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Israeli songs concert page 9

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Cotler: Plight of Jewish refugees from Arab countries a grave injustice

By Michael Regenstreif

There has been no justice for – and no attention paid to – the approximately 850,000 Jewish refugees forced out of Arab countries in the Middle East in the wake of the creation of the State of Israel, according to MP Irwin Cotler. The number of Jewish refugees is similar to the number of Palestinian refugees.

However, while the Palestinian refugees have been left to languish over the past 65 years, the Jewish refugees from Arab countries were absorbed by Israel.

Cotler spoke about the issue of Jewish refugees, and efforts to redress the injustices to them, at the annual Passover lunch held by the Ottawa Chapter of Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University in partnership with the Agudath Israel Adult Education Committee. A capacity audience of more than 200 filled the Agudath Israel auditorium on March 28.

Cotler, the Liberal MP for the Montreal riding of

Mount-Royal, is a former minister of justice and attorney general of Canada. He has been an internationally acclaimed human rights lawyer for many decades and was a professor of law at McGill University for more than 25 years before entering Parliament in 1999.

The different approaches to Jewish and Palestinian refugees, Cotler pointed out, was rooted in the Arab rejection of the 1947 United Nations (UN) partition plan to create two states for two peoples.

“While Jewish leaders accepted the UN resolution at the time, Arab and Palestinian leaders did not and, by their own acknowledgment, declared war on the nascent Jewish state while targeting Jewish nationals living in their respective countries,” Cotler said.

The state-sanctioned repression and persecution of Jews in Arab countries, Cotler said, included Nuremberg-like laws resulting in disenfranchisement, (Continued on page 2)



MP Irwin Cotler speaks about Jewish refugees from Arab lands, March 28, at the CFHU Passover Lunch at Agudath Israel.

(Photo: Sylvia Klein)

Hava Nagila (The Movie) chronicles song's journey from shtetl to cliché

By Chavie Lieber

(JTA) – You're at a wedding or bar mitzvah, mingling at the bar or catching up with a distant relative, when you hear it – the opening notes of a familiar tune that, as if by some invisible force, carries you and other guests to the dance floor for the rousing dance circle ritual.

Does “Hava Nagila” work this kind of magic because it was handed down at Sinai and thus encoded in the Jewish DNA? Or is it a tale from the European shtetl, albeit one with a timeless message and an irrepressible melody?

It is these questions that Roberta

Grossman addresses in her new film, *Hava Nagila (The Movie)*. The film, three years in the making, explores the phenomenon behind the iconic folksong and seeks to explain why the melody has been so beloved over the years.

Hava Nagila (The Movie) will be screened, Monday, May 6, 7:30 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. Admission is \$10.00

“When I first started doing research for the film, people thought I was crazy, and I was worried I wouldn't find anything substantial

(Continued on page 2)



Wedding hora from *Hava Nagila (The Movie)*.

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Jewish refugees from Arab countries ‘a forgotten exodus’

(Continued from page 1)

dispossession of property, forced expulsion, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and murder. The Arab League instructed its members “to freeze Jewish assets and declare Jews to be ‘enemies of the state.’”

“The total area of land confiscated from Jews in Arab countries amounts to almost 40,000 square miles – that is five times the size of the State of Israel.”

There were also anti-Jewish pogroms across the Middle East.

“Bombings targeted Jewish institutions; mobs destroyed synagogues and Jewish cemeteries; state-sponsored pogroms killed thousands,” Cotler said.

Had the Arabs accepted partition, Cotler said, “there would have been no refugees and none of the [refugees’] pain and suffering over the past 65 years.”

Cotler said it was “revisionist” history that Palestinian refugees were the only “victim population” and that “Israel was responsible for the Palestinian *nakba*, the catastrophe, of 1948.” The Jewish refugees from Arab countries experienced “a forgotten exodus – though not forgotten by those who experienced it.”



A full house of more than 200 listens to Irwin Cotler at the CFHU Passover Lunch.

(Photo: Sylvia Klein)

The plight of the Jewish refugees, said Cotler, has been expunged from the Middle East narrative over the past 65 years, making it “prejudicial to authentic reconciliation and peace.”

Cotler pointed out that, while the UN holds an annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on November

29, the anniversary of the passage of the 1947 partition resolution, it continues to ignore the plight of the Jewish refugees which indulges and encourages the Middle East revisionism.

For too long, Cotler said, the truth about the Jewish refugees has been known only to the victims and their families.

“It is a truth that must now be affirmed, acknowledged and acted upon in the interest of justice and history,” he said, adding that, since 1948, there have been more than 170 UN resolutions about the plight of Palestinian refugees and not one even making reference to Jewish refugees.

“Let there be no mistake about

it,” said Cotler, as he ended his speech, “where there is no remembrance, there is no truth. Where there is no truth, there will be no justice. Where there is no justice, there will be no reconciliation. And, where there is no reconciliation, there will be no authentic peace to which we all aspire for and pray.”

Hava Nagila (The Movie) to be shown at SJCC on May 6

(Continued from page 1)

enough,” Grossman told JTA. “But what I really found was that this song is a porthole into 200 years of Judaism’s culture and spirituality.”

Grossman’s inspiration for the film came from memories of dancing to the song at family affairs. A product of what she calls a “religiously assimilated but culturally affiliated” background, Grossman said twirling with family members while “Hava Nagila” blared in the background was a tribal moment with spiritual resonance. Part of a generation raised on the 1971 film adaption of *Fiddler on the Roof*, she knew the song cold, but understood little about its origins.

Turns out, it doesn’t go back nearly as far as Sinai. The song was first sung as a Chasidic niggun, or wordless melody, in the court of the Ruzhiner rebbe, Israel Friedman, who lived in the Ukrainian town of Sadagora in the 18th century.

A Jewish shtetl in the Pale of Settlement, Sadagora was often subjected to pogroms, and Chasidic leaders encouraged music as a way to combat the tragedies of everyday life. When a wave of European immigrants moved to Israel in the early 1900s, they took their niggun with them, where it later became representative of Zionist culture.

In 1915, the prominent musicologist Abraham Zevi Idelsohn adapted the song with Hebrew lyrics. Three years later he unveiled his



Hava Nagila (The Movie) director Roberta Grossman.

(Photo: Robert Zuckerman)

new variation at a Jerusalem concert. “Hava Nagila,” literally “let us rejoice,” went on to hit its peak popularity in the 1950s and ‘60s, and became a favourite pop tune for American Jews.

“It’s unclear if Idelsohn really knew the extent of how far his song would go, but, after that concert celebrating the British victory in Palestine, the streets of Jerusalem erupted and the song took off,” said Mark Kligman, a professor of Jewish musicology at the Hebrew

Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

“Israel was a vacuum at that point, with immigrants from all over who had very little in common. They were dealing with their identity, and the need for music and this song unified them,” he said.

Decades later, the same is true. The song is widely covered – Bob Dylan, Ben Folds and Regina Spektor have performed it. Last summer it was the soundtrack for U.S. Olympian Ally Raisman’s gold medal-winning perfor-

mance in the floor exercise at the London Games. And though the *Wall Street Journal* noted that some see it as cliché and avoid having it played at their affairs (“At Some Happy Events, ‘Hava Nagila’ Isn’t Invited,” July 29, 2012) – Grossman refers to these folks as “Hava haters” – it may be the most popular Jewish song on the planet.

In the film, which includes a hora dancing tutorial, Grossman journeys to Sadagora as well as other obscure places where the song hit. The film notes how popular “Hava Nagila” became with non-Jewish music lovers and features musicians such as Harry Belafonte, Lena Horne, Cuban-American salsa performer Celia Cruz and pop singer Connie Francis.

Grossman skillfully portrays “Hava Nagila” as a symbol of North American Jewish identity and postulates that future generations will continue to see the song as iconic – with or without the eye rolls. Through the film, she seeks to give the song some depth beyond the overplayed ditty at bar mitzvahs. Viewers must decide if the song can still be redeemed.

“I believe that Hava has actually accrued a great deal of meaning and depth on its long journey from Ukraine to *YouTube*,” Grossman said. “Hava’s journey is our journey. By understanding where Hava has come from, we understand where we have come from and more.”

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

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



Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School

Ottawa Talmud Torah afternoon School (OTTAS) is proud to be Ottawa's oldest Jewish school. Building on an 80-year reputation of excellence and tradition, combined with creative and innovative approaches to Jewish learning, OTTAS continues to be at the forefront of supplemental Jewish education in Ottawa.

While today's Jewish families have many factors to consider when choosing where to send their children to school, Talmud Torah's mission – to provide the strongest and most comprehensive education possible, and to do so at an affordable price – remains constant. OTTAS is a "community school" providing quality Jewish education to students of all Jewish backgrounds and affiliations, who for a wide variety of reasons, have chosen to look outside the Jewish day school system for their children's schooling.

Talmud Torah's philosophy is based on three interconnected principles: *Knowledge*, *Engagement*, and *Connection*.

Knowledge

At Talmud Torah, the goal is for students to gain a thorough understanding of all aspects of Jewish life and observance, while maintaining an atmosphere that is respectful and welcoming to our diverse population.

OTTAS rejects conventional limitations on what is taught in supplemental school, and thus prides itself on pairing the most complete curriculum outside Jewish day school with the highest standards for hiring teachers. As a result, OTTAS is a program where students genuinely enjoy coming to learn, and emerge with a deep knowledge of their heritage.

Engagement

Jewish education is not a purely academic or theoretical pursuit, so a Talmud Torah education is designed to prepare our students for life as Jewish adults. Our passionate teachers endeavour to make Judaism come to life, and inspire students to embrace their role in our living tradition. To that end, traditional instruction is combined with hands-on demonstrations, experiential learning, use of the arts, etc.,



Fun kneading challah dough at OTTAS

to put our students at the centre of the ongoing story of the Jewish people.

Connection

Judaism doesn't occur only in the classroom, and Talmud Torah therefore aims to connect students with each other, with their families, and with our Jewish community. Parents are encouraged to share in their children's learning by attending spe-

cial adult education sessions, and our new Family Engagement Programs, which are open to any families with school-aged children, are designed to extend the educational experience beyond the limits of the classroom and build a sense of community.

This year's programs have included: challah baking, Havdalah and skating, a road trip to the Montreal Matzah Bakery, a demonstration from a *sofer* (ritual scribe), and our annual Talmud Torah Shabbat, which includes a student-led service and family Friday night dinner.

It's this combination of tradition with innovation, and strong academics with stimulating activity, that makes Talmud Torah a place where our rich heritage becomes relevant to today's modern world, and where students gain a sense of excitement and pride in their Jewish identity.

To learn more about the Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School program, to arrange a visit or to enrol, visit our website at www.ottas.ca or contact the office at 613-722-8827 or ottas@ottas.ca.

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Ottawa Torah Centre to break ground on new facility, May 12

By Pherris Hamilton
for Ottawa Torah Centre

Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad (OTC) is preparing to break ground for its new \$4 million facility on a 1.4 acre site in Barrhaven.

Under the direction of

Rabbi Menachem Mendel and Dina Blum, OTC has become a thriving multi-faceted organization providing innovative programs throughout the Ottawa region.

OTC began 16 years ago in the basement of the Blum home before quickly moving to a leased storefront. Now, OTC is ready to expand again.

“Our vision was to create a place of warmth and acceptance that every Jew can call home and explore their Jewish identity and heritage at their own pace,” said Rabbi Blum.

“The community responded in such positive way that, in a very short amount of time, we needed to rent more space for our centre and expanded to 2,000 square feet of leased space.”

OTC’s Chabad Hebrew School now has 85 students enrolled and holiday programs are regularly attended by hundreds of participants.

OTC also holds weekly Shabbat services, a variety

of adult educational and social program offerings, and reaches thousands of additional students through educational programs in Ottawa’s public schools.

The new facility, designed by award-winning Barry J. Hobin & Associates Architects, will include a multi-purpose gathering hall with flexible walls to accommodate functions of different sizes, alongside classrooms and meeting rooms that will be home to the Hebrew school, extracurricular classes and adult seminars. There will also be offices and a library.

“We are building a real multi-purpose facility to ensure that no space will sit vacant most of the year,” said Rabbi Blum.

“The way we intend to use the space is integrated directly into the design.

“We bought a 1.4-acre piece of land 10 years ago with the philosophy of ‘build it and they will come,’ but the people are already here and we need to build the walls around them.”

The move to the new location is well underway. The OTC started developing and servicing the site four years ago and is currently operating out of a 3,000 square feet temporary modular building set up on the location.

“The parking lot, curbs and some of the landscaping are already done, which gives us a head start,” said the rabbi.

According to Rabbi Blum, close to \$3 million toward the project has already been raised, building permit applications have been submitted to the City of Ottawa, contractors are being chosen, and construction is set to start this summer.

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held Sunday, May 12, 11:00 am, on the OTC site at 111 Lamp-lighters Drive.

“We invite the entire community to join us on this momentous occasion,” said Rabbi Blum.

