

Community news

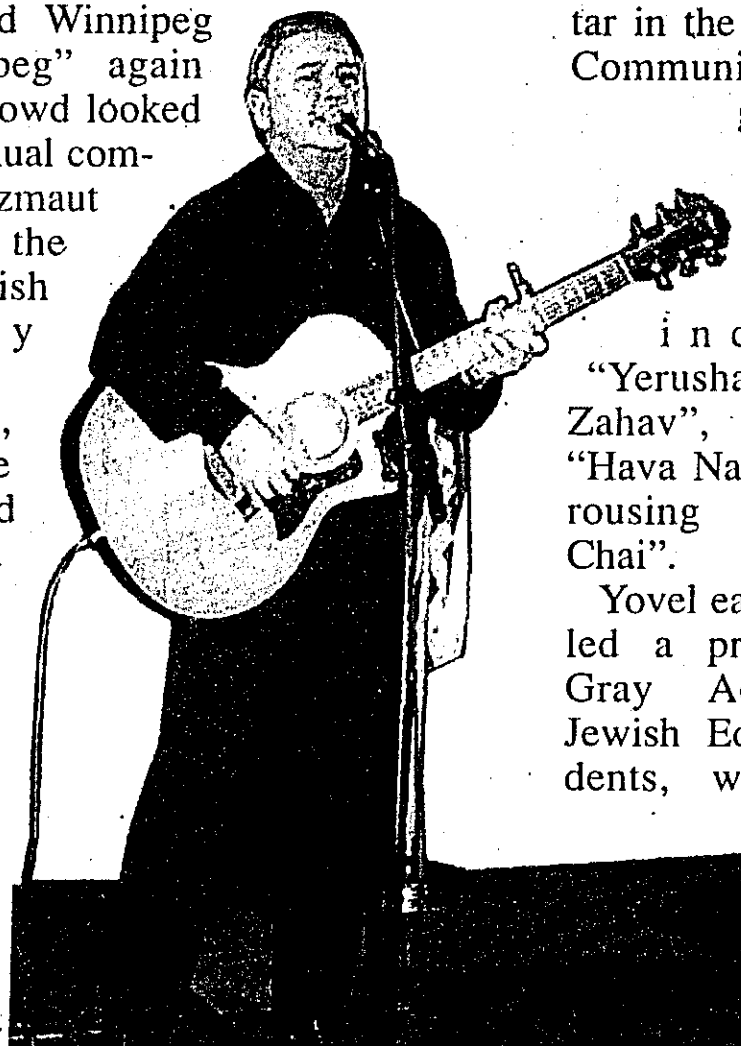
Israeli singer warms up crowd at Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration

Danciger High School students join in

Globally-warmed Winnipeg became "Winterpeg" again May 3, and the crowd looked smaller for the annual community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration at the Asper Jewish Community Campus.

Inside, though, sheltered from the frigid wind and rain, acclaimed Israeli singer/composer Hanan Yovel warmed up children, parents and grandchildren with a full range of Israeli songs, and everyone noshed on free blue and white Israeli anniversary cake.

Playing his gui-



HANAN YOVEL, Israeli singer/composer, performs in the Rady Jewish Community Centre gym.

tar in the Rady Jewish Community Centre gym, Yovel passionately sang all the crowd-pleasers, including "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav", old favorite "Hava Nagila" and the rousing "Od Avinu Chai".

Yovel earlier that day led a program with Gray Academy of Jewish Education students, who've been learning his songs, and sang them back to him.

The Jewish Federation of Winnipeg



The Kiryat Shmona, Israel, Danciger High School delegation at the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration. Standing, from left: Einat Malka, Sapir Daniel, Tal Peretz, and teacher/chaperone Tiki Saada. Seated, from left: Hadar Ganor, Adir Kadosh, Itamar Cohen and Terez Avo-Morad.

sponsored the evening celebration.

