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Remembering Bea Hock page 14

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Or Haneshamah hires its first permanent rabbi

Will be first female rabbi to lead an Ottawa congregation

By Michael Regenstreif

In what is a confluence of several 'firsts,' Or Haneshamah (OrH), Ottawa's Reconstructionist congregation, has announced the hiring of Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton as its spiritual leader. Rabbi Bolton expects to be resident in Ottawa and serving OrH by July.

Rabbi Bolton will be the first permanent rabbi in the 25-year history of the congregation, which was known as the Ottawa Reconstructionist Havurah until it took the name Or Haneshamah in 2010. She is also the first female and first openly gay rabbi hired to be spiritual leader of an Ottawa congregation.

The rabbinate was a second career for Rabbi Bolton, who was born in Montreal, "where I had a wonderful, Jewish upbringing," she told the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* in a telephone interview from her home in Baltimore, Maryland, where she served as the first permanent spiritual leader of Congregation Beit Tikvah from 1999 to 2012.

After attaining a bachelor's de-

gree in music and women's studies from Concordia University, she trained in opera in Canada and Austria and embarked on a successful career as a singer and singing teacher in Montreal and then Toronto in the 1980s.

Soon after her 1985 move to Toronto, she was hired as a High Holy Days singer at Holy Blossom Temple, Canada's largest Reform congregation. She later served as cantorial soloist at Toronto's Temple Emanu-El and studied chazanut with the renowned Cantor Louis Danto.

While she considered becoming a cantor, she was drawn to the rabbinate and to the Reconstructionist movement, and entered the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia. Following six years of study, Rabbi Bolton was ordained in 1996.

After more than two decades in the United States, Rabbi Bolton, a single mother of two, said she is returning to Canada and moving to Ottawa and the post at OrH "with glee" and is looking forward to



Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton has been named Or Haneshamah's first permanent rabbi.

working with the congregation, with the broader Jewish community, and with the greater Ottawa community. In Baltimore, she was involved in inter-faith dialogue and GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual,

transsexual) initiatives and is looking forward to continuing that work here.

Asked about her acceptance as a woman rabbi by peers from more traditional denominations, Rabbi

Bolton noted she has served for the past 13 years in Baltimore, home to a largely traditional Jewish community, where she was welcomed as a colleague by Orthodox members of

(Continued on page 2)

OJCS parents step forward to support increased tuition fees

By Alex Baker

Tuition fees at the Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS) are rising for the 2013-2014 school year as a component of the school's five-year plan to achieve financial sustainability.

Despite the controversy caused by the tuition increase, many within the OJCS parents' community regard the increase as a

necessity.

"Most other private schools have a built-in five per cent increase in tuition," said Joanne Tannenbaum, a mother of three, including two now at OJCS and the youngest set to move from the Ganon Preschool to OJCS kindergarten next year. "It's a given that costs go up, salaries go up, cost of living goes up, and we're not exempt from

that. If I have to choose, paying more for a better, quality product is a non-issue."

Ken Sokoloff, whose children are in Grades 8 and 10 and have been in the OJCS system since kindergarten, agrees.

"My reaction to the tuition going up is the same as my reaction to property taxes going up, or gas prices going up – it's a fact of life," he said.

Despite this sense of resignation from some parents, the increase is still a lightning rod of controversy.

"A commitment is required from the parents of the school to show they are willing to pay their fair share of the cost of education," said Nathan Smith, a former OJCS board member and father of two OJCS

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'I want to pay for the best' when it comes to education

(Continued from page 1)

students. "The tuition plan is great – for people at the low end of the scale, it's an arguably non-existent increase and, at the high end, it's closer to the true cost of education. It's high time that cost is better reflected in the tuition."

Under the new sliding-scale model, the base tuition will rise from \$10,520 this school year to between \$10,800 and \$12,900, depending on family income. There are also increasingly greater tuition discounts for second, third and fourth children from the same family. As well, there is a tuition assistance program for families – at all income levels – in need of assistance or who could not otherwise afford to send their children to the OJCS.

The increase will bring tuition fees closer to the true cost of educating a student at the OJCS, reported to be \$14,500 this year.

Even parents amenable to the tuition fee increase admit the cost is high.

"I can see where the cost could be a deterrent for many people," said Dina Sokoloff, Ken's wife. "I know many people who would love to be able to send their kids there, but just can't afford it."

However, Sabrina Bercovitch, a mother with two – soon to be three – children in the OJCS system, believes there's always a way.

"Even if we couldn't afford it, we would find a way," she said. "Does that mean sacrificing holidays? Well, that's exactly what happened. So, maybe, we don't get to take our kids to Disneyland this year. They'll go next year. We've explained that to them, and they're OK with it. This is an investment in their future."

Dina Sokoloff noted some parents have



Grade 4 students at the Ottawa Jewish Community School recently completed a project in which each interviewed a resident of Hillel Lodge twice to learn about his or her life. On March 13, the students visited Hillel Lodge and held a ceremony to present their projects to the residents.

Student Joshua Zeldin is pictured presenting his project to Lodge resident Harry Cogan.

expressed resistance to the sliding scale formula because it means divulging their incomes.

"There is a sliding scale, but people are hesitant to apply and disclose their income, to give their personal information – people don't like that idea," she said.

Others, though, note using the sliding scale will mean savings for their families.

"I'm looking at three children being there next year and we'll have the scaled tuition. We'll likely be applying for that," said Bercovitch. "I still think it's very reason-

able – with the cost of each student they've laid out for us, it's a great quality of education for the money."

Indeed, with tuition fees reportedly exceeding \$18,000 to \$20,000 at such Ottawa-area private schools as Turnbull Academy or Ashbury College, OJCS may well be the best bang for parental buck in Ottawa's private school landscape.

"In this world, if you want something good, it doesn't come for free. If you want to haggle or bargain and cut corners, you'll get a product that is less than ideal," said

Tannenbaum.

"I wouldn't do that in my day-to-day life, and, when it comes to my kids' education, I want to pay for the best, if that's what they're offering."

One thing parents agree on is the quality of education. From the improvement of the French program up to immersion standards, to the more accessible Hebrew and Torah education, to the greater emphasis on music and physical activity, the OJCS is setting a new bar.

"Nobody makes a commitment to go to OJCS because it's cheap," said Smith. "The reality is that's not why we send our kids there. The discussion has to be centred on why you send your kids for Jewish education."

At the end of the day, going to a Jewish school with other Jews and learning about Jewish culture is paramount.

"It can be difficult being Jewish in our society – there are challenges," said Ken Sokoloff. "Hopefully, OJCS can give my children the tools to deal with it. There's a lot of ignorance about Jews, and I don't think Jews should be ignorant about themselves."

"It gives a confidence and self-awareness, so they know where they come from. It's just important in terms of the survival of the Jewish people in general," Dina Sokoloff added.

"That's something you can't get at other private schools, even if the quality of education is as good. You're not getting the priorities and the common culture that is fostered at our school. You're not going to have kids marrying other Jewish kids, if they're not exposed to that culture," said Tannenbaum.

OrH is 'very excited'

(Continued from page 1)

the Baltimore Board of Rabbis.

"There is a sense of mutuality and respect accorded, as is appropriate," she said. "I have very comfortably consulted with Orthodox and Conservative colleagues. We have also studied together ... and engaged together in a lot of social issues ... and, where there are differences, we don't gloss them over."

Asked about her initial priorities on taking up her post at OrH, Rabbi Bolton said "Listening, listening and singing" were at the top of her agenda.

"Assessing our strengths, learning more about the needs of the community and developing a shared understanding of our visions, goals and values as the Reconstructionist congregation in Ottawa," she elaborated.

For most of its history, all services at OrH were led by members of the congregation. Beginning nine years ago, though, the congregation has worked with a series of visiting rabbinical students who typically would be in Ottawa for the High Holidays and for one weekend Shabbaton per month through the year. Now, OrH, whose membership currently numbers about 75 families, is looking

forward to welcoming its first permanent rabbi.

"We're very excited we're going to have her with us," OrH hiring committee spokesperson Mark Dermer told the *Bulletin*.

Dermer said the congregation decided to hire a permanent rabbi to meet the ongoing pastoral needs of the congregation and because the normal rhythms of a congregation could not be compressed into two days per month.

The dynamics of the congregation will change, Dermer predicted.

"The important aspects of having the rabbi as teacher, rabbi as pastoral support, rabbi as [an expression of] identity of the congregation for how Or Haneshamah connects with the rest of Ottawa's Jewish community, and also how Or Haneshamah connects with the network of 105 Reconstructionist congregations across North America – all of that builds diversity and strength," Dermer said.

With a permanent rabbi, Dermer added, OrH will now be able to normalize such life-cycle events as marriages, "which don't normally happen in the purview of a Shabbaton," and funerals, which can happen at any time.



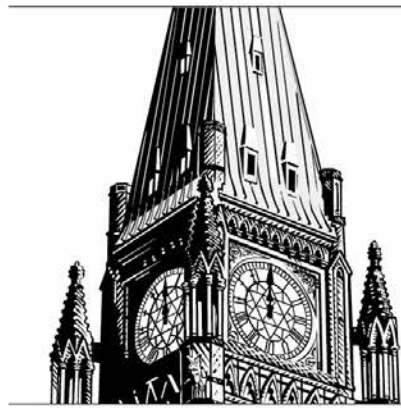
Obama visits Israel

U.S. President Barack Obama plants a tree with Israeli President Shimon Peres at Peres' Jerusalem residence, March 20.

(Photo: Moshe Milner/GOP/JTA)

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If not now, when? Responsibility and memory after the Holocaust

By Shawna Dolansky
Zelikovitz Centre for
Jewish Studies

Carleton University's Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies will be hosting *If Not Now, When? Responsibility and Memory After the Holocaust*, a public conference in recognition of Canada's assumption of the chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), on April 24 and 25.

"If not now, when?" comes from the single most recognizable saying from Jewish tradition about responsibility to self and

other: "If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?" said Rabbi Hillel. It will be a key refrain throughout the conference, speaking to this sense of responsibility and memory of the Holocaust as not only a question for the Jewish people, but for the whole world.

The purpose of this conference is to bring together jurists, MPs, Holocaust studies scholars, survivors and other public figures around the IHRA mandate of remembrance, education and research. We hope this conference will generate further public discourse on the importance of Holocaust education and the preservation of Holocaust memory.

MP Irwin Cotler will be the keynote speaker on April 24. Other notable speakers include IHRA Chair Mario Silva, Citizen-



MP Irwin Cotler to deliver the keynote address at conference.

ship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney, and Irving Abella, co-author of *None Is Too Many*. The conference will also feature art exhibits, panels on religion in public life, chaired by MP Mark Adler; anti-discrimination legislation, chaired by Andrew Bennett, head of



International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Chair Mario Silva (left) and Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney are among the speakers at a conference on Holocaust remembrance and education, April 24-25, at Carleton University. (Photo courtesy of Citizenship and Immigration Canada)

Canada's new Office of Religious Freedom; and presentations of research by professors from Carleton and other North American universities.

The conference will highlight interdisciplinary approaches to Holocaust studies, a key strength of the Zelikovitz Centre. Researchers affiliated with the Zelikovitz Centre who will present their work include Hymie Anisman on trauma, Jennifer Evans on memorializing the Holocaust, Michael Dorland on his 2009 book, *Cadaverland*, Michael Wohl on multi-generational legacies of victimization, and Conference Chair Deidre Butler on integrating the Holocaust into Jewish femi-

nist thought. There will also be panels of graduate students from Carleton and other universities, which will present research related to Jewish culture and identity after the Holocaust, as well as the Holocaust, and Holocaust denial, in cyberspace and digital media.

