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Maureen Molot:

A 'privilege' to be the Vaad's first woman president

By Cynthia Nyman Engel

Maureen Molot will receive the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award for 2013.

Initiated in 1980, the award bears the name of Gilbert Greenberg, the late past president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'ir, who exemplified the qualities of leadership that the award seeks to recognize each year. It is the highest tribute the Ottawa Jewish community can bestow on an individual for exceptional service over the course of many years.

The community awards will be presented on Wednesday, June 5 at

the annual general meeting of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

While the constituency she would head was infinitely smaller than those of Golda Meir and Margaret Thatcher, the inauguration of Maureen as the first woman president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'ir (now the Jewish Federation of Ottawa) in 1991 was every bit as significant an event for Ottawa's Jewish community.

"There were many other women who preceded me who could have done it," Maureen said modestly, "but the privilege fell to

(Continued on page 2)

Ruth Aaron:

A quintessential gute neshome

By Cynthia Nyman Engel

Ruth Aaron has been named recipient of the Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award (presented by the *Ottawa Citizen*) for 2013. The award recognizes an outstanding volunteer within the Jewish community who, through many years of service, has contributed to the enrichment of Jewish life in Ottawa.

The community awards will be presented on Wednesday, June 5 at

the annual general meeting of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

Over the years, Ruth has delivered Meals-on-Wheels for Jewish Family Services, presided at the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) Citizenship Court receptions welcoming newly minted Canadians, and has opened her home for countless meetings and fundraising teas.

(Continued on page 2)

2013 Community Award recipients



Maureen Molot
Gilbert Greenberg
Distinguished Service Award



Stacey Segal
Freiman Family
Young Leadership Award



Ruth Aaron
Shem Tov
Community Volunteer Award

Stacey Segal:

Committed to volunteerism

By Cynthia Nyman Engel

At 34, Stacey Segal is the youngest-ever recipient of the Freiman Family Young Leadership Award. The award recognizes someone under the age of 40 who has contributed actively and rendered exceptional service to the Jewish community.

The community awards will be presented on Wednesday, June 5 at the annual general meeting of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

Stacey, who discovered the rewards of volunteering at age 17, has already devoted half her life to making a difference. Happily, for all concerned, she intends to continue doing so.

Her love of volunteering started when she began a co-op placement

with the Ottawa Boys and Girls Club.

"I enjoyed it so much that afterward I stayed on as a volunteer to run drama, sports and other clubs for the kids," she said.

While earning her bachelor of social work degree at Carleton University, Stacey volunteered with the Big Sisters organization. And, during that time, she also met her husband-to-be, Torontonians Yoni Freedhoff, who was doing his medical residency in Ottawa.

A few months after they were married, Stacey went on to complete her master's degree in social work in Montreal at McGill University.

"I stayed with my bubbe and commuted," she said.

Toward the end of her master's program, she volunteered with Shalom Bayit, ultimately becoming its program co-ordinator.

Following the birth of her first child, Stacey joined Na'amat Canada's Tikvah Chapter. Within a year, she became fundraising chair, a position she occupied for several years.

"I chose Na'amat because it does a lot of work with women and children in Israel," she said.

Stacey sat on the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Mitzvah Day Committee for five years, serving as chair of the highly successful community-wide event for three of those years. On Mitzvah Day 2012, she had the enormous satisfaction

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Maureen Molot faced tough issues as Vaad president

(Continued from page 1)

me. And I'm delighted to be honoured with two other women. It demonstrates that women have played and continue to play major roles in the community."

Like every governing board, Maureen's administration faced its share of tough issues.

During her two years at the helm of the community, the Vaad held in-depth discussions about such issues as the need to create and move to a new Jewish Community Campus; whether to institute a subscription fee for the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*, a publication that had been mailed to community members free of charge for more than 50 years; acquiring additional beds for Hillel Lodge; how to deal with occurrences of cemetery desecration; and many more.

Prior to assuming the Vaad presidency, Maureen had served in various executive positions, including Community Relations Committee chair and Vaad vice-president. She recognizes and is grateful for the many lessons she learned from her Jewish communal involvement and for the opportunities that grew out of it.

"What I learned through active participation in the Jewish commu-

nity was how to build consensus," said Maureen. "Many of us, myself included, gained our spurs in the Jewish community and went on to positions in the general community. As an active volunteer in the Jewish community, you're building a skills set that serves you well when you go on to the general community. ...

"Many members of Jewish communities who currently play large roles in the general community have come from positions of responsibility and leadership in the Jewish community.

"What a privilege it is to do both," she added. "You gain way more than you give."

Maureen's commitment to the Jewish community continued after completing her term as Vaad president. For several years, she chaired the Vaad HaKashrut, and she has been a member of the Hillel Lodge Long Term Care Foundation Board since 2005. She is also a regular volunteer at the Lodge.

And, from 2007 to 2010, Maureen was actively involved with the groups tasked with merging Hillel Academy and Yitzhak Rabin High School to form the Ottawa Jewish Community School.

A longtime faculty member of the Carleton University Norman

Paterson School of International Affairs, Maureen is now a distinguished research professor. She was one of the founders of Canadian Professors for Peace in the Middle East, an organization of Jewish and non-Jewish academics which operated from the mid-1970s until the early-'80s.

More recently, she was involved in Canadian Academic Friends of Israel, now Canadian Academics for Peace in the Middle East. She also continues to act as an informal

adviser to Hillel Ottawa on campus.

Maureen chaired the Community Foundation of Ottawa from 2003 to 2005 and currently sits on the Task Force on Jewish Students and Faculty created by the Carleton University Commission on Anti-Racism, Inter-Religious and Inter-Cultural Cooperation on Campus.

"Henry was always extraordinarily supportive," said Maureen of her husband. "He worked full time, too, and you've got to have

support at home for whatever you do."

Maureen and Henry are the parents of Alexander, who is married and lives in Philadelphia, and Edie, who is married and lives on Moshav Hemed in central Israel. They are the delighted grandparents of six.

"We're very proud of both our children who appreciate the importance of community and are involved volunteers themselves," said Maureen.

Segal committed to Jewish education

(Continued from page 1)

of seeing an impressive total of 1,500 good deeds performed.

Last year, when Mitzvah Day officially became affiliated with the United Way's Ottawa Kindness Week, which was initiated by Rabbi Reuven Bulka in 2007, Stacey saw an opportunity to reach out to other communities in the city.

"My hope was to have them adopt at least one project that they'd consider doing for one day in the week leading up to Mitzvah Day," she said. She hopes to continue with 'Kind Ottawa' with a view to connecting the two concepts and seeing the vision come to fruition.

As the mother of three young children, Stacey is committed to ensuring the future of Jewish education in Ottawa. To that end, she sits on the board of the Ottawa Jewish Community School and on the board's standing committees for marketing and communications and fundraising.

"Fortunately, Yoni is very supportive of what I do. Actually, we're mutually supportive of each other," she said with a smile.

"I'm committed to working as a volunteer," said the busy wife, mother and social worker. Professionally, Stacey is currently a member of the Crisis Intervention Team

at CHEO and a clinical associate at Summit Centre.

"I want to be a good role model for my children and to have them be as passionate about giving back to the community as I am."

The recipient of the Freiman Family Young Leadership Award also receives the Lawrence Greenberg Young Leadership Development Award. This award allows the recipient to attend the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America (GA) where young leaders from across North America are honoured. The GA will be held this year from November 10 to 12 in Israel.

Aaron: a selfless volunteer for more than 60 years

(Continued from page 1)

She has staffed the Civic Hospital canteen for NCJW, sold poppies for Remembrance Day with her late sister Pearl Moskovic, chaired Beth Shalom's Chai Ball, volunteered at Jewish bingo fundraisers, chaired the flower booth at the Perley Hospital's former Aylmer Avenue location, procured patrons and advertisements for Agudath Israel Synagogue's Cinderella Ball, and lent her support to Canadian Hadassah-WIZO.

She chaired the McKellar Heights door-to-door campaign for the Ottawa & Dis-

trict Association for Retarded Children (now called the Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities), drove developmentally disabled children to nursery school programs – remained to help the teachers – drove the children back, then raced home to feed lunch to her own children.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Add to the list the many deeds done by Ruth for Ottawa Torah Academy, the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge, Chevra Kadisha, the Ottawa Post of Jewish War Veterans of

Canada, and Beit Tikvah, among many others.

Now 84, this quintessential *gute neshome* has spent 60-plus years selflessly volunteering her time and energy to making a positive difference. Not only has Ruth earned a good name for herself, she also has disseminated the good name of Ottawa's Jewish community.

Ruth's influence was extended to the international scene in the early-1980s when she learned from her son Leslie that Beit Halochem was bringing disabled Israel Defense Forces (IDF) veterans on annual vis-

its to Toronto and Montreal. In no time flat, Ruth added Ottawa to their itinerary.

Every year for 25 years, Ruth arranged for the group to visit Ottawa, housed some of them, arranged billets for others, and recruited the late Jack Smith to provide a couple of dinners at his Embassy West restaurant. Then, escorted by Ruth and a few volunteers, the visitors were ferried around Ottawa aboard an old school bus, alternately driven by two retired members of B'nai B'rith. They toured the House of Commons, Supreme Court, National Gallery, Royal Canadian Mint and other national venues, and enjoyed boat tours along the Ottawa River and Rideau Canal.

Ruth chuckles remembering how her husband, Irving, and their son, Stanley, would await the Israeli visitors at the bus terminal holding up signs made from shirt cardboard, which read, "Welcome Beit Halochem."

"The veterans based in

from Toronto or Montreal," she explained. "Irving and Stanley would bring them back to our house to meet their billets at a warm reception with Evelyn Greenberg playing piano to greet them."

In Toronto and Montreal, entire committees had arranged the visits; in Ot-

tawa, Ruth did it singlehandedly. These visits, always important to the Aarons, became even more so when their son, Jeffrey, joined the IDF in 1986.

Ruth and Irving Aaron have four children, all of whom are active in their communities, and 13 grandchildren.

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Ottawa Israeli Film Festival set for June 6 to 16

By Maxine Miska
Soloway JCC

The Ottawa Israeli Film Festival will celebrate its 10th anniversary from June 6 to 13.

The four films on tap for the 10th anniversary edition of the festival demonstrate the evolution of the Israeli film industry as they chronicle such events as the second intifada as well as the voices of grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, the emergence of haredi filmmakers, and memes that reference a shared tragicomic vision in Israeli art.

The festival opens Thursday, June 6, 7:00 pm, with a lecture on Israeli film by Aner Preminger, associate professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and head of the film department at Sapir Academic College. Following the lecture, Shemi Zarhin's *The World is Funny* (*Ha'olam Matzchik*) will be screened.

The World is Funny is a layered and complex evocation of the interpenetration of

fiction and reality, which sets the narrative of three estranged siblings against the fanciful stories told in a writing workshop, and punctuated by references to the routines of the beloved comedy trio, Gashash.

Yardena, a travel agent, discovers she is pregnant, although she has not slept with her husband since their daughter was killed while serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Meron's 18-year-old son has awakened from a coma after 10 years, while Golan, a radio show host, fixates on bringing together the two surviving members of Gashash to cope with his lover's terminal cancer.

Preminger is also a filmmaker and will present his latest film, *Present Continuous* (*Ha'chaim Bentayim*) on Sunday, June 9, 7:00 pm. Preminger will answer questions following the screening.

Present Continuous takes place in 2002 during the Second Intifada. Shopping prior



Yiftach Klein and Hadas Yaron in *Fill the Void* (*Lemale et Ha'halal*), the closing film of the Ottawa Israeli Film Festival.

to Shabbat in the market, Ruti narrowly escapes injury from a bombing. When she returns home, in shock and in an altered state, she orders enough food for the weekend, welcomes her son serving in the IDF home for Shabbat and, when the family has gone to

sleep, confiscates their cell phones and locks them in the apartment creating a pocket of "normalcy" insulated from the threat of the Intifada and military duty.