Dr. Ted Lyons, Federation president, offered a special welcome to a delegation of students visiting here from Danciger, the high school in Kiryat Shmona, northern Israel.

"You are and have been a real source of pride and ru'ach (spirit) for us all," he told the group and Tiki Saada, the teacher chaperoning them, before they joined in the Yom Ha'atzmaut singing and Israeli dancing.

Danciger students have been visiting Winnipeg for years, thanks to Partnership 2000. That program, partly funded by Federation, aims at increasing ties between Israeli and Diaspora Jewish communities.

The agenda of this year's delegation, as usual, included taking part in a variety of Jewish community programs. This year, the Danciger visitors also met students at Southeast High School, an aboriginal Winnipeg high school that's been doing an increasing number of programs with Gray Academy. Several provincial and regional aboriginal dignitaries also attended, along with Shelley Faintuch, Jewish Federation of Winnipeg community relations director.

"We've been having workshops in some classes," Terez Avo-Morad, one of the Danciger students, said of their activities at Gray Academy. "They're all topics to get to know Israel better."

Asked what they tell students here about Israel, Danciger student Einat Malka said: "That it's a warm place, and not as scary as it seems."

In contrast to previous years, when Danciger student groups often talked freely to Winnipeg's Jewish weekly about the situation on Israel's nearby northern border, their teacher-chaperone this year kept a tight lid on what the students could say in an interview.

"We're not a political delegation," Saada explained, ruling out even questions about whether any Hezbollah rockets are still falling in the Kiryat Shmona area.

Danciger student Itamar Cohen did comment, however, on the difference between Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations in Kiryat Shmona and here.

"In Israel, the kids celebrate with (hit parade) songs and parties. Here, they do festival songs, songs of Israel...It's a real Yom Ha'atzmaut."

Community news

Sir Martin Gilbert men, in contrast, were (Cont. from page 1.) allowed to marry "Jewish girls", but treated them as "totally subservient."

"The first distinguishing Jewish badge in a Muslim land dates from 807," Gilbert added. Jews there had to wear "coned hats and yellow belts".

As for the Golden Age of Jews in Spain under Moorish rule, Gilbert allowed that there was a "brief period of 127 years in the early Middle Ages" when Jews under Muslim rule "flourished".

Abd al-Rahman III, head of the Palatinate of Cordova, invited Jews to "come to his kingdom."

"Tens of thousands of Jews" fleeing persecution in Christian Europe reached Muslim Spain. But tolerance toward Jews could be taken away.

5000 JEWS MURDERED IN MUSLIM GRENADA IN 1066

"On December 30, 1066, some 5000 Jews were murdered in the streets of Grenada. The rest were expelled from the city. Jews had nowhere to go. They could try to make their way to the next Muslim country."

But in 1148, a new wave of Muslim fundamentalists conquered North Africa and southern Spain, forcing "tens of thousands of Jews" to convert to Islam.

"Those who refused had their property confiscated, tens of thousands were sold into slavery" and "almost all synagogues" were destroyed.

A new wave of massacres of Jews in Arab lands started in 1839, in the Persian city of Mashad, when the whole Jewish community, one of the greatest in central Asia, was forced to convert.

After that, there were "almost annual" massacres of Jews in different parts of the Muslim world.

As Zionism "began to gain ground," Turkish authorities made it "harder and harder" for "Jews to have their own country."

The first 20th century pogroms against Jews in the Arab world outside Palestine happened in the 1930s - the worst, in Iraq.

Note to readers

When pictures with photo captions, stories and other announcements appear in boxes, that indicates the material inside the box is paid for. Stories with headlines in a typestyle other than the one used for standard news stories (samples of standard news headlines appear with all stories on page 1) are also partly or fully paid for.

Notice to organizations, publicists

The Jewish Post & News now is charging for publicity about upcoming events running in this newspaper.

- Anyone running a display ad at least "business card size" (2 columns wide by 2 inches deep) publicizing a Jewish organizational upcoming event will be entitled to up to the equivalent amount of editorial space free every time the ad runs.