Registration will open soon and we hope the community will join us. Visit the conference website at carleton.ca/memory or contact us at carletonholocaustconference@gmail.com for more information.

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Talking with Ottawa Jewish community leaders

Steven Fremeth:

‘The best way to get involved is to volunteer’

By Benita Siemiatycki

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.

While Ottawa's Jewish community boasts many former Montrealers, along with transplants from other Canadian cities, there are not many who grew up in a small French Canadian village in the Laurentians. Steven Fremeth was among the third generation of his family to grow up in Ste-Sophie-New Glasgow, where his brother, Irwin, still runs the family farm.

Steven, though, opted not to become a farmer. He attended high school and university in Montreal, where he met his wife, Roz.

Thirty-five years ago, the Fremeths moved to Ottawa, where Steven has established a successful dentistry practice. He originally came to Ottawa for a position at CHEO, where he helped open a new out-patient dental clinic for children with chronic or serious conditions who needed treatment in a hospital

setting. He still visits CHEO a half-day per week.

The move to Ottawa, “The best thing we ever did,” he said, led to decades of volunteering in the Jewish community.

“It was a priority for Roz and me to get involved here, and the best way to get involved is to volunteer,” he said.

Steven's first foray into volunteering was initiated by Bernie Dolansky who invited a group of Jewish health professionals to his home in an effort to start the dental and medical divisions of fundraising for the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'ir (now the Jewish Federation of Ottawa). As a result of that meeting, Steven canvassed for the dental division for many years. He also became active in the Bytown Lodge of B'nai Brith, which led to many lasting friendships.

Steven was instrumental in moving Hillel Academy to the west end with the purchase of St. Joseph's Junior High School on Broadview Avenue in 1983, and was active in the capital campaign to bring the purchase to fruition. Along with other community leaders, he also worked on planning the Jewish Community Campus and the opening of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre there in 1998. And he helped out with selling Israel Bonds.

But Steven's greatest source of pride is his involvement in the creation of Congregation Beth Shalom West, now Beit Tikvah, which was completed debt-free.

“We built it with the money we had, not with money we didn't have,” he explained. “We made this happen.”

The synagogue is still a spiritual and communal hub for the Orthodox community in the west end.

Within the secular community, Steven joined other dentists 15 years ago, when it became apparent that CHEO's dental patients needed something similar after they turned 18. They approached the Ottawa Hospital with a proposal and space was given for a dental out-patient clinic at the Civic, which the dentists designed and staffed.

Steven said he was inspired by his parents' volunteerism in Ste-Sophie. But his greatest inspiration is Roz, who he feels has contributed more to the Jewish community than he has. She is currently president of the Hillel Lodge Auxiliary and has served many other organizations over the years.

In identifying community strengths, Steven said it's the men and women who give their time without hesitation. He refers to both professional staff and volunteers. But he

fears it's also our greatest weakness, as he doesn't see the younger generation stepping up to the same degree as their parents. Even in fundraising, he notices the younger generation wants more control over where their donation dollars go within the community. While he understands, he wants more trust given to the people who allocate funds that the money will be distributed fairly. He fears what will happen to the smaller, less visible organizations if that trend continues. Another

challenge he sees is the viability of the Ottawa Jewish Community School.

The greatest opportunity for growth, he believes, is Camp B'nai Brith. In his experience, whether children go to public or Jewish day schools is irrelevant, when they become friends at camp. They form lifelong bonds with each other, and to the community. He said his two adult sons' closest friends are from camp and that the camp experience often leads to leadership roles as adults.

Notice of Annual General Meeting



The Jewish Federation of Ottawa will hold its 79th Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the Social Hall

of the Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building. The entire Jewish community of Ottawa is invited to attend.

Section 17.1B of the by-laws state that “At least thirty (30) days before the annual general meeting, the board of directors shall send the Nominating Committee report to each Full Member and invite each Full Member to provide the President and Chief Executive Officer, at least fourteen (14) days before the annual meeting, the name of any additional candidates which he/she wishes to nominate, together with a letter of support from five (5) other Full Members of the Corporation and a statement by the candidate of interest and qualifications.”

At the June 6, 2012, Annual General Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, the following individuals were elected to serve a term of two (2) years, ending June 2014, as members of the Board of Directors:

Jennifer Kardash
Phillip Stein
Michael Shahin
Mark Thaw

The following individuals are nominated to serve a term of two (2) years as members of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, serving to June 2015:

Steven Kimmel – Chair
Linda Kerzner – Vice Chair

Stuart Ages
Jason Shinder
Lauren Bronstein, Emerging Generation Representative

The Chair has indicated that he will appoint two (2) individuals to serve as members at large of the Board of Directors.

Ex-officio members of the Board of Directors include:

Debbie Halton-Weiss Immediate Past Chair
Neil Zaret Chair of Jewish Community Campus
Andrea Freedman President and CEO

The Full Members of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa include one representative of each funded agency; each of the Pulpit Rabbis; a representative of each community synagogue; a representative of every local Jewish community organization that is not a funded agency; and the Chair of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation.

In addition, the Board of Directors will appoint fifteen (15) Full Members at Large within thirty (30) days of the AGM. The Full Members are responsible for electing the Board of Directors and for approving the Strategic and Business Plans.

Please address any questions to Jeff Bradshaw at 613-798-4696, ext 297 or at jbradshaw@jewishottawa.com



Steven Fremeth in the waiting room of his dental office. (Photo: Benita Siemiatycki)

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.

Sustaining our Jewish day school for future generations

Over the last several months, I have had the opportunity to speak and meet with many people within the community, sharing the successes and exciting future direction of the Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS).

With each conversation, the question I was asked most frequently was, “What’s different?”

Walking through the halls of the OJCS, it doesn’t take long to find the answer. What you find is an engaged student body and an incredible teaching staff. With an alignment between a strong leadership structure, an enhanced curriculum and a clear path to financial sustainability, our school is positioned for success.

It took much patience, tenacity, vision and leadership to bring the school from good to great, and much of what you see today is a result of our dedicated faculty, committed parent body and tremendous community support.

But our work is not done.

This year and beyond, the board, together with the administration, will focus on recruitment and development. And, hopefully, all of you reading this will play



Federation Report

Lisa Miller
OJCS

a part, too. We want to continue promoting the Ottawa Jewish Community School as a top-of-the-line academic institution, a compelling place for parents to send their children, so that we drive enrolment higher and higher.

We are in the process of hiring a dedicated resource person to help us achieve this goal by developing a targeted recruitment plan we will implement over the next five years. The more students we have, the more programs and resources the school will be able to offer – and everyone benefits.

Development is critical as well. In order to reflect the true cost of educating a child at the OJCS, and to meet our goal of financial sustainability, our tuition structure has changed. The cost of an OJCS

education is worth every penny – I sincerely believe that.

But the financial burden for many is great, and even those families who are strongly committed to Jewish education are now faced with difficult decisions. Fundraising dollars will help to increase the pool of financial support we can offer families at all levels.

In response to the recently announced changes in tuition, much focus has been placed on how tuition is charged in other communities as a comparison. It is important to note that, while some schools offer a lower tuition, many of the schools being compared benefit from provincial subsidies not available to private day schools in Ontario. Other schools, like the Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto, are using donor funds to offer targeted subsidies that will benefit new families with students entering kindergarten to Grade 2 at the school’s North campus.

Recognizing the financial burden on our families with multiple children, our school has implemented a tuition support scholarship program, offering a discount of \$1,000 for each subsequent child in a

family. This program is for families who are not otherwise receiving tuition assistance. As we move forward, we will continue to work on achieving the delicate balance between finding creative ways to lessen the financial burden on our families and positioning ourselves to achieve financial sustainability.

The board did not take the decision to raise tuition lightly – quite the opposite, in fact. A great deal of time, effort and research was dedicated to making the best decisions for the future of our school.

Our ultimate goal, which we believe the community and our families share, is to ensure the Ottawa community is able to sustain a Jewish day school for our and future generations.

No doubt this will continue to be an uphill battle as we strive to minimize the impact of the challenges ahead. But the future is bright for OJCS. And, with the generous support of our donors and the continued trust and commitment of our parent body and our community, we can rise to the challenge, continue to dialogue and together see our community school thrive.

Mazal Tov to the State of Israel on its 65th birthday

Next week, the State of Israel will celebrate its 65th birthday. As one who was born the same year Israel was created, I know it is easy to think of 65 as closer to the final chapter of one’s life than the first. However, Israel is not a person. It is a vibrant country whose final chapters are nowhere near ready to be written.

As we celebrate Israel’s accomplishments, argue about its present direction, debate its future, and wonder about its place in the world, it’s not inappropriate to focus on its origins. Not just its modern origins, perhaps all too often we forget the power of Eretz Yisrael to mould the Jewish mind, Jewish soul and Jewish people.

Much could be said to demonstrate the centrality of the Land of Israel as an emic category that pervades the ritualistic arena of Jewish practice. My colleague and friend, Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman, has referred to Eretz Yisrael as Israel’s sacred myth. “The central feature of the myth is the contrast between its beginning and its end, the former presenting the ‘problem’ and the latter the ‘solution,’” he writes.

Rabbi Hoffman suggests the former was that the Israelites were wanderers seeking a place to settle and the latter was they end up as settlers in the Promised Land flowing with “milk and honey.”

They began their story independently with “a fugitive Aramean,” no mention of divine providence here, but finish the tale as God’s people, for as the Haggadah tells us, “God heard our pleas, saw our plight and brought us to this place and gave us this land.”



From the pulpit

Rabbi
Steven Garten
Temple Israel

Our roots as a people are planted firmly in the mythic theme of a land. Scholars tell us the ancient Rabbis redefined the covenant in terms of Torah and Sinai and that they messaged the original Haggadah ritual to omit the phrase, “He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Wherefore I now bring the first fruits of the soil which You, O God, have given me.”

In fact, while today our foundation myths revolve around Mount Sinai and the Revelation, so much of our ritual remains focused on the pivotal centrality of the Land of Israel. In the Amidah, in the continued celebration of pilgrimage festivals which highlight the bringing of gifts to Jerusalem, in the blessings we recite over food that often single out the fruits and grains produced in the Land of Israel, the central theme enunciated is from *wandering* to *landedness*.

While many of us have adopted Jewish lifestyles that do not include daily ritual observance, and many of us have adopted Jewish lives that seem, on the surface, to be non-religious, the truth is all who call themselves Jews are inheritors of this central theme. Our families were all wander-

ers. They may not have been Arameans, but they all came from somewhere else searching for *landedness*. We may have landed in North or South America, they may have landed in European cities, which, unfortunately, turned us into wanderers again, but no matter where we landed it was simply a replacement for the preferred destination: Eretz Yisrael.

On the 65th birthday of the modern State of Israel, we who call ourselves Jews must once again affirm that our Jewish souls are built and infused with a divine gift of the Land of Israel. This birthday, let us put aside the important arguments that

divide us. This birthday, let us marginalize the significant divisions within our community over borders, army service, the role of women, pluralism and social responsibilities in the State of Israel, and celebrate our Jewish inheritance. There will be many more years to argue, disagree and even debate.

This year, let us affirm our intention to visit Israel. This year, let us celebrate the marvels and wonders of the past six decades.

This year, let us say “Mazal Tov!” on the occasion of 65 hard fought years and truly mean it.



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Obama visit points to a more hopeful Yom Ha'Atzmaut

The big story in the Jewish world during our final production days for this edition of the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* was the three-day visit to Israel by U.S. President Barack Obama. We have photos and news items from the first two days of the visit on pages 2, 12 and 17.