The separate reality created within an apartment also figures in Arnon Goldfinger's documentary, *The Flat* (*Ha'dira*), to be shown Thursday, June 13, 7:00 pm.

After the death of his grandmother, Goldfinger entered her Tel Aviv apartment with his family and found that they had passed through a time warp into the pre-Second World War Germany his grandparents had fled. As Goldfinger unpacks the artifacts and letters, he discovers his grandparents had continued a relationship with a Ger-

man couple, even though the man had been a Nazi.

Following the trail of correspondence to Germany, Goldfinger meets the daughter of the couple, who is as impassive about the events of the Nazi era as his own mother, creating symmetry between an Israeli and a German woman, both of whom grew up in the shadow of the Holocaust and learned not to ask questions.

Fill the Void (*Lemale et Ha'halal*), the festival's closing film, will be screened Sunday, June 16, 7:00 pm.

Directed by haredi filmmaker Rama Burshtein, *Fill the Void* was shown at the

Sundance Film Festival, the Toronto International Film Festival, and the Venice International Film Festival where Hadas Yaron won the best actress award for her role as Shira.

Shira, a young woman in a Chasidic community in Tel Aviv, has been matched with the perfect suitor and looks forward to marriage. When her sister suddenly dies in childbirth, Shira's mother asks that she marry her widowed brother-in-law so the infant son can be raised within the family circle.

The Ottawa Israeli Film Festival screenings are at the Auditorium, 295 Wellington Street. Tickets are \$12 (general admission) and \$8 (seniors, students and Soloway JCC members) and are available at the door (cash only).

The festival is sponsored by the Israel Cultural Forum – the Embassy of Israel, the Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program, Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, the Canada Israel Cultural Foundation, and the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University – and the Canadian Film Institute.

For more information contact Penni Namer at pnamer@jccottawa.com or 613-798-9818, ext. 243.

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Talking with Ottawa Jewish community leaders

Neil Zaret

Managing our Jewish Community Campus

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.

When it comes to the Ottawa Jewish community, Neil Zaret has a particular fondness for bricks and mortar. Because that is what gives our community its vibrancy, he believes.

What he's talking about is the Jewish Community Campus located on Nadolny Sachs Private at the intersection of Broadview and Kerr Avenues, and the people who learn, play, swim, exercise mind and body, and spend their final years there.

Since 2008, Neil has been the campus chair, the member of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Board of Directors responsible for ensuring the campus and its buildings are well maintained and that any decisions pertaining to the property will be beneficial to the whole community.

Born and raised in Ottawa, Neil spent many years attending programs at the downtown Jewish Community Centre (JCC) at 151 Chapel Street gaining an appreciation for the importance of a "hub" that draws Jews of all ages and affiliations together.



Neil Zaret

Neil's work includes owning and managing real estate projects and as he developed expertise in property management and development, he was asked to give time in that area. For four years, he oversaw property management of the downtown facility.

By the mid-1990s, he was a strong supporter of establishing the new Jewish

Community Campus in the west end. The campus would offer more space to serve a wider population, and would be closer to the areas where much of Ottawa's Jewish population had migrated. He believes having the Federation, Jewish schools, Hillel Lodge, the Soloway JCC, Tamir and other organizations in one location is very important to strengthening connections to Judaism and to the community.

"I believe a campus is central to our Jewish identity and we should be very proud of what we have," he said.

But he acknowledges there are challenges.

"We have to be prepared to invest to keep these properties up to the proper condition. Quite frankly, we haven't always done that in the past and we have to address the situation. These are long-term investments for the community and they have to be treated as such."

In addition to his role in campus management, Neil has served on the Federation's finance committee and is currently the Federation representative on the Ottawa Jewish Community School Board.

In identifying a broader issue, Neil sees young people as not being as committed to

Judaism and to the community as previous generations, a situation which is not unique to Ottawa – or at least they express their commitment differently. He says our institutions need to do a better job of being relevant to young people, and keeping up with the times.

"They haven't developed the programs that are high on the list of what young people want," he said, while crediting the Federation, which is keenly aware of the issue, for launching its program of initiatives for the emerging generation.

Our community's strength, he believes, is in the diversity and richness that is a result of thousands of Jews choosing to move to Ottawa over the past 40 years. He said the community has changed a lot since he was a child, and for the better.

Neil intends to continue in his role as campus chair, at least until some major issues are resolved. These include determining what will be done with the Kerr Avenue land owned by the Federation, and the possible relocation of other Jewish organizations to the Jewish Community Campus.

The bottom line, he says, is to do what is in the best interest of the community as a whole.

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Community Awards Presentation

Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award • Maureen Molot
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Our Board has many accomplishments to be proud of

I've recently seen two very different, but equally inspirational movies: *50 Children: The Rescue Mission of Mr. and Mrs. Kraus*, a Holocaust story on HBO, and *42*, a feature film about Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play baseball in the major leagues.

The films revealed the anti-Semitism and racism in the U.S. during and immediately after the Second World War, and both demonstrated the difference one person can make in the lives of so many by doing the right thing even when surrounded by inaction, indifference, or worse.

In Ottawa, thankfully, we're not confronted by issues of such magnitude like Nazism or segregation, but, in the past several years, we have faced serious challenges and have made great progress in overcoming them. While it's true each individual can and should strive to do the right thing, it is by working together that we can often achieve even greater results. I believe the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Board, working together, has achieved successes we would not have otherwise.

As I end my two-year term as Federation chair, these are some of the accomplishments of which I'm the proudest:



Federation Report

Debbie Halton-Weiss
Chair

- Our successful follow-up to openOttawa, held in 2011 with the goal of engaging young adults between 22 and 35. Hundreds of young people have participated in Federation-led initiatives and many have become further involved in our community as organizers, committee members, leaders and philanthropists.

- Our commitment and efforts to support Israel in times of adversity. In 2012, we sent the largest contingent to Israel in Ottawa's history. We held two quickly organized gatherings, one to celebrate the release of Gilad Schalit and, less than a year later, to support the people of Israel when they faced rocket barrages that threatened the vast majority of its population.

- Further development of our relationship with our top stakeholders, so they feel more involved and informed about

the decisions that impact the Jewish community, and to welcome their input and advice.

- Working with the Ottawa Jewish Community School and the community leadership to make sure funds were raised and plans put in place to ensure the survival of a Jewish community day school in Ottawa.

- Ensuring we have both professional and lay leadership in place to take us forward for years to come.

Mitchell Bellman was at the helm of the Federation for 15 years and made a huge contribution to the development and success of our campus, the Federation, and to Ottawa's Jewish community and beyond. His departure created a huge gap and challenges on various levels, but it also created an opportunity.

We held focus groups, engaging various constituents to share their concerns and hopes for the community. The staff worked diligently with the Board to ensure a successful transition plan was in place and that any gaps were identified and filled. The community was consulted every step of the way to ensure the process was transparent and inclusive. We had a capable search committee, ably led

by Steven Kimmel, the incoming Federation chair, which successfully concluded its process when the highly qualified Andrea Freedman accepted the position and moved from Toronto to become president and CEO of the Federation.

Our Board worked tirelessly over the past two years, but particularly in the past 10 months. I cannot say enough about how individuals stepped up at a moment's notice to help out wherever they could. All of the above could not and would not have happened without the dedication, commitment, skills and expertise of everyone on the Federation Board, who collectively contributed to our communal success.

I have often been inspired working with our Board members. They always put the betterment of the entire community first and foremost while treating one another with the respect, honour and grace they each deserved. I am so proud and humbled to have chaired a Board made up of Donna Dolansky, Steven Kimmel, Neil Zaret, Lisa Rosenkrantz, Mark Thaw, Jennifer Kardash, Mike Shahin, Linda Kerzner, Tamara Fathi, Lauren Bronstein, David Appotive and Phil Stein.

The Torah owes no allegiance to any place

Most visitors to Jerusalem travel past a wonderful museum just outside the Old City walls. Tour guides point out the Rockefeller Museum, but few tourists visit its archeological treasures. It is truly a beautiful museum. I recommend it to you during your next visit to Jerusalem.

The Rockefeller Museum is important, though, for more than its collection. According to legend, there is a tree in the courtyard of the Rockefeller Museum under which the great scribe Ezra sat and wrote the Torah for the Jewish people. During my last visit, I began to think about the significance of this spot. Most Jews associate Torah with Mount Sinai. Not many, I am almost certain, consider the courtyard of the Rockefeller Museum as a place of Torah. Yet, according to legend, this connection can be made easily, for just as Moses received the Torah at Mount Sinai, Ezra reintroduced the Torah to our people from this courtyard.

As all of us know, Torah is not about place. Torah is about relationships and their sanctity. Each time I read the narrative of Sinai as presented in the Torah, I am reminded how Sinai, the place, is secondary to Sinai the experience. For Jews, Torah has never been about location. The Torah is portable, it travels with us, and stays with us, and guides us.

In thinking about the legend of Ezra and where he wrote the Torah, the same message can be found. Why did Ezra leave the gates of the Old City and write the Torah



From the pulpit

Rabbi Scott Rosenberg
Beth Shalom

outside the walls of defined Jerusalem? Could Ezra's action have been designed to teach the very lesson that Torah is not about place. If Judaism's hub has always been Jerusalem, why would Ezra journey back to Jerusalem from Babylonia and then go beyond the gates of the city to reintroduce the words of Torah to the people? Why not write the Torah in Jerusalem proper?

When I think about Ezra's action, I understand him to be teaching a critical lesson about both Torah and Jerusalem to us as people. To me, Ezra's actions say that, as important as Jerusalem is and always will be for us as Jews, Torah must always remain free of specific geography. Had Ezra written the Torah in Jerusalem, Jerusalem's sanctity could be seen as exceeding all else in this world. Future generations could claim the only rightful place of Torah was Jerusalem. Ezra's action declared that, as important as Jerusalem is and will always be for us, the Torah itself owes no allegiance to any place.

I share this message with you this month because May is a time when we as

Jews celebrate the importance of both Jerusalem and Torah in our lives. The 28th of Iyar – May 8 this year – was Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day). Forty-six years ago, the eastern and western parts of Jerusalem were reunited. The wall separating the two parts of the city and marking the border between Israel and Jordan was removed and Jerusalem returned to its historic greatness as one city. This year, as we celebrate 46 years of unity, all of us need to remember, acknowledge and celebrate Jerusalem's importance to us, making sure

that no walls – emotional, spiritual or physical – separate us from her and her glory.

May is also a time to celebrate Torah, because one week after Yom Yerushalayim, we celebrated the festival of Shavuot and the gift of Torah and all that it represents. Jerusalem keeps us connected to our land and Torah keeps us connected to our God, and to our people. I hope and pray that, as Jews, we always find value in both Jerusalem and Torah. May both Yom Yerushalayim and Shavuot lead us to a greater appreciation of our faith.



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Efforts underway to save the *Canadian Jewish News*

In the last issue in this space, I wrote about the sad news that the *Canadian Jewish News* (CJN) would cease publication with its June 20 issue and noted the grass-roots petition at savethecjin.com. The petition quickly blossomed into *Project CJN 2.0*, an online brainstorming session to come up with ideas that would keep the CJN alive and reposition it for the future.

Interestingly, the Toronto-based activists who organized the petition and *Project CJN 2.0* are Alana Kayfetz and Rachel Singer, a pair of 29-year-olds from the heart of the under-40 demographic that studies tell us don't read or care about newspapers. Many *Bulletin* readers will remember Kayfetz from her time working with students at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University as Hillel Ottawa's executive director from 2008 to 2010.

Thanks to the quickly organized campaign, and to the response from shocked readers, the CJN board of directors has announced "an all-out effort to save the print edition of the newspaper" that would involve new financing, campaigns to increase subscriptions and advertising, building a financial cushion, and a streamlined operation. Marty Goldberg, who is leading the CJN board's efforts, set a deadline of May 31 for the effort to succeed.

