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January 22, 2009 / Tevet 26, 5769
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WHAT DID THEY DO AFTER THE CEASEFIRE?

Israel plans total withdrawal before inauguration

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Now that it has unilaterally withdrawn from Gaza, Israel was expected to withdraw all of its troops from the Gaza Strip before Tuesday's US presidential inauguration, according to reports.

Israeli officials were quoted anonymously in the Israeli press as saying the troop withdrawal would likely be completed by Tuesday, when Barack Obama takes the oath of office in Washington. Troops began withdrawing Sunday, the day after Israel called a unilateral ceasefire in Gaza, which was followed by a Hamas ceasefire declaration. Troops continued to leave the coastal

strip on Monday, according to reports. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told a gathering of European leaders Sunday in Jerusalem that Israel did not want to stay in Gaza.

"The state of Israel has no intention of staying in the Gaza Strip," he said. "We are interested in withdrawing from the Gaza Strip as quickly as possible the moment we are assured that the ceasefire is being respected and is stable and that there is no threat to the security of southern Israel. Our intention is not to conquer or control Gaza. We do not wish to remain in Gaza. We intend to withdraw as soon as possible."



Israeli soldiers gather after they arrive back to Israel from Gaza, on Monday at a staging area near the border with the Gaza Strip. The IDF was gradually withdrawing ground forces from Gaza, before US President Barack Obama was inaugurated on Tuesday.

Hamas promises to rearm: 'It's our right'

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The armed wing of Hamas said that during its self-imposed ceasefire it would rearm despite calls to halt arms smuggling into Gaza.

"Do what you like, but the manufacturing of holy weapons is our goal," Abu Ubeida, spokesman for Hamas' Izzadin Kassam military wing, said Monday at a news conference in Gaza, Reuters reported. The spokesman covered his face with a checkered keffiyah. "Bringing arms into Gaza is not smuggling," he said. "The natural situation would be for all Arab and Muslim countries, along with the rest of the free world, to formally allow weapons into the Strip.

"Meanwhile, we believe it is our right to bring arms in any way we find fit."

Ubeida claimed that only 48 Hamas gunmen were killed in Israel's three-week operation in Gaza and that it killed 80 Israeli troops. Ten Israeli soldiers were killed during Opera-

tion Cast Lead, according to army reports.

The Associated Press has reported that at least 1,259 Palestinians were killed in the three-week Israeli air and ground mission, more than half of them civilians, according to the United Nations, Gaza health officials and rights groups.

Also Monday, Iranian news outlets reported that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called the Hamas chief-in-exile in Damascus, Khaled Meshaal, to congratulate him on his "great victory" against Israel in the Gaza Strip operation.

Meanwhile, in a speech shown Sunday on Hamas television, Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh congratulated the Palestinian people on their victory over Israel, saying Israel's Gaza operation was a failure. He called the Hamas decision to declare its own unilateral cease-fire "wise and responsible."

Haniyeh said Palestinian families whose relatives were killed or injured in the conflict would receive aid.



Jewish students and Israel supporters at Wilfrid Laurier University protest anti-Israel rant by Professor Peter Eglin in one of the campus's central traffic areas last Friday.

ANTI-ISRAEL PROF AT WLU LASHES OUT AT JEWISH STUDENTS

Atara Beck
Staff Writer

KITCHENER — A senior B'nai Brith official was on hand Friday at Wilfrid Laurier University to lend support to Jewish students that were being negatively singled out by anti-Israel activist Professor Peter Eglin in one of the campus's central traffic areas.

Eglin, who is on sabbatical this year, called the Jewish Students Association (JSA) "nefarious" in an email he had circulated urging people to join him in condemning Israel's actions in Gaza in the name of "human rights, academic values and justice." He told first-year student Chanie Antfleck to "shut up" when she challenged his statements at Friday's event.

Eglin told a few dozen in attendance that anyone wanting to question the Jewish students should contact Hava Goldberg, Director, Southwestern Ontario Jewish Campus Life, and he publicly announced her telephone number.

The professor also singled out university president Dr. Max Blouw and Dr. David McMurray, dean of students, in accusing the university of "moral cowardice" for not taking a stand against Israel's "war crimes."

Michael Mostyn, national director of public affairs for B'nai Brith Canada, travelled to Waterloo to meet with the students, who were feeling unsafe and threatened by the situation.

They pointed to a series of anti-Israel diatribes this month by the sociology professor, who they feel is abusing his position of authority to conduct a vehemently anti-Israel agenda on campus.

JSA President Alex Kaldor said students had complained to the university administration the previous week about "being bullied by a professor," adding that Eglin was shouting abusively at Antfleck, who "probably doesn't



Anti-Israel activist Professor Peter Eglin lashes out.

See PROF, page 3.

Anti-Israel speaker almost gets booking at Federation building

Mike Cohen
Quebec Bureau Chief

MONTREAL — How did the banquet hall at Montreal's Jewish Federation of Community Services (Federation CJA) allow a spokesperson for the organization called the Committee against Israeli House Demolitions (ICAH) to book space for a public meeting?

That is what many people in the community are asking, even after Federation CJA president Marc Gold ultimately cancelled a speech by Jeff Halper, the anti-Israel organization's co-founder.

On its web site, ICAHD calls itself "a non-violent, direct-action group originally established to oppose and resist Israeli demolition of Palestinian

houses in the Occupied Territories."

Gold claims he shut ICAHD out over security concerns when it was learned that Amitié Québec-Israël, known for counter-demonstrations when there is an activity it perceives as anti-Israel, had booked a room in the building for the same night. The latter group ended up having its booking cancelled as well.

A Federation CJA official told the Jewish Tribune that the Gelber Conference Centre handles bookings independently and it appears that the reservation was erroneously accepted by someone in that office without any knowledge of ICAHD's mandate.

See ICAHD, page 2.

NEWS > RALLY > EU > UNRWA > SOLDIERS



PHOTOS: ATARA BECK

"They want to destroy Israel. Nobody can destroy Israel," declared Gerard Gabriel, who hails from the Philippines and joined a demonstration of solidarity with the Jewish state on Sunday at Dundas Square. "I've seen what's happening and who Hamas and Hezbollah are," he said, adding that he lived in Kuwait for seven years. It was in fact a tragic occurrence that inspired his passion to demonstrate his support for Israel. His cousin had been working in Israel as a nanny and loving it there, but she was killed by a bomb, he explained.

Students unite to support Israel

TORONTO – In what organizers described as a “grassroots student initiative,” Jewish campus groups with diverse agendas and philosophies joined together in solidarity with Israel on Sunday at a rally at Dundas Square.

“The student community has come together in unity to let the people of Toronto know that we as a community support Israel,” explained Daniel Ferman, president of Hillel at York.

Earlier in the day, Mandy Woznica, program director for Hasbara at York, stressed that the demonstration would be a peaceful one. It’s the “beauty of Canada, that [people with] diverse opinions can come out.”

People from a variety of religious and cultural backgrounds attended to show support for Israel’s war against terror. Among a group of Cuban exiles, one man told the *Jewish Tribune* that Islamist terror is “an evil, just like the Communism we endured.”

“It moved me that in such weather all of you came to show support for the one liberal democracy in the Middle East and for the free world,” Israeli Consul General Amir Gissin (right) told the crowd of close to 1,000. “When we’re winning the war, the world becomes a better place.”

The event was supported by all major Jewish community organizations.



EU Parliament members take anti-Israel stance

WASHINGTON, DC – During a lengthy debate on Jan. 14 about Israel’s Gaza Operation Cast Lead, there was much anti-Israel vitriol at the European Parliament.

Jews across Europe have been harassed, beaten and even shot at since Israel’s efforts to stop Hamas rocket attacks began on Dec. 27, and so far no European Union official has made a public statement condemning such

acts, said B’nai B’rith International in a statement last week.

Surprisingly, Socialist Member of European Parliament (MEP) Veronique de Keyser, who is known for her critical stance on Israel, is one of the few who mentioned the increasing dangers Jews are facing in Europe.

“Unfortunately, hers was a lone voice in mentioning how Jews have become targets across Europe,” said B’nai B’rith Inter-

national President Moishe Smith, adding that the remarks of two MEPs can be singled out



DANIEL S. MARIASCHIN

Close down UNRWA, protesters urge

JERUSALEM (Arutz-7) – Members of the National Union party, including MK Aryeh Eldad, picketed recently outside the Jerusalem headquarters of UNRWA, the United Nations Relief Works Agency.

“UNRWA is a nest for education of hatred and for incitement against Israel and against the Jews,” Eldad said. The UNRWA schools teach Arab children to become terrorists, he added.

“UNRWA has been exacerbating the Middle East conflict for over six decades,” said National Union party activist Yehuda HaKohen.

The protesters wrote a letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in which they called for shutting down UNRWA and allowing the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to take over UNRWA’s operations. The UNHCR is the UN body which deals with all the world’s refugee problems, except for the Arabs of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, which have their own separate United Nations agency – UNRWA.

as being particularly objectionable: Socialist Spanish MEP Miguel Martinez Martinez and the liberal UK MEP Chris Davies. Each compared Gaza to the Jewish Ghettos of Poland during World War II. The MEPs also compared the Israeli Air Force to German bombers and they called Israeli leadership terrorists.

These remarks cannot be considered legitimate political criticism.

