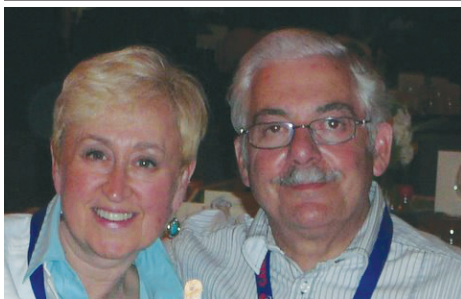
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Timing is everything they say. It has taken Ron and myself a lifetime to finally travel to Israel. Almost all of our adult life we have worked in some capacity to raise money for Israel. We volunteered for Hadassah, B'nai Brith, and the United Israel Appeal. So after all of these years why do we go now? Ron and I were planning to make the trip last year with Sherry and Elaine Sharfe. Due to the political climate at that

Timing is Everything

by Jan and Ron Gitlin

time, we decided maybe it just wasn't the right time to go for our first visit, so we cancelled and put the trip on hold. When the Saskatoon group headed by Steve Goluboff was talking Mission to Israel with friends and family, we decided that the time was right. It is amazing how things have a way of working out. It was exactly 10 years to the day that Josh was in Jerusalem with the March of the Living to celebrate the 50th anniversary. It just seemed right that we ten years later, made our aliya. We could not have picked a better group to travel with nor a better time to finally see Israel during this time of celebration. We obviously were for-

tunate to share all of this with Sherry and Elaine. They were the perfect tour guides and travel companions. The first time Ron and I visited the Western Wall, Ron was with Sherry and I was with Elaine. Both of us did not know how we were going to react. It was very moving and emotional. Such a personal moment to be shared with loved ones is truly amazing. It was truly magical! This was our first trip to Israel, we can hardly wait to go back again.

Editor's Note: Ron and Jan Gitlin are dedicated members of CAS.



To Paraphrase Jack Kennedy

by Ross and Linda Remmer

For many of us in the West the situation in the Middle East has been hard to understand, fogged in a mist of politics, religion, fanaticism and violence. Like many conflicts it has seemed difficult at times to determine right from wrong, justice from injustice. Jack Kennedy, during the height of the cold war, made his case for the democracies by saying, "Let them come to Berlin," to see how freedom can make a better world. In the 21st century, we can take that famous admonition and apply it to the Middle East: "Let them come to Israel."

Let them come to Israel to experience an open democracy where the past of a Prime Minister is not hidden by an autocracy, but is to be fairly presented for his peers to judge.

Let them come to Israel to meet a Canadian-born Israeli entrepreneur dedicated to helping the lot of the Arab minority living in his land.

Let them come to visit a school dedicated to lovingly help children of disadvantaged

backgrounds become educated and to visit a University where the learning disabled are accepted and respectfully aided to obtain degrees.

Let them come to a dry land that has become green and fruitful.

Let them come to visit Jerusalem where the hills are an amalgam of domes, minarets, and crosses and where the state allows three great religions to co-exist.

Let them come to the hospitals where all the people of Israel are treated freely no matter what ethnic origin.

Let them come to see this beautiful varied land of desert and forest, of sea shore and white capped mountains, this tiny country with such huge importance, this beacon of democracy in a region of despotism, this most amazing country that must endure.

Editor's Note: Ross Remmer is a Saskatoon Orthodontist and his wife Linda is a Life Coach and Counsellor

THE BULLETIN

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Return to Israel after 41 Years

by Richard and Georgina Goluboff

Thanks to Steven for inviting Georgina and I to join the Saskatoon group for one of our most memorable holidays.

I had not been to Israel for 41 years. In June of 1967, shortly after completing 1st year law school, I received a call from Chaim Kornfeld. He asked me if I had a passport and wanted to go to Israel. The Six-Day War had just broken out but I said "yes" to both questions. The next day I was in Montreal and the following day left for Israel on the first volunteer plane from Canada. The war ended shortly after my arrival in Israel and I was sent to Kibbutz Malkiya with John Hoffer (Dr. Hoffer's son) situated on the Lebanese border not far from Kiryat Shmona. I spent three wonderful months there doing all sorts of different jobs including picking fruit, helping in the communal dining room and assisting with irrigation in the fields. On May 4th, 2008 we drove past the entrance to Malkiya

at 8:00 pm. Many memories came back from those days travelling throughout the country including hitch hiking into the Gaza strip.

There are so many highlights of our recent trip – arriving in Tel Aviv with Georgina, walking along the seawall on the edge of the Mediterranean lined with modern hotels, with skyscrapers in the distance. We headed north to the Valley of Tears in the Golan (with our two armed guards), where we gained a better understanding of the historical connection between the land and the Jewish people. Our group visited an elementary school in Northern Israel for children from disadvantaged homes. They sang and danced for us and I remember the spark in their eyes when Perry got up to speak to them and they realized he actually spoke Hebrew. I will always remember our bus approaching Jerusalem on the modern highway system and the beautiful buildings constructed of Jerusalem stone and viewing the Old City in the distance. While visiting the Old City of Jerusalem, Ammunition Hill and Yad Vashem all the thoughts and emotions that go through your mind are really hard to describe. Two other special memories are walking up the Snake Path with my brother

at Massada and floating on the Dead Sea with my wife.

I will remember Yom Ha Zikaron when everyone in the entire country stops whatever he or she may be doing for 2 minutes of silence to reflect on the great price the Israelis have had to pay during Israel's 60 years of existence, and of course celebrating Independence Day (on my 63rd birthday!). I will reflect on the presentations we heard from Aluf Benn, an Israeli reporter and by Itamar Marcus of the Palestinian Media Watch.

Finally I must say that everyone in our group was terrific and so easy to get along with, and a special thanks to our guide Adrienne and to Perry Romberg for being so informative on the history of Israel and the Jewish culture. What truly made this holiday special is that in some very small way I feel part of the miracle that is Israel at 60 years.

Editor's Note: Richard Goluboff is West Vancouver lawyer and grew up in Saskatoon. He and his wife Georgina participated in the Israel at 60 Mission.

Israel - 60 Years Young and Strong

by Perry Romberg, UIA Federations Canada

On May 1st a group of 28 participants set out on a UIA Mission to Israel to say Happy Anniversary and Happy Birthday to our beloved Medinat Yisrael, the State of Israel. The mission participants came from Kingston, Toronto, Peterborough, 19 Saskatooners or ex-Saskatooners! The mission was in fact a journey both on a personal and group level.

We saw the beauty of the land - in the north standing on the Golan Heights and on the border with Lebanese land at kibbutz Misgav Am, and in the south standing on top of Massada taking in the breathtaking view of the Dead Sea, the Arava and the Negev. In Yerushalayim on Yom HaZikaron we bowed our heads in silence to give honour to the memory of those who fell in defense of the State and Am Yisrael. We shed tears and

shared pain as we experienced Yad Vashem together. As is so typical and special about Israelis, we switched into happy/exhilaration mode within the next 24 hours as we greeted Yom HaAtzmaut 60 - the anniversary of the declaration of the

independent Jewish State of Israel. We sang and danced the hora to the wee hours of the night in Tel Aviv, hand in hand with Jews from Israel, the USA, South America, Europe,

Australia, South Africa at the fabulous Yom HaAtzmaut party hosted by our Israeli sister organization Keren HaYesod. This party was a true gathering of Diaspora Jewry coming together from all parts of the globe to say Mazal Tov to Israel and her citizens.

We received a front row seat to see the

Blackhawk helicopter thanks to former shlichim Lior and Karen-Or. We visited an environmentally "green" kibbutz Tzivon, the home of your shlichim Yael and Yishay Lerman. We

walked along the beach in Tel Aviv to the beat and tunes of open air Israeli folk dancing. A day later we were walking (and shopping our way) through the ancient market of the city of kabbalah and Jewish mysticism, Tzfat. Israel is truly a country of so many different and quickly changing shades and colours.

Since it was a journey, a time of both touring and personal exploration in the heart of the Jewish world, we bonded very quickly and became a tight-knit group. Exploring what Israel meant to each of us, to use the words of one of our group, "transformed" this trip into a most memorable journey that

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Perry – Leading Havdallah

Memories from Israel

by Elaine Sharfe

Yom Hazikaron. We're sitting in the courtyard of the Heichal Hagvourah museum where Jewish zealots were incarcerated during the British Mandate. It's one minute to eight, and we're waiting nervously for the siren that will launch the next 24 hours of mourning. Eight on the milli second. It begins--a wail that seems to be sucking the air from the space we're in -- loud, persistent, unrelenting. I want to cover my ears but that would be disrespectful. Head down, shoulders slumped, I'm paralyzed. Then, when I can't hold my breath any longer, the sound fades, slowly, like the last gasping breath of a dying soldier. I lift my head and look around. Everyone has been hit.

Twenty-four hours later:

We're at Mini Israel, just outside Jerusalem, looking for Shira and Noah. They are with 1500 young people from Canada and Australia. Together, we'll close the night of Yom Hazikaron, and begin to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut. I can barely contain my excitement. We talked about this rendezvous for weeks before leaving Saskatoon.

Our bus is early so we can meet the others as they arrive. I'm rather manic, running to each one, expecting a familiar face to walk out a bus door. A man from Winnipeg tells me that Shira and Noah are inside the park, rehearsing with the choir.

I am running to the entrance of the park when I hear a voice:

"Gramma" It's Noah. I scream, then run for a hug. He and Shira are surrounded. I

push in.

"These are our grandchildren," -just in case someone doesn't know..

