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Israel at 65: Ottawa celebrates Yom Ha'Atzmaut

By Ilana Belfer

If there is a road to Zion, it's certainly not Uplands Drive. Yet that's the route upwards of 600 community members took to the Ernst & Young Centre, April 16, to celebrate Israel's 65th Yom Ha'Atzmaut.

As Hebrew music blared, people decked in blue and white danced the hora and waved Israeli flags. Other guests at Israel's birthday bash filled their plates with hummus, falafel and other Israeli-fare.

"It's crucial that we, as a Jewish community, stay in touch with our roots, which to me is Israel," said Penny Torontow, whose passion for Israel drove her to chair the event for the sixth or seventh time – she's lost count.

"It's really important that Ottawa and the community keep celebrating Yom Ha'Atzmaut and keep teaching our children how important it is that we are proud of Israel's independence."

This was the second time the celebration was held at the large venue near the airport, where it moved when redevelopment began at Lansdowne Park where the Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration had taken place in previous years.

"This is the biggest turnout we get for any event of the community," Torontow said. "One of the reasons, I think, is that it's in an unaffiliated location; there's no affiliation to any synagogue or organizations, so people just feel free to come."

The program featured live music from the Toronto-based Jaffa Road, a Juno-nominated, award-winning world music group with a repertoire full of secular and religious Jewish songs.

Their show had particular meaning for Erica Bregman, 36, who said she first discovered Jaffa Road about two years ago when she was "pleasantly surprised" to hear one of their Hebrew songs on CBC Radio.

"I've listened to them in my kitchen hundreds of times. If I lived in Toronto, I'd be a groupie, so I'm excited to see this live concert," said Bregman.

But, despite the festivities, there was something sombre weighing on the hearts of many.

"I must acknowledge all the victims of the Boston tragedy," Torontow told the crowd, referring to the Boston Marathon bombing, which occurred the day before. "Unfortunately, it's tragedies like this that our beautiful country has known too many times."

However, a "miraculous" 65 years has seen 800,000 inhabitants of Israel in 1948 grow to eight million today, she continued, receiving applause.

Two big bouncy-castles on the side of the room served as a telling sign of the overall atmosphere: kids at every turn and, with them, young parents.

"The kids are highly motivated to come to this," said Georgette Wolfe, 39, whose four children range in age from 18 months to nine years old. "They go to the Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS), so they know about it and tell us we have to come."

"We get to see lots of people," said Georgette's husband Yariv, 44, who added they also come to show support. "I'm Israeli. My brothers and sisters all live in Israel and it's



Dancers celebrate at the community Yom Ha'Atzmaut party, April 16.

(Photo: Howard Sandler)

very close to us in terms of community and family," he said.

Another OCJS student, 12-year-old Adam Hadad, was making good use of the inflatable games. "Israel's awesome. It's the most hardcore place in Asia," he said. "Plus, my father was born there."

Students from the various Jewish schools in attendance marched in a parade around the large room carrying homemade banners with messages like "OMJS [Ottawa Modern Jewish School] hearts Israel," which they continued to display as Chelsea Sauv  led the singing of "O Canada" and "Hatikvah."

Athletes participating in this summer's Maccabiah Games in Israel were also part of the parade,

(Continued on page 2)



Israeli Ambassador Miriam Ziv and Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird celebrate, April 15, at the Embassy of Israel's Yom Ha'Atzmaut reception.

(Photo: Peter Waiser)

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Celebrations follow solemn Yom Hazikaron commemoration

(Continued from page 1)

including soccer player Eadan Farber, for whom the party was a precursor to his first real trip to Israel for the Games.

Sheva Pinchev, a retired teacher who moved to Ottawa from Russia 22 years ago, said she has never missed a single community-wide Yom Ha'Atzmaut party. This time, she brought her daughter and three of her granddaughters, whose ages ranged from 10 to 15.

"Yom Ha'Atzmaut is important because we cannot exist in the world without our country," she said, noting that it was the first time she didn't encounter any protesters at the event.

"Canada is beautiful, perfect. Everything is good, but Israel – this is our land."

Earlier in the day, Yom Ha'Atzmaut was marked at Ottawa City Hall when the Israeli flag was raised in an outdoor ceremony at City Hall's Marion Dewar Plaza.

Mayor Jim Watson spoke about the important contributions made to the life of the city by Ottawa's Jewish community. Watson singled out Israeli-born Sara Vered, who was in attendance, noting she was one of the charter inductees, last year, in the new Order of Ottawa.

Others speaking briefly at the flag-raising ceremony included Israeli Ambassador Miriam Ziv, Rabbi Reuven Bulka and Jewish Federation of Ottawa President and CEO Andrea Freedman.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebrations in Ottawa began the evening before the community-wide party with a reception hosted by the Embassy of Israel at the Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel and "Ottawa's First-Ever Yom Ha'Atzmaut Party for Young Adults," a joint initiative by jnet, Hillel, Glebe Shul and the Young Women's Leadership Council.

Ambassador Ziv welcomed more than 600 guests to the Embassy reception including many cabinet ministers and other members of Parliament, Supreme Court justices, senior military officials, diplomats, academics, rabbis, journalists and members of Ottawa's Jewish community.

Ziv and Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird addressed the gathering, noting Baird's visit to Israel the week before and highlighting plans to establish a strategic partnership agreement between Israel and Canada.

Meanwhile, about 100 people aged from 19 to late-30s were a few blocks away in the ByWard Market at the Velvet Room tasting Israeli wines and nibbling on blue and white sweets. Many got a thematic henna tattoo, like a *hamsa*, and enjoyed the music of the kippah-clad Shir Chadash Band.

"We're back to do another rockin' set for our favourite country," singer-guitarist Eldan Cohen declared on taking the stage after an interlude.

Event chair Ranit Braun, 30, who received a microgrant from the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Innovation Fund in order to put on the party, said the party complemented the community-wide event the next evening.

"The community-wide event is great and wonderful



(From left) Bram Bregman, Sara Kardish, Yael Kamil, Bobby Wollock and Ian Levitan at the "Ottawa's First-Ever Yom Ha'Atzmaut Party for Young Adults." (Photo: Tooma Productions)

and I go every year, but I felt like there's been an emphasis for younger children and families," she said noting the interest in a Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration geared to young adults.

The Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebrations began just as Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day for fallen soldiers and victims of terror, came to an end.

A solemn Yom Hazikaron ceremony was held, April 14, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

During the ceremony, special tributes were paid to two natives of Ottawa who had made aliyah and died defending Israel.

Benny Boguslovsky was a member of *Lamed Hey*, the 35 Palmach soldiers who died bringing aid to the besieged Gush Etzion in January 1948, and David Zbar was killed in the Golan Heights while on reserved service with the Israel Defense Forces in October 1974.

Tributes were also paid to fallen Israeli soldiers Yehoram Shiloni and Shimon Haim who have family members living in Ottawa.

If anyone knows of other Ottawans who have lost their lives while defending Israel, they are asked to contact the Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program at 613-798-9818, ext. 243.

Michael Regenstreif contributed to this report.



David Cohen of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Ottawa Post, and Ottawa Jewish Community School student Raphael Sandler raise the Israeli flag, April 16, at Ottawa City Hall's Marion Dewar Plaza.

(Photo: Michael Regenstreif)



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OJCS is more than a school. It's a family. It's a place where you walk in the doors and everyone knows your name, and your parent's name, and your sibling's name and your bubbe's name. It's a place where simchas are enjoyed, where learning is celebrated and where students succeed.

Our school follows a new mission statement encouraging Respect, Responsibility, and Reaching for Excellence.

At OJCS, our students become leaders equipped with educational tools and Jewish values, confident in their abilities and ready to actively participate in their communities.

Our Jewish studies program offers a relevant and thematic approach to learning, focusing on Hebrew language, Jewish history, a love of Israel and a strong foundation of Jewish values, customs and traditions. Our program provides a foundation that every Jewish parent would want for his or her child. We teach children to hold steadfast to their values, to treat others with respect and to take pride in being Jewish.

Our Hebrew language program begins in ADK and focuses on songs, games, activities and interactive ways for students to learn new language. Beginning in grade four, Hebrew students are streamed in smaller classes based on interest and ability, ensuring strong language acquisition and the ability to converse with ease.

Our strong academic program focuses on the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum requirements from language arts, math, science and social studies. Our testing results have shown that our students are performing, on average, above Ministry standards in English and math, with scores above 80%. Our strong math program includes a dedicated math coach and a focus on problem-based learning, critical thinking and a challenging and robust curriculum. Students are also provided a rich literacy program that strengthens their reading comprehension, oral communication, writing skills and media literacy.

The OJCS French program is a robust, interactive and results-driven curriculum,



Grade 1 seder at OJCS

producing strong French-speaking students.

Our curriculum also includes music, art, physical education and technology. Small class sizes allow for close monitoring of our students. Technology is integrated into the classroom through the use of SMART boards.

Strong, caring and creative certified teachers help navigate peer relationships

and mentor interpersonal and leadership skills.

Students who attend our school find their minds enriched and challenged by our trilingual program. This exposure offers them a unique, comprehensive and global learning experience.

Beyond formal classroom instruction, OJCS students are encouraged to participate and develop leadership skills in a wide variety of sports and extracurricular activities. Throughout the year, students have opportunities to take place in a variety of activities and clubs. Our younger students enjoy in-school Lego, science, environmental and sports clubs. Our middle students take part in yearbook, student council and competitive athletic teams, and our high school students present a high school drama production and enjoy out-of-town trips.

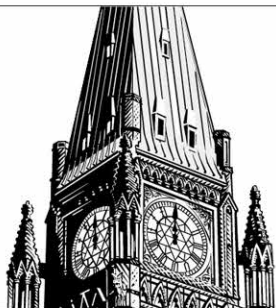
OJCS graduates leave our school to attend their universities of choice, often with multiple scholarship offers.

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'Sacred memory of the six million' recalled at national ceremony

By Diane Koven

Noting that Canada holds the chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance for 2013, Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney said Canada will continue to lead the global fight against anti-Semitism.

Kenney was the keynote speaker at the National Holocaust

Remembrance Day Ceremony held April 23 at the Canadian War Museum. Although Yom HaShoah fell on April 8 this year, the national ceremony was held later because Parliament was not sitting that week.

"Just as we remember today, at this commemoration of Yom HaShoah, the sacred memory of the six million who perished, each one a person of infinite worth, each one created in the likeness of God, each one victim of a hatred that surpasses human understanding," Kenney said. "While we remember them, we give thanks for those who are with us here today – heroes, survivors, veterans, Canadian descendants of the Righteous among the Nations."

The theme for this year's ceremony was "Defiance and Resistance," marking the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, as well as 10 years since Parliament passed Bill C-459 establishing a national day to commemorate the Holocaust. The



Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney, lights a candle on the Yad Vashem menorah, in memory of the 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. With him are (from left) Holocaust survivors Wolf Bronet and Walter Absil, Minister of State Tim Uppal, and Yaron Ashkenazi, executive director of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem. (Photo courtesy of Canadian Society for Yad Vashem)

event was organized by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem and the Zachor Coalition, a group of organizations from across the country including the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and the Shoah Committee of Ottawa.

The ceremony was attended by hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their families, as well as cabinet ministers, members of Parliament,

diplomats, and many other dignitaries. Masters of ceremonies were Fran Sonshine, national chair of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, and board member Naomi Azrieli.

Former MP Mario Silva, chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, noted he had recently returned from Poland where he participated in events commemorating the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

"I will focus on building partnerships with other international bodies ... [and] countries such as Ukraine, where one-quarter of the Holocaust victims died," Silva said. "In honour of the memory of the victims of the Holocaust, let us each renew today our commitment to

fight anti-Semitism."

Other speakers – including Ambassador of Israel to Canada Miriam Ziv; Opposition Leader Tom Mulcair; MP Irwin Cotler, representing the Liberal Party; MP Louis Plamondon, representing the Bloc Québécois; and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May – all echoed the messages of remembrance and carrying on with the fight against intolerance and hatred.

Mark Adler, the only member of Parliament who is the child of a Holocaust survivor, read a moving letter from a young girl to her mother whom she knew she would never see again.

Minister of State for Democratic Reform Tim Uppal announced that Canada's Na-

tional Holocaust Monument will be erected in front of the Canadian War Museum at the corner of Wellington and Booth. The monument "will be a testament to the importance of ensuring that the memory of the Holocaust is never lost," said Uppal. "The monument will encourage people to reflect upon the events of the Holocaust, remember the victims, and pay tribute to the survivors. It will also encourage people to reflect on the responsibilities each of us has to protect human rights and dignity."

