

Randi Sherman: Mitzvahs are 'what being Jewish is all about'

(Continued from page 1)

with Karli Speevak, 24, Naomi Geithner, 7, and Meera Tatham, 4, stepping on stage sporting pigtails. Each would have at least 10 inches of their hair cut for Locks of Love, a charity that provides hairpieces to children who need them for medical reasons.

Their honorary barbers – under the supervision of Spartacat – were Mayor Jim Watson, Majic 100 morning host Stuntman Stu, and Jeffrey Miller of event sponsor Ginsberg Gluzman Fage & Levitz.

Speevak and the two girls said they were inspired by the Locks of Love donors at last year's Mitzvah Day.

Among the Mitzvah Day projects taking place at the SJCC were teams assembling birthday kits for children living in shelters and personal hygiene packages for patients at CHEO and Elizabeth Bruyère Hospital.

Downstairs, the mural in the tunnel linking the SJCC with Hillel Lodge was getting a facelift.

There was a theme, noticeable at every turn: families.

Nina Jason sat with three of her four children making fleece blankets, which will warm the laps and hands of people with ALS and seniors. Jason's children attend the Temple Israel Religious School, one of several schools that participated in Mitzvah Day.

Many participating families said Mitzvah Day was a great lesson for their kids.

"It's teaching our kids to do good things because it's part of the values we want to instill in them," said Aaron Smith, father to Rubin, 5, Georgia, 3, and new baby Jack.

There was also a focus this year on including the emerging generation, aged 18 to 35, in Mitzvah Day activities.

"As a community, the emerging generation is where our future is and we need to get them involved when they're not being dragged by their parents," said Sherman. "That generation is what we need to continue as a warm, vibrant Jewish community – so we need to engage them and make them feel welcome."

This was done by including young adults on the Mitzvah Day Committee and by expanding the number of off-site mitzvot, in-



Challahs to be used for Shabbat dinners for families served by the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank are prepared during Mitzvah Day. (Photo: Francie Greenspoon)

cluding cooking and serving lunch at Shepherds of Good Hope by a group of 25 young adults.

There were four other off-site events, including packing food at the Ottawa Food Bank.

"We were looking also to partner up with the general non-Jewish community, which I think also is very good because it's important for the community to see that as a Jewish entity we do lots of good not just with our own," Sherman explained.

Also new this year were collections in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa, Fairy Godmothers Inc. and Roger's House.

While most of the volunteers finished Mitzvah Day feeling fulfilled, some saw immediate impact from their actions. Aaron Smith said his kids received great appreciation when they handed their arts and crafts to residents at Hillel Lodge.

And, while those making care packages and writing thank you cards to IDF soldiers weren't necessarily expecting feedback, they got it.

"I myself was a soldier before Operation Cast Lead in the Gaza Strip," Roi Mitteleir of the Israeli Embassy told volunteers.

"We got a big amount of packages from all across world delivered to us and I got one from young girl

named Yael from Toronto. ... It was very exciting that some person I never met supports what I do. It made me feel very happy ... that people abroad care about what we do."

For Sherman, universal Jewishness



A Mitzvah Day volunteer helps prepare thank you cards for IDF soldiers. (Photo: Francie Greenspoon)

comes down to a key principal: "Mitzvahs and good deeds – that's what being Jewish is all about."

David Menashri to speak on Iran, March 5 at SJCC

(Continued from page 1)

not national, but religious. For a country like Iran, it's convenient and necessary to raise the flag of Jerusalem. Their proxies are in the Gaza Strip (Hamas) and Lebanon (Hezbollah)."

Menashri thinks there is much the free world can do to meet the challenge of radical Iran.

"Recently, I must admit that Western countries are doing a lot to pressure Iran, and the effect of the sanctions has been significant. They have not yet changed the country's policies, but, for the first time, they are pressuring hard."

Despite sanctions imposed by Western countries,

Iran's nuclear program continues.

Menashri's expertise on Iran dates back to the 1970s when he spent the final two years of the Shah's regime conducting research and field study in Iran on the eve of Iran's Islamic revolution.

"The dream of the Iranian revolutionaries of 1979 was to achieve two things: social justice and political justice – or bread and freedom. For the young people in Cairo two years ago, it was basically the same."

February 11 will be the 34th anniversary of the revolution, a date Menashri says Iranians will mark in an atmosphere that is

gloomy and laced with growing disenchantment and frustration.

A professor emeritus of Tel Aviv University, Menashri was head of the university's Department of Middle Eastern and African History and founding director of its Alliance Center for Iranian Studies. He has been a visiting Fulbright scholar at Princeton University and Cornell University. His research and teachings focus on the social and political history of modern Iran, education and modernization in the Middle East, Islamic radicalism, Shi'i political thought and Persian Gulf and Central Asian affairs.

Menashri will speak Tuesday, March 5, 7:00 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

The lecture is presented by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa in collaboration with the Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program, and the Centre for Jewish and Israel Affairs.

Admission is free.

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AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

The Federation supports our community agencies through your generous donations to the Annual Campaign.

Jewish Education Through Torah (JET)

Two decades after he and his wife, Lauren, began JET (Jewish Education through Torah), Rabbi Zischa Shaps says one of the things he's very proud of is the number of people who have gone on to leadership roles in the Ottawa Jewish community after becoming involved with JET.

It shouldn't be a surprise. Long-time adherents of the idea that "Judaism isn't just for kids," the Shapses have designed an organization that helps people explore and grow in their Jewish values and identity, which, in turn, fosters Jewish continuity, develops leadership and strengthens the community.

Israel trips for grownups

Speak to any of the 65 Ottawa women who have been to Israel on a JET trip over the last four years and you'll know that the term "life-changing experience" is not hyperbole. Most people call it "Birthright for Women," although the actual name is Jewish Women's Renaissance Project. The women (and the small but growing number of men) who have been have never felt the same way since –



Some of the 73 volunteers who packed Mishloach Manot.

about Israel, about themselves and about the Jewish community. Since going on the trips, more than half of the participants are attending classes regularly and 90% are still connecting with JET.

Young professionals

With their motto, "Eat, Pray, Love thy Neighbour!" Stacy and Rabbi Michael Goldstein are having tremendous success with the Glebe Shul project. A "shul without walls," the program is really a hub for the city's young urban Jews, creating opportunities for students, young professionals and new

families to explore Judaism and build relationships. With the great buzz that has been generated around the program, they easily draw 40 to 50 people for their Friday night dinners. Overall, more than 300 individuals were involved last year.

Purim baskets

Since it began in the late 1990s, JET's Mishloach Manot program, has grown to the point where the deliveries, of hamantaschen and more, reach 1,300 homes. That's about a third of the entire Ottawa Jewish community involved in this very

community-building mitzvah. Any program that manages to involve such a large chunk of the Jews in the city is a major achievement – and not surprisingly involves food.

A week like no other

For one week each summer, JET brings in top Jewish speakers from around the world to give high-level classes. Named Yarchei Kallah (after the millennia-old Jewish learning event it's modelled on), the annual program allows hundreds of people to recharge their excitement for the wealth of scholarship in our "people of the book" tradition.

The other 51 weeks

Total attendance at JET's inclusive, accepting and open-to-all classes and events is almost 7,000 per year. There is the annual hotel Shabbaton, Jewish Unity Live, and tons of classes (10 in an average week) and tons of one-on-one learning. And JET is bursting at the seams with opportunity to do more!

To connect with JET call 613-798-9818 ext. 247, email info@jetottawa.com or check our website at www.jetottawa.com.



2012 G.J. Cooper Scholarship recipient Chelsea Sauvé received a scholarship of \$13,201 at the OJCF Annual General Meeting (presented by Yoni Freedhoff, 2012 Scholarship Committee Chair).

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For complete details, please visit www.OJCF.ca or contact us at 613-798-4696 ext 252, or by email at info@ojcf.ca.



OTTAWA JEWISH
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Synagogue a setting for some of Seymour Mayne's new short stories

By Louise Rachlis

The adventures of fictional synagogue life are amusingly captured in *The Old Blue Couch and Other Stories*, a new collection of seven short stories from prolific poet and author Seymour Mayne.

"Three of the stories take place in synagogues," said Mayne, a member of Congregation Adath Shalom for 25 years, and of Congregation Beth Shalom as an associate member for 15 years and full member for the past few years.

"Synagogue life and all its amusing behaviour is great for stories," said the colourful University of Ottawa professor who humorously describes himself as "a haredi

Conservative/United Synagogue member of the fold," adding "I do my best to observe the Sabbath and keep it holy!"

Mayne feels the synagogue is centrally more important to people's lives in Ottawa than in larger Jewish centres like Toronto and Montreal. His stories capture the ongoing banter and preoccupations of shul members.

"The Messiah could apply and be taken on by the shul and you would be complaining by the first Sabbath about this or that – and already plotting to fire him!" complains one of the members of the Saturday Kiddush Club to the others."

Mayne grew up in Montreal in the 1950s, a fact he

credits with shaping his creative life path.

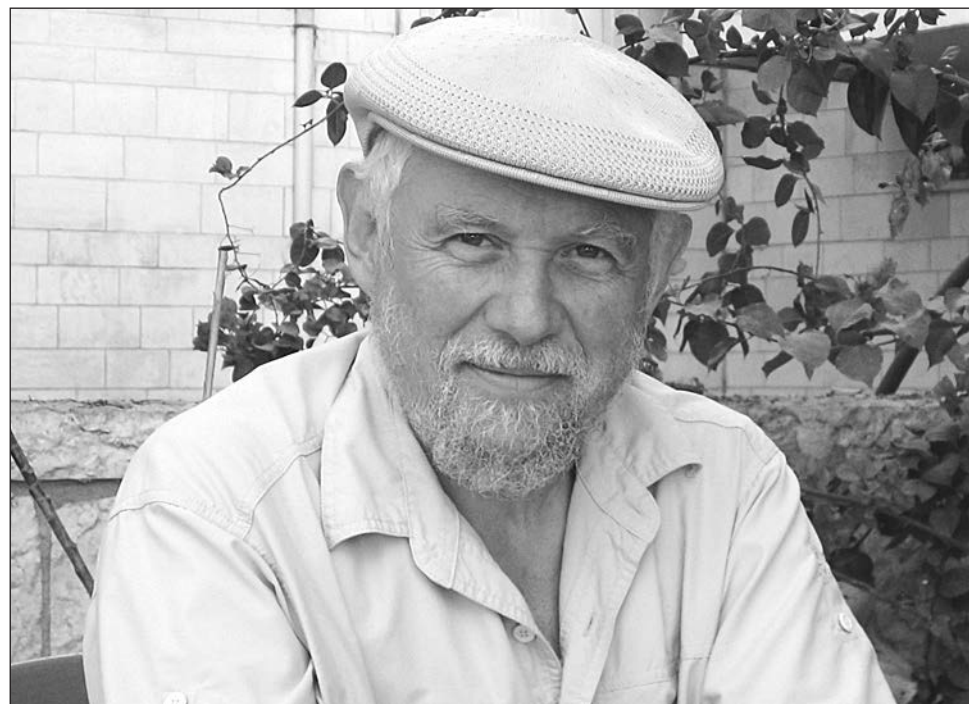
"It was the city of the poets, both French and English. It was a wonderful time."

His first book of poetry was published in 1964.

At 17, Mayne attended McGill University and was a student of influential poet Louis Dudek. He also took a course at Sir George Williams University taught by the legendary Irving Layton.

Early on, he met a young poet named Leonard Cohen. "I was 16, he was 26," and the two have remained friends for more than 50 years.

While modern technology has altered the world of publishing, he says poetry re-



Seymour Mayne is a four-time recipient of the Canadian Jewish Book Award.

(Photo: Sharon Katz)

mains a tough sell.

"Three hundred people loved poetry in 1959," he said. "Maybe 600 people love poetry now. It's still a struggle in Canada."

The professor of Canadian literature and co-ordinator of the creative writing program at uOttawa blames the high school system for killing curiosity and says students who go on to study poetry at university do so in spite of their high school experiences.

He tells young would-be poets: "You can't just write; you have to read a lot. I was lucky. I was born in Montreal."

Mayne, who is also co-ordinator of uOttawa's Vered Jewish Canadian Studies

program, is a four-time winner of the Canadian Jewish Book Award. He has edited many anthologies and critical texts in Canadian literature, including *Essential Words: An Anthology of Jewish Canadian Poetry*, a comprehensive and pioneer work in the field. He has also co-edited the award-winning anthologies, *Jerusalem: An Anthology of Jewish Canadian Poetry* and *A Rich Garland: Poems for A.M. Klein*.

Another of his recent creative projects was guest-editing a double issue of the Los Angeles-based *SHIRIM: A Jewish Poetry Journal* featuring Jewish Canadian poets.

"These are poets who speak out of a different cul-

tural matrix than American and British poets. Though much is shared in sensibility and thought, there is a unique Canadian sound and timber to their words," he writes in the preface.

After publishing mainly poetry for 50 years, Mayne is now focusing on prose, and hopes to publish another book of short stories.

The Old Blue Couch and Other Stories is available for \$15 at the University of Ottawa Bookstore or online through the publisher at ronaldpfrye.com. It is also Mayne's sixth book to be published in Hebrew translation in Israel.