Hugs, kisses, pictures for Shira, Noah, and the others, Zac, burly sweet Zac, Andrea, Maya and Simonne.

Then the children are gone, back inside to prepare for the program.

Inside the gate, the air is exploding with hormones. Noah is surrounded by young women; Shira is on the stage with a mixed

group of young men, women, and adult survivors from the March.

The program begins. Shira stands in the front, Noah in the back row. Sherry and the others sit on chairs, while I

bounce from one place to another trying to find the optimal camera corner. The music begins and I hear a solo. It's Shira, and suddenly I can't handle the weight of my camera nor can I still the shaking of my hands. Her voice, the one we call "angelic" is taking my breath away and I rush back to sit by Sherry. We hold hands. I think: "I'd do v'dor,"--how lucky we are!

It's the morning of Yom Ha'atzmaut. Most of our group have gone to Masssada. Sherry, Gladys and I are at the Convention Center in Jerusalem where President Peres and Prime Minister Olmert will speak to the Canadian contingent. There are over one thousand people in the room, and each table has three soldiers, young men who are officers in training. We talk.



Me: "The war in Lebanon two summers ago didn't go well for Israel, did it?"

Soldier: "No, but we learn from our mistakes. We're ready for the next time."

Me: "Next time?"

Soldier: "Yes. It should be soon. At least we hope so."

I look closely at this young man, his face free of whiskers, unlined, and innocent. I think of the siren. Will he be one of the "remembered" in years to come?

Some things change in Israel, and some things stay the same. The hotel we stay at when we visit our children looks the same, but we are paying two and a half times more to stay here.

The beautiful silver kiddush cups that I try to buy each time I'm here still line the windows of the Judaica shops, but there's nothing to buy under five hundred dollars.

Most of the cab drivers are honest, but there are still a few who prefer to keep the meter closed so they can charge double.

I love this country!

Editor's Note: Elaine and Sherry Sharfe are both former Presidents of CAI.

*Rather suffer an injustice
than commit one.*

- Yiddish proverb



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Prime Minister Harper's Speech on Israel's 60th Anniversary

Thank you for your warm welcome... I am truly honoured to be part of tonight's celebration marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel.

All of my life, Israel has been a symbol – a symbol of the triumph of hope and faith. After 1945, our battered world desperately needed to be lifted out of the post-war darkness and despair. After so much pain and suffering, humanity needed comfort and optimism. After so much death and destruction, we needed renewal – the renewal of the dream of a better and more civilized world. In short, we needed to be inspired. It was the people who had suffered who most provided that inspiration. By their example, they led the world back to the light. From shattered Europe and other countries near and far, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob made their way home. Their pilgrimage was the culmination of a 2,000 year old dream; it is a tribute to the unquenchable human aspiration for freedom, and a testament to the indomitable spirit of the Jewish people.



In the 60 years that followed, Israel blossomed into one of the most successful countries on earth; a land of ingenuity and enterprise, an oasis of agricultural genius, a wellspring of fine art and high culture, a model of democracy. Israel truly is the "miracle in the desert."

But the source of Israel's strength and success, in my view, is its commitment to the universal values of all civilized peoples: Freedom, democracy, human rights and rule of law.

Soon I hope to have the opportunity to travel to Israel to see the "miracle" with my own eyes; to see how millions of people from all over the earth, with their countless different languages and traditions, came together to build a modern, prosperous, vibrant, democratic country. It is a pilgrimage I have wanted to make for a long time, but my determination to do so was redoubled this spring after I visited Auschwitz. I want to see first-hand what the survivors of the Holocaust and their descendants have accomplished, for theirs is truly an achievement of resilience and renewal unsurpassed in human history. I also want to go to deliver in person the message of Canada's unshakable support of Israel.

Unfortunately, Israel at 60 remains a country under threat – threatened by those groups and regimes who deny to this day its right to exist. And why? Make no mistake, look beyond the thinly veiled rationalizations: Because they hate Israel, just as they hate the Jewish people. Our government believes that those who threaten Israel also threaten Canada, because as the last world war showed, hate-fuelled bigotry against some is ultimately a threat to us all and must be resisted wherever it may lurk.

In this ongoing battle, Canada stands side-by-side with the State of Israel, our friend and ally in the democratic family of nations. We have stood with Israel even when it has not been popular to do so and we will continue to stand with Israel, just as I have always said we would.

I know that we all hope and pray that someday freedom, democracy, human rights and rule of law will be reality for all the peoples of the Middle East.

Enshrining those values is the best way to assure lasting peace for Israelis and Palestinians alike. The foundations for a peaceful future are there. At the individual level, throughout the holy land, people of all faiths only want what all of us want: A safe place to live, a fair opportunity to get ahead, a good life for their children, a future for their grandchildren. So as we gather tonight to celebrate the first 60 years of the State of Israel, let us resolve as Canadians to do whatever we can to support Israelis and their neighbours in their quest for a better future.

There will be many challenges along the way, but considering how far Israel has come in such a short time, in the face of such seemingly insurmountable odds, I can foresee no dark force, no matter how strong, that could succeed in dimming the light of freedom and democracy that shines from within Israel.

Poem in August

by Elizabeth Brewster

A chill August day
sullen weather
scudding clouds
the trees waving their arms wildly.
one early falling leaf.

after a night of flaring lighting
and the drum roll of thunder.

Was it a day like this
84 years ago
when I was born?
(My mother stayed awake all the thunderous
night until the heat wave broke with morning.)

When I was seven
(feeling as old as I would ever feel)
I tried to imagine my way
back to that time,
wondered how the world could have existed
before I was in it.

Now I might wonder how my little world
will go on without me
not noticing my absence

as whole generations who upheld their worlds
have vanished into shadow.

I have climbed near the top
of my mountain of years,
knees giving out,
eyes dimming
as I look back over the winding trail.

A good enough life, a good enough journey,
in spite of false turns,
dark valleys,
early encounters with Giant Despair.

I was young in a dark and violent time,
and am likely to die in one as dark and violent

but some inward hopefulness
makes me imagine a green land
on the other side of the mountain of time
maybe for another generation.

Sometimes I repeat that prayer
thanking God for planting in us
the seed of eternal life.

Is "eternal life"
living forever?
Or is it something
less or more miraculous,
easier to come by,
like the calm when the wind has died down
and the special light of August
illuminates the heart?

When Moses stood on Mount Nebo
for his view of the Promised Land
(so difficult to attain, more difficult to keep)
did he also look back
over the tracts of the desert
its bleak strength
its rare oases –
fountains and flowers,
bushes like flames
and feel himself blessed
by the journey itself
whatever its conclusion or non-conclusion?

Editor's Note: Elizabeth Brewster is a senior member of CAI.

Together Celebrating Israel's 60 Years

The 60th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel is a moving moment for Israeli citizens and for the Jewish people around the world. Together we look with pride and satisfaction, as well as reflect upon the amazing achievement of the establishment of a sovereign and independent national home for the Jewish people in the State of Israel.

Together we can rejoice in the miraculous accomplishments of Israel, a country which has become the center of the Jewish people, and laud the achievements that such a small country has made in all walks of life: in the sciences, medicine and hi-tech industries; in its advanced economy; in its thriving Hebrew language and Jewish culture; in the growth of the country with hundreds of cities and communities; in aliyah; and in research institutions, colleges and universities - all through the unique creativity and human capital that thrive in Israel.

Many of these achievements are the result of the power of our partnership over the past 60 years. Jewish communities around the world steadfastly stood by Israel with solid determination as the nascent country

charted its course and pursued its dreams. This has been the case in times of peace, and even more so in times of crisis and war. Our unbroken bond with you, our brethren, is a central component of Israel's strength

and the basis of the mutual responsibility between Israel and each one of you in the Diaspora.

The Jewish Agency,

the largest global Jewish partnership, marks its 80th anniversary next year. Since its inception, it has served as a bridge, and strengthened the bond between Jewish communities around the world and Israel.

Today, this bond is as critical as it was when the State was founded 60 years ago. We still face so many difficult challenges in an era of assimilation and distancing from Jewish roots. An era in which anti-Semitism still exists in many parts of the world. An era in which the State of Israel is still trying to achieve peace with its neighbors and ensure personal security for all its citizens. An era in which the challenge of absorbing aliyah,

deepening Jewish, democratic and egalitarian values in Israeli society and reducing the social gaps between Israel's center and its peripheral areas must take top priority.

In recognition of the importance of this bond and the enormous contribution the Jewish Agency has made over the years, the State of Israel has chosen to honor the Jewish Agency this year with the Israel Prize, the country's most prestigious award. This award is your award; we receive it in your name, as an expression of Israel's gratitude for the impact your vital support of the Jewish Agency and its activities made, and continue to make, throughout the Jewish world and in Israel.

I am certain that in the coming years we will continue, hand in hand, to strengthen Israel through aliyah, meet Israel's social challenges and connect the Jewish world's next generation. Our larger-than-life impact will resonate for years to come throughout the Jewish world.

Chag Sameach, Am Yisrael Chai!

Sincerely,
Zeev Bielski
Chairman of the Executive
Jewish Agency and
World Zionist Organization



The Institute for the Advancement of Shared Citizenship in Israel

by Founder and Director: Mike Prashker

Founded in 1998, MERCHAVIM - the Institute for the Advancement of Shared Citizenship in Israel, educates Israeli children of all backgrounds to live together better by learning about each other, valuing diversity, developing a shared civic awareness and cooperating to make their classrooms and communities, fairer and more cohesive.