‘Not an issue of censorship but...safety’

ICAHD cont. from page 1.

In a letter to Scott Weinstein, a spokesman for the Independent Jewish Voices Montreal who were acting on behalf of ICAHD, Gold stated: “I wanted to make this point by way of explaining I did not ‘ban’ your proposed presentation there. In fact, community security determined that it would be prudent not to hold concurrent meetings of your group and of Amitiés Quebec-Israel, from whom we also received a booking request. I would hope that you can appreciate our facility is currently at a heightened state of security. We, therefore, cannot, at this time, divert resources to ensure that both groups could hold meetings simultaneously. This is

absolutely not an issue of censorship, as you accuse, but the prudent exercise of responsibility for the safety of all who use our facility.”

Halper, an anthropologist from Minnesota who resides in Jerusalem, still went ahead and made two other speeches in Montreal in which he was highly critical of Israel’s offensive in Gaza. He was also busy accusing Federation CJA of censorship.

“We estimate between 5,000 and 10,000 homes have been demolished in the 19 days since the siege began,” he said. “This goes beyond warfare. It’s the absolute destruction of infrastructure that can’t be explained by security.”

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz, spiri-

eight years of Hamas rocket attacks – some 10,000 rockets – on Israeli civilians that forced Israel to respond.

B’nai B’rith International said it is deeply troubled that members of parliament risk the security of their Jewish citizens – their constituents – by using slurs that evoke grim memories from Europe’s past and do not belong in the context of the current Middle East debate.

tual leader of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem Congregation and co-chair of a recent pro-Israel rally in Montreal, said he does not understand what all of the fuss was about regarding the ICAHD cancellation.

“Jeff Halper has been saying some exceptionally inaccurate and inflammatory things about Israel,” he said. “From his pronouncements, including a videotape of his lecture at McGill University, it is clear that Halper is an anti-Zionist who no longer accepts the notion of a Jewish state. So why must the Federation CJA furnish him a platform? Does the NDP have to invite Stephen Harper to address its policy convention? Does the PQ have to invite Jean Charest to lecture them?”

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Warm hearts send warm clothing to soldiers

TORONTO – EL AL Israel Airlines, along with the help of the staff of Aufgang Travel, were delighted to assist The Association for the Soldiers of Israel-Canada, by sending boxes of warm clothing to our troops in Israel last week.

This shipment was sent as part of the ASI-Canada’s emergency



From the left: Dinah Kutner, General Manager, EL AL Israel Airlines-Canada; Idit Papular (Aufgang Travel); Dov Saitowitz (Aufgang Travel); Avi Dorik (Aufgang Travel); Debbie Aharon (Aufgang Travel) and Rodat Ravid, Station Manager, EL AL Israel Airlines, Canada.

campaign set up to respond to the immediate needs of the soldiers in Gaza. While the response of the community has been tremendous, additional

resources are required daily. For more information or to make a donation, please contact ASI-Canada at 416.783.3053 or emergency@asicanada.org.

NEWS > PROTEST > CONTEST

Hamas supporters picket MP's empty riding office

Jordan Mandel

THORNHILL – More than 100 people gathered on Yonge Street in Thornhill in front of Conservative MP Peter Kent's empty riding office on Saturday to express their solidarity with Hamas and the people of Gaza and their dissatisfaction with Stephen Harper's unwavering support of Israel.

The rally was organized by the Canadian Arab Federation. Pro-Palestinian factions have expressed frustration with what they call Israel's use of "excessive force" in the recent conflict,

but this demonstration was ostensibly called on the heels of the Jan. 12 UN Human Rights Council vote condemning Israel's actions as "massive violations of human rights." The vote saw 33 countries vote in favour of the resolution and 13 abstain. Canada was the only nation to vote against it.

"Canada is disgraceful to vote against [the resolution]," opined Ronnie [no last name given], a member of Not In Our Name – an organization composed of a handful of Jewish Canadians opposed to Zionism. "It's completely unrepresentative of the people."

As well as pickets and flags, the event featured speeches by Arab community leaders, secular activists, and Suzanne Weiss, also of Not In Our Name. The protest was scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., but the subzero temperatures saw an early wrap-up.

While many of the flag-waving and picket-pumping protesters gathered to condemn Israel's actions, some of the attendees were there simply to express their frustration that Stephen Harper and the Conservatives are making decisions that they believe are not reflective of all

Canadians.

"The Conservatives have tarnished Canada's image of being a peaceful nation," said Abbas Sabet, a soft-spoken business owner from Richmond Hill.

Like Sabet, many of the protesters came from far and wide to attend the rally. Protesters came from as far as Mississauga and a busload of picketers from downtown Toronto arrived shortly after 11.

The Thornhill seat, formerly held by Liberal Susan Kadis since 2004, saw it go to Kent in the fall election. Kent is the Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas).

Despite having increased its minority position in the October election, the Conservatives are poorly supported in Toronto. Thornhill is the closest Conservative outpost for those who

Tel Aviv postcard contest launched

TORONTO – A unique postcard design contest was launched last week by the Israel Government Tourist Office (IGTO) to involve students in Jewish schools in the GTA in the coming celebration of Tel Aviv's 100th anniversary.

The objective is to design an image for a postcard that the IGTO and Israel Ministry of Tourism (IMOT) could use to invite people to visit Israel in celebration of Tel Aviv's centennial year.

Jewish elementary, middle and high schools, as well as supplementary evening and Sunday schools, are encouraged to participate. First prize is two EL AL round-trip tickets to Israel. Second prize is a digital camera, and third prize is an MP3 player.

Each school will choose five winning entries to be submitted to the IGTO by March 16. The winners will be announced in the *Canadian Jewish News* and the *Jewish Tribune*.

want to vent their frustration.

"We want [Kent] to come out and face the Canadian public," said Zafar Bangash of the Muslim Unity Group.

Ironically, the chants of "Free, Free Palestine" and "From Kan-

dahar To Palestine, Occupation Is A Crime" fell upon deaf ears, as Kent's office was not occupied. Pickets and chants were returned by a sign in the window reading 'Community Office Coming Soon.'



PHOTOS: JORDAN MANDEL
Anti-Israel protesters line up along Yonge Street in Thornhill Saturday across the street from Thornhill MP Peter Kent's empty riding office (left, inset).

Students 'very happy B'nai Brith came out' to witness professor

PROF cont. from page 1.

weigh more than 100 pounds soaking wet."

According to Kaldor, JSA is an apolitical, cultural organization. It focuses on activities like Shabbat dinners, Antifleck explained.

"B'nai Brith made us feel that we weren't alone," said Daniel Lipworth, soon-to-be president of Israel on Campus at Wilfred Laurier. He felt the administration had been "ineffective" until now. Another meeting between students and the university was scheduled for Monday afternoon, after this publication's deadline.

McMurray, in conversation with the *Jewish Tribune*, defended the "right of freedom of speech as long as it's in an unthreatening environment." Acknowledging that booking arrangements are usually made for various spots on campus – including the concourse, which is "a very public, common space, no question about that" – Eglin's use of the space was not a "black-and-white" issue of disobeying rules.

"We do have harassment and discrimination policies on campus," which will be "part of the protocol of the investigation" of complaints" he said. "We have been meeting with the students extensively and will continue to do that."

He added that Dr. David Docherty, dean of arts, would be dealing with the issue more directly. Docherty was unavailable for comment.

"We are concerned by calls to our 24-7 Anti-Hate Hotline from Jewish students who fear that they are being singled out for intimidation," said Frank Dimant, B'nai Brith Canada's executive vice-president. "This professor used his self-proclaimed pulpit in the public concourse of the university to bully the Jewish students who had dared to complain to the university's administration about him. How can he expect any student to continue to feel comfortable taking his class?"

"We call on the university's administration to urgently step in to act in the best interest of its student body and to ensure that calm prevails on campus. The experiences at other universities where such openly hostile behaviour has gone unchecked

should be a wake up call to Wilfred Laurier University to take immediate action now to prevent a poisoned atmosphere from taking hold."

Antifleck was "very happy that B'nai Brith came out.... We were warned to be aware of our surroundings," she said. The issue "is not just the Laurier campus. It's something bigger."

Notwithstanding the challenges that lie ahead, Kaldor was "very proud of our students taking a strong stand."

Rabbi Moshe Goldman, representing Chabad on that campus, was present during Elgin's rant. "I came to support the students," he said, while confirming that the professor's behaviour was indeed "uncivilized."



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Rabbi Taub and mission participants giving gifts to Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint near Shechem in Samaria, Israel during the BAYT Brotherhood Seventh Annual Solidarity Mission to Israel, December 2008.

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COMMENTARY/LETTERS

Persecuted Hindus stand with Jews in Canada



PHOTO: ROCHELLE MICHAELS

Flag-waving Israel supporters were out at Dundas Square on a recent Saturday to counter a pro-Palestinian rally at the same venue. Among the counterdemonstration groups at the gathering were the Canadian Hindu Advocacy organization, led by Ron Banerjee (holding the megaphone).

Ron Banerjee

On a recent Saturday, a handful of Hindus from the Canadian Hindu Advocacy (CHA) stood with hundreds of Jews, staring into the face of pure evil.