Six candles were lit, each by a group of survivors and dignitaries, in memory of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust.

The ceremony was opened and closed by the Jewish War Veterans of Canada who marched on and off the Colours. Rabbi Reuven Bulka, a member of the National Holocaust Day committee, delivered the Dvar Torah, and Cantor Moshe Kraus, himself a Holocaust survivor, recited Kel Maleh Rachamim and led the assembly in Kaddish.

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Talking with Ottawa Jewish community leaders

Steven and Linda Kerzner:

Slow down? Not likely for this couple

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.

Although small in stature, Linda and Steven Kerzner are giants when it comes to taking on leadership roles in the community.

Both born and raised in Ottawa, and educated at Hillel Academy, the Kerznars have earned a reputation for being *doers*, people who take on a project and get the job done.

Linda was greatly influenced by her uncle, Hy Hochberg, the longtime executive director of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'ir (now the Jewish Federation of Ottawa). During her teens, Linda spent a lot of time volunteering in the Jewish community, inspired by her Uncle Hy.

Linda's early-20s were a time of change, as she and many of her friends got married and had children. She joined the women's organization, ORT, to meet new people and to perform acts of charity. ORT provided her with lifelong friends, and the organizational and fundraising skills she acquired have been the backbone of her years in community service.

As with many parents, her volunteer interests ebbed and flowed with the ages of her two children, now in their 20s. After she retired from her professional life, both in business and in the Jewish community – she was the first CEO of the newly built Soloway Jewish Community Centre – Linda found her true calling. She knew she wanted to strengthen Ottawa's Jewish community by working with Hillel Ottawa on



Steven and Linda Kerzner

(Photo: Peter Waiser)

campus. For five years, she mentored and guided the students she encountered, and loved every minute of it.

"It was one of the most rewarding times of my life," she said.

Working with Hillel Ottawa, Linda realized there are hundreds of Jewish graduate, medical and law students from out of town. She feels the community should endeavour to hold onto them as they are potential leaders. This opportunity should not be missed, she believes.

Steven and Linda co-chaired the Federation's Annual Campaign together three years ago. Prior to that, Linda chaired the Women's Campaign.

Fundraising is Steven's passion, particularly raising money for specific projects or items in the community. For 10 years, he canvassed for the Annual Campaign and went on to co-chair the Major and Top

Donors Divisions. He also chaired the JCC/Hillel Academy Golf Tournament for five years.

"I like to see the results quickly," he said. "Fundraising for a specific cause, whether it's for Hillel Lodge to build more beds, to build the new JCC, or for Dragon Boat Israel – it's creating something. I love doing that."

Dragon Boat Israel is Linda's current passion, not for the sport, she stresses, but the fact the festival brought hundreds of people to Israel from all over the world, many of whom were non-Jews. Although her first trip to Israel took place when she was 40, she's returned many times.

"I feel it's key to my existence to support the State of Israel," she said.

Linda is also very proud of this community. She says it's outsiders who notice how well it operates, despite what locals may

think. As an example, after the opening of the Jewish Community Campus, representatives from various ethnic groups, including Muslims, visited the campus. They were so impressed, she said, at how a small community could raise enough funds to accomplish such a huge feat.

"How did you do it," they asked, hoping to replicate the accomplishment themselves. Linda cites co-operation between agencies in Ottawa, which, she said, other communities of the same size don't enjoy.

"Overall, we have a very vibrant, growing, diverse and cohesive community, which I truly appreciate and I'm very proud to say I'm from the Ottawa Jewish community."

Linda describes two challenges facing the community. One is declining enrolment in Jewish schools. The other is finding different ways to engage young people as volunteers.

"The younger generation wants to give to the larger community in a Jewish way," which is different from the traditional ways known to previous generations, such as financial donations, sitting on boards of institutions or holding fundraising events. Performing tikkun olam deeds in foreign countries are an example.

Steven is concerned with the lack of involvement he sees in the younger generation, both in giving time and money. He notes many parents of young children lead busy lives, but are not putting the proper perspective on the importance of supporting our community institutions. He also feels many do not realize the Federation supports many programs these same families partake in. The drop in fundraising dollars for the Federation and other agencies, he fears, will be a harsh reality in years to come.



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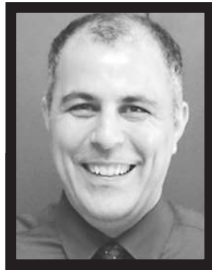


Walk or run on behalf of the Jewish school of your choice

As you begin to read this, I would ask you to take a moment and close your eyes. Actually, don't close your eyes as it will prevent you from reading further; rather, use your imagination.

Imagine a bright sunny morning with our Jewish Community Campus bustling with families. As you look around, you see the young and young at heart all dressed in the same event T-shirt. There are members of every synagogue and students from every Jewish school in Ottawa. If you look over to your left, you'll see university- and college-aged students. To your right are a group of bobbies and zaydas who have chosen to walk while their grandchildren and their friends' grandchildren run the route. Directly ahead of you are some of our community's leaders, those who generously volunteer their time and those who generously contribute financially.

We are standing outside the Ottawa Jewish Community School building: One people – Am Echad. We look around and see family, friends and friends to be, as we know that, in being there, on that day, we are once again inspiring our children to take pride in being Jewish. We are contributing to Jewish education in Ottawa through our



Federation Report

Mitch Miller
Walkathon

actions and the necessary funds we donated and solicited before the event.

We recently celebrated Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's day of independence, and we heard the words of Theodore Herzl, "If you will it, it is no dream."

Now open both of your eyes. This is no dream. Last year's event was attended by more than 600 people and built on the success of the previous year and more than 40 years of community walkathons. Plan to join us on Sunday, June 9 to celebrate our community's present and future stars and be counted at the annual *Am Echad Walk/Run for Jewish Education in Ottawa*.

This is the third year Julie Ross and I have co-chaired our community's walkathon. Our team of volunteers has once again been planning another great day for our families. Your role is simple: 1) Register

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yourself and your family; 2) Fundraise for your Jewish school; 3) Attend; 4) Have fun! We'll take care of the rest.

If you have not attended the walkathon in the past two years, you missed the friendly 'race' atmosphere where everyone who registers receives a personalized race bib, an event T-shirt and access to the post-event brunch. And there will be many other things happening on the front lawn of the Ottawa Jewish Community School building to keep everyone excited throughout the morning.

One of the key components of this event, which is sometimes overlooked, is the

fundraising aspect. Every dollar pledged to a participant will go to the school the participant has registered to fundraise for. So, the more people who register for a school, the more opportunity the school has to raise funds through the event. There is no cost to any Jewish school in Ottawa to participate. Thanks to the Ottawa Jewish Community School and the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, every Jewish school in Ottawa has the opportunity to set and achieve its own fundraising goals.

To aid registered participants in their fundraising efforts, the *Am Echad Walk/Run* committee has improved on last year's on-line registration website to create personal fundraising pages for registered participants. Participants will be able to solicit donations from friends and family around the globe to support their Jewish school of choice.

So, if we have made it easier to register, easier to fundraise, and everyone knows they'll have a great time, there is only one thing left to do.

Register at *amechadwalkrun.com*. Then fundraise for your Jewish school.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday morning, June 9, at the *Am Echad Walk/Run for Jewish Education in Ottawa!*

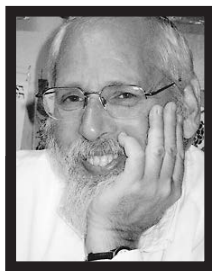
'For the young people and by the young people'

On Shabbat Chol HaMoed Pesach, we read in *Shir HaShirim* (Song of Songs, Chapter 2, 11-12), "See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land."

From the words of King Solomon, we received a subtle reminder that spring and summer were coming and we were winding up the school year. Our children will also be finishing up their studies and their extracurricular endeavours. Parents will be taking a rest from chauffeuring their children from school to soccer, math tutoring, hockey, and dance or music lessons. This is a time to assess what our children are accomplishing in their leisure time activities and to think about how they might best spend their free time in the upcoming school year. We all recognize the value of supplementary activities and consider these informal opportunities as educationally beneficial as formal school programs.

In planning next year's after-school program, parents might want to give serious thought and consideration to expanding their children's Jewish involvement and education. Active weekly participation in informal educational synagogue settings such as junior congregation and shul youth choirs, in Zionist youth movements such as Habonim-Dror and Bnei Akiva, or in synagogue-based youth movements such as NFTY, USY, NCSY or BBYO can be very beneficial.

Involvement in synagogue activities and in Jewish youth movements offers our young people frameworks in which they can strengthen their shul skills, build



From the pulpit

Rabbi Barry
Schlesinger
Agudath Israel

kesharim (ties) with other young Jews and experience wonderful and engaging social activities. In informal Jewish educational venues, kids will identify and realize self-defined goals. Our kids do very well by being actively involved in a Jewish/Zionist youth community, to paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, 'for the young people and by the young people.'

Ottawa is home to BBYO, NCSY, NIFTY/FROSTY, Kadimah and USY. It seems that all of these youth groups have been facing a struggle over the past few years and their numbers are down. This is a very sad situation that must be addressed by Ottawa's Jewish formal and informal educators, clergy and parents. The kids are missing out on opportunities to learn and exercise social skills. They are missing out on experiential Jewish learning 'by doing'; that is, turning Jewish values and practice into *pe'ulot* (activities and programs) that they themselves have decided on, budgeted, executed and assessed. Engagement in these activities prepares our kids to be the Jewish leaders of the future.

I strongly recommend that local Jewish youth movements adopt the Israeli *Tnuat Noar* (youth movement) model in which

Grade 4 children start attending bi-weekly *mifgashim* (meetings) on Tuesday and Shabbat afternoons and climb the ranks of leadership from group member to counselor to division leader (something like the summer camp model). It has been proven that longtime membership in the Israeli Tnuat Noar has prepared young women and men for leadership roles in the IDF and on college campuses. It is no surprise that many commanders and commissioned officers in the Israeli Army are graduates of the Israeli Scouts, Noar Oved, HaShomer HaTzair or Bnei Akiva.

All children have potential that can be

realized in informal Jewish educational settings. It is ultimately up to the parents to place Jewish youth movement participation and membership high on the priority list of extracurricular afternoon activities and encourage their children to attend and dedicate some of their precious leisure time to these worthy and important programs. The co-ordinators and counsellors have to work very hard to make sure the programs are attractive and engaging, both intellectually and socially, so kids will participate with *ruach* (spirit) and enthusiasm, and in numbers that truly represent the potential of Ottawa's Jewish community.



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Loss of the *Canadian Jewish News* a severe blow to Canada's Jewish community

As noted in a brief report on page 17, the *Canadian Jewish News* (CJN) announced, April 22, that it would cease publication with its issue of June 20. It was a sad and most unwelcome announcement for those of us who practise Jewish community journalism, indeed, for the entire Canadian Jewish community, particularly those in Toronto and Montreal, Canada's two largest Jewish communities – the markets the CJN primarily served.

The CJN published Toronto and Montreal editions. Each edition had its own local news stories, columnists and ads, and the two editions shared major stories, columnists and nationally targeted advertising.

As it happened, I had a phone conversation with Mordechai Ben-Dat, the CJN editor, at about 9:45 that morning. A few hours later, after the closure announcement was posted on the CJN website, I emailed Mordechai to say how shocked and saddened I was by the news; that I'd had no idea this was happening when we chatted earlier. In his response, he told me the CJN staff received the news at 10:00 am – a few minutes after we got off the phone.

I had a long history with the *Canadian Jewish News*. As a freelance reporter and feature writer for the CJN in Montreal from 1990 until my move here to work at the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* in 2007, I wrote countless articles for the CJN. Although I'd been writing for newspapers – primarily the *Montreal Gazette* – and magazines for



Editor

Michael
Regenstreif

many years, mostly as an arts journalist, and continued to do so after I started with the CJN, it was my entry into Jewish community journalism. I've continued to read every issue of the CJN since my move to Ottawa – the Montreal edition, which we receive at home, and the Toronto edition, which comes to the *Bulletin* office.

The CJN's journalists are among my colleagues in the small field of Jewish community journalism – and some of them are friends – so this bad news hits close to home.

At first, there was some hope the CJN would survive as an online news site.

"If the CJN is to be a vibrant part of the future, it will only be as an enhanced and expanded digital edition. That is our hope. However, the CJN will disappear from your mailboxes and the newsstands," wrote Donald Carr, the CJN's board president, in the initial 'message to our readers' posted on the CJN website.

A second message, headlined "The CJN to close," posted later in the day was more telling.

