A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO HELPED BUILD OUR COMMUNITY AND TO ALL WHO CONTINUE TO MAKE THIS A WONDERFUL PLACE TO LIVE.
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JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF CANADA

2015 OCTOBER MISSION TO

ISRAEL

INCLUDING A JEWISH HERITAGE VISIT TO WARSAW & KRAKOW

OCTOBER 18 - NOVEMBER 3, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

POLAND – WARSAW & KRAKOW
- NEWLY OPENED MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS
- WARSAW GHETTO/BUNKER ON MILA STREET
- HEROES OF THE WARSAW GHETTO MONUMENT
- NOZYK SYNAGOGUE
- OZWODA JEWISH CEMETERY
- OLD TOWN
- JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
- KAZIMIERZ DISTRICT
- REMUS SYNAGOGUE
- MUSEUM OF JEWISH LIFE
- AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU CONCENTRATION CAMP

ISRAEL
- WESTERN GALILEE TOUR
- JEEP RIDE
- BOUTIQUE WINERIES
- CARMEL FOREST SPA
- SHUK LAVINSKY
- UNDERGROUND HOSPITAL
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It gives me great pleasure to send my warmest greetings and congratulations to everyone gathered for the 70 year Celebration of Life in Hamilton, presented by the Jewish National Fund of Hamilton.

I have seen first-hand how Canadians show compassion for people and passion for causes. Taken together, this generosity of spirit touches our whole society. What the Jewish community in Hamilton has done for seven decades, and what you are doing tonight to raise money for the “Replanting Roots” project, has helped so many. What’s more, you are building a stronger, more caring community and a better country for us all. Whether it is a gift of time, talent or money, your collective giving moments are examples for all of us to follow.

Thank you for your kindness and I wish all of you a very special Negev Dinner.

David Johnston
I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Jewish National Fund of Hamilton’s 63rd annual Negev Dinner.

This year, we mark the 70th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust, one of the darkest chapters in human history. With the victory over tyranny came the promise of a new beginning and, like other communities across the country, the Jewish population of Hamilton flourished thanks to an influx of new immigrants bringing their unique skills and experiences with them. This evening’s event, A Celebration of Life, offers a wonderful opportunity to pay tribute to your vibrant community —its past, present, and future.

The proceeds of tonight’s gala will benefit Replanting Roots, a special project in Kiryat Gat, Israel, to build a social club for retired and unemployed Jewish Ethiopian elders participating in the local agricultural program —a project that will provide them with a sense of fulfillment and belonging.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to offer you my best wishes for a memorable evening and for every success in meeting your fundraising goal.

Dear Friends,

I send you warm greetings from Jerusalem on the occasion of the 2015 Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the important work of the Jewish National Fund of Canada. With your help, Ben Gurion’s vision of making the desert bloom is becoming a reality. KKL-JNF has worked to safeguard our communities and advance our agriculture, employment and environment.

On behalf of the people and State of Israel, I express our sincere gratitude for your continued partnership and support.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Netanyahu
Ottawa, June 24, 2015

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to extend greetings to the Jewish National Fund (JNF) of Hamilton on the occasion of their 63rd Annual Negev Dinner celebrating Hamilton’s Jewish community.

The Jewish National Fund holds a very special place in Israeli society. What began as a campaign to purchase and develop the territory has evolved into a multi-faceted effort to sustain and enrich the entire Land of Israel for generations to come. Through projects and campaigns, the international JNF chapters’ contribute to this effort and reflect the warm bond between Israel and Jewish communities around the world.

With deep roots in Hamilton dating back to 1945, seventy years later, Hamilton’s Jewish community is pulsing with energy and activity. Made up of approximately five thousand members, four synagogues, two Jewish day schools, a Jewish community centre and numerous other institutions, the community has proven that Jewish life in Hamilton is only becoming more vibrant over time. For decades, this community has been a dear friend and supporter of Israel, and for this, I am most thankful.

It is wonderful that the community has chosen to donate tonight’s proceeds to the “Replanting Roots” project. This project will help enrich the lives of Ethiopian elderly by providing them with institutions and programming reminiscent of their Ethiopian village life. This new development will be a centre of social and cultural life, bringing new life to a community that shares such a rich cultural heritage.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the active Jewish Community of Hamilton on seventy years of thriving Jewish life, and extend my warmest wishes to JNF Hamilton on the success of tonight’s event.

Sincerely,

Rafael Barak
June 24, 2015

It is with pleasure that I extend greetings to the Jewish National Fund (JNF) Hamilton as you host the 63rd Annual Negev Dinner.

In this, my first year as Lieutenant Governor, I am learning so much about the extraordinary work being done by charitable organizations and dedicated individuals in communities across Ontario. I am inspired by the people of this province every day.

Tonight, the Jewish community in Hamilton gathers to reminisce and celebrate 70 years of life in the city it helped transform. Through stories and live performance you will visit and honour the past, take pride in the present, and look to the future with optimism. I understand tonight’s dinner is in support of “Replanting Roots”, an initiative to construct a social club for Jewish Ethiopian Elders who reside in Kiryat Gat, Israel. Bonding through shared experience is the essence of social cohesion, and this project will further preserve the culture and legacy of Ethiopian Jews.

As The Queen's representative in Ontario, I laud the achievements of JNF Hamilton and send my best wishes for a most enjoyable evening.

Elizabeth Dowdeswell
June 24, 2015

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to send warmest greetings to the Jewish National Fund of Hamilton on the occasion of its 63rd annual Negev Dinner. Tonight’s event, "A Celebration of Life," marks the 70th year since the end of the Holocaust, and includes a delightful nostalgic look at the Jewish Hamilton of yesteryear.

For over a century, the JNF has worked resolutely for the benefit of all Israelis, developing projects that make wise use of natural resources, and leading in the development of cutting-edge environmental technologies. We are all indebted to the JNF and its history of transformative accomplishments, which have been of such importance to Israel’s national life.

I warmly commend you on the project you have chosen to support through tonight’s event: a social club for the elders of the “Atachli” community agricultural program in Kiryat Gat, aimed at providing employment and preserving the legacy of Ethiopian Jews. This flagship project will clearly enhance life for the community and is a most worthwhile endeavour.

On behalf of the Consulate General of Israel, I wish you all a most successful and enjoyable event.

Sincerely,

DJ Schneeweiss
Consul General
June 24, 2015

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone lending their support to the Jewish National Fund of Hamilton’s 63rd annual Negev dinner.

I am pleased to know that the proceeds from this gala will help support “Replanting Roots” — a project for the benefit of Jewish Ethiopian seniors in Israel.

As Premier, I am proud of Ontario’s diversity and am grateful for the talents, skills and global perspectives that this diversity brings to our province. Occasions like this remind us of our strong ties with Israel and the rest of the global community.

Please accept my best wishes for a meaningful and inspiring evening.

Kathleen Wynne
Premier
63rd Annual NEGEV Dinner – A Celebration of Life

On behalf of the City of Hamilton, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 63rd Annual NEGEV Dinner. The theme for this year’s gala dinner is a fitting tribute: Hamilton from 10945 – 2015 A Celebration of Life!

The Negev Dinner Gala is an honoured tradition in the City of Hamilton. This is an opportunity for Honouring community leaders and members who have given of themselves on behalf of Israel and the Jewish Community. Tonight is a wonderful event to recognize and celebrate the achievements of the community.

The funds raised from tonight’s gala will be used to construct a social club for the retired and unemployed elders who participate in the “Atachlit” community agricultural programme in Kiryat Gat. One community supporting another. Thank you.

Enjoy tonight’s walk down memory lane and entertainment of renowned Canadian Comedian Andrea Martin.

Yours Sincerely,

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
To:
Mr. Neil Silver
President of JNF Hamilton
Jewish National Fund of Canada
Hamilton
CANADA

Dear Neil,

Please accept my warm greetings on the occasion of the 2015 Negev Dinner event in Hamilton.

On behalf of KKL-JNF, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the support of the Hamilton community for the endeavors of KKL-JNF, and for your personal contribution to our work. I appreciate it tremendously.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and great appreciation for this year’s committee honoring the Jewish Hamilton Achievements since 1945. Thanks to the efforts, commitment and enthusiasm of the committee and our many friends and supporters in Hamilton, KKL-JNF can continue doing its important role in developing sites of great beauty all over Israel.

The Negev Dinner is perhaps the most auspicious event of the year, since it gives us the means to achieve our aims. We have been able to achieve the goals we set for ourselves until now thanks to your support and generosity, and for this I am very grateful.

May the great commitment, devotion and generosity of the Hamilton community towards KKL-JNF, will continue to leave their impact on the land of Israel and contributing to the quality of life of its inhabitants.

Warm Regards,

Efi Stenzler
KKL/JNF World Chairman
Dear Friends,

The Jewish National Fund of Canada is proud to help celebrate 70 years of life in Hamilton and the evolution of the community. Hamilton’s contributions to the national landscape both in the community and in Israel are exemplary to all.

Proceeds from the Negev Dinner will support the Replanting Roots project in Kiryat Gat, Israel. This project will see the construction of a social club for Jewish Ethiopian Elders who participate in the Atachlit community agricultural programme, a project leading a wave of social change. One of the goals of the project is to rediscover the ancestral powers of Ethiopian Jewry and change the way society views the elders and the way they see themselves in the context of a modern Israeli society.

Your contributions and dedication will ensure that Israel continues to grow strong and be an example to the rest of the world.