Visit otcvision.org to learn more about the OTC vision, the new facility and to participate in its growth.

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PJ Library

Kindergarten teacher Ann-Lynn Rapoport reads a PJ Library Passover book to captivated children at a PJ Library event, March 17, hosted by the Ottawa Jewish Community School.

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.

Talking with Ottawa Jewish community leaders

Barbara Farber's 'exemplary commitment to education, industry and community service'

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.

Throughout years of working under her grandfather, Harry Leikin, Barbara Farber took on leadership roles in business, as well as in Jewish and secular organizations that conveyed the community values he instilled in her. But there is one achievement she can truly call her own: being named the first female president of Agudath Israel Congregation in 1990. It followed 20 years of being part of the shul's sisterhood, taking on its presidency and moving up the ranks of the board of directors.

As a child, Barbara watched her grandparents and parents devote many hours to the shul and sensed that volunteerism was the norm.

"I just thought that's what you did," she explained.

Working in a family business gave Barbara flexibility to attend to the many meetings and obligations that came with leadership roles. As president of a synagogue, Barbara was thrust into the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'Ir – now the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. She held numerous executive positions, including the presidency from 1997 to 1999.

Those were the best two years anyone could have been president, she said. The groundbreaking and completion of the Soloway Jewish Centre and Hillel Lodge took place on the new Jewish Community Campus during her term, making it a very exciting



Barbara Farber

time in the community.

As president of the Vaad, Barbara joined the board of United Israel Appeal (UIA) Federations Canada. As is her way, she worked her way up the leadership ladder, becoming president in 2007. With that came the responsibility of representing Canada on the world Jewish stage, something she did proudly.

Barbara was also vice-chair of the Canada-Israel Committee from 2004 to 2008, where she witnessed the power of Jews and non-Jews working together.

"We learned that we had to build bridges with the community-at-large. It made a lot of sense. If Jews can be helpful in the general community – for anyone who had preconceived ideas about what Jews were or weren't – if we were seen as being part of a larger community it could be beneficial."

That belief has motivated Barbara to lend

her skills to many secular organizations. She has sat on many boards including the Queensway-Carleton Hospital Foundation, the Algonquin College Foundation, the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre, the Ottawa International Airport Authority and the Ottawa Police Services. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Now president of the Leikin Group, the real estate development and property and asset management firm founded by her grandfather, Barbara has been the recipient of several awards presented by the Jewish community for her volunteerism and leadership. These include the Freiman Family Young Leadership Award in 1988 and the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award, the highest award the Ottawa Jewish community bestows on an individual for exceptional service over many years, in 2005.

Barbara has also received awards in the community-at-large, including an honorary degree from Algonquin College in 2009 recognizing her "exemplary commitment to education, industry and community service."

Barbara credits her husband, Len, for providing the support necessary to carry out all

her professional and community work over the years, while also raising two sons.

Barbara cites two main challenges facing Ottawa's Jewish community. The first is apathy. She finds people are happy when the community is running well and facilities are there when needed. But it's harder to find volunteers willing to give of their expertise, time and energy to keep the community running well.

"People want to travel and play hard and relax fully," she lamented.

The second is dwindling enrolment in Jewish education.

"Without proper Jewish educational facilities, the community will not have the ability to maintain itself to continue into the future. The schools build community leaders and Jewish identity."

While Ottawa's Jewish community has thrived from an influx of professionals from other provinces in recent decades, the native Ottawan says we still have an attractive, small community feel here. And, with the election last fall of a Parti Québécois government, Barbara feels Ottawa may experience another wave of Jewish migration from Quebec, which will benefit the community.

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.

For more information contact Rachel Abenhaim
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Emerging Generation Division is off to ‘an amazing start!’

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa’s 2013 Annual Campaign Kickoff this past September marked the official debut of the Emerging Generation Division – a new campaign division for Ottawa’s graduate students and young professionals. This emerging generation and the vital role it plays in our community’s future is our passion.

The main goal of the division is to get the word out to young professionals and students about the programs and opportunities available for them within the Federation. This is not an easy feat, as many of us have not previously been involved in the Jewish community.

These programs include the new Social Innovation Micro-Grant Fund, which allocates money to start-ups and entrepreneurs within the local community; the Young Women’s Leadership Council, which empowers and develops leadership skills for aspiring young women; jnet, which creates unique social experiences that are fun and engaging; and the annual Social Action Mission, which sends young professionals to Israel to embark on a volunteer project that helps improve



Maya Ashalomov and Dan Shugar
Emerging Generation

the living conditions of underprivileged youth in Israel’s northern communities.

Awareness of the new division was raised through many successful events, including Bijoux Affair, a classy evening at True Bijoux, and the openOttawa Road Hockey Tournament, which raised money for Emerging Generation programs. A terrific Shabbat dinner hosted at Shopify succeeded in bringing out many new members of the Emerging Generation. It was a great opportunity to develop awareness of this exciting new initiative.

“The Emerging Generation Division has set a solid precedent in Ottawa for throwing engaging and innovative

Federation Report

events,” says Samantha Banks, director of Initiatives for the Emerging Generation.

“I believe young adults have benefited from an array of networking and social initiatives and now realize that there are ample opportunities for them to give back to the community, through volunteerism and donating to the Annual Campaign.”

In our inaugural year, we had more than 15 canvassers involved in the 2013 Annual Campaign and raised more than \$9,500. An amazing start! We can’t wait to see what the 2014 Campaign holds in store for us.

This year’s canvasser appreciation evening brought out an incredible increase

in the number of canvassers, potential canvassers and donors within the Emerging Generation Division. We are already busy planning our rapidly expanding team of canvassers for next year and we’re thrilled to see the enthusiasm within our age demographic to get more involved. The team is looking forward to attending the canvasser training session during the summer. This training is a great way for our new canvassers to learn the ropes and get advice from experienced canvassers.

This year’s annual telethon will include an evening for the Emerging Generation. Last year was a vibrant success! The canvassers really enjoyed having an opportunity to give their time to help make the campaign a success. Everyone involved sees the benefits of volunteering and giving back to the community.

We are dedicated to the continual success of the Emerging Generation Division within the Federation’s Annual Campaign. We intend to remain actively involved in Ottawa’s Jewish community and look forward to another successful year of building the new division.

Lessons and reflections on a broken arm

It is no secret that I broke my arm in January. Actually, I half-kiddingly observe to those who use those words that I actually did not go out and break my arm. The ground did it.

I wasn’t playing hockey or skiing. Truth be told, I was on my way to shul on a Shabbat morning and *fell* victim to white ice – ice underneath innocent looking powder-like snow. Why it happened on the way to shul, and on a Shabbat morning, I still have not figured out. But, along the long, somewhat painful road to recovery, still ongoing, I did learn a number of hopefully useful things that I share with you.

Health care – Contrary to the impression you may get from the media, the system actually works. From the moment I was in the emergency room, it was clear that a good system was in place. Even more important, the people in the system were, and continue to be, universally nice, attentive and caring. I saw this in all the people being treated. I know we have issues, including wait times, but that should not obscure the more defining reality of the system.

Waiting – When waiting to be called, especially in the designated area for broken arms and shoulders, I saw people in much worse shape than me. While the break was an intrusion on my life, seeing others in worse shape helped prevent me from feeling sorry for myself.

Intrusion – The break was on my left arm. Being left-handed, this gave me ample opportunities to employ my right hand. My parents always wanted me to be a right-hander, and I now had the chance to fulfil their



From the pulpit

Rabbi Reuven
Bulka
Machzikei Hadas

wish. But, no matter how bad it was, I could still do things better with my broken left, like writing, than with my unbroken right. The one challenge I could not meet was putting on tefillin. In the first week after the break, it was impossible to manipulate the tefillin properly. I needed help, and received it from kindhearted congregants, all of whom were eager to help.

Help – This leads to the next interesting lesson. Aside from the many well-wishers, there were so many who offered to help. As grateful as I continue to be, I was somewhat unkind in declining help, even with little things like putting a fallen-off-the shoulder jacket back in place. When it was absolutely necessary, as with tefillin, I took it, even welcomed it. But, otherwise, it was better to struggle through the pain, in order to adjust more quickly and not become dependent. The offer of help is always kind; declining that help may seem unkind, but it is certainly not so intended. For me, it was an important lesson that, sometimes, no help is better.

Sympathy – Wearing a sling does gain you much sympathy and, sometimes, a better seat on the plane. More important, though, is the appreciation you gain for others who have had broken bones. This was a bad year

for breaks, and I met lots of people who had either just recovered from theirs or were in the recovery stage. When you know what they went through, you can almost feel their pain. I have a number of friends who had similar breaks, and only now do I fully appreciate the agony they suffered.

Appreciate your health – It is commonplace for us to take our health for granted. We often do things thinking we will be spared the consequences. But health is a great gift, and the greatest contribution we can all make to the health care challenges we face is to take care of ourselves – not just better, but meticulously. This is true not only

about what we eat and how much of it. It is also true about avoiding dangerous activities. Mine was a break in the midst of walking, but probably I was not careful enough when walking on the snow. Because of the break, I now fully appreciate every movement of the arm – up, down, to the side, to the back – that are part of normal life, but a major hurdle when life is not normal.

In fact, sometimes a *break* can lead to becoming more *whole* than before, more appreciative of every nuance of life. Waking up every morning and saying *Modeh Anee*, thanking God for being alive, is a great way to start any day.

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The former heads of Shin Bet speak in important Israeli film

MP Irwin Cotler made the point during his March 28 speech at the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University Passover lunch (see story on pages 1 and 2) that, had the Palestinians and surrounding Arab countries accepted the United Nations partition resolution of 1947, all of the problems of refugees – both Arab refugees from Israel and an almost identical number of Jewish refugees from Arab countries – would have been avoided. There would have been two states for two people, avoiding subsequent wars, and all of the disputes over territory and settlements that grew out of the Six Day War of 1967, and persist to this day.

The importance of Cotler's point hit home earlier this month while I watched *The Gatekeepers*, one of the two Israeli films nominated for an Oscar this past year in the feature documentary category, during its week-long Ottawa run at the Bytowne Cinema. The film is a series of interviews – interspersed with archival footage – with the six living former heads of Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service. These are the directors who ran Shin Bet for all but two of the years between 1981 and 2011, charged with keeping Israel safe from Palestinian terrorists and from internal terror threats,



Editor

**Michael
Regenstreif**

such as the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin by Yigal Amir, a right-wing Jewish extremist intent on stopping the peace process.

Each of these Shin Bet directors – Avraham Shalom (1981-1986), Yaakov Peri (1988-1994), Carmi Gillon (1995-1996), Ami Ayalon (1996-2000), Avi Dichter (2000-2005) and Yuval Diskin (2005-2011) – answered directly to the Israeli prime minister of the day. Almost by definition, these are hardened, unsentimental men who needed to be unafraid of making extremely difficult life-and-death decisions, which often had far-reaching consequences.

Watching the film, it becomes increasingly obvious the Shin Bet directors share a consensus that the policies of occupation and Jewish settlements followed by Israel since 1967 have been a failure and a threat to Israel's long-term survival as a Jewish and democratic state. These

policies have forced all of Israel's governments, whether led by left- or right-leaning prime ministers, to govern in a virtually permanent state of crisis management – a situation that has not served the country well.

The Shin Bet directors are surprisingly candid and open, even when talking about some of their most catastrophic failures, such as failing to prevent the assassination of Rabin or the summary execution in 1984 of two captured Palestinian terrorists, an event for which Shalom eventually lost his job and for which he was held in disdain by at least one of his successors, or when discussing the "collateral damage" of innocent people being killed when terrorist leaders have been targeted for assassination.

Near the end of the film, *The Gatekeepers* director Dror Moreh, who conducted the interviews off-screen, asks about the prediction made by Israeli philosopher Yeshayahu Leibowitz, not long after the Six Day War, that attempting to govern the Palestinians would turn Israel into a "Shin Bet state"; a prediction for which Leibowitz, who died at age 91 in 1994, was reviled by many in Israel.

Diskin, the most recent of the Shin Bet directors, agreed sadly but absolute-

ly, with Leibowitz's prediction. Shalom, the earliest to serve as head of Shin Bet, said, perhaps even more sadly, that the occupation had made Israel "cruel."

The commitment to Israel of these former Shin Bet directors – three of whom later served in the Knesset and cabinet (Peri, elected this year under the Yesh Atid banner is now minister of science and technology) – is beyond question.

Whether they challenge your own views, or reinforce them, or some combination of both, their voices, forged with a level of experience we will never have, are important to listen to and understand.

And although they seem disillusioned with the prospect of actually achieving peace, their stories and observations make its pursuit seem all the more vital.

The Gatekeepers is a very important film. Hopefully, there will be more opportunities to see it.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut coverage

Although you're reading this issue of the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* a few days after Yom Ha'Atzmaut, we actually went to press a few days before. So, watch for our coverage of Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebrations in the May 6 edition.