As I noted last issue, newspapers are an essential part of the glue that holds a community together, and Jewish communities,



Editor

Michael
Regenstreif

in particular, have a rich tradition of such newspapers. And I am reminded of the importance of the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* as our community's newspaper almost every time I speak to someone, whether it's on the phone or in the hallways and locker room of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, or when I attend a community event.

To be sure, the *Bulletin* faces some of the same challenges that led to the initial announcement the CJN would close – particularly in attracting young readers. So it's heartening to see the groundswell of support for the CJN has been led by young people. Our own project to redesign our print edition, launch a dynamic online *Bulletin* and develop more content that speaks to the concerns of younger readers – while still serving our traditional readers as well as, or even better than, we have in the past – points to an exciting future for this newspaper.

As a Jewish community journalist, I've found it dismaying that Toronto and Montreal's Jewish communities – which togeth-

*It's heartening
to see
the groundswell
of support
for the CJN
has been led
by young people.*

er number more than half of Canada's Jewish community – would lose their community newspaper. Here's hoping the CJN's last-minute efforts will be successful.

Stephen Hawking

Renowned physicist Stephen Hawking has joined the BDS (boycott, divestment, sanctions) movement and cancelled his participation in *Facing Tomorrow 2013: The Human Factor in Shaping Tomorrow*, the Israeli Presidential Conference taking place June 18 to 20 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Under the guidance of Israeli President Shimon Peres, the almost-annual conference founded in 2008 has become one of the world's most important and prestigious conferences for the presentation and discussion of ideas for the future. The conference at-

tracts academics, scientists, philosophers, statesmen and even royalty and celebrities from around the world.

Hawking, in a May 3 letter to the conference, wrote: "I have received a number of emails from Palestinian academics. They are unanimous that I should respect the boycott. In view of this, I must withdraw from the conference. Had I attended, I would have stated my opinion that the policy of the present Israeli government is likely to lead to disaster."

In the case of Israel's conflict with the Palestinians, academic and artistic boycotts are not a way forward to peace – they only serve to harden attitudes and alienate populations when, if anything, they need to be brought together in dialogue.

Hawking may well think Israeli policy toward the Palestinians "is likely to lead to disaster." There are many Israelis who would agree. But he should go to Israel and say so, and say why. And he could offer advice or ideas that might help solve problems that have been intractable for far too long.

And perhaps Hawking could also offer some analysis of Palestinian policies that have been every bit as responsible – if not more so – in keeping the peace process from moving forward much faster and much more efficiently than it has.

Visionary events like the Israeli Presidential Conference help make the world a better place. Boycotts don't help at all.

Mulcair doesn't connect the way Layton did

Although we knew it then, we can better understand now how the NDP's virtual sweep of Quebec in the last federal election was perhaps the greatest electoral surprise in Canadian history. The bigger question now is how and if it can happen again?

But, first things first, which raises the question of how it happened in the first place. A fluke is the first answer that comes to mind, because Jack Layton's death so soon after seems to have changed the mindset.

I can remember being in Montreal the day the election was called in April 2011. To my great surprise, Jack Layton posters were plastered downtown. Other political party leaders were nowhere to be seen. The organizational work to get posters up so early, in such great quantity, was a sign the NDP was spending time and effort. That was important, because Quebec had always been a wasteland for the NDP. Clearly, something was changing.

But, while the NDP and a popular Layton may have had an optimistic hope to win 20 of Quebec's 75 seats, winning 59 would have been the stuff even the most ardent supporters in their right minds could only have dared imagine.

However, to imagine it, you would



Jason
Moscovitz

have to remember something special about Quebecers at federal election time. When Quebecers decide to make a political move in a federal election, they make it en masse.

Pierre Trudeau won massive majorities of Quebec seats in 1979 and 1980. So did Brian Mulroney in 1984 and 1988, and the Bloc Québécois in 1993 and in the four subsequent elections, until that day two years ago when the Bloc was almost wiped out by the NDP.

While there has been a pattern of a massive federal vote for one party in Quebec, what makes it so interesting is how the Liberals, Conservatives, Bloc Québécois and NDP have all had their turn. They are now wondering who gets the prize next time.

It has been 35 years since the Liberals won a massive majority of seats in Quebec under Pierre Trudeau. Thirty-five

years in politics is like centuries, two generations of voters.

For those nostalgic fans that see Justin Trudeau doing what his father did so many years ago – beware, the odds are not favourable.

The Liberals have had no organization to speak of in Quebec and, even during Justin Trudeau's recent leadership triumph, the organizational weaknesses in Quebec were apparent. Far more damaging to the Liberals are the constitutional scars that severely tarnished the Liberal brand in Quebec, scars Quebecers still blame Trudeau senior for.

Try as they might, Stephen Harper and his Conservatives continue to be perceived as foreigners in Quebec. A political and cultural gap persists that Harper cannot overcome. It is about an overwhelming feeling the Conservatives don't understand Quebec and Quebecers.

Thomas Mulcair and the NDP make every effort to understand Quebec. Sometimes, they try too hard by being overly sympathetic to the nationalists. There is no question the NDP needs to put a lot of effort into satisfying the nationalists because that is where they believe their vote is. They are right, but that doesn't mean lightning will strike twice.

It is important to remember how key a role Layton played last time. He excelled at personality politics and that single-handedly explains the much vaunted *orange crush* phenomenon in Quebec.

Mulcair is not about to win any personality contests. He may be bright, perfectly bilingual and have Quebecers' interests in his heart, but he doesn't connect the way Layton did. He doesn't come close, nor will his party come close to what it achieved last time.

It appears Quebec will be due for a change of heart by going back to where it was in the 2008 election. An argument can be made that the Bloc Québécois will win most of the seats in French Quebec leaving the NDP with some scraps from its present perch on top of the pile.

Before 1990 and the collapse of the Meech Lake constitutional agreement, Quebecers voted either Liberal or Conservative to be part of the government-in-power. For the past 20-plus years, they have voted for parties they knew would not form the government.

The evidence is there to call it an entrenched protest vote with no indication Quebecers will change their thinking two years from now.

Mailbag

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May is Jewish Heritage Month in Ontario

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, it is my distinct pleasure to extend warm greetings to everyone marking Jewish Heritage Month. I feel privileged to be Premier of a province rooted in diversity, one of our government's core values. It is our differences that unite us and that define us as a vibrant, caring and inclusive society. I am proud of the Jewish Canadian community – and of the countless ways you continue to enrich our province and make it an even better place for people of every background to live.

I am honoured to join you in marking the second official Jewish Heritage Month, following the passage in the legislature of the Jewish Heritage Month Act, 2012. This is a time for reflection on the past and on the immense obstacles your community has overcome. But, even more importantly, it is a time to rejoice in your remarkable triumphs – and to look with optimism to the promise of an even brighter future for

Jewish Canadians, people of great courage and resiliency.

Please accept my very best wishes for a Jewish Heritage Month that is both memorable and uplifting – a true celebration of your community's inspirational contributions to Ontario.

Kathleen Wynne
Premier

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.

Adam Dodek makes Canada's Constitution accessible to readers

By Pamela Rosenberg
Soloway JCC

In his new book, *The Canadian Constitution*, University of Ottawa law professor Adam Dodek shines a new light on the defining document of our system of government and does it with fun facts and photographs, making it comprehensible for everyone.

Dodek was inspired to write the book after perusing the shelves of American bookstores where he noticed much literature on the U.S. Constitution.

"Ordinary Americans identify with their constitution and can quote and connect with it on a personal basis more than Canadians do," said Dodek. "I was trying to write a book that is accessible, and to put the text of the constitution in Canadians' hands."

After graduating from McGill University and Harvard Law School, Dodek was a clerk at the Supreme Court of Israel where his job was to look at the constitutional law of other countries. He says Canada has had a strong influence on Israeli constitutional law.

Dodek dedicates *The Canadian Constitution* to his son, Ben, 11, a student at the Ottawa Jewish Community School.

"When my son was in Grade 3, he



Law professor Adam Dodek will speak about his new book, *The Canadian Constitution*, May 30 at SJCC.

had to read all kind of different genres of books. When he asked what genre I write in, I said non-fiction law. 'Can you write humour?' he asked, and I told him this is the best I can do," said Dodek.

A native of Vancouver, Dodek has called several places home. Following studies in Montreal and Boston, he received a Fulbright Scholarship, which brought him to Israel where he met his

wife, Nicole. He later practised law in San Francisco and clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Pasadena.

He returned to Canada to clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada and then practised law in Toronto. In 2003, he joined the staff of the Attorney General of Ontario, first as a senior policy adviser and then as director of policy and, from 2005 to 2006, as chief of staff.

Despite all the globetrotting, Dodek knew his keen interest in Canada's Constitution and government would bring him back to Ottawa. So, when the phone rang with the offer of a full-time teaching job at University of Ottawa, he "jumped at the chance."

After five years in Ottawa, the Dodek family is immersed in the community. Dodek sits on the board of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (JCC) where the family are active members. The family are also volunteers at Hillel Lodge.

Adam Dodek will speak about his book, *The Canadian Constitution*, in an author's talk presented by the Greenberg Families Library and the Bora Laskin Law Society, on Thursday, May 30, 7:00 pm at the Soloway JCC.

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Oliver Javanpour
President

President's farewell and reflection

I have been fortunate to serve on the Board of JNF Ottawa for five years, two of those years as President. It has been an honour to serve Ottawa's Jewish community and to work with a talented and energetic team of dedicated Board members. Serving on JNF Canada's National Board, I learned from veteran volunteers both how the organization works, and how our fundraising activities make a difference in Israel.

Reflecting back on two years of unbelievable successes and challenges that made our JNF presence in Ottawa stronger, I remember celebrating with many of you as we honoured the Friends of Israel. In 2011, we celebrated with Barbara Walters. What a speech and what stage presence! Vera Klein chaired the dinner.

In 2012, JNF Ottawa honoured Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird at the National Gallery of Canada with nearly 500 guests at our Negev Dinner. The event sold out two months in advance, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Dinner Chair Barbara Farber and the campaign cabinet. The dinner was held as Israel was under bombardment from Gaza. Rex Murphy's unforgettable and passionate speech will remain with the audience for a long time.

As Winston Churchill said, "It is not enough that we do our best; sometimes we must do what is required," and that is exactly what our volunteers and Board members did to achieve a significant growth in our Tu B'Shevat Telethon.

It has been a journey of learning how JNF acts as a trustee for the lands of the Jewish people, ensuring the continuation of Israel in the Land of Israel. The learning took many shapes: visiting projects in Israel, attending JNF World Leadership conferences, speaking with JNF global leaders, reading a multitude of project descriptions and seeing what Ottawa's contributions have accomplished. I've come to appreciate the significance of this 111-year-old organization in the daily life of Israel.

I am grateful for new friendships and stronger bonds with old friends through this journey. I'd like to thank our Ottawa JNF family for their dedication and the passion that continues to make us so successful. I am highly appreciative of the mentorship and friendship of our key sponsors, whose continued guidance and communication played a key role in my personal growth as a JNF President.

JNF growth and maturity required some organizational changes this year. JNF Canada successfully hired a new CEO, Josh Cooper, and we in Ottawa finally hired a local executive director, Lynda Taller-Wakter, reporting directly to the CEO. Lynda is a consummate corporate professional with deep roots in the Ottawa community. JNF Ottawa will continue its future success under the presidency of Alan Blostein. Alan, a veteran JNF Board member and a financial guru, will stir JNF Ottawa to new heights.

With this last column, I would like to sincerely thank the JNF Ottawa Board members as my guiding light, JNF friends and mentors, our many sponsors and donors, JNF National President, Frank Wilson, Josh, Lynda and, ultimately, all of you as JNF supporters.

It has been an honour to serve you all and Israel.