CHA had joined forces with a Jewish crowd to stand against a huge crowd of hate-mongers cheering on the terrorist Hamas. Vastly outnumbered, our group and the opposition ended up in front of the Israeli embassy, separated by Bloor Street. Most of the crowd on the other side of the street appeared to be of Muslim or Arab origin, with a few tokens thrown in from other ethnicities to add 'multicultural flavour.'

Many of the Hamas cheerleaders chanted slogans urging the extermination of Jews. Despite the presence of police on horseback between the groups, the Hamas-backers numbered in the thousands and became so violent that police eventually warned us that they were about to break through the barriers and our safety could not be guaranteed.

None of this is much of a surprise. As Canadian Hindus, our community has suffered tremendous oppression here at the hands of those that appear to support terrorism and hatred. In 1985, supporters of the genocidal 'Khalistan' movement slaughtered 330 Canadians (mostly Hindus) by blowing up an Air India jet flying out of Toronto. No one was convicted.

The 'Khalistan' movement is practically dead in India, but here Hindus are still routinely victimized by these hateful bigots. Every year, Canadian Sikhs celebrate the 'Vaisakhi' religious festival and signs supporting 'Khalistan' and the accused in the Air India bombing pop up. Some Sikh temples proudly display signs honouring suspected killers.

None of this apparently bothers Canadian Liberal and NDP politicians, who continue to flock to these hateful events and venues.

Part of the reason we stood with Jews is the sense of isolation we feel. Every year, Indians celebrate Independence Day downtown, and every year, a group of Khalistani Sikhs arrive to disrupt the event with hateful slogans and threats.

Hindus and Jews must join together to combat domestic threats as well as standing for the great democracies abroad.

Another big reason why Canadian Hindus overwhelmingly support Israeli actions is that we know the result of not taking a firm line with terrorists. Last month, India suffered a terrorist strike in Mumbai and India has suffered more Islamist terror than any nation in the last two decades.

This is because India has, through much of her history, been cursed by the rule of the Congress Party, which depends heavily on Muslim votes and is hostile to Israel. Before 1998, Congress had ensured that India did not have diplomatic relations with Israel and supported the PLO. Currently, this party rules India and has been critical of Israel's Gaza operations.

Canadian Hindus see Israeli actions as heroic and worthy of replication. The community fervently hopes for the return to power in India's May elections of the pro Zionist BJP party. The BJP has passionately supported Israel throughout its history and was responsible for establishing close relations between the two nations.

Real Hindus all over the world shall proudly stand behind Israel.

Ron Banerjee is director of Canadian Hindu Advocacy.

Dry Bones THE NAIVE NEWSMAN



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Open letter to the prime minister

Re: UN Human Rights Council - Canada's vote in support of Israel.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Thank you and your colleagues for Canada's steadfast support and action at the UN Human Rights Council on Jan. 12. Thank you for your government's support and affirmation of the state of Israel's right to defend itself and to say 'enough is enough,' and for expressing concern that the council did not mention Hamas' initiation of the hostilities with its continuous rocket barrages against southern Israel.

Your government's actions are a brave endeavour, sending a signal to the Hamas terrorist organization and other rogue elements that continuous disregard for the lives of Israelis, let alone its own Palestinian Gazan residents, will not be tolerated.

Undoubtedly, Canada and the people of Israel would hope that Palestinians generally, will welcome dialogue and an exchange of views with the goal for all peoples of the region to live in peace, harmony and mutual respect for one another.

Canada, the western World and Israel - including Jews and Muslims alike - really have an unprecedented opportunity today for they and their national leaders to reach out and try, be it even if only for the moment, take that first step, a chance, to set aside long-standing ancient feuds, prejudices, ideological



PM STEPHEN HARPER

and religious differences, hatreds, animosities, fundamentalist pursuits. . . .

The Middle East, being the cradle of civilization could very well become the foundation and chance for yet another golden age of civilization. The region is ripe with innumerable untapped resources of peoples, cultures, intellect, sophistication, determination, motivation and potential understanding to make it a better place to live, flourish and contribute to the whole world, so that the region and its peoples may be held in high regard and esteem.

Again, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for Canada's friendship and support of Israel.

Simon Gulden Markham, ON

Stay out of it, Sid Ryan

The following letter appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press last week:

Union members across the country are getting laid off and these people are hurting and they are, or at least were, dues-paying union members. Union members need our unions to focus on their job security, contract language/negotiations, representations, decent wages and safe working conditions in these times. Their dues enable us to do what we do - so perhaps we should concentrate on them instead of what is happening in a conflict that we could never even begin to understand.

I am the president of a fairly large CUPE local and I am opposed to CUPE Ontario's president, Sid Ryan, taking any position regarding Israel.

As a unionist I believe, along with a large percentage of rank-and-file members, that we have to take care of our own members' needs before sticking our noses into other countries' disputes, be it Israel or any other country. We (the union) have a very diverse membership as we represent members from most all religious and ethnic backgrounds and we should not be forming opinions on any group, country, religion or conflict.

*Terry Egan
President, CUPE Local 110
Winnipeg, MB*

JEWISH TRIBUNE
Largest Jewish Weekly in Canada

Weekly Circulation Home Delivery: 54,430
Paper Boxes/Business Distribution: 6,500
Total: 62,530

Available on-line at www.jewishtribune.ca

15 Hove Street
North York, Ontario M3H 4Y8
Tel (416) 633-6224
Fax (416) 633-6299
eMail: info@jewishtribune.ca
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<http://www.bnabrit.com>

Publisher: **Dr. Frank Dimant**
Editor: **Norm Gordon**
Art Department: **Bonnie Palsev**

Editorial Advisory Board Chair: **Prof. Arthur Siegel**

National Advertising and Sales Manager: **Gadi Prager**

Annual Subscription rate

1 Year incl. GST - \$34
2 Year incl. GST - \$62 USA - 1Yr. \$93 U.S.
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JEWISH TRIBUNE MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a credible printed voice for the issues and objectives pursued by B'nai Brith Canada and to provide a newspaper which is topical, and reflects the diversity of interests and opinions of Canadian Jews, through news coverage, op-ed columns and feature articles.

Publication Mail Agreement No. 40011766
Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to Circulation Department
15 Hove Street,
Toronto, Ontario M3H 4Y8
Email: info@jewishtribune.ca



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Pressure mounts for Jewish organizations to merge

Jacob Berkman

NEW YORK (JTA) – The cancellation last week of a major Jewish educational conference is the latest sign that the Jewish non-profit world will shrink in coming months as some organizations move closer to extinction and others seek mergers.

Over the past year, the faltering economy and tight fund-raising dollars have forced several Jewish institutions to cede their independence and fold into larger organizations. Recent months have seen an open push for Jewish institutions to consider how they can work together to streamline an organizational world that apparently has become too robust to fund.

But the announcement recently that the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education was cancelling its annual conference and seeking ways to fold its programming into another existing Jewish organization could serve as a wake-up call that more such moves are on the way.

"In some ways, the CAJE closure is a big flashing red light of warning to other Jewish non-profits who should be looking for combination because if you wait too long, there may be nothing left to combine," said Jeffrey Solomon, president of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Foundation.

The Jewish non-profit world went through a dramatic change over the past two decades, moving away from a model that was funded primarily by a centralized Jewish federation system to more of a free-market system that was funded increasingly in large part by private philanthropists working on their own accord.

While that free-market system allowed for intense innovation and growth, it also created several layers of fat and overlap that could have been streamlined along the way – but must be trimmed now, according to Jonathan Sarna, the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun professor of American Jewish Studies at Brandeis University and the author of *American Judaism*.

"Hard times will promote consolidation," Sarna said. "Initially there will be great sorrow at the loss of this organization or that organization, but if we do it right, we will find that we are leaner and meaner."

"We will see significant efficiencies produced by this kind of downsizing. Though no one is unsympathetic to the people losing their jobs who have also done important work, when looked at from the Jew-

ish community as a whole, there is a sense that we expanded a bit too rapidly and far too many organizations came into existence."

This expansion bubble already has started to deflate, as some organizations have cut pre-emptively to make sure that despite any fund-raising woes, at least their core mission would be carried out.

The Baltimore Hebrew University announced that it would become part of Towson State University and the Philadelphia Jewish Archive Center said it would shut down in 2009 and its collection would become part of Temple University's archive.

But the closing of CAJE, Sarna said, is perhaps the perfect example of what happens when an organization runs its course and does not adapt quickly enough.

When it was started some 35 years ago, CAJE essentially was a platform for young innovative Jewish educators to share what then were avant-garde ideas about Jewish education that were being given short shrift by the establishment.

As CAJE aged, Sarna said, it went from a cutting-edge innovator to more of an establishment organization in the world of supplementary Hebrew schools. Meanwhile, a new crop of effective, innovative organizations emerged that included, among others, the Partnership for Jewish Education and RAVSAK The Jewish Community Day School Network, as well as a resurgent Jewish Educational Services of North America.

"You can keep that going in good economic times," Sarna said of the overabundance of Jewish educational organizations. "But once bad economic times hit, it is clear that we are going to see a consolidation in the world of Jewish education. With JESNA and PEJE so much better funded, it is not surprising that CAJE has to shut its doors. And it would be a mistake to say, 'What a terrible setback for Jewish

education.'"

The call for more mergers in the broader Jewish non-profit world has become louder of late.

Presenters at a symposium on non-profits and the economy sponsored by the Samuel Bronfman Foundation and Natan, an organization that helps young funders find innovative projects, encouraged those in attendance to consider whether their organizations could merge.