Will Ottawa see a major synagogue merger?

A year ago, I wrote about the challenges facing many of our synagogues. A year later, there are deadlines pending – real deadlines that will force decisions from one and possibly two of our synagogues.

A year ago, there was a hypothetical question put forward to a hypothetical situation. It went like this: after the sale of Congregation Beth Shalom's building was finalized, and if the congregation decides to build a new synagogue on the Jewish Community Campus, did Ottawa really and truly need two Conservative synagogues five minutes from each other? Underlying that question was the premise that it would be hard to justify the many millions of dollars to build a brand new Beth Shalom considering its aging demographic as well as its revenue challenges.

To its credit, last year, the leaderships of Beth Shalom and Agudath Israel established a task force to study the possibility of a merger – but they couldn't come to an agreement. There are no longer official talks underway and it is not publicly known whether there are *unofficial* talks taking place.

The merger talks were said to be friendly, but difficult. The two congregations represented different approaches, different cultures, different ways of seeing things, and each, apparently, had huge fears about



**Jason
Moscovitz**

whose identity would swallow the other.

These are not easy issues. In an ideal world, merging would not be considered. But, in the real world, there are matters of economic viability and responsibility. Beth Shalom itself resulted from several synagogues coming together in 1956, when the Chapel Street shul first opened.

This winter, the property on Chapel was conditionally sold and it is expected Beth Shalom will begin to vacate the building as soon as December 31. The price, as communicated to the membership, is \$15 million with the possibility of its climbing over \$20 million, depending on possible zoning changes.

As this debate enters the crunch period, it will be interesting to see the outcome at a time when our Jewish community, like Jewish communities worldwide, are struggling to maintain their Jewish schools, homes for Jewish seniors, and services for disabled and underprivileged Jewish people. Millions of dollars are harder and

harder to come by today. Spending those millions well is the only responsible thing to do.

There is no question that the proceeds of the sale of Congregation Beth Shalom and the adjoining building, which used to be the Jewish Community Centre, belong to the congregation. That undisputed fact is the result of a legal agreement that followed the community centre's move to the new Jewish Community Campus in 1998. At the time, Jewish community leadership, perhaps short-sightedly, believed the property on Chapel Street was more of a maintenance headache than a potential \$20 million property.

Congregation Beth Shalom could build a spanking new multimillion-dollar synagogue on the Jewish Community Campus and, no doubt, the building could be put to beneficial community use. But, ironically, that new synagogue would be right next door to other Jewish organizations that cry out for financial help. The argument remains the same. Can it be considered the best way to spend the millions required when there is another Conservative synagogue a stone's throw away?

On any given Shabbat, Agudath Israel and Beth Shalom have several hundred empty seats between them. That, admittedly, is an oversimplification for making an argument for merger. But maybe it's an-

other way of questioning the logic of the multimillion-dollar investment required to build another Conservative synagogue.

Talk about oversimplification. Beth Shalom is about to be sold. Agudath Israel is in need of a facelift. Can you imagine what could possibly be done with the proceeds of a sale put towards revamping and expanding an already existing synagogue rather than starting from scratch?

However, building a new building for both synagogues should not be arbitrarily ruled out. Should there be a merger, feasibility studies would obviously be done to determine what would be most beneficial and economical in the long term.

Another possible reason for merging is having a home for Beth Shalom congregants after next winter's departure. It is daunting to think of holding the congregation together in a temporary location while a new building is being planned and built. Not impossible, but difficult for the few years it could take.

The next few months will decide many of these outstanding questions. I know and respect many of the people who have leadership roles at both synagogues and I know there are many points of view – including those who believe Beth Shalom should find a smaller home downtown.

I have every confidence the leadership welcomes the views of others.

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Guest column

A different perspective on tuition increases at the OJCS

By Ruta Fluxgold

Much has been written in this newspaper and in Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS) newsletters on the recently announced increase in tuition fees for OJCS.

I believe, though, that clear and complete information on the financial situation of the school, the sustainability plan for OJCS, or the statistics upon which decisions were taken have not been made available, despite respectful requests from many parents. Instead, those of us who are already struggling to pay tuition are feeling blamed for not being committed enough to Jewish education to give up discretionary expenses.

For many of us, there are no more discretionary expenses to trim, and the question is how far in debt we are willing to go to fund the ed-

ucation of our children when a good free public system is a great option. It is important to recognize the competition is not from other private schools for the majority of parents at OJCS.

Current tuition fees already place a burden on middle class families. We are lucky in our household that we are a double-income family with good salaries. Despite this, our tuition expenses are 25 per cent of our after-tax income. With the increase, this will rise to 30 per cent. In a typical Canadian household, 19 per cent of before-tax income goes to shelter and 18 per cent goes to taxes.

How can anyone say that an average family at OJCS is not placing a high priority on Jewish education already? Further, tuition is just one expense for working families and we must also

find money for aftercare, summer camp, PD days, school uniforms, lunch days or any extra lessons. It also does not account for the kosher food we buy, the synagogue fees, the JCC fees or our Federation donations. I am not certain that trimming expenses from these other very important Jewish institutions benefits anyone.

Make no mistake: I am not suggesting Jewish education should be free. However, many of us are still unclear as to what options have been considered and what information and priorities were used to guide decision-making. For example, did anyone look at other faith-based schools in our city to see how they ensured their children were educated in their community and faith? A perfect example would be Abraar School, a trilingual Muslim school here in Ot-

tawa. Tuition at Abraar School is \$4,000 for children in Grades 1 to 6. Further, the school is the number one ranked school in Ottawa by the Fraser Institute (OJCS is not ranked by Fraser Institute), so clearly they are doing something right.

With only 220 students in the elementary school, every child counts. This makes it all the more strange why the school is not doing everything in its power to ensure parents feel respected and engaged in this situation and to look at every possible option.

Do the school and Federation not want to ensure they use the committed, intelligent parent body – many with vast experience in managing public and private institutions – to examine all options and possible solutions?

Now, many of us are forced to make tough decisions. Some are pulling their children now, some will pull them earlier than planned, some are not starting, and some are lucky enough to have family to help them pay tuition. Some feel heartbroken as they know our children belong in a Jewish day school, but can no longer justify putting their family's financial health in jeopardy.

How these decisions have been made and how they have been communicated has resulted in a divisive debate, which has alienated and angered a portion of our community and which benefits no one. These are people who have already proven their financial and personal commitment to Jewish life and deserve to be respected.

Admitting there are valid issues and options that still need to be considered, and people who need to be engaged in a meaningful way, would go a long way in repairing relationships between many upset parents, the school and the Federation.

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Where do JNF trees go when people need space?

If JNF has learned anything from years of planting trees in Israel, it is that planting a tree is hard work. As Israel grows and prospers, JNF is learning that you also need space to protect trees from growth in Israel's thriving communities. Fortunately, Israel has a forest commissioner who, among other things, oversees the management of forests that is carried out by JNF on behalf of the government. The forest commissioner is appointed by the minister of agriculture to oversee the application of the Forest Ordinance and the Protected Trees Order. The forest commissioner has power over trees within forests and outside forests. This includes which trees stay or move.

A Haaretz article from October 22, 2010 noted Israel Galon, the commissioner, spends most of his time with trees and little time in the office, but "when he is there, he's busy turning down appeals from developers and contractors to chop down trees planted centuries ago in open spaces that are now booming real-estate locations." This is the double-edged sword of prosperity for JNF. As we work to make Israel more livable, we find more people living there and communities growing along with the trees.

Moving 200 tons of JNF trees to save the older growth forests in Israel

Moving trees is an alternative to simply forbidding people to cut them down. With a new railroad being built between Haifa and Bet Shean, the Israel National Roads Company and JNF are working together to move a couple of hundred trees to make room for the railway. Some trees will have to be cut down, but some will be moved. They will not be moved far – train passengers will still be able to see them from their seats. Even for that short distance, moving the 200 tons that large trees and their soil might weigh is a big job, which takes time to plan. The roots of each tree are surrounded by a trench and covered with a special metal netting and coil to ensure the roots can be moved safely.

It is this kind of care that keeps trees – which may be tens or hundreds of years old – growing alongside the other necessities of growing populations. This kind of care and ingenuity also reassures me the trees we plant now will indeed nurture generations to come.

Volunteer in Israel with JNF-KKL

Do you like to plant trees? Bike? Hike? There are many volunteer opportunities with JNF-KKL. Why not combine your interest in the environment and love of Israel in one great experience.

Leave a legacy in Israel

Consider a donation to one of many JNF projects in development. One of JNF Canada's projects is the creation of a therapeutic garden at Jerusalem's Ilanot School for children aged six to 21 with severe motor and cognitive disabilities.

To learn more, please call our Ottawa JNF office at 613-798-2411 or send Executive Director Lynda Taller-Wakter an email 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).



Sharon Azrieli Perez to perform early Israeli songs at SJCC concert

By Maxine Miska
Soloway JCC

In celebrating Israel's 65th birthday, we can still invoke the living memory of those who experienced the creation of the State of Israel.

This was the inspiration for Sara Vered, who fought in the War of Independence, to produce a concert of Israeli songs from that era, and, on April 28 at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC), internationally known soprano Sharon Azrieli Perez will perform *Israel at 65: Voice of a People*, a musical portrait of songs from Israel's early years. Fittingly, Azrieli Perez's father, architect and developer David Azrieli, also fought in the 1948 war.

The pioneers in Israel not only had to create fertile land from desert and stony slopes, they also had to create a modern language and a national culture. The Jewish National Fund came up with the novel idea of writing songs in modern Hebrew set to traditional folk melodies and disseminating them on postcards. The aim of the JNF postcard project was to have the entire country learn the same songs and sing together.

Musicologist Hans Nathan heard about the project and sent these postcards to famous Jewish composers including Kurt Weill and Aaron Copland. Perhaps in response to the experience of the Holocaust, or their pride in the Zionist enterprise, they were eager to participate in the fledgling culture, and transformed simple melodies into classical arrangements. Azrieli Perez will perform several of these songs.

The Montreal-based Israeli-Canadian opera diva graduated from the Julliard School of Music in New York City, and, in her doctoral dissertation at the Université de Montréal, she explored the influence of Jewish musical themes in the operas of Giuseppe Verdi. She has also served as chazzan at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom in Montreal.

Azrieli Perez will bring

her extensive operatic experience and knowledge of Jewish and Israeli musical repertoires and traditions together in a performance that highlights the development of Israeli musical culture. Noted music critic and scholar of the music of the Holocaust Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaer will provide historical commentary.

Israel at 65: Voice of a People is sponsored by the Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program and will be held Sunday, April 28, 7:30 pm, at the SJCC. Tickets are \$10 and available at the front desk. For more information, contact Penni Namer at pnamer@jccottawa.com or 613-798-9818, ext. 243.



Israeli-Canadian opera singer Sharon Azrieli Perez will perform Israeli songs, April 28.

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Tamir participants celebrate Passover at third seder

By Katherine Carter
Tamir

More than 50 Tamir participants, along with family members, and the Tamir board and staff, gathered together at Congregation Beth Shalom, March 28, to celebrate Passover at Tamir's annual third seder.

The evening began with Cantor Daniel Benlolo inviting all to join him in song, and a welcome from Rabbi Scott Rosenberg of Beth Shalom.

Lee Waxman, a participant in Tamir's Supported Independent Living Program, was a delightful ambassador, welcoming special guests Rabbi Barry Schlesinger and his wife Shira, and telling the story of the second cup.

"I always look forward to the seder. It's so much fun and it's great to see all my friends together," Lee said.

After the candles were lit, Edith Garmen and Claire Zloten sang *Ma Nishtana* (the Four Questions) to great applause.

Family and board members joining in the evening to spend time with their loved ones is part of the tradition of Tamir's third seder.

Asked what they enjoy most about the third seder, Richard Zuker, a former board president who drove in from Montreal to attend the event, cited "The

whole experience! Especially watching Tamir participants fully engaged, eagerly waiting to be called on by Daniel to participate. Daniel is just a great leader and animator."

Karen Parent, Tamir participant Debby Applebaum's sister, has attended the third seder for the past two years. She welcomed the opportunity to spend time with Debby "and her Tamir family and friends" and said it was touching to see the joyous smile that illuminated her face.

"The evening was a reflection of song, great company and good food that brought back fond memories of celebrating Pesach with my family in my younger years. Words cannot express how much I have enjoyed the memorable seders hosted by Tamir," Parent added.

"The whole concept [of the third seder] and the most important thing for me as a Judaic adviser is that we are the vehicle in which participants are able to practise and live a Jewish life" said Cantor Benlolo who has been overseeing Tamir's third seder for the past 12 years. "Around the table we are all family and it truly felt that way this year."

Stay connected with Tamir and 'like us' at [facebook.com/tamirfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/tamirfoundation).