A growing range of programs provide creative, age-appropriate activities from kindergarten to 12th grade, built around five

core concepts: identity, access, fairness, limits of agreement and active shared citizenship. Programs, developed and disseminated in partnership with Israel's Ministry of Education, are already taught, supported and evaluated in around 290 Jewish-secular, religious and Arab-Israeli schools, by over 350 teachers, reaching many thousands of students.

Our strategic educational growth plan is to provide effective and sustainable shared citizenship programming

in 15% of Israeli kindergartens and schools by 2010, a stepping stone to integration across the entire school system.

Now established in the education system, MERCHAVIM will also promote the shared citizenship concept among educational opinion-leaders in Israel and the Jewish world as an essential win-win approach - through a strategic and sustained educational outreach effort - currently in the planning stage.

Key Achievements: Uniquely, our approach has been developed by and for Israelis of all backgrounds, in full cooperation with Israel's Ministry of Education and prestigious funding partners. We have developed an innovative and respected conceptual and pedagogic



Dr. Steven Goluboff presenting a check to Patsy and Benny Landa, major supporters of the Merchavim Program.

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Hadassah-WIZO News

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO is a volunteer women's Zionist organization that provides material and moral support to enhance the lives of women, children and youth in Israel through its health care, education and social services projects. It fosters and strengthens Jewish ideals and highlights the role of Israel in today's world.



by Linda Shaw

CONVENTION UPDATE #7 – “6 MONTHS & COUNTING”

THE TOP 10 REASONS TO ATTEND CONVENTION 2008

1. Celebrate 90 years of history and shape the future of CHW—stand in line to bid our past executive ‘Farewell’ and ‘Welcome’ our new National President and her executive.
2. Save on long distance charges and reconnect with friends from across the country.
3. Experience “Sunshine in November” and if you are lucky—“a CHINOOK”!
4. Come away feeling sensational about the work we do!!

5. Give voice to your city—sing your praises at our CHW LIVE KARAOKE
6. Our kosher buffalo burgers are the best in the world—Have lunch with friends from afar—Yes, they are coming too!
7. A chance to enhance your wardrobe with it authentic cowboy boots—Shop till you drop! You may even meet a real Jewish Cowboy!!
8. It's the perfect chance to show off those new jammies at Mahjongg Madness

and Much, Much More! Convention will be filled with FUN!!

9. Calgarians are so friendly you'll probably want to cash in your ticket home and stay a little longer—Visit those Majestic Rockies!

10. Regenerate yourself—we are, after all, the “Energy Capital of Canada”
“IGNITE YOUR POWER”



Silver Spoon Dinner

by Linda Shaw

950 Saskatoon women were treated to another exceptional Silver Spoon Dinner on Monday, May 12 at TCU Place. Our formula of featuring a popular celebrity speaker, an elegant venue, amazing prizes and Silent Auction, and all-inclusive fine-dining experience, continues to guarantee success and great fun. (The free-flowing liquor helps too.) We continue to turn this success into generous support for our four charities: Congregation Agudus Israel, Saskatoon Hadassah-WIZO, Interval House and The Crisis Nursery.

This year's guest speaker was the acclaimed actress/ model, Andie MacDowell. As it turned out, Ms. MacDowell launched her speaking career at our event. She was gorgeous, candid and refreshingly entertaining. I liked that she was a bit nervous at the beginning of her presentation. It enhanced her genuineness. Andie shared her professional and family stories and spoke of the natural beauty of every woman at every age - an uplifting message for us all.

C95's Shauna Foster, another

continued on page 22

A look at another successful Silver Spoon Dinner



M.C. Shauna Foster



Chairs with Andie



Air Canada Jazz's Linda Houghton presents Julia Buekert with prize



Chantel Huber presents Sterling Award to Betty Secord



Andie MacDowell



Val Schmidt - Interval House



Heather Fenyes



Co-Chair Linda Shaw Janet Erikson



Leona presenting to Crisis Nursery's Lisa Welter-Mills



Volunteers with Andie



Making the 50-50 Draw

This Page is Sponsored by Saskatoon Hadassah WIZO

Judaism, Islam and Justice

by Daniel J. Kuhlen - On behalf of FRAP

The Fellowship for Reconciliation and Peace (FRAP), is a collective of Jews, Muslims and our allies and supporters who work to help bring about reconciliation and peace locally and, by extension, to our sisters and brothers in the Middle East. On March 30, 2008, with the sponsorship of the members and Board of the Congregation Agudas Israel, the *Building the Possible* event was held at the Synagogue. Approximately 95 people—members of Agudas Israel and Muslims from the Saskatoon Islamic Association—gathered together in the spirit of friendship for an evening of food, conversation and entertainment. It was a wonderful evening! And I had both the honour and privilege of addressing the gathering. One of the themes I raised was that the concept of *justice* was a concept mutually shared and valued by both Muslims and Jews.

Over the past six years FRAP members have examined closely the spiritual traditions and ideals that have brought us together and justice enjoys a place of prominence. Justice is both an ideal and a driving force for change. It has endured over 5000 years of human history and today it remains the most ardently sought after prize of the human family; everyone desires justice. Without justice, whether at the level of the individual, family, neighbourhood, society or global community, few lasting accomplishments are possible. Without justice, a meaningful life is difficult to live and meaningful reconciliation and peace remains illusory.

Whether within or between our respective communities, striving for and attaining reconciliation, peace and justice is a moral imperative fundamental to all the children of Abraham (PBUH), Sarah and Hagar. These principles are firmly anchored

in, and flow abundantly from, the spiritual and prophetic wellsprings underpinning both Judaism and Islam.

The Holy Qu'ran tells us:

"God loves the just." S. 5:42

and

"O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor: For God can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest ye distort (justice) or decline to do justice, verily God is well-acquainted with all that ye do." S. 4, 135

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) advised his companions:

"Shall I tell you of an act better than fasting, giving charity or saying prayers [three of the five religious obligations to

Over the past six years FRAP members have examined closely the spiritual traditions and ideals that have brought us together and justice enjoys a place of prominence

God for observant Muslims]? Making peace between one another; enmity and malice tear up heavenly rewards by their roots."

The same sentiments, historically pre-dating Islam, are repeatedly expressed in the Holy Torah where we are told:

"Justice, justice shall you pursue." Deut. C. 16:20

and

"Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace and pursue it." Psalms C. 34:14

and

"Love you therefore the stranger: for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." Deut. C. 11:19

It is possible for Jews and Muslims in Saskatoon to be allies in building reconciliation and peace. And by working together to promote reconciliation, peace and justice, in Saskatoon and in the Middle East, we serve our mutual interests and honour our respective spiritual traditions.

There is a legend that comes to us from our brothers and sisters in the First Nations that speaks to our ability to make a choice to work for peace. One evening, an elder was speaking to his grandson about a struggle that he would face—that we all face—throughout life. He said, "within all of us the battle is between two wolves. One

wolf is evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, and compassion."

The grandson asked, "Which wolf will win?"

The elder replied, "The one you choose to feed."

We have a choice. We can feed the Good Wolf and it will show up in our character, habits and behavior, and in turn the world will be affected in a positive way. Or we can feed the Evil Wolf and it will eat away at us and poison our impact on the world.

The crucial question is "Which one are we feeding today?"

While we cannot change past injustices we can work to resolve them. We can choose to help build a future where justice is not merely a beautiful philosophical ideal but, rather, a practical, substantive and indispensable tool helping to shape a sustainable reality and a new future; one freed from a past too often characterized by lamentation, heartbreak, bloodshed and broken dreams.

Our mutual desire for justice, informed by our respective spiritual traditions, allows us to strive for and achieve reconciliation and peace. In the most profound existential sense of the term our individual and collective struggles for justice, carried out to the best of our abilities as mandated by both Judaism and Islam, reflect a radical struggle for our true selves. Ultimately, these struggles speak to the values that define us as a human family.

Wishing you much peace.

Editor's Note: Daniel Kuhlen is a Saskatoon lawyer and member of the Muslim community.

*Circumstances are
beyond the control of
man; but his conduct is
in his own power.*

*- Benjamin Disraeli, English statesman
and novelist (1804-81)*



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A Tribute to Neil Chotem

by Gladys Rose

There was a time, many decades ago, when every little girl took piano lessons. I was no exception and even though the teacher was an excellent pianist, I was not.

My piano teacher was Neil Chotem and he was only 14 when I studied with him. In the depths of the Great Depression, in the Dirty Thirties, the lessons were 25 cents each, then a large sum to come up with every week.

Neil grew up in a Jewish family in Saskatoon, the child of Isaac and Timarosa. They lived on the West side of the city, then the hub of Jewish life. His mother who played mandolin, passed on her love of music. His father, a butcher, reportedly bought one of the first cars in Saskatoon and may have been the first in the city to own a radio.

Neil showed great musical promise at an early age. His first teachers were at the Palmer

School of Music and later, Lyell Gustin. I remember Mr. Gustin approached the local B'nai

Brith and asked for financial help. He wanted Neil to hear "real" pianists. So the B'nai Brith sent Neil with his teacher to New York to hear the great Artur Rubinstein perform. Neil listened enraptured sitting on the

edge of his chair and at the end of the concert turned to Mr. Gustin and said, "He plays just like me!"

To show his appreciation to the Jewish community, Neil became the star performer at every event that took place in Saskatoon's Jewish life. Banquets, meetings, Talmud Torah concerts – he was there. I too attended many of those events.

