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## Moot Beit Din

Ottawa Jewish Community School Grade 9 student Ella Sabourin writes about what she learned from participating in the Moot Beit Din > p. 13

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# OTTAWA JEWISH BULLETIN

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## Rabbi Idan Scher to be next spiritual leader of Congregation Machzikei Hadas

BY MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

Congregation Machzikei Hadas has announced the appointment of Rabbi Idan Scher as the modern Orthodox synagogue's next spiritual leader.

The congregation expects Rabbi Scher and his family will move to Ottawa this summer to begin a year-long transition period ahead of being installed as spiritual leader before the High Holidays in September 2015. During his first year, he will serve as associate rabbi, working closely with Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka, Machzikei Hadas' spiritual leader since 1967.

The search for a successor to the congregation's long-serving rabbi began

late last year, after Rabbi Bulka announced his plan to retire in 2015.

"We are very excited to welcome Rabbi Idan Scher, his wife, Shifra, and their son, Shlomo, to Congregation Machzikei Hadas," said Machzikei Hadas President Jonah Rabinovitch in announcing the appointment.

"Rabbi Scher brings a lot of youth, energy and enthusiasm to the congregation. He made an excellent impression during his trial Shabbat, generating a lot of interest and excitement across all demographic groups. We're confident he can effectively reach out and bring new members into our wonderful shul. I know

See Rabbi Scher on page 2



Rabbi Idan Scher, seen here with wife Shifra and son Shlomo, will work with Rabbi Reuven Bulka as associate rabbi for one year before becoming spiritual leader of Congregation Machzikei Hadas in 2015.

## March of the Living: Experience 'will be life-changing'

BY MONIQUE ELLIOT

Ottawa high school students currently in Poland on the March of the Living program left with well wishes from Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney.

Kenney - who is also minister of Employment and Social Development - spoke to the students April 1 at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre sharing his enthusiasm and encouragement about the deep emotional impact the program will

have on them.

"If you're a person of faith, you believe in providence, that sometimes things happen [that] can trigger a chain of events, [which will] in time, produce good," Kenney said.

The March of the Living educational program allows students from around the world to travel to Poland to study the history of the Holocaust and to examine underlying causes of prejudice and its

consequences.

The first March of the Living was held in 1988 and, to date, more than 150,000 youth from around the world have participated in the program.

The students, accompanied by Holocaust survivors, march from Auschwitz to Birkenau, on Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day).

"It always amazes me that people who lived through this unspeakable mystery of

evil have been willing to dig deep back into those experiences to share them over and over again, as some survivors have, and how painful that must be for them," Kenney said.

This year also marks the 70th anniversary of the deportation and devastation of Hungary's Jews during the Holocaust, and there will be special emphasis on the stories of Hungarian Jewry during this year's March of the Living program.

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**inside:** Ian Sadinsky on volunteering in Israel with Sar-El > p. 3

Rabbi Steven Garten writes his final From the Pulpit column > p. 6

Mitch Miller reports on the Canada Israel Hockey School > p. 17

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# Rabbi Scher: Honoured and excited to join Machzikei Hadas

Continued from page 1

the congregation will welcome the Schers with open arms.”

The congregation’s Rabbi Search Committee screened 29 applicants for the position, and Rabbi Scher was one of three candidates they recommended to spend a trial Shabbat with the congregation. Following the three trial Shabbats, a vote was held among the Machzikei Hadas membership, and Rabbi Scher received “an overwhelming majority” of votes, according to an email sent April 8 to congregants announcing the appointment.

Although he was born in Chicago and grew up in the United States, Rabbi Scher has familial connections to Ottawa and to Congregation Machzikei Hadas, where both his parents and grandparents were married. He has spent significant time in Ottawa over the years on family visits.

Rabbi Scher is currently working in Baltimore, where he is campus rabbi at the University of Maryland and rabbinic intern at an Orthodox synagogue, Bnai Jacob Shaarei Zion.

In accepting the position, Rabbi Scher thanked the Machzikei Hadas community for the welcome he and his wife received during his trial Shabbat and said he’s looking forward to serving the congregation.

“The genuine and enthusiastic welcome with which Shifra and I were

greeted by the Machzikei Hadas community during our Shabbos in Ottawa was unlike anything we might have imagined,” he said.