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



Guest column

Separating day school affordability and sustainability

By Daniel Held
for the Canadian Jewish News

Day school is the gold standard of Jewish education. Across multiple metrics, day school graduates have broader and deeper Jewish knowledge bases and stronger Jewish identities. Day school graduates disproportionately constitute young Jewish leaders, shaping communities today and the face of Judaism into the future.

Notwithstanding their success, I am concerned for the future of day schools.

Often conflated, there are two interconnected crises: sustainability and affordability.

Let's begin with sustainability.

Day school financial sustainability necessitates a long-term plan to ensure that revenue – from all streams – covers costs.

Across North America, there are approximately 300 day schools ranging from Reform to centrist Orthodox (including Orthodox schools farther to the right doubles the number). These schools have a combined annual budget of approximately \$1.5 billion. On average – and there is a significant range – 80 per cent of this budget is covered by tuition.

A long-term sustainability plan must develop new revenue streams while controlling costs. Developing revenue streams includes creating endowments, increasing annual fundraising and increasing revenue from ancillary services such as rentals.

To examine one area, only half of Jewish day schools have endowments, with a combined total of slightly over \$250 million. In comparison, each of the top 10 American independent schools has more than \$200 million in its endowment.

Through matching grants and concentrated fundraising, in recent years the Jewish Federations of Los Angeles and MetroWest NJ have significantly increased day school endowments, lowering the schools' annual financial burden.

Initiatives to decrease costs include *right sizing* to operate at capacity, collective purchasing, combining

back-office operations and introducing blended learning through technology. While some efficiencies can be found, 70 per cent of the average school budget is allocated to human resources. But, without significantly reducing the school's core – the teaching staff – little can be achieved.

While sustainability is about the long-term viability of the school, affordability is about the individual parent's perception of cost and value. A school can be affordable at \$500 tuition, but not sustainable. Conversely, it can be sustainable at \$40,000 tuition, but unaffordable.

On a relative basis, day school is more expensive than it was five years ago, with tuition rising an average of three to six per cent per year for the past decade – an increase far in excess of wages. Compounded by the economic downturn, in the last eight years, day school subsidy requests have doubled across North America.

Schools and communities are combating the issue of affordability in a

variety of ways: capping tuition at a percentage of gross annual income, developing subsidies for middle-income families, and building community funds for Jewish education to shift the burden away from parents.

Notwithstanding these multiple efforts, providing children with a day school education will always come at an opportunity cost. Parallel to financial interventions, schools must work to increase the perceived value of their services. Studies show that day school enrolment is more strongly correlated to parents' perceived value than to tuition, making the parents' perception of the school, community and education key determinants in the affordability puzzle.

There is no silver bullet. The financial cost of educating children in day schools is high. The communal and social cost of not sustaining the schools, however, is even higher.

This column was originally published in the April 11 edition of the Canadian Jewish News and is reprinted with permission.

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Tuesday, June 18, 2013

Agudath Israel Congregation
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7:30 p.m. Year in Review

Program Highlights

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 Na'amat Canada Ottawa

Community to say farewell to Rabbi Arnie and Chevy Fine

By Carol Pascoe
For Agudath Israel

The community will say a fond farewell to a very special couple when Rabbi Arnie and Chevy Fine make aliyah to Israel this summer.

Rabbi Arnie and Chevy Fine have contributed significantly to the betterment of our community. As spiritual leader of Agudath Israel Congregation from 1981 to 2004, and in the years after, Rabbi Fine has provided leadership, counsel and hard work to various organizations that help those in need. The Kosher Food Bank, the Jewish Hospice Program, Tamir, Jewish Family Services and Hillel Lodge are among the many agencies that have benefited from his boundless energy and commitment.

In the wider community, Rabbi Fine understands the importance of connecting with other faiths and has been a leader in Jewish-Christian Dialogue.

Chevy Fine has been a supportive friend to many of us who appreciate her contributions to the community, especially the Chevra Kadisha and Hillel Lodge.



Rabbi Arnie and Chevy Fine will move to Israel this summer.

We will miss the Fines. In their honour, a drop-in open house and dessert reception will be held Sunday, June 23, 3:00 to 6:00 pm at Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue. All are invited to come and wish them well as they embark on this new chapter of their lives.

Contact finefarewell2013@gmail.com to RSVP or to send the Fines a farewell message. Photographs and memorabilia featuring Rabbi Arnie and Chevy Fine to be loaned to the event would also be greatly appreciated.

Tamir is preparing for a busy summer

By Katherine Carter
Tamir

Tamir partnered with Best Buddies Algonquin College, a volunteer group at Algonquin that pairs students with adults with developmental disabilities for friendship, for the Bowling for Buddies Fundraiser on April 4 at Wellington Lanes. The event, which was organized in partnership by Tamir and Best Buddies Algonquin Chapter, was to raise funds for Tamir Best Buddies activities through the coming year.

This first-time initiative raised more than \$650 in support of Best Buddies activities with Tamir participants throughout the year and to help support Algonquin and Tamir representatives attend the Regional Best Buddies Conference in September.

"The best part about this experience is that our participants have been a part of this event from the start, raising funds and spreading the word," said Joyce Drouin, the Tamir program supervisor who was MC for the event. "They should be very proud of what they've accomplished tonight. I know I am."

Now, Tamir is preparing for a busy summer.

Tamir, along with the Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre, is fortunate to be a recipient charity this year at the Indo-Canadian Caribbean Cultural Celebration to be held June 1 at St. Joseph's Parish Hall. The annual gathering celebrates cultural diversity and raises funds to invest back into the community.

As noted in the May 6 *Bulletin*, the Tee Up for Tamir Golf Fun-Raiser is set for June 10 at the Rideauview Country Club. Later in the summer, community members are invited to cheer on Tamir participants, staff and family members as they return for the Dragons for All Program hosted at the Rideau Canoe Club in late August. Dragons for All is a dragonboat paddling program for those in our community with developmental disabilities. The program culminates in a daylong celebration and dragon boat racing competition.

The list of events on the Tamir calendar is still growing. All of them, and more, will be celebrated at Tamir's annual general meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 6:30 pm at Agudath Israel Congregation. All community members are to welcome to attend. Visit tamir.ca for more information.



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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

6:30 pm on Thursday, May 30, 2013

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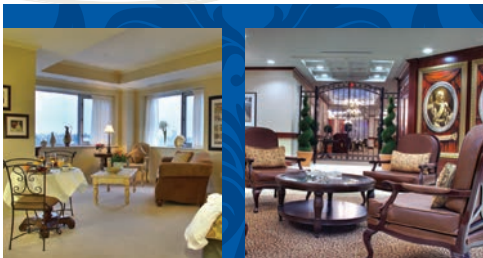
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David Azrieli at the dinner honouring the Azrieli Foundation and Azrieli family during the *Responsibility and Memory After the Holocaust* conference at Carleton University.

Azrieli Foundation honoured during Holocaust conference

By Diane Koven

The Azrieli Foundation and the Azrieli family were honoured, April 24, at a reception and dinner at Carleton University on the first day of a conference, *If Not Now, When? Responsibility and Memory After the Holocaust*, organized by the university's Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies.

The two-day conference, held in recognition of Canada's assumption of the chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) for 2013, attracted more than 200 registrants, including academics, parliamentarians, Holocaust survivors, community leaders and members of the public.

MP Irwin Cotler, a former minister of justice, delivered the conference's keynote address, "The Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights: Universal Lessons for our Time."

Other Parliamentarians speaking at the conference included Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney; MPs Mark Adler, John McKay and Elizabeth May; and Senator Linda Frum.

Among the other notable speakers were IHRA Chair Mario Silva; Ambassador Andrew Bennett of the Office of Religious Freedom; Irving Abella, co-author of *None Is Too Many: Canada and the Jews of Europe 1933-1948*; and Ottawa-based Holocaust survivors David Shentow, Truda Rosenberg, Elly Bollegraaf and Vera Gara.

At the dinner, Carleton President Roseann O'Reilly Runte spoke about David Azrieli's personal journey as a Holocaust survivor and described how he "left family and home at the age of 17, one step ahead of soldiers."

Azrieli eventually made it to Palestine where he studied at the Technion in Haifa and fought in Israel's War of Independence in 1948. After immigrating to Montreal in 1954, Azrieli became a well-known property developer in both Canada and in Israel.

"At the age of 73, he undertook the study

of architecture at Carleton," said O'Reilly Runte. "In 2008, we named the School of Architecture after him."

Naomi Azrieli, one of four children of David and Stephanie Azrieli, spoke about the work of the Azrieli Foundation in publishing memoirs of Holocaust survivors.

"The work that we do in publishing memoirs and perpetuating memory in this way is particularly dear to my heart," said Azrieli, as her father spent 10 years writing his own story.

"He was very lucky because he found a publisher," she said.

In 2005, the desire to help other Canadian Holocaust survivors write and publish their own stories led the Azrieli Foundation to put out a coast-to-coast call for manuscripts. Beginning with just a few, in only eight years, they have accumulated nearly 200, and have developed the Azrieli Series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs.

To date, 31 books have been published and another seven are near completion; 14 of the books have received awards.

"So, from a family discussion ... a program has changed the landscape for survivor memoirs in Canada," said Azrieli.

"We have created a program that is unique in several ways. Our program is the only program to focus uniquely on Canadian survivors. We don't publish interviews, but we publish the story in the words of the subject. In this way, they are life stories. Most of the stories tell what it was like to come to Canada, so they are Canadian stories. Our stories are in English and French."

The memoirs are made available to libraries, schools and educators with the aim of keeping alive the stories of the survivors.

"The Azrielis show us what is possible when private individuals try to make a difference in the public domain," said Aviva Freedman, director of the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies.

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The successful candidate will be chosen by Fall 2013, and will assume the position by Summer, 2014.

For further information on applicant qualifications and application process, please go to www.theojcs.ca and click on the Head of School Search button.

Merrick Palmer to speak at JCC Breakfast of Champions

By Jon Braun
Soloway JCC

Merrick Palmer will be the special guest speaker and athlete, volunteers, and winning teams will be honoured at the 12th Annual JCC Breakfast of Champions on Sunday, June 16, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (JCC).

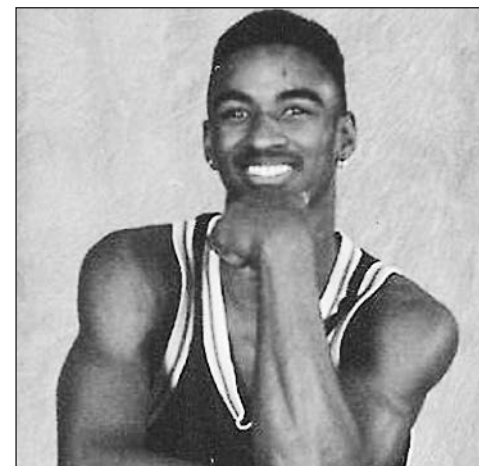
Palmer, one of Canada's top basketball trainers, is director of Capital Courts Training Center in Orleans and technical director of the Gloucester Cumberland Basketball Association.

Palmer was a high school and university standout at Lester B. Pearson Collegiate in Scarborough, Ontario and St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia before playing professionally in South Africa where he once scored 54 points in a single game. In 1999, he returned home to start a family and pursue his goal of strategically changing the culture of Canadian basketball.

Bytown Sports & Entertainment, the company bringing a pro basketball franchise to Ottawa as part of the National Basketball League of Canada, recently appointed him technical director.

After an exciting season on the ice and in the gym, two Soloway JCC teams came away victorious and will be recognized at the breakfast. Team Irving Rivers under the leadership of Captain Mo Osterer won the JCC Men's Hockey League championship while Captain Jonathan Katz's Team Kentucky won the JCC Men's Basketball League championship.

