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SUMMER 2011 | קיץ | תשע"א | א

# We are Associated

Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto

In this issue of *We Are Associated*, we've highlighted a few of our school's tremendous achievers, spanning several decades of alumni and even one current student. We are proud of all our students and this issue is but a sampling of the wonderful life paths some have pursued while maintaining core Jewish values – a key component of their education at Associate.

## Student Profiles through the years

### BY NAOMI MOSCOE

# Daphna Grossman '81



Dr. Daphna Grossman is a very busy woman with a simple philosophy:

“Treat people kindly, and always do your best.”

For Daphna, theory and practice are inextricable. Over the course of her career, she's worked with First Nation communities in Sioux Lookout and Bearskin Lake, the Inuit community in Churchill, Manitoba and Arviat, North West Territories, and the Mennonite community in the Bruce Peninsula.

“I believe that everyone should live with dignity and die with dignity,” she says. A palliative care physician at Baycrest Hospital and lecturer in the department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto, Daphna's chosen field is no coincidence. Working as an emergency room physician early in her career, she saw many people with severe end-stage diseases whom she felt should spend the end of their life surrounded by their families and friends in a calm, nurturing environment; not in a resuscitation room alone, surrounded by tubes and machines. It was this recurrent image that led her to pursue a career in palliative care medicine.

Daphna's commitment to the Jewish

community is just as strong – and just as active – as her commitment to her patients. Last year the Grossman family hosted a soldier from *Bet Halochem*. Daphna describes the experience as an amazing opportunity to share their home with a true Israeli hero, and they continue to keep in touch. Daphna also serves as a board member of The Lodzer Centre. Within the Associated family, she serves on the Board of Directors as well as co-chairing the AHS Family Giving initiative.

“Fundraising for our school is so vital,” Daphna says with conviction. “It helps the school maintain quality education, fund new initiatives, support diverse learning, and supplement tuition while keeping fees as low as possible.”

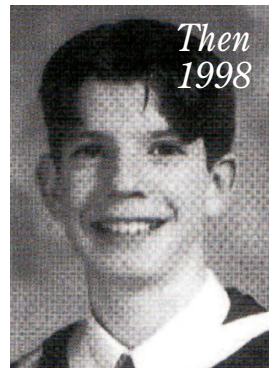
An Associated graduate herself, Daphna marvels at the changes to the school since her time there. “It is hard to believe that where I spent Grade 1 is now the Middle School. By the way – the lunch room at Danilack used to be a pool! Posluns was my middle school. It looked a little different then,” she laughs. “But I have to say that Associated taught me how to be disciplined in my studying. This has served me well throughout my post-Associated education.”

Daughters Yona, 11, and Ayala, 9,

Continued inside...

### BY DIANA NAIBERG

# '98 Jared Goldlust



For many people, summer camp is about being outdoors; it's about enjoying nature, roasting marshmallows on an open fire at dusk and singing songs. For Jared Goldlust, the new director of Camp Kadimah in Nova Scotia, it's more than that. It's a place where campers develop a strong sense of Jewish identity, a love for Israel and, of course, where lasting friendships are made.

At 25, Jared is only the fourth director to be appointed in the camp's 68 years and he plans on enhancing this summer's program with a strong sense of Jewish pride. He believes that Jewish camps play a key role in identity building and can help raise a *mensch*. “Having spent the last 12 years at camp,” he says, referring to Kadimah, “this is a pinnacle moment in my life.”

Jared, an Associated graduate ('99), attributes his successes today to the education he received at Associated. “A big part of who I am today can be accredited to Associated,” he says.

“My Jewish education was the foundation for living a modern-day Jewish life. It was about *tikkun olam*, *tzedakah* and respect, to name a few. And it made me become more engaged in the Jewish community at a very young age.”

A sports enthusiast with a Bachelor's degree in Recreation Management from Dalhousie University and a Master's from Brandeis University, Goldlust remembers the Grade 7 basketball team and his coach, Shawn Karry, in particular. “My fondest memory of the school and most profound experience was being on that team. The coach was incredible,” he says. “We were never treated like kids. Mr. Karry took us under his wing and showed us a type of respect we didn't know existed between students and teachers; and we respected him in turn.” It was a relationship that brought new meaning to the commandment of “honour thy father and mother, and respect thy neighbour,” Jared remarks with a laugh.