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say, Ariel and Sadie; by Paula, Herbert and family; by Adam and Sharon Froman and family; by Natalie and Alvin Miller and family; by Rena, Michael, Jesse, Samuel and Jonah Buckstein; and by Connie Kussner, Arthur Yallen and Francy Kussner

Moe Kardish by Max and Ellie Greenberg and family and by Jerry and Lily Penso and family

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Dora Glatt by Jerry, Lily and Michael Penso; by Michael and Sylvia Caplan; and by Peter and Phyllis Wolfe

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A donation was made from Gail Driscoll to Lynn MacFarlane

Wishing the Baker family an easy move and all the best in their new location by Debbie and Norm Ferkin

Donation cards can be purchased for a minimum donation of \$18.00 by contacting the Tamir office at 613-725-3519, 11 Nadolny Sachs Private, Suite 218, Ottawa, Ontario, K2A 1R9, or by e-mail to katherinecarter@tamir.ca.



Meredith Caplan recites the candle-lighting blessing at Tamir's third seder.



Marsha Kaiserman and David Michaelson as Freidl and Lazar Binderman in *A Neie Velt*.

Die Folkshpieler returns with *A Neie Velt*, May 26

By Shirley R. Steinberg
Die Folkshpieler

“S’iz a neie velt (It’s a new world),” muses Lazar Binderman, as he celebrates his 80th birthday with his wife, Freidl. Nostalgic memories from the past come alive with the aid of an ample amount of wine from Lazar’s birthday toasts. He reflects on how modern life has changed from the world he used to know – the old customs refined or abandoned, family ties frazzled, and the youthful excesses and preoccupations of the new generation.

These reminiscences are played out in a series of comic scenes in Die Folkshpieler’s new production, *A Neie Velt*, to be performed Sunday, May 26, 2:00 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

And you don’t need to understand Yiddish to enjoy the show. English translations will be available on request.

Admission is \$10 and refreshments will be served following the show.

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



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Vancouver, BC

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Soloway JCC – Social Hall A
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Prominent Israeli ‘security dove’ to speak at Temple Israel, May 8

By Gabriella Goliger
Canadian Friends
of Peace Now

What are Israel’s biggest security threats? What is the new Israeli Knesset likely to do about them? How will America weigh in? Is peace a pipe dream?

These are some of the questions prominent Israeli analyst Yossi Alpher will discuss at a public talk – *Tough Questions, Hard Answers: The Changing Face of Israeli Security* – on Wednesday, May 8, 7:30 pm, at Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive.

Alpher will be in Ottawa during a three-city tour, co-sponsored by Canadian Friends of Peace Now, which will also bring him to Montreal and Toronto. The other co-sponsors in Ottawa are ARZA Canada, the Zionist voice of the Canadian Reform Movement, and Temple Israel.

Known as a ‘security dove,’ Alpher has a long history of favouring a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from a hard-nosed, pragmatic perspective.

Alpher served in the Israel Defense Forces as an intelligence officer, followed by 12 years in the Mossad. From 1978 to 1980, he was an intelligence analyst on Iran. From



Yossi Alpher

1981 to 1995, he was associated with the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, ultimately becoming its director. While at the Jaffee Center, Alpher researched and produced a plan for an Israeli-Palestinian territorial settlement. From 1995 to 2000, he served as director of the American Jewish Committee’s Israel/Middle East Office in Jerusalem. He has also co-ordinated Track II dialogues between Israelis and Arabs.

In July 2000, during the Camp David Summit, Alpher served as special adviser to Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak, concentrating on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

With Ghassan Khatib, a former minister of planning in the Palestinian Authority, Alpher was co-editor of *Bitter Lemons*, a long-running bi-weekly journal on issues of concern to both Israelis and Palestinians.

Currently, Alpher writes on security issues for *Haaretz* and the *Jewish Daily Forward*, among other publications. He also responds to *Hard Questions, Tough Answers*, a weekly Q&A at peacenow.org, the web site of Americans for Peace Now.

CONSIDER BEING A CHAPERONE

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa is seeking candidates who would like to apply for a **chaperone position** to accompany Ottawa high school students on the 2014 March of the Living. This is a two-week journey to Poland and Israel focusing on Holocaust education and the celebration of our Jewish homeland.

Departure will take place immediately after Passover on April 23, 2014.

This is a memorable, life-changing trip that will leave a lasting impression on the students and the chaperones.

To learn more about the March, visit www.marchoftheliving.org.

To apply, please submit a letter by May 3rd outlining your interest in the position and any skills or previous experience which will help you in this leadership role. The letter, and any questions about this position, should be directed to:

Benita Siemiatycki
Coordinator,
Ottawa March of the Living
613-798-4644 or
bsiemiatycki@jewishottawa.com

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Bargain hunters at the 10th annual Hadassah-WIZO Bazaar, November, 17, 1964.

(Photo: UPI Ottawa, courtesy of Ottawa Jewish Archives)

Memories of senior CHW members to be documented

By Ruth Kahane Goldberg
CHW Ottawa

CHW Ottawa is reaching out to our Ottawa Hadassah-WIZO predecessors to share personal stories about the organization. From May until July, the Memories Project will conduct one-on-one video interviews with senior members who created a legacy as they volunteered, took leadership roles, fundraised and helped build the organization’s projects for women and children in Israel.

Among the gems we hope to discover are personal reminiscences about chapter and

council projects, and campaigns such as the Hadassah Bazaar, Youth Aliyah, A Taste of Chocolate and Designer Duds.

Segments from all the interviews will be combined in a video to be unveiled at the CHW Ottawa Council opening meeting, October 1, at Temple Israel. CHW Ottawa also plans to use the video as an educational tool for younger prospective members.

For further information, contact Esther Kulik, CHW Ottawa Council president, at 613-726-0637 or Ruth Kahane Goldberg, of the Memories Project, at 613-825-5219.

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Friday, May 24, 2013

4:30 p.m.

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6:30 p.m.

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Sunday, May 26, 2013

9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Temple Israel Religious School students explore Israel

By Paul McKeague
For Temple Israel

Six students from Temple Israel Religious School set foot on the land they had studied for so many years as they travelled to Israel with teacher Annette Paquin for an action-packed week during March break.

A trip to Israel is considered an important part of the education program at Temple Israel Religious School, and all senior students are offered the opportunity. The Temple Israel students and their teacher were joined by five students and a teacher from Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, which partnered with Ottawa's Reform synagogue on this year's trip.

The trip included visits to the Western Wall, Kabbalat Shabbat at Congregation Kol Haneshama in Jerusalem, and an open air Shabbat morning service on the rooftop of Beit Shmuel Hostel overlooking the Old City.

They floated and mud-bathed at the Dead Sea, visited Masada, rode camels, participated in an archaeological dig and explored the tunnels under the Western Wall. In Tel Aviv, they engaged Israelis in



(From left) Temple Israel Religious School students David Rodriguez-Garcia, Emma Khazzam, Susan Angel, Isaac McKeague, Dario Chaquin and Ben Javinsky in Jerusalem.

lively discussions about history and politics. They also remembered the victims of the Holocaust at Yad Vashem and watched a re-enactment of Israel's indepen-

dence at Independence Hall.

"I feel like I have finally experienced the place my teachers at Temple Israel have talked so passionately about," said Isaac

McKeague, 15, following his first trip to Israel.

"I felt a connection with the land and the people. I never felt like an outsider. It was like a jour-

ney to a second home. Now I feel I can tell others about Israel."

At a school in Bat Yam, near Tel Aviv, the students spent a morning with Grade 5 students preparing gift baskets for children in the cardiac care unit at Wolfson hospital. The Temple Israel students then delivered the gift boxes to children at the hospital and also distributed 20 handmade baby quilts from the Temple Israel Baby Quilt Project to families with infants.

"As much as we can teach about Israel over the years in Hebrew school, and as much as we try to bring an Israeli experience to the students, there just is no substitution for the opportunity to learn about Israel first hand," said teacher Paquin.

"For teens to hear the prayers at the Kotel, to touch the stones, to taste the food, to smell the markets, to feel the energy that is the Jewish homeland, and to do it with their peers is a powerful experience."

Indeed, their years of classroom lessons came to life and enabled students to make a personal connection to Israel. All indicated a strong desire to return to Israel to see and experience more.



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Yom HaShoah marked at solemn ceremony

By Sharon Letovsky

It was standing room only with people – sometimes three-deep – lining the walls as the community gathered to commemorate Yom HaShoah, April 7, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. It was a moving, inspiring and hopeful evening.

Following the March on the Colours by members of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Ottawa Post, and the singing of the national anthems led by the choral group Musica Ebraica, Shoah Committee of Ottawa Chair Mina Cohn welcomed the assembled noting the presence of representatives of embassies, including Germany's, in attendance.

Eliasz Luf, deputy head of mission at the Embassy of Israel, spoke passionately asking the audience to envision a little boy named Moshe on a train to a Nazi death camp and recalled an interview several years ago with a former SS officer. Asked how he could justify killing a clearly innocent child, the former SS officer said it was not the child he wanted to destroy, but the blood in his veins.

Luf emphatically said there would never be any unwanted



Survivor Armin Klein offers his testimony at the Yom HaShoah commemoration.

Moshes in Israel; Israel would always be there to guard against such a thing ever happening again.

As Luf left the podium, the choral group Musica Ebraica began to sing "Eli, Eli," a setting of a poem by Hannah Senesh, a hero of the Hungarian Jewish resistance executed by the Nazis. With the words projected on the overhead screen, all in attendance sang with the choir.

Six memorial candles, each symbolically representing one million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, were lit – three by Ottawa-based Holocaust survivors and three by second-generation survivors repre-



Survivor David Moskovic, assisted by Eyal Krasna, lights one of the six memorial candles at the Yom HaShoah commemoration, April 7.
(Photos: Howard Sandler)

sending their late parents, as their stories were read and family photos were projected on the screen.

Following the candle lighting and Cantor Jeremy Burko's moving singing of "Kel Maleh Rachamim" and "Kaddish," a group of students who had participated last year in the March of the Living walked in procession – in their blue March jackets – and placed flowers on the memorial table. Hannah Berdowski, one of the marchers, spoke poignantly about the March and

about hearing her great aunt's name read at Auschwitz among those who had perished there. While Berdowski's family knew the aunt had perished in the Holocaust, they had not known where she had met her fate.

Survivor Armin Klein gave a moving speech reminding the audience of the Nazi selection process and the dreadful conditions he experienced. Lightening the mood, Klein gave credit to his school gymnastic prowess and his mother's good sense in sending him off with

many layers of clothing.

The inspirational D'var Torah was delivered by Rabbi Steven Garten and Musica Ebraica sang another solemn song.

As the veterans marched off the Colours, many in the audience reached out to touch and thank them as they passed by in their uniforms and medals carrying the flags.

The 2013 National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony will take place Tuesday, April 23, 3:30 pm, at the Canadian War Museum.

The Countdown is on! - 69 Days until Summer 2013



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Chocolate seder at Agudath Israel
(From left) Meirav Wolfish, Rachel Lyman and Nava Wolfish enjoy Agudath Israel's annual chocolate seder, March 17, celebrating the coming Passover holiday, community, and the freedom to eat lots of chocolate.



Grade 1 seder
(From left) Students Jessica Ages, Ben Leinwand, Talia Cherun and Jack Tanner take part in the Grade 1 seder, March 21, at the Ottawa Jewish Community School.



NCSY chocolate seder
More than 40 students take part in the Canterbury High School Jewish Culture Club's chocolate seder, March 20, led by NCSY Ottawa Executive Director Bram Bregman (right). NCSY held chocolate seders at five public high schools in Ottawa.



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'Let those who worship terrorists live in the obscurity they deserve'

She was pretty and smart – a university student with a part-time job as a Palestinian TV journalist. But, in the summer of 2001, Ahlam Tamimi had a more important mission: killing Israeli civilians.

In the weeks before the August 2001 suicide bombing at the Sbarro restaurant in Jerusalem, Tamimi made several scouting missions to find a target that would be full of women and children.

She packed the bomb – enhanced with nails and bolts for maximum destruction – in a guitar case, and crossed into Israel with the suicide bomber.

At the entrance to Sbarro, she briefed “the martyrdom-seeker” on where and when to detonate the bomb, and told him to wait 15 minutes so she could get away safely.

The bomber blew himself up and killed 15 people, including three members of one family. Eight of the victims were children, including 15-year-old Malki Roth, a volunteer counsellor at a youth camp for the disabled and the devoted older sibling of her special-needs sister.

Tamimi, who received 15 life sentences, but was one of 1,027 Palestinian prisoners released in 2011 in exchange for kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit, remains unrepentant. You can watch her in a chilling interview in a *YouTube* video – tinyurl.com/palwatch-tamimi – beaming with pleasure when she learns she killed more kids than she’d originally thought.

But you’d never know any of this by reading “Is this where the third Intifada will start?” the March 17 cover story in the *New York Times Magazine*, a romanticized tale of the oppressed but perennially plucky inhabitants of Tamimi’s native West Bank village, Nabi Saleh. Writer Ben Ehrenreich devotes thousands of words to the plight of the village’s residents at the hands of the cruel Israeli “occupiers.”