The Chotem family moved to Winnipeg when

Neil was fifteen years old and Neil began a full-time pursuit of music. He gave radio recitals for a predecessor of the CBC, gave concert tours and performed as a soloist with symphony orchestras across the country. After serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force, he married and settled in Montreal, then Canada's entertainment capital. His long life was filled with musical achievements including a keen ability as an arranger and as a song writer. He never stopped encouraging younger musicians. He even returned to Saskatoon many years ago to perform in concert – a successful fund-raiser for the Jewish community.

Neil Chotem was born in Saskatoon on September 9, 1920 and died on February 21, 2008 from multiple age related ailments. He is survived by his second wife, a sister, Rebecca Rabinovitch, three children, six grandchildren and those, like me, who remember him with affection.



“The Counterfeiters” Dir. Stefan Ruzowitzky

Review by Maxim Gertler-Jaffe

4 out of 4

I've had the privilege of seeing many of the Academy Awards' Best Foreign Picture Nominees from the last few years, and I've noticed a trend: they all fit easily in my list of the top ten films I see each year. The Counterfeiters is no different, and it's even based on a true story, that of the largest counterfeiting operation in history.

The main focus of the film is of the character progression of Solomon "Sally" Sorowitz, a man with considerable wits and counterfeiting skill who is primarily concerned with himself. When Sally's counterfeiting operation is discovered, he is sent to the Nazi concentration camps. He is quickly recruited by Officer Herzog (the same man who busted his earlier operation) to lead a group that will provide the Nazis with as much of any kind of currency they want. This position leads to a moral crisis for Sally. He's a man used to looking out for him and him alone, and he knows that as long as he continues producing good work

he will survive the war. At the same time, his actions are directly fuelling the Nazi war machine.

Sally's struggle of conscience runs the story, so it's a good thing that he is played by such a good actor (Karl Markovics). In fact, all of the actors in this film are very believable, which is important and impressive since they are playing characters in such high-emotion situations. Like many holocaust movies, this is a very grey and claustrophobic movie, but it differs in that it does not immediately distinguish a clear moral line. The film illustrates part of this convoluted moral ground by giving Sally an interesting foil in Herzog. Both men are primarily concerned with self-survival and opportunity, and so the film's most interesting points are the interactions between the two men. By the end, the film does choose a clear moral side, and this is most clearly shown through how the two men ultimately distinguish themselves from each other.

Comfortable next to "Catch Me If You Can" or last year's Best Foreign Picture winner "The Lives of Others," it is easy to see why "The Counterfeiters" was this year's top Foreign pick by the academy. It's recently been released on DVD, so be sure to rent it if you get the chance.

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Marriage in the Jewish World: A New Reality

By Rabbi Emeritus Roger Pavey

(from a Sermon at the Aufruf of Simonne Horowitz and Dwight Newman)

It is a long standing Jewish tradition for a couple about to be married to come to the Synagogue on the preceding Shabbat and take part in the Service, particularly to be called to the reading of the Torah for an aliyah. They are declaring to the community their commitment to each other and asking for God's blessing on their forthcoming marriage; they are associating their future life together with Judaism, proclaiming that they will create a Jewish home filled with Jewish observance, dedicated to Jewish religious values. It is a practice that all Jewish couples, of whatever denomination associate themselves with.

Increasingly in modern times, Jews tend to marry non-Jewish partners, and in North America it could be more than 50% who do so. Much of Jewish leadership, Rabbinic and lay, sees this as a threat to Jewish survival and urge Jews to avoid even dating non-Jews because they fear marriage between Jews and non-Jews. Although increasing numbers of non-Orthodox Rabbis, Reform, Reconstructionist, even some Conservative, are beginning to question this assumption, it is still regarded as almost axiomatic that Jews who marry non-Jewish partners are weakening Jewish identity and threatening the ultimate survival of Jews and Judaism.

We are celebrating today the marriage of Dwight and Simonne that will take place tomorrow, so it is right that we confront this issue head on.

Marriage in general is under great and increasing stress in our day: qal va homer (all the more so) marriage that brings together partners who are different, who cross lines that threaten identity. Of course the normal problems of any marriage are probably increased when partners do not share what society tends to see as common identity. Marriage between partners who come from different backgrounds of ethnicity, religion and culture raise misgivings, and it is clear to see the reasons for that.

However, we have to be very clear what we are talking about. We live in a world in which boundaries formerly seen as normal are being seen as no longer relevant. Thank God, few of us now would with a clear conscience condemn marriages between black and white, even, let us hope, gay and lesbian marriages. We live in an open society in which people from widely different origins come together with increased tolerance and find the boundaries of the past irrelevant and cruel.

We have assumed that Jews who marry non-Jews have deserted Judaism and no longer care about their Jewish identity and heritage. In many cases that is true: many Jews are apathetic about Judaism. But, it is not necessarily true. Many Jews who are totally committed to their Jewishness still find that they fall in love with non-Jews. Of course, you could say the same from the other side: good Christian boys fall in love with Jewish girls! Why then, do the non-Jews not convert? Sometimes they do: often they don't; and when they don't, they often support their Jewish spouses in their Jewishness and have their children raised as Jews.

When both partners retain their identity it is still not a disaster, unless we, in our intolerance and lack of understanding and

acceptance, make it so. As it is going to happen, why not try to make it work?

Surely, Jews treasure the liberal democracy of our society that grants us freedom and acceptance and honours our difference from the majority. By the same token we must sincerely accept and honour the collection of minorities in our society that, together, make up that non-Jewish majority. It is for us to support people who marry and sincerely try to maintain the identity from which they come as they work together to create a new identity that encompasses both and enriches both.

In marriage we share many values and ideals and without that sharing we could not even understand each other and the marriage would be doomed. Today in our society Jews and Christians and Muslims share many values and ideals precisely because we have together contributed to the making of that society. We are all trying to be tolerant and knowledgeable citizens of a liberal democracy that is a work in progress, trying to overcome the ignorance-based bigotry of the past. At the same time, we know that we do not want to marry our mirror image: difference is an essential ingredient in a relationship. Life is filled with challenges; and it the working together to meet those challenges that deepens our humanness and our partnership.

Religion honours above all else the human capacity to love. Without love we know that we cannot survive, as a species obviously, but even more so as individuals. Without love we shrivel and ultimately we die. It is love that gives us the courage to hope, the inspiration to dream. And love is not constrained by the boundaries of religion and race and ethnicity. Partners who determine to create a marriage based on difference, to make things work, to look for what they share already and beyond that to what they will create together, will enrich their own relationship, and can be a blessing to all humankind. Our world needs a vision of a unity that transcends difference and that is prepared to take risk. The serious commitment, the whole-hearted giving, that is based on love, is what we are celebrating today. Let none of us today think in terms of Jewish loss or Christian loss but look forward to partnership together and try to compromise while retaining integrity. Let us all rejoice with them in that love and pray that they will enjoy a life together of ever

continued on page 20

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Joel Bernbaum

Shakespeare, Baba and Me

by Joel Bernbaum

My very first memories of going to the theatre are from twenty years ago here in Saskatoon. My Baba Frances would hold my hand as we walked from her downtown apartment to the riverbank. The red and yellow striped tents seemed huge to my boyhood eyes. I was more concerned with the chance of getting treated to an ice cream than any tragedy or comedy- but Baba gave me one of her beautiful smiles, gently ushered me into my seat, and explained an easy to understand version of the plot. The treat would come - but only after Act One.

The spell binding sets, charismatic costumes and raw energy of the actors had me paying attention. I am sure Baba was surprised that I was so focused. Or perhaps she knew- at that early age, the theatre was where I was headed. When an actor would brandish a broadsword or make a magnificent entrance from the audience aisle- I would look up at her with excitement. She would look down at me with another one of her warm smiles. She knew her ticket money was well spent- my mind was off of Hagen Daas and into Iambic Pentameter.

I am thankful to be back in Saskatoon this summer to be a part of the very festival that I attended as a boy. I am one of *Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan's* apprentice actors. I am excited to be involved in both productions- stepping onto the stage with some of the same actors who I

remember from those early years.

My Baba Frances is still smiling away- but in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She will not be able to attend the performances- but I know that I will be in her thoughts- as she will be in mine- when I step out on opening night. I would like to dedicate my work this summer to my Baba. When the festival is finished, I will travel to Winnipeg to show her pictures- and maybe even buy her an ice cream.

This year the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan Festival presents The Tempest and Henry IV, Part 1. The performances run from July 2nd -August 10th in the new tent by the Mendel Art Gallery. For more details or to purchase tickets, please call 652-9100 or go to www.shakespeareonthesaskatchewan.com

Cemetery Report

by Ralph Katzman, Chairman, Cemetery Committee

We have made history as of June 11, when the first Jewish person was buried in the special section which will allow non-Jewish spouses to be buried with their Jewish partners. The new area is in the Southeast section of the Hebrew Cemetery. Watch for upcoming changes in this area, as approved by the Board of Congregation Agudas Israel.

We built dikes around the East and West perimeters with the result that the flooding problems of last year have not been nearly as severe, even with all the mid-June rains.

I remain a member of the Board of the Western Canada Cemetery Association. At a recent meeting I learned that fully 57% of people who die in Saskatchewan are now cremated, predominantly in the larger cities. Last year at the annual North American Chevra Kadisha Conference we learned that some Jewish communities in Israel, England and North America now allow cremation. Will this happen in Saskatchewan? An interesting talking point for our Board perhaps.

We have three benches on the grounds which are fully moveable and can be located wherever needed for functions. We would appreciate a donation for a couple of additional benches. Anyone interested in making a donation for this purpose can call me at 931-2468 or leave a message at the JCC

with Myla. The donation will result in an income tax receipt.