Other awards to be presented include the Sharon Koffman Memorial Award recognizing outstanding sportsmanship, participation and dedication to personal goals of excellence by a university-level varsity athlete; the Jack Goldfield Memorial Award for Youth Athletics, to be presented to two high school students for their achievement and organiza-



Basketball star Merrick Palmer helped the St. Francis Xavier Xmen win the 1992-1993 national championship.

tional involvement in athletics over the past year; and the Irving "Shaps" Shapero Athletic Award, to an individual who has contributed to sport and recreation as a participant and as an organizer.

Two graduating high school students will win the B'nai Brith Canada Parliament Lodge Graduating Student Athletic Achievement Award. One Jewish athlete who distinguishes him or herself in sports over a significant period of time will receive the Lou Honigman Award, and the Noah Cantor Middle School Award will be awarded to a Grade 7 or 8 student for outstanding athletic achievement.

The event will also honour the 22 Ottawa athletes who will be representing Canada at the International Maccabi Games in July in Israel.

The Breakfast of Champions takes place Sunday June 16, 11:00 am, at the Soloway JCC. A kosher buffet breakfast will be served. Tickets are \$15 and \$10 (children 13 and under) and are available at the Soloway JCC front desk. For more information contact Jon Braun at jbrown@jccottawa.com or 613-798-9818, ext. 267.



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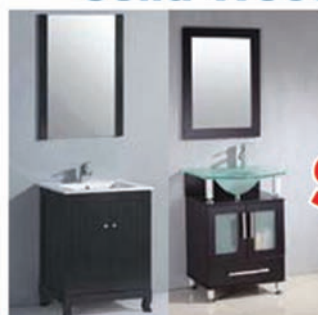
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Hillel Lodge Auxiliary to hold annual telethon, June 10-11

**By Marion Silver Brass
for Hillel Lodge Auxiliary**

The Auxiliary of Hillel Lodge has announced our annual telethon will take place Monday and Tuesday, June 10 and 11 between 6:30 and 8:30 pm. Please show your

generous support when approached by a Hillel Lodge volunteer during the telethon as all monies raised are used for the benefit of the Hillel Lodge residents.

The residents will, once again,

be the honourees when the Auxiliary hosts our annual tea and fundraiser, Sunday, October 27, at the Lodge.

The Auxiliary is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all who call Hillel Lodge their home through a variety of outreach programs.

An energetic group of volunteers led by Roz Fremeth, the Auxiliary celebrates holidays such as Sukkot, Chanukah and Purim with the residents.

Auxiliary volunteers serve wonderful breakfasts on Mother's

Day and Father's Day and provide little gifts for all of these occasions.

"This is the best auxiliary in the province," said Stephen Schneiderman, executive director of Hillel Lodge, unequivocally.

The Auxiliary is always looking for new members. Meetings are held only once a month (but not during winter). The reward for volunteering is the wonderful sense of gratitude conveyed in the eyes of those who themselves have contributed so greatly to our community. For more informa-

tion, call Ruth Tal at 613-820-2573 or Hillel Lodge at 613- 723-3900. Please consider joining our enthusiastic team of volunteers.

The Hillel Lodge Gift Shoppe is another initiative of the Auxiliary.

From jewelry to Judaica, to that perfect hostess gift, it is all there and very competitively priced. Be it for a simcha gift or a little treat for yourself or your home, you will find that little gem here. And it's good to know all profits are used to enhance the well-being of our elderly.

Agudath Israel website introduces online tributes

**By Mayer Alvo
for Agudath Israel**

Life is precious, and behind every life there is a meaningful story to be told and recorded for present and future generations. That is the message in the recently launched online tribute section of the Agudath Israel Congregation website.

Be it a deceased parent or a dear friend, it is important they be remembered for the legacy they have left behind. Our parents and close friends have played significant roles in our lives and by posting an online tribute we honour their contributions in a unique and lasting way. In our own Jewish

community, there have been many influential individuals who have contributed enormously to our way of life, extending themselves in creating the institutions we enjoy today.

The Agudath Israel editorial board will be happy to assist in preparing online tributes which may include a photograph, dates of birth and death, and a description of incorporating interesting and unique details of the life of the deceased.

The cost of including an online tribute is small. Details appear on the webpage at agudath-israel.net/news-events/on-line-tribute.

Summer events planned by CICF

**By Jane Gordon
CICF**

The Ottawa Chapter of the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation (CICF) is hosting and co-sponsoring an exciting line-up of Israeli cultural programs and other events this summer.

On Thursday, May 30, 7:00 pm, CICF members will visit Library and Archives Canada. Leah Cohen, librarian for the Jacob M. Lowy Collection will speak about the Lowy Collection and then give a tour of the 3,000 old and rare He-

braica and Judaica books donated to Library and Archives Canada in 1977 by Jacob Max Lowy.

On Sunday, June 23, 7:00 pm, CICF members will enjoy our annual summer celebration. This year, a champagne and poetry party at the home of Ruth and Arnon Miller.

CICF will also be co-sponsoring a number of cultural events including the Ottawa Israeli Film

Festival in June (see the article on page 4); the June 24 concert by Israeli guitarist Gilad Hekselman at the Ottawa Jazz Festival; the July 14 performance by the vocal ensemble Profeti della Quinta at the Music and Beyond Festival; and the annual Ruth Berger Concert at Hillel Lodge.

For more information about CICF, or to become a member, call Solange Smith at 613-733-8116.

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Cantor Daniel Benlolo (left) receives the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award from Governor General David Johnston, April 25, at Rideau Hall.

(Photo: Cpl. Roxanne Shewchuk, Rideau Hall © Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, 2013)

Cantor Daniel Benlolo honoured at Rideau Hall

By Debi Shore
for Beth Shalom

In a ceremony at Rideau Hall, April 25, Cantor Daniel Benlolo was among the select group of volunteers to receive the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award from Governor General David Johnston.

As explained on the Governor General's website, the award "recognizes individuals who volunteer their time to help others and to build a smarter and more caring nation ... It also allows us to thank people for their contributions and for the positive impact they have had on the lives of others."

Cantor Benlolo works outside of the confines of his synagogue community, fulfilling needs far beyond the tasks his position at Congregation Beth Shalom requires. From his biweekly volunteer visits at Hillel Lodge to his interfaith work with students on university campuses, to his home visits with the sick and elderly, to his spontaneous visits to local retirement homes, the cantor's work is heartfelt and honest.

Cantor Benlolo's shining moments come in time spent working with vulnerable populations, and it might not even occur to people that much of this is done as a volunteer. His work with Tamir – for example with their production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* – and Hillel Lodge has facilitated people with developmental disabilities and the elderly in realizing their potential.

He has helped many from these popula-

tions have their bar and bat mitzvahs, a milestone they might not otherwise have been able to achieve. He empowered many of them to read the Hebrew words aloud, thus fulfilling their lifelong dreams.

I still recall several years ago, when my granddaughter and I accompanied Cantor Benlolo on a trip to Montreal with the Tamir Neshama Choir. The trip was just one of many he has taken with the choir, a group of 22 disabled adults, with varying degrees of cognition and ability, but all with a love of song. On that day, we were beyond touched. Everyone sang with genuine joy and enthusiasm.

After returning home, my granddaughter recalled her experience. As she stood on stage, she was overcome with emotion. As she looked to the faces of the choir members, she saw no one was excluded. All who wanted to be there were there – even those who were non-verbal and could not sing. Because of Cantor Benlolo's vision of inclusion, they all stood proudly on stage, smiling and filled with song.

His work with the choir is an example of why he was chosen as a recipient of the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award. There's a Yiddish word – *mensch* – which describes someone like that: an individual who never hesitates to lend a helping hand and who always encourages others to see the best in themselves.

A mensch is exactly what Cantor Benlolo has proven himself to be.

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Sonia Pearl by Lily Feig

Molly Goldie by the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge; and by Etta Karp

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Cantor Jeremy Burko to collaborate with Musica Ebraica

By Esther Shetzer
Musica Ebraica

Beloved and age-old liturgical texts in a kaleidoscopic array of musical styles, modalities and languages will be featured in Musica Ebraica's upcoming concert, *Prayer and Celebration – Liturgical Music from Around the World*.

The featured guest soloist joining the voices of Musica Ebraica, under the direction of conductor Norman E. Brown, will be Cantor Jeremy Burko of Agudath Israel, who will perform "Bendicho Su Nombre (B'rich Sh'meh)" in Ladino, Morris Barrash's "Atah Chonantanu" and Ben Steinberg's "Lo Yareiu."

Musica Ebraica is pleased to be collaborating with Cantor Burko and with our invited guests: soprano Erinne-Colleen Laurin, mezzo-soprano Barbara Okun, tenor Ken Mak and bass Larry Tarof.

One of the highlights of the evening will be "Joshua ben Nun," a cantata in Russian by Modest Mussorgsky adapted from the *Book of Joshua*.

"You can feel the battles of Joshua and his Israelite men," said Patsy Royer, president of Musica Ebraica. "Our conductor Norman has brought in a quartet of professional soloists to raise the musical experience for the audience to a new level of excellence."

Musica Ebraica is also thrilled to be performing the world premiere of "Shir HaMa'alot" by Ottawa composer Leo Lightstone, who has previously composed for our choir. He enjoys writing for small instrumental and vocal ensembles, employing techniques of



Musica Ebraica will perform *Prayer and Celebration – Liturgical Music from Around the World* at Agudath Israel Congregation, June 4.

modern counterpoint and methods of layering in his compositions. Much of his work draws on liturgical texts and Hebrew poetry, past and present. In all his compositions, he receives support and advice from his family, all musicians in their own right.

"Leo is masterful in his ability to paint the atmosphere of the psalm with his melody," said Musica Ebraica's Minda Wershof. "We are really fortunate to have such wonderful musicians in Ottawa who share our love of Jewish repertoire."

Prayer and Celebration – Liturgical Music from Around the World, a must-hear for lovers of choral music and the Jewish liturgy, takes place Tuesday, June 4, 7:30 pm, at Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue. The master of ceremonies will be

Rob Clipperton.

Tickets are \$20 (general admission) and \$15 (students) and are

available at Leading Note, CD Warehouse, Compact Music, or at the door.

For more information, email proyer@rogers.com or call 613-233-3099.



Dragon Boat Israel

Evelyn Greenberg, beside the Sea of Galilee, May 9, ready to paddle in the second annual Dragon Boat Israel Festival.



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In the letter of application, candidates will provide evidence of superior qualities of leadership, good citizenship, scholarship and sportsmanship at school, within the Jewish Community and community-at-large.

All applicants should provide a letter stating why they think they are eligible. Enclose any support material that you may think relevant. Must be received **no later than July 31, 2013**.

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'The main thing is not to be afraid'

Kfar Azza, Israel – There were no sirens when the mortars hit Kibbutz Kfar Azza on that May day five years ago. No 15-second warning, no recorded voice announcing, "Tseva Adom," the Code Red signal for residents to take shelter.

Jimmy Kedoshim was working in his yard on this kibbutz, a mere three km from the Gaza border. When the first mortar whizzed overhead, he knew from past experience that more were coming, and ran for shelter.

But he never made it. The second mortar killed Kedoshim, a 48-year-old married father of three, Israeli paragliding champion, and 30-year kibbutz resident.

"On that day, everything changed," said Orit Zadlikevitch, a 42-year-old mother of four, who's lived on the kibbutz all her life. "Until then, they threw missiles for 13 years, but they always landed in open fields or in Sderot," the nearby Negev city that has taken the brunt of the thousands of missiles and rockets fired from the Gaza Strip by Hamas terrorists.

She was working in Tel Aviv that day, and heard on the news that someone in Kfar Azza had been killed. It could have been a member of her family, or a close friend. But, because the roads into the kibbutz are closed after major rocket attacks, it was hours before she could get home and learn the name of the victim.

Such is life in Kfar Azza, one of several kibbutzim near Gaza. Although Israel withdrew completely from Gaza in 2005 – a controversial move that displaced thousands of Jews and polarized the nation – the terrorists never stopped firing rockets towards Israel. After Hamas came to power in Gaza in 2006, the barrage of Kassams, Katyushas and other rockets escalated.