On behalf of the Jewish National Fund of Canada we thank the entire Hamilton community for supporting JNF as well as all of the individuals who volunteered their time to ensure the success of tonight’s Negev Dinner. None of this would be possible without you! We look forward to your continued support and helping build Israel through JNF.

Please enjoy the evening. Todah Rabah.

June 2015

Jerry Werger
National President

Josh Cooper
Chief Executive Officer
June 2015

Dear Friends,

As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Hamilton Centre I extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending this year’s Negev Dinner.

For the past 63 years the Jewish National Fund of Hamilton has remained committed to the ideals that the Negev Dinner represents not only to the Hamilton community but internationally. Its dedication to environmental and social infrastructure projects reminds us that we are all connected and have a responsibility to sustain resources for future generations.

Appreciation goes out to board members, volunteers and patrons for doing everything possible to make tonight’s event a success. Thank you to everyone who has supported this dinner as a guest, sponsor and enthusiast.

Once again, best wishes to all for an enjoyable occasion.

Sincerely,

Andrea Horwath, MPP
Hamilton Centre
June 2015

This year’s theme “Hamilton from 1945 to 2015: A Celebration of Life” speaks with great emotion to the journey of the Jewish people, their struggles through unspeakable persecution and suffering, ultimate survival and triumph.

It is also a celebration of the outstanding contributions of an active and vibrant Jewish community in the greater Hamilton area and around the world.

It is an honour for Almut and I to be here to celebrate with you.

In choosing to support the Replanting Roots project for this year’s Negev Dinner, the Hamilton Jewish Community has once again shown its great commitment, foresight and heart.

L’shalom,

David Sweet, MP
Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale

Chair, Canada-Israel Interparliamentary (Friendship) Group
June 23, 2015

Jewish National Fund of Hamilton
508-105 Main Street East
Hamilton, ON L8N 1G6

Dear Friends,

As the Member of Parliament for Hamilton Centre I would like to offer my best wishes on the occasion of the 63rd annual Negev Dinner.

As we join together this evening for A Celebration of Life - the Community of Hamilton - 1945-2015, we recognize the important role the Jewish community has had in the development and evolution of our city. We all have fond memories of the many people and places that are part of our collective history and that have had a positive impact on our lives. I hope you take great pride in all that has been achieved and know that regardless of how the City of Hamilton changes in the future, the Jewish community will be an integral part of its success and an important part of Hamilton.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Jewish National Fund of Hamilton for their outstanding work throughout our community.

Congratulations on this wonderful event and may the future bring many more successes.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

David Christopherson MP
Hamilton Centre
June 11, 2015

Nearly 2,600 years ago, the concept of Diaspora Jewry was born. Since that moment, vibrant Jewish communities began to flourish in almost every location upon the globe. In the most hostile of environments, Jews clung to their identities and perpetuated their faith to the next generation. What was the secret of their eternal vigor? From what wellspring did they draw their steadfast strength?

The immortality of the Jew was predicated upon faith and hope. No matter where the Nation took root it dreamed of Zion and understood its covenantal role in history.

As we celebrate our historic past in our great community of Hamilton, we recognize the centrality of the Land and how our continuity is linked to many of the central ideals championed by the Jewish National Fund. The Negev Dinner has served as a vital reservoir of strength to the Hamilton Jewish community for over three generations.

Hamilton and Israel stand united. May our ancient dreams continue to blossom forth as we await our ultimate redemption.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Daniel Green
Temple Anshe Sholom
The Historic Heart of the Hamilton Jewish Community

Dear Friends,

June 2015 ~ Tammuz 5775

It is my pleasure to bring greetings on behalf of the Board, Members and Staff of Temple Anshe Sholom to the Jewish National Fund on the occasion of the sixty-third annual Negev Dinner.

The theme of “Hamilton from 1945-2015: A Celebration Of Life” is certainly appropriate as we mark in recent years not only the 70th anniversary of the end of the Shoah but also many milestones in the life of our historic Hamilton Jewish community. In 1850, when 13 Jewish families of German origin gathered together for the first time in Hamilton to form a kehila that would become the Hebrew Benevolent Society Anshe Sholom, those pioneers of the Hamilton Jewish community could not have imagined what would grow from the seeds they sowed. Nor could they imagine what would become of the Jewish community they left behind.

Here we are, 165 years later, having gone from strength to strength. We are strong, diverse and creatively rich Jewish community that is deeply rooted in the traditional values of Torah, Tzedakah and Ahavat Yisrael. Love of Israel is fundamental to our community and, for the last 63 years, the Jewish National Fund and its annual Negev Dinner have been one of the central means through which we can demonstrate that love and support. Through the Hamilton JNF’s involvement in the building of a social club for Ethiopian Elders at the Atachlit program in Kiryat Gat, we build a bridge between the diversity of Jewish life here in Hamilton and the complex mosaic of Jewish life in Israel. The roots that were planted by our ancestors here in Hamilton 165 years are bearing fruit today in Israel.

Mazal tov to the JNF, its leaders and volunteers, and the entire Hamilton Jewish community on another successful Negev Dinner. May the vision of our ancestors continue to bless us and all Israel for generations to come.

L’Shalom,

Rabbi Jordan D. Cohen
8 June 2015

In a tradition that honours individuals, but never loses sight that it is more is always accomplished when communities come together and combine talents, efforts, and resources, it is most appropriate for the JNF Hamilton Negev Dinner honouree to be the Hamilton Jewish community. It is a timely and appropriate reminder that our individual actions have greater effect than individuals (or subgroups) acting alone.

Hamilton’s Jewish community has undergone many changes in the last few decades, and will continue to change. The Jewish tradition advises us to always remember the past, but never to prefer it to the present or the future; our challenge is not to rebuild things as they were, but to build a community that best serves the diverse interests of the Jews of Hamilton today and tomorrow.

Support for the State of Israel, and the diverse peoples of Israel, remains one unchanging cornerstone of this community. The “Achalit” project that we support tonight underscores that commitment: no matter how difficult the path seems, we must remain committed to our ancient ideals of justice, fairness, and peaceful coexistence. As our prayers have echoed for millennia: יִזְכָּר אִתָּם מִצְרָאֶיךָ וְיָשָׁנוּ צְדָקָה—God will bestow strength to the people Israel, blessing the people with peace (Psalm 29).

L’shalom,

Cindy Richter
President

Dan Selsberg
Rabbi
June 9, 2015

Mr. Neil Silvert  
President  
Jewish National Fund  
908-105 Main St.  West  
Hamilton, ON L8N 1G8

Dear Neil:

On behalf of the Hamilton Jewish Federation Board of Trustees, its partner agencies, and the organized Jewish community, it is our great pleasure to celebrate Jewish Hamilton at the 63rd Annual JNF Negev Dinner.

It is particularly fitting that this year we celebrate Jewish Hamilton and its continuing legacy, 70 years since the end of the Holocaust. This resilient and culturally rich community has evolved through generations of dedicated Jewish families and will continue to thrive for years to come.

Tonight we join hands with JNF and the entire Jewish community in our shared and unshakeable commitment to the building of Jewish Hamilton, the people and land of Israel.

May we all go “from strength to strength”.

Shalom U’vracha,

Carl De Leon, President  
Hamilton Jewish Federation

Barb Babić, CEO  
Hamilton Jewish Federation
June 24, 2015

Neil Silvert, President  
Jewish National Fund of Hamilton

Dear Neil,

On behalf of Shalom Village, we congratulate the Jewish National Fund on the 63rd Annual Negev Dinner celebrating the past 70 years of the Hamilton Jewish Community.

At Shalom Village Honoring our Fathers and our Mothers is a core value and is at the centre of everything we do. Remembering and celebrating our residents and their traditions is an integral part of life at Shalom Village. Indeed, many of our residents, both past and present, have been a key part of Hamilton’s history and helped to shape this community and its institutions.

This year’s Negev Dinner Project is especially meaningful to Shalom Village. The "Atachlit" project will provide programs that strive to enrich the daily lives of Ethiopian elder adults. We, too, have seen tremendous positive effects of programs promoting enrichment, health and wellness in elder adults at Shalom Village. We are inspired to see this goal realized for the Ethiopian Jewry in Israel.

Our Shalom Village community joins with the Jewish National Fund in the Celebration of Life – Hamilton from 1945-2015. We are proud to be a part of the Hamilton Jewish Community and look forward to many more years growing from strength to strength together!

Mazel Tov,

Yaæ Arnold  
President, Shalom Village Board of Directors

Jeanette O’Leary  
CEO
Mr Neil Silvert, President
Jewish National Fund
Hamilton Ontario

Dear Neil,

On behalf of the Board of Directors it gives us great pleasure to recognize The Jewish National Fund of Hamilton's celebration of Jewish Life in our wonderful city. The JCC has been part of the fabric of what makes Hamilton great for 100 years and will continue to recognize the needs and desires of our diverse population within the framework of traditional Jewish values.

Your project of Replanting Roots in support of the retired Ethiopian Elders in Israel exemplifies the scope of work embraced by the JNF.

Thank you for your great contributions and commitment to the betterment of the land and the people of Israel.

Mazel Tov,

Ed Zaltz                  Lowell Richter

Co Presidents of the Hamilton and Area Jewish Community Centre
LEAVE YOUR LEGACY IN ISRAEL WITH JNF

So you’ve looked after your spouse, taken care of your children... consider leaving a legacy to Israel. A legacy can help you achieve tax, financial and lasting philanthropic objectives. By including JNF in your will, you leave a lasting legacy for generations to come. Plant the seeds of your legacy today.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: 905.527.5516  I  HAMILTON@JNF.CA  I  JNFHAMILTON.CA
What was it like to be Jewish in Hamilton 70 years ago? You would be one of just over 2000 Jews in the community (half of the number now) – and you might be speaking Yiddish with your neighbours, many of whom knew little English. Your life was centred in the Jewish downtown core where your family had their home, worked and worshipped - and you were religiously educated at one of the five synagogues nearby.