It is my hope that we will be fully caught up with spring and summer work by mid-July which will allow us to continue with improvements. It appears the plants used on most graves have suffered considerable winter kill this past year and will need to be replaced. But hopefully some real summer weather will have some healing effect.

The cost of fuel is a major expense of the Cemetery committee and may result in an adjustment to cemetery charges in the next year.

With regard to expenses, I would like to clarify that the Cemetery committee has one person who is paid as grounds keeper. His

name is Leon and he is normally at the cemetery Tuesday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please feel free to say hello to him if you are visiting the cemetery. However, he takes his direction from the cemetery committee, not from individual members. As well, he is assisted by Urban Camp volunteers.

Please remember, WHEN LOCKING THE GATES to pull the lock to ensure that it is properly locked. Otherwise you are leaving the cemetery open to anyone who may be passing by. Both the East and West gates have the same combination.

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From Our Tel Aviv Desk

by Keren-Or and Lior

We would like to begin with a few words regarding these last couple of months which were blessed with visits from members of the congregation. It was very exciting to meet the kids from the March-of-the-Living program, youth on Birthright, the members of the UJA mission, and of course the long-term programmers... We had a chance of reuniting with most of the former-“arevim”/“shlichim” with your visits and to witness once again the amazing family that we have all become - Israelis and Saskatonians. It warms our hearts to be a part of this special family, and due to the fact that most Israelis (and probably Canadian Jews) are unaware of such relations, we see it as our mission to keep this legacy alive and spread the word as far as we can. Please keep up the visits, we need to see you here, Israelis need to see you here.

And now for something completely different...

Summer in this part of the world (i.e. the Middle East) is always a time for greater speculation than the rest of the year: will the heat break records, how low will the Kinneret's water level drop, will there be another war, will we sign another peace

agreement... Somehow these are our constant summer issues, probably somewhat similar to your winter issues, I guess - excluding the war part, of course. So, what does this summer have to offer us? By the way, don't be surprised if half of the issues written below will become part of the distant political past by the time this article is published.

The two main issues - that even an alien visiting Israel for a couple of hours would point out - are PM Olmert's "envelopes" corruption affair and the Gaza ordeal, both probably closely linked, as most media columnists insist. PM Olmert's current crisis - the so-called "envelope" affair - is probably the most serious corruption accusation a PM in Israel has ever faced, putting Olmert's term in jeopardy. The most optimistic political analysts foresee another six months at most. Olmert is being accused of receiving "envelopes" of hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash from Jewish American millionaire Morris Talansky, mostly during Olmert's term as Minister of Industry and Trade. Needless to say, the political scene has become a complete mess. The main coalition partner, the Labor party,



and its leader [Minister of Defense] Barak, are on the brink of leaving the Government, a step that will lead to new elections. Olmert's Kadima party members are making preparations for inner party elections, with talks of a close competition between its three main leaders. Probably the biggest paradox in all this is that on one hand, most parties agree that Olmert's term must end - meaning new general elections; and on the other hand, most Knesset Members fear losing their seats if such elections take place.

While all this is taking place, the situation in the south of the country remains unchanged - the cities of Sderot and Askalon and the settlements near the Gaza strip border being bombed daily, causing innocent civilian casualties and IDF retaliation, causing Palestinian casualties.

continued on page 20

Excerpts from Noah Fenyes' Regional Aleph Gadol Election Speech

Theodore Hesburgh said: 'The very essence of leadership is that you have to have a vision'.

As I stand at the front of the room today I have a strong and clear vision. Three years ago I came into this organization knowing little to nothing of what happened in BBYO. After a few months of being in this beautiful order, I fell in love. I found a place where I could come together with my fellow Jews and feel at home. Now, I know more than anything I want to lead this region.

There is so much about this organization that is extraordinary. As young adults we have an opportunity to learn, travel, practice leadership, make a difference in our individual Jewish and general communities and make friendships that will last a lifetime.

I think we have so many wonderful traditions in BBYO. Our conventions include many activities and programs that repeat, and build upon themselves. I think these are invaluable. I also think there is

room for change, as Obama would say. (Though I'm a Hillary fan) We need to think out of the box. Given this year, it's not just change for the sake of it, but for our survival. . . We need to learn to have a good time without chemicals, to laugh without alcohol, and to have clean fun, but lots of fun. We need to show respect to our advisors, and expect respect in return. We need to set examples for our MITs and AIT's. We need to show them our passion, and help them find their own. . .

Just a few weeks ago I went on the March of the Living with teenagers from NWC (North West Canada region) and across the world. We toured the concentration camps and remembered our horrible past. Being on such an intense trip, I learned so much about myself. I learned what matters and what doesn't. In some ways I learned how to put life into perspective. More than anything, it taught me how lucky I am to have an organization like BBYO; a place where I can be with so many Jewish Teens and feel

accepted. I learned on the March that even to HAVE a place where I can come and be with Jewish people is something we shouldn't take for granted. Returning from this experience, I know it is my obligation to help and make sure that the Jewish people stay alive. As I am only one person I know that alone I can't keep an entire people alive. But I believe every person counts. I ask you all to look at the passion I have towards this magnificent organization and let me use it to light yours. More than anything I want you to feel the way I do. I want you all to love BBYO. I want BBYO to last until the end of time. . .

The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on. Fraternally submitted with an undying love for the past, the future, new alephs, old alephs, all of us, Len Landa #1051, AZA, NWC #87 I remain Aleph Noah Fenyes candidate for regional Aleph Gadol.

March of the Living



by zAC Waldman

When I was on the March of the Living in Poland we toured many places of death. However none of them tore me up like Majdenak. When we first arrived at Majdenak

I laid my eyes upon a massive monument. No one really knows what the monument means, some say it shows the power the Nazi's had over the people in Majdenak. After I came out of the camp I could never have a more firm belief that the monument shows the gates to a hell on earth. After we got to the main camp the first thing we did was enter the gas chamber. Seeing everyone cry and break down around me only intensified my need to exit this terrible place as soon as possible. The one comfort I got as I was leaving the chamber was that there were candles

burning in remembrance of all those who died. After the terrible experience I had, I just wanted some alone time. I walked behind the gas chamber building to see that there were separate gas chambers with no candles burning for those who were murdered there. I can not put into words the anger and grief that I felt. I lit some candles and said kaddish. I turned around to leave and I saw that not 300m away from the gas chambers was a Polish apartment building. At the sight of the building I became enraged with the people of Poland. I knew that this feeling was wrong and that there was a Polish resistance during the Holocaust. Then I started getting mad at myself for feeling like that, soon enough I was an emotional wreck sobbing into a friend's arms. Soon I was walking through the camp all on my own. The barracks and crematoria are all just a blur of memory to me. Then I came upon a massive mound of ashes. I have mixed feelings about this monument, I understand that seeing is

believing but I personally don't like it. When Jewish people bury their dead they place them in a plain pine box so that they can return to the earth. Although Jews are not supposed to be cremated I firmly believe that if these are Jewish ashes, they should be returned to the earth. At this monument the ashes are covered in a silicone coating. When I heard this and saw it, I felt like the souls of all these people who died are trapped by man on earth. This again made me break down into tears. Majdenak is a terrible place that I would only go back to with my kids to show them what happened during the Holocaust.

"History counts its skeletons in round numbers. A thousand and one remains a thousand, as though the one had never existed: an imaginary embryo, an empty cradle, emptiness running down steps toward the garden, nobody's place in line." - Wislawa Szymborska

Majdenak



By Noah Fenyes

For me, the March of the Living was a very intense, life altering experience. For two weeks we toured around

Poland and Israel and made friends of a lifetime. One of the hardest parts of the experience for me was coming home. By the end of the trip, I was so different. I felt as if I had matured, and seen life in a whole new way. I didn't know how, or even if I wanted to go back to my Saskatoon friends

and normal life. I had changed so much from these two weeks that I needed to somehow live differently to reflect my change. I didn't want to be involved in the "drama" at school; I just wanted to be with my March friends. In the space of two weeks, we had become family. We all experienced the horrors together, and understood exactly how each other was feeling. I felt that anybody who didn't see what I saw, felt the intensity of my grief, or lived the moments I did, could ever understand how I felt.

It took weeks to re-adjust and fit back into my own world. I realized that though my local friends weren't with me on the trip,

their love, support and genuine interest were invaluable to my "coming back". I shared our experience with hundreds of students in presentations, and that too helped me process and finalize some of my feelings. Eventually, I did move on – but not away. I know I will never forget the March. The experience has changed how I feel and what I value. These changes will last a lifetime, but now they are beginning to fit together with my own world. Though I am now able to put the memories away, I will always remember.

Returning Home



by Shira Fenyes

As just one voice in five, I want to exercise my right as junior editor to speak on behalf of the group. I

want to say a huge thank you to

Congregation Agudas Israel for the financial investment that was made in our future. CAI gave a grant to each of us towards the cost of the trip. I know this generous gift will pay itself back in our commitment and connection to our Judaism and our community. In just two weeks, we learned more about life than we could ever learn in a

classroom. We grew personally, formed amazing friendships and life long memories. The places we visited, the things we saw and the overall trip was a once in a lifetime experience. I hope all Jewish teenagers have the opportunity to participate in this life-altering experience. We are now witnesses and I hope we will be followed by generations.