"I'll be interested to see how the Israelis relate to it," he said



Are you dedicated to improving the lives of women and children in our community?

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• Grant Application Process: March 8-31, 2013 •

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- First-time projects in the Ottawa Jewish Community
- Initiatives that address needs of women and their families not being met in Ottawa's Jewish community
- Creative formats that address social and community issues
- Individuals or groups that work in a variety of ways, to help women

To download the 2013 WCPP grant application and guideline information, please visit: www.ojcf.ca or contact Rebecca Nagrodski, Foundation Associate, at rnagrodski@jewishottawa.com, or call 613-798-4696, ext. 252.

Funds for these grants are made possible via the Women's Collective Endowment Fund, a designated fund of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation (OJCF).



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Talking with Ottawa Jewish community leaders

Ingrid Levitz:

Jewish education an important community challenge

By Louise Rachlis

Editor's note: Throughout 2013, the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin is speaking with a number of longtime community leaders about some of their leadership accomplishments and about challenges the community faces now and will face in the future.

"It can all be summed up in one line: how blessed I was to be able to do what I have done," said Ingrid Levitz when asked about her long history of volunteerism and leadership in Ottawa's Jewish community.

Over many years, Levitz has been actively involved with many community organizations, including the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, Hillel Academy, Jewish Family Services, Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation (OJCF), Jewish Leadership Development Institute, and the Young Women's Leadership Council, among many.

She has chaired the Federation's Women's Campaign twice, Partnership 2000, and the OJCF marketing committee and has held many positions at Hillel Lodge, including the presidencies of the Lodge Board and the Hillel Lodge Long-Term Care Foundation.

It was while her children were attending Hillel Academy that Levitz became actively involved in the community.



Ingrid Levitz

"That was my first adventure in the volunteer world," she said.

The strengths and challenges of Ottawa's Jewish community often blend together, she says.

"We have a diversity of talent, opinions and religious affiliations. Israel is not the Israel I first connected with. It's a political spectrum, which causes issues within our own community. That is a challenge to our community and it's also a strength."

Another challenge she mentions is the

preservation of the volunteer base.

"You can't have good volunteers unless you have good professional staff. ... It was a pleasure working with them when I was chairing campaigns. I really felt I learned a tremendous amount."

Levitz says Jewish education is a major challenge facing the community and feels, for example, not enough of the community – including the leadership – have sent their children to Jewish schools.

She tells the story of a parent of a graduate of Yitzhak Rabin High School who was scoffingly told by another parent, "Sure, he gets 90s, but there are only seven children there."

"Well," replied the parent, "it must be the same at his Ivy League university, because he's getting 90s there too."

"That's a true story," Levitz said.

She notes she has always advocated that no child in the community should be deprived of a Jewish education because of the cost.

Levitz is proud, she said, there are families that have continued to sustain Ottawa's Jewish community and notes, "Some of our philanthropic donors have chosen to spread out their donations in the broader community. We all benefit from that as well."

When she was awarded the Gilbert Green-

berg Distinguished Service Award in 2009, she paid tribute to the Greenberg family and how they instilled in their children the dream to be involved in the community.

Sadly, the Federation AGM at which she received the Gilbert Greenberg Award was the last public event she attended with her late husband, Gerry Levitz, who passed away a few months later. Gerry, also a major leader and volunteer in the community, was the recipient of the Gilbert Greenberg Award in 2006.

She is proud of the fact that "our community has managed to provide for the young and the old and the in-between ... What I don't like is when we talk about free trips to Israel on Birthright. It's not free. You can't always rely on the next person to sustain you."

Levitz believes the community is on the verge of major change.

"We are welcoming a new [Federation] CEO, Andrea Freedman, to our community, who brings to the position a strong professional background in Jewish communal life, including fundraising. We need to provide professional leadership that will inspire creative ideas to keep our community vibrant and to enhance our volunteer base and subsequent leadership," she said.

Jewish Community Service Awards

Members of the Jewish community are invited to nominate individuals to receive community awards at the Annual General Meeting of the Federation in early June.

Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award

The Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award is the highest tribute the Ottawa Jewish Community can bestow on an individual for exceptional service and leadership to the Jewish community over the course of many years.

Freiman Family Young Leadership Award

The Freiman Family Young Leadership Award recognizes an individual under the age of 40, who has rendered exceptional service to the Jewish community.

The Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award presented by the Ottawa Citizen

The Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award recognizes an outstanding and active volunteer with the Jewish community who, through many years of service, has contributed to the enrichment of Jewish life in Ottawa.

Address Recommendations by March 15, 2013 to:

Chair of the Community Award Selection Committee
Jewish Federation of Ottawa

21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9

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For more information or to download a nomination form, please visit www.jewishottawa.com

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Micro grants help turn great ideas into events and programs for emerging generation

The openOttawa Innovation Fund Micro Grants initiative is off to a phenomenal start! Exciting ideas have come to fruition, charting new ground in Ottawa's Jewish community for the emerging generation.

Geared toward the 18 to 45 demographic, the grants provide seed money of up to \$2,000 for entrepreneurial community building initiatives. Think of it as the Jewish Federation of Ottawa meets *Dragon's Den* (we even have a Kevin on the selection committee).

The end result is a nimble source of support for programming created and run by the emerging generation for the emerging generation, facilitating closer engagement of this important demographic with the Federation.

Of course, it's not just about the money. Successful applicants also benefit from the knowledge, experience, resourcefulness and assistance of Federation staff who work tirelessly to make sure that each innovative program idea is implemented to the greatest degree of success.

In just a few short months, the program has touched hundreds of young Jews liv-



Federation Report

Noah Shack
Micro Grants
initiative

ing in Ottawa, bringing together disparate groups and fostering a vibrant sense of community.

The Bijoux Affair soirée was an innovative social program hosted at True Bijoux, a non-traditional downtown venue that brought together more than 100 Jews of a variety of ages, backgrounds and occupations. Notably, the event, which featured a silent jewelry auction, raised money for the Federation's emerging generation initiatives and inspired additional micro grant applications.

A community Shabbat dinner at Shopify had a similar impact, fostering a sense of connection and community in an innovative way.

But the micro grants initiative is not just focused on social activities for the emerging generation. It has also supported

*We're looking for
a wide variety of ideas,
from communal
social justice projects,
sporting events
and educational activities
to holiday celebrations
and beyond.*

a Holocaust education event that featured MP Irwin Cotler as keynote speaker. Cotler discussed the lessons of the Holocaust in terms of contemporary international and domestic human rights concerns, bringing together Jewish law students, lawyers and other young professionals for a fascinating event.

We're looking for a wide variety of ideas, from communal social justice projects, sporting events and educational activities to holiday celebrations and beyond.

If you or someone you know has an idea for a one-off event or an ongoing

program that will help to encourage a greater sense of community engagement among the emerging generation, the openOttawa Innovation Fund Micro Grants initiative is a great place to start.

Don't just take it from me. Here's what one of our successful applicants had to say:

"Thanks to the considerate micro grant from the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, I was able to successfully make a meaningful impact in the young adult community of Ottawa. ...

"I encourage everyone who might think they want to make a difference in the young adult Jewish community to get in touch with the Federation and allow them to guide you in the direction of hosting your own event and watching your idea become a contribution that will last a lifetime in the community."

We've made the process as quick and easy as possible, so apply today and get your idea off the ground!

For more information, visit jewishottawa.com/eg or contact Samantha Banks at 613-724-8930.

To apply for a micro grant, visit jfo.myreviewroom.com.

Far from the Madding Crowd revisited

It may seem strange for a rabbi to entitle his column with a phrase taken from Thomas Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" and Thomas Hardy's novel of the same name. However, the title does fit a society that is fast losing perspective of its values – which it claims to base on Judeo-Christian sources.

The recent tragic shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, and the resultant rush of gun owners to buy up assault rifles in case the United States government enforces a ban, speak to a breakdown in moral values replaced by a sort of Ayn Rand-type of objectivism or individualism that negates the *other*, who, in Hebrew, is called the *Zulat*. In other words, the almost narcissistic behaviour of people to preserve their 'rights' at the expense of others is dangerous, and bodes poorly for the future of an America that looks to the Bible for its original inspiration.

I write these words in a Canadian Jewish newspaper about an America that is troubling in various aspects. Even the words of an anti-tax activist in the U.S. expressing his concern on *CNN* that Canada intends to invade the United States are troublesome, if not outright ludicrous. The failure of the House of Representatives to vote on New Year's Day on a bill to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy speaks volumes as well.

All of these issues come to mind as we



From the pulpit

Rabbi Howard
Finkelstein
Beit Tikvah

read the book of *Exodus* during the months of January and February. The Biblical foundations of our neighbour to the south, including the Ten Commandments and the statutes found in *Mishpatim*, are taken from this book. From the religious, ethical and moral statements of the Decalogue, to the intricacies of civil and criminal law found in *Mishpatim*, the foundations of America were set and developed.

However, the tendency to emphasize and glorify selfishness under the guise of rugged individualism militates against the foundation of that great country. The words of Hillel come to mind: "If I am not for myself, who will be there for me? If I am only for myself, what am I?"

On the one hand, there is a need for self-realization, but there is also a need to help those who are in need. Further, there is a need to look out after the interests of those who do not have the capability of looking after themselves. Our dependants – our children, our elderly and our disabled – need that helping hand, that source

of support.

America must reignite and revitalize the famous words of Emma Lazarus inscribed on the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free." It must retain its position as a nation that looks after those in need, and it must move away from that aspect of behaviour that neglects, ignores and, heaven forbid, harms those who are vulnerable – be they school children,

homeless people and the impoverished.

Many years ago, the great Rabbi Moshe Feinstein spoke of the U.S.A., and of Canada by extension, as countries of *Chesed*, of kindness, shown to our people.

Chesed, by definition, regards the other, the *Zulat*, as important and deserving of help, regardless of that person's station in life. Consequently, both countries received God's blessings of prosperity. May that prosperity grow.



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Ontario Human Rights Tribunal rules on offensive IAW poster

Many will recall the offensive poster used to advertise the so-called Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) in 2009. While the argument could be made that IAW posters are always offensive, that year's version was particularly offensive, coming just after Israel's Operation Cast Lead aimed at stopping the incessant rocket fire from Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza, which was constantly targeting communities like Sderot in Southern Israel.

The poster read "Israeli Apartheid" while showing an Israeli helicopter shooting a missile directly at a small Palestinian child holding a teddy bear and standing alone behind the walls of Gaza.

The implication of the poster was unambiguous: Israel deliberately targets Palestinian children. An allegation that is patently untrue.

The poster was propaganda created to deceive and to offend – and, by association, to cast pro-Israel students as supporting a racist regime that murders innocent children. Several universities – including Carleton University and the University of Ottawa – recognized the poster for what it was and banned it from their campuses.

The Carleton chapter of Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA) brought a complaint against its university to the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario, alleging the university's actions were unjustified and discriminatory and, as noted in



Editor

Michael
Regenstreif

the judgment in the case rendered by the Tribunal last month, almost four years after the incident, "motivated by an anti-Palestinian animus, and a preference for concerns expressed by Jewish students over the rights of Palestinian students and their supporters."

In his judgment – which can be read in its entirety at tinyurl.com/SAIA-Carleton – Michael Gottheil, the Tribunal adjudicator, dismissed the complaint brought by SAIA against Carleton, noting there was no evidence of anti-Palestinian bias on the part of the university (all of the IAW activities scheduled on campus were allowed to take place) and removal of the posters, which had been posted without the required approval, was reasonable in that they had been posted without approval, which is contrary to university regulations.

Gottheil rejected the SAIA claim of preferential treatment of Jewish students over Palestinian students and their supporters, noting SAIA "presented very little direct evidence to support its claim of dif-

ferential treatment, and no direct evidence that ancestry, ethnic origin or place of origin were factors in the respondent's decisions to remove or ban the posters."

Gottheil also noted the university's concern that the posters were contributing to the highly strained atmosphere on campus at the time. Gottheil quoted Carleton SAIA leader Ben Saifer, who said the posters were "provocative and meant to be provocative." Several incidents of harassment of Jewish students had been reported and some Jewish students were feeling threatened because of the poster.

"I am satisfied," Gottheil wrote, "that [Carleton University] had a good faith concern about student safety, and the possibility that the situation on campus might further deteriorate. Its evidence that the number of reported hate-reacted incidents was unprecedented in Carleton's history was not challenged. ... The reported incidents, if true, were sufficiently serious to raise concerns by the university's Equity Services department, and warrant a response."

The boundaries of freedom of speech have become a complicated issue in society – and, particularly, it seems, on university campuses in recent years. While universities should be places of rigorous debate on important issues – including the Israeli's conflict with the Palestinians – the term 'Israeli apartheid' and the boycott, di-

vestment, sanctions (BDS) movement are not meant to encourage debate or find solutions to the conflict. They are simply meant to demonize and delegitimize Israel in order to shut down debate.

In a letter to the *New York Review of Books* (October 22, 2009) rejecting a boycott of Israeli films at the Toronto International Film Festival, veteran pro-Palestinian activists Vanessa Redgrave, Julian Schnabel and Martin Sherman dismissed the term "apartheid regime" to describe Israel.

"We oppose the current Israeli government, but it is a government. Freely elected. Not a regime. Words matter," they wrote.