“We were humbled not only by the renowned scholarship of Rabbi Bulka, but also by the obvious achievements of the community as a whole. This is a shul where Jews of diverse backgrounds and paths come together with mutual respect, warmth and delight. Their commitment to the shul is evident everywhere.

“We are deeply honoured and very excited to become part of the journey as we grow together into the future. We couldn’t be happier.”

Rabbi Bulka expressed great enthusiasm about the choice of his successor.

“Rabbi Scher brings to us abundant energy, great ideas, a genuine desire to serve, an engaging personality, an equally committed and dedicated wife, a range of knowledge and ability well beyond his years – in other words, all the makings of a great rabbi,” wrote Rabbi Bulka in a letter to congregants attached to the email announcing the appointment.

“As associate rabbi for the first year, he will be able to ease into becoming rabbi with less pressure, and ample opportunity to learn about the shul, which means to learn about you. After the Schers’ first year, I will assume the role of rabbi emeritus, hopefully available when and if



Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka, spiritual leader of Congregation Machzikei Hadas since 1967, will become rabbi emeritus in 2015. PHOTO: ASHLEY FRASER

called upon, but respectful of the new reality. The future for our shul looks more than promising with the Schers joining us,” added Rabbi Bulka.

The *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* will sit down with Rabbi Scher for a feature interview when he arrives in Ottawa this summer.

# March: ‘Nothing matters more,’ says multiculturalism minister

Continued from page 1

After Yom HaShoah, the students will travel to Israel and end their journey on exciting, optimistic terms as they celebrate Yom Ha’Atzmaut.

Josh Kofsky, a Grade 10 student at Colonel By Secondary School, expects March of the Living will be “overwhelming.”

“Just the stories and seeing the places where they went through such harsh life will be life-changing,” he said.

“I’m jealous. I wish I could join you,” Kenney told the students and their parents and chaperons.

Evan Zelikovitz, chair of the March of the Living Digital Archive Project, said he and his film crew will accompany the students while documenting the personal testimonies of about 20 Canadian survivors reliving the past as they participate in the March.

“We just want to capture their stories before it’s too late. There are only a few years left to go,” he said of the globally dwindling numbers of survivors.



Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney at the SJCC, April 1, with Ottawa’s 2014 March of the Living participants. PHOTO: MONIQUE ELLIOT

“It’s a lot of walking and it is long hours, this trip. But it’s unbelievable,” he added.

Zelikovitz said he hopes to capture the profound impact by hearing the survivors tell their stories “in the very places where it happened: in the camps.”

The project is in its second year, and students watched a video Zelikovitz and his team produced during the 2013 March of survivor Joe Mandel telling his Holocaust survival and camp liberation stories for the first time ever to both

students and his own family.

Kenney said he is proud to work with the March of the Living Digital Archive Project.

“I can’t think of anything I’ve been involved in, in public life, that matters more than this,” he said. “I only wish you had begun this kind of work a few decades ago to capture all the testimonies of the survivors.”

Zelikovitz said he believes these recorded stories will have a “huge impact” that will connect survivors with

future generations, beginning with all students who continue to participate in the March.

“They are our next generation of witnesses.”

## Correction

The article on Agudath Israel’s Boutique Judaica in the April 7 issue included an incorrect email address for manager Marie Levine. The correct address is [marie@agudathisrael.net](mailto:marie@agudathisrael.net).

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## CANDLE LIGHTING BEFORE

MAY 2	7:50 PM	MAY 30	8:21 PM
MAY 9	7:59 PM	JUNE 3	8:25 PM
MAY 16	8:07 PM	JUNE 4 AFTER	9:29 PM
MAY 23	8:15 PM	JUNE 6	8:27 PM

## BULLETIN DEADLINES

MAY 7	FOR MAY 26
JUNE 11	FOR JUNE 30
JULY 9	FOR JULY 28
AUGUST 6	FOR AUGUST 25

# Volunteering with Sar-El is a unique way to experience Israel

**Ian Sadinsky** enthusiastically discusses his fulfilling experiences, and those of other Ottawa-based volunteers, with Sar-El, an organization that provides support to military bases in Israel.