With limited employment opportunities, you might run your own scrap business, deli, restaurant or store. You might expect your children to join the family firm.

Not surprisingly much has changed. Fast forward to today to find the community living in Hamilton’s west neighbourhoods: your children might attend one of the two Jewish day schools, or be at public or private schools and prepare for bar and bat mitzvahs at Hebrew class. With your university education, you might have become a professional – an academic, a doctor, lawyer or accountant.

But in many ways, elements of our lives here still echo those who came before us. Ours is a vibrant community, sustained with the energy of families who take pride in their identity and are committed to creating a Jewish life for themselves and for future generations.

When we pause to reminisce, it’s the stories of Jewish Hamilton – many with legendary personalities – that capture the imagination. As we celebrate 70 years of Jewish life in our city, these pages offer a selection of those anecdotes, accompanied by photos borrowed from family albums, photographers and institutional collections.

The myriad of tales of popular but long-gone stores, restaurants and places, and the colourful characters who made their mark in the community could easily fill several Tribute Books. Sadly, limited space allowed for only a slim slice of life over the decades. So if you find your or your family’s stories missing, please bear in mind the limitations here – and know that the omission bears no reflection on their significance. Join us as we take a moment to look back with a Celebration of Life, then and now.
“NEEDS ARE GREATER” — Jacob Goldblatt
Hamilton’s Jewish community was built by the families who worked in the scrap industry and with its booming base of steel mills, the city offered the perfect opportunity for immigrants – many unable to get jobs elsewhere – to get into this gritty work.

Some Jewish families who had collected scrap in Europe carried on their traditions here. Others took up the trade for the first time in their new home. Jacob Goldblatt, who settled in the city in the early 1900s, was seen as the founder of the Jewish scrap metal business and developed a large enterprise that supplied smelting materials for Stelco’s furnaces. He helped others get started and was known to lend a horse and buggy for newcomers so they could go out and see what they could salvage. Srul Paikin came to Hamilton when Jacob Goldblatt offered to set him up in the scrap business here. His grandson Larry recalls how his grandfather worked with a horse and wagon, going up and down the streets of Hamilton crying out for “rags, bottles and bones” and keeping the horse in a small stable behind their home in the centre of the city.

Isaac Waxman came to Canada in 1911, hoping to continue his trade as a shoemaker, but he was forced to turn to scrap dealing when he was fired from his job because he refused to work on Shabbat. Other families – to name a few - were Frank, Hoffman, Hotz, Lax, Levy, Posner, and Rochwerg.

Legendary stories abound of how the men – friends outside of work – would try to undercut each other in their dealings, screaming in Yiddish until they reached a compromise. And then get together later at some community meeting as if nothing had happened.

Today a few of the Jewish families are still in the industry, but as the next generation came up, their parents wanted them to be doctors and lawyers and be educated - not to have to get their hands dirty.
RABBI EISENSTEIN & THE HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY
Zev Eisenstein grew up in New York and in his early teens, bowing to peer pressure, was a gang member, often playing lookout to warn when the police were approaching. He later became motivated to go into education and build children’s self-esteem, not diminish it. He arrived in Hamilton as Principal of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy in 1973 and remained so for 30 years. Every morning he greeted his students with a smile and his famous motto: “It’s a beautiful day at the HHA.”

KEHILA JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL
A group of young parents visited Jewish day schools in Toronto and were inspired by the new and successful models of education they saw there. They too wanted their children to experience an integrated curriculum, where Judaic and secular subjects were connected and which encouraged students to absorb learning and think critically. Back in Hamilton they conducted an educational survey of Jewish families and based on the results, they opened Kehila in 1989 with just five students and grew to over 40.

SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH THE PJ LIBRARY
Children at Beth Jacob enjoy Sunday morning story-reading and crafts with the PJ Library. In warmer weather the event is held outdoors at Beulah Park, round the corner from the synagogue. Hamilton’s PJ Library program is made possible through the generosity of The Shirley and Morris Waxman Family, Hamilton’s UJA Lion of Judah Division and The Hamilton Jewish Federation.

MORRIS BLACK PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST
Morris Black left a wonderful legacy when he passed away in 1970. In his will, he set aside a provision of funds for an essay contest in his home community of Peterborough, Ontario. His son, Rick, and Rick’s wife, Wendy, brought the idea to Hamilton in 1984 and the public speaking contest has become an annual tradition ever since.

MAX AND STELLA ROTMAN
Max Rotman was the Physical Education Director at Delaware Avenue JCC and he founded Camp Kadimah, which continues today. Max and his wife Stella were dedicated to helping build bridges and to keep children out of trouble in the ’50s and ’60s. After they passed away, The Max Rotman Humanitarian Award was established, and for more than 30 years it is annually presented to grade 11 and 12 students from across the city who show leadership and have conducted themselves “in a manner, bringing honour to their community while maintaining a cheerful dedication to serve the needs of their fellow person”.
Not surprisingly, the childhood experience has changed in our community over the past 70 years, just as it has anywhere else. Where our youngsters gathered and the activities created to bring them together may be in different sites and as more options evolved, attracting and sustaining a commitment may be more challenging today. But core Jewish values continue to be present in children’s lives as they grow up Jewish here - just as it was for previous generations.

GROWING UP IN HAMILTON

TEMPLE PLAYHOUSE
Celia Berlin opened Temple Playhouse in 1983, renting space at Temple Anshe Sholom. She had moved to Hamilton from England two years earlier and shortly after found herself a single mother supporting her own mother and young family. “Rabbi Baskin knew I was homesick in the early days and he would come by every day to see how I was.” Working several jobs, she single-handedly funded the kindergarten which has become a landmark institution in the community. Temple Playhouse began with just eight children enrolled and grew to 120 over the years.

SAM BROWNSTONE & THE JCC ON DELAWARE
Sam Brownstone was often referred to as the “mayor” of Hamilton’s Jewish community and widely viewed as “the glue that held the community together”. His first job in Hamilton was youth director at the Jewish Community Centre on Delaware Avenue, which was named the Jacob N. Goldblatt Memorial Building. Sam went beyond youth programming and the centre truly was the heart of the community at the time. With time – and the demographic move westwards – the JCC moved with it to its new 45-acre property on Lower Lions Club Road in Ancaster.

TO READ THE FULL STORIES PLEASE VISIT JNFHAMILTON.CA
Jews brought their business acumen to Hamilton and several family-run businesses founded in the early days continue to be run by subsequent generations. Even today, many people still recall stories of the vibrancy that centred around the many Jewish stores and delicatessens that lined what is now York Boulevard.

STORIES FROM BEHIND THE COUNTER

**HARVEY SOBEL**
Harvey Sobel developed his love for art and porcelain when, as a young man, he sailed to London and booked himself into a hotel in the centre of the art gallery district. He went on buying spree, charging everything to his father back home. Thus began his career as an antique dealer and home designer that would make him highly sought-after in Europe and America.

**MILLI’S**
Milli’s Fashion for Women, or simply Milli’s as it’s known, has been a destination store for more than 50 years and put Hamilton on the high fashion map. Milli opened a small store opposite City Hall which eventually moved to its current location at Main and Pearl Street North. Both her sons, Ben and Mark, work in the family business and their mother, now in her 80s, continues to be fully involved too and still works six days a week.
MAJESTIC BEVERAGES
Morris Raphael opened Majestic Beverages, a pop factory at 119 -127 Mary Street. There were 12 different flavours with Texola, the cola, being a popular favourite. The company also had the Hamilton area franchise to sell Vernors, the famous US ginger soda. Although the factory closed in the 1960s, the Raphaels still have all the Majestic recipes - but are keeping them a family secret!

ALLAN CANDY
Allan Vertlieb and his brother Dan began selling popcorn door to door and when it became a somewhat lucrative business, they decided to set up at the back of their parents’ grocery store and also make peanut brittle. In 1942 they opened a new factory called the Allan Candy Company. Popularity grew and the chocolate novelties turned into different items such as candy canes and lollipops that are still known today. In 1952 Allan got sick and when he couldn’t work anymore he took on two partners, Zoltan Freeman and Lewis Sherman. Together the men built the empire that still exists. In 1995 Allan Candy was sold to Cadbury Chocolate Canada, but Allan Candy continues to operate independently.

MURIEL BACK & SAMIETH MINTZ’S COSMETIC STORE
Two enterprising friends, Muriel Back and Samieth Mintz opened a cosmetics store in the 1970s. It was called La Belle de France Cosmetics and aside from being the only store of its kind in the city, it was also unusual for women to be business owners at the time. All the Jewish women – and most women in Hamilton generally – became their customers and they loved to drop by to hear Muriel and Samieth’s wonderful sense of New York humour, a banter that was more like a comedy routine. The store was pink with a long white cosmetic bar and initially stocked with cosmetics the women bought in New York City, where they went to do their buying.