But he glosses over the crimes of the village’s most famous native. And the *Times* chose not to publish an articulate and impassioned letter to the editor by Frimet Roth, Malki’s mother.

“For a mother to bury her loving, gentle child is torture,” she wrote. “To watch the murderer walk triumphantly free and enjoy life rubs salt into that wound every day.

“But to see the *Times* gloss over this travesty of justice with a cover story that showcases this woman’s many admirers in Nabi Saleh – that is journalism of the most amoral sort.”

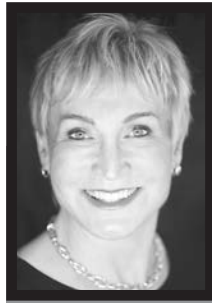
Visit tinyurl.com/frimet-roth to read the full letter.

Ehrenreich spent weeks living in the village, and became particularly attached to the charismatic Bassem Tamimi – a cousin of Ahlam Tamimi – who has been imprisoned by the Israelis on more than one occasion for incitement, organizing unauthorized demonstrations and soliciting village youth to throw stones at Israeli soldiers.

Checkpoints, harassment by Israeli soldiers and gun-toting settlers, regular arrests, and stone-throwing children injured by Israeli soldiers – these are just some of the many indignities and hardships suffered by the inhabitants of Nabi Saleh, who profess to be devoted to “unarmed resistance.”

These are not new issues, and it’s absolutely true that Palestinians have been arrested and injured in clashes with Israeli soldiers in Nabi Saleh and dozens of villages like it. But Ehrenreich is particularly skilled weaving a compelling tale full of heart-tugging anecdotes.

Like the best Palestinian apologists, Ehrenreich compiles a dossier of allegations and anecdotes from his



My Israel

Barbara
Crook

Palestinian hosts, decides what the story is (steps one and two are often interchangeable), then presents these accusations to a few Israeli sources for comment – a perfect way to ensure Israel comes across as the villain.

But the real issue with Ehrenreich and other journalists of his ilk isn’t whether their collection of information is technically accurate. It’s what they choose to leave out – and perhaps worse, what they don’t even think to ask.

The village’s inhabitants profess their commitment to non-violent resistance. But they make it clear this is not because they consider murder and terrorism morally wrong. It’s because violence is ultimately ineffective and damages their international image.

And if the villagers are so devoted to non-violence, why does Ahlam Tamimi, the Sbarro mastermind, remain “much-loved” in Nabi Saleh?

Ehrenreich writes that “the checkpoints, the raids, the permit system, add up to more daily humiliation than Palestinians have ever faced.”

It does not seem to enter his mind that the actions of the village heroine and her fellow terrorists, who killed more than 1,000 Israeli civilians in the terror war between 2000 and 2005, are the main reason that Palestinians no longer enjoy unrestricted passage to visit and work in Israel.

While he virtually ignores the Sbarro child victims, Ehrenreich deplores the number of village children hurt during confrontations with Israeli soldiers. But, neither he nor the villagers seem willing to acknowledge these injuries occur because the villagers choose to use their children as human shields in a conflict zone.

In Ehrenreich’s world of Palestinian victimhood, Israeli rockets are “launched into Gaza.” He conveniently neglects to mention these rockets were a response to the

thousands of rockets Hamas has fired on Israel since it withdrew from Gaza in 2005.

Ahlam Tamimi married another terrorist and lives in Jordan. She has her own weekly show on a Hamas-affiliated TV station, and makes the rounds of the Arab world, basking in the glory of her terrorist actions.

Malki Roth’s parents, meanwhile, have channelled their grief into helping others. They established a charity in her memory – kerenmalki.org – which provides specialized equipment and therapeutic services so that disabled kids can live at home rather than in institutions. A third of the fund’s beneficiaries are Israeli Arabs.

Perhaps the next time the *Times* wants to write a human interest story about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, they’ll focus on real heroes like the Roths and let those who worship terrorists live in the obscurity they deserve.

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Ancient stories and our relationship to the text

Jews and Words

By Amos Oz and Fania Oz-Salzberger
Yale University Press
248 pages

Jacob: Unexpected Patriarch

By Yair Zakovitch
Yale University Press
216 pages

(The Reporter) Jews are enamoured with text. Some of us spend our entire lives studying biblical and rabbinic writings. Others focus on text at particular times of the year, for example, during the holidays or at lifecycle events.

Written words are the core of Judaism, the bond that held us together even when we were scattered across the world. This continues to be true even in contemporary times: every year, numerous books are published that discuss the Torah and Talmud. Two new works, *Jews and Words* by Amos Oz and Fania Oz-Salzberger and *Jacob: Unexpected Patriarch* by Yair Zakovitch focus on these ancient stories and our relationship to the text.

In *Jews and Words*, internationally known author and novelist Oz and his daughter, Oz-Salzberger, a writer and history professor at the University of Haifa, suggest Jewish peoplehood has been kept alive not by Judaism as a religion, but by Jewish writings, for example, the Torah and Talmud. The authors, who make it clear they are secular Israelis, note that “of course, the books were considered holy; but turn this around, and you will see a people who loved the books so much that they consecrated them.”

The question is, then, “which came first, sanctity or scroll?”



For the authors, sanctity is a later addition. The scrolls first became important after the destruction of the Second Temple because one of the only things Jews could carry with them was their books. “So when you ran for your life from massacre and pogrom, from burning home and burning synagogue, it was children and books you took with you. Children and books.”

The books were then passed down through the generations as a portable inheritance.

Oz and Oz-Salzberger also analyze the text through contemporary eyes. For example, they explore the role of women in the Torah, noting that, while many people think of biblical women as passive, “the Bible is rife with powerful, active, vocal, verbal, individualized, one-of-a-kind female persons.” This idea will not be new to those who’ve read the writings of Jewish feminists like Tikva Frymer-Kensky, but it will be eye-opening for those whose only experience with biblical women is through ancient rabbinic eyes. The authors also explore the stories of several women who lived in talmudic and later times, all the while encouraging readers to study the original text themselves and decide on their own interpretations.

Their discussion of Jews and history notes that “the annals of the Jews contradict the facile assertion that history is written by the winning side,” since the ancient Israelites and their descendants were usually on the losing side. In a debate on the nature of Jews, Judaism and whether or not this grouping is a nation, religion, ethnicity or something too complex to name, Oz and Oz-Salzberger offer their own answer to the question of “Who is a Jew?”

“Any human being crazy enough to call himself a Jew is a Jew,” they write, leaving the decision of whether or not that person is a good or bad Jew to his/her fellow Jews.

Although I don’t agree with many of Oz and Oz-Salzberger’s ideas, I found them interesting and worth examining. They were also a great deal of fun to read because the authors are being deliberately provocative. One particular section should be noted in the debate about Jewish continuity in the United States or Canada. If Jewish texts are our main connection, then what does that mean for North American Jews? It’s one thing to be familiar with the text because Hebrew is

Book Review

Rabbi Rachel
Esserman

your native tongue and biblical stories are taught in school; it’s another to study it in a second language. That’s one discussion I would like to see continued.

While Oz and Oz-Salzberger discuss many different biblical and rabbinic texts, Zakovitch, a professor emeritus at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, focuses on one biblical character: Jacob. He notes it’s impossible to write a bibliography of Jacob in the modern scholarly sense; instead, his intent is to discover and reconstruct earlier, pre-biblical traditions about Jacob.

Using the methodology of literary archeology, Zakovitch believes he can “identify duplicate traditions within the Bible” and, by examining them, uncover what the biblical writers were trying to

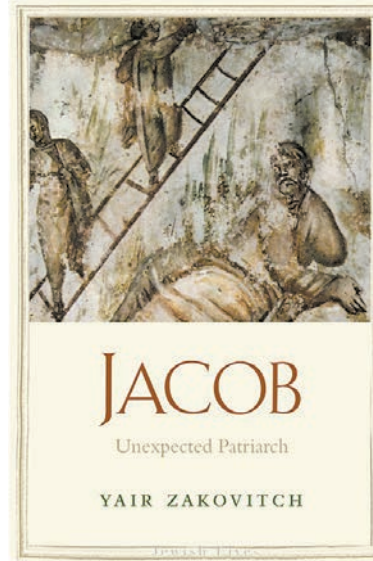
hide or change. He does this not only by looking at outside sources – books that build on the Bible’s foundation, for example, Jewish Hellenistic literature, the Dead Sea Scrolls, etc. – but also by exploring the contradictions found in the text and sections that seem out of place.

In one example, he discusses the birth of Jacob and his twin brother, Esau. The biblical text contends that Esau was the first born, the twin who should have received the birthright and blessing from his father. Yet, by looking at the story of another set of biblical twins, Perez and Zerah, the sons of Judah, Zakovitch concludes that, in the original version of the tale, “Jacob cheated and successfully pushed his way out first.” He believes echoes of this rejected tradition can be found in the words of several prophets, including Hosea and Jeremiah. While his reasoning – which is too complex to explain in a short review – was interesting, in this and other cases, I was not completely convinced. However, what did impress me was Zakovitch’s ability to analyze the text in new and unusual ways.

Zakovitch’s interpretations are founded on the idea that biblical stories were written to teach about “crime and punishment ... The astute reader learns from the experiences of the biblical characters to avoid repeating their mistakes and thus preclude inviting punishment on him or herself.”

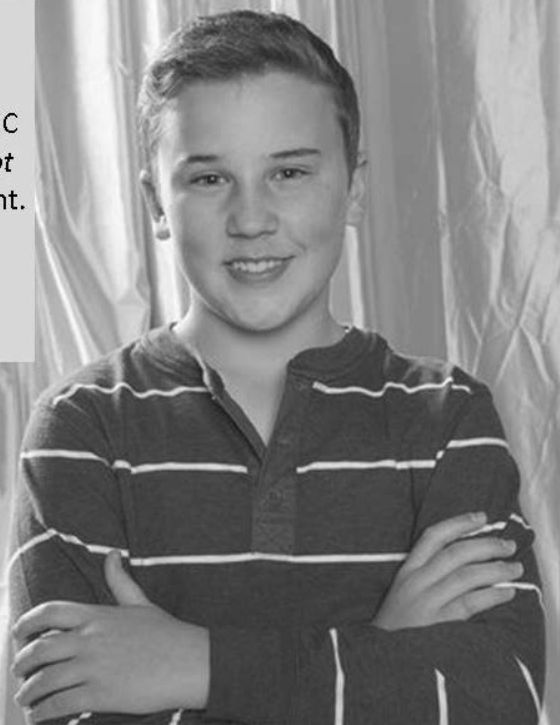
By comparing the stories of Jacob and his wife, Rachel, to that of Joseph, Jacob and Rachel’s son, Zakovitch suggests the use of a similar phrase – “Am I instead of God?” – in both tales shows how Joseph learned from the mistakes of his father. When Rachel complains to Jacob that she is childless, Jacob uses the phrase callously, ignoring her distress. When Joseph’s brothers seek forgiveness for selling him into slavery, Joseph uses the same words in a soothing, generous manner, while also noting there is nothing to forgive: it was God’s will that he was sent ahead to Egypt in order to save his family from famine.

Jacob: Unexpected Patriarch works best as a biblical commentary, rather than a biography. Zakovitch does an excellent job juggling and comparing different parts of the text. He also attempts to show the hidden agendas of those who compiled and revised the Bible, an analysis based on his view of the political machinations of the ancient Kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Whether or not that account is accurate is best left to scholars. What the author does offer to all readers are new insights into the biblical text.



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Rabbi Liz is a natural bridge builder

It's always exciting when a new pulpit rabbi moves to Ottawa. And it's especially notable when she is the first pulpit rabbi of her congregation, and, when it's a *she*.

I spoke at length to Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton, Ottawa's first female rabbi, who is taking the helm at Or Haneshamah (OrH), formerly the Ottawa Reconstructionist Havurah. OrH had previously relied on visits from rabbinical students for its spiritual leadership. Originally from Montreal, Rabbi Liz, as she likes to be called, studied and served for two decades in the U.S., most recently at a Baltimore-based congregation.

Talking to Rabbi Liz is an exercise in blurring the kinds of fixed boundaries that all too often keep Jewish denominations alienated from one another.

To describe the Reconstructionist approach, Rabbi Liz speaks of *process theology*, the belief that "God's hands are our hands," referring to a phrase popularized by prominent Conservative Rabbi Harold Schulweis.

Of course, one cannot think of process theology without thinking of the teachings of Rabbi Brad Artson, another leading Conservative rabbi. As is well known, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism, Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, taught at the Conservative Jewish Theological Seminary for decades.

"The biggest misconception [of Reconstructionist Judaism] is that it is the same as secular humanism," and "that it's not God centred," said Rabbi Liz, who prefers Rabbi Art Green's description of Reconstructionist Judaism as "religious humanism."