Continued inside...

## We Are Associated

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**We Are Associated** is a joint communication vehicle of Associated Hebrew Schools and the Parent Teacher Council. It is our aim to provide meaningful and useful information to parents, students, alumni, staff and members of the community who all contribute to the excellence of our school.

The goal of Associated Hebrew Schools is education. Our constituency comprises members from many cultural, social and religious segments of the Jewish community. Since 1907, we have provided the finest educational services and facilities. A dynamic institution, Associated has adapted its programs throughout the decades to ensure that an outstanding educational experience remains accessible.

For those who seek wisdom, understanding and the opportunity to perpetuate the Jewish people and our Jewish community, we invite you to associate yourself with our quest for success.

Readers are invited to submit comments or questions in writing to **We Are Associated** at the address below:

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

**As an alum of Associated and a leader in the Jewish day schools movement,** I have always been impressed by the commitment of AHS to high-level academic achievement. As a student in the school, I remember how high the expectations were and remember how our teachers encouraged us to reach beyond our goals. The emphasis in mathematics and the study of language and literature always felt so central to the core expectations of the school. I remember how my math teacher, Mrs. Heller, was able to bring out the best in me as a math student even when surrounded by so many high-achievers. I remember how our teachers engaged us in stimulating discussions and debates. I remember our 'SMARTboards' – the reel-to-reel tape recorders and the 16mm projectors that sparked our creativity.

I have never been surprised that so many of my classmates have gone on to become inventors, scientists, engineers and lawyers.

I'm also not surprised that many of my classmates went on to become professors of philosophy or linguistics, or became Rabbis or educators in both Jewish and non-Jewish settings. While there was much emphasis on the role of text-based learning at Associated, I recall many discussions focused on important religious or contemporary issues in class whether it was in a Talmud, social studies or English class. We often debated politics, theological issues

*Adira Greenwald, grade 2 student at Posluns, proudly holds the certificate she received for participating in the Boomerang Birthday program.*



“Associated counts on all families to continue their tradition of philanthropy by making Associated a top priority in their annual giving and it can start in the simplest fashion through programs like Boomerang Birthday.”

### Talk about inspiration...!

Every so often we put together an issue that goes above and beyond our mandate to highlight Associated activities, initiatives and accomplishments. This is most certainly one of them.

On the surface, it may seem we are focusing on individuals – specifically, students and alumni dedicated to giving back to the community; but the lens is actually much wider than that. The achievements and continuing efforts of these unique individuals are no fluke: their characters and personal beliefs did not spring out of nothing.

Some believe it takes a village to raise a child; I say it takes a community. It takes parents with rock-solid values, manifested by the examples they set and the choices they make for their children. It takes positive role models who illustrate the importance of thinking beyond themselves and the personal satisfaction to be gained in doing for others. It takes a daily

environment that reinforces these higher values – Torah values, whether one thinks of them that way or not – and provides opportunities for the child to exercise them not only in theory, but in practice.

The proof is in the pudding, so they say. Just as a home is not simply shelter with food and storage space, school – any school – is so much more than rooms with desks and teachers. Many things have changed at Associated over the years: the teachers; the facilities; the technology. The curriculum has been enriched and modernized; new educational methodologies applied and programs developed.

All these changes, occurring within a larger framework that doesn't change at all; and hasn't for the past hundred years. AHS has provided a rich daily environment for generations of children. As editor, I have the opportunity to see (or read about) these results on a regular basis. The fact is,

## Dr. Mark Smiley



and were encouraged to explore opposing opinions. These discussions emerged from the desire to interpret historical information or were rooted in biblical or secular literature.

When one sits back, one sees that many of the experts who write for local newspapers – be it in the area of finance, medicine, internet, Midrash, law or real estate, – are graduates of Associated. Indeed, many of my classmates have published works/books in their respective areas and have added to the appreciation of knowledge that is a core value of Associated.