STRUB’S PICKLES
In 1929 Michael and Sophie Strub started in the pickle business with a backyard operation, using the family recipe brought from Russia. Strub’s Pickles were available across Canada and the firm never needed to spend money on advertising. Although the family-run company was sold in 2008, Marty Strub, the founders’ great-grandson recently launched Marty’s Pickles. Using his own recipe, he went back to a small-batch cottage industry continuing the family tradition.
In 1962, five young musicians were waiting in the lobby of the Royal Connaught Hotel in downtown Hamilton for Harold Kudlats. Harold was a booking agent—uncle to Eugene Levy—who had worked with acts such as Fats Domino, Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong. The young men told him they wanted to break away from playing with Ronnie Hawkins—and wanted Harold to be their agent. They shook hands and for the next few years—till they were scooped up by Bob Dylan—Harold kept The Hawks, who later became renowned as The Band, busy playing clubs across Canada and the US.

Deborah Ladies’ Aid Society (later Deborah Sisterhood) was a vital part of Temple Anshe Sholom, raising funds for the synagogue as well as being involved in many educational and social projects. Latke frying brought in many volunteers for the annual Chanukkah dinner, possibly due to the strict quality control; often the latkes didn’t make the grade and inevitably were offered to the helpers.

The second Hadassah-Wizo chapter in Canada was formed in Hamilton. The chapter’s annual Hadassah Bazaar, raising money for children in Israel, became a fixture on the city’s calendar, with the bake sale being a popular feature. Local celebrities were invited to bake a cake to raffle for the 1987 bazaar and these included radio host Paul Hanover’s cheesecake and fashion leader Milli Gould’s white chocolate wrap mousse cake.
COMMUNITY LIFE & LEISURE

There’s never been a shortage of communal and social activities here, from helping to feed the needy, to running fundraising events and even staging shows. Some events began small and over the years have become permanent fixtures in the city’s calendar. And aside from our tribute here, the importance of collecting our community’s historical details and stories has been recognized and recorded in various forms.

OUT OF THE COLD PROGRAM

In 2000 Gloria Silverman, Rabbi Silverman’s wife, engaged the Jewish community in helping to feed dinner to the city’s needy through the Out of the Cold program.

NA’AMAT AUTHOR’S LUNCHEON

Thirty years ago a group of Jewish women unwittingly started an annual tradition. The members of a newly-formed chapter of Na’amat (a charity that raises funds to support women and children in Israel) hosted a box-lunch talk. The volunteers lovingly made the $5 lunches from scratch, which included home-baked rolls and cookies and a trip to an apple farm to pick the fruit. Since then the event has grown and the guest list reads like a Who’s Who of Canadian literature.

COMMUNITY THEATRE

Many community theatre projects took place around town throughout the years – early on at local theatres such as the Savoy, and later in the 60’s, Muriel Back and Samieth Mintz put on shows at the Beverly. Muriel’s daughter Amy recalls some of the hilarious titles, such as “My Feh Lady” and “Westdale Story.” Muriel taught Amy to always cast people from large families, because that’s how you sold lots of tickets!

THE JEWISH HAMILTON PROJECT

When Wendy Schneider, editor of the Hamilton Jewish News, borrowed a friend’s camcorder one day to record her family history, the idea for the Jewish Hamilton Project was born. She and Billy Shaffir, a sociology professor at McMaster University, began interviews members of the community. It took them five years and the end result is an interactive DVD that tells a rich history as recounted by Jewish Hamiltonians telling their experiences and fond memories of growing up and living in Steeltown from the 1930s to the 60s.

Other projects and ways of tracing and recording our community are through the arts based Working Families’ Stories and Treasures which can be seen on the internet at WFST.CA, and through the Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton, founded in 2003.

TO READ THE FULL STORIES PLEASE VISIT JNFHAMILTON.CA
It’s amazing to think that at one point there were five synagogues in Hamilton. Each of the buildings had its own character, reflecting the congregations that worshipped there. This strong spirit drew eminent religious leadership to our city – as well as creating a wealth of anecdotes.

TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM / HUGHSON STREET TEMPLE
Temple Anshe Sholom (literally translated as ‘men of peace’) is thought to be the oldest Reform synagogue in Canada. Services went from being conducted in members’ homes in the early days to a room above a downtown leather goods store, but eventually funds were raised to build a synagogue which became known as the Hughson Street Temple. Like the other synagogues, it too moved westwards to its current location in Westdale, ironically a neighbourhood where, until the 1940s, Jews were forbidden to buy property.

RABBI & MARJORIE BASKIN
When Rabbi Baskin and his wife Marjorie arrived in Hamilton in 1949, they only intended to stay for a couple of years. Instead, with a young family and a growing community involvement, Rabbi Baskin led Temple Anshe Sholom for 40 years. He went on to gain many accolades including the first recipient of the B’nai B’rith Humanitarian Award, Hamilton’s Jewish Community Man of the Year and he received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Hebrew Union College in New York.

He also bestowed his wisdom on his congregation and on a personal level, Harvey Brownstone, JCC leader Sam Brownstone’s son, recalls this story about Rabbi Baskin:

“At my bar mitzvah, Rabbi Baskin took me aside and recommended that I strongly consider using my developing academic and social skills in a career devoted to the pursuit of justice. The legal profession, he said, had a strong tradition of counting Jewish lawyers among its most distinguished, accomplished members; and many Jewish lawyers, trained in the laws of the Talmud, had gone on to become judges.

“I had no idea what lawyers actually did, as we had no lawyers in my family. But Rabbi Baskin’s words echoed in my head throughout my undergraduate years and led me to pursue a legal career as soon as I was eligible to apply to law school.” Harvey went on to become a Judge of the Ontario Court of Justice. Rabbi Baskin continues to delight audiences with his regular Books and Ideas talks, as well as a column in the Hamilton Spectator. He is also Rabbi Emeritus at Temple Anshe Sholom.
Rabbi Morton Green

Rabbi Morton Green came to the Adas in 1958 and was told that he would need to adapt the sermons he was giving in English, because most of his “Paleisha Shul” congregants were Yiddish speaking peddlers and were finding what he was preaching irrelevant.

The synagogue became the heart of the community, but over time the Jewish community began to leave downtown and move to the west end of Hamilton. A lofty goal presented itself: it was time to move the synagogue too.

One day, not long after he had arrived, Rabbi Green, aged 24, went into a local branch of the Royal Bank of Canada. He asked the manager for a half a million dollar loan. The manager asked what kind of synagogue they would be building. After he answered, the manager told him that as a child in the northern town of Timmins, his father had died, leaving his mother to raise him and his five siblings. An Orthodox Jew owned the local general store and on hearing about their loss, he told his mother that as long as the store was his, her children would always have clothes to wear and food to eat – and the store owner kept his promise.

All his life the bank manager had wondered how he could repay the kind deed. And that’s how Rabbi Green was able to build the Adas Israel synagogue on Cline Avenue North today.

Amazingly, the connection continued and the grandson of the general store owner in Timmins attended the Adas Israel’s 100th anniversary celebration in 2012.

Rabbi Green served as rabbi from 1958 to 2002 and is now Rabbi Emeritus.

The Hess Street Shul (Ohev Zedeck)

Within walking distance of the Cannon Street shul was the Hess Street synagogue. It was known as the shul where everyone davened in harmony, whether they were rich, poor, Polish or Litvishe. Apparently, however, there was one incident when a congregant shouted at the Rabbi. Otherwise this small shul, which closed in the early 2000s, holds fond memories for the community.

Joseph Korman was one of nine brothers who lived in Russia when the Second World War broke out. Like many others not wanting to fight, he cut off the tip of one of his fingers to evade being called up. Amazingly, all nine Korman siblings survived the war and each managed to bring torah scrolls from their communities with them. Joseph’s was sent to him after the war ended. When Joseph and his family moved to Hamilton and joined Temple Anshe Sholom, he donated the scroll to the synagogue.

To read the full stories please visit jnfhamilton.ca

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RABBI & GLORIA SILVERMAN
In 1966, the Beth Jacob community hired Rabbi Israel Silverman, who moved to Hamilton with his wife Gloria and their five children. He was to remain their Rabbi for 30 years and had the reputations for being an outstanding scholar. He was known to have the ability to take the most arcane, pedantic, or seemingly distant text and make it come alive. Long before it became fashionable to adorn texts with visuals or attraction, Rabbi Silverman relied on the drama of question and answer, anecdote, and illustration to engage his students and congregants.

RABBI IRWIN ZEPLowitz
There were big shoes to fill when Rabbi Baskin stepped down, but strong leadership at the Temple continued with the hiring of Rabbi Irwin Zeplowitz in 1989. He brought with him family-based innovations including congregational dinners and mitzvah projects, encouraging young people to take part in congregational life. One day an extraordinary thing happened. A congregant came running into his office and told him there was a pig roaming outside the synagogue. Apparently a nearby resident had bought a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig and it had got loose. Rabbi Z (as he was affectionately called) asked where it was. On the front lawn came the answer – “What should we do?” he was asked. Rabbi Z replied; “Don’t eat it!”

CANTOR RUTH SLATER
When Ruth Slater was hired in the 1980s by the Temple, she became only the second female cantor in Canada. One day a young girl came up to her after services and told her she had been to a bar mitzvah in Toronto and wanted to tell Ruth something shocking she had seen there. Ruth was perturbed at what the little girl was about to tell her. The little girl leaned in and told her that the cantor at the bar mitzvah was a man! How could that be?