When the Jewish Funders Network met in December to discuss how to deal with the fallout from the huge losses taken by non-profits in the Bernard Madoff scandal, it proposed coming up with a list of organizations open to mergers to save the commu-

nity money.

And when the Orthodox Union convened the leaders of dozens of Jewish day schools, organizers pushed schools to consider how they could potentially consolidate parts of their course offerings, perhaps creating regional Advanced Placement courses run by several schools together instead of each school paying to

run small classes on their own.

Most Jewish professionals and funders are loath now to publicly name organizations that they think should merge, but the American Jewish Congress is an easy example of a potential casualty of the financial crisis, those interviewed said.

The AJCongress, which lost \$21 million of its \$24 million endowment in Madoff's alleged Ponzi scheme, has long been discussed as an organization whose mission – defending civil rights and advocacy for Jewish social causes – overlaps with several other organizations, including the larger, better funded and similarly named American Jewish Committee. AJCongress had been relying on its endowment to produce about 25 per cent of its annual operating budget.

"Rather than organizations scrambling for resources and competing for dollars, they should come together and say, 'How do we work together?'" said Simon Greer, CEO and president of Jewish Funds for Justice.

Greer's organization is actually the combination of three organizations that have come together since 2006: the Shefa Fund, Jewish Fund for Justice and Spark. And Greer said that he has had discussions with at least a half dozen other organizations since November about possibly working strategically together.

The money squeeze is real, according to Dana Raucher, the executive director of the Samuel Bronfman Foundation, the philanthropy of billionaire Edgar Bronfman.

Raucher said December typically is a slow month in terms of organizations asking for money because their fiscal years are already over. This December, though, she took two or three meetings per day from prospective grantees.

"I am definitely sensing that we are turning the page and the Jewish philanthropic universe is getting smaller," Raucher said. "It is a smaller world now."

But, Raucher said, mergers are not the cure-all solution and are, in fact, quite difficult to pull off – and can only be successful when the cultures of two organizations align.

"The for-profit experience teaches us that mergers are a mixed bag," she said. "Seventy per cent of for-profit mergers destroy share value. I think the mergers that work best are when one organization is so big it's a buyout situation. That doesn't tell you that you shouldn't merge, but you should walk into it carefully, pilot something."

The Jewish community should look at this as an opportunity, albeit a painful one, according to the head of Natan, Felicia Herman.

"The financial crisis is a reversal in the way that we have been living for the past 20 to 25 years," she said. "That was based largely on fiction, a bubble of a lot of debt and credit. Now that that has gone away, there is an opportunity to restructure everything."

"We should not take for granted that what we have known in the past is what we will know in the future, whether it is in terms of particular organizations going away or a particular way of organizing the community," she said. "I think that right now we are in a moment where many things are possible and just saying that out loud is important."



Where do Israel, Jewish people stand at this moment?

Henry Srebrnik

It's always important to be realistic and not give in to wishful thinking when it comes to the security of Israel. Though I don't think of myself as an alarmist, I'm sorry to say that things do not look good right now.

We must take the long view and see trend lines in Israel's strength vis-a-vis its foes.

Despite Israel's military prowess, there has been a slow but steady shift in the balance of forces between Israel and its most implacable enemies. All we need to do is look at Gaza.

In 1956 and 1967, Israel swept through the small area with hardly any resistance, even though in both cases the Gaza battles were just part of much larger wars.

Even during the 1973 Yom Kippur War, in which Israel suffered horrific initial losses, Gaza, as well as the border with Lebanon, remained quiet. Neither Hamas nor Hezbollah had yet been created. Nor was Iran in the hands of a Shi'ite theocracy.

And between 1949 and 1991 – when Saddam Hussein lobbed Scud missiles at the country – Israel's home front was safe from military attack.

Yet now, after three weeks of warfare in Gaza, Israel has been either unable to militarily vanquish Hamas, or else felt it simply couldn't afford to do so, due to a combination of diplomatic pressure and effective Palestinian manipulation of world opinion. And this, even though Israel wasn't involved in fighting anywhere else.

I don't think that Israel gained much from this offensive, especially when judged against the condemnations of the operation, even by western countries. It's little more than the status quo. I doubt that Egypt or even the US will be able to stop the smuggling of weapons into Gaza.

Something similar happened in the war against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon in 2006. While Israel was unchallenged in the air, the ground war was inconclusive – and Hezbollah today has more rockets than it did back then.

It turns out the weapons suppliers – Iran and others – to groups like Hamas and Hezbollah are doing a far more effective job, and providing more "bang for the buck," than the old Communist bloc did when the Soviets were arming countries like Egypt and Syria.

Also, as one war follows another, there is another worrisome trend: more and more diaspora Jews, particularly younger people, in Canada and elsewhere, are signing anti-Israeli petitions and joining 'anti-Zionist' groups, with some even supporting Hamas and Hezbollah.

It's easy for us to write them off as "self-hating Jews." Some are. But for many others, it's a version of the so-called Stockholm Syndrome, where people begin to identify with their tormentors – "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em" – and hope to be spared.

Such Jews, usually fairly assimilated into the larger society and often with little schooling in Judaism or Jewish history, find intolerable the stress of living and working amongst people who increasingly see Israel as an aggressor, rogue, or 'apartheid' state.

The relentless ideological attacks on the Jewish state – not to mention increasingly blatant antisemitic rhetoric – are taking their toll. No one wants to be ostrac-

ized by colleagues, fellow students, or co-workers.

To ease this psychological burden, such Jews are in effect 'converting,' to use religious terminology, from 'Jewishness' (except as a vestigial identity) to 'cosmopolitan diaspora multiculturalism.'

None of this bodes well, either for Israel or for the rest of us.

Henry Srebrnik is a professor of political studies at the University of Prince Edward Island.

The songs of war

Nechemia Meyers

REHOVOT, Israel – The current war has yet to produce its own generally acclaimed song, though several new melodies are competing for that distinction. Meanwhile, the conflict does have one beneficial effect in the musical sphere. Broadcasters have put aside contemporary songs – with their heavy beat and absence of content – and instead concentrate on old favourites about the beauties of the land of Israel and the trials and tribulations of love. When the fighting ends, those discs will be put back on the shelves until the next conflict.

My personal links between music and armed conflict go back to my period in a Los Angeles junior high school during World War II. The melodies I learned then are still embedded in my memory and, on the spur of the moment, I can still belt out *Remember Pearl Harbor*, *Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition*, *Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer*, and *We Did it Before and We Will do it Again*.

At the same time my father, a veteran of World War I, taught me the *Marine Hymn*, *Over There*, *The Mademoiselle from Armentiers* and *I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy*.

In Habonim and after coming on aliyah in 1951, I learned and loved the many War of Independence songs. Here again I can readily recall the words and melodies of *Bab al Wad*, *Shir ba'Palmach Dudu* and some Russian World War II favourites that were translated into Hebrew.

The Six Day War brought with it an avalanche of songs, many of them bombastic and best forgotten. Particularly well known is *Nasser is Waiting for Rabin*. It proclaimed that the then Israeli Chief of Staff would swiftly dispose of the Egyptian President.

Jerusalem of Gold, the most famous Israeli war song, wasn't written for a war. *Jerusalem of Gold* made its debut during a song contest just before the Six Day War and was subsequently adopted by the soldiers and everyone else as a national hymn and, indeed, almost became Israel's national anthem. But it eventually fell out of favour with left-wing elements because it described the Arab-inhabited areas of Jerusalem as being "empty."

There is another song from the period of the Yom Kippur War that now, once again, is being broadcast and which gives me a lump in my throat every time I hear it. Sung by Yoharam Gaon, it says: "I promise you my little girl that this will be the last war."

ISRAEL AT WAR > NEXT STEPS? > MONTREAL

A strange way to conduct a war



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JERUSALEM – According to a report in *Ha'aretz*, Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak is promoting a week-long "humanitarian ceasefire" in the Gaza Strip. In contrast, the report said, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert believes the military objectives have not been achieved.

Olmert is delaying a meeting with senior ministers in an effort to allow the military operations in Gaza to continue," *Ha'aretz* said.


Olmert did not meet with Barak and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni last Tuesday; Barak and Livni support a ceasefire. Last Wednesday, he did not convene the political-security cabinet to



Troika of PM Olmert, DM Barak and FM Livni are badly split over next steps.

discuss the Gaza operation. Responding to a call by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for an immediate ceasefire, Barak told *Ha'aretz*, "We respect the request of the UN Secretary General and are following developments with the Egyptian initiative. However, the fighting is continuing."


A senior political source told *Ha'aretz* that even though Olmert



holds a minority view in the troika (Olmert, Barak and Livni), he holds the power because he decides when cabinet meetings will be held, and sets the agenda. The troika is a monitoring and coordinating body. To broaden or end IDF operations can be done only by a cabinet vote.

Barak believes Operation Cast Lead has achieved its main objectives, first and foremost bolstering Israel's deterrent power. He does not believe continuing the offensive will bring further gains, but rather only operational complications and casualties.

Barak wants the IDF to stop



shooting, hold its positions and keep the reservists under arms, and negotiate with Egypt and the United States on an arrangement that would include preventing arms smuggling into Gaza.

According to the report, Barak is concerned that US President Barack Obama will demand that Israel immediately end the operation. A tough UN Security Council resolution is also a risk.