"The Canadian Jewish News will cease publishing in two months," it read. "The board of directors arrived at the decision on Friday, April 19, having regard to the fact that there were still assets on hand with which to provide meaningful severance to the newspaper's employees and to wind up operations properly."

The CJN has about 50 employees plus freelance contributors and there's been no mention that anyone would be retained to develop or staff an enhanced and expanded digital website. It just can't be done without editors and writers to develop content and some sort of sales staff to make it economically viable.

Within a day or so of the CJN's closure announcement, an online petition to save the CJN was launched at savethecjn.com. Although more than 1,500 electronic signatures were garnered in its first few days, its success is probably a very long shot.

Newspapers are an essential part of the glue that holds a community together. Jewish communities, in particular, have a rich tradition of community newspapers. The *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*, for example, has been part of this community's fabric for more than 75 years. The communities served by the CJN will be much poorer without it.

The whole nature of newspaper and magazine publishing is changing very rapidly in this digital age. Although the *Bulletin* has a loyal subscriber base, evi-

dence shows that many, particularly young adults, are turning away from print and toward their screens.

That's why the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* is currently in the process of redesigning and modernizing our print edition and preparing a new and dynamic *Bulletin* website as part of our strategy to carry us forward in a way that continues to serve our traditional readers and brings many new and younger readers onboard. We're scheduled to re-launch the *Bulletin* with our Chanukah community-wide issue in November.

Documentary series on anti-Semitism

Jew Bashing: The New Anti-Semitism is a four-part documentary series by veteran television journalist Martin Himel, which will be shown on Monday nights at 9:00 pm this month on *VisionTV*.

I had the opportunity to screen the programs in advance and they are a compelling look at the many ways anti-Semitism is manifested in today's world.

The first program, to be shown May 6, concentrates on anti-Semitism in Middle Eastern locations from Pakistan and Iran to Egypt and Gaza. Subsequent broadcasts zero in on anti-Semitism in Europe (May 13), the United States (May 20), and Canada (May 27). Whether from Islamists, right or left wing extremists, or even from certain church groups, anti-Semitism is shown to be a major contemporary problem.

We've earned a beautiful summer after this miserable winter

I want to believe that, by the time this is published in early-May, we will be enjoying nice weather. I assume it will be a beautiful spring day, a pre-summer day, and the tulips will be in fine form awaiting the arrival of thousands of tourists. I write this as someone who is mired in a deep psychological slump. It is all about the weather. I have been blue for six weeks.

For those of us who embrace winter and don't either need or want to be a snowbird, this past winter may have changed our minds. It was long. It was also cold, windy and icy miserable. And, worst of all, it never ended.

We are not just talking about snow. We are talking about a lot of snow. A lot of early snow and much of it was that heavy stuff, the kind you can break your back trying to shovel, snow so heavy tree branches collapse under its weight pulling down the electric wires overhead.

I was at the cottage for one of those heavy duty storms. I like being there when I know a winter storm is coming. I think that incredible calm you find in the



Jason
Moscovitz

country after a storm is one of the most beautiful things in the world. I even don't mind being snowed in for a day or two. A nice time can be had in the heated indoors, and walks in the fresh snow are as beautiful to me as walking along a beach somewhere.

What ruins all this in a miserable winter is waking up on the morning of the first major storm of the season and the power shuts off before you've managed to have your coffee. You say to yourself these power outages are not very long and, in short order, the power and life will be restored to normal and you will have your coffee before too long.

Within an hour, you begin to wonder as you get hungrier and colder. The best so-

lution seems to be going back to bed all bundled up to wait it out because you really believe those lights are going to come back on soon!

By 4:00 pm, it is getting dark and a lot colder. It is time to give up. And you have to consider yourself lucky. The ever trusty private contractor has plowed the private road. You are not stuck and you can go back to the city.

I was disappointed but happy to leave and, on my way out, I realized how much damage that heavy snow had caused. There were overhead wires down on the ground seemingly everywhere. This looked like the ice storm of 1998, and then it hit me. It would not be a quick return to my winter paradise.

It took them five days to restore the power – but paradise regained didn't last long. It wasn't the snow or ice the next time. It was that extreme cold we all remember. The kind of extreme cold that freezes water systems and septic tanks in about 48 hours. That extreme cold of well below minus 30 lasted a week.

You can have all the light and power in

the world, but, without water, most of us can't live very comfortably or enjoy winter's pleasures at the cottage. So, another hiatus to the city and, for the first time I can remember, I thought about Florida instead.

Then the frigid weather leaves and it gets warm, unusually warm, and ice starts forming on your flat roof and then it snows again and you have weight and leakage problems. Thank goodness for a handyman who helps out, otherwise the roof might have fallen in.

Oh, spring is coming. This nightmare is going to end.

But March comes in like a lion and leaves like a lion. Such cold, such wind, such misery, and there is so much snow on the ground in mid-March, it can make a grown person cry.

And then April comes, and the snow is still there. And, in mid-April, there is a significant snowstorm. It is hard to be happy. It is hard to be energetic.

I really hope you're reading this on a beautiful day. We have all earned a beautiful summer.

Mailbag

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OJCS tuition

We read with interest the article on the tuition rate increases at the Ottawa Jewish Community School (“OJCS parents step forward to support increased tuition fees,” April 8). As parents with three students at OJCS, it shed some new light for us on the school with which we have been proudly associated over the past 12 years.

In lieu of finding those many parents making sacrifices to send their children to a Jewish day school instead of Ontario’s excellent public school system, you found those who are getting a deal by not having to send their children to Ashbury or Turnbull.

And, yes, there are probably some, as one interviewee notes, who are reluctant to disclose their income to get tuition assistance. There are likely more who are reluctant to disclose the seven pages of personal and financial data required to actually be considered for assistance.

In addition, with an increase in the consumer price index since 2012 of approximately 1 per cent, recent declines in household income in Ottawa, and property tax increases averaging 3 per cent over the past 10 years, we would propose this is not the same as the 23 per cent increase in tuition many will face in the coming year. Fortunately, our children are benefitting from a better math program than some of those interviewed.

We were also pleased you were able to uncover the looming crisis at Disneyland, as some may have to take a year off from going.

For the rest of us, in the 12th year of our Disneyland hiatus, we do understand price increases – moderate ones have happened almost every year – we do understand the quality of education we have been getting; we also understand that an institution has to be sustainable; and we understand the deep commitment of those who have come forward to invest in the future of OJCS. What is lost on us is the understanding of economics that has a 23 per cent increase in tuition drawing in new students and retaining the current student body.

We need a new plan.

Wayne Moore & Kayla Estrin

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.

Guest column

One parent’s story about OJCS

By Helen Braiter-Smolkin
for OJCS

Our son Isaac was in public school and, when he reached Grade 5, we realized he wasn’t learning what he should by then, that he was falling behind where he should be. After an assessment as to whether his school was helping him meet his full potential, we felt it was not.

Most of Isaac’s friends were already at the Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS), and we heard great things about the school from their parents.

From the moment Isaac walked into the school, he has been a different child. Happy, excited and enthusiastic about everything! The other children at OJCS welcomed him warmly, and he has made many new friends. He was surprised that children from all grades kept coming up to him to tell him how

happy they were to have him at OJCS.

At the end of his first day, Isaac was smiling from ear to ear! He could not stop saying, “I love this place!” And his enthusiasm has not worn off. When we ask him if we made the right choice, his answer is an emphatic “yes.”

The teachers have also been very warm and welcoming, and have worked very hard to identify gaps in his knowledge. The resources provided to Isaac have been amazing and the transition has been very smooth.

Something that has amazed Isaac is the lack of bullying at the school. OJCS has done an amazing job instilling understanding and respect amongst its students.

In his previous school, Isaac was just another child coming through the door. At OJCS, the teachers and other staff genuinely care about him and his educa-

tional, social and emotional well-being.

The Jewish aspect is very important as well, and Isaac is really enjoying learning about his religion and culture. He is also learning about values and ethics, something that is sorely lacking in the public schools.

OJCS also seems to be ahead academically compared to the school Isaac previously attended – and that school is ranked very highly.

When we walk through the doors of OJCS, it is warm and *haimish* – something that we didn’t feel at Isaac’s previous school.

If you are looking for something more personalized, more focused on the ‘whole child,’ somewhere that is warm and welcoming, somewhere that is academically challenging and will prepare your children for their future educational career, somewhere where your children can get a Jewish education, can learn about their history, and can learn who they are, take a good look at OJCS.

Have your children attend at ‘trial’ day – that’s what really sold Isaac and us on the school. It made Isaac feel comfortable that he could try it out before committing. Speak to other parents – especially to parents who have made the decision to move their children to OJCS.

OJCS was definitely the right choice for Isaac.

To learn how OJCS can help your child succeed, contact 613-722-0020 or sl.levine@theojcs.ca.



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Oliver Javanpour
President

Happy 65th birthday to Israel

At the age of 65, Israel is home to eight million people, up a little from its original 806,000. About 1/8th of the eight million visited JNF parks and recreation areas during the holiday marking Israel's birthday celebrations. In 2012, JNF had more than a million birthday visitors and this year the total was expected to be closer to 1,300,000. That is an amazing number of people showing us how much JNF projects have become an integral part of Israeli life. This reminds us again of how important your contributions to JNF are. Your trees and your care and concern provide many things for Israel – a relaxing place to celebrate Israel's existence is but one of them.

JNF's theme for Israel's 65th year and our own 111th year is *A Year of National Heritage*. This year, we will focus on the management and preservation of national cultural heritage sites for future generations. The people chosen to light the torch at the official 65th Independence Day ceremony on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem were each involved in some aspect of preserving and perpetuating national and cultural heritage.

JNF more than just trees

Even after working with JNF for a few years now, I am still learning about JNF programs, especially the ones that have nothing to do with trees. I did not know that JNF is one of the sponsors of the International Bible Quiz for Jewish Youth that took place on Israel's Independence Day in Jerusalem. For the first time in the competition's 50 years, two people won the prize. Out of 53 contestants from 22 countries, Yishai Eisenberg from Passaic, New Jersey, and Elijah Babian from Beit Shemesh, came out on top. Congratulations to both winners! Of course, there are still trees in this story. All 53 contestants went to an archeological excavation in Adulam-France Park, took a tour of Tel Azeka and British Park, rode bikes on Burma Road, and planted a tree in Nachshon Forest.

JNF in international scene

April also saw Israel participating in the 10th UN Forum on Forests in Istanbul, Turkey, which focused on forestry and economic development. Israel's delegation to the conference included representatives from the Israel Foreign Ministry and from KKL-JNF. JNF has helped Israel build expertise in forestry that can be used to advance global approaches to sustainable forests, extending the value of all our contributions to JNF to the world.

Sefer Bat Mitzvah Inscription

Mazel tov to **Amanda Robyn McCarthy** on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah. An inscription in JNF's Sefer Bat Mitzvah has been made by her parents, Eileen and Stuart McCarthy.

To inscribe a Bar or Bat Mitzvah in JNF's Sefer in Jerusalem, please contact us at 613-798-2411 or ottawa@jnf.ca. JNF's Sefer also celebrate births and special occasions. If you would like to sponsor a JNF project in honour of a special occasion, please call Lynda Taller-Wakter at 613-798-2411 or 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).



CHW-Ottawa Centre to honour Ruth Aaron at Spring Tea, June 9

By Linda Senzilet and Anna Bilsky
CHW Ottawa

On Sunday, June 9, 2:00 pm, the Amit, Mollie Betcherman and Ina McCarthy Chapters of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) Ottawa Centre will honour Ruth Aaron at our annual Spring Tea, at the home of Sara Vered, 839 Melwood Avenue. Everyone is welcome.

Ruth inherited the CHW tradition from her mother. Today, she is a dedicated CHW sustainer and a generous supporter of the annual Spring Tea.

A list of highlights from Ruth's active volunteer life only hints at Ruth's generosity over the past 60 years. In 1957, she assisted teachers at Brighthope School, a school for children with severe learning disabilities. Over the next two years, she played a key role in fundraising for the Ottawa and District Association for Retarded Children (now the Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities). In 1970, she volunteered at the National Council of Jewish Women's Higher Horizon Program for underprivileged preschool children at Percy Street School. In 1977, Ruth drove developmentally disabled preschool children to classes at Trinity United Church and assisted the teachers. She has been honoured by State of Israel Bonds and the Agudath Israel Congregation Sisterhood, and has participated in various fundraising events for the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre. She chaired the highly successful Congregation Beth Shalom's Chai Ball, celebrating the synagogue's 18th birthday.

For 25 years, Ruth organized the program hosting visits by injured Israeli soldiers to Ottawa. She is on the board of the Ottawa Post, Jewish War Veterans of Canada and has been a mem-



Ruth Aaron

ber of the Ottawa Chevra Kadisha for more than 25 years.