As I write on March 22, we have just received breaking news that Obama concluded his time in Israel by brokering a rapprochement between Israel and Turkey. Obama's last 30 minutes in Israel were spent with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a trailer on the runway at Ben-Gurion Airport as they spoke with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

"Prime Minister Netanyahu expressed an apology to the Turkish people for any error that may have led to the loss of life, and agreed to complete the agreement for compensation," an official Israeli statement said about the incident on the *Mavi Marmara*, a Turkish boat attempting to breach Israel's naval blockade of Gaza on May 31, 2010. It was this incident that precipitated the break in relations between Israel and Turkey, which were once allies.

The Israeli statement noted that Netanyahu and Erdoğan agreed to restore normal relations, including returning their ambassadors to their posts.

Also on his final day, Obama paid solemn visits to Yad Vashem and to the graves of assassinated prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Theodor Herzl, the



Editor

**Michael
Regenstreif**

founder of modern Zionism. Obama placed a stone on Rabin's grave that he brought from the foot of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington.

At Yad Vashem, Obama spoke words that are so very relevant at this time of year as we mark Yom HaShoah on April 7-8 and Yom Ha'Atzmaut on April 15-16.

"Here we hope," Obama said at Yad Vashem following a tour and after laying a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance.

"Because, after you walk through these halls, after you pass through the darkness, there is light – a glorious view of the Jerusalem forest, with the sun shining over the historic homeland of the Jewish people; a fulfillment of the prophecy: 'You shall live again ... upon your own soil,'" he said. "Here, on your ancient land, let it be said for all the world to hear: The State of Israel does not exist because of the Holocaust. But, with the survival of a strong Jewish State of Israel, such a Holocaust will never happen again."

Throughout his visit, the American president reiterated his strong support for



U.S. President Barack Obama in the Hall of Remembrance at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, March 22.
(Photo: Uriel Sinai/Getty Images)

Israel and the unbreakable bonds that exist between the United States and Israel, and of the need for a two-state solution. Obama also spoke honestly to both Israelis and Palestinians about the imperative of coming to a peace agreement and of overcoming the reasons and rationales that have kept them from the negotiating table over the past four years.

In the end, the Obama trip was about

hope, of *tikvah*, for the future. To that end, the resolution with Turkey is hugely significant.

Despite all of the cruel realities of the Middle East, this Yom Ha'Atzmaut does seem ever so slightly more hopeful than any in recent memory.

I look forward to celebrating Yom Ha'Atzmaut with you on April 16 at the Ernst & Young Centre.

Senate appointment better than winning the lottery

With the future of the Senate of Canada once again the subject of debate, I can recall my first contact with the Senate. It was not favourable.

I was in university and had a summer job researching amateur sport coverage. My research took me to Toronto where I found myself checking into the Royal York Hotel. Suddenly, I heard a commotion in front of me. It was an elderly man berating the hotel employee.

"What do you mean my room is not ready? Don't who know who I am? I am a senator of the Government of Canada. I don't have time to waste being told my room is not ready," he said. His face turned this really ugly red as the indignation level rose with every angry word.

In 1980, when I arrived in Ottawa in 1980 to cover politics, I saw the Senate first hand and couldn't get over the scope of entitlement. It was a joke among all that being named to the Senate was far better than winning a lottery. A not-so-taxing job for life, an office staff, travel expenses and, when it was all over at 75, one of the finest pensions the government had to offer.

As we know, there had been a long tradition of people who had done a lot of



**Jason
Moscovitz**

work for either the Liberals or Conservatives – depending on which was currently in power – getting Senate seats. It was almost automatic that former party presidents got seats and those who had paid their dues by doing any number of political tasks were usually rewarded. But these men and women, at the time mostly men, were, in fairness, usually older in age and their longevity in the Senate was limited by mandatory retirement at 75.

For years, both political parties ran the Senate that way, and there was no real public outcry until Pierre Trudeau was preparing to leave politics. In the early-1980s, a new age of cynicism began to eat away at whatever respectability the Senate could cling to.

Trudeau had a chief adviser for years named Jim Coutts. One day, he thought Coutts should be in his cabinet, but first

he had to find him a seat. The election had just been held, so why not ask an MP to resign and force a by-election. And why not ask an MP in Toronto who happened to hold a safe Liberal seat? That MP was Peter Stollery.

Stollery was eager to say "yes." He was 46 years old. His job-for-life in the Senate would mean a great guaranteed pay for 29 years without ever having to work to be re-elected.

Somehow, though, the voters in that safe Liberal Toronto riding turned on the Liberals with a vengeance and Trudeau's candidate was soundly defeated. You might have thought Trudeau had learned a lesson.

But his patronage list when he left office a couple of years later in 1984 included a slew of new Liberal senators in their early-40s. When questioned, Trudeau said the only people who care who is appointed to the Senate are "the hacks in the Press Gallery."

Brian Mulroney followed, and the door was wide open to appointing young senators. Jean Chrétien actually went back to appointing mostly older people closer to retirement. While Prime Minister Stephen Harper has appointed both younger and

older senators, his most memorable appointment was 34-year-old Patrick Brazeau in 2009. In theory, Brazeau can be a senator for 41 years. Imagine, 41 years of guaranteed income. An all-time record for sure! It's an appointment Harper can never be proud of – regardless of how Brazeau's legal and housing expense issues are resolved.

Why is age important? Until the Supreme Court rules otherwise, the Senate remains hard to reform or abolish through normal constitutional means. Therefore, if it is to have any sense of respectability, why not restrict appointments to retired people from a mix of professions who are not there to have a job for life, but rather to give something back?

I recall interviewing a number of Trudeau's young Senate appointees in 1984. They all went on about how they earned their appointments. But there was an answer from one of them that stuck with me.

The question was, "What went through your mind when the prime minister offered you a Senate seat?"

After a long delay, the 40-year-old senator replied, "I thought about what was in it for me."

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Ottawa Jewish Community School

As a parent of children at the Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS), the school plays an important role in our family.

The school's new tuition model ("OJCS embarks on five-year plan to achieve financial sustainability," *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*, March 4) will effectively increase the cost of tuition for middle income families of \$175,000 to \$250,000 gross income by 15 to 22 per cent. The majority of families fall into that category with two working parents being the most common situation. In addition, the sliding scale only provides a very marginal sibling discount of \$500 to \$900. Therefore, such middle income families with three children, for example, can expect to pay between \$34,900 and \$37,200 per year.

I realize that tough decisions had to be made to make the school as financially viable as possible. As a parent with two children currently at the school, I very much appreciate the enormous financial support from the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, as well as the tremendous commitment from major donors to help the OJCS on a path to sustainability.

But we know that climbing tuition fees are driving out families headed by doctors, lawyers and other professionals who want their children to experience a day school environment. Based on my discussions with dozens of parents now at the school, the plan to increase tuition by 15 to 22 per cent will result in many middle income families leaving the school for the public system.

To maximize the number of students, it makes sense economically – although not necessarily philosophically – to spread the distribution of tuition assistance to middle income households rather than focusing solely on funding at the lower end of the income spectrum. In addition, we know that gross household income is not a good measure of affordability of private school. Many families obtain other sources of income not necessarily identified on line 150 of their T1 tax return. As well, there are families that might have expenditures beyond their control for such items as daycare, after-school care, PD camps, etc.

The financial burden of Jewish day school for middle income families has been recognized by several other day schools in Canada. In articles published February 14, the *Canadian Jewish News* noted the Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto has found a donor who will subsidize tuition by up to \$5,000 for middle income families as a pilot project, and that JPPS/Bialik in Montreal is reducing or freezing its tuition rates. Although other sliding scale models are in use, the one in Winnipeg at Gray Academy of Jewish Education, my alma mater, provides a more substantive sibling discount, recognizing the burden of larger families. I applaud the efforts of schools that seem to recognize the cost of Jewish day school education is becoming more than just high; tuition rates are financially unviable for households with incomes that in virtually any other segment of society would be considered wealthy.

Considering that the OJCS has seen a 39 per cent drop in enrolment since 2006-2007, there is little room for alienating this middle class of parents. The 2012 Ottawa Jewish attitudinal study found that 41 per cent of parents who do not send their children to a Jewish day school in Ottawa cite financial constraints as a major consideration.

If we as a community are dedicated to making Jewish day schools as vibrant and accessible to as many families as possible, then providing assistance to all but the wealthiest families might achieve this goal.

On the other hand, if the goal is to make schools financially self-sustainable by charging the real costs of the education and limiting subsidies to those defined as "in-need," the community must recognize the size and vibrancy of OJCS

will suffer as middle incomes families will not be able to attend.

The Ottawa Jewish Community School, as Federation Chair Debbie Halton-Weiss noted, "is a valuable institution worth fighting for," and we very much want it see it become stronger, more vibrant and rich in diversity of families.

Jackie Luffman

Ottawa Jewish Community School (2)

In an *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* interview ("Jewish education an important community challenge," February 18), Ingrid Levitz touched on Jewish education in Ottawa and made a passing comment about the stellar academic performance of a graduate of Yitzhak Rabin High School, now the high school division of the Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS).

As the parent of a Grade 10 student at the OJCS, I would like to speak from our own, recent experience for the benefit of parents who may be considering sending their children there.

It's true there are many academic stars at the OJCS. But there are also average students and some who are academic stragglers, as in any other school. The difference is that it is a Jewish school. We have found there is warmth and caring among kids and teachers, and a unique human spirit not encountered elsewhere. Our son has developed a solid Jewish identity and has many Jewish friends whose parents have values similar to ours. The school culture is like one big family. I don't worry about drugs, liquor or weapons in the school; or about teen pregnancies and after-school brawls behind the building.

As for the quality of education, on balance, we are very satisfied with both the teachers and the curriculum. Especially in more recent years, there has been a major improvement of both teaching staff and programs at all levels for the very diverse student population. There are enriched programs, remedial programs, field trips of all kinds, inter-school academic competitions and city-wide sports events. Our son has been encouraged to stretch his interests and abilities in ways we never would have imagined – to shine on the sports field, take part in a school play for the general public, and to sit as a delegate in a model United Nations for high school students in Montreal.

On balance, I don't believe the grass is greener in our tax-supported public school system or at Ottawa's secular private schools like Turnbull Academy. The results are mixed in the public school system in Ottawa, and I have spoken to parents whose kids went to Turnbull, at significantly greater tuition expenses than at OJCS, with both good and bad outcomes.

We are grateful to the philanthropists in the Jewish community who continue to provide OJCS with major financial support until it is self-sustaining in a few years. Although parents are now facing a tuition fee increase, we think it is reasonable and necessary. Since we have only one child, it is not an extreme burden for us. (However, when added to synagogue membership fees, the extra cost of kosher food, Soloway Jewish Community Centre dues, Jewish summer camp fees, and donations to Jewish organizations in Ottawa, it is not an insignificant percentage of our family income.) But we would not pull out of the OJCS for a few simple reasons. We want our son to remain in the Jewish community, we wish to reinforce Jewish values and Jewish culture every day at home and school, and we understand that being Jewish has always come at a cost. As well, we get a tax receipt for a substantial portion of the school fees.

To sum up, OJCS is not a perfect school, but it offers many benefits to kids and families beyond a good secular and Jewish education. For many of us with school-age kids, it remains this city's greatest bargain.

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JNF's recycled water is Israel's fourth aquifer

Lacking the volume of snow that we have, Israel depends on three main water sources: Lake Kinneret, the Mountain Aquifer and the Coastal Aquifer. The country also has KKL-JNF, which has increased Israel's water economy to such an extent that it has been dubbed "Israel's fourth aquifer." Actually, I often think of recycled water as Israel's fourth aquifer – JNF just cleans it up. This is a less romantic notion than imagining picturesque limans in the Negev desert, but it speaks to the realities of water conservation. Israel cannot afford to waste any water from any of its sources, while we in Ottawa happily watch the snow melt in spring without giving much thought to its water content.