Livni insists Israel must end the operation without an agreement, enjoying its refreshed deterrence against Hamas. She also believes the mission cannot obtain any more major gains.



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Mike Cohen
Quebec Confidential

Middle East tensions run high in Montreal

MONTREAL – Just two weeks ago I was at a community building when I ran into a familiar face who said she was there for a meeting "for the big Montreal public rally for Israel." I told her it will be cold outside, to which she responded, "Oh no, this is for the annual *Yom Ha'atzmaut* rally next spring. We have to start planning now."

Under the circumstances of what has been occurring in Gaza and southern Israel in recent weeks and the high-profile, anti-Israel demonstrations, perhaps Montreal's Jewish community needs to hold a *pre-Yom Ha'atzmaut* rally regardless of the frigid temperatures.

Similar to what happened here two and half years ago when Israel battled Hezbollah in Lebanon, tempers have been running high among members of the Montreal Jewish and Arab communities in regard to the war in Gaza. Montreal's organized Jewish community, including, of course, representatives from B'nai Brith Canada, have been front and centre defending Israel.

Sympathizers to the Palestinian cause have made a lot of noise as well. Not surprisingly they have also let things get a bit out of hand. During the Lebanon war, of course, headlines focused on a huge downtown rally, which saw officials from the Bloc Québécois and even the federal Liberal Party marching against Israel. The most recent gathering downtown wasn't any easier to stomach. Not only did reps from Quebec's major trade unions take part, but so did the president of the Parti Québécois, Monique Richard, and the lone representative in the Quebec National Assembly of the separatist Québec Solidaire Party, Amir Khadir. Oh yes, the usual delegation of local Jews critical of Israel made their voices heard as well.

The "anti-Israel" rally was actually a bit scary as chants could be heard like "Israel Assassin" and "Viva Viva Intifada." The venom displayed against Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his unequivocal support of Israel made many wonder again why this Jewish community does not support the Conservative Party in greater numbers at the ballot box. Some demonstrators threw their shoes at an effigy of Harper. Parliamentarian Khadir did so at a picture of now former US President George W. Bush. An Israeli flag was burned. This was a hateful demonstration, plain and simple. Khadir, an Iranian-born physician who specializes in infectious diseases, will no doubt be a problem for the pro-Israel lobby here. True, his party has only one seat. But now he has a platform.

Israel's consulate, now in the posh Westmount Square building, was the object of a brief disruption two weeks ago when 15 protesters showed up. Strangely enough, the Montreal media jumped all over this non-event.

The only pro-Israel rally took place at the Beth Israel Beth Aaron Congregation in the predominantly Jewish suburb of Côte Saint-Luc. As reported in last week's *Jewish Tribune*, it attracted an overflowing crowd of more than 1,200 people. But once again this was a case of speakers preaching to the converted.



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ISRAEL AT WAR > BRIEFS

Obama to appoint Middle East crisis team

JERUSALEM (Arutz-7) – United States President Barack Obama was expected to appoint a team immediately after his inauguration on Tuesday to address on “Day One” the crisis in Gaza, as well as other troubles across the Middle East.

“We’ve got a regional set of problems,” Obama said in an interview with *USA Today*, noting the challenges in Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan in addition to the war over the Land of Israel. “They’re not going to be solved in isolation. And we’ve got to be active in all these areas in order for us to be successful in any of these areas.”

According to the report, Obama is planning a “diplomatic offensive, which could include the appointment of special envoys,” and which “contrasts sharply” with former President George W. Bush’s approach to the region.

“Bush put less emphasis on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict early in his tenure and tended to deal with Middle East problems separately,” the report explained.

The most recent poll by Rasmussen Reports showed 53 per cent of Americans at least somewhat confident in Obama’s ability to deal with the situation in Gaza, including 25 per cent who are “very confident” in him.

The Rasmussen poll found that 56 per cent of voters nationwide believe that “the Palestinians are to blame” for the current situation in Gaza, while 13 per cent say Israel is at fault. Close to half – 45 per cent – said Israel was justified in taking military action against Gaza, while 38 per cent opined that the Jewish nation should have tried harder to find a diplomatic solution.

As in the earlier survey, Republicans strongly agree with Israel, while Democrats wish there

had been more efforts at diplomacy. Half of those polled said Israel should agree to a truce now, while 26 per cent disagree.

Cell phone messages threatening Israelis came from Britain

LONDON (JTA) – Warning messages sent to the cell phones of Israeli soldiers and their families originated from the United Kingdom, according to reports.

The SMS messages received last Tuesday night by hundreds of cell phones across Israel warned soldiers of their fate if they entered Gaza.

According to media reports in Britain and Israel, checks of the code from the sender’s number revealed the texts originated in the United Kingdom.

Initially it was assumed that the text messages were part of Hamas psychological warfare and were sent from the Gaza Strip aiming to create fear and panic. However, according to the British newspaper *The Sun*, “British supporters of the Islamic fanatics in the besieged Gaza Strip were assumed to be responsible for the scare tactics last night.”

The text messages, sent in English, read: “Come on into Gaza. Lots of surprises waiting for your sons, the least of which is death – Hamas.”

Attempts by Israeli and British security services to trace the sender of the text messages failed, as the line had apparently been disconnected.

Bolivia, Venezuela sever ties with Israel

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Bolivia and Venezuela have cut diplomatic ties with Israel over Israel’s operation in Gaza.

Bolivian President Evo Morales also plans to ask that the World Criminal Court charge Israeli leaders with genocide, according to media reports. “The Israeli government’s crimes affect global stability and peace and have returned the world to the worst stage of crimes against humanity that we hadn’t seen except in World War II and in the last years in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda,” Morales said.

The Israeli government said last Wednesday that it had not yet been notified by the Bolivian government of its decision to end diplomatic relations.

Venezuela officially broke off diplomatic relations several hours after the Bolivian announcement. The official announcement follows the Jan. 6 expulsion of Israel’s ambassador to Caracas and seven embassy staff members by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a close ally of Morales.

A statement released by the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry said the country “has decided to break off diplomatic relations with the state of Israel given the inhumane persecution of the Palestinian people,” according to reports.

B’nai B’rith International called Bolivia’s decision a “troubling development in the region,” noting that “Bolivia has enjoyed excellent relations with Israel for many years” and that the two countries have several cooperative programs.

“It is noteworthy that this announcement was made a day after Morales met with an Iranian delegation headed by Iranian Minister of Cooperation Mohammad Abbasi,” B’nai B’rith said in a statement. “Iran has been trying to expand its influence in Latin America for years, and this

episode only underscores Morales’ willingness to cooperate with the Iranian government that sponsors terror worldwide and has one of the worst human rights records in the world.”

Biafrans rally for Israel

LONDON (JTA) – A group of Christians from the former Republic of Biafra rallied for peace in London.

The group, which demonstrated last Wednesday near the Israeli embassy, said a conflict similar to that in Gaza made them stateless. It called for peace for Israelis and Palestinians. Representatives of the group also took part in the pro-Israel rally in central London on Jan. 11.

Members of the evangelical Christian group carried signs calling on people to ‘Remember Biafra,’ referring to the East African republic that was defeated in the Nigerian civil war fought for three years, ending in 1970.

Some of their signs explained the connection they see between the Middle East conflict and the tragedy of the African civil war in which many thousands died.

One sign read, “The right of any nation to exist should be the fundamental duty of every other nation/country of the world. When a nation fails to defend its right to exist that nation is bound to die. This is why Biafra is stateless today.”

The Biafran group refers to their campaign as the Try Peace Campaign, saying that the people of Israel and Gaza want peace and that the world should help them achieve it.

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Students stand with survivors to get word out about genocide

Rebeca Kuropatwa

Western Correspondent

WINNIPEG – “The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference,” said Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate.

Students are taking these sentiments to heart and leading in raising genocide consciousness.

JSA/Hillel presented *Voices of Victims: Generations of Genocide*, to a sold out audience at the Asper JCC recently.

Student partners included the Indo-Canadian Students Association, the African Students' Association, Winnipeg Walk 4 Darfur (WW4D), the East Indian Students' Association, Students Helping Others Understand Tolerance (SHOUT), Little Travelers HIV/AIDS Initiative, and Students Taking Action Now Darfur (STAND).

Samantha Loxton, JSA/Hillel president, said, “These students enlightened the audience with their dedication to promoting peace-building, diversity and education in a meaningful way.”

Ashley Faintuch, chair, JSA/Hillel Human Rights/Genocide Awareness,



PHOTO: REBECA KUROPATWA

COMPOSER ZANE ZALIS

said, “Many people don't know what has happened in Rwanda, or even that there's a genocide happening right now in the Congo.

“As Jews, we refer to WWII as the Holocaust, because the majority of people killed were Jewish, but often forgotten are the disabled, Romas, Soviets, war prisoners, homosexuals, and religious and political opponents.”

The word “Holocaust” comes from the Greek roots *holo* (wholly) and *kauston* (burned). “Genocide” is a combination of the Greek word *genos*



PHOTO: REBECA KUROPATWA

ELOGE CHRISTIAN BUTERA

(race/tribe) and the Latin word *cide* (killing/elimination).

Winnipeg composer Zane Zalis and his musical troupe, Prodigy, performed excerpts from *I Believe*, a large, orchestral work, premiering with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra on May 21.