At 84, Ruth remains a consummate volunteer, generous beyond imagine with her time and energy. It is our pleasure to honour this amazing dynamo whose motto is, "It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice." Ruth and her husband Irving will soon celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary

sary with their four children and 13 grandchildren.

Now in its 12th year, the annual Spring Tea is famous for delicious party sandwiches, stunning fruit platters and mouth-watering desserts. We will auction off an original painting by Katerina Mertikas, as well as several valuable gift baskets containing gourmet foods and wines, items for the home and garden, health and beauty products, gift certificates and tickets for recreational and cultural events, including an Ottawa Senators hockey game.

Join us in paying tribute to our most-deserving honouree, and sample our delicious food! All proceeds will go to the CHW Nahalal Youth Village, located on Moshav Nahalal in Northern Israel. Nahalal Youth Village is primarily a residential school for troubled children and for immigrant children arriving without family. The school, celebrating its 90th year, assists students academically and socially, while giving them a warm and nurturing environment in which to live.

For more information, call Sophie Frenkel at 613-726-1538. To arrange transportation to the tea, call Robin Chernick at 613-728-8110.

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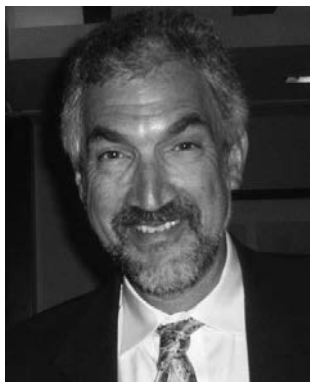


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An Evening with Daniel Pipes

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**Edon Pinchot to sing at JET's
Jewish Unity Live event**

By Rachel Gray
for JET

You don't often see someone wearing a kippah on television. So, it was quite the sensation when Edon Pinchot, 14, an Orthodox Jewish day school student from Skokie, Illinois, reached the semi-finals of *America's Got Talent* last year.

Well, now, *Ottawa's got lucky*, because Pinchot is coming to town, May 28, to perform at this year's Jewish Unity Live event.

Dubbed the "Jewish Justin Bieber" by NCSY, Pinchot's soulful singing and piano playing have garnered him a substantial following. He received a standing ovation for the performance that won him a place in the *America's Got Talent* semi-finals and, although he did not win the \$1 million grand prize, one might argue he scored high for all Jews by fearlessly going public, kippah and all.

"If I was going to do this, I was going to do it with my kippah on," said Pinchot in a *Jewish Channel* interview. "So far, everyone has been really accepting of it."

Whether you already have a soft spot in your heart for this talented teenager, or you want to see for yourself what all the fuss was about, you won't want to miss the performance.

Joining Pinchot at Jewish Unity Live is guest speaker Charlie Harary, "one of the most effective and engaging Jewish educators in the Jewish world today," according to Rabbi Eric Coppersmith, CEO of Aish International.

Harary is a prolific speaker and a senior lecturer for the Orthodox Union, Aish Ha-Torah and NCSY. He is also a founder and partner at H3 & Company, a New York-based advisory and investment company, and is a clinical professor of management



Edon Pinchot

and entrepreneurship at Yeshiva University's Sy Syms School of Business. He brings a wealth of worldly wisdom to his speeches, which make Jewish ideas relevant, funny, engaging and inspiring.

Jewish Unity Live takes place Tuesday, May 28, at the Ron Maslin Playhouse in Kanata. Tickets are \$36 and include a dessert reception. For more information or to purchase tickets visit jetottawa.com or call JET at 613-798-9818, ext. 247.

**AJA 50+ to host
Trivia Night fundraiser**

By Dena Speevak
for AJA 50+

Word has spread about the success of AJA (Active Jewish Adults) 50+ at improving the quality of life of Jewish retirees. Our more than 400 members reflect a wide range of income levels and varied stages of health and vitality. We offer more than 100 programs annually to meet the interests of the 50-plus age group, including Creative Connections, a gentle day-out program for older seniors.

What most people do not realize is that AJA 50+ operates at a deficit.

"In order for us to offer our programs at minimum cost to members, we operate at a deficit, which we make up with fundraising activities, grants and generous donations," said Arnold Finkelstein, president of AJA

50+. "This May, we are excited to be hosting Trivia Night, which is open to the whole community."

Join us Sunday, May 26, 7:00 pm, at Temple Israel for an evening of trivia fun, fabulous desserts, a silent auction and cash bar – all for just \$25 per person.

Rabbi Steven Garten and Lisa Hans will MC the event and keep the quiz nimble and fun! Come on your own or come as a group, there is room for all!

Help us continue to improve the quality of life of our seniors by supporting Trivia Night! Sponsorships and donations are welcome and appreciated.

For more information, email Roz Tabachnick at roztab@rogers.com. To register, contact Flo Morgan at 613-224-8286.

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A home away from home for the holidays

By Yocheved Boyarsky
Chabad Student Network

Of all the Jewish holidays, Passover is probably the one most associated with family. Who doesn't sit down every year to a seder with extended family? But many students at universities away from home find themselves under pressure to finish the semester and meet deadlines, making it all but impossible to go home for Passover.

In 2008, my husband and I, with our three children, arrived in Ottawa just a few days before Passover. We had just moved from New Jersey with plans to establish the Chabad Student Network (CSN), a centre for spirituality for Ottawa's Jewish university students. We didn't yet know a Jewish soul on campus, but *Facebook* helped us find them. Overnight, we had 17 student reservations for our seders. Now, five years later, that number has more than quadrupled, with close to 100 people at each seder and dozens of students attending prayer services, meals and holiday festivities throughout the eight days of Passover.

For many, the seder was an opportunity to feel at home away from home. For some, like Chloe Swanek, who was born to a Jewish mother but raised Catholic, the seder this year was her first seder ever, as it was last year for our student president, Kaitlyn St. Pierre, who grew up with a similar background.

Many students who were able to be at home with family for the seders still found a huge relief in having a place to celebrate the concluding days of Passover.

"Leaving Montreal early during Hol

Hamo'ed to attend to academic demands was a bitter experience," said Brahm Solomon, a graduate student of University of Ottawa. "But knowing I would be celebrating with the CSN, here in Ottawa, made it feel less like leaving and more like returning to family."

"I was fortunate enough to be able to celebrate the end days of Passover with CSN this year, after returning back to school from the first part of the holiday," added uOttawa law student Rebecca Rosenstock. "Passover with Chabad allowed me to completely celebrate the holiday in Ottawa without having to worry about finding ways to fulfil the Passover obligations."

One of the innovations of Chabad on campus, inspired by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, has been to ensure students have access to kosher-for-Passover food throughout the holiday. With so many students living in shared apartments or dorms, this would be impossible without the home-cooked Passover meals – prepared by many CSN student volunteers.

"The meals helped me personally when I was always on the go," said Carleton University student Lewis Novack. "Not being home for the seders, well Chabad took care of that too."

"The struggles of keeping Passover were eased by the hard work and effort of all the volunteers at Chabad. Without them, keeping Passover would have been impossible," said Yaron Benchlouch, whose family lives in Israel.

Visit chabadstudentnetwork.com to learn more about the CSN programs and services, or to donate.



Lindsay Silverberg helps prepare a Passover meal at the campus Chabad house.

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Fridays: "Bring your own dinner" following service, second Friday of the month, 7:00 pm.

Saturdays: Torah study with Rabbi Garten, 9:00 am.

Wednesday, May 15: Shavuot/Yizkor/Confirmation
when the new Festival Prayerbook will be dedicated, 9:00 am

Rabbi Steven H. Garten, Spiritual Leader

Barbara Okun, Cantorial Soloist

For information, please contact Heather Cohen,
Executive Director 613-224-1802 #4

For Temple Israel Religious School, please contact Andrea Lobel,
Director of Congregational Learning 613-224-3133

Friday Kabbalat Shabbat Services, 6:15 pm

Saturday Shabbat Services, 10:15 am



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MP James Lunney to speak at Emunah Family-in-Israel event

By Leah Cohen and Marsha Kaiserman for Emunah Ottawa

Emunah Ottawa will present MP James Lunney, former chair of the Canada-Israel Interparliamentary Group, as guest speaker at our Family-in-Israel event.

Lunney has represented Nanaimo-Alberni in Parliament since 2000 and has served on several standing committees. In addition to having been chair of the Canada-Israel Interparliamentary Group, Lunney is also a past vice-chair of the Canada-Taiwan Interparliamentary Group and the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide.

Lunney's topic, "Walking with Israel," has special meaning for Emunah, an organization committed to providing support for so many who are in need in Israel, including young children in Emunah's daycare centres, students at Emunah College, victims of abuse or terror, families in conflict, and the elderly.

Emunah Ottawa's Family-in-Israel event will be held Sunday, May 26, 7:30 pm, at the home of André and Shelley Engel. The cost is \$20.00 (Emunah members) or \$23.00 (non-members). Refreshments will be served.



MP James Lunney

To RSVP, call Rivka Kraus at 613-241-5613 or email Leah Cohen at leahle1@yahoo.ca. Both men and women are welcome to attend.



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JEWISH FEDERATION OF OTTAWA

Daniel Pipes to speak on 'Islam vs. Islamism'

By Fred Litwin
Free Thinking Film Society

Hearing of the latest horrors from the Muslim world, it is unclear to many people whether the West is in a fight with Islam, the religion, or Islamism, the ideology.

In an op-ed Salim Mansur and I wrote for the *Ottawa Citizen* ("Mistaking Islamism for Islam," January 28), we noted, "From leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood in Arab countries, the Iran of Khomeini, fundamentalist parties in Pakistan, and affiliated groups – Hamas, Hezbollah, the al-Qaida network, al-Shabaab and the Taliban – we hear their politics is the genuine expression of Islam as practiced by 'Salafis' or the first generation of Muslims in seventh-century Arabia. In this view Muslims who disagree with Islamists are heretics or, even worse, apostates deserving to be killed."

However, there are many millions of Muslims – and you see this every day in the Middle East – who disagree profoundly with Islamism and have far different values.

The problem is that many people in the West lump all Muslims together and cannot differentiate between the religion and the ideology – in effect, agreeing with the Bin Ladens of this world that they represent true Islam.

The upshot of all this, as we noted in the *Citizen*, is that "when anti-Islamist Muslims are denied the space and legitimacy to oppose Islamism then the inescapable paradox is that non-Muslim opponents of Islamists have conceded the Islamist propaganda that Islamists are Islam's only legitimate representatives. It then becomes easier for mainstream politicians and their allies in the West to appease and accommodate Islamists as once their predecessors sought to placate Communists."

Daniel Pipes, president of the Middle East Forum, has written extensively on this topic and will speak about "Islam vs. Islamism," during his upcoming visit to Ottawa.

Pipes is a columnist for the *National Review* and has contributed to such news-

papers as the *Jerusalem Post*, *National Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and many others.

Joining Pipes to discuss this important issue will be Professor Salim Mansur of the University of Western Ontario, and Brian Lee Crowley, managing director of the Macdonald-Laurier Institute.

The event, *Islam vs. Islamism* will take place Monday, May 13, 7:00 pm, at Library and Archives Canada. There will be speeches, a panel discussion, a question and answer session, and a reception at which people can meet and speak with Pipes.

This event is co-sponsored by the Free Thinking Film Society, Cardus, the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.

General admission is \$20 (free for students) and tickets are available online at freethinkingfilmfest.ca, at Compact Music locations (785 Bank Street, 190 Bank Street) and at the door.

For more information, visit freethinkingfilmfest.ca.



Daniel Pipes

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(From left) Michael Dan of Gemini Power Corporation, Attawapiskat First Nation Chief Theresa Spence, Phil Fontaine, former national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, and Bernie Farber, in Spence's teepee on Victoria Island during her hunger strike in January.

Bernie Farber to speak about extremism at Maccabi Canada fundraiser

By Louise Rachlis

"If anyone thinks right wing or left wing extremism just goes away, they are dead wrong," said Bernie Farber. "It's always below the surface and it always comes back. We want to arm people with information about what extremism is and who the extremists are. We will name names. The takeaway is 'Always be aware. Information is power.'"

The former CEO of the Canadian Jewish Congress, in a telephone interview with the *Bulletin*, was referring to the upcoming Israeli Wine Evening fundraiser for Maccabi Canada, where he and Warren Kinsella, author of *Web of Hate* and five other books, will be guest speakers.

"Both Warren and I have faced threats from all kinds of people," Farber said. "We have a long history in dealing with the extreme right and the extreme left who share a lot of common ways of doing things."