That is why I am proud that many of the members of the Associated administration, myself included, are former AHS students. We have gone beyond the walls of the school, achieved success in local and international circles, and have returned to celebrate our excitement for knowledge and to prepare the next generation who will add to that knowledge. •

## Boomerang Birthday Giving that comes back to Associated

**A birthday is an exciting and happy time, particularly for a child.** At Associated, we are including the annual milestone as a great practical way to teach our students about the mitzvah of *tzedakah* through a program called 'Boomerang Birthday'.

As part of Associated's Family Giving philanthropy program, which raises awareness and encourages giving in a variety of ways to Associated, students who are celebrating birthdays are being encouraged to receive a donation in place of a gift from friends and family. Donations are made to the school and when the gifts are tallied, half of the total gift is given back to the child to purchase any item of their choice, while the remaining portion supports Associated in its development efforts.

"Associated counts on all families to continue their tradition of philanthropy by making Associ-

ated a top priority in their annual giving and it can start in the simplest fashion through programs like Boomerang Birthday," says Renee Rosenzweig, Co-Chairs Family Giving with Dr. Daphna Grossman and Michael Kerzner.

"Students are able to participate in the act of *tzedakah* and still mark their birthday with a special treat. It is a great introduction to the world of giving and includes friends and family members in the process," Rosenzweig adds.

Posluns student Julia Gutzin, 9, has hosted a Boomerang Birthday for the past two years. Her mother, Shayla, is extremely pleased with the program and is particularly proud of how it motivates her daughter to participate in the act of *tzedakah*. "It sends all the right messages to students," she explains. "It highlights the importance of *tzedakah*, supports the school, and avoids the accumulation of unwanted gifts."

**To organize a Boomerang Birthday, please contact Pauline Pankowski, Director of Development, 416-494-7666 ext. 260 or ppankowski@ahschools.com or visit www.associatedhebrewschools/supportahs/familygiving/boomerangbirthday**

### LETTER FROM THE

## Editor



Naomi Moscoe

we could put out a daily newsletter of impressive alumni profiles and we would never be at a loss for subjects.

I see the results in my own kids, one of whom has already graduated from AHS, and I see the results in myself: not just because I still know *Hatikva* and the *Birkat Hamazon* by heart, but because even after all these years out in the world, I stand firmly as ever in my values, my community, and my sense of identity.

# Student Profiles through the years

## Dafna Grossman '81 *Continued from Front Page* Now

attend Danilack Middle School and Posluns respectively. Dafna recalls her first meeting with Posluns Principal Eric Golombek and Vice Principal Belinda Keshen of AHS's Posluns branch several years ago.

"They had implemented such innovative ideas with respect to learning and had established such a nurturing and warm environment at Posluns," Dafna explains. "It was palpable as soon as you walked into the school." She and her husband were so impressed they transferred their kids to Associated mid-year.

Core Jewish values such as *derech eretz* and *tikkun olam* are part of Dafna's daily life. "I love being involved in the school and at our shul," Dafna says. "Both play such a significant role in our [family's] lives, and hopefully [we are] teaching our kids the importance of trying to make a positive impact in the world, and to constantly strive to make things better. I love the concept of 'pay it forward'. It's easier to be a bystander, but it's more rewarding to be involved." •



## Jared Goldlust '98 *Continued from Front Page*

Today, all this has translated to Jared becoming an educator in his own right at Kadimah. He explains that his role is far greater than the administration of the camp and dealing with anxious parents; it's ensuring campers go home at the end of the summer with two fundamentals: a new or enhanced skill set acquired during their session, and a greater love for Judaism and Israel.

"Because of the informal nature of camp, kids really walk away at the end of the summer with a stronger connection to the Jewish community," Jared says. "They get to do activities they love, whether it is waterskiing, canoeing or kayaking, among other things and incorporating Jewish themes, songs, dance and Israeli music."

"They feel proud to be Jewish," he adds. "And to having 18 or 19 year-old mentor, who is like an older sibling for many campers, teaches them that 'yes, you can be an older, cooler, proud Jew.'"