JNF has built more than 240 reservoirs for recycled water and floodwater in Israel. The recycled water reservoirs are the final stage in the process of purifying sewage by breaking down organic pollutants, removing suspended particles by sedimentation and storing the recycled water in reservoirs from where it is piped out for use in irrigation. In 2011, the water in JNF reservoirs provided about half the water consumed by Israeli agriculture, freeing up precious freshwater for domestic use. This is an amazing achievement and one that would not have been possible without the contributions and the goodwill of all JNF supporters, in Ottawa and around the world.

JNF's water expertise is shared globally

JNF stays at the cutting edge of water conservation in Israel by thinking outside the box, pioneering water technologies that strengthen Israel's water economy. With the help of JNF's new international consulting initiative, JNF knowledge is shared with other countries and is being implemented in other water-scarce regions around the world. In these cases, JNF has become the public relations arm and door-opener for Israel.

One example of JNF's knowledge export is the biofilter, an innovative project in which urban runoff is purified so that it can be used to refresh depleted aquifers. The biofilter uses several purifying layers of vegetation and bacteria to purify rainwater which contains high levels of metals and other toxic materials. This is science at its best, and JNF is proud to be advancing science as it nurtures the land and water of Israel.

Annual General Meeting

With the generous support of our community, JNF Ottawa held a very successful Negev Dinner and Tu B'Shevat Tree-a-Thon, during which we raised significant funds for important projects in Israel. We have these great successes to reflect on, but we have also embarked on our planning for the coming year.

JNF Ottawa will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, May 29. If you would like to join us to hear about our achievements over the past year and plans for the coming year, please call our JNF office at 613-798-2411 or email Executive Director Lynda Taller-Wakter at lynda.taller-wakter@jnf.ca.

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).



Levant apologizes for anti-Roma rant

Toronto (JTA) – A controversial television host apologized, March 18, for a rant against the Roma people during a segment titled "The Jews versus the gypsies."

Ezra Levant of the Sun News Network referred to the segment on the September 5, 2012 edition of his program, *The Source*, as "a pretty good rant" but added, "To those I hurt, I'm sorry. ... It's just wrong to slur a group of people. I made the moral mistake of judging people collectively."

Levant, who is Jewish, sparked widespread outrage when he referred to Roma as "gypsies" and "a culture synonymous with swindlers ... one of the central characteristics of that culture is that their chief economy is theft and begging."

He also said, "The phrase 'gypsy' and 'cheater' have been so interchangeable historically that the word has been entered into the English language as a verb: he gyped me. Well, the gypsies have gyped us. Too many have come here as false refugees," Levant said on the segment.

The attack came amid news reports about a crime ring of Romanian immigrants working in the Toronto area.

Canada's Roma community asked Toronto police last fall to investigate Levant for hate crimes.

Levant, who is known for his blustery talk and fervent belief in free speech, said in his apology, "I don't apologize simply for the sake of



Ezra Levant apologizes, March 18, for a previously aired slur against the Roma people on his Sun News TV program.

being consistent in my views. I regret having made these statements and I'm hopeful that those remarks will serve as an example of what not to do when commenting on social issues."

Sun News apologized for the segment last fall and pulled the offending video from its website.

"If the Sun News Net-

work had aired an attack on Jews, the whole country would be outraged," wrote Bernie Farber, former CEO of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Nate Leipziger, a Holocaust survivor and educator, and Avrum Rosenzweig, president of Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, in an op-ed published

September 25, 2012 in the *National Post* in the wake of Levant's broadcast.

Some have said that Levant's apology is suspiciously timed, as the Sun News Network is in the midst of asking the Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission for inclusion on digital basic cable for five years.

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Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) is Canada's leading Jewish women's philanthropic organization. Founded in 1917, CHW is non-political, volunteer driven and funds programs and projects for Children, Healthcare and Women in Israel and Canada.



Glebe Shul challah baking

Men learned to bake challah, March 5, at the Glebe Shul.

(Seated, from left) Glebe Shul Co-director Stacy Goldstein, Hanan Abromovici, Brahm Solomon.

(Standing, from left) Adam Thompson, Daniel Davidson, Ray Huyer, Steven Lazarovitz, Justin Levine, Ben Tobali, Leo Schliensky, Ian Goodman, Dan Shugar.

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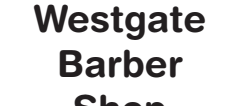
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Obama, Netanyahu convey broad agreement on Iran, Syria and a two-state solution

Jerusalem (JTA) – U.S. President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu conveyed broad consensus on Israel's top security priorities following a meeting in Jerusalem on March 20.

At a press conference after their meeting at the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem, Obama and Netanyahu emphasized the strength of the U.S.-Israel alliance. Both leaders said that Iran cannot be allowed to obtain a nuclear weapon, that Israel should achieve peace with the Palestinians and that the bloodshed in Syria's civil war must end.

"I know you appreciate that Israel will never cede the right to defend itself to others, even its greatest friends, and Israel has no better friend than the United States," Netanyahu said. "I look forward to continuing to work with you."

On Iran, Netanyahu said that "Israel must be able to defend itself, by itself, against any threat" – a statement he has made several times.

Obama, on the first day of his

first presidential trip to Israel, reiterated that the United States will not allow Iran to achieve nuclear capability.

"A nuclear-armed Iran would be a threat to the region, a threat to the world and potentially an existential threat to Israel," Obama said. "Our policy is to prevent Iran from having a nuclear weapon."

Obama said multiple times that "we prefer to resolve this diplomatically" but that "all options are on the table."

While Netanyahu began his statement speaking about Iran, Obama started by saying he is working to extend U.S. military assistance to Israel, including funding the Iron Dome missile defence system.

Obama then spoke of the peace process, noting that he would discuss more during his speech to the Israeli public the next day (see story on page 17).

"A central element of a lasting peace is a strong and secure Jewish state where Israeli security needs are met alongside a sovereign and independent Palestinian state,"



U.S. President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speak at a news conference in Jerusalem, March 20.
(Photo: Lior Mizrahi/Getty)

Obama said. "We'll continue to look for steps that Israelis and Palestinians can take to build confidence."

Netanyahu, who leads a new coalition government, said Israel remained committed to the two-state solution.

"Let me be clear. Israel remains

fully committed to peace and the solution of two states for two peoples," he said. "We extend our hand in friendship and peace to the Palestinian people."

Earlier in the day, Obama viewed the Iron Dome system and met with Israeli President Shimon Peres.

During the three-day visit, Obama also visited Israeli cultural sites and met in Ramallah with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad.

After leaving Israel, Obama proceeded to Jordan and a meeting with King Abdullah II.



Claims Conference

ועידת התביעות

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

Holocaust-Era Assets in Former East Germany

The Claims Conference has established a Late Applicants Fund ("LAF") of €50 million in order to accept applications from the following heirs of a former Jewish owner ("persecutee") of property/assets in the former East Germany for which the Claims Conference received proceeds as Successor Organization under the German Property Law of 1990:

(a) The immediate testamentary heir of the persecutee; (b) Children, grandchildren, or great grandchildren of the persecutee; (c) Siblings of the persecutee; (d) Children of siblings listed under (c); (e) Spouses of persons listed under (b), (c) and (d).

Applications can be filed directly with the Claims Conference for no fee. There is no need for applicants to pay a fee to any party. The LAF will accept applications through December 31, 2014.

After the application deadline, the Claims Conference shall determine the payment that each eligible heir will receive. This determination will be based on a number of factors detailed on the Claims Conference website.

The Claims Conference has published on its website, www.claimscon.org, a list of the properties/assets received by the Claims Conference as of the date of publication, and such assets for which claims by the Claims Conference are still pending under the German Property Restitution Law, including the name of the former owners and/or businesses, as well as the addresses of the properties/assets.

The detailed rules of the LAF, applications, and other information are also on the Claims Conference website, www.claimscon.org.

All communications regarding the Late Applicants Fund should be submitted to:

Claims Conference Successor Organization,
Sophienstrasse 26, D-60487 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Fax: ++49-69-97-07-08-11. Email: claims-conference-laf@claimscon.org

To aid applicants who do not have complete information, the Claims Conference has a Department for Property Identification. If you believe that you or your relatives may have owned Jewish property in the former East Germany, please include as much information as possible in your application and the Department will endeavor to identify such property. Please write to the above address. There is no charge for this service as well.



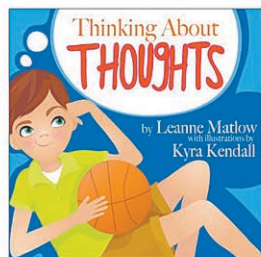
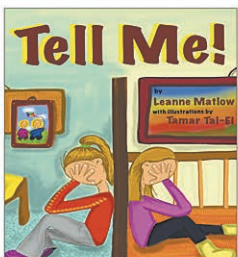
CSN bar and bat mitzvah gala

The Chabad Student Network held a bar and bat mitzvah gala, Saturday night, March 9, at which students Chloe Swanek, Mark Humphreys and Melissa Bloom celebrated the milestone. Each spoke about their individual journey toward discovering Judaism at this time in their lives and each was presented with a special gift and certificate. The celebrants were hoisted on chairs with great fanfare during the festive dancing which followed the ceremony.

(From left) CSN Carleton President Sammy Hudes, CSN Directors Rabbi Chaim and Yocheved Boyarsky, bat mitzvah celebrant Chloe Swanek, CSN uOttawa President Kaitlyn St. Pierre, and gala co-ordinator Michelle Stock.

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Remembering Bea Hock, founder of the newcomers tea

By Sarah Silverstein

Many people were saddened to learn that Beatrice Hock passed away quietly in Ottawa on February 12. Bea was first and foremost a lady, and her legacy – the Ladies Reception Committee for Newcomers to Ottawa – brings fond memories to past attendees and committee members alike.

In 1956, Bea invited four Jewish ladies, new to Ottawa, over for tea. She was hoping to make them feel more welcome, and to answer questions about the city and the Jewish community. This beautiful idea evolved into the Ladies Reception Committee for Newcomers, and, as per Bea's vision, teas were held twice a year at committee members' homes.

On November 5, 2006, the 100th tea was held at the home of the late Ethel Taylor. Bea, who was living at West End Villa, was not well enough to attend, but was spoken of fondly in speeches. Following the tea, Ethel, Rozzi Kanigsberg and I visited Bea, bringing her some treats from the afternoon, photos and memorabilia from the past 100 teas and, of course, tea. Bea, who was in her 90s, smiled warmly and was delighted to hear about the tea and the committee.

Sharon Reichstein was a Tea Committee member for many years, following in the footsteps of her mother Vera Glube. On the occasion of the 100th tea, she shared her appreciation for Bea and the teas by explaining her parents' story.

"In 1966, Vera Gottlieb was a newcomer and was invited to a fall tea. Beatrice Hock was a good friend of my grandmother, Libby Glube who had four single young men living at home. After each tea, Bea would give my grandmother a list with phone numbers of all the eligible women she met at the tea. Yes, you guessed it, my mom was on the list given to my dad, Malcolm Glube. Let's just say the rest is history and here I am," said Sharon.

There are many stories of friendships made, romances, and business opportunities found through the teas over the years. Anyone who ever attended a tea will recall a beautifully set table, fancy tea cups and saucers, 'pourers' on either end of the table, delicious party sandwiches on platters and fabulous homemade desserts, papers and pencils scattered around the room for sharing contact info, and the ever-present sign-in book by the front door that lists decades of women from countries around the world. My understanding is that, when Bea helmed the committee, everyone had to wear their best outfits and hats to the tea!