Farber was the Liberal Party candidate in the Toronto-area riding of Thornhill in the 2011 Ontario election and says he learned a lot from the close election campaign.

After the election, he met Michael Dan, who left the practice of medicine to create Gemini Power Corporation, which helps needy First Nations reserves in Northern and Northwestern Ontario build sustainable industries. Farber is now Gemini Power's vice-president for government and external relations.

Farber said the company helps reserves in a number of ways.

"One way is, where we can find places on their territory with water, we will work with that reserve in putting together the equity to build a power dam. Once it's built and connected to the grid, they pay back the equity and they own the power plant. A reserve that had nothing before now has sustainable wealth," he said.

Another way is through Aspenware Inc., a wooden utensil company established by Gemini in 1997. Aspenware manufactures premium, single use and compostable wooden utensils as an alternative to the 100 billion disposable plastic utensils landfilled each year. Aspenware is made from sustainably harvested underutilized trembling aspen, paper birch and poplar, which naturally reseed when felled.

"Basically, we provide industry for First Nations," he said. "Wabauskang Reserve in Northern Ontario had 80 per cent unemployment eight years ago. Today, every employable male is working in the plant which shaves the veneers. You have an all-Canadian made product and, when you're done with them, they are recyclable; it's wood. We'll be able to bring in more reserves in Northern Ontario where the tree grows."

Born in Ottawa in 1951, Farber was the son of a Polish Jew who lost his first wife, two children and other family members in the Holocaust. His mother Gert (née Cooper-smith) came to Ottawa in the late 1920s with her family to get away from Russian pogroms and anti-Semitism. He cites his father's experience as a major motivation in his life.

"The pain my father endured during the war is what drove me to fight for social justice today."

The Israeli Wine Evening will feature hors d'oeuvres, Israeli food and dessert bar, special tastings of world-class Israeli wines and a silent auction. It will be held Thursday, May 30, 6:30 pm, at Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue. Cost is \$50 per person.

All proceeds will help send Ottawa-area athletes to the 19th Maccabiah Games in Israel in July.

For reservations, contact *maccabiwineevening@rogers.com* or Bill Izso at 613-820-7714.

Calling all golfers! Tee Up for Tamir is set for June 10

By Katherine Carter
Tamir

The *Tee Up for Tamir Golf Fun-raiser* is back and, in the current climate of cutbacks and austerity measures, Tamir needs your participation and help more than ever.

The golf tournament, one of Tamir's signature events, has raised more than \$300,000 since its inception, with proceeds supporting crucial projects such as retrofitting homes to ensure accessibility in Tamir's residential programs.

At the core of the tournament's success are the golfers: people who share as much passion for supporting Tamir as they do for the sport itself. Some of these avid golfers have been walking the links for Tamir since the late-1990s.

We welcome previous and new golfers to this integrated event. Anyone and everyone can make up a team and play: seasoned golfers, new players, family members, Tamir participants and staff.

Fundraising events like *Tee Up for Tamir* play a crucial role in providing funds necessary to continue offering quality care for vulnerable members of our community. Austerity measures affecting government funding for developmental

service agencies are now entering the fourth year without any increase, despite the rising cost of living and needs of participants, who are aging along with the rest of society.

These austerity measures will likely continue. OASIS (Ontario Agencies Serving Individuals with Special Needs), an umbrella organization representing more than 150 agencies, recently conducted a survey, asking agencies what they are doing to hold the fort in the face of government austerity. The OASIS survey revealed "24 per cent are reducing program hours, 43 per cent have increased the number of people served in each program/home and 64 per cent have cut staff hours." Besides their devastating effect on morale, such measures result in the reduction of individual care and the quality of service.

Yet, there is a silver lining in the financial cloud. So far, Tamir has managed to meet the challenge, and now operates more efficiently. More importantly, Tamir has not had to cut staff hours or close programs. Successful fundraising helps ensure this continues.

We need your help to make this possible! *Tee Up for Tamir* provides



(From left) Marie Simms, Vicky Ferkin, Meredith Caplan and Kathi Jones at the 2012 *Tee Up for Tamir Golf Fun-raiser*.

an opportunity to build our fundraising resources to minimize austerity effects, thus ensuring our participants and families never suffer.

Each golfer commits to a fundraising goal of at least \$500, but many exceed this goal. Their in-

trinsic reward is knowing they have helped a most worthy cause; their extrinsic reward is the enjoyment of a full round of golf at Rideau View Country Club, a premier private golf course, including cart rentals, lunch and supper in the clubhouse,

and door prizes.

Joel Kanigsberg, Tamir's incoming board president, is the new chair of *Tee Up for Tamir*. He succeeds Norm Ferkin, the event's chair for more than five years, who now takes a mentorship role.

"As chair of this year's *Tee Up for Tamir Golf Fun-raiser*, I am excited to once again be joining the fantastic team of golf fun-raisers and I want to encourage our community, family and friends to participate. I invite people to take part in any way you can: join as a golfer, form an office or school team, sponsor a golfer, or be a corporate sponsor," said Kanigsberg.

"Our community loves Tamir and the impact their services have made for members of both the Jewish community and the community-at-large. Together, we will make it possible for Tamir to continue these vital services for individuals with developmental disabilities to live full lives with dignity and pride."

The *Tee Up for Tamir Golf Fun-raiser* takes place Monday, June 10 at the Rideau View Country Club in Manotick. Anyone interested in becoming a golf fun-raiser can contact me at katherinecarter@tamir.ca or 613-725-3519, ext. 104.

The Countdown is on! - 55 Days until Summer 2013



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Challah baking at Agudath Israel



Kayla Reichstein (left) and Kayla Sabloff were among the participants when Agudath Israel Congregation's Kadima Chapter held its Challah Baking Bonanza, April 7.



Maccabi athletes and the Stanley Cup

The Stanley Cup was in Ottawa, April 13, and made an evening stop at the home of Maccabi Canada volunteer Jonathan Calof for a reception for athletes preparing for the Maccabiah Games in Israel in July. Eleven of Team Ottawa's 21 athletes are seen here with the Stanley Cup.

(Standing, from left) Sammy Miller (swimming), Idan Itskovitch (basketball), Brian Cohen (soccer), Eadan Farber (soccer), Jacob Miller (swimming), Gedaliah Farber (soccer), Holden Wine (soccer). (Kneeling and seated) Noah Poplove (soccer), Naomi Kirshenblatt (swimming), Izzie Rosenberg (soccer), Jonah Moore (soccer).

58th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**THE BESS AND MOE GREENBERG FAMILY HILLEL LODGE / OTTAWA JEWISH HOME FOR THE AGED
THE JOSEPH AND INEZ ZELIKOVITZ LONG TERM CARE CENTRE, 10 NADOLNY SACHS PRIVATE**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2013 - 7:00 pm

Members of the Lodge and Community, Residents, Families, Staff and Volunteers are welcome to attend

BUSINESS AGENDA

Annual General Meeting

- Adoption of Annual General Meeting minutes – May 30, 2012
- Business Arising – from previous AGM, May 30, 2012
- Greetings from the Jewish Federation of Ottawa – A. Freedman
- Approval of actions taken by the 2012/2013 Board
- Treasurer's Report – S. Saslove
- Appointment of the Auditors 2013
- Appointment of the Signatories 2013/2014
- Thank you to Outgoing Board Members – R. Kronick
- Report of the Nominating Committee – S. Mender
- Election of incoming Board 2013/2014
- Election of Officers 2013/2014
- Award winners 2012/2013 – S. Mender
- Thank you to Long Service Staff – S. Schneiderman
- Medical Director's Report – Dr. D. Levine
- Report of the President – R. Kronick
- Executive Director's Report – S. Schneiderman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2013/2014

NOMINATIONS

**COMMENCING
NEW TERM**
Alan Freed (2)
Adina Libin (2)
Carl Raskin (2)

COMPLETING TERM

Jack Cramer (1)	Seymour Mender (1)
G. Feig Steinman (1)	Stephen Saslove (1)
Melanie Fremeth (1)	Issie Scarowsky (1)
Esther Kwavnick (1)	Rosalie Schwartz (1)
Russell Kronick (1)	Mark Shainblum (1)
Michel Lipski (1)	

OUTGOING MEMBERS

PAST PRESIDENTS

Seymour Mender	Dennis Newton z"l
Jeff Miller	Sylvia Goldblatt z"l,
Ingrid Levitz	M. Sidney Green z"l
Anna Telner Wex	Theodore Metrick z"l
Morris Kimmel	Dan Doctor z"l
Eric Weiner	Dr. M. Ralph Berke z"l
Melane Hotz	Ben Levin z"l
Shlomo Mayman	Dr. Joseph Greenblatt z"l
Irving Greenberg z"l	Samuel Berger z"l
Noreen Bosloy	Judge J.C. Horwitz z"l
Dr. Irwin Pencer	Dora Lithwick z"l
Lillian Kimmel z"l	

BOARD APPOINTEES: Auxiliary Representative - Dee Gaffen • Hillel Lodge Long-Term Care Foundation Representative • Eric Weiner

EXECUTIVE

Past President - Seymour Mender
President - Russell Kronick

1st Vice-President - to be determined
2nd Vice-President - Michel Lipski

Treasurer - Stephen Saslove
Secretary - Issie Scarowsky
Member-at-Large - to be determined

FURTHER NOMINATIONS: Additional nominations may be made by any member in good standing of the Corporation. Such nominations may be made at any time up to fifteen (15) days prior to the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting, by mailing the same to the above address, attention: S. Mender. **All such nominations must be in writing and signed by the nominee and by at least twenty (20) members in good standing of the Corporation.**

2012/2013 AWARD WINNERS:

Outstanding Service Award – Knights of Pythias/Aurora Lodge • Thelma Steinman Direct Service Award – Estelle Gunner • Shalom Perel President's Award of Merit – Ingrid Levitz

Dedication of the Menorah of Honour

Refreshments to Follow

CJN to halt publication

Toronto (JTA) – Canada’s flagship Jewish newspaper, the *Canadian Jewish News* (CJN), which has Toronto and Montreal editions, is folding.

The newspaper, with a circulation of approximately 40,000, announced on April 22 that its final print edition will be published June 20. The closure will mean the loss of about 50 jobs.

“I never dreamed that I would be writing this,” CJN President Donald Carr wrote on the paper’s website announcing the end of publication. “No nightmare of mine envisioned it.”

Carr cited “the ravages that printed newspapers and magazines have been experiencing across the world.”

“The digital age, in which news and commentary are retrieved instantly on smart phones, on computers and on all kinds of new devices, has overtaken the

printed word,” he wrote.

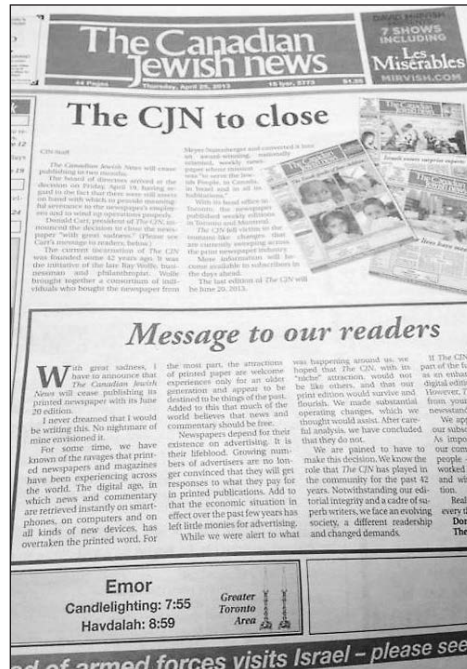
Carr, effectively the paper’s publisher, also said that advertisers are reluctant to place ads in printed publications and that the poor economic situation has left businesses with less money for advertising.

He said the CJN had made “substantial operating changes, which we thought would assist. After careful analysis, we have concluded that they do not.”

Founded in 1960, the paper was purchased in 1971 by a group of community leaders closely allied with the Canadian Jewish Congress.

It was not immediately clear whether the online edition would continue.

“That is our hope,” Carr said. “How-



ever, The CJN will disappear from your mailboxes and the newsstands.”

Rambam Day School senior girls organize Poetry Café and art contest

By Shternie Botnick, Rivkah Blum, Miriam Caytak, Brachi Coodin
Rambam Day School students

On April 10, the senior girls of Rambam Day School presented a France-themed Poetry Café featuring charming trilingual poems presented by the school’s students.

This was the school’s first event that the senior girls put together and executed in its entirety.