**H**aving visited many times, I am always on the lookout for new ways to experience and learn about the modern miracle that is Israel. In January, while we were living in Israel for a month, our friends Janet and Jonathan Isserlin came back to Tel Aviv from a two-week stint with the Sar-El program raving about their experiences. I knew immediately this was something I wanted to try.

Sar-El – a Hebrew acronym for *sherut l-Yisrael* (service to Israel) – is an international organization founded in 1982 by the late Aharon Davidi, an Israeli general. From modest beginnings, it now provides over 4,000 volunteers a year to the Israeli military, including 150 to 180 Canadians annually. Of the 24 Sar-El source countries, Canada ranks third in participation after France and the United States.

Reasons for volunteering for Sar-El vary from person to person. For some, it is a way to meet new people and see a different side of Israel. Others volunteer out of a deeply personal wish to contribute something more than dollars to the protection and development of the State of Israel. Whatever the reason, Sar-El provides a unique opportunity to do something a little different in your life.

The work of a Sar-El volunteer is age-appropriate, consisting of labour-intensive, repetitive tasks of a non-combat nature. Jonathan Isserlin and I worked at a medical base where we sorted medical equipment identifying expired items and resorting, counting and packaging still current items. Other Sar-El volunteers, like Janet Isserlin, then packed the various pieces into full medical kits, which were sent to military and field hospitals, disaster relief programs and even refugee camps.

Our volunteer service with Sar-El was in late-February and early-March and, one day, we were bused to another base where we helped package Passover rations for lone soldiers, the Israel Defense Force (IDF) members without family in Israel or far removed from them. This was a particularly memorable experience, as we worked alongside an IDF unit of young

women, many of them recent immigrants to Israel from countries like Ukraine and Ethiopia.

The Sar-El program saves the IDF approximately \$12 million U.S. annually through the work of volunteers. This frees up regular soldiers and reservists to do other priority work. Between 60 and 70 per cent of the *Sar-Elniks* are repeat volunteers and some, like former Sar-El Canada president Jack Bordan and his wife Sylvia of Montreal, have served more than 30 times!

Dale Fyman, a retired Ottawa dentist, has volunteered three times with Sar-El, which operates weekly from Sunday to Thursday, freeing volunteers from their duties over Shabbat.

“I usually go for two or three weeks in October. My wife, Ruthie, visits with a school friend, and we meet up from Thursday evenings until Sunday,” said Dale.

“The first two years, I was one of the youngest in my group. But, last year, there were more younger people,” he added.

I noticed the same thing. The 33 volunteers on our base included three young men who were using Sar-El as a way to seek permanent service in the IDF, as well as an 18-year-old woman from New York City who was contemplating her options before college.

Each Sar-El unit is led by full-time IDF personnel. Our *madrichot*, Elizabeth and Baillie, were 19 and 20 and extremely capable, knowledgeable, personable and organized. Before our work day, they would lead our flag-raising ceremony, after which they would give us the news of day – military, Israel and world – and our work assignments. In the evenings, they would present special programs where we learned about Israel, the military and even some Hebrew.

Another Ottawa Sar-El participant, retired translator Yehuda Azuelos, speaks highly of the *madrichot*.

“They were so good with people, so accommodating. I used to love going into the refectory to see all the young soldiers in their uniforms. It was a beautiful image,” he said.

*Sar-Elniks* are issued uniforms: shirt,



Sar-El volunteers from Ottawa Ian Sadinsky (right) and Jonathan Isserlin with IDF *madrichot* Elizabeth and Baillie.

pants, belt and bomber jacket (the nights in Israel can get quite cool), topped off with a special Sar-El cap and epaulettes. We wore the uniform while at work and around the base. The uniform is an excellent way to make people feel part of a team – and we did – especially at lunch, when we were in the same mess hall with the regular and reserve soldiers.

At our base, we had our own Sar-El compound, separate quarters for women and men, separate latrines, a small room with a television and refrigerator (The Club) and an outdoor lounging area. The accommodations were Spartan with four to eight volunteers per room.

But work is the central objective of the program, not comfort.

“About a third of the volunteers in my group were in their 80s, recalled Dale Fyman. “They worked just as hard as the younger people and complained loudly if there wasn’t enough work to keep them busy.”