More than 60 Israeli civilians in the south of Israel have been killed by Hamas rockets, mortars and missile since 2001, more than 1,700 have been injured, and countless others traumatized.

Last November, during Operation Pillar of Defense, the latest Israeli offensive to stop rocket fire from Gaza, more than 30 rockets fell near the kibbutz in a single day.

"Sometimes you wake up in the middle of the night and have to decide which child to take first," said Zadlikevitch, a student consultant at Sapir College and editor of the kibbutz newspaper.

About 800 people live on the kibbutz, which supplies raw materials for the plastics industry and also has an agricultural component. About half the residents work outside the kibbutz.

Although a dozen families have left Kfar Azza in recent years because of the rocket attacks, their spaces were quickly filled. In fact, there is a waiting list to move here.

"This is our home," said Butch Grintuch, who came here from Montreal as a volunteer in 1976, made aliyah in 1978, and has raised his family here.

Israelis don't scare easily. And the reality is that housing outside the kibbutz would be prohibitively expensive for most families.

Zadlikevitch and other kibbutz members worry constantly about their children, who have never known a life outside the firing line.

The old children's house in the centre of the kibbutz has been encased in a thick shell of reinforced concrete. The new kindergarten building is essentially a bomb shelter with windows that don't open.

The kids aren't allowed to play outside when Israeli intelligence and weapons monitoring systems predict that attacks will stretch over several days.

"We are a nature-oriented kindergarten – we take lots of field trips," said principal Eti Korens, who has been here for 26 years.

"Sometimes we have to do the field trips only between safe houses, and sometimes we can't go out at all."

Gan Re'im – it means Kindergarten of Friendship – just won the Ministry of Education's prize for the best kindergarten in Israel. Korens believes it's due to the commitment and dedication of the staff.

"When there is a siren and all the roads are closed, sometimes the kids have to stay with us until 7:00 or 8:00 at night because their parents can't get in," she said.

"The issues these children are dealing with are adult issues. I wouldn't wish for anyone to have to deal with this."

Sensitive to the trauma their young charges face, Korens and her four teachers do an emotional 'check-in' with the kids every morning. Different emoticon cards – happy, sad, afraid, worried – are posted on the bulletin board, and each



My Israel

Barbara Crook

child's name is pinned under the one that applies.

As the children sing and dance for our Adventure Israel group, it's hard to see obvious signs of trauma. But the words of one of the songs take on a special meaning here:

"The world is a very narrow bridge," says the song, based on the words of Rabbi Nachman from Breslov. "The main thing is not to be afraid."

For most kindergarten-age kids, fear comes in the form of loud noises, imaginary monsters and dark corners. For these kids, fear comes from a female voice – intended to be more soothing than a siren – repeating the words, "Tseva Adom, Tseva Adom."

Fear is wondering how far they can run in 15 seconds.

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Yaakov Peri 'is unequivocal about the civic duty of Israelis to make peace'

While much of the media buzzed a few months ago around *The Gatekeepers*, one of two Israeli documentary films to make it to the Oscars, the film is now making its rounds across North America, and I recently saw it at the Bytowne Cinema. Its lessons were evident the next morning, when I found myself bellowing, "What's the strategy?" at my kids as they fumbled to roll out the door appropriately garbed for the final snowy day of spring.

It was an amusing parenting takeaway at the time, but the intended lessons of the film are much more jarring and wide-reaching.

Watching *The Gatekeepers*, one quickly realizes how deeply the Israeli security culture is embedded in a reactive posture, which underscores an apparent addiction to the status quo. As interviews with successive Shin Bet heads re-

vealed various animal metaphors – cat and mouse, and dog and rabbit – the point about a lack of a long-term strategy was evident.

Israeli security services have become very good at targeted assassinations, while the foreign policy establishment has exhibited little appetite to consider the bigger picture.

"When one leaves the service, I suppose one becomes a bit of a leftist," said Yaakov Peri, Shin Bet head from 1988 to 1994.

In October 1994, I had just moved to Israel to spend a year interning at the Knesset and working as a research assistant for some academics back in Canada, when the first major suicide bombing was carried out in Tel Aviv, just blocks from my apartment. It was the deadliest terrorist attack to date in Israeli history and the first major attack in Tel



Values, Ethics, Community

Mira Sucharov

Aviv. *The Gatekeepers* leaves nothing to the imagination about that devastating attack, which killed 22. The film later details how the Shin Bet succeeded in eliminating its mastermind, a Hamas operative nicknamed "The Engineer," who was killed three months later by an exploding cell phone.

Viewers of the film may be impressed by the Israeli security service's attempt to exact revenge almost at will. Viewers will also likely have left the theatre wondering when and how the cycle of attack and counterattack will ever end.

The summer before last, I met with Peri, one of the Shin Bet heads featured in the film, at an Italian bistro in Ramat Gan. I had been interviewing Israeli journalist Akiva Eldar, when Peri joined us. Eldar and Peri are old friends, having worked together on the Israeli Peace Initiative (IPI).

The IPI is a 2011 document signed by prominent Israelis, including security brass, and issued as a response to the Arab Peace Initiative several years earlier. The IPI captures the broad peace process consensus: regional peace agreements between Israel and the Arab states, a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict along the 1967 lines with limited land swaps, a shared capital in Jerusalem, and refugee compensation with return to a Palestinian state only (with symbolic exceptions).

Peri may consider himself a bit of a leftist, but this year won a Knesset seat with Yesh Atid (There is a Future), led by journalist Yair Lapid, the newly formed and pre-eminent centrist party in Israel.

Lapid's platform was an amalgam of peace-oriented policies and those propping up the status quo. So far, focusing on challenging haredi education standards while remaining mum on the issue of settlement expansion, it's far from clear how much Yesh Atid, as a member of the right-leaning government coalition, will push a meaningful peace process strategy.

Perhaps because of this uncertainty, Eldar, the journalist I interviewed, published an open letter to Peri several weeks ago. In his letter, Eldar implores Peri not to "abandon 'our' path, yours and mine both." He explains, "Together we promoted regional peace guidelines to ensure the future of Israel as a democratic, Jewish, secure and thriving state."

That day in the Ramat Gan café, we spoke about the 'no partner' thesis, the idea promoted by many on the right that Israelis are willing to make peace, but there is no one on the other side to talk to.

About that assumption, Eldar said, "Let them say no," adding, "I'm not sure we will be successful, but, if not, we will be worse off. The danger of not doing anything is greater than the danger of trying."

Peri's remarks to me echoed that point.

"Israel's passivity has brought the country to a position of global isolation. We are perceived as refuseniks," Peri said.

He is unequivocal about the civic duty of Israelis to make peace.

"The job of every Israeli is to improve the political situation through agreements."

For my part, I hope he has internalized this sense of duty while seated in the Knesset. Only time, and coalition wrangling, will tell.

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

Mass migration and the Internet have led to faster radicalization

For many of us who lived in the secular Middle East, the idea of radical Islam or Shariah law was unthinkable – with the exception of Saudi Arabia – until 1979. From the 1930s through the '60s, the Middle East seemed to want to be more like Europe and America. Radicalization, however, had already begun.

Let's set some context. Political Islam and the caliphate were pretty much ended by the emergence of key nationalists like Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in 1924. Atatürk's constitutional reforms in Turkey abolished the caliphate. And, with the emergence of other nationalists, such as Rezā Shāh Pahlavi in 1925, Iran set the stage for a secular path in the Middle East.

The European and American antidote to emerging Middle Eastern nationalism and to the threat of Soviet expansion into the Middle East was the same: invest in political Islam and religious fundamentalism. The first Islamic conference was held in the United States at Princeton University in 1953 and was co-sponsored by the Library of Congress. The desire to discourage nationalism, socialism and secularism led to major financing and support for fundamentalist Islam in the Middle East. U.S. president Jimmy Carter's emphatic support for Iran's Islamic Revolution may have been misguided, but it was aligned with this established American foreign policy approach and seemed designed to address the issue of the Soviets invading neighbouring Afghanistan.

Now we're finding that seeds, planted decades ago in one context, are bearing fruit in a much different geopolitical environment. Political Islam's approach to infiltration and radicalization is a tried and true instrument of terror, preparing the masses for submission and far removed from the foreign policy agendas from which they rose.

Today, we have convicted terrorists who planned to do harm here in Canada and the United States, and also fresh young minds that have travelled to the Middle East and Africa to take up arms and fight on the side of fundamentalist Islam. This has started to become a rite of passage for some young Muslims, but it is also a way to gain some sort of employment and purpose in life. These fighters, born or raised in the West, fought in Iraq and Libya, and are now in Syria, Ivory Coast and elsewhere. There is a Canadian, convicted of terrorism, in jail in Mauritania. Young Canadian terrorists died attacking a gas plant in Algeria and left 37 hostages dead. There is no doubt more such stories are yet to come to light.

The recruitment and indoctrination starts at home – maybe with family, key friends or local handlers, or at local mosques – and moves on to training abroad and, ultimately, to being put



World Affairs

Oliver Javanpour

on someone's payroll to undertake violent acts or to join one of many fighting/resistance groups in the Middle East and North Africa. While the majority of these terrorists and terror suspects are of Muslim and Arab origin, there are smaller groups of converts who have found some kind of answer to their questions by falling into the same trap.

Groups such as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Hamas and Hezbollah are using Internet games to target children at an early age. Hundreds of madrassas and Islamic schools in Europe and North America are using Saudi- and Iranian-based curricula, so will be turning out kids with different values in the next few years. Whether designed to radicalize or not, such values set these young minds apart from mainstream culture and disenfranchise them from mainstream public discourse.

In 2006, the United Nations Counterterrorism Implementation Task Force produced its first report, "Radicalization and Extremism that Lead to Terrorism." This is the same UN whose Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) promotes a jihadi curriculum and foment terrorism within its own schools. A recently released video produced by the Center for Near East Policy Research examines Palestinian schools run by UNRWA and shows clear examples of how young children have been prepared to be jihadists.

With the advent of mass migration and Internet connectivity, it has become easier to move through the stages of radicalization faster and with more precision. Radicalizing individuals and groups who live among the infidel is an asymmetric warfare instrument that is inexpensive, yet effective.

Trying to predict and monitor thousands of potential disenfranchised individuals with a predilection to commit acts of terror across Canada and the U.S. would be impossible. Finding and drying up the sources of funding is more doable, but it takes serious brass, which our leadership has not yet been able to muster.

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

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10th Anniversary ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL

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June 6, 7:00 pm

Opening night with Professor Aner Preminger and film *The World is Funny*

The 10th Annual Israeli Film Festival kicks off with a lecture by independent Israeli filmmaker and film scholar Aner Preminger Ph.D, followed by the screening of *The World is Funny*.

For almost 30 years Professor Aner Preminger has been directing, producing and writing films. He is the head of the department of Film and Television at Israel's Sapir Academic College as well as an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication, at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

The World is Funny

Director: Shemi Zarhin • Narrative 2012 • 122 min

The lives of three estranged siblings are illuminated by a young woman mining their lives for story ideas for a writer's workshop in Tiberias. Meron struggles to acclimate his son, who has been in a coma for eight years. Meanwhile, Jordana, a travel agent, discovers she is pregnant, though she has been celibate since her soldier-daughter's death. At the same time, Golan, a radio host, tries to revive Israeli comedy group, *HaGashash HaHiver*, in order to save his dying lover.



June 9, 7:00 pm

Present *Continuous* followed by an interactive discussion and Q&A on the film with producer/director Professor Aner Preminger.

Director: Aner Preminger • Narrative 2012 • 100 min

During the Second Intifada Ruti, unable to deal with the stress and anxiety caused by the continuous tense situation in Israel, decides to lock up her family at home, while everyone is asleep, in order to protect them. Ofer, a 19 year old soldier, Noa, a 15 year old teenager and her husband, Yoel awaken to find themselves locked up and disconnected from any means of communication.