- Announcements of synagogue service times run for free, but are subject to editing for length.

- All publicity about upcoming events submitted for publication must include the names and addresses of the individuals authorizing publication, for billing purposes.

- All news releases and announcements published in The Jewish Post & News are subject to editing, and all references to ticket prices, admission charges and phone numbers will be deleted, unless the items are authorized to run at the full display advertising rate.

- All news and advertising should be in our office by noon, Friday, for the following week's paper.

- We can't be responsible for the delivery time of the paper. You may wish to run your publicity or ad at least two weeks in advance of the event.



RHONA DAVIES, JHC president, speaking at Shaarey Zedek before Sir Martin Gilbert's lecture: The centre is "digitizing" documents in its collection.

A "pro-Nazi" ruler turned against that country's Jews in a "ferocious massacre", and the British colonial administrators took "two months to suppress it."

With the creation of Israel, persecutions of Jews became more widespread in the Arab world, and "astounding numbers" fled to the new Jewish state.

"The number of Jewish refugees from Arab lands is estimated at 850,000," Gilbert said, and by the late 1950s, the Arab world was virtually "Judenrein".

"Israel is full of people from Arab countries who came to Israel because they were made refugees in Arab lands."

In contrast to the billions of dollars worth of financial help the United Nations has given Palestinian refugees, who originally numbered "only 500,000", the UN has yet to provide compensation to their Jewish counterparts from the Arab world.

During a question and answer session, one listener said he found Gilbert's speech "a bit depressing", because of the ongoing "hate of Jews in Arab lands."

Gilbert replied that "there will always be people who hate Jews, but...the State of Israel knows how to defend itself."

"I'm a great optimist," he concluded. "...Despair is not a Jewish characteristic. We've chosen life and we live it."

Rhona Davies, president of the JHC, for which the lecture served as a fundraiser, expressed optimism about the centre's future, despite the sharp cut in funding it suffered last year and elimination of the current Jewish museum space.

Davies noted plans for new display cases throughout the Asper Jewish Community Campus that will showcase items from the centre's "more than 300,000" photographs and artifacts on a rotating basis.

The centre is also "digitizing" documents in its collection; clients will be able to access them, using the Internet, "seven days a week".

Speakers preceding and following Gilbert at his lecture, co-chaired by Harold Buchwald and Abe Anhang, also praised Sol Kanee, whose family founded the lecture series through an endowment.

"For 60 years and more, he dedicated his formidable energies to this community and to improving lives of Jews around the world," Richard Kroft said of Kanee, now 97, a former Canadian Jewish Congress president and World Jewish Congress leader.

Kanee's son, Stephen, also paid homage to his

mother, Florence. "She was considered the great beauty of her generation," he said. "Her beauty wasn't skindiep - it was the outer manifestation of a beautiful soul."

In this week's issue, on page 10...



An in-depth interview with Sir Martin Gilbert, author of more than 75 books, about how he decides what to write about, and Winston Churchill's intriguing plan for creation of a Jewish state

JEWISH FEDERATION OF WINNIPEG

FACT OF THE WEEK

Week 1

Welcome to what we hope will be an informative monthly column about the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and its community partners.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Jewish Federation of Winnipeg is part of the United Jewish Communities network of over 155 Federations and 400 independent Jewish communities across North America. Collectively, our mission is to strengthen our own community, help strengthen Israel and help distressed communities. One of the vital functions is the annual fund raising campaign. In 2005, North American communities raised an astonishing \$838.7 Million dollars. This figure represents a 3.2% increase over last year. Women's Campaigns in North America raised \$185.4 Million - a 2.6% increase.

HOW DOES WINNIPEG FIT INTO THE NORTH AMERICAN PICTURE?

We raised \$4,865,976 Million, 104.6% of our goal and a whopping 9.2% increase of over last year's Campaign. Our Women's Campaign raised \$1,021 Million

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