The bonding that takes place between the *Sar-Elniks* and the civilian and military staff is quite noticeable. Often, I would speak to officers and reservists who expressed their appreciation for the assistance Sar-El provides to the IDF. The fact that we actually paid to come and work blew them away and confirmed to them that the people of Israel were not alone.

Many *Sar-Elniks* make lifelong personal connections from their volunteer

experiences and stay in touch during the rest of the year.

Dale Fyman tells a particularly moving story about this sense of family:

“We had one full-time IDF soldier who was in a wheelchair due to spina bifida. When we heard that he had received a promotion, our group threw a party for him. We were so impressed by the equality within the army.”

I kept a detailed log and brought home many of my own stories, some of which are mentioned in an article, “Sar-El: A Personal Reflection,” I wrote for the Sar-El website ([www.sar-el.org](http://www.sar-el.org)). Some of my colleagues are already planning to combine future Sar-El service with visits to family and friends in Israel, participation in the Jerusalem or Tel Aviv marathons, educational activities or simchas. Whatever your plan, whatever your purpose – consider Sar-El as a different way to connect with Israel.

For more information on the Canadian program, visit [www.sarelcanada.org](http://www.sarelcanada.org) or contact Sar-El Canada at [montreal@sarelcanada.org](mailto:montreal@sarelcanada.org) or 514-735-0272.

*Ian Sadinsky is an Ottawa-based communications consultant. He is president, Sadinsky and Associates; vice-president, Éclair Communications ([www.eclaircommunications.com](http://www.eclaircommunications.com)); president, Ottawa Jewish Historical Society; and a member of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Communications and Community Relations Committee.*

# Advocacy is ‘intrinsic to being Jewish’

In this guest column, **Shimon Koffler Fogel**, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) discusses some of CIJA’s advocacy initiatives in Ottawa and invites the Jewish community to review and comment on its *Impact Report*.

**D**efined as “the act or process of supporting a cause or proposal,” advocacy is in many ways intrinsic to being Jewish – whether one identifies as secular, traditional or somewhere in between. From generation to generation, Jews have refused to accept the status quo and, in turn, have helped lead some of the most important advances in human rights, freedom and social justice. Just as Jewish activists worked to secure recognition of our national freedom in Israel and our own rights to equality in the Diaspora, we always advocated for the vulnerable – whether African-Americans in the Southern U.S., refugees from Vietnam or the people of Darfur.

As the non-partisan advocacy agent of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and its partner federations across Canada, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) is engaged in a range of initiatives in keeping with our communal legacy of advocacy. But our work is entirely dependent on the engagement of our

stakeholders. Simply put, we owe the Jewish community a transparent report of our work and an opportunity for the grassroots to rate our performance and let us know their priorities – which is why we recently launched our *Impact Report*.

While many organizations and businesses publish annual reports, the *Impact Report* is designed to be an entirely new way of communicating with stakeholders. In its online version ([www.cija.ca/impact](http://www.cija.ca/impact)), the *Impact Report* enables readers to review, on an issue-by-issue basis, the actions we have taken over the past two years, the outcomes achieved and our intended next steps. Readers are then invited to use an online survey platform to evaluate and offer comments on each issue. We have strived to use technology as a means to raise the bar on community accountability and motivate community members to get involved in whatever area of advocacy speaks to them. Whether advocating for stronger Canada-Israel economic ties, countering proposed restrictions to freedom of religion or

becoming involved in the federal government’s anti-bullying strategy, there are countless opportunities for Jewish Canadians to make a difference for the benefit of all Canadians.

The National Holocaust Monument is an example of an initiative here in Ottawa that has important implications for our entire country. As host to hundreds of thousands of tourists annually, including many students on field trips, Ottawa is uniquely suited for a downtown memorial that stands as a permanent reminder of the dangers of anti-Semitism and hatred in all its forms. Last year, the federal government announced the monument will be located next to the Canadian War Museum. With construction slated to begin this summer culminating in a dedication ceremony in fall 2015, Ottawa’s Jewish community can be proud of its role in helping secure all-party support for the monument from its very inception on Parliament Hill.