"If attitudes are hardened on both sides, if those who are fighting within their own communities for peace are insulted, where then is the hope? The point finally is not to grandstand but to inch toward a two-state solution and a world in which both nations can exist, perhaps not lovingly, but at least in peace."

While there are people and supporters of goodwill on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian divide who are earnestly trying to move toward a two-state solution, the IAW crowd and the aligned BDS movement are, sadly, not among them.

This year's edition of IAW is set to take place on Canadian university campuses in early-March.

In Canada, it takes a minority to form a majority government

Democracy is such a simple concept. People vote and the winners are those who get the most votes. That is how democracy is explained to school children – and that is when and where it can stop being simple.

Those young, innocent students will wake up one day and realize in Canada one can govern with less than 40 per cent of the vote. That means you can be prime minister of Canada with 60 per cent of the people not wanting you to be prime minister. Not only that, you can be the leader of a majority government with most Canadians having voted for another political party.

While that explains the present situation with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, there is nothing uniquely Conservative about it. Former prime minister Jean Chrétien's Liberal Party shared the same political good fortune of achieving a majority government with a majority of Canadians not wanting the Liberals.

As we know, politics in a parliamentary system is about numbers and how they add up. How they add up depends on how many political parties there are. The greater the number of parties, the more adding that needs to be done.

Because there are so many political



Jason
Moscovitz

parties in Israel, no one ever expects a party there to form a majority government. It has almost always been that way there and the system they have developed is for politicians to negotiate with each other to form coalition governments.

In Canada, we don't have enough political parties to make forming a coalition government a necessity – which explains why there is so little history of it here. In Canada, our political parties like to stick to their principles and that means sticking to themselves.

As we approach the halfway point of the Harper government's mandate, there will be more and more talk of the need for the New Democrats and the Liberals to join forces in some way to defeat the Conservatives. While many think they have to become one party, there are those who argue they should at least not run against each other in a certain number of ridings

to ensure they don't guarantee too many Conservative victories by vote splitting. That won't happen. Nothing will happen except a whole bunch of Conservative wins in critical ridings.

Fairness is not very often part of politics, but sometimes political life can surprise you. All those years of Chrétien rule saw the Reform Party and the Progressive Conservative Party split the vote so that Liberals won the elections. Now, the Liberals and the NDP eat each other up, the Green Party and the Bloc Québécois eat the leftovers, and the Conservatives win.

Let's remember the Reform Party and the Progressive Conservative Party, beaten and bruised, finally ended their war and became one party. Let's also remember they used to be part of the same party before their ugly divorce in the late-1980s. Getting back together was a lot easier than what faces the NDP and the Liberals.

As the official opposition, New Democrats believe they are the government-in-waiting. While dreaming of government, there is no chance they will make any kind of deal with the Liberals.

The Liberals have dreams of their own. How about that Justin Trudeau turning everything inside out by turning the Liberals into eventual winners?

No one in those parties wants to forgo their dreams, and no one wants to listen to the numerical logic of handing another majority government to Stephen Harper unless and until they put their egos and their dreams aside to do something together to change the dynamic. They are simply doing what the Progressive Conservatives and the Reform Party did for so long before them. Ignore the warning signs that defeat likely awaits them.

The idea of introducing some form of proportional representation has been around for a long time – but it's not something that's going to happen anytime soon. As long as ours remains a first-past-the-post system, a candidate in any riding can win with less than 40 per cent of the vote, if the vote splits works in his or her favour.

But no government will do anything about that because it would be against its own interest. Political parties won't form alliances with each other to bring in proportional representation because it is not seen to be in their mid- to long-term interest either.

So, we'll continue to see the numerical probability of more majority governments elected with 60 per cent of the people not wanting them.

Mailbag

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Stand with Israel

"I no longer understand what 'stand with Israel means'," writes Mira Sucharov (*Values, Ethics, Community*, February 4).

Well, I'm glad you asked and I'm delighted to tell you what standing with Israel means to me. Israel is the 'diamond in the Middle East crown.' Although this diamond has flaws, it is, nonetheless, beautiful and shining bright.

We stand proudly with Israel, the sole liberal democracy in the Middle East.

We stand with a country that has recently conducted elections for a parliament that includes Arabs and Jews, men and women, observant and non-observant Jews. In fact, as Tali Heruti-Sover reported in *Haaretz* (January 2), the 19th Knesset will include 27 women, 21.6 per cent of the seats, the highest percentage of females ever to be elected to Israel's parliament.

We stand with the Jewish, democratic State of Israel not without its problems, but with three arms of government and a checks-and-balances system we are proud of. For example, the candidacy of MK Hanin Zuabi – who was on the *MV Mavi Marmara*, the Turkish boat that sailed to Israel's territorial waters to confront Israel's anti-terrorist blockade of Gaza – was disqualified by the central elections committee because she had constantly undermined the State of Israel and had openly incited against the government, its institutions and IDF soldiers. I am proud that Israel's Supreme Courts deemed this ruling undemocratic and overturned it. Zuabi ran and once again gained a seat in the Israeli parliament. Which government among Israel's neighbours can boast of something like this?

We stand with Israel and are extremely proud of Israel's contributions to the world in science, medicine, agriculture and high-tech. We stand with and are proud of the soldiers of the IDF, whose Code of Ethics is based on Judaism's belief that all life is sanctified and all humans are born in the image of God.

We stand with Israel under threat by an Iranian dictatorship that has vowed to destroy the State of Israel.

We stand with Israel 24/7, with a great sense of *Arvut Hadadit* (the responsibility of any Jewish person to care for other Jewish people).

As Bobby Scott and Bob Russell wrote in "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother," a hit for the Hollies in 1969, "The road is long/With many a winding turn/That leads us to who knows where/But I'm strong/Strong enough to carry him/He ain't heavy, he's my brother."

We stand with Israel!

Rav Barry Schlesinger
Agudath Israel Congregation

Two speakers, different reactions

Almost a year apart, Canadian Friends of Peace Now brought two speakers to Ottawa: Gershon Gorenberg in November 2011 and Peter Beinart in October 2012. Both are Orthodox Jews. Both spoke at Temple Israel to sizable audiences. Both are highly critical of Israel, with particular attention to anti-democratic tendencies and to Israel's occupation of the West Bank. And both have written books expressing their criticisms. However, only Beinart attracted such strong criticism

as to be charged with anti-Semitism, to invite an adverse reaction from major Jewish institutions in the United States and Canada, and to require Rabbi Steven Garten to justify allowing Beinart to speak at Temple Israel.

Why this dramatic difference between Gorenberg and Beinart when their message seems so similar? The answer, I believe, lies in the different focus of each message. Gorenberg concentrates on Israel itself. In contrast, Beinart concentrates on the American Jewish establishment and its influence on American policies vis-à-vis Israel. To compound this difference, Gorenberg cites events and tendencies, whereas Beinart gives names and dates. He rejects what he sees as misguided support for Israel's policies as exhibited by the Jewish establishment, their use of strong-arm tactics to ensure American governments cave into those policies, and their efforts to suppress alternative opinions.

Zionists of whatever stripe can read Gorenberg's book with concern, but one cannot read Beinart's book without anger. It should not surprise us that there has been such a reaction to Beinart's book. It bites in a way that Gorenberg's book does not. And it particularly bites Americans and, by implication, Canadians.

David B. Brooks
Co-chair, Ottawa Chapter
Canadian Friends of Peace Now

Who swallowed the reysh?

The fruit of the carob tree was plentiful in Israel the last time I was fortunate to be there with my family on Tu B'Shevat. The long sweet seeded brown fruit we called *bokser* was fresh there and easily chewed. One simply discarded the hard brown seeds and enjoyed a good chew in celebration of the holiday.

It has been many years since I have attempted to buy bokser (or St. John's bread) at the ByWard Market in Ottawa. The old imported dried fruit was so hard and inedible, it simply wasn't worth the attempt to bite into, especially at the possible cost of a molar or two.

Rabbi Barry Schlesinger's interesting column (*From the Pulpit*, January 21), reminded me it was time again to celebrate Tu B'Shevat.

But, what is this "buksa" he writes about? It is possible that our southern neighbours will easily drop an 'r' here and there in enunciation. But, in print! In our *Bulletin*!

Oy vey! I hope the *reysh* hasn't been spit out and discarded along with the inedible seeds. Or – swallowed?

Shirley Berman

Letters welcome

Letters to the Editor are welcome if they are brief, signed, timely and of interest to our readership. The *Bulletin* reserves the right to refuse, edit or condense letters. The *Mailbag* column will be published as space permits. Send your letters to Michael Regenstreif, Ottawa Jewish Bulletin, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9; or by e-mail to bulletin@ottawajewishbulletin.com.

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Oliver Javanpour
President

Re-planting Carmel Forest began on Tu Bi'Shevat 2013

It has been a while since we updated you on the Carmel Forest. In 2010, the largest wildfire ever in the Carmel region burned for four days and nights. Forty-four people lost their lives in the fire and 9,000 acres of woodland were burned – 1,000 acres of which had been planted by JNF.

In the wake of the fire, JNF took time out to understand the best way to rehabilitate the ravaged land. Burnt trees that presented a danger to people and could interfere with natural regeneration were removed. Soil conservation measures were taken to prevent erosion resulting from rain (enough for erosion – not enough to discourage fires!). After natural regeneration had begun, JNF conducted a survey to determine how to supplement the natural processes and replant recreational areas, carefully reflecting the original centuries-old plantings. In order to help manage future fires, firebreaks were created and water points and pipes were installed to provide water for filling fire trucks.

This past Tu Bi'Shevat marked the first tree-plantings on Carmel since the fire. The planting took place in an area of young forest that did not have a sufficient seed bank to regenerate after the fire. More than 600 trees were planted. It will still be years before the newly planted trees and the naturally regenerated trees equal the mature forest canopy that was lost in the fire, but the efforts of the hundreds of people who helped by working on the rehabilitation, or by donating funds to support it, will be well worth while.

We are still accepting donations for Kissufim

Following on our own Tu Bi'Shevat Tree-A-Thon last month, we would like to remind you all that the project we supported was the **Kissufim Forest and Recreation Area** in the Negev. The rehabilitation of the Kissufim Forest, damaged by Hamas rocket fire, is part of the JNF's continuous efforts to green the Negev, but it is also a quality of life initiative to support Israelis who have been traumatized by the recent security situation in Southern Israel. The forest provides opportunities for recreation and also helps shield residents from missiles and artillery fire. JNF and the Israel Defense Forces work together to plant trees in a way that blocks the sightlines of armed groups and provides a buffer zone.

If we missed you and you would like to donate, it is still not too late. Please contact Susan Schwartzman at 613-798-2411 or Ottawa@jnf.ca.

For more information on JNF's projects or programs, or to find out how you can support JNF, please contact Lynda Taller-Wakter, Executive Director, JNF Ottawa and Atlantic Canada at 613-798-2411 or Lynda.Taller-Wakter@jnf.ca.

Sefer Bar/Bat Mitzvah Inscriptions

Samuel Sullivan Gencher by his loving grandparents, Leah and Bob Gencher; **Cohava Neriah Esther Ross** by her proud aunt, Naomi Ross; **Jessica Ilana Malek** and **Noah Lorne Malek** by their proud grandparents, Ethel and David Malek and Lillian and Bryant Steinberg.

On a daily basis you can plant trees for all occasions. An attractive card is sent to the recipient. To order, call the JNF office (613.798.2411).



Guest column

A few things I learned from my summer at Hebrew University

By Danielle Klein
for Canadian Friends
of Hebrew University

I don't believe one can eat enough hummus while in Israel. It's highly possible I ate a full container every day. I am truly proud I ate a legendary amount of hummus this past summer, which my friends continue to mock me for. But, in my opinion, it was a necessary thing to do.

This was one of the things I learned from studying at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem this summer.

Of course, I learned a lot in class.

I learned a lot about the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

I learned from talking to my peers and from being immersed in an environment intensely involved in, and interested in discussing, the history and politics of Israel.

I learned about the Jewish religion and about Kabbalistic practices. I even brushed off some of my dusty old day school Hebrew.

I also learned a lot from just living in the Holy Land.

I learned there is decent sushi in Jerusalem.

I learned that driving up narrow winding paths to Tsfat in a huge bus might make your stomach sick, but it's worth it for the artisans and the purple sunset.

I learned you may get a few jellyfish stings if you swim in the Mediterranean at night and you may get a free beer if you befriend the owner of your favourite shawarma place in Tel Aviv.

I learned the anxious joy of hitchhiking and the infinite feeling of overlooking Haifa from the top of the Baha'i Gardens with good friends by your side.

I learned that it doesn't really matter what sort of water gun you bring to Tel Aviv Water Wars, you are

going to get absolutely soaked anyway.

I learned that there is a Museum of Israeli Postal History and it's awesome.

I learned that my favourite place to write in the world is perched on Jerusalem stone next to the golden menorah overlooking the Western Wall Plaza in the Old City in the quiet hours just before Shabbat comes in on Friday afternoons.

I learned there is a really strange, unexpected music scene in the Shuk, and a really fun, wild bar scene in

the (not always) Holy City.