I still don't know how I got on the "tea list" shortly after moving to Ottawa. However, when that lovely engraved invitation arrived in the mail shortly after I moved to the city in 2001, I was both surprised and flattered that such a beautiful offer had been extended to a newcomer.

Bea's kindness, generosity and actions



Bea Hock at West End Villa in 2006 during a visit following the 100th newcomers tea.

led to a very special tradition in Ottawa. She knew it was not easy moving to a new city and joining a new community, but that one invitation could truly make a person feel welcome.

On behalf of everyone who has ever served on the Newcomers Tea Committee, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to Bea's family and friends. May her memory always be for a blessing.

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OJCS at model UN

(From left) Ottawa Jewish Community School students Gabe Hamburg, Eric Buckshon, Yona Steinman and Ethan Sabourin at the Jewish Canadian Youth Model United Nations, March 10 to 12, in Montreal. They joined students from 10 schools from across Canada in discussions and interactions on issues including cyber-terrorism, the black market arms trade, and human trafficking.



Chabad Student Network

Laureen Harper (seated, centre), wife of the prime minister, attended the Rohr Chabad Student Network Shabbat dinner, March 1, at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Harper gathered with the students and other guests just before Shabbat began for this photo.

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'Peace is possible' Obama tells Israelis

By Ben Sales

Jerusalem (JTA) – U.S. President Barack Obama reaffirmed his commitment to Israel and called for a renewed peace process in a March 21 speech to thousands of Israelis in Jerusalem.

In the centrepiece of his first presidential visit to Israel, Obama stressed America's "unbreakable" alliance with Israel and support for Israel in the face of mounting regional uncertainty, notably the threat of Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program and the instability sparked by the Arab Spring.

But Obama also made an assertive call for Israelis to pursue peace with the Palestinians, urging his audience to pressure their leaders to take the necessary risks that would ensure a two-state solution and Israel's long-term security.

"Peace is possible," Obama said. "I know it doesn't seem that way. There will always be a reason to avoid risk, and there's a cost for failure. There will always be extremists who provide an excuse to not act. And there is something exhausting

about endless talks about talks, the daily controversies and grinding status quo."

But, he continued, while negotiations will be necessary to get there, "there is little secret about where they must lead – two states for two peoples."

Obama's call for the establishment of "an independent and viable Palestine" received a sustained round of applause.

The president's call for peace followed his account of his administration's financial and political support for Israel along with his promise they would continue. To vigorous applause, Obama reaffirmed that the United States is determined to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran by any means necessary.

"There remains time to pursue a diplomatic resolution," he said. "That's what America will do with clear eyes. Iran must know its time is not unlimited. Iran must not get a nuclear weapon. This is not a danger that can be contained. America will do what we must to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran."



U.S. President Barack Obama speaks to Israeli students at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, March 21.

(Photo: Uriel Sinai/Getty/JTA)

But the centrepiece of the speech was Obama's insistent call for Israelis to take risks for peace, urging them to look at the world through Palestinian eyes, saying, "It is not fair that a Palestinian child cannot grow up in a state of her own." The president also noted settler violence against Palestinians, restricted freedom of movement and lack of access to farmlands as examples of the injustices Palestinians face.

"It is impossible to have a Jewish, democratic state and

at the same time to control all of Eretz Israel," Obama said, quoting former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon. "If we insist on fulfilling the dream in its entirety, we will lose it all."

Obama added, "I speak to you as a friend who is deeply concerned and committed to your future. You have the opportunity to be the generation that permanently secures the Zionist dream, or you can face a growing challenge to its future. The only way for Israel to survive as a Jewish and democratic state is through the realization of a viable and independent Palestine."

The speech came at the close of a day in which Obama met in Ramallah with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. Fol-

lowing the meeting, Obama implied that a settlement freeze should not be a precondition for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

"If the only way to begin the conversation is that we get everything right at the outset, then we're never going to get to the broader issue, which is how do we structure a state of Palestine and how do you provide Is-

rael confidence about its security," Obama said at a news conference following the meeting. "That's not to say settlements are not important."

Obama and Abbas both called for a two-state solution. Obama stressed that an agreement must come out of direct negotiations rather than other forums, an implicit criticism of Abbas' request last year that the United Nations recognize Palestine as a non-member observer state.

"We seek an independent, viable and contiguous Palestinian state as the homeland of the Palestinian people," Obama said. "The only way to achieve that goal is through direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians themselves."

Obama also harshly criticized Hamas, the terrorist organization that governs Gaza. In the hours before Obama travelled to Ramallah, several rockets fired from Gaza landed near the Israeli city of Sderot.

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Esther Greenberg by the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge; by your friends at Epsilon; by Evelyn Lieff; Clair Krantzberg; by Sandra and Sam Zunder and family; by Myra and Sam Krane, Joshua and Jaclyn and Justin; and by Carole and Wally Cherun

Faye Corbin by Bill and Laurie Chochinov

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AJA 50+ offers bridge, nature walks, golf, seminars and more this spring and summer

By Dena Speevak
for AJA 50+

For active living and connection, those 50 to 90-plus can turn to the many stimulating programs being offered by AJA (Active Jewish Adults) 50+ from May through August.

Due to popular demand, seven walking tours in and around Ottawa – many of them led by experts with a strong learning component – are included this season. For instance, you can venture on a nature walk with Fenja and Irwin Brodo of the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club or hike in the Ferguson Forest with outstanding botanist Eleanor Thomson. Experience a historical walking tour of Sandy Hill guided by architectural historian Hagit Hadaya, or view Glebe art through the eyes of artist Tim desClouds.

Among the courses being offered are Be-

ginner's Bridge with Julia and the very popular Intermediate Bridge with Liz Schwartz. There will also be Investment 101, as well as joint programs with the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (JCC) such as Politically Speaking with Marvin Blauer and Civil Religion with Rabbi Steven Garten. Weekly golf begins as soon as the courses open in the region.

On May 26, AJA 50+ will host Trivia Night, a fun-filled evening with games, prizes, auction and desserts! It is not too early to get your team organized.

AJA 50+ has successfully engaged hundreds of active mature adults to enjoy life in a friendly and welcoming environment. AJA 50+ offers education, community, friendship, support networks and active healthy living.

Register early as many programs fill up quickly. The program guide will be available

in mid-April at aja50plus.ca or join us at Registration Day on Wednesday, April 17, from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm at the Soloway JCC.

For more information about programs, contact AJA 50+ at aja50plus@sympati-co.ca.

For membership information, contact Dan Sigler at ajamembership@gmail.com or 613-224-6110.

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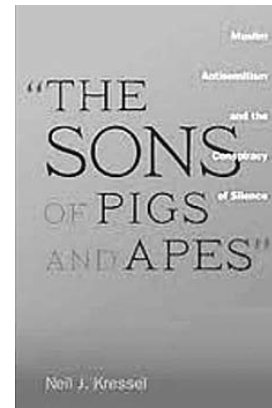
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All religions and cultures suffer from sources that preach hate against the 'other'. Throughout history some have, tragically, practiced what their sources preached, while some have sought to dismiss or even counteract the hateful words of their sources. In this book, Neil Kressel shows how extremists within Islam, many in leadership roles, have exploited some of their hateful sources to preach and practice a virulent form of antisemitism. Read this book and judge for yourself.

– Alan Dershowitz

"The Sons of Pigs and Apes"
Muslim Antisemitism and the Conspiracy of Silence
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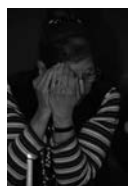
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Vulnerability reminds us of our mutual responsibility for one another

When you get wheeled on a stretcher by paramedics and taken by ambulance to the hospital during women's basketball at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, you would hope it's for an injury sustained by some particularly heroic play. Alas, an anaphylaxis attack overtook me between warm-up and scrimmage. A few days later, a trip to an allergist revealed a heretofore undiscovered allergy to shellfish, part of the dinner I'd cooked and consumed earlier that fateful evening.

Until now, life-threatening food allergies seemed to be something other people had. But, as I've now joined the club of EpiPen carriers, I have begun to reflect on the act of cooking and eating in a very different way. Discovering a

new allergy – the same week a feature story on the *New York Times* website was the topic of new treatments – has led me to contemplate how we care for ourselves and others, particularly in communal settings. And, discovering a new allergy to a food expressly forbidden in Jewish law also gives me a chance to reflect on kashrut and covenant.

It was rather galling to discover the last shrimp I will likely ever eat – although 20 per cent of shellfish allergies in adults may eventually disappear, according to my allergist – was the product of a new, rejuvenated cooking rhythm in my weekday calendar. A few factors, including a new favourite grocery store, a newly discovered food blog (shout out to Smitten Kitchen – smittenkitchen.com), and the elimination of hired weekday help in our home, means I am trying to find new recipes to prepare that are easy, tasty and healthy. I was pleased with my creation of panko-coated shrimp that night, paired with steamed sushi rice and crispy vegetables for a quick weeknight dinner sandwiched between daytime work and an evening board meeting followed by my weekly ritual of women's basketball. Good-bye panko shrimp, hello panko tofu (thankfully also delicious).

The last lobster I'll likely ever eat will always contain the sweet aftertaste of a friendly weekday lunch with friends during the public school teachers' walkout, a few months ago, as some friends and I spent the afternoon working on our laptops while our kids played together. A friend had brought in the fresh crustacean from the Maritimes and I prepared a fennel-grapefruit-dill salad to go alongside. It was one of those unforgettable and inspired afternoons that creates great memories, allergies be damned.

But, of course, there is the looming issue of kashrut. On



Values, Ethics, Community

Mira
Sucharov

one hand, I will be adhering to at least one more mitzvah than I had previously. But, surely, being forced to avoid a forbidden food due to its power to kill lacks the covenantal power of kashrut in its intended form. So, for Halacha, it's at best a pyrrhic victory over the prawn.

More meaningfully to me anyway, as a writer and observer of Jewish community, is the *meaning* that avoidance of shellfish has in everyday Jewish life. For most of my life, the idea of avoiding shellfish for kashrut reasons seemed to be something only the strictly observant did. Though, now, as most of my family's entertaining takes place around the Shabbat table, we have tended to avoid the most obvious *treif* menu items and food combinations in favour of those resembling a kosher meal, at least one that suits the general spirit of Shabbat.

And then there's the question of how we take care of ourselves and how we take care of others. As an adult, carrying my EpiPen and inquiring waiters about the possibility of cross-contamination will remain solely my responsibility. After all, that is what being an adult is about. But, as I sat in the waiting room of the allergist, I focused on all the children seated around me, many of their parents no doubt masking varying degrees of anxiety. Parenting is a leap of faith at the best of times. To parent children with serious allergies is to be forced to shoulder that much more serious a burden.

In my informal estimation, our community has done a decent job of ensuring our schools, children's activities and summer camps are nut-free, at least. I am aware it wasn't always thus. Surely, more can be done to raise awareness around synagogues and other semi-public institutions.

Now, possessing a life-threatening allergy means I am acutely aware of an extra layer of vulnerability. At its worst, vulnerability can lead to inward-gazing narcissism. At its best, vulnerability can remind us of our mutual responsibility for one another, *kol yisrael arevim zeh la'zeh*, as the Judaic teaching goes.