Ottawa is also an important focal point on another advocacy file: campus activism. Home to two universities that include a significant number of Jewish students from across Canada, Ottawa saw a general decline in anti-Israel campus activism in 2013-14. Based on local monitoring, campus activities surrounding the offensive Israeli Apartheid Week (respectfully renamed “Islam Awareness Week” at the University of Ottawa), were quiet, uneventful and ill-attended in Ottawa this year. And the recent effort to boycott Sabra hummus at uOttawa fell flat, the boycott launch lasting less than



Shimon Koffler Fogel

10 minutes and drawing an audience of fewer than a dozen people. In response, a university spokesperson rejected the boycott and noted the purchasing policy of the school’s supplier is “apolitical.”

This academic year, CIJA launched a series of local internships on campuses across the country, providing resources to pro-Israel students looking to create their own impactful programs to promote Israel as a vibrant, multicultural, liberal democracy. Our intern at Carleton has put together an innovative outreach project in the form of pre-exam “recharge” stations, inviting students of all backgrounds to enjoy a bite of falafel, a drink of SodaStream carbonated water and complimentary pens, highlighters and notebooks promoting Israeli culture. This is the sort of positive and practical initiative that connects Israel to the broad swath of students who tune out broader debates over the Middle East conflict. And it’s the sort of grassroots-driven advocacy that CIJA is proud to support in Ottawa and across Canada.

I urge you to take a few moments to review our *Impact Report* at [www.cija.ca/impact](http://www.cija.ca/impact). More importantly, I encourage you to get involved.

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# Culture and chaos: The Tribefest rush

BY SAMANTHA BANKS  
JEWISH FEDERATION OF OTTAWA

I screamed “O Canada” at the top of my lungs during the opening plenary. I giggled like a little school girl when Ben Platt belted out his song from *Pitch Perfect*. I cried as a mother of three told us how lonely it was as a teenager to witness her parents’ divorce with “a side of gay,” referring to her father who came out after 20 years of marriage.

Only one word can sum up the emotional rush I had last month: “Tribefest.”

Tribefest, sponsored by the Jewish Federations of North America, is an exciting gathering of young Jewish leaders held every second year.

Tribefest 2014 took place in New Orleans from March 16 to 18. Eleven young adults from Ottawa accompanied 37 other Canadians. It was the second time a delegation from Ottawa’s Emerging Generation attended and, once again, we topped Canadian recruitment.

Tribefest brings 1,500 young adults together from across North America to experience a Jewish rush. Some find it educational, while others find it spiritual. Many go for the creative outlet, while others go in hope to find “the one.” But, no matter what one’s motivation for attending might be, it is nearly impossible to walk away from Tribefest without feeling a little less lonely than when you

walked in.

New Orleans is one heck of a place. Infused with culture and chaos, yet the city has an underlying haunted feeling that doesn’t seem to leave your bones. The music played on every other street corner and in the backs of the grungiest bars touches your soul and makes you appreciate jazz in a whole new way. If you can manoeuvre your way through the parades and avoid being heckled at to acquire a string of beads, you can find yourself in a quiet candy shop salivating over a box pralines.

Jewish troops – no, not from the IDF, but troops of Diaspora Jews – piled into the Main Stage room at the Sheraton New Orleans every morning. I refer to us as “troops” because every person at Tribefest was on his or her own mission. They would stand proudly with their city’s delegation and advocate on behalf of their community. This is truly what this conference is all about. It is about the people you meet, the best practices you share, and the ideas sparked by the people you hear from.

On the last day, we heard from a Toronto-born victim of rape who opened a Krav Maga studio in New York for women to become empowered, both physically and mentally, so that fear doesn’t run their lives. She spoke so eloquently and bravely that she brought the entire room to tears.



Samantha Banks (right) with Kortney Shapiro at Tribefest 2014 in New Orleans.

Her underlying theme was that her Jewish values made her the woman she is today. At only 25 years of age, she has given hope to hundreds of women because she took into her own hands the deeply rooted values of leadership and helping others.

I could go on endlessly about how Tribefest changes lives and sends people back to their home communities with a new spark and flair for getting involved. Contact me at [sbanks@jewishottawa.com](mailto:sbanks@jewishottawa.com)

if you’re interested in participating in Tribefest 2016.

I’ll end this with something that really put the entire Tribefest experience in perspective for me.

When someone questioned me about why I’d ask if they were a professional or a lay leader, he asked, “Aren’t we all professional leaders?”

I looked back at him with a big grin on my face. “Yes, yes we are!” I said.