I learned that no walk to the Mount Scopus Campus from the students' village is complete without a celebratory ice coffee from the cafeteria, and that the Israeli fiction section in the library is really worth perusing.

I learned that my favourite spots to study are the benches outside Building 1 and the coffee shops around Ben Yehuda Street.

I learned that TalknSave may just never stop sending you bills and I learned that goodbyes are really difficult.

My summer at Hebrew University, in other words, was an enriching experience. I grew a lot from it – and I don't mean from the copious amounts of hummus I consumed.

My summer inspired me.

Every day was unexpected. Every day included attending classes, sharing meals with friends, filling my journals, responding to emails from home, doing schoolwork, and always, without fail, embarking on some sort of adventure, big or small, with lovely people in a miraculous place.

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Kosher Meals-on-Wheels to include locally prepared Shabbat dinners

By Rivka Finkelstein
for Jewish Family Services

How many of you are aware of one of the Jewish Family Services (JFS) programs, Kosher Meals-on-Wheels? Even if you were aware of it, how many have given it a second thought?

Many in our community count on Meals-on-Wheels to provide nourishing meals. This allows them to continue living independently at home. Meals are typically delivered three times per week and the service can be called upon on a regular basis, or on special occasions, as the need arises.

In the past, these meals have been brought in frozen from Montreal and delivered that way to clients. Now, though, the food for the Shabbat meal will be

cooked in the kitchen of Hillel Lodge.

This is an exciting development as the recipients will now have hot, fresh and locally prepared meals delivered right to them. We hope this will continue and expand eventually to include all three weekly deliveries.

This meal service is provided by JFS to its clients at cost. However, with the rising price of food,

and the fixed incomes of most recipients, it has become more difficult for JFS clients to afford the meals. In addition, in order to provide a hot fresh meal rather than one that is frozen, a small additional cost will be incurred.

That's where the community – me, you, all of us together – comes in.

Please consider the opportunity to participate in a *chesed* that al-

lows food to be delivered to those in need. After all, what could be more Jewish than a delicious hot, kosher meal to look forward to on Shabbat?

Donations can be made to Jewish Family Services – Meals-on-Wheels.

With this new format, and the extra need to get the food, fresh to the clients, there is also a greater need for volunteers to help in the

delivering the meals. If you have some free time, please consider volunteering to deliver Meals-on-Wheels. Wintertime is especially critical, as many of our regular volunteers are away.

If you are able to help or would like to arrange Meals-on-Wheels delivery, or know someone who does, contact Laura Thomas of JFS at 613-722-225 or lthomas@jfsottawa.com.

Na'amat Passover wine sale now taking orders

By Deana Schildkraut
Aviva Chapter, Na'amat Canada

Na'amat Canada Ottawa's Aviva Chapter is helping the Jewish community get ready for Passover with our annual Passover wine sale, offering a large, varied selection of red, white and rosé kosher-for-Passover wines from such coun-

tries as Israel, France, Italy and the United States. Bottles and cases are available for pre-order with proceeds of the sales benefitting programs supporting women and children in Israel and Canada.

This year, Na'amat is collaborating with Canadian Hadassah-WIZO Ottawa Centre and Congregation Beit Tikvah to host our Passover Fair on Sunday, March 17, 10:30 am to 4:00 pm at Beit Tikvah, 15 Chartwell Avenue. Attendees will be able to pick up their wine orders. The Passover Fair will boast an array of handcrafted Passover gifts for sale, such as wine bags, matzo covers, patterned aprons, and many other seder-themed items.

The organizations taking part in the Passover Fair support local and Israeli projects and all are worthy of community support.

Na'amat Canada raises money to maintain a

vast network of social and educational services in Israel. As a result of terrorism and the economic situation, the number of Israelis experiencing hardships is increasing greatly. Many needy people turn to Na'amat for help.

Na'amat Canada – naamat.com – is a registered charity dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for women, children and families in Israel and in Canada. We support 233 daycare centres, 20 vocational high schools, a women's shelter and counselling centre, 30 legal aid bureaus, and other vital services in Israel. Locally, Na'amat Canada Ottawa runs the annual School Supplies for Kids project, which provides more than 200 children living in domestic violence shelters with backpacks filled with new school supplies.

To place a wine order, or to support any of Na'amat's causes, contact Deana Schildkraut at deana.schildkraut@gmail.com or 613-726-9595.

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New Yiddish culture club founded on Ottawa university campuses

By Benjamin Miller
Yiddishkayt

Last year, I studied Yiddish film and literature in a University of Ottawa course taught by Professor Rebecca Margolis. Exposure to this rich, wonderful content made me acutely aware of the absence of Yiddish arts and culture on Ottawa's university campuses.

Now, a friend studying at Carleton University and I have founded Yiddishkayt, the uOttawa/Carleton Yiddish Culture Club, and are hosting a monthly movie night at uOttawa, which is also open to the wider community.

Our next screenings will be *American Matchmaker* on Thursday, February 21, 6:30 pm, in Desmarais 1160 (55 Laurier Avenue East) and *The Dybbuk* on Thursday, March 28, 7:30 pm, in

Monpetit Hall 202 (125 University Private). Admission is free of charge.

For more information about the club or movie nights, contact us at Yiddishkayt@gmail.com.

I am also looking to help establish a Yiddish-language program on CHUO, the uOttawa community radio station where I have been a volunteer host for the past two years.

There are many third-language communities in Ottawa with programs on the station. I am searching for a team of three or four volunteers to help organize and host a weekly, one-hour, Yiddish culture or language show. Each person would have to be willing to commit two to three hours per week for the necessary production work and hosting of the show.

Prior radio experience is not necessary. The CHUO staff and I will co-ordinate, support and train interested volunteers. I would also help the team secure the on-air slot.

The content of the show is not a fait accompli. Whether it will be predominantly Yiddish music, coverage of Jewish events in Ottawa, or Yiddish radio dramas and stories, will be up to the volunteers.

The Yiddish community of Ottawa has the opportunity to establish a radio program that can be enjoyed for years to come. That this show hasn't been created already is a *shanda*; to not create it now would be *meshige*.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, contact me at bm1099@uottawa.ca.

Israeli film critic Amy Kronish to discuss women in Israeli film

By Shawna Dolansky
Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies
Carleton University

In North America, it can be challenging to have a sense of Israel as a real living, breathing country beyond the typical media coverage. When all we read and see about Israel relates to war and politics, it's easy to forget the deeper emotional, cultural and human sides of things. Fortunately, for those who can't travel there regularly, Israel's film industry is flourishing and world-class comedies, dramas and documentaries export Israeli culture in all of its colour and candour.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Israeli Film Festival in Ottawa, a proud tradition presented by the Canadian Film Institute and the Israeli Cultural Forum, a consortium that includes the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (JCC), the Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program, the Embassy of Israel, the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University and, now, the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University.

In anticipation of this year's festival, the Zelikovitz Centre, in conjunction with Temple Israel and the Soloway JCC, is hosting a free public lecture with Israeli film critic Amy Kronish on Thursday, March 7, 7:30 pm, in 132 Azrieli Pavilion at Carleton University.

Kronish currently works as a consultant in the field of Jewish and Israeli film and curates film programs. Previously, she spent 15 years as curator of Jewish and Israeli Film at the Jerusalem Cinematheque. She lectures and writes widely on film and is the author of two books on Israeli film, *World Cinema: Israel* and *Israeli Film: A Reference Guide*. Born and bred in the United States, she has an MA in communications from New York University

and has lived in Jerusalem since 1979.

In honour of International Women's Day, Kronish's lecture will focus on "The Women of Israel." Israeli films have increasingly been producing more complex narratives about women and women's issues, portraying unique stories and issues that are central to the lives of both Jewish and Palestinian Israeli women. In her discussion, Kronish will include the screening and analysis of film clips on this interesting and timely issue.

We hope you'll join us for an evening of film and cultural insight, designed to whet your appetites for the 10th Annual Israeli Film Festival taking place June 6, 9, 13 and 16, with all films to be shown in the auditorium at 395 Wellington Street. Films and screening times will be announced this spring at israelifilmfestival.ca.

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- Develops creative approaches and messages to encourage additional donations and build the LTCF brand, develops ongoing relationships with existing and potential contributors, and develops close relationships with the Residents and their families.
- Builds a prominent profile for the LTCF in the Jewish, general and health care communities.
- Works closely with the LTCF Board and leadership in determining messages and developing strategies.
- Creates and implements the annual LTCF budget.

Qualifications:

- Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills, as well as leadership and management skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work with a volunteer board.
- Superior verbal and written communication skills.
- Flexible with regard to work schedule.
- Demonstrated background in fundraising, financial planning, development, communications, or equivalent. Preference will be given to candidates who have a certified fundraising designation.
- Educational courses taken should include fundraising methods, planned giving, and public relations.
- Administrative background and experience should include most current computer skills and office procedures, to produce reports and materials.
- Familiarity with our Ottawa Jewish community is an asset.
- Knowledge of the not-for-profit and long-term care sector is an asset.

Send a cover letter and resumé, by **Friday, March 15, 2013**, to:

Eric Weiner, Chair Hillel Lodge LTCF
c/o The Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge
10 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, ON K2A 4G7
613-728-3900, ext.118 sss@hillel-ltc.com



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Israeli participants in Social Action Mission enjoy visit to Ottawa

By Joshua Finn
for Social Action Mission

The 'living bridge' between Ottawa's Jewish community and Northern Israel was strengthened by the December visit of two students from Tel Hai College.

Danielle Avidar and Haim Shor, members of the Rothschild Ambassadors leadership program in Israel, hosted a group of young professionals from Ottawa participating in the Social Action Mission to Israel last May.

During the mission, Canadian and Israeli participants worked together to beautify a school in Kiryat Shmona and joined in activities with the students, many of whom come from economically disadvantaged

families. The joint Canadian and Israeli group also participated in and won the team spirit award at the inaugural Dragon Boat Israel Festival, toured the beautiful sights of Northern Israel and spent Shabbat in Jerusalem.

In December, the Canadian group reciprocated by introducing Avidar and Shor to life in Canada's capital and providing an opportunity for the strong bond and friendships created in Israel last spring to continue to flourish.

"The friendships that I had made with the Canadians in Israel grew to a whole other level in Canada," said Shor. "These are friendships that I hope to have for the rest of my life."

Dan Shugar, one of the

chairs of the 2012 Social Action Mission, was happy to have been part of the Israelis' experience in Canada.

"It was great to show them a good time and what living in Canada is all about," said Shugar.

"It was a very fulfilling experience being able to introduce Danielle and Haim to my life as a member of the Ottawa Jewish community," added Maya Avshalomov, who hosted Avidar.

During their visit, Avidar and Shor were introduced to many of Ottawa's Jewish community organizations, among them the Ottawa Jewish Community School, various supplementary schools and the Ganon Preschool, where they led



Tel Hai College students Danielle Avidar and Haim Shor (second row, centre) during their visit to Ottawa with Cantor Daniel Benlolo and members of the Tamir Neshama Choir.

activities for the students and had the chance to answer questions about daily life in Israel.

"I felt proud that I was able to represent Israel and answer questions for the children," said Shor.

Avidar said a highlight of the visit was participating in choir practice at Tamir, an

organization that supports adults with developmental disabilities. Tamir Neshama Choir member Debbie Applebaum spoke about her hope for peace in Israel before dedicating a performance of "A Dream is a Wish" to Tamir's new Israeli friends.

Avidar and Shor joined in

the singing of the Hebrew folk song, "Hallelujah."

"It felt good to be able to help out in the community in Ottawa, just like the Canadians helped out the community in Kiryat Shmona," said Shor.

During their visit, Avidar and Shor also had opportunities to explore Ottawa. They toured Parliament Hill, watched a 67's game, sampled BeaverTails and skated on the Rink of Dreams at Ottawa City Hall. They also saw moose, deer and bison at Parc Omega in Montebello, Quebec.

The Israelis said they enjoyed their first taste of a true Canadian winter. "I miss the snow!" said Avidar after returning to Israel.

Both Avidar and Shor said the trip was a great opportunity for them to gain a deeper appreciation of Jewish life outside of Israel.

"Right away, I saw how close of a Jewish community there was in Ottawa. Even though they are so far from Israel, they all still come together to celebrate with their community," said Shor. "I would like to say whole heartedly, this was the most significant experience that I have had in my life so far."

The next Social Action Mission to Israel for young professionals and graduate students between ages 22 and 35 will take place from May 1 to 12. For information, contact Samantha Banks at sbanks@jewishottawa.ca.

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Fundraiser for Kosher Food Bank to feature A Touch of Klez and Musica Ebraica

**By Toby Brooks
for Kosher Food Bank**

Klez 6, an evening of music and dance in support of the Kosher Food Bank featuring A Touch of Klez and Musica Ebraica, will take place Sunday, March 3, 7:00 pm, at Congregation Beth Shalom, 151 Chapel Street.

Remembering the history of the Beth Shalom building that has been the setting for many of Ottawa's simchas will be the theme for the evening.

This is the sixth year that Ottawa klezmer band A Touch of Klez will perform in support of the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank. The band regularly entertains the residents at Hillel Lodge and has performed at the Canadian Tulip Festival and Westfest.