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

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Sunday, April 14

7:00 pm

Soloway JCC, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private

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Tuesday, April 16

11:30 am, Ottawa City Hall's Marion Dewar Square (110 Laurier Avenue)

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Author Talk with Terrence Rundle West

Not in My Father's Footsteps

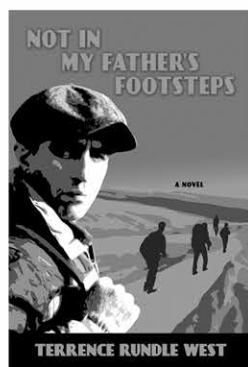
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At the Soloway JCC

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Terrence Rundle West is a retired high school teacher. In 2008 he won the Northern "LIT" award for his second book: *Run of the Town*. He will speak on his latest book *Not in My Father's Footsteps*.



Not in My Father's Footsteps is a well-researched historical novel that opens in pre-depression Montreal — a conflict riddled city where French vs. English, Catholic vs. Protestant, business vs. unions, church vs. state, and where institutionalized anti-Semitism is a fact of life. We are introduced to our 2 main protagonists, Dollard Dejadins and Marty Kellenberger, who like other young men of the times were greatly impacted by the economic strife and despair of the Depression. As a result, these two men, and 1200 other Canadian young men, were drawn into the Spanish Civil War.

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Israeli Apartheid Week didn't amount to much this year

If there's one topic that's been putting campus politics on the map for the past nine years – both inside and outside the Jewish community – it's the always highly anticipated, highly controversial Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW).

But, this year, it was nothing more than a blip on the radar.

The week, whose aim is to “educate people about the nature of Israel as an apartheid system,” according to the IAW website, took place March 4 to 8 on many North American campuses – if anyone could even figure that out.

The event poster didn't even have a date on it, nor did I find one unified *Facebook* event page promoting the week – just several smaller pages, with an unimpressive number of confirmed attendees. Put simply, advertising was poor.

What a change from 2009 when IAW posters caused quite a stir. They were deemed so offensive that several universities banned them from their campuses, a move which prompted Carleton University's chapter of Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA) to lodge a complaint with the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario.

Fittingly enough, this year's IAW came just over a month after the Tribunal's ruling rejecting the SAIA complaint.

And it was the week as a whole that came off seeming rejected. It was atypically quiet and low-key.

“IAW was definitely on the down low this year,” third-year Carleton University student Franny Weigensberg posted on *Facebook*. “Felt much safer on campus last week than in past years.”

While there was still a core group dedicated to promoting the cause they hold most dear, it was almost as if many others – the bandwagoners – had hopped off this train.

It seemed like the novelty had worn off and years of SAIA's aggressive tactics had worn the public out. Even the media was tired. A search of Canadian news sites yielded not one news story, and only one column, about this year's IAW in any mainstream newspaper.



Campus Life

Ilana Belfer

At Carleton, a new student government also proved advantageous for the pro-Israel lobby by exhibiting neutrality. While neutrality isn't always seen as beneficial, it is contrasted, in this case, with a past full of disadvantage. The Carleton University Students' Association used to display IAW signs and posters – but not this year.

Also, prominent political leaders at the federal and provincial levels released statements condemning IAW.

Many were not surprised by the humdrum nature of this year's IAW. For example, Emile Scheffel, Hillel Ottawa's Israel advocacy co-ordinator, called the “minimal buzz” of the event “a national trend” in an article by Carleton student Sammy Hudes posted March 12 on the *Canadian Jewish News* website.

Some even exclaimed, “We did it. We won.”

I prefer not to phrase it like that.

First of all, we mustn't get ahead of ourselves after one lull, because trends sometimes come and go in waves.

Secondly, there is still work to be done. “IAW is dying. Next, BDS,” Scheffel posted on *Facebook*. The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel and companies invested in its economy, played a prominent role in this year's IAW and is a big part of the IAW mandate.

Lastly, framing this as an *us-versus-them* situation is more polarizing than productive. There's *us* and there's *them*, and

there's everyone in between, and we're all sharing one campus. We must acknowledge this in order to move forward or else animosity will hinder progress.

One cannot simply *win* at this type of thing without shutting the other down, encroaching on free speech. The closest thing to winning is fostering fair, open dialogue and debate, which is part of the Israel Awareness Committee mandate.

It is true that, by pushing the BDS campaign, SAIA's motives are based in action, rather than discourse – something they readily admit. However, the Israel Awareness Committee can lead by example, and the good news is that they have been.

About a week before IAW, the Israel Awareness Committee's information booth stood alongside SAIA's IAW booth in the Carleton atrium. I noticed a group of unfamiliar young faces in red shirts speaking to a variety of students. They were huddled around a sign featuring images of falafel, a Jewish star, a gay pride flag and the “Israel Loves Iran” campaign.

The sign read, “WordSwap: Dialogue for the open mind.”

I went over and one of them, Nachi, offered me a free coffee. “What's this event?” I asked.

“It's not an event,” he responded, explaining that they're an Israeli collective who united based on their belief that media misrepresents Israel. They were there purely to answer my questions and the questions of any student who asked.

After forming just a few months earlier, the WordSwap crew – all volunteers – jumped on a plane for a mini-Canadian tour to dispel myths and humanize Israelis on notoriously Israel-unfriendly campuses.

They even handed out cute, catchy business cards that read, in Katy Perry fashion, “I met an Israeli and I liked it.”

Wow! I was – and still am – seriously impressed by this initiative carried out in partnership with organizations like Hillel. This is a prime example of peaceful and effective dialogue in action.

I wonder if they left enough business cards for SAIA.

From cobwebs to calories: Spring cleaning for mind, body and spirit

Spring cleaning typically focuses on dusting and scrubbing areas of the home that may have been neglected during the winter months. Did you know you can also declutter and organize in a way that encourages you and your family to engage in more physical activities and healthier eating?

My kind of spring cleaning is good for the mind, body and spirit. Key goals are to improve accessibility to, and the usability and safety of, tools for better living. From exercise gear to nutritious food, if it's appealing and easy to find, you're more likely to reach for it.

Going through the home may seem like a daunting task. Start small by tackling one room at a time.

Kitchen: Spring is a time of renewal. Why not get rid of food that's really not all that healthy? If it's not there, you won't eat it. Take everything out of your food cupboards. Sort jars, cans and dry goods. Bag the items that you no longer want and donate them to a food bank.

Make a grocery list of some healthier choices to stock up on. Why not experiment with some new ingredients? I recently added spelt flour and the spice turmeric – both of which have many health benefits – to my pantry.

Tip: Food labels are often misleading. If you aren't sure what's good for you or if you have special health concerns, ask an expert.

Locate and sort all of your food containers. Discard orphan containers and lids. Food containers can be your best friend. Use them to pack nutritious food when you're on the go so you can avoid impulse snack purchases.

Bedrooms: Go through your closets and drawers. Move winter clothing to a storage area such as the basement or the

back of the closet. Place tuques, scarves, mitts and heavy sweaters in dust-proof bags. If you have a large family with lots of items to store, you may find it convenient to label storage bags or boxes. Dedicate a drawer or section of the closet to your workout attire.

Review last year's spring/summer wardrobe. If you've lost or gained weight over the winter, try everything on. If some articles of clothing no longer fit or you haven't worn them in more than a couple of years, chances are you'll never wear them. Donate them. Whatever your child has outgrown can become hand-me-downs or donations.

Even if you're new to exercise, you deserve some nice workout clothes. If you wear ill-fitting clothing, you won't feel good about yourself. Similarly, worn-out sneakers don't provide good foot support and can cause discomfort or lead to injuries. If you envision yourself as an athlete, you're more likely to act like one. You don't have to spend a fortune to look and feel like a pro.

Tip: You'll feel sweaty in cotton. Get some wicking fabric tops at a sports store.

Bathroom: Write a motivational note to yourself and stick it on your bathroom mirror. Here's an idea: “I will make my health a priority by doing something active every day.”

Clean out drawers and cabinets. Safely dispose of expired medications and prescription items that you no longer need. If you are planning on joining a gym, get a second set of toiletries to keep in your gym bag. Stock up on sunscreen with a high SPF.

Tip: Prevent skin cancer and premature signs of aging by



Focus on Fitness

Gloria Schwartz

using sunscreen all year round.

Basement: If you have home gym equipment such as a treadmill or elliptical machine, make sure they're in good working order. Tidy up and prepare an inviting area to work out in. No one will be tempted to use a treadmill if it has cobwebs or laundry hanging on it. If you haven't used your home gym equipment in years, sell or donate it or make a commitment to use it starting today.

Tip: If you're not a self-starter or you dislike solitude, don't invest money in expensive home gym equipment. Instead, find an activity that you can enjoy with others in the community.

Garage: Get your bicycles tuned-up and pump up the tires. Make sure each family member has a properly fitted helmet. Gather up sports and fitness equipment that may be scattered in different rooms. Save space by hanging golf bags, skateboards, roller blades, tennis racquets and other paraphernalia on large hooks. Use bins to store soccer balls and footballs so they don't roll around.

Tip: Place items around the perimeter of the garage where they won't get run over.

Follow some of my suggestions for spring cleaning and you'll be more inclined to think about and participate in healthy, active living.

Gloria Schwartz is a certified personal trainer at the Soloway JCC.

Caesar salad 2.0: a classic revisited

Certain classics should not be tampered with. For example, *The Wizard of Oz*, as written by L. Frank Baum in 1900 and then made into a movie by MGM in 1939, is perfect just the way it is. Why mess with brilliance? Clearly, some people disagree with me, as evidenced by the Disney release of *Oz: The Great and Powerful*, which recently topped box office records with a whopping \$80 million on its opening weekend.

And don't get me started on the 1998 remake of *The Parent Trap*. The original, released in 1961, was an integral part of my childhood. Suffice it to say, Lindsay Lohan is no Haley Mills.

However, that being said, some classics need to be updated every once in a while so they don't get stale. I am referring to the culinary classics here – just a delicious little twist for an exciting take on the tried and true.

According to Iron Chef Geoffrey Zakarian, caesar salad has become the epitome of American mediocrity. Appearing on virtually every restaurant menu across North America, it is often made with gloppy bottled dressing, packaged



Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

croutons, which, while salty and crunchy, still manage to taste like cardboard, and canned "Parmesan" cheese, which resembles dust. Surely, if he ever tasted one of these versions, Caesar Cardini, the creator of the original, would roll over in his grave.

Zakarian's revision of the classic caesar salad is not revolutionary, just utterly delicious! He does not get ridiculous by suggesting we forgo the croutons altogether and replace them with pan-fried tofu cubes. He just instructs us on how to make the very best crouton. Start with good quality country bread, like Ace Bakery's Calabrese oval or Art Is In's Pugliese or sourdough. Then, tear the bread, using your hands, into craggy crouton shaped pieces.

By tearing the bread, rather than cutting it, we get much more surface area and more little nooks and crannies to get crunchy. Geoffrey recommends frying the croutons in about a half cup of oil, but I cut the oil in half and recommend just baking the croutons in the oven. They are still quite delicious and very addictive.

Two kinds of cheese are used in this version. The classic Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese is grated finely and mixed into the dressing, as in the original version. Then, Pecorino Romano cheese is shaved on top of the salad, using a vegetable peeler. Parmigiano-Reggiano is a cow's milk cheese, while Pecorino comes from sheep's milk. Pecorino is tangier, and a bit more assertive than the milder, nutty-flavoured Parmigiano.

Anchovies were not used in Cardini's caesar salad. The original dressing contained Worcestershire sauce, which, I just discovered, does contain anchovies. The addition of anchovies came later, in the '70s. If you think you don't like anchovies, just give them a chance in this dressing. Anchovies are an extremely umami rich food. Umami is an almost indescribable fifth taste that takes your eating experience beyond salty, sweet, sour and bitter. Umami can best be characterized as a savoury taste. Anchovies give a punch of flavour. They are that secret ingredient you just can't put your finger on, the one that really makes the flavour pop.