June 13, 7:00 pm

The Flat

Director: Arnon Goldfinger • Documentary 2011 • 97 min

The filmmaker's family gather to empty his deceased grandmother's Tel Aviv flat, which she occupied since immigrating to Palestine in the 1930's and which looks as though it might be in Berlin. Objects, pictures, letters and documents flesh out a relationship which join a Nazi and a Jewish couple in an inexplicable friendship.



June 16, 7:00 pm

Fill the Void

Director: Rama Burshtein • Narrative 2012 • 90 min

On the verge of her marriage, a young Orthodox Hassidic girl and her family are struck by tragedy when her older sister dies in childbirth. When her sister's husband is pressed to remarry and her mother makes a startling proposition, she is forced to choose between her obedience to her family and her heart's desire.

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Fran and Stan Ages on their granddaughter
Stefanie's Bat Mitzvah by Roxy and Martin Freedman.

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Steven and Laurie Gordon on the birth of their
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Continued on page 28

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Maureen Molot on receiving the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award by Sally and Elliott Levitan.

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David Shentow on the occasion of his birthday and the anniversary of his liberation day by Sarah Silverstein.

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Nina Chaudhry and family on the loss of a dear brother and uncle, Kenny, by Linda Smith and family.

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Try it TODAY!

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

OJCF Annual General Meeting
Thursday, June 13th, 2013

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.OJCF.ca

“Our Future is in Your Hands”



In Appreciation

My Dear Family and Friends;

You have overwhelmed me with your good wishes, donations, flowers and gifts on the occasion of my special birthday.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

With much affection, Sylvia Freeman (Bubby)

Novel examines the Jewish lifecycle and explores questions at the heart of emerging adulthood

The Innocents
By Francesca Segal
HarperCollins Publishers
320 pages

Book Review

Andrea D.
Lobel

Set in contemporary London, England, *The Innocents* is a coming-of-age story in the tradition of novelist Edith Wharton. Francesca Segal – daughter of Erich Segal, author of *Love Story* – paints a nuanced picture of a young Jewish couple approaching their wedding day in upper-middle class London.

Throughout the novel, Segal's attention to physical and emotional detail underscores her clear insights into the dances of commitment and temptation, and the challenging progression toward adulthood.

Twenty-eight-year-old Adam Newman and his fiancée, Rachel Gilbert, have been together for 12 years, with all of the familial expectations that one might expect. For Adam and Rachel, the future is not merely bright, but well mapped-out. With their wedding coming, Adam has every reason to anticipate a life filled with children, family events, and ongoing career success in his father-in-law's legal firm.

This is the point at which *The Innocents* takes its cue from the *Book of Genesis*, moving from the Edenic paradise enjoyed by Adam and the sheltered, stable Rachel, to the looming threat of expulsion from the garden. Like the serpent in the Garden of Eden, Rachel's cousin Ellie serves as the flighty, worldly, yet vulnerable temptress – and character foil to Rachel – who has the potential to bring the couple's well-oiled and orchestrated life to a screeching halt.

The cast of characters and their relationships are finely textured.

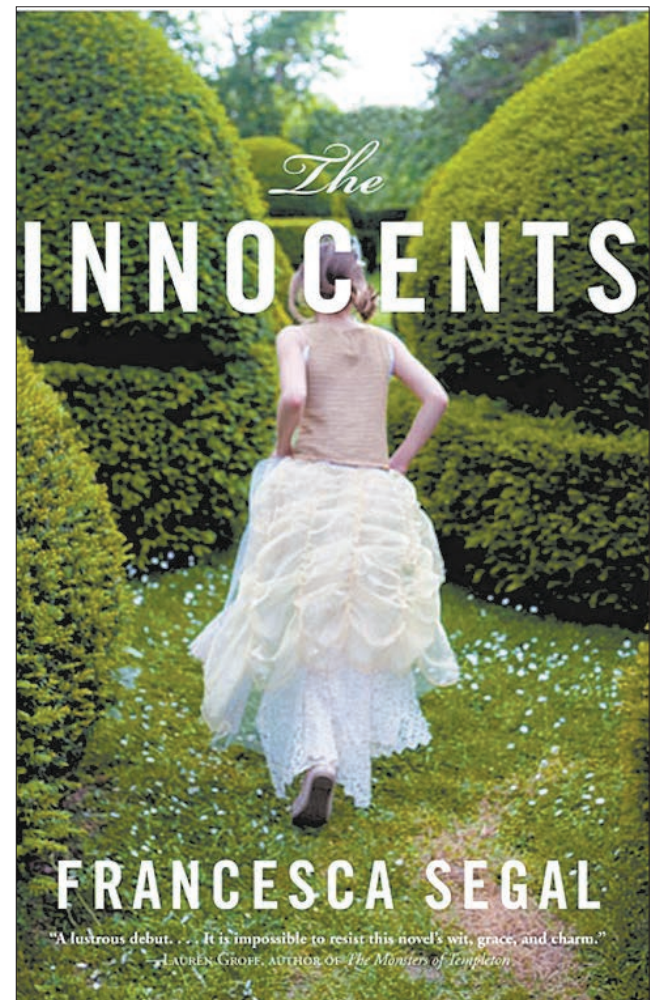
There is Ziva, Rachel's maternal grandmother and family matriarch, whose losses in the Holocaust solidly reinforced her focus on family and Jewish continuity. There is Jaffa Gilbert, Rachel's mother, who has, according to Ziva, been planning the wedding "ever since Rachel was in utero." Lawrence Gilbert is the very essence of devoted Jewish fatherhood, and plays the role of surrogate father to Adam who, at the tender age of eight, had lost his own father, Jacob, to cancer.

Left to find his own path toward the responsibilities of manhood, Adam readily accepts the paternal guidance Lawrence offers him. As Segal tells us, "the Gilberts were a family who rallied round," and readers play witness to Adam's embrace within the orbit of the Gilbert family. Indeed, Adam's longstanding sense of stability and constancy with Rachel and her family represented "certainty, and a promise of certainty always."

The world of the NW11 neighbourhood in London itself may also be seen as a character – symbolizing stability, privilege, marriage, children and, perhaps, even a taste of the eternal.

"Such was the way in Jewish north-west London," writes Segal. "No one ever disappeared."

And yet, themes of disappearance, banishment and self-imposed exile due to transgression run through the novel.



This is highlighted during a Rosh Hashanah family discussion of repentance and Divine forgiveness. Here, it is innocent Rachel who softens the indictment of a man accused of financial fraud, and of his family, who must suffer for his transgression.

"They shouldn't have to be banished," she states. "Human beings make mistakes."

It is, then, little surprise that it is at the point of the strongest assuredness of success and achievement in the novel when Adam must suddenly confront urges that surprise him to the core. Temptation, he realizes, does not always assume the form of the calculating serpent, but it can destroy nonetheless.

Cousin Ellie's derision of the seemingly perfect life in the unchanging Jewish enclave of NW11 London upsets Adam, who craves the stability and continuity it offers even as he sees the appeals of the outside world and the flesh. Torn between two worlds and worldviews, Adam must make a choice that will resonate not only for himself and his fiancée, but for a large, close-knit extended family as well.

The surface question posed throughout *The Innocents* is "How does anyone know when it's right to marry?" However, the layers presented by Segal delve far deeper, into central questions of identity, personal growth, healing from the early losses that shape our personalities, the power of the Jewish lifecycle of birth and death, and the difficult decision-making that resides at the heart of emerging adulthood. Segal's choice of surname for Adam underscores his rebirth as a new man who comes to recognize there is beauty and vitality to be found both in innocence and in the maturity that comes with its loss.

Andrea D. Lobel is director of Congregational Learning at Temple Israel, principal of Temple Israel Religious School, a writer, and a PhD candidate in religion at Concordia University.



Jewish roots and Turkish blues

Shtreiml, the Montreal-based klezmer group, teams up with Turkish oud player and vocalist Ismail Fenciglu for a concert, Thursday, June 6, 8:00 pm, at the Black Sheep Inn in Wakefield, QC. Through compelling original compositions and new arrangements of traditional folk melodies, the ensemble explores the ancient connections between Jewish and Turkish music. Visit theblacksheepinn.com for tickets or information.

Wave goodbye to weak, flabby upper arms

The triceps brachii, commonly known as the triceps, are the muscles at the back of your upper arms. When performing arm strengthening exercises, some people neglect the triceps in favour of the more visible biceps located at the front.

Whether you're male or female, if you want to increase the circumference of your upper arms or you simply want to increase your strength, you should work on both the biceps and triceps. The triceps is a three-headed muscle that accounts for about two-thirds of the upper arm muscle mass, while the biceps only account for about one-third.

The back of the arms is a tricky spot, in particular for women, because women tend to have fat accumulation there. Some of that is lifestyle-related and some may be genetic. A healthy diet coupled with regular exercise will help reduce overall body fat, including excess fat on the upper arms. In addition, you can perform exercises that strengthen the triceps.

If you've lost a lot of weight and have loose skin at the back of your arms, there's not much you can do about that – other than surgery. I'm not a proponent of surgical enhancements, but to each his own. My personal philosophy is: do what you can with what God gave you, and don't stress about minor imperfections.

In addition to appearance, you'll want strong triceps, because they serve important functions. The triceps extend the elbow joint and allow you to straighten your arms. Whether you golf or play basketball or simply need to push yourself up from a chair, strong triceps will help get the job done.

What are the best exercises?

The American Council on Exercise (ACE) studied various triceps exercises. Using electrodes to measure muscle activity, ACE identified three exercises as most effective and efficient for the triceps: triceps kickbacks, triceps dips and triceps pushups. The participants in this 2011 study were young female college athletes. You may find these exercises difficult. Before starting any exercise program, check with your doctor if you have health issues or if you're over 69 and inactive.

Tips: As with any exercise, proper form is important. To focus on working your triceps, keep your elbows close to your body. If you allow them to move forward, backward or outward, you're working the shoulders more than the triceps. Perform each exercise with a full range of motion. For each exercise, aim for two sets of eight to 15 repetitions, two to three times per week on non-consecutive days.

Triceps kickbacks: This exercise is suitable for all levels. Place your left hand and your left knee on a flat gym bench for support. Your left hand should be under your left shoulder. Hold a dumbbell of light to moderate weight with your right hand, palm facing towards your body. Raise your upper arm until it's parallel to the floor. It mustn't move during the exercise. Exhale and move your forearm all the way backwards. Squeeze the triceps. Inhale and return to the starting position. Switch sides after you complete a set.

Triceps dips: This exercise is intermediate level. It is contraindicated for people with shoulder issues. Sit on the edge of a stable chair or flat gym bench and hold the front edge of the seat close to both sides of your body. Your knuckles should be facing forward. Put your feet flat on the

floor and keep a bend in your knees.

Push yourself off the seat. Inhale and lower your body towards the floor until your upper arms are parallel to the floor. Exhale and push yourself back up to the starting position, squeezing your triceps at the top.

If this is too easy, straighten one leg and lean on the heel. If you want an even greater challenge, straighten both legs.

Triceps pushups: This exercise is advanced level and it's considered the gold standard of triceps exercises. Place your hands close together on the floor under your chest. Place your thumbs and index fingers wide apart so your hands form a triangle.

Unlike a standard military pushup, the triceps pushup recruits your triceps more than your shoulders, making it more challenging. If you're a beginner, try it with your knees on the ground. Slowly inhale and lower your body to the floor until your arms are bent at 90 degrees. Notice that



Focus on Fitness

Gloria Schwartz

your arms go back rather than out to the sides. Exhale and push back up until your arms are fully extended, squeezing your triceps at the top of the movement. If you want more of a challenge, perform the pushups in a plank position on your toes with a straight back.