A Touch of Klez includes mandolinist Irwin Brodo, clarinetists Peter Teitelbaum and Ruth Mendell, Eric Elkin on flute and piccolo, vocalist Shaina Lipsey, keyboardist Jacki Langsner, bassist Fred Brown, drummer Steve Shapransky and Don McVeigh on banjo. Their perfor-

mance will emphasize traditional dance tunes, including bulgars, shers, Yiddish horas and traditional waltzes. There will be fast and slow dances so that everyone can participate. Members of the International Folk Dancers of Ottawa will lead the dancing. There will even be a few niggunim for those who like to sing along.

Musica Ebraica, whose choral music is always well received, has participated in the Klez concert on behalf of the Kosher Food Bank for the past three years. Under musical director Norman E. Brown, Musica Ebraica will sing melodies that are sure to warm the hearts of listeners.

Klez 6 is sponsored by Congregation Adath Shalom, Agudath Israel Congregation, Congregation Beth Shalom, Or Haneshamah and Temple Israel.

Admission is free with a suggested donation of \$10.00 to \$20.00 (cheques may be made payable to Agudath Israel Congregation with a notation of "Kosher Food Bank" on the memo line). Donations of non-perishable food



A Touch of Klez will provide music for dancing at Klez 6 fundraiser for the Kosher Food Bank.

items with kosher labels will also be appreciated. Light refresh-

ments will be served.

For further information, or to

become a sponsor, call Toby Brooks at 613-234-1649.

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Eleanor Bocian plays maracas during a Creative Connections musical program.

(Photo: Merle Haltrecht)

Creative Connections offers weekly programs for older seniors

By A.M. Matte
for Creative Connections

Eleanor Bocian spends Tuesdays enjoying many new activities.

"I go to Creative Connections," she said, "to meet new people, enjoy good programs and spend a few hours with the group. It breaks up my week and allows me to be with friends."

For the past few years, Bocian has attended Creative Connections, an all-day AJA50+ program that offers the most senior, cognitively well members of the Jewish community a chance to socialize and schmooze, to have a meal together and enjoy music, films, readings, artist visits, health and safety presentations, and talks by community leaders and organizers. Participants register for and attend 10 weekly sessions.

In addition to a variety of activities designed to educate, to entertain and to amuse, Creative Connections participants benefit from 45 minutes of gentle, guided exercise led by Nicole Goldstone.

"I love coming and meeting all my new Jewish friends every week," said Naomi Skoll, another long-time participant of Creative Connections. "Although I often don't feel like going to exercise, I always feel energized after I have been."

Creative Connections is known for its notable guests. Michele Vinet, a French Canadian author and retired teacher, spoke about her creative writing workshop at the Joliette In-

stitution for female prisoners. Michael Greil-sammer brought diverse music from Israel. Annette Paquin gave a PowerPoint talk on Israel. Navin Parekh, project manager of the CanUgan Disability Support Project, presented information on helping disabled people in Uganda. Among the upcoming guests are accessible transit specialist Kathy Riley, the Sunshine Singers, congregational rabbis, and Andrea Lobel.

"I love coming to Creative Connections," said Patsy Royer, a volunteer who spends the day with the participants. "I hear about lots of the history of Ottawa and the area from the people who have lived it and it makes me more familiar with the movers and shakers in the community."

Creative Connections participants meet in the Teen Lounge of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre on Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. The current 10-week session continues through March 12. The next session is from April 9 to June 11.

Creative Connections co-ordinator Merle Haltrecht welcomes new registrants.

"We take armchair trips around the world, find out what other organizations across the region are involved in – and we care about each other," she said.

If you would like to meet new people and see some familiar faces, then come and experience Creative Connections! Contact Merle at creativeconnections@aja50plus.ca for more information.

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Ottawa Klezmer Band to celebrate 35th anniversary

The Ottawa Klezmer Band, founded by singer and cellist Floralove Katz, will present its 35th anniversary performance on Saturday, March 23, 7:30 pm, at the National Arts Centre's Fourth Stage.

The concert will feature some of Yiddish theatre songs, Holocaust material, classic Hebrew songs and sing-along medleys.

Featured guest artists will include 94-year-old accordionist Yitzchak Nayvelt and young violinists of the Suzuki Strings Ensemble and Stel-lae Boreales.

The Ottawa Klezmer Band (from left): bassist and fiddler Sol Gunner, pianist Natasha Guiller, Katz, percussionist Don Laver, and clarinetist and saxophonist David Renaud.

(Photo: Howard Sandler)



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The Keshet GLBT safe zone sticker at the entrance to the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

SJCC stands behind the 'safe zone' sticker

By Batia Winer and David Glickman
Keshet Ottawa

Think about a time when you chose not to disclose an important aspect of your identity. Jews and GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual) individuals do it all the time. Like everyone, they want to feel secure and welcome wherever they go. They want to feel safe in disclosing who they are without judgment. Hiding one's identity takes enormous energy.

Across North America, many Jewish organizations are seeking to foster GLBT inclusion in every aspect of communal life. In Ottawa, the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC) is taking concrete action on its mission statement of inclusiveness.

New stickers with a rainbow-coloured Star of David identifying the SJCC as a "GLBT safe zone" have recently been posted around the building. The stickers are the result of a recent collaboration between Keshet Ottawa and the SJCC.

In November, members of Keshet Ottawa, a non-profit social group for Jewish GLBT individuals and their allies, led SJCC management and staff through a training workshop on inclusion. Together, participants were challenged to explore their beliefs and assumptions and to consider how inclusiveness affects everything we do – how we listen, how we speak, what tools we make available, and even the choice of language on our membership forms.

At the workshop, staff learned how to speak to the safe zone stickers with awareness, knowledge and confidence. They also received resources to help them facilitate conversations with vulnerable individuals who may wish to disclose an important aspect of who they are.

"I am grateful to the folks at Keshet for working with our staff to enhance the wel-

coming atmosphere at our centre," said SJCC President and COO Barry Sohn who participated in the training. "Our board and staff are in total support of making the centre a place for everyone. This is an important initiative that speaks to our mission."

The safe zone stickers are a visible acknowledgement of welcome to the *rainbow community*. By establishing an environment of trust, the SJCC is continuing to build a community that is free of stereotypical barriers while promoting respect for individuals of all sexual orientations and gender identity.

"As a board member, active user of the centre, and as a mother, the stickers represent to me an articulation of what the mission of the SJCC means and the fact that everyone can express their personal and social identity in a comfortable and open way" said Mira Sucharov. "A more diverse and inclusive community is ultimately a better community for everyone."

Keshet Ottawa contributed financially to building the SJCC. Now, the group has come to dwell within the centre with its rainbow stickers posted at the front entrance, the window of the fitness centre, gymnasium, pool office and Ganon Preschool.

Keshet Ottawa applauds the SJCC for demonstrating its support of the rainbow community and for embracing the GLBT persons as full and vital members of the Jewish family. The SJCC mission statement citing "diversity, respect and inclusiveness," is a powerful message that sets the stage for the important work ahead. All of us, the rainbow community and allies alike, share the responsibility of rolling up our sleeves and continuing to build that community of inclusiveness in which we all feel safe, secure and welcome.

OJCS teams excel on the basketball court

By Randy Fox
and Sara-Lynne Levine
Ottawa Jewish
Community School

The Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS) has been extending our success from the classroom onto the hardwood, the track and the court.

Enjoying a newly revamped athletics team program, complete with brand new jerseys, the OJCS Rams have put together competitive teams in middle school basketball and soccer and high school teams in golf, curling and track and field.

Last year, the boys' basketball team finished the season undefeated, while the girls finished the season with two wins and two losses. This year, both teams are undefeated.

OJCS has had organized sports teams for a number of years, but, since Stéphane Cinanni took over coaching responsibilities for the middle school teams nine years ago, they have become increasingly more organized and competitive, leading to improved averages and an impressive winning streak.

At the high school, coaches Josh Ray and Ashley Young have



OJCS Grade 7 and 8 boys, wearing blue and white, play against Macdonald Cartier Academy, January 24, at the Soloway JCC.

been coaching track and golf, including morning conditioning sessions with training coach Scott Crouteau.

Cinanni said his biggest motivation in helping the sports programs at OJCS improve was his belief that the students could compete and win against other schools.

"I believed they could partici-

pate. I believed they could win. I believed in their athleticism," said Cinanni. "Their hard work has paid off."

The students practise every day and play one or two games per week. The schedule is condensed to fit the needs of the school because of the many Jewish holidays at the beginning of the school year.

"It's a lot of commitment, at times too much," said Cinanni. "But, at some point, somebody did it for me, so I'm going to do it for [the students] and pay it forward."

"Hopefully, at some point, [the students] will be in a position to teach others and help them love sports as well."

At the high school level, Ray

believes building team spirit and camaraderie is an important part of school life.

"The lessons they learn on a team helps them become better individuals," he said. "The after-school and intramural sports programs are growing and our teams' successes reflect our mission of *Reaching for Excellence*."

Five ways private businesses can stay competitive in a tough economy

Now that we're a month into 2013, with the Canadian economy still showing signs of a slow recovery, there are a number of key issues you should consider to help your private business grow.

- 1. Maximize your workforce.** Speak with staff, management, customers and stakeholders to identify opportunities to boost productivity.
- 2. Pursue vendor diversity.** Assess your relationships and see if you're casting a wide enough net to get the most value from your suppliers.
- 3. Streamline your legal entities.** Make sure each legal entity holds the appropriate assets, your legal exposure is minimized and your costs are being managed.
- 4. Assess your capital structure.** Check that your debt/equity ratios are consistent with your risk tolerance.
- 5. Pursue unique growth opportunities.** Think about whether your company needs to focus more on organic growth or acquisition. Look beyond borders – there could be low-hanging fruit outside of Canada.

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Use passion for Israel to write effective letters to the editor

You sip that first cup of morning coffee. You carve out some time to read the newspaper before you rush off to work, and savour the rustle of the pages and the smell of fresh ink.

Minutes later, the calm of the morning is shattered, and the coffee suddenly tastes like acid.

“Those idiots!” you fume. “They don’t know a **thing** about Israel!”

You throw the paper aside and rush off to work, where you fire off emails to your like-minded Jewish friends, and rant about the bias of the paper and the ignorance of its columnists.

Or maybe you sit down and write a rambling email to the editor, using a string of blistering adjectives to rail at the incompetence of the writer, the editor and whatever media giant owns the paper this month. For good measure, you threaten to cancel your subscription.

Fair enough. But, while these reactions might feel good for a few minutes or even a few hours, they’re not nearly as effective as a strong letter to the editor – in print.

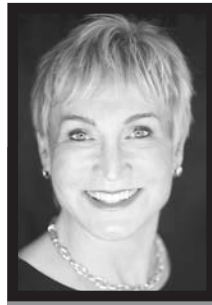
And people who care about Israel need to learn how to write a letter to the editor that has a good chance of getting published.

Let’s get back to that morning coffee and newspaper. Rather than fly into a rage and toss the paper in with the coffee grounds, get out your laptop and, as we say to angry kids, “Use your words!”

The first thing to consider is when and why to write a letter to the editor. The dubious – but all too common – reasons include venting, ranting, showing how clever you are, mocking or seeking revenge on someone with whom you disagree, or insulting another person or group’s religious or political views.

Not surprisingly, such letters are rarely published.

But well-written letters and op-eds can correct misinformation, provide new facts or present an alternative point of view on a political or social situation. They can also introduce



My Israel

Barbara
Crook

an issue to the public, give context to a news story or, ideally, make readers think about an issue in new way.

If you want to rant, call your friends or post something on Facebook. If you want to write an effective letter, read on.

The two keys to effective letters are timeliness and brevity. If you want to comment on something in the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*, you might have a few days before the deadline for the next issue. But, if you’re responding to something in a daily newspaper, especially if it’s a time-sensitive subject, early deadlines and a short news cycle mean you should try to respond by early afternoon of the day the original article runs.

So, your first challenge is to respond quickly. Your second challenge is to marshal your thoughts and evidence into a mere 150- or 200-word letter – the preferred length for most newspapers.

Don’t panic – you can always write longer than that and then pare down your prose until the letter is short and pithy.

Your opening sentence should refer to the news story or opinion piece that inspired your letter. But don’t waste too many of your precious words summarizing someone else’s mistakes. Get to your argument as soon as you can.

Here’s an example from my collection:

“Rami Khouri would have us believe that the zebra has changed its stripes (‘Hezbollah’s Remarkable Transition’ –

October 17). I beg to differ,” Patrick Moscoe wrote to the *Globe and Mail* in October 2007.

In two crisp sentences, we know what he’s writing about, and that he’s going to dispute the columnist’s assertion.

Now you need to introduce your argument. In a typical newspaper letter, you’ll be able to make only one or two main points and then support them. So pick your strongest argument(s) and be as specific as possible.

“Hezbollah today remains the same organization as in the past,” the letter continues.

Good – but so far it’s just one person’s opinion. And an editor isn’t interested in opinions without facts to support them. So the next step is to present those facts.

“Its flag prominently displays the first letter of Allah reaching up to grasp a rifle,” Moscoe writes in his next sentence. Just one fact, but well chosen.

Now it’s time to wrap up with a sentence or two to conclude your argument and, ideally, make the reader pause and think. That final sentence can even take the form of a rhetorical question.