Under the direction of Shannon McIntyre, Rambam’s vice-principal, the girls co-ordinated with Rambam’s teachers to create poems that impressed parents and guests alike. Each teacher accepted a different type of poetry as a medium for teaching writing skills. Allegory, couplet and acrostic poems were most often used. Each poem was presented at the café in the language it was written in: Hebrew, French or English. The multi-purpose room, where the café was located, was decorated beautifully with Eiffel Tower centrepieces, a Paris skyline and an “I love France” sign.

The school’s students also participated in a *Draw and Win* contest the girls created. Preschool students coloured in a picture of the Eiffel Tower, while Grades 1 through 3 recreated Vincent Van Gogh’s “Sunflowers.” Grades 4 and 5 recreated Van Gogh’s “Starry Night,” while Grades 6 through 8 recreated Van Gogh’s “Self Portraits.”

Moshe Eliezer Szylagi, Toba Hayes, Meir Botwinik and Berel Teitlebaum were the contest winners.

The audience was very impressed by all the hard work the senior girls put into organizing the poetry café and by the gorgeous decorations and hard work of each class. We’re already looking forward to the school’s Poetry Café next year!



(From left) Yossel Teitlebaum, Meir Botwinik, Dovid Rabinowitz at the Rambam Day School Poetry Café, April 10.

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Maccabi Ottawa Basketball Coach, Carlos Brown, will be holding a Spring Training Camp.

Mondays
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For more information contact Maccabi Ottawa Delegation Head Jon Braun (613) 798-9818 ext. 267 jbraun@jccottawa.com.

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Ruth and Irving Aaron Family Fund

In Honour of:

Maureen Molot Mazal tov on receiving the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service award with love by Ruth and Irving Aaron

Bill and Leona Adler Memorial Fund

In Honour of:

Rabbi Zischa and Lauren Shaps Mazal tov on

the birth of your grandson by Elayne Adler, Farley, Jordan and Benjamin Stenzler

Liora and Daniel Shapiro Mazal tov on the birth of your twin daughters by Elayne Adler and family

Samuel and Jean Akerman Memorial Fund

In Honour of:

Sylvia Freeman Happy special birthday with love by Sheila and Larry Hartman

Boris and Dolly Blacher Family Fund

In Honour of:

Irv Osterer In honour of your special birthday by the Blacher family

Jenny and Murray Citron Endowment Fund

In Honour of:

Terry Eiduson Happy special birthday by Murray Citron

Nell Gluck Memorial Fund

In Honour of:

Ruth Aaron Mazal tov on receiving the Shem Tov award by Henry and Maureen Molot

Maureen Molot Mazal tov on receiving the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service award by Linda and Alan Cohen; and by Barry Appel

In Memory of:

Freda Lithwick by Barry Appel

R'fuah Shlema:

Carol Levine by Henry and Maureen Molot

Morris and Lillian Kimmel Family Fund

In Honour of:

Debbie and Ron Weiss Mazal tov on the birth of

your granddaughter by Brenda, Nathan, Jesse and Daniel Levine

Irma and Harold Sachs Family Fund

In Memory of:

Helen Fleming by Irma Sachs

Harold and Lillian Shoihet Memorial Fund

In Honour of:

Rabbi and Mrs. Mendy Zirkind Thank you for a wonderful Pesach by Dovid Shoihet

Label and Leona Silver Family Fund

In Memory of:

Dr. Seth Cohen by Label and Leona Silver

In Honour of:

Sylvia Freeman Happy 90th birthday with love by Label and Leona Silver

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Temple Israel Soup Mavens rise to the tikkun olam challenge

By Angus Smith
for Temple Israel

The Temple Israel Soup Mavens project started with a challenge.

In his Yom Kippur sermon in 2011, Rabbi Steven Garten challenged each member of Temple Israel to donate 12 hours of his or her time over the following year to making the world a better place.

For the Rabbi's part, he pledged to form a group to make food for the homeless and asked for 10 men – a minyan – to join him.

"I am Israel," said Rabbi Garten, "I struggle, but I am also a Jew. I step forward."

We got our minyan and the Temple Israel Soup Mavens were born.

The Soup Mavens' goal is to meet our individual and collective responsibility for tikkun olam by providing nourishing food to people who are hungry, so we came up with an innovative way of delivering simple, nutritious meals to people who need them.

The concept is simple. Working with kids at Temple Israel Religious School, the Soup Mavens package pre-measured portions of dehydrated soup or oatmeal in covered bowls. Each bowl is then sealed inside a bag, along with a napkin and spoon. To enjoy the contents, all people need to do is fill the bowl with boiling water and stir well.

To date, the Soup Mavens have prepared several hundred packages. The initial response and uptake has been incredible, and we are distributing them through Ottawa organizations that provide shelter, food and services to the homeless and to

the marginally housed.

Some of these organizations, including Jewish Family Services (JFS), are long-standing partners of Temple Israel. We have also established new partnerships with groups like the Ottawa Laundry Co-op, which provides both inexpensive laundry services and a sheltered workshop environment, and Operation Come Home, which assists and advocates for homeless kids.

The Soup Mavens project is a sustaining one. That means we intend to keep it going as part of Temple Israel's larger outreach commitment to the Ottawa community.

The Soup Mavens project is in a constant state of evolution. For example, even with a bowl of dehydrated soup, a napkin and a spoon, there is still room left in the Soup Mavens packages. So, we are currently looking at the feasibility of including something extra, like a brand new pair of warm socks, in each package we distribute.

Our partners are innovating too. JFS and Operation Come Home are looking at ways of providing their street crews with a supply of hot water so that people don't even have to come inside for



Avram Stern, a Grade 8 student at Temple Israel Religious School, shows younger kids how to pack soup.

a hot bowl of soup.

The Temple Israel Soup Mavens heard Rabbi Garten's challenge. We rose to it. And, in doing so, we are trying to make the world just a little bit better.

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Hors D'oeuvres, Guest Speakers, Silent Auction

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

The evening is graciously sponsored and hosted by David Smith of **Creative Kosher Catering**, featuring 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 Farber is the former Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Jewish Congress and a social activist.

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

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

Our community can learn from Winnipeg conference

Winnipeg's Jewish community is getting ready to host the 21st World Conference of GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered) Jews from July 5 to 7. With a strong commitment to Jewish education and Jewish continuity, my hometown of Winnipeg is a model community for how to blend traditional and progressive values. Winnipeg has a high take-up of Jewish education and boasts one of North America's only Hebrew immersion summer camps. And, of Winnipeg's two Conservative shuls, for example, one has a female cantor and the other has a policy of wedding same-sex couples.

I spoke to Arthur Blankstein, one of the organizers of the conference. He's the same age as my father and grew up in the same community, so his story struck a chord with me.

"When I was a youngster, it was a very insular environment. It's hard to be outside the mould here," Blankstein said. "If you were part of the GLBT community, the only way to escape it was to leave, or you became invisible in a city."

After several years in Toronto in the 1970s, Blankstein returned to Winnipeg where he sought to meld his gay identity with a commitment to the Jewish community. In 2004, he married his partner, Ken, in a civil ceremony. Two years later, Ken converted to Judaism and they were married again in a Jewish ceremony last year. It was Winnipeg's first same-sex wedding at a Conservative synagogue, and their ketubah is now housed with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

The conference lineup includes an exciting array of high-profile speakers. One is Joy Ladin, a transgender memoirist and poet and the only transgender faculty member at Yeshiva University's Stern College. I wrote about her in this column in the March 4 issue. Another is Jay Michaelson, founder of Nehirim and author, most recently, of *God vs. Gay? The Religious Case for Equality*.

I recently spoke to Michaelson. Among other things, he hopes to encourage the organized Jewish community to get engaged with broader issues of social justice. He is struck by how much the Jewish community rallied against the genocide in Darfur, for example. But, when it comes to the human rights issue of GLBT equality, he finds the organized Jewish community is often silent. He attributes this partly to an "Orthodox veto" he sees as informally operating within Jewish institutional channels. Jewish organizations tend to think they must operate by consensus and unanimity, rather than by the will of the majority.

Michaelson's words resonated with me, as I thought about the significant Jewish showing on social media for the recent push to recognize same-sex marriage in the U.S. Many Facebook users changed their profile picture last month to represent the red and pink equal-sign that reflects the marriage equality movement. And many Jewish users adapted the symbol to reflect a Jewish twist, such as two parallel strips of matzo. Yet, institutional expressions of diversity and inclusion often lag behind.

Michaelson paints an alarming picture of some of the issues facing American GLBT individuals especially, including an array of discriminatory practices and a rise in GLBT youth homelessness.

"In the U.S., you can be fired for being gay in a number of states. You can be fired for being transgender in almost



Values, Ethics, Community

Mira Sucharov

every state," Michaelson told me.

The story of the organizational framework of the Winnipeg conference is heartening, though. Funders include the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, the Asper Foundation, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and the Gray Academy of Jewish Education, among others. And the presenting organizations represent an important link between GLBT groups and other Jewish institutions: Anachnu, Winnipeg's Jewish GLBT group, is joined by the Rady Jewish Community Centre and two syn-

agogues, one Reform and the other Conservative.

There are exciting lessons here to be learned for our Jewish community in Ottawa. We could be greatly enriched by attempting to mount an event that stands for inclusion and diversity with a hitherto invisible sub-community of our broader community in mind. Maybe some Ottawa delegates will return from my nostalgia-drenched hometown this summer with new energy and ideas toward this end.

Michaelson is convinced of the value of GLBT inclusion within a Jewish context. GLBT Jews can bring a wealth of unique perspectives, including "one's own experience of love and the body ... solidarity with other groups that experience marginalization ... [and] different ways of reading ... the Bible." Most fundamentally, though, "having a larger tent in our communities has benefits for everybody."

And Blankstein shared his guiding principle, "Don't turn your back on your community, stay active in your community."

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

China's interest in the Middle East

It's been a couple of months since the new Chinese leadership officially took the helm, and one could say China is entering a new phase in its pursuit of transformation. The new president, Xi Jinping, and the new premier, Li Keqiang, both of whom have been major forces in the Communist Party, are now forging ahead, not only acknowledging China's new middle class, but also looking at developing China's consumer economy. While for the past 20 years, China's economy was fuelled by cheap labour and exports, international markets are less favourable towards China today than ever before. Recognition by Xi and the new politburo that there needs to be a shift in its economic approach is a necessary insight.

In mid-April, the credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service downgraded China's government bond rating outlook to stable from positive, citing insufficient pace and scope of structural reforms – a clear message to the new leadership. Earlier in April, Fitch Ratings cut China's long-term local currency credit rating, citing concerns with excessive local government borrowing and its impact on the wider Chinese economy.

"The head of China's National Audit Office recently estimated that outstanding debt of local and central governments was 15 to 18 trillion yuan – equal to 29 to 35 per cent of GDP – at the end of 2012," reported Ian Chua and Pete Sweeney of Reuters on April 16.

This estimate does not count the off-balance sheet financing practised by some of the banks, concealing the actual debt and liabilities to the banks. For these reasons, the new leadership is also putting new regulations in place to limit wild expenditures by local governments. This may curtail the building of ghost towns, and ghost shopping malls that resulted from some of that spending. The leadership is also hinting at smaller government, the antithesis to the Maoist communist philosophy.

China has developed a significant middle class that is comfortable, connected to the world and to their countrymen, technologically savvy, and educated. While no one is suggesting China is planning for democracy any time soon, one can observe more open public debate about domestic issues, the economy and foreign policy. For example, there is significant public pressure and debate among the Chinese regarding North Korea. The government has realized this new middle class is not only an internal economic engine, but also can and wants to shape public policy. The new leadership is not only responding to domestic opinion, it also realizes there has been a decline in China's status on the world stage (as shown in a recent Pew Global Attitudes survey).



World Affairs

Oliver Javanpour

China's relationship with Europe suffered with its refusal to assist with the EU financial crises, the constant cyber-attacks and infiltration, and the loss of trillions of dollars in intellectual property and intelligence. The crises of North Korea and Iran are also being recognized as a growing blemish.

Increasing public awareness regarding China's role in the Middle East and the countries it supports is now the subject of public debate and discussion among the Chinese. Interestingly enough, as the United States and its current administration are losing interest in the Middle East, China has expressed interest in the U.S. continuing to be the stabilizing force in the region. The American lack of interest comes in part from the adverse results reaped from its engagement efforts. Additionally, there is less interest as the U.S. finds new sources of unconventional oil and gas at home, providing for more long-term self-sufficiency.

China treated the Middle East as a source to meet its energy needs and has played fast and loose with some of the most troubled and troubling countries in the region. The new leadership has realized China has been one of the key beneficiaries of the stabilizing role played by the U.S. No doubt the trillions of dollars spent by the U.S. to maintain its military presence and the direct cash it provides to countries such as Egypt, and to the Palestinian Authority, will be the subject of further negotiations with the Chinese.