The punch of garlic in this recipe comes from roasted garlic, which is much sweeter and way less assertive than raw garlic. It adds a lovely mellow flavour.

The presentation of this salad is quite beautiful. Buy romaine hearts and just arrange the leaves, whole, on a platter. Drizzle the leaves with a bit of dressing, top with croutons and shards of Pecorino Romano cheese. This, by the way, is how the original caesar salad was served. Cardini meant for the salad to be eaten with your fingers, not with a fork.

Caesar Salad 2.0

This modern take on a classic is adapted from Iron Chef Geoffrey Zakarian's version.

Serves 6

For roasted garlic:

2 heads garlic
2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Croutons

1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
2 cups loosely torn country bread
(about 3/4 inch pieces)
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/4 cup finely grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley

Dressing

1 large egg
1/2 cup finely grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
2 tablespoons roasted garlic
2 tablespoons sherry vinegar
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1 tablespoon anchovy paste
1 1/4 cups canola oil

Salad

30 large leaves from the hearts of Romaine lettuce,
left whole
Kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper
Small block of Pecorino Romano cheese
(about 2 ounces)

Preheat oven to 375 F. Cut garlic heads in half, crosswise, exposing the cloves. Drizzle some extra-virgin olive oil on the exposed garlic and season with salt and pepper. Wrap with foil and place on a baking sheet.

Roast garlic in oven until caramelized and soft, about 45 minutes.

Remove the cloves and discard the skins. Measure out about 2 tablespoons to use in the dressing and set aside.

Any leftover roasted garlic will keep in the fridge for about a week.

For the croutons: In a large mixing bowl, toss bread pieces with olive oil and season well with salt and pepper.

Spread out bread on a baking sheet and bake in 375 F oven until golden brown and crispy. Immediately toss croutons with cheese and parsley. Set aside.

For the dressing: Bring a small pot of water to a boil. Turn heat down to medium. Place egg in water and simmer for 60 seconds. C

ool egg under cold running water. Crack egg and discard egg white. Use yolk for salad dressing.

Combine the roasted garlic, vinegar, mustard, anchovy paste and egg yolk in a food processor.

Blend until a smooth paste has been formed. If necessary, add 2 tablespoons of water to ensure it is smooth and not clumpy.

With the machine running, slowly pour in the oil in a steady stream, to form an emulsion. Add more water or vinegar as needed, depending on how loose or acidic you like your dressing to be.

To finish the salad: Arrange the lettuce leaves on a large serving platter.

Drizzle a few tablespoons of dressing over the lettuce. Season with salt and pepper.

Using a vegetable peeler, shave some large pieces of Pecorino cheese over the lettuce.

Top with croutons.

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IN MEMORY OF EVA WINTHROP



The Board of Directors of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation acknowledges with thanks contributions to the following funds as of March 8, 2013.

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Birthday Wishes to:

Stanley Ages from Roslyn and Arnie Kimmel and family.

MARY AND ISRAEL (AL) ALLICE MEMORIAL FUND

Birthday Wishes to:

Barbara Slipacoff by Beverly and Irving Swedko.

CYNTHIA AND DAVID BLUMENTHAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Myra and Lester Aronson on the engagement of Gregory, by Cynthia and David Blumenthal.

Vera and Leslie Klein on Michael's engagement to Leslie by Cynthia and David Blumenthal.

Stephen Victor on receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal by Cynthia and David Blumenthal.

Birthday Wishes to:

Diane Wexler by Cynthia and David Blumenthal.

TILLIE AND HARRY CHERM MEMORIAL FUND:

In Observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Harry Cherm, a dear father, by Donald Cherm.

In Memory of:

Helen Fleming by Jeff and Julie Fine.

DAVID AND QUEENIE COHEN MEMORIAL FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Howard and Marlene Cohen on Jessica receiving her PhD from Oxford University by David and Judith Kalin and family.

JOSEPH AND ESTHER EISENSTADT MEMORIAL FUND

Birthday Wishes to:

Joan Sacksner by Harvey and Ann Eisenstadt.

FRAN AND SID GERSHBERG FAMILY FUND

In Memory of:

Larry Klug by Fran and Sid Gershberg.

EVA, DIANE AND JACK GOLDFIELD MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of:

Michael Moore by Anita Landis.

Best Wishes to:

Pauline Hochberg by Anita Landis.

HERB AND DENA GOSEWICH ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of:

Sol Gutmajer by Herb and Dena Gosewich.

Mazal Tov to:

Lester and Myra Aronson on the engagement of Gregory by Herb and Dena Gosewich.

Leslie and Vera Klein on the engagement of Michael by Herb and Dena Gosewich.

DOROTHY AND HY HYMES ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of:

Helen Fleming by Dorothy Hymes

Rose Taylor by Dorothy Hymes.

Mazal Tov to:

Stephen Victor on receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal by Dorothy Hymes.

MOE AND ESTHER KARDISH ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of:

Moe Kardish by Nancy and Bucky Bucovetsky.

BENJAMIN AND LILLIAN KATZ MEMORIAL FUND

In Observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Benjamin Katz, a dear father, by Maureen and Jeff Katz.

Juair Monson, a dear father, by Maureen and Jeff Katz.

In Memory of:

Dara Lee Greenberg by Maureen and Jeff Katz.

Hy Hymes by Maureen and Jeff Katz.

Feiga Rodal by Maureen and Jeff Katz.

Mazal Tov to:

Gloria (Monson-Levy) and Harold Levy on the engagement of their daughter Jessica to Daniel Ivgi (formerly of Sweden) in Israel by Maureen and Jeff Katz.

LIBBY AND STAN KATZ FAMILY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday Wishes to:

Stanley Katz by Alicia and Brian Bailey and family.

SHARON KOFFMAN ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of:

Fran Greenblatt by Fay Koffman.

Freda Lithwick by Fay Koffman.

KRANTZBERG KRANE FAMILY FUND

Condolences to:

Pam Agius, Tom and Gillian on the loss of a dear husband and father, Tony, by Myra and Sam Krane and family.

ISSIE AND EDITH LANDAU ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday Wishes to:

Edith Landau by George and Tybe Marcus.

SALLY AND ELLIOTT LEVITAN ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of:

Mollie Fine by Sally and Elliott Levitan.

Jack Steinberg by Sally and Elliott Levitan.

Eleanor Weiner by Sally and Elliott Levitan.

ARNOLD AND ROSE LITHWICK MEMORIAL FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Harvey and Yvonne Lithwick on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Kenneth by Gita and Jerry Pearl.

IRVING AND ELLEN LITHWICK ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday Wishes to:

Vicki Weiss by Yvonne and Harvey Lithwick and family.

SAMUEL AND LEEMA MAGIDSON ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of:

Helen Fleming by Roslyn and Arnie Kimmel.

JACOB MALOMET MEMORIAL FUND

Happy Passover to:

Athene and Ossie Reef by Diana and Alvin Malomet.

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Ruth and Joseph Viner by Diana and Alvin Malomet.

FOUNDATION DONATIONS

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In Memory of:
Leema Magidson by Chuck and Bonnie Merovitz.

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Condolences to:
The Shear family on the loss of a dear mother by Jean Naemark and family.

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Beatrice Hock by William and Marilyn Newman.

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Sam Kotzer by Miriam Pleet.

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Mazal Tov to:
Evelyn and Norman Potechin on the birth of their beautiful great-grandchildren by Harry and Sally Weltman.

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R’fuah Sh’leimah to:
Athene Reef by Phyllis and Alan Rackow.
Birthday Wishes to:
Eunice Davis Phyllis and Alan Rackow.
Myra Schwarz by Phyllis and Alan Rackow.

ALTI AND BEREL RODAL FAMILY FUND

Mazal Tov to:
Fraidy and Hersh Loschak, Chana Raizel and Sender Kagan on the birth of Feiga, by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Zeldi and Avremi Richter, Rabbi and Mrs.Shmulik Rodal on the birth of Moshe Zvi, and the Bat Mitzvah of Blimy by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Rabbi Yitzchak and Brocha Sappochinsky, Leah and Moshe Chaim Sappochinsky on the marriage of Eli and Mushka by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Levi and Chana Rodal, Rabbi and Mrs.Shmulik Rodal on the Bar Mitzvah of Mendy and the Bat Mitzvah of Rivky by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Zali and Chana Rodal, Rabbi and Mrs.Shmulik Rodal on the Bat Mitzvah on Rivky by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Yehudis and Moishe Hyman, Rabbi and Mrs.Shmulik Rodal on the birth of Kasriel, by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Brochi and Menachem Mendel Levitansky, Menachem and Shterna Rodal on the birth of Avremi, by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Berke and Rochela Rodal, Menachem and Shterna Rodal on the Bar Mitzvah of Yossi, by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Paul Shapiro on the birth of granddaughter Aviva Leah, by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Jonathan and Rachel Gray, Herb and Sharon Gray on the birth of Rafael Chanina, by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Rabbi and Mrs.Shmulik Rodal, Brocho Leah and Moshe Sasonkin on the birth of granddaughter Bayle, by Alti and Berel Rodal.

In Memory of:
Shaine Rochel by Alti and Berel Rodal.
Rose Taylor by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Condolences to:
Rabbi Howard Finkelstein on the loss of his dear mother, Adelaide by Alti and Berel Rodal.
Mara Muzikansky and family on the loss of dear Golda by Alti and Berel Rodal.

FRANCES AND MORTON ROSS
FAMLY FUND

In Memory of:
Helen Fleming by Lois and Marvin Tafler; by Cheryl Goldman and Hailey Laxer; by Elissa and Avraham Iny; by William and Marilyn Newman; and by Maureen and Jeff Katz.

SAMUEL AND RUTH ROTHMAN
MEMORIAL FUND

Mazal Tov to:
Paul and Rosie Parnass on the engagement of Leanne and Zach by Sheldon and Corinne Taylor and family.

Condolences to:
Jack Boubilil on the loss of a dear father by Sheldon Taylor.
In Memory of:
Freda Lithwick by Sheldon and Corinne Taylor.

HAROLD SHAFFER
MEMORIAL FUND

In Observance of the Yahrzeit of:
Irving Shaffer, a dear brother, by Sheldon and Sonia Shaffer.

PATRICIA SMOLKIN
MEMORIAL FUND

Mazal Tov to:
Helen Braiter on receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal by Howard Smolkin and Annice Kronick
Lisa Kimmel on being recognized by the Women’s Professional Executive Network as one of the top 100 influential women in Canada by Howard Smolkin and Annice Kronick.
In Memory of:
Freda Lithwick by Nikki, Michael, Neilah and Benjamin Shapiro.

CASEY AND BESS SWEDLOVE
ENDOWMENT FUND

Happy Passover to:
Belle Gitterman by Carol-Sue and Jack Shapiro, and Bess Swedlove.
Morris Shapiro by Carol-Sue and Jack Shapiro, and Bess Swedlove.
In Memory of:
Freda Lithwick by Carol-Sue and Jack Shapiro, and Bess Swedlove; and by Daniel and Marilyn Kimmel.
Birthday Wishes to:
Bess Swedlove by Daniel and Marilyn Kimmel.

CHARLES AND ROSE TAYLOR
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In Memory of:
Rose Taylor by Chuck and Bonnie Merovitz; and by Maureen and Jeff Katz.

SUSAN WEISMAN AND JEFF TAYLOR
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In Memory of:
Joel Schaefer by Susan Weisman, Jeff, Josh, Bram and Dani Taylor.
Condolences to:
Mary Donais on the loss of a dear mother, by Susan Weisman, Jeff, Josh, Bram and Dani Taylor.