As a child at Talmud Torah and Young Israel in Montreal, Rabbi Liz was naturally drawn to davening. Serving as vice-president for religious affairs in BBYO as a teen, and relishing the chanting of kiddush at her family seders as a child, led her to work as a cantorial soloist, but not before training as an opera singer. Her most memorable performance was for Princess Diana and Prince Charles at Expo 86 in Vancouver.

But her pull to social justice and political activism – starting with work around the AIDS crisis in the 1980s – led her to see a career in the rabbinate as the best fit for her passions. Among the various streams of Judaism, Reconstructionist Judaism appealed to her for its "innate grasp" of the fact that people "are now affiliating through cultural activities," and that "lifecycle moments are portals rather than obligations to live a Jewish life religiously."

But there was another crucial reason why Reconstructionist Judaism became her denomination of choice. At the time, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College was the only rabbinical seminary to admit openly gay and lesbian students.

As a lesbian rabbi, Rabbi Liz has been at the forefront of efforts towards greater GLBT inclusion. She speaks on campuses, visits congregations who are attempting to become more "welcoming," and is "particularly proud of speaking at teacher training conferences, on interfaith panels, and to queer student groups and conferences."

Through organizations like Truah (formerly Rabbis for Human Rights-North America), Rabbi Liz is also active on social justice issues related to Israel. I asked how she plans to navigate the topic of Israel, a topic that can be polarizing.

"With a lot of listening, a lot of patience, and struggling to hold onto hope," adding, "I hope to engender some really good conversations and study, and try to shed more light than heat."

A Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Liz might include yoga, with the Shacharit liturgy projected onto a screen. She also enjoys leading monthly music-based services she dubs "Ruach."

Rabbi Liz hopes to offer adult education courses on topics ranging from Yiddish language and music, to gender and sexuality, to political and social justice. One of the topics she loves teaching the most is "Judaism 101," as she puts it.

"I also love teaching teenagers," enabling her to engage in



Values, Ethics, Community

Mira Sucharov

"Torah study that is juicy and in depth." In addition to her Toronto-based young adult daughter, Rabbi Liz has a teenage son who will be attending high school in Ottawa.

While speaking with Rabbi Liz – she has already been making the rounds to various shuls across the city to experience their Shabbat services – it soon becomes clear she

is a natural bridge builder.

"I'd like to think that my presence [in Ottawa] could inspire community growth," adding that she hopes she can help the community "move away from saying 'un' and 'non,' as in the term 'unaffiliated.'"

She adds that she had "the good fortune not to see myself on the margins, even if certain aspects of my identity would put me there."

Still, she is sensitive to meeting others where they are, favouring the biblical phrase "*b'asher hu sham*."

Rabbi Liz sums up her rabbinical approach this way: "*B'Tselem Elohim* [the idea that all humans are created in the image of God] is my guiding principle, and '*b'asher hu sham*' is my banner."

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

Europe is reeling from financial fiascos

You're not alone if you've been keeping up with the European Union's financial fiascos and are scratching your head trying to figure out what has made these great bureaucracies fumble. The following are two examples of massive errors in judgment that, frankly, not only put Europe at risk, but are also the kinds of decision that have historically led to economic disasters on a wider scale.

François Hollande, France's socialist president, made a campaign promise of a 75 per cent tax for millionaires before last May's election. In December, the constitutional court rejected the tax on a technicality and, in February, the French Conseil d'État deemed any tax above 66.6 per cent unconstitutional and "confiscatory." You'd think this would be the end of the fiasco, but the president appeared on TV in late-March to present his revised idea of a pre-payroll tax levy up to 75 per cent at source.

This 75 per cent tax measure would affect about 5,000 French residents, many of whom are not corporate employees and do not collect salaries directly. While there have been some high profile millionaire departures, including actor Gérard Depardieu, for the most part, the exodus from France is muted. Hollande claims the tax would fund his plans for economic prosperity. While he promises to cut red tape for small and medium-sized start-ups, it is not obvious how he proposes to attract or keep such companies with such high taxes and a highly unionized environment.

The president acknowledged people may have to work longer before collecting pensions, a 180 degree reversal of the campaign promises he used to defeat Nicolas Sarkozy's plan to raise the retirement age from 60 to 62. He also acknowledged he did not think the economic crisis would last as long as it has. He spent 45 minutes trying to convince French citizens he is a good president, despite his 22 per cent approval rating.

With 10 per cent unemployment, a stagnant economy, behemoth unions and runaway social services, the president sees himself in the battle of his life. He also sees that France cannot compete with Germany on austerity measures, recognizing that prolonging austerity would lead to his government's unpopularity and that France would miss its EU-mandated 3 per cent of GDP budget reduction this year.

The other story is even more peculiar. It is hard to understand why the European Central Bank (ECB) would provoke a major run on banks in Cyprus and threaten banking systems in other European countries such as Spain, Portugal and Italy. Initially, the ECB offered a rescue package of \$13 billion, which required the Cypriot government to tax all bank deposits at the rate of 6.75 per cent. This had an immediate reaction right across Europe. Not only was this against its



World Affairs

Oliver Javanpour

own rules protecting small deposits of less than €100K, it also sparked outrage locally and internationally. European markets and people were on edge, imagining this could easily happen in their country and to them.

It is no secret Russians and Serbs have moved into Cyprus in significant numbers since the early 1990s. Russian oligarchs and money launderers have found Cyprus welcoming. This did not seem troubling to EU Central Bankers when Cyprus joined the EU in 2004 and the euro zone in 2008. Russian nationals are estimated to hold some €20 billion of the €68 billion on deposit in Cypriot banks. Naturally, most are over the €100K mark. Just to put things into perspective, the population of Cyprus is around 800,000 people, most of whom have deposits less than €100K. It is only natural Germany and its taxpayers, key drivers behind the European Union and the euro zone, were not very pleased with the idea of bailing out banks holding billions in Russian oligarch and mob money. It is also only natural for the average bank customer to resist bailing them out with their rather smaller deposits. Russia has been rather critical of the EU's approach to Cyprus bailout as a lot of its citizens, including retirees and smaller firms, are caught in this mess.

Eventually, there was a second bailout package for Cyprus. This deal will still give a significant haircut to large depositors and leave some Laiki Bank bondholders losing their shares in that bank. Lenders to the Bank of Cyprus will see heavy losses and additional taxes on high investments in both banks. Some of the bondholders in Laiki were the bank workers. They will be losing their jobs as well as their money as part of the EU-dictated bailout austerity measures.

Prior to the EU and euro zone, each region and country had a unique business model that worked well locally. Today, these have been mostly wiped out as the result of integration and unification. These events are puzzling and could even be amusing, if they weren't so hurtful and shortsighted.

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

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Ultimate Banana Bread

This recipe originally appeared in the July 2010 issue of *Cook's Illustrated*.

- 1 3/4 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 6 large very ripe bananas (about 2 1/4 pounds), peeled (see notes below)
- 8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted and cooled slightly
- 2 large eggs
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup walnuts, toasted and coarsely chopped (optional)
- 2 teaspoons granulated sugar

Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 8 1/2 by 4 1/2-inch loaf pan with nonstick cooking spray. Whisk flour, baking soda, and salt together in large bowl.

Place 5 bananas in microwave-safe bowl; cover with plastic wrap and cut several steam vents in plastic with paring knife. Microwave on high power until bananas are soft and have released liquid, about 5 minutes. Transfer bananas to fine-mesh strainer placed over medium bowl and allow to drain, stirring occasionally, for 15 minutes (you should have 1/2 to 3/4 cup liquid).

Transfer liquid to medium saucepan and cook over medium-high heat until reduced to 1/4 cup, about 5 minutes. Remove pan from heat, stir reduced liquid into bananas, and mash with potato masher until fairly smooth. Whisk in butter, eggs, brown sugar, and vanilla.

Pour banana mixture into flour mixture and stir until just combined with some streaks of flour remaining. Gently fold in walnuts, if using. Scrape batter into prepared pan. Slice remaining banana diagonally into 1/4-inch-thick slices. Shingle banana slices on top of either side of loaf, leaving 1 1/2-inch-wide space down centre to ensure even rise. Sprinkle granulated sugar evenly over loaf.

Bake until toothpick inserted in centre of loaf comes out clean, 55 to 75 minutes. Cool bread in pan on wire rack 15 minutes, then remove loaf from pan and continue to cool on wire rack. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Notes:

- Be sure to use very ripe, heavily speckled (or even black) bananas in this recipe.
- This recipe can be made using 5 thawed frozen bananas; since they release a lot of liquid naturally, they can bypass the microwaving in step 2 and go directly into the fine-mesh strainer.
- Do not use a thawed frozen banana in step 4; it will be too soft to slice. Instead, simply sprinkle the top of the loaf with sugar.
- The test kitchen's preferred loaf pan measures 8 1/2 by 4 1/2 inches; if you use a 9 by 5-inch loaf pan, start checking for doneness five minutes earlier than advised in the recipe.
- The texture is best when the loaf is eaten fresh, but it can be stored (cool completely first), covered tightly with plastic wrap, for up to 3 days.



The ultimate banana bread

I had a friend in Grade 7 whose long straight shiny hair I envied. It reached down to her lower back and was a beautiful shade of butterscotch. I had short, wiry, curly black hair and would have given anything for hair like hers. She seemed so exotic to me.

As I spent more time at her house, I came to appreciate how different our families were. She only had one sibling and her mom was quite involved in all aspects of her life. I had five siblings and my mom was busy just trying to keep all our names straight.

One of the strangest things about my friend's mom was that, every week, she would buy a huge bunch of bananas and leave them in a pretty bowl on the kitchen table. By the end of the week, they would be ripe and almost black and she would throw the bunch away and buy a fresh one to replace it. No one in their family liked bananas, yet her mom just loved how they looked, so she continued to buy them.

At the time it never occurred to me that you could make banana bread with ripe bananas. In our house, banana cake came from Sara Lee. Oh how I loved the icing on those frozen cakes!

I only came to discover the joy of homemade banana bread later, during my university years, when I worked part-time as a Cuisinart demonstrator. I was given Noreen Gillet's book, *The Pleasures of Your Food Processor*, as a gift and there was a banana bread recipe so perfect that it became the gold standard by which I judged all other banana breads for the next 30 years.

My mom was a student of the 'more is more' school and she revised Noreen's recipe by using five or six bananas instead of the three called for in the recipe. We dubbed her version, "Banana Brick." It was wet and heavy.

Little did my mom know that with the addition of more bananas she was onto something big. She wanted to intensify the banana flavour, but she just lacked the correct technique to do it without ending up with a sodden heavy mess.

Cook's Illustrated magazine figured out a way to ramp up the banana flavour without introducing too much additional moisture. It started with five very ripe bananas (versus the usual three in most recipes) and proceeded to microwave them to release their juices. The next step was to drain all the juices that had accumulated during microwaving and simmer that liquid in a saucepan until it reduced. This reduced liquid



Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

was then added to the batter, a sort of intensified banana essence.

If, like me, you freeze your over-ripe bananas, you can use them instead of fresh in this recipe. Since frozen bananas, as they thaw, release a lot of liquid, you can skip the microwaving step in the recipe. Just drain the thawed bananas and reduce the liquid in a small saucepan.

Cooks Illustrated decided to further boost the banana flavour by adding a sixth banana, sliced thin and caramelized on top of the loaf to give this banana bread an enticingly crisp, crunchy top.

Twin girls arrive!

Jacen and Ilana Goldfarb are pleased to announce the arrival of twin daughters, Maia Gabrielle and Noa Esther, born on March 5, 2013.

Happy grandparents are Debbie Goldstein and Mark Goldstein and David and Heather Goldfarb.



If Not Now, When? Responsibility and Memory After the Holocaust Conference

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For more information about the conference or registration go to www.carleton.ca/memory or email holocaustconference@carleton.ca or call Tel: 613-520-2600, ext. 1320

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Sunday, April 21
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AGE 10 +

This popular entertaining workshop is designed to prepare children to be home alone. Important skills are learned through interactive lessons and role play and help make you and your child more confident when they are home alone. Emergency first-aid is also taught along with how to respond to medical emergencies.

Sunday, May 5
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
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This one hour workshop, teaches kids steps to stay safe, if they become lost or separated from their parents or caregiver. What a child does and, most importantly, how prepared they are for the situation can make the difference in their overall safety. Must be at least 5 years old to take this workshop.

Sunday, June 2
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
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STRANGER SMARTS

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Sunday, June 2
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Contact: Gail Lief | 613-798-9818 x303 | glieff@jccottawa.com

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Pearl Borenstein by Judith and David Kalin.

Marlene and Howard Cohen by Judith and David Kalin.

Frances Tobias and Stanley Cohen by Judith and David Kalin.

Barbara and Stephen Sussman by Judith and David Kalin.

Dr. Steven and Elizabeth Rubin by Judith and David Kalin.

Helen and Sol Rauch by Judith and David Kalin.