China had bet on peak oil and, through buying Middle East supply, it tried to manipulate and control the market, but this will be a much less likely scenario in the future due to North America's newly found unconventional supplies and its self-sufficiency. In fact, it would not be surprising to see lower oil prices in the future. China has already started hedging its bets. You see this in takeovers and purchases of North and South American oil companies such as CNOOC's purchase of Canadian Nexen earlier this year.

As the manufacturer for the planet, China's need for a stable Middle East is unequivocal.

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



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Film explores what happened to Iraq's Jewish community

When Linda Menuhin Abdul Aziz left Baghdad for Israel in the 1970s, her father had no interest in joining her.

Despite the increasingly hostile attitudes towards Jews in Iraq, Jacob Abdul Aziz was a successful and respected lawyer. He was also a proud and patriotic Iraqi, unwilling to leave his home.

But, soon after Menuhin and the rest of her family left Iraq, her father's situation became increasingly difficult. He was repeatedly detained and questioned, and then one day he disappeared – kidnapped and presumably murdered in one of Saddam Hussein's infamous prisons.

Menuhin's quest to find out what happened to her father is one of the starting points of *Shadow in Baghdad: The Disappearance of a Community*, the latest documentary by Israeli filmmaker Duki Dror.

The film is also a chance for Dror to explore myriad issues about the history of Jews in Arab countries, including an understanding of his own roots.

"As someone whose parents came from Iraq, I was always wondering what's going on there – how people my age feel and do and create," said Dror, 49.

"Because of the Arab Spring, there has been more contact through social media with what is going on in Arab countries.

"I realized that there are groups of people in Iraq who are very sorry about what happened to the Jews there. The Jews are part of the Mesopotamian heritage, and they want to bring it back after 100 years of devastation."

The world knows all about the plight of Arabs who fled Israel during the 1948 War of Independence.

Indeed, the UN has passed 170 resolutions referring to Palestinian refugees, and it created an organization, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, specifically and solely for these refugees. All other refugees in the world are handled by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

In addition, the UN even defines Palestinian refugees dif-



My Israel

Barbara Crook

ferently than any other refugee population. By including descendants of the estimated 400,000 to 700,000 who left their homes in Israel, the UN now recognizes nearly five million Palestinians as refugees. No effort has been made to resettle these refugees in other Arab countries.

Until recently, little attention has been paid to the more than 800,000 Jews who were forced to leave Arab countries between 1948 and 1972. They fled with little more than the clothes on their backs, and left behind land, buildings and frozen bank accounts worth billions in today's dollars.

Unlike the Palestinian refugees, they made new lives in Israel, Europe and North America. Ironically, their very success in overcoming tremendous difficulties to resettle and assimilate in their new countries caused their plight to be all but forgotten until recent years.

Dror was initially interested in making a sequel to his film, *My Fantasia*, which retraced his Iraqi roots and led him to discover his father had been a political prisoner in Iraq for five years.

But he also wanted to use social media to connect with people his own age in Iraq. He turned to Menuhin, a trilingual journalist and peace activist who has been blogging about this issue for years.

She in turn introduced him to "Mr. M.," a young Iraqi journalist who is fascinated by the stories and history of the Jews in Iraq and who provides much of the Iraqi footage used in the film, which should be finished in the next couple of months.

Dror sees the film as a way of bridging the chasm between Israel and the Arab world through mutual understanding.

"We must begin to have a dialogue with the Arab world – a dialogue based on history that people in the Arab world don't know and that people in Israel don't know," he said.

"Understanding what the Jews in Arab countries went through is part of the dialogue we need to create with neighboring countries – that is the only bridge to the future."

Shadow in Baghdad is the latest of Dror's films to explore the issues of displaced people. I first learned of Dror through his remarkable 2005 film, *The Journey of Vaan Nguyen*, which explores the identity conflicts of Israeli children of Vietnamese refugees.

Across the River, which was screened in Ottawa in 2010, tells the story of an Ethiopian Israeli who returns to Ethiopia to understand why so many members of his community are suffering from AIDS and HIV.

"[These displaced people] have a special sensitivity, something I can share with them," he said.

"Although I was born and raised in Israel, because I am a child of immigrants, I carry some of this displacement feeling with me – the idea that you don't really belong in one place, that you have to create your own home."

Dror is using the crowdfunding site *jewcer.com* to raise the last \$25,000 of his \$250,000 budget from small investors, who can donate anything from \$10 to \$10,000 to have a stake in the film.

"It's a new way of reaching out to an audience before a film – it raises funds and creates advocates," said Dror.

"But it's also fabulous because it creates expectations. It's much more exciting for me to know that someone like my 16-year-old cousin can put \$10 into this project; I feel a sense of responsibility and commitment."

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/ct5czmd> for more information and to see an excerpt from the film.

Guest column

Thank you Justin Bieber for visiting Anne Frank House

By Bram Bregman

On April 12, Canadian pop sensation Justin Bieber visited Anne Frank House in Amsterdam before his concert there. The Anne Frank House *Facebook* page posted the 20-word note that Bieber wrote in the guestbook: "Truly inspiring to be able to come here. Anne was a great girl. Hopefully she would have been a belieber."

'Belieber' is what Bieber's fans call themselves.

Bieber has since been heavily criticized by the media and on social media sites for his comment. He has been called "insensitive," "disrespectful," "self-centred," "ignorant." You get the point. Many news articles were quick to point out Jews were offended by his comment.

Not this Jew. I commend Bieber for visiting the museum.

In a world obsessed with celebrity, Bieber is a giant. He's the reigning world record-holder of *Twitter* followers with 37 million and has an incredible 52 million 'likes' on *Facebook*. When Bieber visited Anne Frank House, he showed support for Holocaust education and, when he does something, the world notices. Bieber sent an important message: Anne Frank, and the story of each of the six million innocent Jews murdered, should never be forgotten.

How many other celebrities have visited the Anne Frank House? How many have used their influence to say the Holocaust matters and should be remembered? What were they doing on April 12? What were the people lambasting Bieber on *Facebook* and *Twitter* doing?

Bieber took his time learning about Anne Frank, spending an hour touring the museum, although his purpose for being in the Netherlands was to perform. Let's be clear. He did not have to go. He was under no obligation. Further, I believe Bieber did not go as a PR stunt. He did not have photos taken and did not promote it online. His intentions were pure.

Most telling in all of this were the curators at Anne Frank House, who released a statement defending the young pop star. "We think it is very positive that he took the time and effort to visit our museum. He was very interested in the story of Anne Frank and stayed for over an hour. We hope that his visit will inspire his fans to learn more about her life and hopefully read the diary."

If Anne Frank House was not offended by his comments, who are we to be offended for them?

Similarly, the Anti-Defamation League and the Simon Wiesenthal Center, who both typically jump at opportunities to criticize insensitive language, defended Bieber. In fact, I could not find one Jewish organization who criticized Bieber for his note. Most criticisms were made by individuals online, and the media who are always looking for a sensational headline.

Those who know the story of Anne Frank know she was a typical teenaged girl who loved Hollywood, pop culture, movies, music and posters of contemporary artists. When she went into hiding, the first thing she packed was her diary, the second her curlers. We often only remember her terrible suffering and her heartbreaking end, but forget that she was a regular teenager.

Her life should not just be remembered by the tragedies, but also by her common humanity and interests. Bieber was simply reminding us that she was human, hoping she would have chosen to listen to his music among the many artists she loved. Further, from Bieber's point of view, a belieber is someone he cares for, and I think his comment meant to reflect this.

Daniel Kanter, Bieber's musical director and lead guitarist – but more famously known for being my classmate at Hillel Academy – wrote a passionate and articulate response on *Facebook* to the criticism.

"No one in the entire world has a stronger relationship with millions of teenage girls than Justin," wrote Kanter. "When he learned that Anne was a fan of pop culture, his connection was that much greater. Justin wrote that he was inspired by Anne's brave and ultimately tragic story. Justin thought of the millions of beliebers he cares so much about – and Anne Frank definitely would have been one of them."

Each of us should be applauding Bieber for using his celebrity status to draw attention to the story of Anne Frank. I wrote a note on Bieber's *Facebook* and *Twitter* pages expressing my appreciation. I hope my social media friends will too, even if I'm a few million followers behind Bieber.

Bram Bregman is executive director of NCSY Ottawa.

10th Anniversary OTTAWA ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL

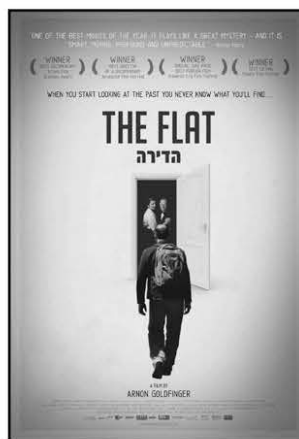
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Charlotte Slack by Marlene Levine and Andrew Siman; by Sandra Palef and Nissim Avraham; and by Enid Slack, Ron Kanter and family.

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ZIPES KARANOFKY FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Jack and Helaine Gould on the birth of their third grandchild, Fiona Rose, by Helen and Rick Zipes.

Continued on page 25

*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

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Oreck-Wener and Bob Wener.

Ellen Finkelman and Bernie Rabinovitch on their upcoming marriage by Rhoda and Joe Levitan.

Jessica Borenstein and family on the birth of their son, Leo George, by Lynne Oreck-Wener.

Happy Mother's Day to:

Zoe Oreck by Lynne Oreck-Wener, Bobby, Taryn, Eleni and Hart Wener.

Evelyn Wener by Lynne Oreck-Wener, Bobby, Taryn, Eleni and Hart Wener.

Birthday Wishes to:

Marlene Krybus by Rhoda, Joe, Shayna, Yoni and Josh Levitan.

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Claims Conference ועידת התביעות
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

Holocaust-Era Assets in Former East Germany

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

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

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

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

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

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

All communications regarding the Late Applicants Fund should be submitted to:
Claims Conference Successor Organization,
Sophienstrasse 26, D-60487 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.
Fax: ++49-69-97-07-08-11. Email: claims-conference-laf@claimscon.org

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

Emerging generation feels the impact of Samantha Banks

For young Jews in Ottawa, on campus and beyond, one of the most defining and far-reaching components of the past two years has been the implementation of a Jewish Federation of Ottawa staff position of director of Initiatives for the Emerging Generation (DIEG).

In 2011, the Federation held the openOttawa symposium to begin a process of engaging the ‘emerging generation’ of young Jewish adults in Ottawa. The emerging generation is generally regarded to be those aged from 18 to 35.

Recommendations emerged from openOttawa in three categories: fund, do and facilitate.

When Samantha Banks was hired as the DIEG, I wrote the *Bulletin* article about it.

It’s not that I was skeptical, but I was having trouble envisioning the impact this move might have on my peers and me. I’d never consciously pinpointed that there was something missing, but, in hindsight, it seems so blatant.

Over the past year, I’ve noticed a major change in the emerging generation’s overall vibe, as Banks helps us move toward the objectives set at openOttawa.

One was creating an innovation fund from which micro-grants could be distributed to community members with good ideas in line with the overarching goals.

Throughout the year, I’ve covered and attended several creative and original events made possible thanks to the execution of this initiative. For example, there have been two Shabbat dinners at the offices of Shopify, a hip local business start-up located in the heart of the ByWard Market, and the unforgettable Bijoux Affair, a networking event held at a jewelry store.

The grants have inspired members of the emerging generation to step seamlessly into leadership roles and take action, organizing events that suit their interests and desires, like the young adult road hockey tournament in August.

While these innovations are certainly due, in large part, to



Campus Life

Ilana Belfer

the micro-grant program, many young people don’t know the first thing about writing a grant and would be hesitant to apply for one without the DIEG’s assistance in facilitating the process.

There’s been a trend with the stories I’ve written about emerging generation events this year – grant or not. Whenever I ask how the event came to be, it starts with an idea, and is then quickly followed by a pitch to Banks, who uses her expertise in the more logistical and financial sides of party planning, as well as the Federation’s support, to make it happen.

I’m not the only one who has noticed progress.

“When Sam came, everything almost blew up overnight,” said Maya Ashalomov, co-chair of jnet, a grassroots social network.

Since community leaders are volunteers, Ashalomov said it’s been “amazing” to have a figure like the DIEG, for whom community work is the full-time job, at their disposal. As a result, she said, jnet has been able to host more events, and more successful ones at that.

“Between last year and this year, there’s a lot more consistency,” said Ranit Braun, co-chair of the Young Women’s Leadership Council. “Having someone encouraging people to come ... and having events often enough that people don’t forget about the community is very important.”