HUNTER ST. SHUL/BETH JACOB
Back in 1888 the Beth Jacob community – mostly Russian-born – converted a church with Gothic windows on Hunter and Park Streets into its new shul. The Hunter Street shul, as it was known, was much-loved and people remember it for its aura of grandeur. It would take many years of discussion in the 1950s before the congregation finally decided it was time to move with its westward-seeking and growing community. In 1956, with some mixed emotions, the current building on Aberdeen was opened, but not before the old Aron HaKodesh and wooden benches were moved too. These now have a place in the small downstairs chapel of the Aberdeen Avenue synagogue. Sadly the Hunter Street shul itself was sold several times and eventually torn down to make way for a city parking lot.
RABBI ITKIN
Rabbi Zalman Itkin and his wife Faigi came to Hamilton in 1980 and founded Chabad Lubavitch here. Their home was open to all and many a hungry McMaster student enjoyed Shabbat dinner with them.

One day Zalman was walking to synagogue from his Westdale home, holding hands with two of his children and singing all the way. Some passing teenagers laughed at them mockingly - but in response the rabbi just sang louder.

CANNON STREET SHUL & THE ADAS ISRAEL
In 1912, a handful of Polish immigrants began a minyan in a small home on downtown’s Caroline Street. A few years later they moved to a home on Cannon Street, but by 1929 the 38 families built the Adas Israel Anshei Polin. The congregation was made up of peddlars and poor people, but they managed to furnish it with three magnificent chandeliers.

All shuls at the time were known by their location. This one was referred to as the Cannon Street Shul, later named the Adas Israel Anshei Sefard and finally shortened to just the Adas.

BENNY GOODMAN DROPS BY
Big band leader and clarinetist Benny Goodman was once playing a gig in Hamilton and afterwards joined a yahrzeit service at the Adas Israel synagogue, when it was on Cannon Street.

RABBI FACKENHEIM
In 1938 Emil Fackenheim escaped Sachsenhausen concentration camp and by 1940 had made his way to Canada. He was interned in Quebec as an enemy alien but rescued by members of Temple Anshe Sholom, where he served as Interim Rabbi from 1943 to 1948.

He went on to become a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto and notable in his field. He was also known as a good-humoured and energetic man, with a penchant for Hawaiian shirts!

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**HAMILTON AND THE ARTS**

Hamilton has bred many an artist from within the Jewish community who’s made an impact and contributed to the vibrancy of our city. They are generous with their talents, enriching our lives by creating galleries, donating art to local museums as well as entertaining us with their music.

**BORIS BROTT**

In 1988 Boris Brott, an internationally-recognized conductor, founded the largest non-profit orchestral music festival in Canada, and the only one to have a full-time, professional orchestra-in-residence. Boris held musical directorship posts across North America and served as Assistant Conductor under Leonard Bernstein at the New York Philharmonic. He also established The National Academy Orchestra of Canada that enables emerging young Canadian musicians to play in some of the country’s leading orchestras, as well as helping them become professional musicians. Graduates have gone on to hold positions with virtually every major orchestra around the world.

**HERMAN LEVY**

Herman Levy launched McMaster University on the stage of international art. In the 1980s he donated almost 200 works and after his death in 1990, a bequest of millions of dollars provided the means to purchase more. Herman grew up in Hamilton and joined the family’s flourishing jewellery business, Levy Brothers. He developed his interest in art while apprenticing in Amsterdam’s diamond district, where he visited the city’s many museums and galleries. He donated works by eminent Impressionists, such as Pissarro and Van Gogh to McMaster’s Museum of Art and perhaps his most famous donation was Monet’s Waterloo Bridge, Hamilton’s only painting by the artist.

**O-MA-NOOT Gallery**

When a group of artists began looking for gallery space, they came upon an idea; why not ask if they could fill empty walls in Beth Jacob’s foyer with their art? The gallery, named O-Ma-Noot (which means ‘art’ in Hebrew) held its opening reception in 2013 and since then has featured works on a variety of themes and media.
**RACHEL DESOER**
Rachel Desoer grew up in Hamilton and began playing the cello at the age of five. In 2010 she joined the prize-winning all-female Cecilia String Quartet and has performed solo as well as collaborating with dancers, composers, jazz musicians, vocalists and film-makers. Rachel’s cello is on loan from the Arts Musical Instrument Bank and is a rare instrument made in 1929 by Carol Giuseppe Oddone, considered to be one of the most remarkable craftsmen from Italy’s Piedmont School.

**A TOUCH OF KLEZ**
In 2003 bass player Michael Glogauer made an announcement from the Beth Jacob’s bimah during Rosh Hoshana services inviting any musicians in the congregation to form a Klezmer band. Klezmer music originated in the villages and ghettos of Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages. Klezmorim, or itinerant Jewish troubadours, would travel as needed to perform at weddings and other joyful occasions. The announcement brought together a group of musicians from Hamilton’s community – some of whom had played rock or classical music but never klezmer before. Although Michael, the original founder, has since moved away, the band continues to play at weddings and bar mitzvahs across the Golden Horseshoe and at one time was hired for a convention.

**BEN CAPLAN**
Ben Caplan is known for his signature raspy voice and as a songwriter and performer bold in both range and ferocity. Ben studied history and philosophy at university but turned to a musical career when he found academia too confining. When not writing or recording either solo or backed by his band, The Casual Smokers, Ben is almost perpetually on tour and has played more than 1000 shows since the release of his debut album in late 2011.

He sports an impressively distinctive beard and encourages supporters to be part of his ‘beard brigade.’
Food is synonymous with Jewish life, so it’s no surprise to find community members running food and restaurant businesses. Some even became local legends. Today these maestros serve up everything from kosher prepared foods to barbecued chicken, cool wraps, falafel or pastrami on rye.

**CHARRED**

In 2008 Mark Morgenstern closed his London, Ontario clothing store he’d managed for 33 years. He and his brother and sister owned a building across from the family department store on James Street North in Hamilton, and there he opened Charred. The restaurant is listed by Urban Spoon in the top 15 restaurants in Hamilton. Long-time restauranteurs Max and Cynthia Mintz have checked it out, and Morgenstern, who remembers eating at the Mintz’s Chicken Roost as a youngster, was thrilled to get their seal of approval.

**CHICKEN ROOST**

On October 1st 1948, Max and Benny Mintz prepared for the grand opening of their Chicken Roost restaurant on King Street in downtown Hamilton. Max, aged 23, wore his best – and only – suit, as he wanted to make a good impression on his customers. But just before opening time, the brothers realized their cash register was empty – and they had no money to make change. Thinking quickly, Max ran down the street to a menswear store and sold his only suit for $10. Several famous customers ate there, including Mae West, Liberace and Pierre Trudeau who had a private dinner there. The restaurant closed in 1986 but The Chicken Roost was a much-loved and popular destination for almost 40 years.
SAUL COHEN THE BUTCHER BECOMES HAMILTON KOSHER
Saul Cohen, Auschwitz survivor, came to Canada in 1948 at the age of 18. Saul’s first job in Hamilton was at a factory but a butcher friend persuaded him to join as a partner and the two set up shop on York Street in 1950. Saul later moved the store to Westdale where most of the Jewish community was living then. When he decided to retire and put the butcher shop up for sale, Phil Zians contacted his brother Mike, a certified Chef and the two men signed up for a meat-cutting class at George Brown College. Today, Hamilton Kosher, as it’s affectionately known, is the only kosher butcher left in town.

WESTDALE DELICATESSEN
Israelis Necha and Meir Kadar visited Canada in the early ‘80s and fell in love with the country. Three years later they left their jobs and came to Hamilton and within a few months, the delicatessen in Westdale came up for sale and they bought it. Thirty years on, the favourite item on the menu is corned beef and Necha’s 18 varieties of homemade soups.

THE BEAN BAR
In 1993, with management but no restaurant experience, three sisters opened The Bean Bar in Westdale Village. Carolyn, Andrea and Debbie Molot were young mothers with small children at home. They juggled family lives with running the coffee bar that was becoming increasingly popular. Within months their customers were asking for a liquor licence and soon it was time for the trendy place to grow bigger. Debbie’s two sisters moved on to other endeavours so she brought in an experienced Chef to help her turn the Bean Bar into an elegant lifestyle restaurant that continues to draw crowds today.

BOLESLAWSKY’S DELICATESSEN
Boleslawsky’s Delicatessen on York Street was the acknowledged centre of Jewish Social life in the 1950s. As Edie Rochkin recalled: “Everyone who came to Hamilton came to Boleslawsky’s. It was like a club at night. People would buy a bottle of pop, and sit and kibbitz for hours.”

MARTIN’S SPORTS TOWN GRILL
Hamilton sent so many massive men to the squared circle that the city was commonly referred to as “The Factory” in the wrestling business. Martin Hutzler, a pro wrestler himself, opened Martin’s Sports Town Grill – or Hutzler’s Steakhouse, as it was known - where the wrestlers chose to eat. Located on the corner of Barton and Oak Streets, it came complete with a wrestling ring inside.

SWITZER’S DELI
Although more kosher-style than kosher, Switzer’s Deli was the place for the community to meet and eat in the 1980s and ’90s. With its fifties look, red booth seating and traditional Jewish menu you could enjoy everything from bagel with lox and cream cheese, to chicken kneidel soup and full dinners. The restaurant was a family affair, run by Barry and Brenda Netkin along with their daughter Lisa. Barry’s father, Samuel, came to Canada from Russia and started the Netkin family produce business, which he ran for several decades from the lot that’s now part of Jackson Square.

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Creating a new business or organization takes special skills and we can take pride in the fact that many members of our community dedicated themselves to improving and enriching life in Hamilton. Here’s a sample of what was achieved over the years.