PEARL AND EDWARD TORONTOW
ENDOWMENT FUND

In Observance of the Yahrzeit of:
Edward Torontow by Jean Naemark and family.

ZIPES KARANOFSKY FAMILY
ENDOWMENT FUND

Condolences to:
Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Greenspoon on the loss of their beloved brother, Arthur, by Rick and Helen Zipes.

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:
Dr.Harold Black by Lynne Oreck-Wener, Bobby, Taryn, Eleni and Hart Wener.
Mazal Tov to:
Debbie and Henry Hackel on the birth of their new granddaughter by Rhoda and Joe Levitan.

THE SAUL AND EDNA GOLDFARB
B’NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM

DANA, REMI, MARLIN AND ALLEGRA PEARL B’NAI MITZVAH FUND
Mazal Tov to:
The Ottawa Jewish Community School’s girls’ and boys’ basketball teams on an outstanding season by Gita and Jerry Pearl.

Contributions may be made online at www.OJCF.ca or by contacting Jessica Kerzner 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.

Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation
Legacy Challenge Fund



Everyone has the ability to create a Jewish legacy

The **OJCF Legacy Challenge** asks you to consider making a gift to the Foundation in your estate plans and wills. Leaving a gift in a will or as part of your estate plans helps ensure the vibrancy and long-term sustainability of our community for years to come, creating a lasting and personal legacy.

The **OJCF Legacy Challenge** is your chance to personally commit to the ongoing growth and vitality of our shared community. We hope you will accept this challenge.

What is the OJCF
Legacy Challenge Fund?

If you decide to name the Ot-tawa Jewish Community Foun-

dation as recipient of a bequest through your will, the **OJCF Legacy Challenge Fund** will pay for the professional/legal services to help create this bequest or codicil up to a maximum of \$1,000.

Who is eligible?

All donors choosing to leave \$10,000 (or more) or 1% (or more) of their estate to the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation are eligible to participate in the OJCF Legacy Challenge.

For more information on how this challenge program works, please visit www.OJCF.ca or contact Jared Isaacson at 613-798-4696 extension 248 or email jisaacson@ojcf.ca.

Donating made easy at
www.OJCF.ca

Donations can be made for all occasions
and life-cycle events.

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Miracle rabbis, the angel of death and other spectral characters

*The Book of Mischief:
New and Selected Stories*

By Steve Stern
Graywolf Press
384 pages

Book Review

**Rabbi Rachel
Esserman**

(The Reporter) – A rabbi who levitates, a boy who visits a heavenly city, the angel of death, the prophet Elijah and God – or at least God’s voice – are just a few of the characters who inhabit Steve Stern’s fiction. While his stories and novels contain miracles and wonders, they certainly won’t be mistaken for fairy tales and are definitely not for children. In his latest work, *The Book of Mischief: New and Selected Stories*, Stern shows no nostalgia for the past; his characters are neither cute nor pleasant. Although his writing style might be called magical realism, Stern follows a Jewish tradition dating back to early rabbinic texts: The rabbis also ignored the fine line between reality and fantasy. With stories that take place in Memphis, New York City’s Lower East Side, Europe and the Catskills, Stern offers marvels and despair, often in the same work.

“The Wedding Jester,” the longest story, features writer Saul Bozoff, whose novels resemble Stern’s own work. Saul is a typical nebbish who finds himself escorting his elderly mother to a wedding at a resort hotel in the Catskills. His one claim to fame is several books inspired by a pilgrimage to “a transplanted Old World community” located in the American South. The town consisted of “a desolate street of crumbling buildings and weed-choked lots, a junkyard, a bridge ramp, an old synagogue converted into a discotheque of ill repute.” Yet, something special happened because, when he blinked, Saul saw “ghosts – the immigrants crying hockfleich and irregular pants, pumping their sewing machines like swarming hornets in the tenement lofts, braiding Yiddish curses into their yellow challah bread.” Now one of his tales comes to life when, during the wedding, the bride is possessed by a dybbuk, the spirit of a Borsht Belt comedian. Can Saul expel the dybbuk and salvage the occasion? The answer is far more complex than one might think.

Stern cleverly combines social commentary with miracles in “The Tale of the Kite.” Two types of Judaism come into conflict in a small southern town when the rabbi of a

traditional shul begins levitating. The children of the town’s liberal synagogue become fascinated with not only the rabbi, but a more traditional form of their religion. Their parents, who see themselves as Americans of “Hebrew extraction,” are horrified by their children’s transformation. What will their neighbours think? Their fear is not unreasonable since, as the narrator notes, “the news from the Old Country is bad. In Kiev they’ve got a Jew on trial for blood libel, and over here folks are grumbling about swarms of Hebrews washing onto our shores.”

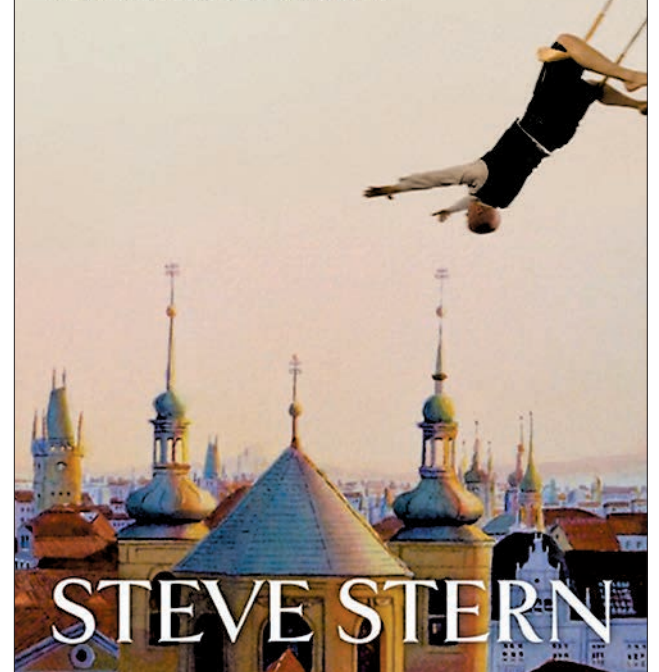
In the wonderfully sardonic “The Lord and Morton Gruber,” the voice of God speaks to a successful businessman who wants no part of religion. The importance of having a soul is noted in “Legend of the Lost,” after Mendy Dreyfuss loses his while trying to impress his girlfriend; he discovers just how easy it is to get ahead – at least on the darker side of life – when you don’t have a conscience to hinder you. In “The Sin of Elijah,” Elijah the prophet realizes that “after you’ve attended no end of circumcisions, performed untold numbers of virtuous deeds and righteous meddlings in a multitude of disguises, your piety can begin to wear a little thin.” It will come as no surprise when his fascination with a loving couple creates problems in heaven and on earth.

Those living in Europe fair little better – well, actually a lot worse – than those who moved to America. Mushie, the hero (anti-hero?) of “The Ballad of Mushie Momzer” has such an awful existence – first as an outcast in the Jewish community and then as a soldier in the Russian army – that death might be preferable. My two favourite stories are compelling and horrifying at the same time:

“In the 25 years since [Stern] published his first book, younger Jewish writers have run with a similar shtick. . . . But Stern was there first.”
—The Toronto Globe and Mail

THE BOOK OF MISCHIEF

NEW & SELECTED STORIES



“Heaven Is Full of Wonders,” which takes place on the Lower East Side of New York, and “On Jacob’s Ladder,” which takes place during the Second World War in Europe, brought chills to my spine. It’s impossible to write about their plots without ruining the surprises, but both were incredibly affecting.

Stern’s writing is not for everyone. Those impatient with wonder tales, ghosts and spirits will not find this book to their taste. However, if you can tolerate some craziness in your fiction, Stern won’t disappoint. Anyone who loved his novels *The Angel of Forgiveness*, which is my favourite, and *The Frozen Rabbi* will rejoice in his latest work.

In Appreciation

The family of the late Joel Schaefer wishes to express its gratitude to our friends and family for the outpouring of support and expressions of sympathy. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated and will be remembered always.

Andrea, Alan, Michael & Jordan Rosenbloom

In Appreciation

We thank all those who expressed condolences and words of comfort, as well as those who contributed to charitable causes in memory of my mother, Adelaide Finkelstein, a”h.

Rabbi Howard, Rivka and Netanel Finkelstein

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WHAT'S GOING ON

April 8 to 21, 2013

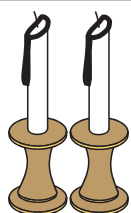
For more community listings,
visit jewishottawa.com
Select "Click to see
more months"



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.



CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE

Apr 12 ☆ 7:23 pm
Apr 19 ☆ 7:32 pm

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.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Malca Pass Book Club reviews "The Cat's Table" by Michael Ondaatje. Reviewer: Deborah Saginur, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-728-3501.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

The Dream Fulfilled: Theodor Herzl and the Jewish State. Machzikei Hadas Shabbat dinner with guest speaker David Matlow. Guided tours of the David Matlow Collection will continue until April 28, 2310 Virginia Drive. Info: 613-521-9700.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Breakfast Lecture on Children's Anxiety, Kosher Food Bank fundraiser sponsored by Congregation Machzikei Hadas. Author Leanne Matlow addresses the signs of anxiety and strategies for parents and children, 2310 Virginia Drive, 9:15

am. Info: 613-521-9700.

Yom Hazikaron memorial ceremony for Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror, sponsored by the SJCC, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 243.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

Israeli Flag-Raising Ceremony in honour of the 65th anniversary of the founding of Israel, Marion Dewar Plaza, Ottawa City Hall, 11:30 a.m. Bus will depart the SJCC at 10:45. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 243.

Author Talk with Terrence Rundle West, author of "Not in My Father's Footsteps," a historical novel that opens in pre-depression Montreal, a city riddled with language, religious and civil conflicts, and follows the main characters into the Spanish Civil War. Presented by the Greenberg Families Library, 1:00 pm. Info: 713-798-9818, ext. 245.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut. Celebrate Israel's 65th birthday with music,

dance, and fun activities for all ages. Toronto-based band Jaffa Road will entertain with its innovative modern Israeli music. Sponsored by the SJCC. Ernst and Young Centre, 4899 Uplands Drive, 5:00 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 243.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

Bone Health: What You Need to Know, part of the

Women's Health Learning Series presented by Shoppers Drug Mart and Weizmann Canada. Featured speaker: Dr. Elazar Zelzer from the department of Molecular Genetics, Weizmann Institute of Science. A Shoppers Drug Mart pharmacist will also be present. CentrepoinTE Studio Theatre, 101 CentrepoinTE Drive, 7:30 pm. Info: 514-342-0777.

COMING SOON

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

Film and Dessert Reception, featuring "It is No Dream: The Life of Theodor Herzl," Congregation Machzikei Hadas, 2310 Virginia Drive, 6:30 pm. Info: 613-521-9700.

TUESDAY, MAY 28

JET presents Jewish Unity Live, featuring guest speaker Charlie Harary, and musical entertainer Edon Pinchot (semi-finalist on America's Got Talent), Ron Maslin Playhouse, 1 Ron Maslin Way, Kanata, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 247.

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:

Shirley Eisenstat (née Benjamin)
Adelaide Finkelstein, San Antonio, Texas
(mother of Rabbi Howard Finkelstein)

Dora Glatt (née Sherman)
Henry (Hillel) Leader, Toronto
(father of Dr. Art Leader)

Teresa Poleski

May their memory be a blessing always.

The CONDOLENCE

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There is no charge.

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MAY 1 FOR MAY 20
MAY 29
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FOR JULY 22

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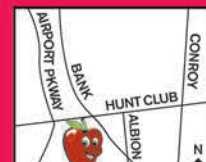
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