As new camp director, Jared brings the principles he learned years ago when he was an Associated student. His most revered belief is that Judaism should add joy to life through traditions, customs and the people you share it with.

He says he will continue making camp a place where campers will celebrate Judaism through immersive experiences such as Shabbat and Havdalah ceremonies.

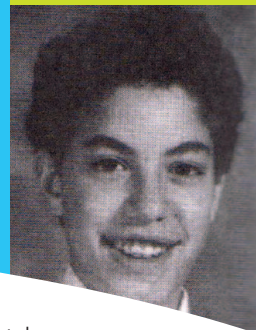
"If a camper can go home at the end of the summer with one custom or tradition acquired from camp, I'll feel that it has been a fulfilling and successful summer," he concludes. "I'm very grateful for my Jewish upbringing because it's not until you're on your own that you realize how important your early education really is. If I didn't have Associated, then my Jewish life wouldn't be what it is." •



Now

## Hersh Perlis '94 BY SIDURA LUDWIG

Then – 1994



For some AHS alumni, school was all about books, math and grammar. But for Hersh Perlis, the lessons went deeper.

"I remember every time we went on a field trip, our teachers would say, 'Remember you are representing your community, so act like a *mensch*,'" Hersh says. "I have always tried to carry that everywhere I go and remember that we should hold ourselves to a higher standard and be the best that we can be."

Hersh works hard to live up to that standard as a Senior Policy Advisor to the Provincial Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. He is responsible for informing and making recommendations to the minister, Chris Bentley, on a number of policy files including education, youth initiative and economic development. He credits Associated for instilling his love for social action.

"Many of the same social values that AHS taught me are what I believe the Ontario Liberal Party represent," he says, "which is probably what attracted me to the party and specifically to Minister Bentley and Aboriginal Affairs."

Before his work as a policy advisor, Hersh spent many years at UJA Federation working on the annual campaign. He then became the director of development at Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee (CJPAC), an organization that encourages the Jewish community to get involved in politics.

"Most of my professional life has been spent serving the Jewish community," he says. "I'd like to think that seed was planted at AHS where giving back to the community certainly became a part of my life."

As a youth, Hersh also spent time studying and volunteering in Israel. "[At AHS] I remember always wondering why we spent so much time learning Hebrew and wondering if it would ever 'sink in'. Then when I went to Israel for school in Grade 11 and after that, to volunteer for six months, I remember thinking back and thanking my parents for the education. I was shocked at how well I could speak!"

Hersh now sees his AHS experience as about more than just language.

“At the end of the day, AHS gave me the background and foundation for being Jewish – from holidays, to praying, to keeping kosher. Along with my family, AHS was clearly the foundation.” •

The Perlis Family (l-r): Dylan, 3, Hersh, Marni and Caleb, 1



Now

## L'hitraot: We Salute You!

This year, we bid farewell to **Sandy Rabinowitz** and **Sheldon Diamond**, two senior administrators who have been a part of our Associated family and have both played a tremendous leadership role with our students and staff.

We wish both Mr.

BY MARCIE FISHER

Then - 2007

# Devra '07 Charney



When asked about her personal mission statement, AHS graduate Devra Charney ('07) says,

“I would like to better myself as a person while bettering the community and the world.”

The 16 year-old current TannenbaumCHAT student is certainly making good on her mission with her many contributions to the Jewish community, her school, her shul and the community at large.

In addition to teaching swimming for the City of Toronto and working as a tutor, for the last four years Devra has volunteered each and every Saturday as a leader at Adath Israel's Shabbat nursery program. If that were not enough, Devra also proudly volunteers each year for UJA's annual campaign and Walk with Israel. Devra says she got involved with helping at the Walk because she loved participating when she was younger and "wanted to give back."

"I enjoy helping others," she says. "It is very rewarding to see how you can help others even though you are just one person."

As just one person, Devra certainly has made a contribution and has participated in many amazing programs such as Parent Action on Drugs (a program that teaches middle school students about the dangers of drug use), and Quest Interface (a multi-cultural dialogue between students of differing faiths aimed at promoting tolerance) and the 2010 March of the Living. She is also a silver medal winner of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, a self-directed development program for young Canadians aged 14 to 25 for achievement in community service, skills, physical recreation and adventurous journey.