“What kind of legitimate political party blatantly promotes the use of violence in order to meet its political agenda?” Moscoe concludes.

Game. Set. Match.

In 66 polite and precise words, this writer has challenged a columnist’s opinion, presented a fact that supports his dissenting view and left the reader with food for thought.

It takes practice. But, if you make a habit of reading published letters, you’ll get a sense of what’s powerful and what’s likely to run in a given newspaper.

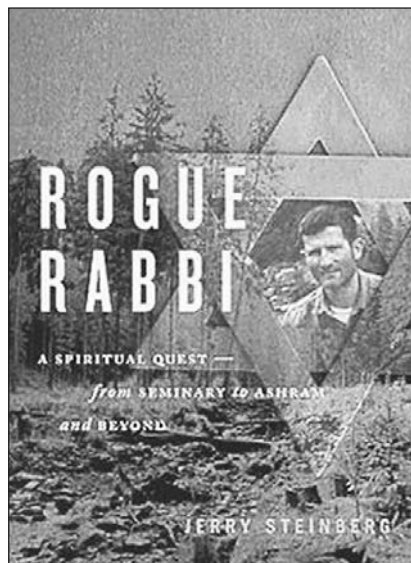
Do you need to give up ranting? Not if you actually enjoy it. But, if you want to turn your anger into action, try channeling that passion for Israel into words that could actually change someone’s mind.

Maybe, even lots of someones.

Rogue rabbi stood in the centre of interesting times and places

Rogue Rabbi: A Spiritual Journey from Seminary to Ashram, and Beyond

By Jerry Steinberg
ECW Press
425 pages



Biography is personal narrative when it is autobiography – that is when it is written in the first-person. The best first-person biography is interpersonal: the author intends to admit his or her audience into a lived-life intimately reported upon. We readers may not agree with the decisions the author makes as the narrative unfolds, but we remain fascinated by the details, and an ersatz relationship forms.

The ersatz relationship becomes a spiritual one of sorts, I think, when I can learn from the biographer’s behaviours. This gives me the privilege of learning about myself through another’s life. I can either accept or reject the biographer’s experience as useful to me, and, either way, I can take what I like and leave the rest behind. A moral taken from autobiography changes the narrative from interpersonal to transpersonal.

Rogue Rabbi: A Spiritual Journey from Seminary to Ashram, and Beyond became an interpersonal narrative for me from the moment I began to read. Like me, Jerry Steinberg, the rogue rabbi of the title, is a Prairie boy. He’s a generation older but, even so, I could easily relate to his descriptions of the

Prairie life he knew. The Winnipeg of his university years was the Winnipeg of my childhood. Some 30 years later, I would meet and become inspired by Rabbi Zalman Schachter, who influenced Steinberg to become a rabbi, and who probably also influenced him to go rogue. Reb Zalman’s rogue rabbinate, however, has influenced a generation of Jews. I have taken a great deal from Reb Zalman. I have left even more behind, and I am thus motivated to know what Rabbi Steinberg has both taken and rejected.

Personal narrative imposes limitations on the reader, however, and, for this reason, a well-told first-person story needs to give way to what the narrator knows, what he thinks he knows and

how his experiences have affected his relationships. I don’t know what lessons Rabbi Steinberg learned from encounters with Reb Zalman far more frequent and intimate than mine. The concept of ‘first things first, last things last’ is essential as we encounter autobiography. This element is largely missing from Rabbi Steinberg’s story.

I am a late-boomer and I read Rabbi Steinberg – who now serves in the pulpit at B’nai Shalom V’tikvah, a Reform congregation in Ajax, Ontario – as a Forrest Gump of the beat generation. He stood in the centre of some very interesting times and places, all of it familiar to most of us: his flirtations with yoga 30 years before Lululemon discovered it; his ex-

Book Review

Rabbi
Arie Clark

periments with Hindu spirituality; his utter disdain for a Judaism contemptuous of spiritual experience – this and more could educate the rogue rabbi I am and add to the influential narratives of his contemporaries such as Allen Ginsberg, William Goldman or Ram Dass.

Rabbi Steinberg is also a psychotherapist. He journals his experiences through the use of both prose and poetry. The true art of his poetry is lost, I think, in an artistic presentation that refuses the eye any one focus. Forcing the use of an unfocused eye may convey a search for liminal meaning, for meaning between the spaces of normal life experience, what some 12-step programs call ‘beyond sobriety.’ I realize the technique is effective, yet it leaves me challenged because the poetry is affective: each poem is artistically presented, not presented as art.

If the poems were actually depicted as art? The horizon line used to convey visual art provides a focal point to aid the reader’s eye. New meanings are thus conveyed. Rabbi Steinberg’s lyrics fascinate and reveal his moods. Such intimacy occurs in Rabbi Steinberg’s prose haphazardly. I often got the impression I was reading what clinicians call an ‘admission note,’ a description to another therapist of why a referral is made. This may be natural to Rabbi Steinberg, and, since he’s a psychotherapist, it’s certainly a place to start. But, too frequently, it’s also where he ends. With no intimate first-person assessment of what went wrong with the plan, I am left to guess.

Montreal Yiddish Theatre Singers to return to SJCC

By Roslyn Wollock
Soloway JCC

The creative, rich and heartfelt music of the Yiddish theatre will come to life on stage at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (JCC) when the Montreal Yiddish Theatre Singers return on Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 pm, following their extremely warm reception last year.

The group, all veteran performers with

Montreal's Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre, will perform songs that first came to life in the many Yiddish theatres that once dotted Second Avenue on New York City's Lower East Side as well as several Broadway selections.

The songs will be performed in Yiddish and English.

The four singers – Aron Gonshor, Lisa Rubin, Karen Karpman and Sam Stein –

have performed in such Yiddish theatre productions as *On Second Avenue*, *Those Were the Days*, *The Great Houdini*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Jazz Singer* and *The Wise Men of Chelm*.

Stein and Rubin starred alongside Theodore Bikel in *Lies My Father Told Me* in 2011.

Following the performance, the third annual Ethel Cooper Yiddish Award of Excel-

lence will be presented to a deserving student by Professor Rebecca Margolis of the University of Ottawa's Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program.

Tickets are \$15 and are available in advance at the Soloway JCC front desk or at the door.

For more information contact me at rwollock@jccottawa.com or 613-798-9818, ext. 254.



Hillel Lodge
LONG-TERM CARE FOUNDATION

**In support
of the Bess and Moe
Greenberg Family
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In the Joseph
and Inez Zelikovitz
Long Term Care Centre**

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Card donations go a long way to improving the quality of life for our residents. Thank you for considering their needs and contributing to their well-being.

On behalf of the residents and their families, we extend sincere appreciation to the following individuals and families who made card donations to the Hillel Lodge Long-Term Care Foundation **between January 16 and 30, 2013 inclusive.**

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Unlike a bequest or gift of life insurance, which are realized some time in the future, a named **Honour Fund** (i.e., endowment fund) is established during your lifetime.

By making a contribution of \$1,000 or more, you can create a permanent remembrance for a loved one, honour a family member, declare what the Lodge has meant to you and/or support a cause that you believe in.

A Hillel Lodge **Honour Fund** is a permanent pool of capital that earns interest or income each year. This income then supports the priorities designated by you, the donor.

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Rose Wakter by Marilyn Adler and Neil Blacher; and by Elayne Adler, Farley, Jordan and Benjamin Stenzler

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Joey and Blanche Osterer Mazal tov on the birth of your newest great-grandchild by Elayne Adler, Farley, Jordan and Benjamin Stenzler

Joanne and Joe Shabsove Mazal tov on your daughter Jacqueline's engagement to David by Elayne Adler, Farley, Jordan and Benjamin Stenzler

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Paula and Jon Miller Mazal tov on the birth of your first granddaughter with love by Henry and Maureen Molot

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Stan Goldberg Mazal tov on your milestone birthday by Sol and Estelle Gunner

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Dr. Mark Wall by Laurie Chochinov

Leema Magidson by Ed and Betty Rose

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Mother of Esther Johnson by Sharon Wasserman

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GIVING IS RECEIVING – ATTRACTIVE CARDS AVAILABLE FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Here's a good opportunity to recognize an event or convey the appropriate sentiment to someone important to you and at the same time support the Lodge. Card orders may be given to Bev at 728-3900, extension 111, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday. You may also e-mail your orders to donations@hillel-ltc.com or on-line donations can be made through CanadaHelps.org. All orders must include name, address, postal code, and any message to person receiving the card; and, amount of donation, name, address and postal code of the person making the donation. Cards may be paid for by Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash. Contributions are tax deductible.

A lesson in how to strive for Jewish engagement

What does it take to raise a daughter in Ottawa who is so committed to contemporary Judaism she decides to become a rabbi?

Rabbi Esther Lederman, who grew up in Ottawa, is now associate rabbi at Temple Micah in Washington, DC, a congregation named as among America's 25 most vibrant Jewish congregations on a list published by *Newsweek* in 2009.

I recently spoke with Rabbi Lederman. Hearing her recount which parts of her Jewish journey inspired her, and which she found spiritually lacking, was a microcosmic lesson in how to strive for Jewish engagement.

Esther had a typical Jewish upbringing for the generation born in Ottawa in the 1970s: Jewish day school, quasi-regular synagogue attendance, overnight Jewish camp, youth movement and Israel trips.

"The most positive experience for me was Camp Geshar and Habonim. I don't believe in magic pills but, for me, camp was a magic pill." At camp, she said, "I spoke Hebrew every day. Shabbat moved from being a Friday night experience to a 25-hour experience and Havdallah became a meaningful ritual for me."

As a teen, Esther would enjoy Shabbat dinner with her family before heading over to the *ken* (Hebrew for nest) – the Habonim-Dror youth movement clubhouse – on Friday nights.

Jewish day school was a mixed experience for Esther. She had some wonderful teachers, she recalls. But she bemoans that it seemed Orthodoxy was presented as the only legitimate denomination. It was strange, she said, since almost none of the students' families were Orthodox. As a result, Esther never saw women or girls leading prayer.

At school, Esther also struggled with feeling like she "couldn't go as deep" as she wished she could, when it came to asking tough questions in the classroom.



Values, Ethics, Community

Mira Sucharov

Esther's shul memories weren't as positive as you might expect from someone who chose the rabbinate as her career.

"Synagogue was always comfortable for me in the sense that it was familiar," Esther said. "But it was comfortable like being in a doctor's office is comfortable: I knew the rules of engagement."

Absent for Esther was a visible sense of joy at shul.

"I grew up in a synagogue where [it seemed] people didn't really want to be there. There was a sense of obligation, but no one was having fun. I don't think that to believe in God and worship in synagogue means you have to be bored."

For many years, Esther said, her Jewish identity centred on Israel.

"But, as I began to grow roots in America and realized that my life would not be lived in Israel, I needed a Jewish identity that was much more grounded in the local Jewish community, around other Jews.

"And, if I was going to make synagogue palatable to me, I'd have to be in charge."

Spending two years working for the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism in her 20s clinched it.

"Growing up in a home where social justice and liberal values were of prime importance, I'd never seen them married to

Jewish texts until I encountered the Reform Movement."

She attended the Million Mom March protest against gun violence in Washington, D.C. in 2000, where she first laid eyes on Rabbi Eric Yoffie, then president of the Union for Reform Judaism.

"There's a rabbi talking about why we need sensible gun control. How come I'd never heard other rabbis talk about public policy issues from a Jewish perspective?" she thought to herself.

As Esther pursued her pulpit training, she encountered new ideas.

"There was a lot that Judaism had to say about living a good life: tzedakah, equitable economic system. There was a lot of stuff in the *Prophets* that I hadn't known about, that I found very moving and very engaging," she said.

She also began to take great delight in synagogue life. She was stunned when she first experienced the non-denominational, liberal Congregation B'nai Jeshurun on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

"On Friday nights, there are five musicians. There's dancing and singing. I was mesmerized the first time I went there. I looked around and thought these people want to be here."

I asked Rabbi Lederman which questions she would have liked to have asked her day school teachers had she felt she could go 'deeper,' as she put it. She had many at the ready: "Can you be a good Jew and not believe in God? Who wrote the Bible? Why can't a woman wear a tallit and kippah? Where was God during the Holocaust? Why can't women be rabbis?"

It seems she found that last question had a thrilling answer after all – an answer she may not have expected back then.

Mira Sucharov, an associate professor of political science at Carleton University, blogs at Haaretz.com.

Immigration: Building a stronger Canada for all Canadians

Immigration has been a focus of the media, politicians and voters in recent years – in Europe and the United States, and also here in Canada. I've always been interested in the migration of people from one place to another. I have come by this interest rather honestly, as my family was on the move for more than 100 years until we reached Canada.

Today, immigration is a massive strategic opportunity, a raw asset at our disposal. Understandably, though, it has some inherent risks. With significant numbers of immigrants and refugees coming to our shores every year since the 1970s, Canada is now enjoying a growth in first- and second-generation Canadians that has boosted our population to about 35 million.

A significant proportion of Canada's population came here as immigrants. First- and second-generation immigrants form a diverse cultural and economic force, with each generation having its own unique drivers. Drivers such as ethno-cultural issues, religion and economics play important roles in day-to-day decision-making on a variety of topics impacting our nation.