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

New museum documents the history of Polish Jewry

I was in Warsaw on April 19 – the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising – for the opening of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. When I was in Warsaw in 2005 and took a tour of the city's Jewish sights, there was a large billboard on the site proclaiming the future home of the museum and I clearly recall the local tour guide informing us "it will never happen."

The main message of the museum is that Jewish life in Poland has existed for 10 centuries. It is a depiction of life in a land where the Jewish religion and culture flourished for centuries. There were good times and there were bad, and the mission of the museum is to tell the whole story – from the earliest days to the rebirth of the Jewish community in contemporary Poland.

Fellow genealogist Pamela Weisberger had arranged a VIP tour for us. We arrived at the magnificent building, constructed of limestone and adorned with beautiful pale blue glass panes, artistically decorated with Hebrew letters. The square in front of the museum, defined by the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes in the foreground, and the building itself as the background, was filled with people. Polish and Israeli flags were flying and we could see the flickering of the flames from the memorial menorahs beside the monument reflecting off the glass exterior of the new building. Dignitaries from the Polish government and the Jewish world were there in large numbers.

Inside, we were put into groups and given a behind-the-scenes tour of the 140,000 square foot building. While the eight galleries housing the core exhibitions will not be installed until sometime next year, we did see the resource room, seminar areas, the 450-seat auditorium with concert hall acoustics, and the gift shop. The high ceilings and the curved beige walls gave the impression of being in a desert. Walkways on the upper levels looked down on the grand foyer and provided a striking view of the square outside the entrance.

We were fortunate to have Professor Samuel Kassow on our tour. He is an American historian of Ashkenazi Jewry and was the speaker whose lecture on the Ringelblum Archives was part of our plans for the following day. Also on our tour was Edward Serotta, a well-known journalist, filmmaker and historian, whose website – centropa.org – documents Jewish life in Europe. Commentary from both of these well-informed gentlemen added to the experience.

The highlight of the tour was a trip to the lower level of the building, where the museum's centrepiece is almost complete. It is a massive reconstruction of a 17th century wooden synagogue roof from the town of Gwozdzec, a for-



Connecting the branches

John Diener

mer Galician shtetl. Typical of wooden synagogues of that era, none of which have survived, it is beautifully decorated with vibrant colours. Dozens of animals appear in the ceiling art, alongside biblical quotations in Hebrew. We were told the roof was constructed in the same way it would have been in the 1600s, without modern day tools and nails. The paints used to produce the colourful artwork were made from natural pigments as they were in the original structure.

We visited the museum on four consecutive days. We attended Kassow's lecture and learned the remarkable story of Emanuel Ringelblum.

In Warsaw, in the darkest hours of the Shoah, Ringelblum had the foresight to secretly organize dozens of people to collect documents and to write accounts of their experiences. He then proceeded to bury the massive collection in various locations under the streets of the ghetto.

Kassow explained that Ringelblum was sure that, if the Jewish people were destroyed, the Germans would depict Jews in their history books in unkind and false ways. It was his hope that, if the Jews did not survive the War, the evidence he had hidden would influence those who found it to portray Jews in a truer fashion.

Ringelblum and his team risked their lives as they believed it was of vital importance. Much of what we now know about life in the Warsaw Ghetto came from what was discovered in the Ringelblum Archives. To date, only a portion of what was hidden has been uncovered. Hopefully, more will be located in the future.

We were also lucky to obtain tickets for an evening Bund concert in the new auditorium held in tribute to Marek Edelman, the last surviving leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, and saw two outstanding films during our visits.

It was wonderful to see the Polish people lining up to visit the Museum of the History of Polish Jews on its opening weekend. Hopefully, many will return when the core exhibits are up and running next year.

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Getting up-close-and-personal with asparagus spears

Perhaps like you, I have a love-hate relationship with asparagus. I love it when I eat it, but not so much about 15 minutes later when I pee. Until recently, it was believed that everyone's urine has that awful aroma after eating asparagus, but not everyone can smell it.

It should be noted that the effect of asparagus on urine odour has been known for several hundred years. Apparently, one British men's club is said to have put up a sign reading, "During the asparagus season, members are requested not to relieve themselves in the hat stand." I would have hoped men would always have the good sense to never relieve themselves in the hat stand, but perhaps that's just asking too much of the male gender.

More recent scientific studies on what I like to call "the great asparagus pee mystery" – yes, there are some freaky scientists out there studying it – have theorized there are two factors at play here: the ability to produce the aroma and the ability to detect the aroma. Both are determined by genetics.

Let's deal first with the ability to produce the aroma. Asparagus contains mercaptan, a sulphurous compound. Enzymes in your digestive system break down mercaptan and certain byproducts are released that cause the offensive odour. But, here's where it gets interesting, not everyone has the gene for that enzyme. If you are part of the 54 per cent of the population whose DNA lacks the gene for this enzyme, you will not produce smelly urine after eating asparagus.

Now, what about the ability to detect the aroma? It has been theorized that, depending on your DNA, you may or may not have the olfactory receptors to detect the scent. Some of us are "super-smellers" and others are just "smell-blind" when it comes to asparagus pee.

If you're one of those with a malfunctioning olfactory sense, I envy you. Although, looking on the bright side, when I am old and my memory is failing, I will always be able to remember I had asparagus for dinner!

A word to the wise, should you happen to find yourself at any of the several asparagus festivals held around the world every spring: If you are a super-smeller, you may want to hold your breath when you enter the washrooms!

The fact that I am a stinker and a smeller does not hold me back from eating asparagus when it is in season. One of my favourite ways to enjoy it is steamed and served with

poached eggs. I love to dip the spears into the runny golden egg yolk. Last week, I served the poached eggs on top of rösti potatoes with the asparagus dippers on the side. A perfect spring dinner!



Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

Rösti topped with Poached Eggs and Asparagus Dippers

The recipe for rösti comes from *epicurious.com*, while the poached egg method is the genius idea of *seriouslyeats.com*.

Poached eggs can be cooked ahead of time and stored in the fridge, submerged in cold water for up to a few days. To reheat, just transfer them to a bowl of hot water for a few minutes before serving.

Serves 2

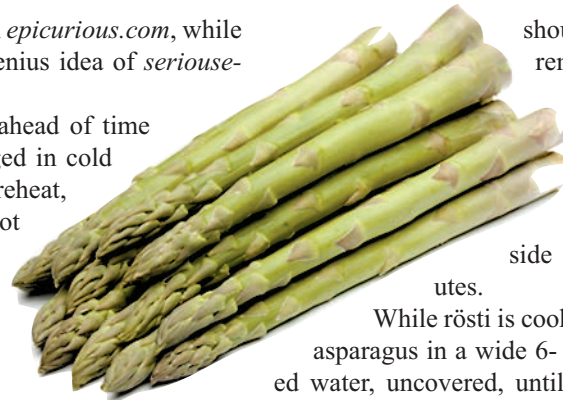
- 1 pound potatoes such as Yukon Gold or Idaho
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 3/4 pound asparagus, ends trimmed
(fat spears are more succulent and delicious!)

In a large saucepan, cover potatoes with salted water by 2 inches and simmer until tender, about 25 to 30 minutes. Drain potatoes in a colander and cool. Chill potatoes, covered, at least 4 hours and up to 2 days.

Peel potatoes. Set a four-sided grater in a large bowl and coarsely shred potatoes into bowl. Season potatoes with salt and pepper, tossing mixture with a fork.

In a 9- to 9 1/2-inch non-stick or cast iron skillet, heat 1 tablespoon butter and 1/2 tablespoon oil over moderate heat until foam subsides. Add potatoes, spreading them evenly and tamping them down with a rubber spatula to form an even cake. Reduce heat to moderately low and cook rösti until underside is golden brown, 15-18 minutes.

Slide rösti onto a large plate. Invert another large plate over rösti and invert rösti onto it. Browned side of rösti



should be on top. In skillet, heat remaining tablespoon butter and 1/2 tablespoon oil over moderately low heat until foam subsides. Slide rösti back into skillet, browned side up, and cook until underside is golden brown, 15-18 minutes.

While rösti is cooking, prepare asparagus. Cook asparagus in a wide 6- to 8-quart pot of boiling salted water, uncovered, until just tender, 3 to 4 minutes. Drain well in a colander and set aside.

Poach eggs (I highly recommend the video at tinyurl.com/how-to-poach-eggs to see how it's done).

Crack each egg into a separate small bowl. Set aside. Bring a wide shallow pot of water to almost a simmer. What you are looking for here is water that is quivering but not yet simmering. If you have an instant read thermometer, the ideal poaching temperature is 180 F.

Holding a fine mesh sieve over a large bowl, transfer one egg to strainer, and gently swirl strainer around until any excess white is drained away.

Gently lower the strainer with the egg into the water, move it back and forth a bit to make sure the egg isn't stuck, and then carefully roll the egg out.

Repeat with remaining eggs. Once all the eggs are in the pot, use a slotted spoon to keep moving the eggs around, flipping them from time to time, so that they cook evenly. They will take about 3 1/2 to 4 minutes to cook to perfection.

Cut rösti in half and place each half on a plate. Top each half with 2 poached eggs and serve with asparagus spears for dipping.



**Readers and advertisers
are advised the next edition
of the
Ottawa Jewish Bulletin
will be published
on Monday, June 17, 2013.**

DEADLINE: Wednesday, May 29, 2013.

WHAT'S GOING ON

May 20 to June 16, 2013

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



WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS

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

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

TUESDAYS

Israeli Folkdancing: No experience or partner necessary, Ottawa Jewish Community

CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE

May 24	☆	8:15 pm
May 31	☆	8:22 pm
Jun 7	☆	8:28 pm
Jun 14	☆	8:32 pm
Jun 21	☆	8:34 pm

School, 881 Broadview Avenue, 6:30 pm. Info: judy@ottawa.israelidance.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.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

Jewish Federation of Ottawa Members' Meeting: Representatives from community agencies and organizations welcome

to come to hear from new CEO and President Andrea Freedman on her preliminary thoughts after two months at Federation, and share your feedback with her and Steven Kimmel, incoming Federation chair, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 236.

SUNDAY, MAY 26

Trivia Night, a fundraiser sponsored by AJA 50+. Trivia teams, fabulous desserts, silent auction, prizes. Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-224-8286.

Shalom Ottawa community television show, on Rogers 22, 12:00 pm. (Repeats May 27 and 31 at 6:00 pm).

Die Folkshpieler 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.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

Musica Ebraica presents "Prayer and Celebration", liturgical music from around the world. Special guest: Chazzan Jeremy Burko, along with four soloists. CBC's Rob Clipperton is MC and Carol Gurofsky is accompanist, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-233-3099.

Malca Pass Book Club reviews *The Mistress of Nothing* by Kate Pullinger, presented by Linda Rossman, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-829-2455.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

Am Echad Walk/Run for Jewish Education in Ottawa. Support the school of your choice. Options are 3 km run and 1 km run/walk. Registration opens 8:30 am at the Ottawa Jewish Community School, 31 Broadview Avenue. Info: mitch@amechadwalkrun.com.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

Beit Tikvah of Ottawa Annual General Meeting: 15 Chartwell Avenue, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-723-1800.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

Sports Breakfast of Champions, sponsored by the SJCC. Celebrate the community's athletic heroes of the past year at the middle school, high school and university levels. Special guest: basketball player Merrick Palmer, 11:00 am. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 267.

COMING SOON

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

Farewell to Rabbi Arnie and Chevy Fine: Open House between 3 and 6 pm to bid goodbye to the Fines, who are moving to Israel, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue. Info: finefarewell2013@gmail.com.

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:*

Louis Fine

Irving Freilich, Toronto
(father of Jeff Freilich)

Simon Skroll

*May their memory
be a blessing always.*

The
CONDOLENCE
COLUMN

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There is no charge.

For a listing
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613-798-4696,
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Voice mail is available.

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MAY 29
FOR JUNE 17

JULY 3
FOR JULY 22

JULY 31
FOR AUGUST 26*
(all dates subject to change)

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