For many teens that would be more than enough to keep them busy, but for Devra it is just the beginning. For the last two years, Devra has been co-editing CHAT's student newsletter, the FiresideCHAT, a role she prepared for as editor of a section of AHS's student newsletter. Devra says that English and editing have always been a favourite for her and she credits her great teachers

at AHS (especially Mr. Woods) for inspiring her to become involved in writing and editing, a career she hopes to pursue.

Devra looks back enthusiastically at her years at AHS. Aside from making life-long friends, she says, "Associated helped me develop skills and to be diligent and work hard. It also gave me a strong foundation in general and Judaic studies. I find that I want to maintain my Judaism wherever I go in the future". •



# Aaron Maresky

BY SUSAN MINUK

# Aaron's apple

## Caring is a core value for this Associated student



Jewish people are taught to help others, a message that Aaron Maresky has learned at Associated Hebrew Schools.

“Tzedakah is very important. You should always help others and be grateful for what you have,” Aaron states.

Powerful words indeed, particularly when they are coming from a nine-year-old – and one who has endured so much adversity at such a young age.

Aaron was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease in January of 2009. Crohn's is a form of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). There is no known cause, no known cure, and little understanding of the pain and chronic suffering with which IBD patients have to cope on a daily basis.

The treatments include bi-monthly infusions that will allow Aaron, and others suffering from this dreadful condition, to lead a normal life, but the cost is high – approximately \$20,000 per year.

Aaron is fortunate – his medication is covered by his family's private health insurance. Families who lack private insurance are forced to pay these expenses out of their own pockets, or do without.

"If I did not have this medical coverage I still might be sick, in a lot of pain, and might not be

able to go to school. Every time I go for an infusion, I bring gifts and my allowance money to help other children feel better," Aaron said. "Then, I decided to start my own charity called *Aaron's Apple*. It helps families that cannot afford expensive drugs such as the one I am on."

*Aaron's Apple* supports children with Crohn's Disease, Ulcerative Colitis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, and other rare diseases treated with drugs which are extremely expensive.

While families are waiting for help from government assistance, *Aaron's Apple* bridges the financial gap.

Aaron also works with Toronto-based Chai Lifeline Canada, which provides emotional support to families battling life-threatening and chronic pediatric illness.

"When Aaron first got sick and we were in the hospital, the volunteers at Chai Lifeline brought food for me and games for Aaron. They brightened our days," explains Aaron's mother, Mandy Maresky.

Aaron has missed school as a result of his illness; however, the teachers and Aaron's classmates at AHS have been enormously supportive, kind, and helpful. Torah values including *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam* are infused into every school activity, so it's no surprise that Aaron's classmates, teachers and their families have leapt at the chance to help raise funds for Aaron's Apple. "Holding a raffle at school in support of my illness was a team effort," states Aaron.

To date, Aaron has raised \$23,000 through his website, raffles, and fundraising efforts. An inspirational achievement from a boy who has draws strength from adversity and offers hope to others. •



Aaron and his family



**Sandy Rabinowitz** began his tenure at Associated as General Principal in 1982 for what at the time was four campuses. Reflecting on his nearly 30-year career at Associated, Mr. Rabinowitz is truly a capsule of memories and school history. During his time at the school, he saw the Leslie branch open and close, saw the opening of the Kamin Education Centre in Thornhill and the creation of the stand-alone Danilack Middle School on Finch Avenue. Eventually Mr. Rabinowitz became Senior Principal, servicing all branches of the school with responsibilities that included assisting in the implementation of the Centre of Diverse Learning (CDL) program and other administrative projects. "I've witnessed a lot of changes and transformations", he says, "and witnessed how Associated really showed the community at large how to be a community."



**Sheldon Diamond**, General Studies Principal at the Danilack Middle School for the past six years, brought with him 32 years of experience in the public school system and added fresh practices and structure to the Middle School. For Mr. Diamond, being at Associated was a learning experience too. "I was as much a student as I was a lead educator," he says. "The highlight for me, coming from the public school system for so many years, was the chance to connect with my Jewish roots."