While immigration and refugee laws and policies determine who can come to Canada and how they can remain here, we have little long-term data to enable lawmakers or public policy wonks to form an understanding of the unique nuances through which today's immigrants influence our economy, cultural mosaic, employment, security, health, and minority rights. There is a lack of information and statistics that would enable public and private policy makers and adopters to respond to the changes and needs that immigrants both generate and respond to.

Frankly, one of the issues that sparked my interest in taking a deeper look into statistics has been reports of dubious interest groups and foreign countries or their proxies that are reaching out to first- and second-generation immigrant young peo-

ple in our universities and communities. They are attempting to recruit them for various nefarious causes, which are at odds with the visions of economic success and personal security that brought many of their parents to Canada. I wondered why and how the immigrant vision and experience changes, but it was hard to find data to illuminate this or other related questions.

There are small independent studies, such as *Fiscal Transfers to Immigrants in Canada: Responding to Critics and a Revised Estimate*, a 2012 Fraser Institute study by Patrick Grady and Herbert Grubel, which points out, "Immigrants arriving in Canada since 1987 are not doing as well economically as immigrants who arrived before 1987."

Grady and Grubel found that immigrants who arrived in Canada between 1987 and 2004 received about \$6,000 more in government services per immigrant in 2005 than they paid in taxes. They further reported that "immigrants impose a huge fiscal burden on Canadian taxpayers of between \$16 billion and \$23 billion annually." They rejected arguments based on evidence collected that immigrants' children will be able to repay such fiscal burden.

Why? With a per capita immigration intake said to be the largest of the G20 nations, we should be able to answer such questions.

No vision can be based simply on ideals. There is a need for comprehensive historic data analysis in order to make sound policy decisions. Our multicultural approach to immigration has been in effect almost 40 years, and we are no closer to being able to quantify how each ethnic cultural group has flourished, changed, diversified or caused change for the better. We are also unable to assist any of these communities with specific economic and social needs based on long-term data. We need to be able to make public policy decisions based on facts, data, statistics and analytical models that can reliably predict trends, threats and advantages.



World Affairs

Oliver Javanpour

Obviously, Statistics Canada's information requires augmentation and the communities themselves would be a good source for information. There may be some initial resistance on the part of these communities to working closely with government, academia, or even NGOs to share such valuable information. It is critical for such efforts to remain natural and unbiased, as there will be tremendous pressures from ideological factions, interest groups, self-interested communities and business lobbies to influence such processes for their own purposes.

In order to maintain our global position as the most attractive destination for immigrants, and not simply as a place for re-shoring of human resources for business needs, we need to present an attractive picture, based on facts and figures to Canadians, who are not only the underwriters of this venture, but also assume all of the inherent risks.

A vision such as this requires federal government intervention and support. Building a body of research in this area is critical for governments to be able to understand the risks, trends and advantages that drive their success in building better lives for their families and a stronger Canada for all Canadians.

Oliver Javanpour is CEO of Cyrus Echo, a public policy and international relations consulting firm in Ottawa.

PURIM PALOOZA

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Soloway JCC • 21 Nadolny Sachs Private

FREE FOR EVERYONE. COME IN COSTUME!

10:00 Junkyard Jam with Junkyard Symphony

10:55 Purim Red Carpet Parade

11:00 The Shushan Sing-A-Long

11:20 Megillah Reading

PURIM GOODIES SERVED AFTER MEGILLAH READING



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10th Anniversary

ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL

June 6, 9, 13, 16

Auditorium

395 Wellington Street

www.israelifilmfestival.ca

Pre-Festival Event

Sponsored by the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies and Temple Israel

Israeli Cinema: The Women of Israel – A Lecture with Professor Amy Kronish

In recent years, we have been seeing more complex Israeli narrative films about women and women's issues, portraying unique stories and issues that are central to the lives of contemporary Israeli women – both Jewish and Arabs. In this lecture, we will review clips and offer analysis of the portrayal of women in recent Israeli films.

Amy Kronish writes and lectures widely on subjects dealing with contemporary Israeli society as seen through film and is the author of two books on the subject, *World Cinema: Israel*; and *Israeli Film: A Reference Guide*.

Thursday, March 7 • 7:30 pm • Free

132 Azrieli Pavilion, Carleton University

For more information please visit www1.carleton.ca/jewishstudies

The Israeli Film Festival is presented by the Canadian Film Institute and the Israeli Cultural Forum

(Soloway JCC, Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program, Embassy of Israel, Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation, Jewish Federation of Ottawa and the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University)

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Mazal Tov to:

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Lynda and Laurie Ferris on the birth of their grandson, Easton, by Rick and Helen Zipes.
Rick and Helen Zipes on the engagement of their son Kyle to Connie by Chuck and Bonnie Merovitz; and by Allan and Alyce Baker.

**THE WOMEN’S COLLECTIVE
PHILANTHROPY PROGRAM**
Providing support for services and programs that directly benefit women and children.

**WOMEN’S COLLECTIVE
ENDOWMENT FUND**
Birthday Wishes to:
Yaffa Greenbaum by Judy and Jerry Goldstein.
Jack Shinder by Judy and Jerry Goldstein.

**THE SAUL AND EDNA GOLDFARB
B’NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM**
LIEFF FAMILY B’NAI MITZVAH FUND
Mazal Tov to:
Scott and Evie Miller on Shauna’s Bat Mitzvah by Francie and Norman Lieff.

EYAL PODOLSKY B’NAI MITZVAH FUND
In Memory of:
Fejga Braun by Rony and Dekel Podolsky and family.

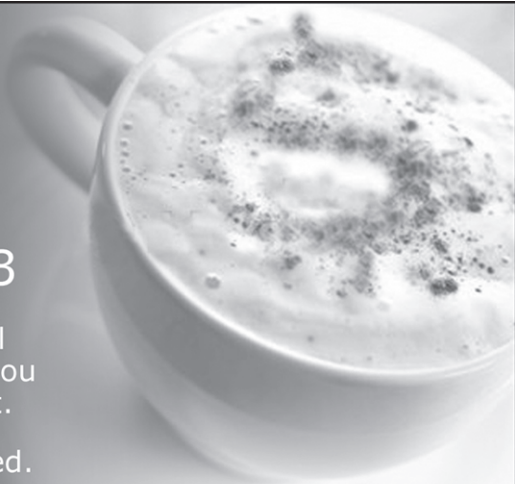
Contributions may be made online at www.OJCF.ca or by contacting Jessica Borenstein at 613-798-4696 extension 274, Monday to Friday or by email at donation@ojcf.ca. Attractive cards are sent to convey the appropriate sentiments. All donations are acknowledged with a charitable receipt. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Amex.

Power Breakfast

Wednesday,
October 16, 2013

Join us for the third annual OJCF gathering - we'll give you more than food for thought.

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Women's Collective Philanthropy Program

"Pearls of Wisdom"

Sunday
October 27, 2013
Soloway JCC, 21 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.



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Roasting with rosemary

Every summer, we plant an herb garden outside our kitchen door. Before we can even finish washing the dirt off our hands, the rabbits, voles, squirrels, moles and other assorted wildlife in our backyard have munched off the tops of the cilantro, basil and Italian parsley plants! For some reason, they shun the rosemary.

By fall, our rosemary plants are tall, healthy and quite lovely. We pot them and bring them inside to live on the kitchen windowsill for the winter. My husband has a wonderful green thumb and takes care of all the living things in our home. Each week, as he goes about his watering ritual, he asks

me the same question, "Are these rosemary plants still alive?"

I have to explain that Roger is colour-blind and has a great deal of trouble telling the difference between greens, browns and greys. So, while I see a vibrant silvery green rosemary plant, he does not. Each week, I smile and patiently answer, "Yes, dear, they are alive and well."

OK, maybe I'm not being completely honest. Perhaps every other week, I smile and give a patient answer. On alternate weeks, I'm quite likely to give a snarky sarcastic retort.

This weekly discourse has given me some pause for thought. If Roger has trouble seeing shades of grey, I worry that should I die in my sleep, he may not notice the grey pallor of my skin in the morning. It may be days before he notices I'm not alive.

I have been making a conscious effort to use up some of the rosemary on the windowsill. It has been sneaking its way into all sorts of dishes in our kitchen. Rosemary plays well with chicken, lamb, goat cheese and potatoes. I have started chopping it up and roasting it with other vegetables as well.

Last week, while shopping at Loblaws, I spotted the most adorable baby purple carrots from Babé Farms in Santa Maria, California. I picked up two bunches, each containing 12 perfect little purple gems, with their stems still intact. I had a bit of sticker shock when I got to the checkout. Each mini-bunch was \$2.99. However, by that time I was envisioning them already crispy and roasted, coated in olive oil, salt and rosemary. Mixed with some orange carrots and white parsnips, the resulting dish was as stunning as it was delicious.

The second way we have been enjoying rosemary is roasting it with butternut squash. I discovered an unusual technique on Gina Matsouka's wonderful blog, *Running to the Kitchen* (runningtothekitchen.com). Gina makes crispy squash chips. She slices the squash very thinly and then boils the slices for just a few minutes before roasting. The boiling prevents the chips from burning in the hot oven. Crispy around the edges and slightly chewy in the middle, these salty rosemary-scented chips are addictive.

I make them often as a side dish and they rarely make it to the table. Everyone keeps snacking off the roasting sheet as soon as I take it out of the oven.

Crispy Baked Butternut Squash Chips

This recipe was devised by Gina Matsoukas, creator of the delicious blog, *Running to the Kitchen*.

- 1 butternut squash
- 3 sprigs fresh rosemary, chopped
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- 3-4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

Preheat oven to 375 F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Bring a large pot of water to a boil.

Fill a large bowl with cold water and lots of ice cubes.

Peel squash and slice in half lengthwise. Scoop out any seeds in the base of the squash. Using a very sharp knife (or a mandolin if you have it), thinly slice the squash. The thinner, the better. Mine were probably about 1/8 of an inch thick.

Once sliced, boil (in batches) for 1-2 minutes. Remove from boiling water and plunge into ice bath. Let squash slices sit in ice bath for about 10 minutes. Remove slices and lay flat in a single layer on a paper towel to dry.

Pat completely dry and then transfer to baking sheet, making sure the slices don't overlap at all.

Brush with olive oil to coat and sprinkle generously with salt and pepper.

Sprinkle chopped rosemary on top and bake for 20 minutes, checking frequently after 10 minutes to make sure they don't burn. If slices are thinner than 1/8 of an inch, they won't need to bake as long.

Remove from oven once they start to brown and crisp up and immediately sprinkle with more salt.

Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

Roasted Carrots and Parsnips

Serves 4

If you are unable to find baby carrots, just add a few more regular sized carrots.

- 2 bunches baby purple carrots, washed but not peeled, tops removed
- 4 medium parsnips, peeled and cut into 3-inch-long sticks, each about 1/4 inch thick
- 4 medium carrots, peeled and cut into 3-inch-long sticks, each about 1/4 inch thick
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh rosemary (about 2 sprigs)
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt

Preheat oven to 400 F. In a large mixing bowl, toss baby carrots, parsnips, regular carrots, olive oil, rosemary and salt, until all the vegetables are well coated.

Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Spread out vegetables into a single layer. A second baking sheet may be necessary if yours is too small for the vegetables to be spread out in a single layer.

Bake for about 25-30 minutes, stirring vegetables about halfway through the cooking time, until vegetables are golden brown and tender.



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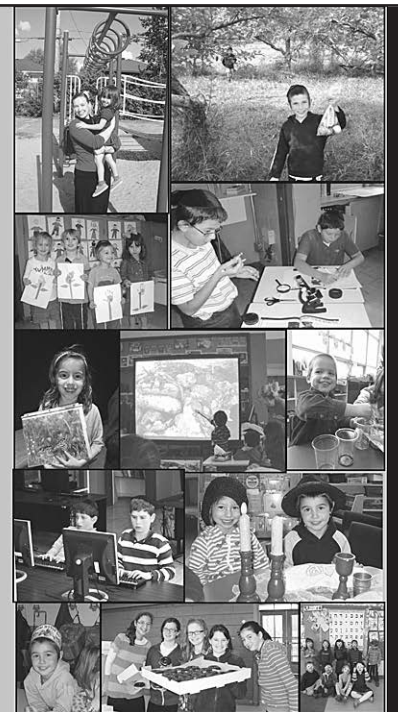
OPEN HOUSE

11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
Sunday, March 3, 2013

- ✦ Visit classrooms and tour facilities
- ✦ Activities for children provided
- ✦ Talk to administrators, faculty and parents

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Is obesity a bigger threat to our children than gun violence?

The school shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, on December 14 struck fear in the heart of every parent. It's somewhat reassuring to know that, since stricter gun controls were introduced more than 20 years ago in Canada, homicides by firearms in our country have declined. In 2010, there were 170 gun-related homicides.

In contrast, approximately 25,000 Canadians die each year from obesity and diet-related diseases. Obesity is an epidemic – not just in adults, but also in children and teenagers. In 1978, 15 per cent of Canadian children and teens were overweight or obese. Now, it's nearly one-third.

Obese children experience preventable health problems that were almost unheard of in that age group just a few decades ago: pre-diabetes, hypertension, abnormal levels of cholesterol and triglycerides and even full-blown Type 2 diabetes.