**IRVING ZUCKER**

Irving Zucker joined the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II and trained bomber and gunnery crews. Following his discharge, he became interested in radio broadcasting and founded CHAM in Hamilton. Eventually, he assembled a network of radio stations across Ontario and in Eastern Canada. Financed by this and other various business ventures, he later founded the Irving Zucker Foundation and established scholarships at McMaster University. In 1994, Irving donated seven sculptures to the Art Gallery of Hamilton which are on display in Commonwealth Square, adjacent to the gallery. He received the Order of Canada for his philanthropy in 1997.

**READ ALL ABOUT IT! FIRST HAMILTON JEWISH NEWS PUBLISHED**

In 1949 Jewish Federation published its first official newspaper, with the front page announcement that the Women’s Division would be hosting a talk at the JCC, given by Yael Dayan, daughter of Moshe Dayan, the Israeli military leader and politician. Today the Hamilton Jewish News, edited by Wendy Schneider, has more than 1,800 subscribers and approximately 5,000 readers out in the community. The paper – in line with new technology and a under digital editor, Ben Shragge - is online and has a Twitter feed and a facebook page.
BETH TIKVAH
Hamilton is lucky to have people in the community who – when they see something is lacking – decide to do something about it. Stan Tick is one of those people. His two adult brothers with special needs required full-time care. At first, they tried living in a lodging home, but both brothers were unhappy there. Because no other suitable facility existed locally, the choice that remained was to move them to Toronto, far from family and everything familiar, or to open a home for developmentally challenged adults here.

JOSEPH SINGER
Joseph grew up in Krakow, a 1,000-year-old city that was once Poland’s capital. Surrounded by every style of building - Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque, Joe knew from boyhood that he wanted to be an architect. After his move to Canada and specifically to Hamilton, he designed many schools and notable buildings in the city, such as the Adas Israel Synagogue, Shalom Village, the new chapel at Anshe Sholom (created in memory of Marjorie Baskin), and the Beverly Golf and Country Club.

SHALOM VILLAGE
Shalom Village was founded in 1974 to fulfill the mitzvah of honouring our fathers and mothers. Community leader Ben Shekter was keen to establish a Jewish seniors’ residence in Hamilton. He, Ludwig Benario, Sheila Burman and Sam Smurlick worked hard to bring it to Hamilton. Today Shalom Village offers a variety of options and facilities for seniors.

HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION
The Council of Jewish Organizations was established in 1955, with its mandate to help the community and oversee education, recreation and culture. It was renamed the Hamilton Jewish Federation in 1975. With a new logo in 2013, a crowd created a ‘living’ logo, pictured here, to launch the campaign that year.

JEWSH SOCIAL SERVICES & THE ANONYMOUS GIFT
Over the years Executive Director Carol Krames and her team has helped many in distress. One Yom Kippur morning she was surprised to open her front door to find an anonymous note and $1000 in cash as a donation.

JNF
The Hamilton community has long supported the JNF. The familiar little blue “pushka” is still present in all synagogues, Jewish schools and Jewish homes. Blue Box Day and Tu Bi’Shevat telethons still take place today. Purchasing trees continues to be popular in order to honour or remember our loved ones. The annual Negev Dinner has been honouring deserving community members since 1953, being one of the most anticipated events in town.

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Some became experts, others made discoveries, several become acknowledged for their talents. Our community has had its fair share of those who were gifted and have made a difference in their field. From medical work to sport and entertainment, here are a few people whose contribution has spread beyond our city boundaries.

**DR HARRY HOTZ**
At 94, Dr Harry Hotz only recently retired as a pediatrician and with more than 60 years’ experience, is believed to be the longest-serving in his field in Hamilton – and possibly in the world! In 1959 opened his own clinic on Main Street East. That was also the year he met his wife Ruth, who was working as an operating room nurse at Toronto’s Mount Sinai hospital. Because he and his family had arrived penniless in Canada, Harry never forgot the challenges of moving to a new country and he dedicated his practice to helping new immigrants.

**EUGENE LEVY**
Eugene Levy has a long list of talents and credits to his name, having appeared in over 50 movies. Though best-known as an actor and comedian, he is also a producer, director, musician and writer. Eugene studied at McMaster University, where he met film producer and director Ivan Reitman and fellow actor Martin Short. Eugene went on to join Second City in Toronto and made his name in the sketch comedy series Second City Television.

**EVA VERTES**
When Eva Vertes was nine years old, she became fascinated by the science of disease. In high school she studied Alzheimer’s in a neuro-science lab before and after school. At 17 she won first prize when she presented her work at an international science fair. Eva went on to study molecular biology at Princeton and is currently a cancer researcher.
**Ariel Shaffir**
Ariel (centre) grew up in Dundas and went to the Hamilton Hebrew Academy and Highland Secondary School. He went on to law school at McGill but found he was spending more time writing and when he sold a screenplay while still a student, the idea of working in film became more attainable. While on a camp trip to Israel, Ariel met the then-unknown comedy writer Seth Rogen and followed him when he moved to Los Angeles. As executive producer, Ariel’s main job is to review the script and write alternate scenes or jokes in case they’re needed when the film is edited. His latest film, The Interview, shot him and his colleagues to fame when it started an international diplomatic incident and it was almost banned from movie theatres.

**Steve Paikin**
When Steve Paikin was growing up, his mother Marnie would read the sports section of the Globe and Mail out loud while the family ate breakfast. Then he would join the neighbourhood kids in a game of street hockey or football. His love of sports continues to this day and it’s amazing he became a current affairs journalist and not a sports correspondent. But after a summer as intern at the Hamilton Spectator he got hooked on news.
He’s now well-known as the veteran anchor of TVO’s current affairs programme, The Agenda with Steve Paikin, and is the only appointee to receive both the Order of Canada and Order of Ontario the same year.

**Caisse Levy**
Caisse Levy grew up surrounded by music at home. Both her parents enjoyed music and liked to sing. Today she is in demand on Broadway, landing her first big role at 21 in the cross-American tour of Rent, just a few days after she graduated from acting school. Other productions followed, including Hair (which went to London’s West End) and most recently a lead role as Fantine in Les Misérables.

**Joel Dembe**
A benign spinal tumour removed at birth caused partial paralysis but that didn’t stop Joel Dembe. By the time he was seven, he was using a wheelchair and became active in many sports. At 19, he became the youngest member of the Canadian National Wheelchair Tennis team and has been ranked Canada’s number one player. He is a Paralympian (London 2012), and a two-time Canadian National Wheelchair Tennis Champion.

**Dr May Cohen**
Dr May Cohen is acknowledged as an important catalyst in the great strides made in Canadian women’s health. She worked hard on issues such as gender equality in the medical profession, at a time when she herself was one of the few women to attend medical school. In 1977 she joined McMaster’s Faculty of Health Sciences, where she co-founded the Women’s Health Office – the first of its kind in Canada.

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What draws young people to live here? That’s what we asked the next generation and their replies were consistently enthusiastic. Ours is a community that has much to offer and everyone agreed it’s a great place to set down or continue to grow roots.

JEFF PAIKIN
“There’s a strong sense of community and a certain ruggedness to coming from Hamilton. There’s also a strong accountability within the community, as Hamilton is Canada’s ‘biggest small town.’ You can’t lose your accountability to others in a community our size, so what you do matters and remains part of your history. Also people in this community genuinely care about each other and want to help each other. It’s a real city and was a fantastic place to grow up.”
**SAMANTHA BERLIN AND MIKE BROMSTEIN**

“Mike and I were both living in Dundas when we starting dating. We didn’t consider living anywhere else. Dundas is a wonderful place to raise a family and create a life. Neither of us like nor have an appreciation for big cities, so moving to one wasn’t even a question. We each have extended family, jobs and friends here in town. The life that we’ve built is a good one.”

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**LISA MORRIS**

Born and raised in Hamilton, Lisa Morris loves the small-town feel here. “I love living here,” she said. As someone who is single, Lisa is aware she fits differently into a Jewish community that’s traditionally family-oriented but found her own niche by giving her time and energy to help where she’s needed. Lisa has chaired UJA campaigns and currently sits on the board of the Hamilton Jewish Social Services, but she’ll help whichever organization that needs her hard work and dedication.

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**ERIC WAXMAN**

“I think the biggest thing growing up as a Jewish boy in Hamilton had to be the HJMBL, the Hamilton Jewish Men’s Baseball League. It was a key part of Hamilton Jewish community life in the 80s and 90s and helped create a closer, tighter and more involved community and was open to everyone - Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jewish men all participated. There were even a few Rabbis who played over the years. As a young boy, I looked forward to becoming old enough to play too. We’d talk about it at Hebrew school as we played baseball during recess.”

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**LAURA LAENGERER**

“I love living in Hamilton as it has so much to offer. Jewish life in Hamilton is vibrant; I find myself attending several events every month and am very connected with the community. What other small community has a butcher, several kosher caterers, four shuls, a mikvah, a JCC, various Jewish agencies, two day schools, two afternoon schools, a camp and much more? I’m proud to be a member of this wonderful community and couldn’t imagine raising my children anywhere else.”

---

**HORWOOD FAMILY**

Both Danna and David grew up here and lived in Toronto for a short time after they married. When David was offered a job at Effort Trust, they decided to come home. Being in Hamilton brought them closer to both their families and Danna feels their three children are growing up more grounded and down-to-earth. Living in Toronto would be too much pressure and they love being in a walkable neighbourhood with everything close by.