He said the piece illustrates “humankind's most depraved and sublime moments. It's about all genocides and all people.”

Sarah Yachison, of WW4D, said keynote speaker and McGill law student Eloge Christian Butera “caused

people to put a face to those who've experienced genocide and relate to them on a more personal level.”

Yachison added, “People aren't born wanting to torture, rape, or kill. Genocide perpetrators should listen to the victims, so they realize they're people – like themselves – with families, goals and feelings.”

Butera is a 1994 Rwanda Genocide survivor.

In 1994, more than a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda, including more than 100 members of Butera's family, were murdered.

“Indifference made it possible for past genocides to occur,” said Butera. “If we choose to learn and take action, we may be able to prevent future genocides.”

Butera told the story of his best friend in childhood, who was murdered in Rwanda. His last words, after being chased by the people of a small village and beaten to death, were, “Forgive me. I will never be a Tutsi again.”

Butera said, “Today, genocide denial is the new ‘cool.’ This is an attack, at the very least, on the survivors. It's hard enough for survivors to live with our memories and make due with our

insomnia, but when people make a mockery of those who we loved and lost, that's something else.”

Despite all he has been through, Butera maintains hope for a better world.

“Together, let's shame the killers and enablers of Darfur, the occupiers of Tibet, the persecutors of minorities in Iran, and the tyrants all over the African continent,” said Butera. “It's up to us to be the dreamers, rock the boat and remind our leaders and educators that the our present and future world must be one free of genocide and injustice.”

STAND's Bobbie Whiteman said the event “introduced people to many local groups actively helping genocide victims and encouraging our government to take up a more prominent role.”

JSA/Hillel and WW4D's Carly Slosower said, “There are concrete actions that make a difference. Tell others. Call an MLA/MP. Organize a fundraiser.”

A portion of the ticket sales will be donated to Tubahumarize, a women's collective based in Kigali, Rwanda (founded by Butera's mother, Jeanne Mwiliriza).

Seeking memories from Montreal's old 'Papineau' Jewish district



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY OF MONTREAL ARCHIVES

This is one of the only known photos of the former White Shul (Chaverim Kol Yisrael) in Jewish Papineau.

Lorie Wolfe, percussionist: Going one step farther, blending Yiddish roots with avant-garde

Rick Kardonne

Correspondent

TORONTO – The short stories of the late Yiddish novelist and Nobel Prize literature laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer were perhaps his greatest lasting contribution to world literature. One of his most distinctive, thanks to its innovative surrealism based in Yiddish folklore, is *Taibele and her Demon*, which instinctively lends itself to being put to modern surreal music with a Yiddish imprint.

A week ago Sunday, Toronto drummer and composer Lorie Wolfe, in association with The Ashkenaz Foundation and the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, celebrated the release of her debut CD recording, *Taibele and her Demon* at the Al Green Theatre. The album is a series of original Wolf jazz compositions, her musical interpretation of this Singer short story.



LORIE WOLFE

Wolfe grew up in Toronto in a musically folk- and pop-oriented family.

“My dad grew up in Poland and played guitar and accordion,” she said. “Through him I learned Hebrew songs. He also was a great fan of the Beatles, and I constantly listened to the great original Beatles albums such as *Sergeant Pepper* and *Abbey Road*,” Lorie told the *Jewish Tribune*.

Beatles songs on the *Sergeant*

Mike Cohen

Quebec Bureau Chief

MONTREAL – A father and son have embarked upon an interesting online project featuring a repository of memories and memorabilia of the district of Papineau, a one-time Montreal Jewish immigrant neighbourhood, which is now best known as the federal riding represented by rookie Liberal MP Justin Trudeau.

During the last half of 2007 Philip Teitelbaum, now 84, recounted his memories of the Papineau area – where he grew up – to his son Peter Teitelbaum, an Ottawa physician, who runs a travel medicine clinic. Philip arrived in 1927 at the age of three and lived there until he

was 18.

“I taped his accounts and stories while my sons-in-law provided street maps and photos,” said Peter, alluding to the website www.jewishpapineau.com.

“Most of the people living in Papineau were Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe,” Peter continued. “The neighbourhood consisted of Papineau Avenue, and the adjacent streets, mainly between St. Zouique and Bellechasse. I have been receiving emails from many Papineau people, their children and grandchildren. Their accounts, photographs and documents are being added to this web site. And I am looking for more.”

He told the *Jewish Tribune* that this project really grew out of his wish to document his

father's memories about Papineau while they were so clear and complete.

“I made it web-based and, as I began to hear from other Papineau people, it expanded,” he said.

Any plans for a book? “I've been asked by others about a book,” he responded. “But it's not in my immediate plans.”

The ‘Papineau’ that the Teitelbaums talk about is now considered part of the Montreal district of Rosemount, where there are perhaps only a small handful of Jewish residents.

“The area was known as Papineau to all of us, and as Papinyu to the Jews who lived there,” said Peter. “It was a heavily Jewish area, centred on Papineau Avenue, where the businesses were.”

Philip moved to Ottawa in the early '60s to open a furniture store and eventually invested in real estate. But he never forgot his roots. The Teitelbaums say they are reaching out to readers of the *Jewish Tribune* to attract a national audience and hopefully get the attention of some former Papineau residents.

The web site is simple to navigate and includes a lot of audio portions, including an interview Peter did with a local community radio station. Besides stories and interviews, there are profiles on different people, places and businesses, as well as photos and documents.

“It has been successful so far,” said Peter. “I have been receiving emails from many Papineau people, their children and grandchildren. Their

accounts, photographs and documents are being added to this web site.”

In his story Philip recounts that the area was called Papineau because this was the name of the main street.

“It had a streetcar and people took that to get downtown,” he recalls. “The kids would roam as far west as Christophe Colombe. I went to Earl Grey school on Christophe Colombe, after Amherst School. Then to Baron Byng. We walked, of course, to Earl Grey, but we walked through a quarry, which was a kind of shortcut, called Martino's quarry. We lived on Marquette and could walk through there and fields to Earl Grey school. Cartier Street was full of Jewish people and Papineau Street had lots of Jewish people. People moved all the time. Every May 1 people would move! I don't know why.”

If you have any Papineau-related information, Peter would appreciate hearing from you. His email address is travelclinic@rogers.com. He asks that you put ‘Papineau’ in the subject line. You can browse the web site at www.jewishpapineau.com.



PHOTO: MIKE COHEN

Present-day photo of the Teitelbaums' former home in Jewish Papineau.

ENTERTAINMENT > FILM > THEATRE > VOLUNTEERS

Saturday night at the movies

COTE ST. LUC – Issues of trust, unfathomable loss and unshakable faith with be debated at what promises to be a thought-provoking film event in the Montreal area.

A PBS Masterpiece contemporary film, *God on Trial*, is based on a legend about a group of concentration camp inmates that conducted a mock trial against the Almighty. Following the screening, Rabbi Ira Ebin will lead a discussion.

The program, free of charge, will be held in Cote St. Luc at Beth Zion Congregation, 5740 Hudson Avenue, on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call (514) 489-8411, or visit bethzion.com.

Teatron Theatre to perform The Dybbuk

TORONTO – In the newest Teatron production, local veteran actor, singer and entertainer Howard Jerome will be starring in *The Dybbuk*, a romantic drama set in an Eastern European shtetl, at the Leah Posluns theatre, Feb. 25-March 8.

The Dybbuk, also known as *Between Two Worlds*, was written by Russian Jewish writer and scholar of folklore S. Ansky. The play has transcended its cultural context to become a classic of modern Jewish theatre.

"We are pleased to welcome Jerome back to Teatron Theatre after his first appearance with us in *This Night* six years ago," said Ari Weisberg, Teatron's founder and artistic director. "Howard Jerome is a most talented and versatile actor, acting with great ease in dramas, comedies and musicals."

To order tickets (\$22-\$44), call 416-781-5527 or visit teatrontheatre.com.

Baycrest needs volunteers

TORONTO – Baycrest needs volunteers for friendly visits, assisting with programs, helping in offices and supporting our Baycrest community. Hours can be flexible.

Please call us at (416) 785-2500 ext. 2572 to set up for Volunteer Orientation.

Drivers needed

TORONTO – Volunteer Drivers are urgently needed to deliver kosher meals on wheels to Jewish seniors, says Circle of Care Volunteer Coordinator Penny Edwards.

"There has been a significant increase in the number of Jewish seniors who receive Kosher Meals on Wheels," Edwards said in a press release. "We need your help especially over the winter months."

For more information, call Volunteer Services at (416) 635-2860 or e-mail pedwards@circleofcare.com.

Israeli film takes Golden Globe

LOS ANGELES (JTA) – Israel's *Waltz with Bashir* won the Golden Globe for best foreign language film.

The victory at last Sunday's awards ceremony solidifies its front-runner status to win Israel's first Oscar at the Academy Awards next month.

The edgy, animated film about a traumatized veteran – director Ari Folman – trying to recover his memories of the first Lebanon War beat out entries from Germany, France, Italy and Sweden.

In his brief acceptance speech, Folman dedicated his Golden Globe to the eight babies, including three of his own, born to the film's production staff during the four years it took to complete the picture.

"I hope that when they grow up, these babies will watch this film together and will see it as an ancient video game that has nothing to do with reality," he said.