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*Harvard Square*, by Andre Aciman, will be reviewed by Sophie Kohn Kaminsky, 9:30 am.

Sunday, May 11: Books and Bagels  
*My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel*, by Ari Shavit, will be reviewed by Rabbi Steven Garten, 9:30 am.

Rabbi Steven H. Garten, Spiritual Leader

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

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FEDERATION  
REPORT



MITCH MILLER  
SOLOWAY JCC

## The Soloway Jewish Community Centre: where active membership is rewarding

Camps. Our JCC is also home to the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, a supplementary school, the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation, the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* newspaper, BBYO and NCSY to name but a few of the community agencies and organizations that call 21 Nadolny Sachs Private their home.

Our JCC is much more than just one of Ottawa's leading fitness facilities or swimming pools (indoor and outdoor). In recent surveys, members tell us that they chose the Soloway JCC because the facility feels like home. The staff is knowledgeable and friendly, the fitness equipment is always up-to-date, and our saline pool is the perfect place for swimmers of all ages and abilities to do laps all year. It would take an entire edition of the *Bulletin* to list all of the programs offered within the

community centre and additional pages to be added to share the community programs held off campus – such as the annual Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) celebration – which are planned by the Soloway Jewish Community Centre for the benefit of the greater Ottawa community.

Yet, SJCC membership is still one of the best kept secrets in Ottawa and, in some ways, in our Jewish community. I am certain that many people reading this column are active members of Ottawa's Jewish community who make their annual donation to the Jewish Federation of Ottawa (which we all should do), and attend events that take place at our Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

So, with so many people walking through the front door of the SJCC, how

can I possibly suggest that membership is a well-kept secret?

It's simple. Many of the people I've spoken to would say they are JCC members simply because they enter the building and attend an event. Or they identify as JCC members because they contribute to the Federation's Annual Campaign. But, in reality, to ensure the JCC remains as vibrant as it is today, members of the community need to continue walking into the building and take that one extra step to become a JCC member. There are different levels of membership and opportunities to contribute so that every member of Ottawa's Jewish community can proudly identify as a member of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

I look forward to seeing you at the SJCC and at upcoming SJCC events, including our annual Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner where this year's featured athlete will be six-time Stanley Cup Champion and Hall of Famer Mark Messier.

There was a well-known advertising slogan that said "Membership has its rewards." If I may borrow from that theme, I would suggest the Soloway Jewish Community Centre is the place where active membership is rewarding.

Our home away from home, where some Jewish journeys begin and others are strengthened: our Soloway Jewish Community Centre (JCC).

During my travels, I have been fortunate to visit other JCCs in North America and on returning home to Ottawa, I am always impressed and proud to see how vibrant our JCC is. Twelve months of the year, Jewish community leaders are at the Soloway JCC attending various board meetings and future leaders are attending Ganon Preschool and JCC Summer

FROM THE  
PULPIT



RABBI STEVEN GARTEN  
TEMPLE ISRAEL

## Moving on with hope and promise

State of Israel has grown. Many will remember when Ottawa sent three buses of pilgrims to Israel during the Second Intifada with rabbis and cantors of all denominations travelling as part of a united Jewish community. Programs such as Partnership 2Gether led to a powerful relationship with Etbah HaGalil, the far northern finger of Israel. And there are many more community initiatives worthy of praise.

Yet, there is one memory I cherish and which reminds me of what we could have achieved and what we could have become.

In 1999, the new director of Jewish Family Services urged the community to respond to the needs of the Jewish poor. There was an initial reluctance on the part of the organized community to respond to new initiatives, but the director was insistent. So, committees were struck, research was commissioned and, after a period of contemplation and consideration, every beneficiary agency of the Vaad (now the Federation) gathered at Agudath Israel to consider recommendations.

Following an evening of discussion, two remarkable events occurred. The various agencies voted unanimously to act with a united sense of urgency and commitment. And, more symbolically, the two rabbis in attendance led the gathering in kindling and blessing the Chanukah menorah. As one of the rabbis, I clearly remember a participant saying under her breath this

was the first time a Reform rabbi and an Orthodox rabbi publicly participated in affirming a mitzvah in Ottawa. I do not know whether her statement was true – but it has not happened again.