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**SAMANTHA BERLIN AND MIKE BROMSTEIN**

“Mike and I were both living in Dundas when we starting dating. We didn’t consider living anywhere else. Dundas is a wonderful place to raise a family and create a life. Neither of us like nor have an appreciation for big cities, so moving to one wasn’t even a question. We each have extended family, jobs and friends here in town. The life that we’ve built is a good one.”
ORA MARKSTEIN
Ora Markstein was born and raised in an Orthodox family near Budapest and studied drawing and painting. She was 15 when she met her future husband, Francis, but the romance was interrupted when weeks later the Holocaust began. After the Holocaust, they were reunited, married and moved to Canada. Ora began carving stone as a peaceful antidote and a sculptress was born. Her work, expressing the themes of love, loss and renewal, met with widespread acclaim at each of her numerous exhibitions.

VINE’S DELI
Helen Goldberg and her children survived the Holocaust in France by going into hiding. Widowed after the war, the family arrived in Hamilton in 1953 where Helen met and married Harry Vine. Helen had run a successful restaurant in Paris and yearned to be her own boss again. So she rented a store on York Street and converted it into the successful “Vine’s Delicatessen” that became well-known for its Kosher cuisine.

MARGARET & ARTHUR WEISZ
Margaret and Arthur Weisz’s lives are a story of courage and hope. They survived the Holocaust and managed to flee Communism in their native Hungary. The couple and their young son Tom arrived in Canada in 1951, penniless and spoke no English. Arthur worked as a bricklayer’s helper in Hamilton and in 1953 began working in real estate and Margaret cooked meals for the boarders they took in. Arthur went on to build the real estate empire, Effort Trust and both he and Margaret were honored for their philanthropy. After their death, their grand-daughter Danna founded Margaret’s Legacy, a programme for schools that explores themes of tolerance and courage and tells the family’s story, chronicling their wartime experiences.

Making Hamilton Home ...
With the end of the war in 1945, the community opened its doors to survivors. Hamilton Jews organized greeting parties and arrangements were made for many of them to stay at the Jewish Community Centre on beds supplied by local stores such as Dominion Furniture. Some of the younger ones were adopted by families,
... AND NEWCOMERS

MAKING NEWCOMERS FEEL AT HOME
Hilton and Shirley Silberg will never forget the kind invitations they received when they first arrived in Hamilton. One invitation in particular remains memorable. They were invited for Passover to the home of Barbara and Abby Goldblatt and before the seder began, Barbara stood up, with a glass in her hand, and gave a warm welcome. Then, to the surprise of her guests, she proceeded to spill red wine over the centre of the tablecloth, announcing that everyone could now relax and enjoy the evening.

ANITA BERNSTEIN AND FAMILY
When Anita Bernstein [second from right] was widowed and living in Montreal, she moved her young family to Hamilton because she thought it would be easier for her kids to become integrated into a smaller community. She herself found it welcoming and the Na'amat women's group was a big bridge in helping her make friends. When she met her future husband Adrian, he was living in Toronto with his two teens. They moved to Hamilton and have adopted the community as their own. Anita’s daughter Naomi and husband Mike [pictured 2nd and 3rd left] grew up in the Hamilton area and chose to stay too. They settled in Dundas because they found the town an ideal place to raise a family.

GERSHKOVICH FAMILY
Vadim and Augustina Gershkovich moved from Israel to Toronto where they raised their six children. While big city life offered all kind of professional and social opportunities, they realized they wanted a more ‘homey’ place and “a Jewish community that cares”. Friends with Yves and Luba Apel, they visited Hamilton and in 1993 decided this was where they wanted to be. They haven’t looked back. “We love it here, and so far all our kids want to stay too,” said Vadim. Vadim sits on the board of Hamilton’s Jewish National Fund, and he, Augustina and their son Gabriel are on the Negev Dinner’s organizing committee, with Gabriel helping to promote the event on social media.

YVES & LUBA APEL
Yves came to Canada in 1989 to re-unite with family members who lived in Dundas. Luba, Yves’ high school sweetheart in Romania, emigrated to Israel with her family at about the same time. They met again in 1993 and married six months later. They initially made their home in Toronto, but knew Hamilton as a community that ran at their pace, where they wouldn’t be lost. “We got to Dundas because my relatives chose this for us, but it always felt like home to us,” said Yves.

LEON KARAN
Leon Karan and his family left the Soviet Union and in 1991 chose to come to Hamilton. Within a short time Leon was able to continue his piano teaching career, including as an instructor at McMaster University. He founded his own studio shortly after and many of his students have received top awards and scholarships, with some becoming professional musicians. His own daughter Ilona is an accomplished opera singer. But in the community he is probably best known as the founder and conductor of the Chai Choir, which runs through the Hamilton Jewish Social Services. The singers practice weekly and regularly perform throughout the city.

TO READ THE FULL STORIES PLEASE VISIT JNFHAMILTON.CA
A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A Celebration of Life text written and researched by Julia Kollek.

Special Thanks To:
Wendy Schneider for kindly lending us her archival photos that have helped to beautifully illustrate the history of our community.

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Muriel & Samieth’s Cosmetic Store – Samieth Mintz
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Martin’s Sports Bar & Grill – SLAM! Wrestling
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Organizations:
Joseph Singer & Shalom Village – Emmy Singer
Beth Tikva – Julia Kollek

Thank you also to:
All who took part in the video and those who generously gave their stories for this Tribute Book.
And to everyone who contributed to this special Negev Dinner venture, from giving advice, pictures, relating anecdotes and reminiscing aloud.
KKL-JNF is participating in the development of a permanent home for the Tel Aviv-Yafo Youth Leadership Academy, which is affiliated with the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism. The academy offers educational and volunteer programs for young people from Israel and abroad focusing on the Jewish People, Zionism, love of the Land and sustainability. The planned building will include classrooms, a dormitory, a kitchen, dining hall, library, offices and staff rooms, as well as parking.

The historic three-story Schatz House, with its spectacular view of the Temple Mount and ancient Jerusalem, will be restored to create a new visitor attraction and highlight Jerusalem’s history using cutting-edge technology. Through the center’s innovative interpretive methods, visitors will gain a deeper understanding of how the ancient City of David and its surroundings evolved through periods of independence and exile, war and peace.

KKL-JNF is developing two playgrounds in different areas of the new community of Shaveh Darom in the western Negev. Shaveh Darom comprises families evacuated from Gush Katif’s Kfar Darom during the Israeli disengagement from the Gaza strip in 2005. The community will eventually number some 200 families, according to the plan recently submitted to the Local Planning and Construction Committee. Project elements include paths, sidewalks, plazas, steps, landscaping, irrigation, a pergola, seating, playground equipment, drinking fountains, trash cans and tree plantings.
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**BIBLICAL ZOO, A NEW ENTRANCE**

KKL-JNF will develop the large entrance area to the new aquarium complex being built at the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo. This is the first aquarium of its kind in Israel. It will be reached from the city or from the Refa’im Valley Park. A KKL-JNF Information Center will be developed as part of the entrance complex focusing on KKL-JNF and its significant contribution to Israel’s water economy, as well as providing information of recreational opportunities in the area.

**THERAPEUTIC RIDING MANEGE**

KKL-JNF is planning to assist the Kfar Zoharim Youth Village by constructing a riding manege at its stables. The treatment modality of horseback riding is central in promoting the village’s rehabilitative work with ultra-Orthodox youth. The facility helps youth-at-risk who have not found their place in the conventional educational system and are estranged from their families.

**LANDSCAPING A NEW NEIGHBORHOOD**

KKL-JNF is planning to create a series of green, open spaces at Naveh. Naveh is the new home of former Gush Katif residents from Atsmona, who are building a new future in the Western Negev. This project is part of KKL-JNF’s ongoing involvement with the community and will include earthworks, paving trails and approach roads, landscaping and plantings, installing an irrigation system, seating areas (benches, drinking fountains, trash cans), a play area (play structures, rubber surfacing), and
With the two mass immigration operations from Ethiopia to Israel in 1984 and 1991, there was a significant change in the traditional structure of the Jewish Ethiopian community. The older generation, coming from a world where the conveniences we take for granted did not exist and finding themselves located squarely in the middle of a modern, educated and fast-paced society, did not easily integrate and found themselves becoming shunned and losing their self-respect. The wisdom of the elders became irrelevant; they became helpless and lost their feeling of self-worth. The younger generation started looking down on their uneducated parents, deteriorating the status of the elders even further and increasing the inter-generational gap.

Atachlit, located in Kiryat Gat, is a flagship project of Hinneni, a non-governmental organization. It is comprised of talented Ethiopian IDF and academy graduates, educational professionals, etc. who have integrated into Israeli society but who have chosen to return to their weakened communities to help them become an integral part of the wider society. Hinneni is a network of mission-driven communities. The first community was established in 2005 and there are now 9 such communities with programmes for the entire Ethiopian population—children, youth, young adults and elders. Members of Hinneni act as role models for the youth and extend a listening ear and helping hand for young and old.

Atachlit is also leading the wave of social change for Ethiopian elders in helping them regain their proper place in society. As an agrarian society in Ethiopia, the traditional knowledge of farming, instinctive to the elders of the Ethiopian community was disappearing. To recapture their disappearing culture, a unique programme was developed which would also provide social interaction and meaningful employment in agriculture. Here, Hinneni has replicated an agricultural farm which restores the simple Ethiopian village life. The older adults feel more at home in this atmosphere and can return to farming using their ancient knowledge and expertise. They can do what they are good at and what they love. It also opens a window of opportunity for business initiatives. By activating experiential and enriching programmes for youth and adults, Atachlit helps the elders reconnect to their ancestral powers and consequently change the way they look at themselves and their community. The intergenerational gap between the youth and the elders is narrowing as the younger generation is reconnected to its roots and regains respect for its elders.