Many critics now are noting the picture's relevance to the current fighting in the Gaza Strip.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which awards the Golden Globes, honoured filmmaker Steven Spielberg with the Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievement.

Britain's Kate Winslet took home the trophy for best supporting actress for her role as a former SS concentration camp guard in *The Reader*. Winslet also won the best actress award for her portrayal of a suburban housewife in *Revolutionary Road*.

Veteran director Woody Allen's film *Vicky Christina Barcelona* garnered top honours for best musical or comedy picture.

Earlier this month, *Waltz with Bashir* was named the best picture of 2008 by The National Society of Film Critics and was named best film at the Ophir Awards, Israel's equivalent of the Oscars.



Steven Spielberg honoured.

Oldest Jewish film society in North America in its 31st year

Barbara Shainbaum

TORONTO – The Toronto Jewish Film Society enters its 31st year this month – the oldest continuing Jewish film society in North America.

Beginning at the Leah Posluns Theatre in north Toronto, it moved downtown to the Art Gallery of Ontario's Jackman Hall and then into its current home theatre at the Miles Nadal JCC's Al Green Theatre. The MNJCC strongly supports the society by helping with the acquisition of films and promotion of the film program.

Its new chair Shlomo Schwartzberg thinks the Toronto Jewish Film Society is not that different from the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, whose mandate is to present interesting films with Jewish content and speakers to go along with it.

"Because we only have 8 slots versus 100 plus films and 50 to 60 slots at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, we have to do it a little differently," he explained. "We have to be a little more accessible, we can't really get too experimental. Our mandate is to present Jewish films of interest illuminated by good speakers. And we're twice the age of the film festival, we came first."

Schwartzberg succeeded Norma Rubin, Ethel Teitelbaum and Barbara Coven, three strong women who have guided the organization over its first 30 years.

"Barbara, after 10 years, during our 30th year, decided to move on, and is still a member," he said. "I was asked to take over."

Schwartzberg, the former Director of Programming at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival (from 1996 to 2004), intends to carry on the tradition of the three former chairs.

"Obviously, I know a lot about



Carice van Houten as Rachel/Ellis (left) and Michiel Huiman as Rob in Paul Verhoeven's 2006 Dutch Holocaust thriller, *Black Book*

film so I might be able to find a film someone might not be able to think of because of my years of experience. I'm a film critic too. And I hope every year we get better than the year before."

Most cities have Jewish film festivals; some of them have Jewish film series, others occasional Jewish film weekends.

The society doesn't chase films while the festival is in the process of picking its lineup. As soon as the festival announces its programming in the spring, the society starts looking for films they don't show and what else is available. By Labour Day, the society finishes its programming and the festival takes over again.

"We're all film buffs," Schwartzberg affirms about the Toronto Jewish Film Society's committee members. "We have a nice ratio of all ages, people from their 20s to their 80s."

Including Barbara Coven and the new chair, there are 12 members (Avihu Bar-El, Mark Clamen, Morris Feldman, Merv Gollom, Stuart Hands, Florence Jacobowitz,

Shirley Kumove, Adam Nayman, Esther Pifko and Kalman Weiser) who liaise with Esther Arbeid, Film and Theatre Program Coordinator, MNJCC, and Harriet Wichin, Cultural Arts Director, MNJCC, also Film Society committee members.

"Esther is a major person, she does a lot of the work, chases down the films, pays for them, and makes sure the brochures come out on time. Plus she's at all the meetings," Schwartzberg said. "She's invaluable, she makes it work."

Academic Florence Jacobowitz and film critic Adam Nayman are new to the Film Society committee this year. "They'll bring fresh points of view," he said.

Schwartzberg hopes to add a few new changes to the society's format and provide provocative and diverse programming spanning genres that delve into all facets of Jewish life. "We have an unofficial breakdown: something Yiddish, something from Europe, something American, Israeli documentaries, hopefully a comedy."

They will also be showing classic

Jewish films including the program opener, Paul Verhoeven's 2006 Dutch Holocaust thriller, *Black Book*; American director Hy Averback's 1968 sleeper, *I Love You, Alice B. Toklas*, starring Peter Sellers; Canadian director's Jan Kadar's 1975 chestnut *Lies My Father Told Me*, Joseph Bern's 1939 classic *Mirele Efron*, or the *Jewish Queen Lear*, considered to be one of the best Yiddish movies to come out of America, and a strong selection of contemporary Israeli documentary voices.

The 4 p.m. Sunday screenings are sold out, but memberships are still available for the Sunday evening screenings.

This year's lineup includes: *Black Book*, Jan. 25; *I Love You, Alice B. Toklas*, Feb. 22; *The Red Toy with The 7th and Out for Love, Be Back Shortly*, March 15; *Lies My Father Told Me*, April 5; *Mirele Efron*, June 7; *Austeria*, Sept. 13; *Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust with This is your Life: Hanna Bloch Kobner*, Nov. 8; and *The Two of Us*, Dec. 6.

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FEATURES > BOOK > MUSIC > ALIYAH

Authors provide cultural, religious, culinary insight into Jewish food traditions

Wendy B. Schatzman-Sherry
US Correspondent

Jewish American Food Culture
Jonathan Deutsch and Rachel D. Saks
Greenwood Press, 2008.
141 pp. US \$49.95, hardcover

Jewish American Food Culture is a book to learn from, to teach with and to cook with.

This sentimental, comprehensive book is the final book from the Food Cultures in America series, which uses the diversity of the Jewish American table to explore the American Jewish experience. "The themes of the book really apply to the Diaspora as a whole and especially to the rest of the Americas, including Canada," said Dr. Jonathan Deutsch.

Dr. Deutsch and Rachel D.

Saks give us cultural, religious and culinary insight into our most distinctive and craved food traditions, while exploring questions about Jewish food from a religious, traditional and regional viewpoint, without excluding any who indulge.

Celebrating and teaching Jewish cooking against a backdrop of the historical essays that bring various traditional recipes alive is what the authors have successfully accomplished. Every reader is guaranteed to learn something, whether it's that Coca-Cola was certified kosher in 1935 by Atlanta Rabbi Tobias Geffen or that only the very poor Jews in Western Europe ate dark bread made with rye or barley.

This book is a particularly useful tool for anyone trying to learn about Jewish food. It serves as an essential one-stop



The offerings gathered in the book include such iconic specialties as bagels, latkes, kugel and chopped liver to such holiday favorites as *choroset*, stuffed cabbage (Sephardi style), and "doctor" gefilte fish.

guide and Sunday school teachers will find it a gem. For example, there is a wonderful explanation presented about potatoes and latkes and how for the Ashkenazi Jew these serve as the main starch for many meals. What follows is a straight-forward recipe that can be shared with children of all ages. This can serve as a wonderful lesson, while putting these loved traditional dishes easily into our hands and home kitchens. An easy-to-use glossary is also provided at the back of the book.

A further explanation of Chanukah is provided through a scholarly discussion by the authors: "It is unlike the first three holidays of the Jewish calendar, because it is not of biblical origin, but rather it is a Talmudic holiday, marking the miraculous victory of the Jews over Greek persecution and religious oppression."

The heirloom offerings gathered in the book include a range from such iconic specialties as bagels, latkes, kugel and chopped liver to such holiday favorites as *choroset*, stuffed cabbage (Sephardi style), and my personal favourite, "doctor" gefilte fish.



Follow these steps
for your licence

John Syrtash

Q: I'm writing because I was married and divorced outside of Canada (both events were in the United States). Do I still need to go through process as people who married in Canada and divorced elsewhere when I remarry? Or can I just apply directly for a marriage license because both events happened outside the country?

A: You can apply directly to the Registrar of Ontario for an Ontario marriage license. However, since you were divorced outside of Ontario and Canada, they will give you instructions with your marriage license application that you must take to a competent family law lawyer. That lawyer must give you a "legal opinion" in a form prescribed by the Ontario government that certifies that you were domiciled in that jurisdiction that granted you the foreign divorce for at least one year prior to the granting of the Divorce Order.

Otherwise, you could have simply flown to Las Vegas and obtain a weekend divorce. A lawyer will charge you a fee for such an opinion since he or she has to verify your identity, examine your passport and proof of domicile in that foreign jurisdiction for at least one year. He then also has to complete the Ontario legal opinion, which must be completed in a particular format.

You then file that opinion with the rest of your marriage application to obtain the Ontario marriage license.

Q: My husband has custody of the baby. He is denying me access if I don't give him money. We have no court documents on access but my lawyer is working on that.

Is there any way that I can get custody of my child? I have been accused of assault of my step-daughter, the CAS is involved. My husband has been a former drug addict and only quit last year in July, he is abusive towards me.

CAS gave me unsupervised access to my daughter. They told my lawyer they have no concerns about me having the baby.

A: Cases like this involve a spaghetti of conflicting allegations of abuse, especially when child protection workers are involved. Normally, the Ontario Court of Justice first hears from the Children's Aid Society to see if there is any merit to any of the abuse allegations before that same court or the Superior Court of Justice entertains any custody applications.

Allegations of substance abuse by your ex can be tested with DNA hair testing samples that your lawyer can ask the Court to order, if Dad is denying it. Of course, you yourself will be subject to the same tests.