Of course, Banks admits things haven’t been perfect and there’s more to be done, particularly in terms of expanding the fundraising division.

In my first interview with her, Banks told me she intended to act as a hub, convening and uniting all the different organizations that exist for young Jews, regardless of whether they fall under the Federation’s umbrella.

Has she accomplished this?

I think so. The proof was in the pudding with the “First-ever Yom Ha’Atzmaut Party for Young Adults,” which was a joint effort by jnet, Hillel Ottawa, Glebe Shul and the Young Women’s Leadership Council.

However, I feel there could still be more promotion and support for non-Federation organizations and events.

Michael Greilsammer, a famous Israeli reggae violinist, was in Ottawa for a couple of months over the semester, hosted by Carleton University’s Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies as part of the Schusterman Visiting Artists Program.

He did a number of performances, yet despite being a young guy who appeals to a young demographic, an article appeared on popular local blog *Apartment 613* was titled, “Why hasn’t Ottawa heard of Michael Greilsammer?”

Perhaps the situation could have been improved with Banks’ help.

Nonetheless, with Banks saying she has programs booked into 2014, I must commend her and the Federation on the success of this strategy.

Banks talks about the “rumours and gossip” of young adults.

“It’s when you hear through someone that they heard from someone that ‘emerging generation’ now means something to them. We have a presence on the map now. Ottawa isn’t just a skip-over city between Montreal and Toronto,” she said.

I can’t help but agree.

Resistance from within may be holding you back

Your dentist advises you to floss daily. Your physician advises you to reduce your sodium intake. Your personal trainer advises you to perform specific exercises. When you turn to experts for guidance, they have the expectation you’ll follow their advice. You agree to do what they recommend, but do you actually follow through?

Non-compliance may be one of your worst enemies.

Let’s look at a scenario. As part of your fitness plan, your personal trainer asks you to keep a food journal for a few days. She explains the potential benefits of this proven strategy. She describes how participants in a weight loss study who recorded what they ate lost twice as much weight as those who didn’t keep track (*American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, August, 2008). You agree with this course of action.

That evening, you don’t bother to record what you ate. In fact, you come to your next training session armed with the excuse that you forgot to bring your food journal. When queried about what you ate yesterday, you can’t remember everything. Your trainer gently reminds you to bring your food journal next time. At the subsequent appointment, you admit that you haven’t kept a food journal at all.

Do you really want to change? Do you want to achieve your goals? Do you want to be healthier and happier? If yes, then why won’t you perform a simple task? Can you really not find five minutes in the day to help yourself?

Resistance undermines the change process. There are many reasons for not following advice. Understanding some of them can help positively affect outcomes.

Resistance is a normal reaction that “usually signifies that a particularly distressing issue has been brought to the forefront” (Joshua C. Watson, “Addressing Client Resistance: Recognizing and Processing In-Session Occur-

rences,” *Vistas*, 2006).

Resistance stems from a subconscious need to avoid unpleasant feelings. In the example of the food journal, on an intellectual level, you understand the benefits of tracking what you eat, such as how tracking can make you more aware and accountable. However, on a deeper level, you may find it embarrassing to acknowledge how much you eat, even if you’re the only person reading the journal. Even more painful may be the psychological reasons behind your eating habits. Perhaps you eat because you’re anxious, depressed, bored or lonely. Avoidance of the task at hand is an easy out, because you don’t have to confront your emotional pain.

Other common types of resistance behaviours are imposing limits and discounting your own abilities. You might say you can’t do something when you can, or that you don’t want something when you really do. You may believe everyone else can accomplish their goals – weight loss, for example – but such goals are unrealistic for you due to genetics, a hectic schedule or a host of other factors you perceive as beyond your control.

You may underestimate your abilities or be unable to imagine positive outcomes. Perhaps past failed attempts have blurred your vision of what’s possible. Success doesn’t always happen on the first try – and that’s OK. Leverage such experiences as learning opportunities.

Maintaining dysfunctional beliefs and behaviours may outweigh the perceived benefits of overcoming them. The thought of change itself can be frightening.

Fortunately, you can change your inner dialogue. When you overcome your self-limiting beliefs, you open yourself up to a world of possibilities. “You must learn to trust that there is a future waiting that is beyond what you might be able to grasp at this moment,” author Debbie Ford proclaims



Focus on Fitness

Gloria Schwartz

in *The 21-Day Consciousness Cleanse*.

If your own resistance is standing between you and your goals, here are some practical steps you can take:

- Identify and address the issues underlying your resistance. Start by asking yourself why you’re unwilling to do what needs to be done. Seek professional help, if mental health issues such as depression are involved;

- Have a discussion about the pros and cons of continuing your current behaviour versus changing it. Picture yourself a month, a year or a decade into the future. What might your life be like, if you continue on the same path? Then picture what it can be like, if you implement the recommended changes;

- When given strategies and choices, participate in decision-making so that you feel a sense of contribution and control over your future.

Once you conquer your resistance, implement a strategy to fit your new tasks into your busy life. Schedule some time to write in your food journal or to floss your teeth. Make these appointments with yourself high priority and non-negotiable so you can turn intentions into actions.

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

Rhubarb curd shortbread squares

It's possible I may be jumping the gun a bit by writing about rhubarb during the first week of May. However, given the winter we've recently crawled out of, I hope I can be forgiven.

Rhubarb is certainly one of the first harbingers of spring. Just seeing those red stalks at the market gives me hope that cottage season is close – but not so close that I won't have time to lose those last five pounds before trying to squeeze into my bathing suit!

Rhubarb is not quite in the same league as, say, peaches and raspberries, when it comes to passionate fans. I think the issue here is a combination of taste and texture. Rhubarb is quite acidic and tart, so it needs to be treated with a deft hand. To deal with the acidity, I like to soak the

rhubarb stalks in cold water for about 20 minutes to reduce their acidity. Tartness is easily handled with sugar. Just be careful not to add too much or it becomes cloyingly sweet.

The texture of rhubarb is stringy, even when cooked and tender. There is not much you can do about this in a rhubarb pie or crisp, so, if the stringiness does not put you off, knock yourself out and indulge in pies and crisps. But, if you love the tang of rhubarb, but not the texture, then the answer lies in curd. If you thought curd was just for lemons, think again!

I first discovered the idea of rhubarb curd from Melissa Clarke, in her wonderful book, *Cook This Now*. Melissa had come up with a genius way to get all the tang of rhubarb, without the texture. Purée the raw rhubarb in the food

processor and then strain the pulp and squeeze out the juice. Use this juice instead of lemon in the curd. Brilliant!

The idea that any juice can be turned into a curd has just blown my mind. I'm not sure why I only



Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

thought curd could be made with lemon. I guess I'm just not an out-of-the-box kind of thinker, but now that I know, the possibilities are endless. I am planning a pomegranate curd tart for the fall!

I always associate pomegranates with my mom. She used to make us strip down to our underwear and go outside in the backyard to eat pomegranates, because the fruit stained so badly. Luckily, these days, you can buy pomegranate juice.

For the base of these rhubarb curd shortbread squares, I used a recipe from Rivka, a Washington, D.C.-based food blogger who created the delicious blog, *Not Derby Pie*.

When choosing rhubarb, look for medium-sized crisp and firm stalks, about the same thickness as a stalk of celery. Deeply coloured (red) stalks have more sweetness to them. Avoid big stringy green stalks. There is no need to peel the thinner stalks.

Rhubarb Curd Shortbread

The curd recipe comes from Melissa Clarke's book, *Cook This Now*. The shortbread crust is the creation of food blogger Rivka. notderbypie.com

For the shortbread

- 6 ounces unsalted butter, cold, cut into chunks
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

For the curd

- 10-12 ounces rhubarb, washed, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces (about 3 cups)
- 1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar
- 4 egg yolks
- 2 whole eggs
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature, cut into pieces

Preheat oven to 350 F.

To make the shortbread, blend all ingredients in a stand mixer or food processor until combined. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate about 1 hour. Then, either roll into 8 x 8-inch square and place in 8-inch square baking pan, or dump dough into pan and use fingertips to press evenly into pan. Bake 30 minutes, until golden. Let cool on a rack or on the counter.

Wash rhubarb and trim as little off the ends as possible. Cut rhubarb into 1-inch chunks and soak in cold water for about

20 minutes to reduce their acidity. Drain.

Purée rhubarb in food processor until smooth, about 2-3 minutes. It may be necessary to add 1-2 teaspoons of water to get the rhubarb moving.

Pour puréed rhubarb into a bowl lined with cheesecloth. Tighten the cheesecloth and squeeze out the juice with your hands. You should get about 2/3 of a cup. Discard the pulp.

In a double boiler or a stainless steel medium bowl set on top of a medium heavy-bottomed pot with 2 inches of simmering water, combine the rhubarb juice, sugar, egg yolks, whole eggs and salt. Stir constantly with a whisk making sure to scrape the bottom and sides while the liquid thickens and coats the back of a wooden spoon, about 18-20 minutes. (I will admit that I was not stirring constantly. I did walk away for several minutes at a time, and it still turned out fine. Just make sure the water is simmering and not boiling.)

Remove from heat and whisk in butter until dissolved.

Strain the curd through a fine mesh sieve. (I thought this step was totally unnecessary until I strained mine and discovered a few bits of scrambled egg in my curd. Probably because I walked away and did not whisk constantly!)

Use an offset spatula to spread curd evenly over shortbread. Bake another 10 minutes, then remove from oven and cool on rack. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours until it has firmed up enough to slice cleanly. Cut into 16 equal bars. Dust with powdered sugar before serving.

In Appreciation

The Taylor family acknowledges with grateful appreciation, your kind expression of sympathy on the loss of a dear Wife, Mother and Grandmother, Rose Taylor.

Chick, Steven, Jeffrey, Mona, Allan and families

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* Pre-purchasing of interment rights is only available to members of JMG's founding synagogues. Prices subject to change at any time.

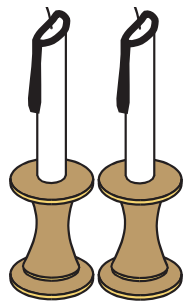


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WHAT'S GOING ON

May 6 to 19, 2013

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



CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE

- May 10 ☆ 7:59 pm
EREV SHAVUOT
- May 14 ☆ 8:04 pm
- 1st DAY of SHAVUOT
- May 15 ☆ AFTER 9:07 pm
- May 17 ☆ 8:07 pm
- May 24 ☆ 8:15 pm
- May 31 ☆ 8:22 pm

WEEKLY EVENTS MONDAYS

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

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

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

Drop-in Playgroup for newborn to 3 years old. Parents and kids romp and play and make new friends, 9:00 to 11:00 am.

Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 294.

FRIDAYS

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

MONDAY, MAY 6

Hava Nagila (The Movie), a film about the iconic folk song and why the melody has been so beloved over the years, sponsored by the SJCC, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 254.

TUESDAY, MAY 7

Malca Pass Book Club, sponsored by Agudath Israel Congregation. Dr. Norman Wolfish will review "State of

Wonder," by Ann Patchett, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-829-2455.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

Machzikei Movie Night, presented by Machzikei Hadas Congregation. *Beautiful Music* is the remarkable true story of Devorah Schramm, an American-born, Orthodox pianist and composer who taught piano lessons to a blind and severely autistic nine-year-old Palestinian girl during the Intifada, 2310 Virginia Drive, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-521-9700.

THURSDAY, MAY 9

Agudath Israel Congregation Annual General Meeting, 7:00 pm, 1400 Coldrey Avenue.

SUNDAY, MAY 12

Ottawa Torah Centre Ground-Breaking Celebration to mark the OTC's new facility, 111 Lamplighter Drive, 11:00 am. Info: 613-843-7770.

COMING SOON

SUNDAY, MAY 26

Die Folkspieler presents "A Neie Velt – A New World": On the occasion of his 80th birthday, Lazer Binderman and his wife, Freydl, reflect on the world of today. English translations provided, 2:00 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.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

Jewish Federation of Ottawa Annual General Meeting. All are welcome, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 236.

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:

Freda Benovitch, Toronto (mother of Bernard Benovitch)

Herbert Cowan

Reuben Dubrofsky

Lawrence Fyman, New York (father of Dale Fyman)

Saul Goldfarb

Molly Goldie

Irwin Igra, Toronto (brother-in-law of Wesley and Elayne Schacter)

Sonia Pearl (née Tarantour)

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 29 FOR JUNE 17

JULY 3 FOR JULY 22

JULY 31 FOR AUGUST 26*

* Community-wide Issue (all dates subject to change)

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