SANDI AND EDDY COOK ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday Wishes to:

Stanley Ages by Sandi and Eddy Cook.

JOSEPH AND JEAN DOVER ENDOWMENT FUND

Happy Passover to:

Donna and Lewis Greenberg and family by Gerry and Madeleine Dover.

JOSEPH AND ESTHER EISENSTADT MEMORIAL FUND

R'fuah Sh'leimah to:

Anette Malkin by Joan Sacksner.

Rae Slomovic by Joan Sacksner.

Mazal Tov to:

Adam Lebow on becoming a lawyer by Joan Sacksner.

The Eisenstein family on their new grandson by Joan Sacksner.

Birthday Wishes to:

Harvey Eisenstadt by Joan Sacksner.

Happy Passover to:

The Lebow family by Joan Sacksner.

Martin Sacksner and family by Joan Sacksner.

In Memory of:

Joseph and Esther Eisenstadt, a beloved father and mother, and a beloved sister, Fern, by Joan Sacksner.

STEVEN AND ROZ FREMETH FAMILY FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Steven and Roz Fremeth on the engagement of Robyn to Joe by Sherri and Jack Torjman.

ALFRED AND KAYSA FRIEDMAN ENDOWMENT FUND

R'fuah Sh'leimah to:

Ruth Viner by Alfred and Kaysa Friedman.

In Memory of:

Beatrice Hock by Alfred and Kaysa Friedman.

Mazal Tov to:

Sunny and John Tavel on their new grandchild by Alfred and Kaysa Friedman.

EVA, DIANE AND JACK GOLDFIELD MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of:

Esther Krantzberg-Greenberg by Morley Goldfield and family.

Milton Viner by Morley Goldfield and family.

Morris Kates by Anita Landis.

MENDEL AND VALERIE GOOD ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of:

Teresa Poleski by Charna and Joseph Mittelman.

LARRY AND SHEILA HARTMAN ENDOWMENT FUND

Happy Passover to:

Richard and Doris Stern by Larry and Sheila Hartman.

MICHAEL DANIEL HILL MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of:

Irene Pinkusfeld Amar by the Hill family.

Mazal Tov to:

Jamie Levine on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah by the Hill family.

JEREMY KANTER MEMORIAL FUND

Condolences to:

Deborah Krebs and family on the loss of a dear mother and grandmother by Julie Kanter.

Happy Passover to:

Steven and Lynda Latner by Julie and Jonah Kanter.

MOE AND ESTHER KARDISH ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of:

Moe Kardish by Ethlyn, Barry and Sarah Agulnik.

SYD, ETHEL, LINDA AND STEVEN KERZNER AND FAMILY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Shelley Rothman on the engagement of Nina to Eric by Linda, Steven, Jessica and Lorne Kerzner.

Dr. Steven and Roz Fremeth on the engagement of Robyn to Joe by Linda, Steven, Jessica and Lorne Kerzner.

Judah and Margo Silverman on the upcoming wedding of Tova and Cliel by Linda, Steven, Jessica and Lorne Kerzner.

FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Margo Blostein on her retirement by Linda, Steven, Jessica and Lorne Kerzner.

Debbie Halton-Weiss and Ron Weiss on the birth of their granddaughter, Maya Shoshana Ava, by Linda, Steven, Jessica and Lorne Kerzner.

In Observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Jack Smith by Linda, Steven, Jessica and Lorne Kerzner.

In Memory of:

Rita Mitchell by Linda, Steven, Jessica and Lorne Kerzner.

SHARON KOFFMAN
ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of:

Freda Lithwick by Sandra Zagon.

Mazal Tov to:

Harry Prizant on Josh (Bucky)’s engagement to Ashira by Sandra Zagon.

KRANTZBERG KRANE FAMILY FUND

In Memory of:

Anthony Agius by Evelyn Krane and family.
Esther Greenberg by Evelyn Krane and family.

SUSAN AND DAVID KRIGER
ENDOWMENT FUND

In Observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Akiva Kriger, a dear father, by Susan and David Kriger.

ANNICE AND SYDNEY KRONICK
FAMILY FUND

Happy Passover to:

Debi and Neil Zaret by Donna and Eric Levin.
Henry and Maureen Molot by Sydney Kronick and Barbara Sugarman.
Dr. Marvin and Phyllis Silverman by Sydney Kronick and Barbara Sugarman.

Sol and Zelaine Shinder by Sydney Kronick and Barbara Sugarman.

Mazal Tov to:

Esther and David Kwavnick on the birth of their granddaughters by Debi and Neil Zaret.

ISSIE AND EDITH LANDAU
ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of:

Ethel Sarwer-Foner by Edith Landau, Jerrold Landau and family, and Michael Landau and family.

LEON AND BYRTHA LECKIE
MEMORIAL FUND

In Celebration of:

The first birthday of Gavin Leon Singh Dosanjh, great-grandson of Leon and Byrtha Leckie by Robin Leckie.

JACOB MALOMET MEMORIAL FUND

Happy Passover to:

Joan Bloom by Diana and Alvin Malomet.

RHODA AND JEFFREY MILLER
FAMILY FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Dr. Malcolm Miller on the birth of his new grandson, Max Abraham, by Rhoda, Jeffrey, Howard and Sara Miller.

Dr. Harry Prizant on the engagement of Josh (Bucky) to Ashira by Rhoda, Jeffrey, Howard and Sara Miller

Shelley Rothman on the engagement of Nina to Eric by Rhoda and Jeffrey Miller.

PINKAS AND YEHUDIT NEWMAN
MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of:

Beatrice Hock by Marilyn and William Newman.

Freda Lithwick by Marilyn and William Newman.

GERALD AND MARY-BELLE PULVERMACHER
FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday Wishes to:

Barbara Slipacoff by Gerald and Mary-Belle Pulvermacher.

Mazal Tov to:

Dr. Steven and Roz Fremeth on the engagement of their daughter Robyn to Joe by Gerald and Mary-Belle Pulvermacher.

MOE AND SARAH RESNICK
ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday Wishes to:

Marjorie Goldmaker by Penny, Gordon, Zach and Steven Resnick.

FLORENCE AND GDALYAH ROSENFELD
ENDOWMENT FUND

Condolences to:

Susan Heisel on the loss of your beloved mother by Anita Rosenfeld.

FRANCES AND MORTON ROSS
FAMLY FUND

In Memory of:

Helen Fleming by Donna and Howard Nadolny; by Estair Stotland Rosenberg and family; and by Ellen and Dwayne Wright.

SAMUEL AND RUTH ROTHMAN
MEMORIAL FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Eyal and Monica Talor on the engagement of Jonathan and Arwen by Corinne and Sheldon Taylor and family.

ELAYNE AND WESLEY SCHACTER
ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Jacen and Ilana Goldfarb on the birth of their twin daughters, Maia and Noa, by Elayne and Wesley Schacter.

Happy Passover to:

Karen and Walter Fogel and family by Elayne and Wesley Schacter.

HAROLD SHAFFER MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of:

Moe Cardash by Sheldon and Sonia Shaffer.

FAY AND JOSEPH SHULMAN
ENDOWMENT FUND

Condolences to:

Susan Heisel and family on the loss of a dear mother by Nadine and Brian Mordfield.

JULES AND BARBARA SIGLER
COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday Wishes to:

Jules Sigler by Carol and Stuart Levine.

JACK AND SARAH SILVERSTEIN
FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of:

Harold Goldman by Jack and Sarah Silverstein.

STELLA AND LOUIS SLACK
MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of:

Frances Laser by Myra and Lester Aronson and family.

SAM AND SUE SLACK
ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of:

Teresa Poleski by David, Sharon, Ryan, Jaye and Brody Appotive.

JACK AND LINDA SMITH
ENDOWMENT FUND

In Observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Jack Smith, a beloved father, by Leslie and Maureen Smith.

VICTOR AND SHIRLEY STEINBERG
ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of:

Jack Steinberg by Shirley Steinberg, Naomi, Shira, Laya, Elliott and Ilana.

In Observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Victor Steinberg by Shirley Steinberg, Naomi, Shira, Laya, Elliott and Ilana.

DORIS AND RICHARD STERN
FAMILY FUND

Birthday Wishes to:

Michael McGahan by Doris and Richard Stern.

SALLY AND MAX TALLER
FAMILY FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Jeff and Wendy Zelikovitz on the birth of their granddaughter, Skylar Max, by Sally Taller and family.

David and Hayley Bernstein on the birth of their daughter, Skylar Max, by Sally Taller and family.

SUSAN WEISMAN AND JEFF TAYLOR
ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of:

Henry Leader by Susan Weisman, Jeff, Josh, Bram and Dani Taylor.

LISE AND MARK THAW FAMILY FUND

Happy Passover to:

Barbara and Gerald Thaw by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

Gail and Stan Hitzig by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

Joany and Andy Katz and family by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

Elsa and Norman Swedko by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

Dorothy Nadolny by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

Donna and Josh Cohen and family by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

MOSES, CHENYA
AND HENRY TORONTOW
MEMORIAL FUND

Condolences to:

Jean Naemark on the loss of a dear sister-in-law by Beatrice Torontow.

Mazal Tov to:

Jean Naemark and family on the engagement of Shawn to Kaitlyn, by Beatrice Torontow and family.

STEPHEN AND GAIL VICTOR
ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday Wishes to:

Gail Victor by Fran and Stan Ages.

IRVING AND DIANE WEXLER
FAMILY FUND

In Memory of:

Freda Lithwick by Diane Wexler and family.

SAM AND HELENE ZARET
MEMORIAL FUND

Anniversary Wishes to:

Debi and Neil Zaret by Donna and Eric Levin.

*The Chair and Board of Directors of the
Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation cordially invite
all fund holders and members of the Community to attend the*

OJCF Annual General Meeting
Thursday, June 13th, 2013

Doors Open: 7:00 pm Call to Order: 7:30 pm
Dessert Reception to follow proceedings

Zelikovitz Family Social Hall of The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building
21 Nadolny Sachs Private

**At this time, the community is invited to nominate candidates
for the Board of Directors.**

**All nominations from members must be submitted in writing
to Rebecca Nagrodski at rnagrodski@ojcf.ca up to seven days
(no later than June 04, 2013) prior to the election of the Directors
at the Annual General Meeting. Successful candidates will serve
a three-year term from June 2013 to June 2016. Nominations will not be
accepted from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.**

Please send your RSVP prior to May 31, 2013
to Rebecca Nagrodski
at 613-798-4696 ext. 252 or at rnagrodski@ojcf.ca

*A copy of the meeting materials will be available
on our website prior to the AGM.*



www.OJCF.ca

“Our Future is in Your Hands”

FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Best Wishes to:
Donna and Eric Levin on their special anniversary and a happy Passover by Debi and Neil Zaret.

ZIPES KARANOFSKY FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND
Mazal Tov to:
Helen and Rick Zipes on the engagement of Connie and Kyle by Sherri and Jack Torjman; and by Corinne and Sheldon Taylor and family.

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

WOMEN’S COLLECTIVE ENDOWMENT FUND
In Appreciation to:
Lynne Oreck-Wener, by Angus Smith and the Temple Israel Insights Into Judaism Course.
Birthday Wishes to:
Paula Agulnik by Lynne Oreck-Wener and Bob Wener.
Mazal Tov to:
The Managers and Staff at Megram Consulting Services on their success by Rebecca Nagrodski.
In Memory of:
Walter Konz by Rebecca Nagrodski.

THE SAUL AND EDNA GOLDFARB B’NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM
NOAH HAMBURG MITZVAH FUND
In Memory of:
Henry Leader by the Hamburg family.

JOSHUA KOFSKY B’NAI MITZVAH FUND
In Memory of:
Bernie Clarke by Liz, Jeff, Josh and Ben Kofsky.
With Appreciation to:
Beverley and Ellie Hamburg by Ben Kofsky and family.
Cybele and Lyon Hamburg by Ben Kofsky and family.
Stacey and Fred Seller by Ben Kofsky and family.

SAMUEL MORGAN BNAI MITZVAH FUND
In Memory of:
Hassiba Abenhaim by Sarah Beutel and Steven Morgan.

EYAL PODOLSKY B’NAI MITZVAH FUND
In Appreciation to:
The Podolsky family by Gita Pearl.

ALAYNA AND BRYAN THAW MITZVAH FUND
In Memory of:
Fay Geitzhals by Bryan Thaw.

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.

Donating made easy at www.OJCF.ca

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

Use our online donation form to send one or multiple tribute cards to your friends and loved ones in one secure transaction.

Charitable receipts are issued and sent directly to your email account.

Try it TODAY!

Readers are advised that In Appreciation notices may not always appear on Foundation pages, particularly when space is limited.