Rabinowitz and Mr. Diamond much success in the future and we thank them for their commitment to Associated.



# What's Up @Associated

[www.agreatschool.com](http://www.agreatschool.com)

@Danilack

In March, the Danilack Middle School held a **BBQ fundraiser/Hippie Day**. The money raised was distributed to the Lev LaLev orphanage in Israel and to purchase a monitor for the school's main foyer.

## Danilack Middle School Students Excel at The Royal Canadian Legion Competition

**Several of our students competed** on February 13th at the Royal Canadian Legion Public Speaking Contest. Yona Grossman (grade 6) placed second in the grades 4 to 6 division. Hilly Katz (grade 8) placed second in the grades 7 to 9 division.

Samantha Krol (grade 6) won first place at the Royal Canadian Legion branch level for her poem on Remembrance Day and Li-elle Rapaport's (grade 6) essay on Remembrance Day won, not only first place at the branch level and the zone level, but also first place at the district (citywide) level. The Legion submitted Li-elle's essay for the competition at the provincial level. Last year, Li-elle participated in the poster creation category, and was one of a select few who had her poster on display at the Ontario Legislature.

*L-R: Hilly Katz, Yona Grossman, Samantha Krol and Li-elle Rapaport*

## @Kamin

Julia Rakhman (left) and Revital Gurshomov, along with all the Grade 5 students at Associated's Kamin Education Center and their teacher Mrs. Orna Goldberg, organized an annual toy sale during the school's Israel week (May 19 to 13) raising \$2800.00. All of the proceeds went to Beit Halochem in Israel, an organization devoted to helping more than 51,000 Israeli disabled veterans and victims of terrorism.



## @Posluns

This year marks the introduction of a new siddur made especially by and for Posluns students. Last year's grade 5 students were involved in assembling the siddur and contributed artwork to give it a true Posluns feel. The grade 1 students received their siddurim at the annual, end-of-year siddur ceremony.



*Iftach Farkash, pictured with his mother Dr. Avishag Farkash, receives his siddur at Posluns' Grade 1 Siddur ceremony.*

# Associated PTC Press



## MESSAGE FROM

My two years as the President of the PTC have been truly rewarding. It was an honour to work with a strong and committed group of parent volunteers, administrators and teaching staff, who share a common goal of creating a dynamic and positive learning environment for our children.

With the support of the parent body and the Associated community, the PTC is able to continue facilitating exciting programs such as the Welcome Wagon BBQ at each branch for new families, the shabbatons for Middle School students and the 'Now We're Talking' program; and the PTC's contribution does not stop there. We fund all three branch libraries with books and resources every year; and with the hard work of volunteer committees for annual galas, calendar, food programs, book fair and other fundraising initiatives, we've raised much needed funds which go directly to improving Associated, with such innovations as the school-wide SMARTboard technology plan.

I finish my term as the President of the Parent Teacher Council with a sense of fulfillment and pride in all that we have achieved and with confidence in all that we will continue to achieve.

The PTC's accomplishments are directly attributable to the numerous volunteers who make it all happen. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTC's Executive Committee for their untold hours of dedication and commitment. Working with such a wonderful group of parents has made my term both memorable and truly enjoyable.

A special thank you to my partner and Vice President Sari Bercovitch. Her support and leadership was instrumental in my successful term as President. I welcome Sari as the incoming PTC President. Under her leadership, the PTC will continue to thrive and flourish, building on the momentum of our past successes. Best of luck Sari in your new role!

When my journey started ten years ago as an 'involved' parent at AHS, I had no idea where it would take me. Thank you for this amazing opportunity to be part of such an inspiring and motivated organization. I cherish the friendships I made along the way. It was a great experience that I am grateful to have had.