Thank You Congregation Agudas Israel

This Page is Sponsored by Dr. Jeff Stein

Israel, Here We Come...

by Andrea Scharfstein

For years I have wanted to go to Israel and I must admit, that was the main reason in my decision to attend the March of the Living. I was always jealous when I heard of others getting to go and even more envious when they'd return with all their cool merchandise, scenic pictures and intriguing stories. However, I knew my time would come someday and that it did; just a few short months ago on a truly unforgettable journey.

Before departing, the question was often arisen, "What do you hope to get out of this trip". This got me to thinking, why have I so desperately wanted to go to Israel? I knew I wanted to feel that amazing sense of security everyone talks about, the thought of being surrounded by so many Jewish people in one place was fascinating and I

had heard that the food was like nothing else, but after thinking about the question I realized it was so much more. I wanted to go to the Holy Land and develop an emotional and spiritual connection with this place we call home and this religion we call our own.

I'm happy to report, the emotional part came exceptionally easily. From the moment the plane was close enough to see the Israeli light, I was hooked. It was a love I had never experienced before and a comfort and sense of belonging that goes unmatched. Nothing could have ruined that moment of stepping off the plane. I'm eager to go back and see if that miraculous love will be rekindled.

The spiritual part however didn't exactly come. Despite my efforts at the Wall to write a note, say a prayer and really try hard to feel the magic, there was nothing. I felt silly

and mad at myself for not being able to believe like, what seemed to be, everyone else. For this reason, and this reason alone I want to go back to Israel and find that spirituality. I'm sure its hiding there somewhere and perhaps we just weren't there long enough to find it.

All and all, Israel was the most incredible place I've visited and really inspired me to practice Judaism to a higher degree. It has opened my eyes and makes me watch the news. I couldn't imagine the world and my life without Israel being there and for that reason I feel it is my duty now to help defend our homeland.



A Witness to the Holocaust

By Mayah Holtlander

I decided to participate in the March of the Living to go to Poland and become a witness to the Holocaust. Though Israel was amazing and a wonderful place to visit, I did not go on the March to see Israel. In truth, I could have cared less if I had to wait a few years and go to Israel with Birthright. I went for Poland. I have been fascinated by the Holocaust since I was 10 years old when I read a historic children's novel on the topic. Ever since then I have been trying to gain as much knowledge as possible on the Holocaust and share that knowledge with the people around me. When I first heard about the March of the Living it

seemed like the greatest learning opportunity for me and I knew I had to participate in this program. It's been a month since I returned and everyday I find myself realizing more and more, the significance of this trip. Going to Poland, seeing the camps, and hearing a survivor's story while sitting outside his barrack, it seems impossible to have a more life changing experience. The time spent in Poland was one of the most emotionally draining and depressing things one could go through, yet it was also the most rewarding. I was able to see the concentration camps, feel the pain and suffering directly, and at the same time I was

not a victim. That feeling is something you can never forget and is impossible not to share with other people. The March of the Living has truly made me a witness and now, more than ever, I want to share what I have witnessed.

Thank you to Saskatoon Jewish Foundation of Congregation Agudas Israel for helping enable me to go on this trip. I recommend this trip to anyone who has the chance to participate.



The Ones Left Behind

by Heather Fenyes

I suspect that by the last page of this Bulletin, we will all have many wonderful "travel to Israel" perspectives. What you haven't heard, is what it's like to be the one who doesn't go to Israel - the one who stays home waiting. I have been fortunate to visit Israel many times, and know full well of her magic charm and enchanting spell.

This experience was considerably less magical for me. Gone were Shira and Noah, Andrea, Zac, Mayah and Simonne, my parents, Jan, Ron, Steven, Leila, Randy, Shirley, Grant and Marsha - all family and a big part of my "community family".

I tried to focus on everybody's daily adventures - follow schedules and listen to updates. In reality, I heard little, obsessed

lots over Facebook and the Agency's photo website, and dug deep tracks in the kitchen from pacing.

I watched the news on too many channels, listening to obscure stories I would normally ignore. I sent emails by the pound to the Israeli Shlichim, desperate for a scrap of news, or a story of a "Saskatoon sighting". I checked the March of the Living website so often, I thought the Webmaster would send me a personal thank-you note.

I ate Israeli food, and tried to gather the other "Saskatoon abandoned" so we could talk about our loved ones and remind ourselves that having them here isn't always so great.

I cleaned Shira and Noah's rooms. I

sorted their drawers and waded through heaps of garbage, food wrappers, dirty underwear and unfinished homework. Yes, for a few minutes I missed them less, but it passed quickly - and then their clean rooms made me miss them more.

Sixteen days, thirteen hours and thirty minutes later, Shira and Noah were home. My parents and others came trickling back, and soon, all my ducks were in a line.

Shira and Noah's room are a mess. I've spoken to everybody, heard stories and still check the website occasionally for the last of the March stories. Life is back to normal - and that is good.

YOUTH

Dear Community (Khila Yekara),

We came back to Saskatoon earlier than we ever thought and dreamed... We had this special opportunity to be part of a special simha of special friends - Simonne and Dwight's wedding. Immediately as we arrived in Saskatoon our feeling was that it is normal to be there – a feeling of coming back home. It was like we never left.

This weekend was a collection of unique moments and special opportunities to meet people from all over the world.

We feel that the events and the rituals were full with meaning and intention. There were moments that we will keep in our hearts

forever.

We want to thank from the depth of our hearts to Simonne, Dwight and Janet Erikson for supporting us getting to Saskatoon; to June Avivi and the Fenyes Family for their amazing hospitality, making us feel at home, like you did so greatly and warmly in the last two years; and to Ron Gitlin for the car that we used during this week.



We hope that more Saskatoonians will continue come and visit Israel. It is so nice to host you here.
Lot of love, Lehitraot,
Yishay and Yael

An Open Letter to the March of the Living Participants 2008

by Simonne Horowitz

Dear Shira, Andy, Mayah, Zac and Noah,

I can't tell you how much of a privilege it was to accompany you five on the MOL 2008. You are the most wonderful group of young people. You were fully present in every aspect of the trip. You felt, you thought, you questioned, you lived, you cried and you laughed. You shared and most importantly you showed the wonderful young Jews you are. Each of you brought something special to the trip which was a real roller-coaster of emotions, learning, frustration, thinking, doing, looking after and being looked after. I think we all felt despair and horror, and joy and love at one or other time and sometimes at the same time.

I will never forget how at the debriefing after our most traumatic day at Majdanek, you, Noah, sat on the bed in my room eating Oreo cookies and commented on how people – often complete strangers were there to comfort each other with a hug. Amidst the absolute pain of seeing the horrors of the gas chambers, the crematorium, the evil of the mass graves the mountain of ashes there was a display of the most amazing humanity; people reaching out to each other in incredible ways. I think that it was this reaching out to each other which helped us all to cope with the emotional and physical intensity of a trip like this. Despite the fact that we were all exhausted and constantly on the go you guys were there for each other and for me. Zac you brought laughter and hugs with you each day, your presence reminded us that despite the worst of what we were

seeing it was good to be alive. Mayah you reached out to those around you with kindness and grace, re-kindling old friendships and forming new, strong bonds. Andy, I watched you grow and bring others with you on this incredible journey. You showed a sensitivity which was really special. Noah you felt everything so deeply and understood things so instinctively that you drew us all into the experience, your love and kindness to those around you was so beautiful to watch. Shira you gave your gifts of love, song and leadership so willingly and modestly that it was easy to be so proud of you. You were a gift to all of us on the trip.

When you five led Shabbat services in Poland and Israel I felt a little like a Bat/ Bar Mitzvah mom. There we were, a little group from Saskatoon, leading services for 140 people. You made my heart fill with pride and love for you and for what our amazing community has taught you. You all lead with such total commitment to what you are saying and such Kavanah which was beautiful to watch. You adapted to the new situations with joy and excitement – Andy I will never forget the little pre-Saturday morning service Yoga session you led!

I am not sure if I told you but when we were leaving the airport at the end of the trip one of the other chaperones came up to me and called me aside to tell me that our little delegation from Saskatoon had totally changed her perception of small Jewish communities. She like so many people on the trip were amazed at you five. When they looked at you they saw five young people

from Saskatoon who could lead services, who were the centre of everything going on and who had so much love for their culture and heritage.

I hope you guys remember how on the second last night we had a debriefing session with our whole bus – we went around in a circle and had to sum up what we felt about the two weeks. I was so proud of all of you – of what you said and what you shared. When it was my turn it was difficult to know how to sum-up everything but what I said then I want to say again now. I had originally come to look after you 5 and to help facilitate your learning and growing in the best way that I could but you ended up teaching me so much. I so look forward to our developing friendships in the years to come – most of all I feel so privileged that you all let me into your worlds.

All my love,
Simonne

*Seek the good in
everyone, and reveal it,
bring it forth.*

- Rabbi Nachman of Breslov (1772-1811), "Likutey Moharan"

The Saskatoon Jewish Foundation

gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

*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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Editorial...from page 2

On the community home front, we move forward with the usual challenges of ensuring successful synagogue services, Folk Fest in mid August, and the struggle to gain new members and hope for our old members to step up to becoming more active. With this mailing, comes a simple and opened –ended questionnaire that we urge you to spend some time completing and returning to our President who will collate the feedback and be able to act upon

suggestions.

Also in this issue is an article by Ralph Katzman about burial and cemetery management. It is important for everyone to know that we now have a new section in the cemetery for the burial of Jews and non-Jewish partners and children, a policy approved by the Board and the general community. He also alludes to the issue of cremation which may have to be examined in future years. We have published an

erudite sermon delivered recently by Rabbi Pavey on the new reality of marriage, which of course, relates to intermarriage, and how we deal with it from a personal, religious and community point of view.