Flowers on Gravesites

It is time once again to make arrangements for the purchase and planting of flowers at the cemeteries which must be made through Jewish Memorial Gardens. This ensures a uniform price structure and guarantees maintenance of the flowerbeds. Below you will find details for the present price structure. **Deadline for confirmed and paid orders has been extended to May 10, 2013.**

A Single Plot: \$128.32 + hst \$16.68 = \$145.00 • A Double Plot: \$256.64 + hst \$33.36 = \$290.00
• Across Planting (adjoining plots): \$192.48 + hst \$25.02 = \$217.50
25-YEAR CONTRACTS AVAILABLE

Please forward your requests for planting along with your payment to:
Flowers – Jewish Memorial Gardens, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9
or by fax 613-798-4695



PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR CHEQUE. WE ALSO ACCEPT VISA AND MASTERCARD.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Province, Postal Code: _____

Credit card number: _____ Expiration date: _____

Name on Grave	Cemetery	Section	Row/Plot	Amount
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

If it's Tuesday, this must be Belgian chocolate

As I headed off to an all-inclusive Mexican resort for spring break, I decided I would draw from the experience and write a how-to article – how to eat in moderation and still enjoy oneself.

I set a few ground rules for myself. I'd avoid oversized and multiple portions, sugary cocktails, fried food and excessive desserts – rules I generally abide by at home. Food would be readily available 24/7, so I made up my mind I'd only eat when I truly felt hungry. For me, daily exercise would be a no-brainer, but would I be able to refrain from fressing?

I started off on the right foot the first night at the resort. I selected lots of locally grown veggies from the salad bar. I was in guacamole heaven. I also made some healthy choices from the vast array of entrées and side dishes.

Then I spotted the expansive, mouth-watering sweet table – my Achilles heel. I could have sworn I heard a choir of angels sing. I soon realized it was just the mariachi band welcoming me to the land of all-you-can-eat.

Sometimes even the best of intentions and carefully crafted plans cannot overcome the forces of evil. I allowed myself a treat or two. What the heck, I was on vacation! There couldn't be *that* many calories in a miniature pastry. But one bite led to another and before I knew it, I was all but lapping up liquid sugar from the chocolate fountain.

As the week progressed, I discovered the more I ate, the more I thought about food. I found myself looking forward to the next snack or meal before I even finished what was on my plate. I indulged from dawn till dusk. From full breakfasts with mimosas to candy-coated bedtime snacks, I broke all the rules – and I didn't care. I was past the point of no return.

I had no problem making time each day for physical activities. I participated in yoga and water aerobics classes, ran and worked out at the onsite gym. I even zip-lined, rappelled down a cliff, kayaked and climbed a pyramid. Would these activities burn all the excess calories?

When I wasn't eating or exercising, I lay by the pool reading. In *The Cure for Everything*, author Timothy Caulfield dispels many myths about exercise and diet. He states it's very difficult to exercise enough to lose weight.

Think of all the people you know who exercise and don't lose weight. One reason is that exercise stimulates appetite. If you jog for half an hour then have a recovery sports drink or reward yourself with a bigger dinner, the calories consumed negate the calories burned.

Unless you have time to devote several hours per day to exercise, which is unrealistic for most of us, exercise will not be the defining factor in weight loss. Exercise is more effective in maintaining your weight so those extra pounds don't sneak up on you.

I urge everyone to exercise and keep moving throughout

the day because you'll reap tremendous health benefits, many of which I've described in previous articles.

With respect to diet, Caulfield lists the few things that have been consistently shown to support weight loss: 1- self-monitoring by keeping a food journal; 2- avoiding fast food, junk food and mindless snacking; and 3- being aware of portion sizes.

According to Caulfield, even with the help of experts, monitoring and counselling, and regardless of the type of diet, weight loss goals are rarely achieved or sustained. For the majority of people, maintaining a healthy weight is a lifelong struggle. The reality is that our bodies need fewer calories as we age. Caulfield concludes the way to lose weight and keep it off sounds simple, but is difficult for many to achieve: Eat fewer calories for the rest of your life.

When I'd finished reading the last chapter, I realized I'd accomplished something that was practically unheard of at the resort – I hadn't eaten in nearly two hours! So I made a beeline for the grand buffet. I savoured every morsel know-

A poignant seder recalled 70 years later

This Passover was special for my Diener family. Between me and my three siblings, we have 11 children, ranging in age from 17 to 29, and my mother had mentioned several times that it had been a long time since all of her grandchildren, who had grown up more like brothers and sisters than cousins, had been together. Even at the last few family simchas, someone was missing, either on a vacation, or at a far away university. Through careful planning this year, we finally were able to bring everyone together. On the Sunday before Pesach, the out-of-towners arrived from Montreal, Toronto and Waterloo and we all met at my brother's house for dinner, to enjoy each other's company and spend a few hours in lively conversation. We took pleasure in knowing that most of us would also be together the next two evenings at our family seders.

As meaningful and fun as that Sunday was, I had been thinking of doing something special that would tie our family long weekend into my seder. Fortunately, on Thursday, March 21, just three days before our reunion, I received my inspiration. It came in an email from *JewishGen* and was the standard pre-holiday message sent to thousands of people. In it, they wished me a Happy Passover and thanked me for my past support. It also included a list of Passover-related links to pages on its website. Glancing over the links, one in particular stood out. Entitled "The Passover Seder in Camp," I noticed it was a translation from the Skalat Yizkor book. Knowing my father and grandparents were prisoners in that camp, I clicked on the link.

The pages from the Yizkor book tell the tale of Passover 1943. The first few sentences were horribly familiar, as they told of events that my father had described to us. On April 7, 1943, almost 900 Jews from the region, including my grandmother Frieda, were removed from the ghetto and murdered. Those selected to die were marched out of town, forced to dig a huge pit, and made to undress. They were then shot one at a time, and each fell into what was to become their grave. The book's pages went on to describe the days after, when those still in the ghetto were forced to sort the clothing and empty the pockets of the ones who had passed. My father recognized his mother's clothing in the pile, and also those of a cousin. The author of the account in the Yizkor book told the same tale, and emphasized how shocking and emotional it was for



Focus on Fitness

Gloria Schwartz

ing that once my vacation was over, I'd get back on track.

The first thing I did when I got home from my trip was weigh myself. I guesstimated that I'd probably gained three or four pounds but, surprisingly, I hadn't gained any weight. Despite my over-indulgences, it seemed that exercise had helped me maintain my pre-vacation weight. Or, could it just be that what happens in Mexico stays in Mexico?

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



Connecting the branches

John Diener

a ghetto inmate to perform this task, knowing that tomorrow, another Jew could be sorting his clothing.

Passover that year fell on April 20, less than two weeks after the mass murder, and about six months after most of the region's Jews had been taken away and exterminated at the infamous Belzec camp. Emotions ran high. Many had given up and accepted their days were numbered. According to the Yizkor book, a certain number of the Jews still sought comfort in religion. Daily prayer sessions were organized, and Kaddish was said for the recently departed. Those who continued to follow their faith were able to provide a glimmer of hope to those who were resigned to their fate.

Some of the men decided that, even in those desperate times, the holiday should be observed. Remembering seders from just a year or two earlier, these mentally and physically drained Jews took it upon themselves to spread the word among the inmates. Lookouts were posted in strategic locations and, very quietly, those present began following the familiar order of the Passover observance. Candles were lit and tiny bits of matzo were put on the table. Maror and charoset were somehow found and displayed as well, although certainly it was not necessary to have symbols representing bitterness and tears, two things that were readily available. The familiar melodies of "Avadim Hayinu," and "Chad Gadya" were sung. I cannot imagine what these Jews felt when they read the line proclaiming "L'shana Habaah b'Yerushalim (Next Year in Jerusalem)."

My father never mentioned that seder in the ghetto, although I can picture him at 18 sitting with his father at that meagre table, perhaps reading a section aloud from the Haggadah. I know one thing for sure, though. He could not have imagined the scene 70 years later in Ottawa, when his future wife, four children, their spouses, and 11 grandchildren would gather in comparative luxury to not only celebrate Passover, but also to remember that 1943 seder by reading the excerpt from the Skalat Yizkor book to begin our Pesach.

To read the very moving section from the Yizkor book describing the seder in much greater detail, visit tinyurl.com/Passover-Seder-in-Camp or Google "Passover Seder Skalat."

HOUSE FOR RENT

(1403 Larose Ave.)

spacious, centrally located, well-maintained brick semi-detached house. Available August 1st – \$1600.00/month (utilities not included).

There are three bedrooms (and a fourth room in the basement), two bathrooms, finished basement, storage, large deck, fenced backyard and sheds.

Contact orlylewkowickelly@gmail.com or call 613-795-3379 for more information and photos.



ISRAELI WINE EVENING

Hors D'oeuvres, Guest Speakers, Silent Auction

You are invited - cocktail reception, sommelier-led Israeli wine tasting, world-renowned speakers, fabulous silent auction.



Maccabi Canada - Team Ottawa is pleased to invite you to this special community event, graciously sponsored and hosted by David Smith of **Creative Kosher Catering**. The evening will feature hors d'oeuvres, Israeli food and dessert bar, special tastings of world-class Israeli wines led by local sommelier and national wine judge Francois Belisle, and an exciting silent auction with fabulous items.

Special guest speakers: Both Bernie Farber and Warren Kinsella have been described as being at the forefront of the struggle fighting hate and anti-Semitism. Bernie is the former Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Jewish Congress and a social activist. He testified before the Canadian courts as an expert witness on hate crime, and is one of Canada's leading experts on minority and human rights, race relations and anti-Semitism. Warren Kinsella was special assistant to the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, and is the author of six books including *Web of Hate*. He is also the author of *The War Room* which the *Toronto Sun* calls a "must read." His latest, *Fight The Right*, was published in 2012 by Random House. *The Huffington Post* said it is "absolutely on the money".



6:30 pm on Thursday, May 30, 2013

Agudath Israel Synagogue, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, Ottawa

It is anticipated that this event will sell out quickly. Please reserve your ticket early!



\$50 per person / corporate tables available.
Everything included. For reservations, contact
maccabiwineevening@rogers.com or
Bill at 613-820-7714. You can also pay online at
www.maccabicanada.com



All proceeds go towards the costs of helping to send Ottawa-area athletes to the 19th Maccabiah Games in Israel in July 2013.

WHAT'S GOING ON

April 22 to May 5, 2013

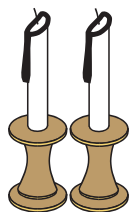
For more community listings,
visit jewishottawa.com
Select "Click to see
more months"



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 26 ☆ 7:41 pm
May 3 ☆ 7:50 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 23

2013 National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony, sponsored by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, Canadian War Museum, 1 Vimy Place, 3:30 pm. Free bus transportation available from SJCC at 2:45 pm, returning after the ceremony. Bus reservations: 613-798-4696, ext. 253. Event reservations: 416-785-1333 or info@yadvashem.ca.

Between Autobiography and Imagination, a talk by Italian author Lia Levi whose works of fiction revolve around Jewish themes, presented by the Shoah Committee and the Embassy of Italy. An author of 30 books for children and young adults, which draw heavily on her wartime experiences in Italy, Levi will talk about the interplay of life experiences in her works of fiction for adults, the choices an author makes in selecting and

sifting real-life elements and will read from her books, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 255.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 and THURSDAY, APRIL 25

If Not Now, When? Responsibility and Memory after the Holocaust Conference, presented by the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University, featuring guest speaker MP Irwin Cotler, Carleton University. Info: 613-520-2600, ext. 1320.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

Shalom Ottawa community TV show on Rogers 22, 12:00 pm. (Repeats Monday, April 29 and Friday, May 3 at 6:00 pm).

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

tours of exhibit are ongoing until movie presentation.

Voice of a People: A Lag BaOmer Concert featuring soloist Sharon Azrieli Perez and accompanist Judith Ginsburg. Commentary by music critic Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaer. Songs from the founding of the State of Israel and from the

Sephardi repertoire, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 243.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Guys Night Out, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, featuring comedian Joey Elias, Velvet Room, 62 York Street, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 241.

COMING SOON

MONDAY, MAY 6

Movie Screening sponsored by the SJCC: *Hava Nagila* explores the phenomenon behind the iconic folksong and seeks to explain why this melody has persisted over the years, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 254.

TUESDAY, MAY 28

JET presents Jewish Unity Live, featuring guest speaker Charlie Harary, and musical entertainer Edon Pinchot (*America's Got Talent* semi-finalist), 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:*

Hassiba Abenhaim, Montreal
(mother of David Abenhaim)

Morris Kates

Rita Mitchell (née Murphy)

Sarita Walerstein

*May their memory
be a blessing always.*

The
CONDOLENCE
COLUMN

is offered
as a public service
to the community.
There is no charge.

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

Voice mail is available.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

MAY 1
FOR MAY 20

MAY 29
FOR JUNE 17

JULY 3
FOR JULY 22

(all dates subject to change)

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FIRST FRUITS OF SPRING



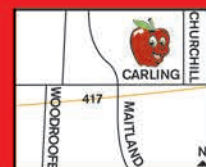
DESPITE HOW THE WEATHER FEELS, OTTAWA,
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