Funds raised by JNF Hamilton’s Negev Dinner will be used to construct a retirement centre for the retired and unemployed elders who participate in the Atachlit community agricultural programme. It will be the main centre for socializing and for the operation of several programmes. There will be empowerment workshops and a kitchen which will allow the elder women to prepare foods and lead workshops in traditional cooking. It will also include a visitors Centre. In it, there will be information on the Ethiopian natural way of life in constant harmony with nature, on traditional methods of agriculture, on community and on their previous Jewish life in Ethiopia. Cultural treasures of the Ethiopian community will also be on display.

Ultimately, this retirement centre will help preserve the ancient culture of Ethiopian Jews and, in doing so, restore self-esteem and self-respect to the community’s elders.
Andrea Martin was born in Portland, Maine, and fell in love with Toronto early in her career. One of her first “gigs” in Toronto was as a member of the legendary Toronto production of Godspell. The star-studded cast included Hamilton notables, Martin Short and Eugene Levy, Gilda Radner, Jayne Eastwood and former Londoner, Victor Garber. Ms. Martin went on to appear in Leonard Bernstein’s Candide as well as Private Lives with Maggie Smith and Brian Bedford at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival Theatre. She has appeared in numerous theatre and television productions in Canada, most notably Toronto’s Second City stage show, which led to the critically acclaimed SCTV.

Andrea is recognized for her scene stealing role as Aunt Voula in the 2002 movie My Great Big Fat Greek Wedding and will reprise that role in the second edition of the movie which began filming in Toronto this spring.

Ms. Martin has hosted every televised award programme in the country, and has won multiple awards herself. These include the ACTRA, Emmy, Gemini and Tony awards for television, film and stage. She has worked with many other comedic geniuses including Eugene Levy, Rick Moranis, John Candy, Dave Thomas, Catherine O’Hara and Martin Short.

Most recently, Andrea has written a book entitled Lady Parts, which is a hilarious, entertaining, and often moving memoir. In it she shares her fondest remembrances of a life in show business, motherhood, relationships, no relationships, family, chimps in tutus, squirrels, and why she flies to Atlanta to get her hair cut.

Seth Rudetsky is an American musician, actor, writer, and radio host. He is currently the host of “Seth’s Big Fat Broadway” on Sirius/XM Satellite Radio’s On Broadway. For this evening’s show, Seth, Andrea’s musical director, will banter back and forth with her, play the piano and ask her to remember certain things she has done in her past which will lead into her telling a story. His book, Seth’s Broadway Diary, was published in October 2014. This is a compilation of his hilarious, Broadway-centric “Onstage and Backstage” columns for Playbill.com and chronicles his unique life on and around the Great White Way.

- Susan Merskey, London, Ontario
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For more than a century, The Jewish National Fund’s mission for the land of Israel has remained steadfast and unwavering: to serve as trustee of the land for the Jewish people of the world. Its iconic Blue Box remains a beacon of strength and continuity, reassuring the world with the ubiquitous reminder of Theodore Herzl’s maxim: “If you will it, it is no dream.”
The Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael) has evolved continuously since its birth in 1901. Where KKL-JNF once acquired property and drained swamps, it now fills reservoirs and builds entire communities. Where it once cleared stones for makeshift roads, it now carves passageways from the rock. Where it once taught young Jews the value of a single tree, it now demonstrates ecological stewardship to the inhabitants of the world. And where it once dug wells to collect fresh water, it now leads the way by treating and recycling water for agriculture.

KKL-JNF has not entirely changed its focus from the early days; rather, it has become a “new” KKL-JNF. As much as the organization retains its interests in trees and forests, and of course in water (which came about later), the needs of Israelis have evolved and KKL-JNF needs to keep up with these needs.

The KKL-JNF’s contribution to Israelis’ quality of life has been dramatic, building over 7,000 km of roads and infrastructure for over 1,000 communities and providing direct and indirect employment for hundreds of thousands of Israelis. It has created viable modern communities from the wilderness, using bold research and relentless labour to reclaim more than 300,000 acres of barren land for agriculture.

Today, KKL-JNF’s work includes
structural projects such as wings of hospitals, housing for new communities in the Negev, playgrounds, and so forth, to better the lives of the Israelis for whom these projects were intended, as well as medical “firsts,” pioneering research and establishing gardens where people being treated and their families can go and relax. Other projects, such as bike and hiking trails and the Hula Lake bird sanctuary, are more based in nature and recreation. Yet others, for example the playground at Moshav Goren in the northern Galilee, are designed to meet the needs of children with physical disabilities. Agricultural research helps Israeli farmers find better ways to farm despite the often arid conditions. KKL-JNF-built dams and reservoirs store and recycle water for agricultural and industrial use.

KKL-JNF is recognized as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) by the United Nations. Its representatives serve on UN environmental committees addressing key global issues. Its commitment to knowledge and environmental stewardship resonates far beyond Israel’s borders – indeed, in the governments and classrooms of the world. KKL-JNF’s incomparable world-class expertise in water treatment, nanotechnology and reforestation has earned it a rightful place among the world’s leading environmental organizations.

KKL-JNF continues to be on the front lines of the fight for water resources, using innovative techniques and research to provide adequate water resources to an increasingly growing population. It finds solutions in the sand, from satellites, in field stations, and in petri dishes. More than 250 KKL-JNF-built dams and reservoirs store and recycle water for agriculture and industrial use, freeing up freshwater resources for over a million Israelis and making Israel a world leader in recycled water.

“The KKL-JNF’s contribution to Israelis’ quality of life has been dramatic, building over 7,000 km of roads and infrastructure for over 1,000 communities and providing direct and indirect employment for hundreds of thousands of Israelis.”

One of the many bicycle trails built by JNF for the pleasure of all Israelis

Cranes at the Hula Valley

Special needs playground equipment

Seed planting at a JNF Nursery

Bird watchers at the Hula Valley Nature Reserve
usage. Ironically, long-term remedies to the enormous, multi-faceted water crisis are found on a much smaller scale. KKL-JNF uses its influence and expertise to advance research across scientific disciplines, using nanotechnology to combat Israel’s water crisis. The stakes are high for affordable water treatment solutions: the ability to filter out bacteria, viruses, and toxins from water at the sub-microscopic level has repercussions for all humanity, and KKL-JNF is working towards it one precious micro-drop at a time.

The three projects being undertaken in the 2015 Windsor, London and Hamilton campaigns each reflect a facet of KKL-JNF’s caring for others. Funds raised in Windsor will go towards the construction of an additional classroom at the Jordan Valley Regional Council’s Bet Yerah High School, to be used for a special program for youth-at-risk who have dropped out of the school system in the Lower Galilee area. Funds from Hamilton will go towards the creation of a social club for retired and unemployed Ethiopian seniors in the “Atachlit” programme, a farming venture designed to help
these elderly immigrants regain their feelings of self-worth by sharing their traditional skills with the younger generation. Those from London are to be directed towards the creation of a special garden area at Tel Hashomer Hospital where patients suffering from Parkinson’s and other neurological diseases, and their families, can find an oasis of peace and quietness.

KKL-JNF Missions from many countries visit Israel regularly, enabling participants to see for themselves just what is being accomplished. Speaking during a recent Canadian Mission, Josh Cooper, CEO of JNF Canada said “We were able to see projects that we have committed to, thanks to our donors over the past several years and we were able to see firsthand the impact they have had on the communities here. We were also able to look at the potential of future projects that need to be fulfilled in order to help the people of the State of Israel.” (CJN January 2015)

One hundred and fourteen years after its creation, KKL-JNF’s work continues unceasingly. Your participation at this Negev Dinner/Gala will further enhance all our efforts. We thank you for your unfailing support.

By Susan Merskey, London Ontario
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IN APPRECIATION

The Jewish National Fund of Hamilton would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to a number of friends who have volunteered their time, provided services and worked hard to ensure this evening and other JNF events would be such a success…

Israel Vukmir – for his unwavering love for the Land of Israel and the Jewish people, for helping our office on a daily basis, for undertaking every task with pride, no matter how large or small, and for keeping us organized in the office.

Lorne Gaffe and Hamilton Store Fixtures – for allowing us to store our kosher dishes in their facility and helping us to move them in or out as required for our events.

Violet Byl & Anna Helseth at Effort Trust - for helping us with our arrangements for our telethons.

Charles Kravetsky – for going above and beyond in every detail of kashrut from meeting with the staff of the Convention Centre to review every ingredient, to ensuring the kitchens are koshered properly and our dishes are counted, loaded and delivered on time.

Jason Leizer – for volunteering his time and creativity to be our official photographer to help capture the memories of the evening.

The staff of the HCC by Carmen’s - Chef Jeremy Barrett, Debby Russ, Mike Crooks, and Melissa Abraham - for their wonderful assistance, cooperation and friendship and helping to ensure that our event is a brilliant success!

Thank you to our JNF Hamilton staff – including Suzy Polgar, the consummate professional, ensuring all the elements are in place, Roberta Katz, without whom we would not be able to have this event take place and to Joanna Blackmore who brings her smile and bubbly personality to the office and takes care of all the loose ends. And, while they don’t work in our Hamilton office, we want to express our sincere gratitude to Yehuda Lang, Shlomo Buzaglo and Ryan Sacks who add to the creativity of our messaging whether in print or online. Kol Hakavod Everyone!!!