As you can see and read, our small community continues to be inspired by new challenges and is not reluctant to take new pathways if necessary and supported by its members. I wish you all a wonderful and warm summer.

This Page is Sponsored by Gladys Rose

will have everlasting impact. Yes, we saw the best of Israel; however, no one was hiding the economic, the social and the educational challenges that face new immigrants from Ethiopia and many other citizens and residents of the country who continue to live with less. There is still much to do in building the first independent Jewish republic in over 2,000 years. However, despite all odds the Zionist dream has become a reality - 60 years after its rebirth Medinat Yisrael flourishes and has transformed the entire Jewish people wherever we live. What a privilege to have been in Israel at 60 with our *special group*.

Tel Aviv Desk...from page 15

The public pressure regarding a solution of some sort – be it a large scale military offense in Gaza or a cease fire agreement with Hamas hasn't brought any results yet. Reports of high ranked officials – including PM Olmert and Minister of Defense Barak – that the government is on the brink of a decision have become a daily constant, something close to a “wolf, wolf” cry. The link between the sensitive political situation and the need for tough decision making regarding Gaza seems almost too obvious.

Just in case someone was bored, there's news on the Syrian scene. Turkey's backed talks with Syria have had their share of the public's interest, after years of almost only hostile remarks and actions. The current talks are more puzzling than anything else. Apart from what's going on in the political arena (the most FAQ is does Olmert have the ethical legitimacy of carrying out such crucial talks while his career's near future seems so uncertain), these talks have a more global aspect. Is Assad serious or is he hoping for western sympathy (*read: money...?!?*)? Will Syria put aside its alliance with Iran? What about Lebanon and Hezbollah? Will an agreement with Syria bring them closer to Iran or will they “lower the height of the flames” in their attrition

deepening love and blessing.

There is a prayer from the new British Reform Siddur that is due to be published later this year that is very appropriate to this.

“God of all creation, we stand in awe before You, impelled by visions of human harmony. We are children of many traditions—inheritors of shared wisdom and tragic misunderstandings, of proud hopes and humble successes. Now it is time for us to meet in memory and truth, in courage and

trust, in love and promise. In that which we share, let us see the common prayer of humanity; in that where we differ, let us wonder at human freedom; in our unity and in our differences, let us know the uniqueness that is God. May our courage match our convictions, and our integrity match our hope. May our faith in You bring us closer to each other. May our meeting with past and present bring blessing for the future. Amen.”

with Israel? On a larger scale, one might ask whether peace with Syria will ease the U.S.'s military option against Iran. One last interesting point that has arisen in the internal Israeli debate is whether peace with Syria (meaning a withdrawal from the Golan Heights) is in Israel's interest or not. This question had almost disappeared during the last few years, but in today's so-called axis-of-evil (Iran-Syria-Hezbollah-Hamas-El Qaeda) some say that it will be impossible for Syria to give up such an alliance, in which case better off Israel with the Golan than without.

Last but not least, the abducted soldiers situation (Shalit in Gaza, Regev and Goldwasser in Lebanon). Gilad Shalit's case is tied to the to-be (or not) agreement with Hamas (in Israel's view, Hamas are against relating the two). There has been news of him (letters to his parents) but his health condition is uncertain, though he is considered to be alive and “well”. Regev and Goldwasser's condition is very uncertain. Though specialists believe they had a slight chance of recovering from the

abduction incident (that incited the Lebanon war in 2006), Hezbollah's Nasrallah has denied any information regarding the two – in an inhuman, unheard-of act of ignoring basic human rights and Geneva Convention rights regarding POW's and enemy captives (typically one-sided in conflicts in the Middle East, especially in Hezbollah's case). Hopefully by the time this article is published, the three will be brought back home.

To end on an optimistic note, this last month President Peres hosted one of the most extraordinary events to take place on Israeli soil – the Presidential Convention “Facing Tomorrow”. Current and former leaders from all over the world and from various fields – politics, industry, trade, and so on – exchanged ideas and views with regard to the future of the region: Israel, the Middle East and the Jewish world. As is all cases, this event had its share of criticism and cynicism, but it was definitely a remarkable 60th birthday present for our young state.

Have a great summer!

Shared Citizenship with Israel...from page 9

approach that addresses the full range of tensions threatening Israeli society. A deep and growing strategic dissemination and funding partnership has been forged with Israel's Ministry of Education. The growth of Ministry of Education investment in implementing MERCHAVIM's growing range of shared citizenship education programming is currently on-track to overtake philanthropic investment by 2010.

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Editor's Note: Director Patsy Landa is "our" Patsy.

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Reflections ...from cover

It was thrilling to see our young people and to hear Shira Fenyes sing at the performance of 1000's of March of the Living youngsters coming from Poland and I would strongly urge all of you to see that your children, when they are old enough, also visit Israel, either with the March or on a Birth-right tour.

All of us need to be unconditional advocates for the State of Israel. Yes, there are problems; yes, there are things we might disagree with, but support Israel? It is our privilege and our duty.

Saskatoon's Jewish community has close to a century of viable history which continues to fill me with pride. I have become a kind of unofficial Ambassador in my new home of Toronto and tell people how wonderful this place and its people are.

Now allow me to tell you about tonight's event. B'nai B'rith was always a major force in my husband Gerry's life. He was a member from 1945 on, when he finished his army service; he was President in 1954/55 and he was a recipient of the B'nai Brith "We Are Proud of You" Award in November, 1987. He was instrumental in the conception and evolution of the major fundraiser for B'nai B'rith and the community, the Silver Plate Dinner, and I could go on and on.

Gerry was a pillar of B'nai B'rith, Congregation Agudas Israel, and the City of Saskatoon. Gerry was awarded the Order of Canada in October, 1998. This is the highest award in the country, recognizing outstanding achievement and service in various fields of human endeavour, and Gerry's award was in the area of volunteerism. His citation read, "an active volunteer, he has shared his leadership skills and financial expertise with numerous organizations, over many years. The positive influence of his volunteerism has made his community a better place."

Gerry was also the inspiration behind the

Saskatoon Jewish Foundation, and maybe the present boom in Saskatchewan owes something to him. But most important: Gerry was not a person who sought the spotlight. He never sought honours but his ability and judgement influenced many great events and organizations. He died just three weeks before he was to be invested into the Order of Canada. Our children Kathy (olav HaShalom), Toby (here beside me), Naomi and David came with me to Rideau Hall in Ottawa to receive the honour.

And now – the reason I am here. Gerry would have approved of this year's B'nai B'rith choice of volunteers – Heather Fenyes. She epitomizes all the virtues he stood for. Here is a little biography of Heather (Sharfe) Fenyes.

Heather is the oldest daughter born to Elaine and Sherry Sharfe - a true child of the prairies. Born in Winnipeg, she moved with her parents and brother Robert to Saskatoon, where another sister Pam, and brother, Kevin joined the family. It was here, at the University of Saskatchewan, that she earned two Bachelor's degrees – in Arts, and in Education.

What a blessing she has been to this community! She has been a teacher at Congregation Agudas Israel's Hebrew School for a very long time. Her clear ringing voice, singing along with the many, many classes, remains a vivid memory in my mind. Heather began to help students prepare for their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs totally unofficially. She loved doing it and did it so well that most often, parents thought this was part of her job description. It was totally voluntary! And I dare say everyone here retains wonderful memories of the presentation speeches, to the proud B'nei Mitzvah students, where she demonstrated her unconditional devotion to each of them, by memorably extolling their virtues.

Allow me to share with you what I witnessed when husband, but then student Leslie Fenyes arrived in Saskatoon from Toronto. I was President of Congregation Agudas Israel, so, from the Bimah I saw the blossoming of an instant romance when Heather and Les first laid eyes on each other in the synagogue. Their fate was sealed. The result was their marriage and life in Saskatoon, and a wonderful family consisting of Shira, Noah and Elie. Heather is a model mother and teacher to those children, as well as the community's children. We can all be proud of Heather's greatest achievement in educating your (our) kids.

But she is a surrogate mother or more accurately, an older sister to each of the Areivim/Shlichim couples who have made Saskatoon home over the past few years. She showers all of them with loving kindness, to say nothing of food! Heather's proficiency in her kitchen equals her work in the classroom. There is no doubt that Heather's warm acceptance, her open home hospitality to each Shaliach couple has much to do with Saskatoon's reputation as THE place Israeli Shlichim want to be sent.

Heather is a valued member of the Holocaust Remembrance Committee and a totally reliable Silver Spoon worker. Like her mother Elaine before her, who served twice as Chairperson of the Synagogue and Ritual Committee – an important and unsung position – Heather undertook this responsibility at a period of transition for the congregation. I know, even though I do not live here any more, that Chazan Neil has, in Heather, an advisor, a mentor and a friend.

Heather represents volunteerism at its best.

Kol HaKovod – may you continue to volunteer your efforts for many years to come.

Gerry Rose Award Winner...from cover

it on my ears when I listen to the community sing *avenu malcaynu* at yontif, or every Shabbat as I close my eyes and listen to our small Shabbat community sing "aitz chaim he" I wear it on my back as I carry the living legacy of my parents, grandparents, and theirs before them. Mostly, I wear it on my heart. I'm so full of love and pride for my Jewishness that I know it shows on my forehead.

It's because of the type of community we have that I am able to allow my passion to flourish. I tell everybody who will listen, and many who aren't that interested that we are the most amazing community in the world. Our Hebrew school, prayer services, activities and social events rival a community ten times our size.