**Warmest Regards,**  
**Tracy Zepp**



**Outgoing**  
**PTC President**  
*Tracy Zepp*

## MESSAGE FROM

My first-born daughter was welcomed into the Associated Hebrew Schools family 11 years ago, as was I. Nursery was a big move for both of us and we were eager to meet new people, learn new things, and be a part of this wonderful Jewish day school community. Since that time, my two sons also began school at Associated, and even my husband became involved, volunteering at the board level; it was a true family affair! Associated has welcomed us with open arms, and we, in turn, have embraced the school, doing our small part in making this a great school.

Over the years, many moms (and some dads, too) have asked me, "How do I get involved?" I remember being greeted warmly by the class mom of my daughter's nursery class in Kamin's Bet Hayaed and asking that very same question. Little did I know that by simply asking this question to someone who already was involved, I had just opened the door! What I have learned since is that there are ALWAYS volunteer opportunities, at the classroom, branch, and school-wide levels, and there are so many wonderful, dedicated, warm, strong people with whom you work side by side. Not only do we volunteers have the ability to contribute to our school and to make a valuable impact on our children's learning environment, but we have the precious opportunity to meet, work with, and befriend wonderful people who share our values, our interests, and our commitment to our school. As well, we get to teach our children some vital lessons in community service, that helping others and working together is very, very important, and that working towards enriching their academic environment is what's most important of all.

Past President Jodi Gottesman encouraged me to move up and to continue on with PTC. Outgoing President Tracy Zepp, who has led the PTC over the past two years, has worked closely with me throughout this time and has been an invaluable mentor. The strong leadership, dedication, and hard work of these ladies has been exemplary and I am honoured and humbled to be following in their footsteps. I thank them and the others in the PTC who have given me the *kavod* of filling the position of PTC President for the upcoming term.

The PTC not only provides an army of volunteers for all three branches of Associated, but is also a major fundraising arm of the school. I am excited and proud to be embarking on this next journey as President of the Parent Teacher Council, and feel privileged to be working with such a wonderful group of parents, teachers and administrators. I see the PTC as an open organization, welcoming all who wish to join us in our mission. Together, we will accomplish great things!

**With warm regards,**  
**Sari Bercovitch**



**Incoming**  
**PTC President**  
*Sari Bercovitch*

## ON SUNDAY MARCH 13TH

over 400 members of the Associated Hebrew Schools community gathered at Ricoh Coliseum to participate in the First Annual Associated Hebrew Schools 'Day at the Marlies'.

A choir made up of students from all three campuses made us proud by singing both Canadian and American national anthems on the ice before the Marlies faced off against the Texas Rangers. Kamin's Tyler Rastin and Posluns' Andrew Bernick, winners of a draw to ride the zamboni between the second and third period, did so with huge smiles on their faces, waving enthusiastically to all. The *ruach* (spirit) in the arena was just great. Thanks to all three branches for their effort and support and to the students and parents of Associated Hebrew Schools for making the first annual 'Associated Day at the Marlies' a resounding success!

## Bulletin Board

**Mazel Tov to all Associated graduates and their families.** To honour this very special milestone, all graduates of AHS will be receiving a hard cover Haggadah with a decorative cover from the Parent Teacher Council.

### HOLD THE DATES:

Join us for our PTC General Meetings  
**October 25, 2011 – Kamin Branch**  
**February 7, 2012 – Hurwich Branch**  
**May 16, 2012 – Posluns branch**

## Did You Know...?

### You can register your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah date to avoid conflict?

The Parent Teacher Council is proud to have Bar/Bat Mitzvah Coordinator Ingrid Mann as part of its Executive Committee. Her role as the coordinator is to record the dates of students' simchas. Please contact her when you are ready to book a date for your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah to verify whether any other simchas have been booked for that date, and to document your chosen day. Ingrid can be reached at **905-709-2973** or at **mannclan@rogers.com**

Israel Bonds can be purchased through the school as gifts of any amount to registered Bar/Bat Mitzvah students.

The Parent Teacher Council is also proud to have an Israel Bonds Coordinator, Cathy Giordano, who organizes the 'We're Associated with Israel Bonds' Bar/Bat Mitzvah Gift Registry.

Please consider AHS-PTC Israel Bonds in lieu of gifts for your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah in support of Israel and our school. Cathy can be reached at **goldgior@teksavvy.com**