

The Jewish Traveler

By Maxine Silverstein

SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

Saint John, New Brunswick was certainly not on my top ten list of places that I wanted to visit before I die. The past September, we sailed on a Princess Cruise to Canada and New England and Saint John was one of the ports of call. We found this city to be delightful and full of Jewish history. Saint John is Canada's oldest incorporated city. It is centrally-located on the southern New Brunswick coast and it is the only city on the



Maxine enjoys a beautiful fall day in New Brunswick.

of the Congregation have come forth as leaders so that the community could maintain Friday night and Saturday morning services. Hebrew School continues to function, Bar/Bat Mitzvah children are trained and funeral services are conducted in accordance with Jewish traditions. Located right next to Shaarei Zedek Synagogue, the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum is open from mid-May to October. This beautiful example of the High Victorian-Gothic style was designed by renowned Saint John architect David E. Dunham. This museum was created in the 1980s to preserve the Jewish heritage of the city. This is the only Jewish museum in Atlantic Canada. The museum houses a collection of religious and secular objects related to the involvement of the Jewish community in Saint John. We found this museum to be educational and it was great to learn more about the history of Canadian Jews.

Right down the street is the City Market. This market was founded in 1876 and has been in continuous use. It is the oldest market in Canada. We had a fabulous fresh seafood lunch at Billy's Seafood in the City Market. This market area runs the length of a city block. Inside you will find local produce, wonderful seafood, old-fashioned butchers, delightful bakeries and interesting souvenirs and crafts. Before we left this charming city, we went to visit the Reversing Falls. These famous Falls are a series of whirlpools and rapids caused by the world's highest tides (found in the Bay of Fundy) meeting the St. John River. This is such an interesting phenomenon that must be seen just before high tide and low tide to see the total effect. It definitely was an amazing sight to see.

We loved this charming little city of 70 thousand people. It's definitely on our list now of places that we would love to revisit. One short day in Saint John was definitely not enough time. The people are warm, the food delicious and the sights to see are truly amazing. ☆



The Jewish Community Center of Saint John.

The Saint John Jewish Community was founded in 1858. The original Jewish settlers sailed to Saint John from England to start a tobacco business. Around the turn of the 20th century, hundreds of Jewish immigrants arrived in the Port of Saint John from Eastern Europe. Most were on their way to other cities, but they decided to stay in Saint John. The first Synagogue was formed in 1899 and was named Ahavith Achim. A second synagogue called The Hazen Avenue Synagogue was formed in 1906. Both congregations were Orthodox and had their own Rabbis and Hebrew Schools. The current congregation Shaarei Zedek (Gates of Righteousness) is the result of the combination of these two synagogues. We found the synagogue to be small but very interesting. Unfortunately, the last full-time Rabbi the community could support left Saint John in 1983. Since that time lay members

ENGAGEMENTS

Cheryl and Terrance W. Ravenscraft of Charlotte and Piney Creek, NC are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Rosanne Hope Garfield to Eric John Nelson, son of Ann and Kirby Nelson of Marshall, VA. A late summer 2009 wedding is planned.



WOMEN'S NEWS

Times are Tough but We're Tougher

By Bunny Bramson, President, Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

This is a defining moment in Hadassah's history. This is a moment in which the past and the future are calling on us for action.

Like all of America's citizens and institutions, Hadassah has felt the impact of the global financial crisis.

And as I'm sure you've heard by now, Hadassah was also one of many philanthropic organizations that fell victim to Bernard

Madoff. Despite the substantial loss, be assured that Hadassah's strength, sustainability and commitment are very strong. And as difficult as the situation is, the good news is that we are ready to move ahead. Hadassah has been planning, restructuring and cutting costs, all aimed at our core mission of strengthening Israel and the Jewish people.

However, it takes more than planning. That's why

we need every member of Hadassah, and generous non-members as well, to be involved. We need your support today to continue projects in Israel. To save lives every day. To educate the next generation that will lead Israel in the years and decades to come.

With your help, we will continue because times are tough, but we're tougher.

Contact me at any time for ways you can help, 704-341-8322 or bunnybramson@bellsouth.net. ☆



Bunny Bramson



Mazel Tov & Congratulations



Phil Warshauer Selected as Executive Director of Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community

Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC) has announced that Phil Warshauer was promoted to Executive Director of that organization, effective January 1, 2009. Warshauer joined FCJC in November 2007 as its first full-time Director of Planned Giving. FCJC is affiliated with Foundation For The Carolinas and focuses on the needs of individuals in and agencies serving the Jewish community. While FCJC has its own board of directors, it utilizes the expertise and administrative systems and controls of Foundation For The Carolinas.

"Phil's performance has exceeded all of our expectations," said Alan Kronovet, President of

FCJC. "Under his direction, we have grown our assets and instituted a number of new initiatives within the community such as the launch of The Book of Life Society and offering monthly endowment education programs. Phil has assisted in FCJC being more systematic in providing services to agencies in the community. It's everything we'd hoped to achieve with a full-time professional."

Michael Marsicano, President and CEO of Foundation For The Carolinas, lauded Warshauer. "Phil has been a great addition to the capabilities of Foundation For The Carolinas as well as FCJC, so his success is a real win-win for the Jewish community and for



Charlotte in general."

Warshauer came to Charlotte from Greensboro where he led endowment efforts for Guilford College as Director of Planned Giving. ☆

Charlotte Synagogue to Receive Award for Interfaith Dialogue Program

New York — Temple Beth El in Charlotte will receive the Union for Reform Judaism's coveted Irving J. Fain Award for Outstanding Synagogue Social Action Programming, one of the highest honors available to congregations within the Reform Jewish Movement.

Temple Beth El won this award for its Children of Jerusalem Families of Faith program, a series of city-wide, interfaith events to promote greater awareness, understanding and dialogue related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. To engage the general public and community, the program featured a lecture and discussion by a war-affected Israeli and Palestinian, an exhibition of Israeli and Palestinian children's paintings about war and peace, and a series of community dialogues between the three Abrahamic faiths. The program helped to foster peace and improve human relations within the community by building alliances between community groups and educating the community on these critical issues.

Speaking on the importance of the Fain Awards, Rabbi Marla

Feldman, Director of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism, said, "The congregations that win Fain Awards exemplify the passion for social justice that is at the very foundation of Reform Judaism. These outstanding congregations bring hope and healing to their communities through their efforts to fulfill the Jewish mandate 'l'taken et haolam' – to repair our broken world."

The Fain Awards were established in 1983 in honor and memory of Irving J. Fain, who served for a decade as chair of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism and who was an ardent proponent of social action and the commitment to the work of *tikkun olam*, healing the world. This award is presented every two years to congregations that have displayed exemplary work in the pursuit of justice, have successfully involved large numbers of congregants in their programs and have developed genuinely innovative and/or particularly effective projects.

The Fain Awards will be presented during the Consultation on

Conscience, April 19-21, the biennial public policy conference of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. Each synagogue's award-winning program will be depicted in a booklet that will be disseminated widely to provide examples of best practices. They also will be available on the Religious Action Center's online program bank at www.rac.org.

The Union for Reform Judaism (formerly the Union of American Hebrew Congregations) is the central body of Reform Judaism in North America, uniting 1.5 million Reform Jews in more than 900 synagogues. Union services include camps, music and book publishing, outreach to unaffiliated and intermarried Jews, educational programs, and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington, DC. ☆