Just weeks ago, five of our kids

participated in the March of the Living with Simonne as a chaperone. They were part of the coast - to - coast delegation, which is made up all of Canada except Toronto and Montreal. You would be proud to know that it was our group that led the majority of services on Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat morning. Other chaperones ate their own words of disbelief and left the experience overwhelmed by our amazing community of youth. So when you recognize me, the credit goes to each one of us here.

We need each other. We need each other for a minyan, for music and in mourning.

We need Purim parties, and Holocaust services, and a Hebrew school. I need this community far more than it needs me. I need my children to learn by example about our collective responsibility for each other.

So, why aren't all my children here tonight to learn? My mench is here - but my others, are celebrating their Judaism. This weekend is the last BBO convention of the year. Shira will give her "life speech". This is a very serious address for somebody who has only lived 18 years. Sunday is regional elections, and Noah is running for the position of Aleph Gadol - Regional President. We spent this past week working on his speech. When we started, I asked him what he wanted people to know about himself, and what he could bring as a leader. "Mom" he told me, "it's passion. I'm full of passion for Judaism and BBO. Help me give that message." I hope Noah comes home President, but I know he'll come home passionate. For that, and for this honor - there is no end to my thanks.

Yahrtzeits

June 27/28

Jacob Claman
Welvel Flikshteyn
Ruth Bondar
Sam Zaitlen
Herman Levine
Vera Barsky
Israel Ragoff
Robert Floom
Kathryn Cooper
Leo Lipcovic
Sam Cramer
Bernie Reznick
Max Hock
Sara Charach
Rosa Jerman
Nathan Gropper

July 4/5

Max Gropper
Ben Shiffman
Stella Hearn
Nathan Richman
Irma Altschul
David Baltzan
Bessie Switzer
Samuel Forgan
Chaim Tzalkovich
Zakhar Isaakov
Evelyn Ross
Pearl Trute
Sidney Buckwold

July 11/12

Beatrice Adilman
Mary Lifshin
Etta Tadman
Anna Dragushan
Bert Gladstone
Irving Jacobsen
Nathan Adilman
Walter Merchant
Ralph Sugarman
Reva Mathews
Minnie Filer
Louis Epstein

July 18/19

Schulem Singer
Faigel Lyons

Sivan 24/25

June 27 (24)*
June 27 (24)
June 28 (25)
June 28 (25)*
June 28 (25)*
June 29 (26)
June 29 (26)
June 30 (27)
June 30 (27)*
July 2 (29)*
July 2 (29)*
July 2 (29)
July 3 (30)*
July 3 (30)
July 3 (30)
July 3 (30)*

Tammuz 1/2

July 4 (1)*
July 4 (1)
July 5 (2)
July 6 (3)
July 6 (3)*
July 6 (3)*
July 8 (5)
July 8 (5)*
July 8 (5)
July 8 (5)
July 9 (6)
July 9 (6)*
July 9 (6)

Tammuz 8/9

July 11 (8)
July 11 (8)*
July 12 (9)*
July 13 (10)
July 13 (10)*
July 13 (10)
July 15 (12)
July 16 (13)
July 16 (13)*
July 17 (14)
July 17 (14)*
July 17 (14)

Tammuz 15/16

July 20 (17)
July 20 (17)

Harold Waldman
Maria Kolominsky
Jack Teskey
John Adelman
Jack Sklar
Louis Pollock
Etta Gross

July 25/26

Sarah Schacter
Sam Shafer
Abraham Kassen
Sheila Krolik
Gerald Gitline
Sarah Goodman
Joseph Brans
Nekhama Stone
Lena Kassen

August 1/2

Helen Teskey
Farhad Hebron
Nina Fogel
Dolphy Neuman
Frances Paul
Margret Poplack
Vera Helfgott
Lloyd Landa
Joseph Volansky
Lucille Katzman
Wilma Katzman
Ruth Rosenberg
Etta Sonnenschein

August 8/9

Clara Epstein
Jacob Dragushan
Hy Buller
Ben Ackerman
Gussie Sass
Ed Caplan
Sura Kolominsky
Betty Sklar
Helen Resnick
Jacob Charach
Peter Schechter
Max Wormann
Samuel Kassen
Albert Kay
Ezra Avol
Claire Mendel

August 15/16

Lillian Claman
Estella Ginsberg
Nettie Rabinovitch

July 20 (17)*
July 20 (17)*
July 21 (18)*
July 21 (18)
July 22 (19)*
July 24 (21)*
July 24 (21)

Tammuz 22/23

July 26 (23)*
July 26 (23)
July 27 (24)*
July 28 (25)*
July 28 (25)*
July 29 (26)*
July 29 (26)*
July 31 (28)
July 31 (28)

Tammuz 29/Av 1

Aug 1 (29)*
Aug 1 (29)*
Aug 1 (29)*
Aug 2 (Av 1)
Aug 2 (1)
Aug 2 (1)
Aug 2 (1)*
Aug 2 (1)*
Aug 3 (2)
Aug 3 (2)
Aug 3 (2)
Aug 6 (5)*
Aug 7 (6)*

Av 7/8

Aug 8 (7)
Aug 9 (8)
Aug 9 (8)*
Aug 9 (8)
Aug 9 (8)
Aug 9 (8)
Aug 10 (9)*
Aug 11 (10)
Aug 11 (10)
Aug 12 (11)
Aug 12 (11)*
Aug 13 (12)*
Aug 13 (12)
Aug 13 (12)*
Aug 14 (13)*
Aug 14 (13)*

Av 14/15

Aug 15 (14)*
Aug 16 (15)
Aug 16 (15)

William Landa
Rita Collins
David Sonnenschein
Anthony Lehrer
Anna Rabkin
Moses Berekson
Edward Churchill
Louis Gelmon
Sidney Chapman
Jack Sklar
Louis Goluboff

August 22/23

Fay Ditlove
Leah Chertkow
Rose Baltzan
Saul Scharfstein
Aron Foulkes
Pearl Adilman
Chaim Wolfe
Solomon Livergant
Jack Sandbrand

August 29/30

Harry Sklar
Miriam Green
Mollie Shafer
Samuel Shore
M. Trugman
Fannie Gropper
Raisa Mondrus
Leonard Landa
Abram Katz
Rae Richman
Gertrude Weiner
Harry Landa
Alvin Buckwold
David Diamant
Neil Livergant
Fanny Feigenbaum

September 5/6

Rena Shatzer
Masha Zaitlen
Joseph Sandbrand
Max Berenbom
Mary Pollock
Betty Aarons
Eva Teplinsky
Rebecca Tabachnicoff
Josef Goldstein
Sara Richman
Philip Raichman
Saul Diamant
Herschel Diamond
Simon Korber

Aug 16 (15)*
Aug 16 (15)
Aug 16 (15)*
Aug 17 (16)
Aug 18 (17)
Aug 18 (17)
Aug 18 (17)*
Aug 20 (19)*
Aug 21 (20)
Aug 21 (20)*
Aug 21 (20)

Av 21/22

Aug 22 (21)*
Aug 22 (21)*
Aug 22 (21)
Aug 23 (22)*
Aug 24 (23)
Aug 25 (24)
Aug 26 (25)*
Aug 26 (25)*
Aug 28 (27)

Av 28/29

Aug 29 (28)
Aug 29 (28)*
Aug 29 (28)*
Aug 30 (29)*
Aug 31 (30)
Aug 31 (30)*
Sept 1 (Elul 1)
Sept 1 (1)*
Sept 1 (1)*
Sept 1 (1)*
Sept 1 (1)
Sept 1 (1)*
Sept 2 (2)*
Sept 2 (2)*
Sept 2 (2)*
Sept 4 (4)

Elul 5/6

Sept 5 (5)
Sept 5 (5)*
Sept 6 (6)*
Sept 7 (7)*
Sept 8 (8)
Sept 8 (8)*
Sept 8 (8)
Sept 9 (9)
Sept 9 (9)
Sept 9 (9)*
Sept 9 (9)
Sept 9 (9)
Sept 11 (11)*
Sept 11 (11)

Silver Spoon ...from page 10

naturally beautiful and effervescent lady, did a wonderful job as our MC. She smoothly led us through a feature-packed evening: the presentations to Interval House and The Crisis Nursery, the Air Canada 'North American Trip for Two' Balloon Pop (Winner: Julia Bueckert), and the 50/50 ticket draw. (Val Wiebe won \$4200!) Of course, our highlight was the presentation by CTV's News Anchor, Chantel Huber, of the Sterling Award for Volunteerism to Betty Secord. Betty is a remarkable woman who has been working

for decades for women and the aged, despite her own physical challenges. How wonderful to be able to recognize such an amazing volunteer!

It is remarkable that we continue to pull-off Saskatoon's Premiere Ladies' Night Out at its high level of excellence and attendance, knowing how small our committee has become. This was the 16th Silver Spoon that I chaired and I am grateful to the help from my co-chairs, Mary Cameron and Leona Wasserman. Many thanks to the Committee Chairs: Jan Gitlin (Speaker & Publicity),

Wendy Ditlove (Tickets) Shannon Waldman (Silent Auction) Marsha Scharfstein & Dianne Greenblat (Treasurers), June Avivi (Sterling Award Selection), Aviva Zack (Decorations), Janet Erikson (Lottery Licencing) and David & Susan Katzman (Liquor) and to my family, Arnie, Rebecca, Robin & Bryce who helped ensure my success with this event. I sure appreciate the great help we had from the sponsors and from all our hard-working volunteers. Thank you all.

Faces and Friends from Israel!



"community drummers at the Yom HaAtzmaut celebration