Contact information:

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Musician creates moving piece to memorialize terror in Mumbai

TORONTO – Local bass player Wayne Schmidt has written a moving piece, *Prayer and Lament*, in memory of the victims of the recent terror in Mumbai, India, which he performed at a recent talent night hosted by Beth Tikvah congregation.

Cantor Tibor Kovari, who has been working on developing musical talent at the synagogue, told the *Jewish Tribune* how impressed he was with Schmidt's moving performance.

Schmidt was inspired by the news of the second birthday of Moshe Holtzberg, son of murder victims Rabbi Gavriel and Rivka Holtzberg. "When something like that happens, you have a reaction," he explained. "I actually had a happy tune in my head one day, but I changed it from a major key to a minor key. Almost all Jewish liturgical music is in D minor."

Schmidt, who had studied at the Etobicoke School of the Arts, graduated from University of Toronto in 1994 and "kept winning auditions for positions."

He worked as principal player in several British Columbian orchestras and taught bass and cello at a number of schools.

As for his favourite genre, "I don't have a preference," he said. He started studying music in Grade 6 and his first paid 'gig' was already the following year, when he played *Handel's*



Local bass player Wayne Schmidt has written a moving piece, *Prayer and Lament*, in memory of the victims of the recent terror in Mumbai, India.

Messiah at a school performance.

Although he began his musical career playing pure classical, he has since developed a strong liking for blue grass.

Back in Toronto since 2001, he freelances as a musician

and performs occasionally with up-and-coming blues artist Al Lukas at various lounges. He also launched 'Wavi Box,' a furniture-making business, and his goal is to divide his time between both artistic endeavors.

NBN unveils interactive fast-track aliyah application with virtual guide

JERUSALEM – In a joint venture with the Jewish Agency for Israel, Nefesh B'Nefesh (NBN) has launched a new cutting-edge 'One-Stop Aliyah Application' for North American citizens to streamline the

aliyah process for potential olim.

BREAKTHROUGH

Representing a breakthrough in aliyah technology, the new interactive application features

a more user-friendly interface that enables prospective olim to apply for both Nefesh B'Nefesh services and aliyah eligibility approval by the Jewish Agency in one application. Featuring built-in, live chat support and an NBN professional online to answer any questions and guide the navigating online process, the application can be tailored to meet the specific needs of each individual.

HARD COPY AVAILABLE

Users will also be able to scan and attach documents to the relevant sections of the application as well as check the status of their application on a specific personal webpage. A hard copy application will still be available for those who prefer to fill out a written one.

Nefesh B'Nefesh, along with the Jewish Agency, brought about 3,000 olim from North America and more than 600 from the UK in 2008 on five charter flights and 18 group flights.

To see the application, go to http://nbn.org.il/dag/dag_demo.html.



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Israel hockey 'Stars' triumph at tourney

Jack Borenstein
Sports Correspondent

TORONTO – Israeli Stars of David Premier Division playoff championship win, at the Canadian Multicultural Hockey League (CMHL) Tournament in late December, was a testament to teamwork and solidarity achieved on, and off, the ice.

In their 5-4 opening round-robin win over 2006 CMHL Tournament finalist Iroquois Silverhawks, RW Bryan Weinberg (OPJHL Mississauga Chargers) scored the winner with 1:20 left in the game.

“Daniel Mandel did all the work rushing up the ice, gave me the pass (nine feet) in front of the Iroquois net and I shot it in the top corner of the net,” said Weinberg.

Stars head coach and B'nai Brith Sports Director Alex Voihanski credited maintaining third-period momentum to his players “with big-time game experience – like assistant captain [former OHL Barrie Colt and first-round Edmonton Oiler draft pick] Michael Henrich, [former Israel national player] Daniel Spivak and [former OHL Oshawa Generals and Plymouth Whalers] Stacey Britstone.”

Henrich and assistant captain Adam Weinberg each scored twice.

Stars of David's 3-3 tie against two-time CMHL Tournament champion Irish Shamrocks was significant, despite surrendering a two-goal, third-period lead. Britstone's 40-foot wrist shot opened the scoring, with Henrich and Adam Weinberg notching the other goals. Goalie Lance King kept the Irish at bay, with key saves down the stretch.

Henrich said, “Our team is very skilled and showed a lot of resilience, having only been together for a few days.”

Britstone remarked “we played two top teams right away, and both were close games. The Irish game was a tough lesson learned, giving up that lead.”

While happy with the result, Voihanski



Israeli Stars of David head coach and B'nai Brith Canada Sports Director Alex Voihanski (top left) with many of his CMHL tournament champions.

was not happy “blowing the two-goal lead. We outplayed and outskated the Irish and need to continue playing ‘out of the box’ and smart hockey to succeed.”

Stars 4-1 win over Scottish Marauders saw Henrich score twice (one short-handed), with Britstone and Cody Schindermann scoring the other goals. The last round-robin game against Hellenic Lightning was a 4-1 loss, with assistant captain/C Jordan Weinberg scoring.

Voihanski said the presence of former Israel national player Alon Eizenman and OPJHL Stouffville Spirit defenceman Ryan Goldberg in this match “helped provide lineup depth, the remainder of the tourney. Britstone's minor injuries were helped by having him sit out the game.”

The opening period of the quarter final against Italian Gladiators saw both teams score three times (Goldberg, Britstone and Schindermann).

Britstone, Mikki Levy and Jordan

Weinberg scored in the second period. Eizenman's goal at 28 seconds of the third period provided a much needed three-goal cushion. Defenceman Aaron Stein rushed up ice and passed to Britstone, whose 48-foot wrist shot gave him the hat trick and the 8-4 win.

Voihanski said, “Once we cut out their mid-ice passes, our skating legs kicked in and we took over the game. It was definitely Levy's best tourney game.”

Britstone commended Stein for the soft pass, resulting in his hat trick goal.

Levy added that every player “knew we had to work hard and step up a notch against Italy. Alex told us to play well defensively, keep going on the power play and bury our scoring chances.”

Stars seemed destined for a 3-1 (Adam Weinberg, Stein and Goldberg with goals) lead after one period in the semi-final, when Irish Shamrocks scored right before the buzzer. Adam Weinberg and Mandel scoring 10 sec-

onds apart in the second period, and Jordan Weinberg's 15-foot snap shot, while being knocked to the ice, provided a 6-3 lead after two periods. Adam Weinberg completed his hat trick and Jordan Weinberg finished a four-point game with his second goal into an empty net, as Stars triumphed 8-4.

Adam said, “We wanted to start off strong and frustrate them. Even after their late first period goal we came back strong and continued what we were doing well.” Britstone added that he wanted to get Shamrocks running around “to force turnovers and take advantage to score. We have the fastest defencemen in the tourney, who move the puck quickly to our forwards in transition.”

Voihanski said it was the team's most complete game to date.

“We're a quick, good and young team that nobody can skate with and we were supposed to lose. In the pre-game, I told our players it was ‘us against the world.’ That we're representing local Jewish community and culture, and just get the job done.”

The Stars of David's opening shift in the final saw them keep the puck in the Polish Hussars (2007 CMHL Premier Division Tourney champion) zone for the first 75 seconds. Though not scoring, they showed Hussars and Chesswood Arena fans they meant business. Stein's 48-foot screen shot goal provided an early lead. Stars were stymied several times on a power play by Hussars goalie William Maier, resulting in a tied score after one period.

Adam Weinberg's shorthanded tally put Stars up 2-1. After Hussars scored, Britstone's goal restored the lead after two periods. Schindermann's end-to-end rush resulted in a pass to Jordan Weinberg, whose 18-foot wrist shot provided an important two-goal lead. Stars goalie Kevin Kliman made key saves down the stretch, as Hussars pressed to close the gap. Stars incurred a late-game penalty and with the goalie pulled, Hussars scored off a scramble with 23 seconds left. Stars kept the puck out of their zone for the remain-

ing time, as players jumped on the ice in jubilation at the buzzer commemorating a 4-3 championship win – more impressive, considering that they only had 14 players dressed.

Stars of David players and Voihanski received gold medals and Britstone received the Canadian Cup championship trophy, which he shared with his teammates on the ice.

Schindermann said, “This team was unselfish and all players supported and picked up after each other. Stacey went the extra mile, blocking shots near the end of the game, and always led by example. Alex helped us succeed by being very supportive, a good person who knows the game and meshed well with all the players.”

Jordan Weinberg said it was great to play with brothers Adam and Bryan: “It was a tremendous feeling playing as a family and was great for Adam and I to have Bryan with us in this tourney.”

Voihanski commended the fabulous team effort and especially Britstone's impact throughout.

“Stacey is a tremendous first-class player, and individual,” he said. “He made everyone calm, collected and focused on and off the ice.”

Britstone added, “Our team wasn't expected to win it all. Our opening shift showed Hussars that the game wasn't going to be a cakewalk. My CMHL Tourney MVP Award showed how well our whole team played and the sacrifices everyone made throughout.”

Mike Ceresney helped Voihanski in recruiting players for the CMHL Tourney.

“This win is a huge step for Jewish hockey in Toronto and I knew a lot of talented Jewish hockey players in the community to recruit from” Ceresney said. With racism, persecution and anti-semitism on the increase and the current crisis surrounding Israel, we showed the local hockey community how talented we are. We displayed good sportsmanship, and played clean hockey. I'm very, very proud of this team.”

Jack Borenstein can be emailed at j_borenstein@hotmail.com.

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