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# C O N T E N T S

## ►► SPECIAL FEATURES

- 5 **Why Keynesian Thinking Has Gone Out of Fashion and Why It Matters**  
*Gideon Rosenbluth*
- 7 **Canadian Jews and Free Speech**  
*Stephen Scheinberg*
- 10 **Transition Town Initiative**  
*Dalia Levy*
- 11 **Jewish Support for United Church's BDS Debate**  
*Diana Ralph*
- 14 **Young Jewish Communists in Weimar and Nazi Germany**  
*Stefanie Schüler-Springorum*
- 17 **Ethnic Statehood An Obstacle to Peace and Justice**  
*Ben Ehrenreich*
- 18 **Celebration of 94 Years of an Iconoclast**  
*Kim Levis*
- 19 **JEWISH HUMANISTS REMEMBERED**  
**Amos Elon**  
*Bennett Muraskin*
- 20 **A SELECTION OF YIDDISH POETRY**  
**Yankev – Yitskhok Segal**  
*Selections and Introductory Comments by Al Stein*
- 22 **The First Bundist Flag in Kutno**  
*Moishe Yechiel Shatan*
- 23 **Under Alien Skies**  
*Andrew Firestone*
- 28 **Canada's Jews: A People's Journey (Book Review)**  
*Shirley Sharzer*
- 29 **An Israeli in Palestine: Resisting Dispossession, Redeeming Israel (Book Review)**  
*Mark Golden*
- 31 **Dark Hope: Working for Peace in Israel and Palestine and Peace Out of Reach: Middle Eastern Travels and the Search for Reconciliation (Book Reviews)**  
*Stephen Scheinberg*
- 33 **Ariel Sharon: A Life (Book Review)**  
*David Jaffe*

## ►► REGULAR FEATURES

- 3 **Editorially Speaking...**
- 9 **In/Out Basket** *Carl Rosenberg*
- 36 **NewsScan** *Carl Rosenberg*
- 39 **Jottings** *Sylvia Friedman*

**COVER:** The city of Beth She'arim, built on a hill during the Hasmonean period in the second century B.C.E., was famous as one of the seats of the Sanhedrin in the 2nd century C.E., after the Jewish centre had moved to Galilee. Here Rabbi Judah ha-Nassi lived and worked and the Mishna was collected and redacted around 200 C.E. The height of the city's flowering was in the second century C.E., but it was destroyed in 352 C.E. during the Roman suppression of a Jewish rebellion.

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