Other weight-related health issues seen in obese children include sleep apnea, asthma, musculoskeletal aches, gallstones, heartburn, fatty liver disease, early onset of puberty and eating disorders. Obese children may already have prematurely aged arteries. Psychological problems such as depression, anxiety and low self-esteem are also associated with childhood obesity.

Having these problems early in life can lead to chronic or acute health issues earlier in adulthood, such as stroke, heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, osteoarthritis, various types of cancer and mental health issues.

You may not think your child has a weight problem. As much as 75 per cent of parents underestimate the size of their overweight child. As we've become a fatter nation, our perception of what looks *normal* for adults, as well as youngsters, has become distorted.

The body mass index (BMI) is an assessment tool that indicates whether one's weight in relation to one's height is healthy. For children, the BMI calculation also factors in age and gender and provides a percentile ranking that compares a child's BMI to other children of the same age and gender. You can find an online BMI percentile calculator for children and teens at tinyurl.com/BMI-percentile.

The BMI is an indicator and not a diagnostic tool. If your child has a BMI above the 85th percentile, further assessments by a professional are advisable.

There's a strong correlation between obesity in childhood and adolescence with obesity in adulthood. Given the current trends, Statistics Canada projects that by 2040, 70 per cent of adults over the age of 40 will be overweight or obese. These are our kids they're talking about!

The greatest risk factor for childhood obesity is having two obese parents, due to a possible interplay of environment and genetics. Even children of a healthy weight have a significantly increased risk of adult obesity if one or both parents are obese.

There are socioeconomic, genetic and behavioural theories regarding causes of pediatric overweight and obesity. Even for those who have a genetic predisposition to obesity, environmental factors play a role. As parents, you have the potential to control the two key contributing environmental factors – diet and physical activity. Engaging children in a healthy lifestyle can often prevent the expression of the obesity genes and reverse damage already done.

You can help your child maintain a healthy weight. If your child is already overweight, you can prevent him from becoming obese. If your child is obese, you can help him get to a healthy weight and reduce obesity-related health risks.

What are some practical changes you can make to your



Focus on Fitness

Gloria Schwartz

child's lifestyle that would help with weight management?

Begin by taking ownership of the problem. You can't fix what you don't recognize or acknowledge. You may need to seek expertise and suggestions from doctors, dieticians and fitness professionals.

Help your children by encouraging daily physical activity. Limit tech time (computers, television, video games and cell phones) and other sedentary, non-educational activities.

Even better, be an example to your children. Practise what you preach. Put down your electronic gadgets and get active.

Many adults don't realize they lack basic knowledge about how to eat for health. You may inadvertently be feeding your children unhealthy food or over-sized portions.

Provide meals and snacks that are nutritious. Decrease access to junk food, limit take-out and restaurant meals. Get organized and invest in your family's health by providing more home-cooked meals. Not all home-cooked meals are created equal. Learn about healthy ingredients and healthy cooking techniques. Get your children involved in decision-making, grocery shopping and food preparation.

During the early years of life, children are greatly influenced by their parents. If you are active and eat right, you can instill healthy habits in your children. And, if you've made mistakes along the way, as most of us have, remember it's never too late to change. Bite-size improvements can right-size your entire family.

Gloria Schwartz is a certified personal trainer at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

Former Ottawan a leader in Jewish genealogical research

In my January 21 column, I wrote about Yizkor books, the volumes written by survivors to memorialize their hometowns in Eastern Europe, and of their great value to genealogists. I mentioned that Jerrold Landau, a native Ottawan, now of Toronto, is an authority on these books and has translated many from Hebrew or Yiddish into English. While that column credited Landau for his work, it only began to tell the story of how much he has contributed to Jewish genealogy.

While I have known Landau most of my life, as our families were close, it wasn't until 1997 that I found out how involved he was in his family history. That was around the time I was getting interested in my own genealogy, so, when I heard the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society was bringing him in to present a talk about his family, I attended.

Landau spoke very entertainingly about the relationships in his family. I was amazed at how many of his relatives I knew – although, until then, I had no idea they were cousins of his. It really seemed that Landau was related or at least somehow connected by marriage to almost everyone in Ottawa's Jewish community.

I started wondering if I would find similar things in my own family and the talk that evening was one of the motivators that pushed me to get so involved in research over the next few years.

Remarkably, when Landau began pursuing his genealogy in the 1980s before there were any databases online, most of what he gathered about his family was done the old-fashioned way, through personal interviewing, telephone calls and letter-writing.



Connecting the branches

John Diener

I spoke with Landau recently and asked how he got started. He said he was always interested in his family, but, in the late 1980s, he found he was losing touch with his second cousins. He decided to document his family lines and compiled two large family booklets, which he published for his family. That early research has continued and, as the family has grown over the years, so have the family trees. Landau, whose primary career is in software development, later helped design a website for his wife's extended family and uses social media to reach out to distant cousins.

While working on his own personal research, Landau came into contact with Joyce Field, a cousin in Indiana who was becoming involved with *JewishGen.org*. She had a 14-page Hebrew document dealing with the 1905 pogrom in Kalarash, Moldova, a town where Landau's grandmother had lived before coming to Canada. Field asked Landau to translate it.

That translation job led to more requests and Landau quickly found he was busy doing part-time, freelance translation work, which he continues doing to this day.

Landau's website – jerroldlandau.com – shows he has worked on more than 40 Yizkor books as well as on more than 50 translations of *Pinkas Hakehillot* encyclopedia articles. The website lists all of these works and links directly to the translations, which mostly appear at *JewishGen.org*. I believe he has done more of this type of work than anyone else.

Landau told me the Yizkor books are more than just details of what happened to communities during the Holocaust. They are rich with prewar stories and paint a good picture of life in the shtetl before, during and sometimes after the war. They tell the stories of the Jews and, at times, tales of gentiles who saved Jews. Like many genealogists so immersed in the history of their ancestral towns, Landau eventually travelled to Poland in 2009, and again in 2012, to see first-hand where his ancestors lived. On those trips, he also visited several of the towns whose Yizkor books he'd worked on to touch base with local historians.

Over the years, Landau has presented lectures on genealogy to various societies and organizations in Canada and beyond. With his wealth of knowledge and experience, he speaks on a variety of topics related to genealogy. His services are also available as a translator for Yizkor books, letters, articles or gravestone inscriptions. He can also serve as a consultant for those beginning their research or looking for different ways to research, and can advise those planning trips to their ancestral shtetlach.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Ottawa hopes to bring Landau to Ottawa to speak sometime this year. Meanwhile, he can be reached at jerrold@jerroldlandau.com.

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem invites you to

Nominate a Holocaust Survivor

to receive national recognition at the
2013 National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony on
Tuesday, April 23, 2013, in Ottawa.

Holocaust Survivors are the heroes of our generation.

Having endured unimaginable horrors in the Holocaust, they rebuilt their lives in Canada, contributing to its growth, with strength, courage, and dignity.

Canadian Society for
Yad Vashem

The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority

FRAN SONSHINE, NATIONAL CHAIR
YARON ASHKENAZI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"Truly remembering the Holocaust must also be an understanding and an undertaking. It is an understanding that the same threats exist today. It is an undertaking of a solemn responsibility to fight those threats. ...The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem works in the service of a cause of the greatest importance to our country and to the world."

Prime Minister Harper

2012 National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony

To nominate a Holocaust Survivor, please send the Survivor's name, photo, and story (500-750 words) to the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, 265 Rimrock Road, Suite 218, Toronto, Ontario M3J 3C6.

Nomination Deadline: February 28, 2013

For more information, email klara@yadvashem.ca or call 416-785-1333.

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem

(www.yadvashem.ca)
The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem is one of the largest and most prominent societies among Yad Vashem's 28 representative bodies worldwide. The Society supports Yad Vashem's initiatives and implements its important vision across Canada. Through its educational and commemorative activities, the Society carries out Yad Vashem's mission of ensuring that the Holocaust and its lessons are forever engraved in the memory of humankind.

Yad Vashem (www.yadvashem.org)

Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, in Jerusalem, is the universal guardian and imparter of the *Shoah's* (Holocaust's) legacy and the protector of human values. Visited by more than one million people annually, Yad Vashem is internationally recognized as being at the forefront of Holocaust commemoration, education, documentation, and research.

The National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony

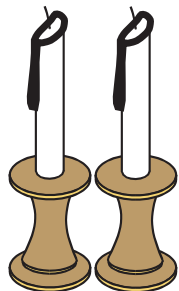
With the enactment of the Holocaust Memorial Day Act S.C. 2003, C.24, and the establishment of a National Holocaust Remembrance Day by the Parliament of Canada, the Government of Canada signaled once more its longstanding commitment to ensuring that the lessons of the Holocaust are enshrined in the hearts and minds of Canadians.

Since that time, the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem has had the privilege of leading a *Zachor* (Remembrance) coalition, a group of organizations committed to Holocaust commemoration and education, in coordinating a National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony on behalf of the Government of Canada.

WHAT'S GOING ON

February 18 to March 3, 2013

For more community listings,
visit jewishottawa.com
Select "Click to see
more months"



CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE

Feb 22	☆	5:18 pm
Mar 1	☆	5:28 pm
Mar 8	☆	6:38 pm
Mar 15	☆	6:47 pm
Mar 22	☆	6:56 pm
FIRST SEDER		
Mar 25	☆	7:00 pm
SECOND SEDER		
Mar 26		AFTER
	☆	8:04 pm
Mar 29	☆	7:05 pm

WEEKLY EVENTS MONDAYS

Motorin Munchkins drop-in program for children 5 and under. Kids expend lots of energy, supervised by a parent or guardian, 9:00 am to 11:45 am. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 294.

Chaverim, offered by Jewish Family Services for Jewish seniors with mild cognitive impairment. 2255 Carling Avenue, 11:00 am. Info: 613-722-2225, ext. 392.

TUESDAYS

Israeli Folkdancing: No experience or partner necessary, Ottawa Jewish Community School, 881 Broadview Avenue, 6:30 pm. Info: judy@ottawaisraelidance.ca.

WEDNESDAYS

Drop-in Playgroup for newborn to 3 years old. Parents and kids romp and play and make new friends, 9:00 to

11:00 am. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 294.

FRIDAYS

Shabbat Shalom for children 5 years and under, sponsored by the SJCC's Family Life Centre. Bracha Bear welcomes the Sabbath with your children as they learn about Shabbat and other holidays through crafts, songs, stories and games. All children must be supervised by an adult. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 294.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

SJCC's Purim Palooza, held jointly with SJCC summer camp, Talmud Torah Afternoon School and Ottawa Modern Jewish School, featuring Junkyard Symphony, costume parade, sing-a-long, a Megillah reading and snacks, 10:00 am. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 303.

Shalom Ottawa community television show on Rogers 22,

12:00 pm. Repeats Monday, February 25 and Friday, March 1 at 6:00 pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 Torah Academy of Ottawa

Open House, 1119 Lazard Street, 10:00 am. Info: 613-274-0110.

Sixth Annual Klezmer Concert in support of the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank, co-spon-

sored by Congregation Adath Shalom, Agudath Israel Congregation, Congregation Beth Shalom, Or Haneshamah, Temple Israel, 151 Chapel Street, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-234-1649.

COMING SOON

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Montreal Yiddish Theatre Singers: Enjoy a *freilach* afternoon of Broadway and Yiddish theatre tunes, followed by the presentation of the Ethel Cooper Yiddish Award of Excellence by Prof. Rebecca Margolis of the University of Ottawa, 2:00 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 254.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

PJ Library Family Passover Program, co-sponsored with the Ottawa Jewish Community School: "Let My People Play: A Plethora of Plagues." Activities for children aged up to 6 years,

31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 10:00 am. Info: 613-722-0020.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

Ottawa Women's Seder 2013: Jewish Women Against Domestic Abuse, presented by caring Jewish women supporting options for women at risk. Congregation Agudath Israel, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 5:00 pm. Info and tickets: 613-798-4696, ext. 253.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

Community Yom HaShoah 2013 with keynote speaker, survivor George Salton. Everyone welcome. 7:00 pm. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 253.

Unless otherwise noted, activities take place at The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Jewish Ottawa InfoCentre. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should send the information to InfoCentre coordinator Benita Siemiatycki via e-mail at bsiemiatycki@jewishottawa.com or fax at 613-798-4695. She can also be reached by telephone at 613-798-4644. Accurate details must be provided and all events must be open to the Jewish public.

Condolences

Condolences are extended to the families of:

Yaël Grimberg

Annie Rose

Leonard Sabloff, Montreal (father and father-in-law of Mitchell and Rena)

Robert (Bob) Smolkin, Toronto (brother and brother-in-law of David and Tova Smolkin)

Milton Viner

May their memory be a blessing always.

The
CONDOLENCE
COLUMN

is offered
as a public service
to the community.

There is no charge.

For a listing
in this column,
please call
613-798-4696,
ext. 274.

Voice mail is available.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

FEBRUARY 27
FOR MARCH 18

MARCH 12
FOR APRIL 8

APRIL 3
FOR APRIL 22

APRIL 17
FOR MAY 6

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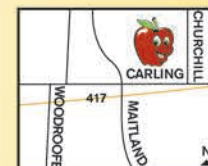
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