That Chanukah evening, our community dedicated itself to the fulfilment of our people's highest values. We set an example for future generations and made a very public statement to those not affiliated with the community that there was something special about the Ottawa Jewish community, which superseded the normative divisions that plague Jewish communities.

Perhaps time has magnified the importance of that evening and the subsequent actions that resulted from it. And perhaps others in attendance may remember the evening differently. But it was the seminal moment that helped me understand what great potential could be realized, if only the protective barriers separating us are let down.

This week, we observe Yom HaShoah. The day has many connotations, but certainly one of its most powerful implications is that we, as a people, remember the past only so that we can march forward with hope and promise.

I look forward, as I move on to the next stage of my rabbinic career with hope and promise, to watching how this unique Jewish community responds to the challenges of the next two decades.

In 1995, I was invited to begin a relationship with Temple Israel and Ottawa's Jewish community. In July, I will transition from my role of pulpit rabbi to that of rabbi emeritus. So this marks my final *From the Pulpit* column.

These two decades have brought many wonderful changes to Jewish Ottawa. A new Jewish community centre and a new home for the Jewish aged were built and our community school was expanded to include high school. New congregations offering individuals unique perspectives on Jewish religious life were established so that diverse Jewish souls could be nurtured.

The number of institutions of Jewish religious learning has increased. The Kosher Food Bank and Jewish Family Services' Tikvah program were begun and have flourished.

Our community's relationship with the

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FROM THE EDITOR



MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

## New Quebec government should just let go of the secular charter issue

Pierre Karl Péladeau declared his candidacy for the PQ and, with a now-famously raised fist, he made Quebec separation the ballot box question.

Everything changed in that moment. Clearly, the vast majority of the Quebec electorate had no interest in holding another divisive referendum on separation. While the charter remained an issue – and the PQ tried in vain to re-establish it as the main issue, thinking it was the key to their potential victory – it was Quebec separation that ruled the election. Marois called the election because polls indicated she could use the charter to turn her minority government into a majority. Instead, Quebecers, in their wisdom, handed the PQ a most humiliating defeat.

Watching the election results come in on April 7, one could almost hear all of Canada breathe a collective sigh of relief.

And, with their defeat, the PQ's *Charter of Quebec Values* was dead in the water.

But, the day after the election, Philippe Couillard, the Quebec Liberal leader and premier-designate, said his government would bring in its own charter of secular values, affecting a more limited range of

public sector officials in “positions of authority.” While the range of those positions was not defined, it would apparently not include most bureaucrats, doctors, nurses, teachers and daycare workers.

But, still, the question must be asked. Why is there a need for a solution to a problem that does not exist? Couillard's new government should take the same position as the federal government and the other nine provinces and just let the issue go.

### CHABAD STUDENT NETWORK

A fire, April 2, caused extensive damage to the home of Rabbi Chaim and Yocheved Boyarsky and their five children. The Boyarskys are co-directors of the Rohr Chabad Student Network (CSN), whose programs for students at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University complement those of Hillel Ottawa: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

Thankfully, no one was injured in the electrical fire, but the building, which also serves as CSN headquarters, will be out of

commission for several months.

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa established a fund to assist CSN with its Passover programming.

### BUSY TIME

This is a very busy time on the Jewish calendar. Although this issue of the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* comes out after Passover, we went to press a week earlier than usual because of the holiday closures.

By the time you read this column, Passover will have passed (pardon the pun) and two solemn days – Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) on April 27-28 and Yom Hazikaron (Israel's Remembrance Day) on May 4-5 – will be upon us. The eves of both days will be marked by solemn ceremonies and programs at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre at 7 pm.

And then, the sadness of Yom Hazikaron will change to the joyousness of Yom Ha'Atzmaut on May 5-6 as we celebrate the 66th anniversary of Israel's Declaration of Independence and the birth of the modern state.

The community will celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut with two major events on May 6. A flag-raising ceremony at Marion Dewar Square in front of Ottawa City Hall at 12:30 pm and a huge community celebration at the Hellenic Meeting & Reception Centre, 1315 Prince of Wales Drive, next to Temple Israel, beginning at 5 pm. I'll see you all there.

IDEAS AND IMPRESSIONS



JASON MOSCOVITZ

## Remembering a very special young woman

minutes of each other leaving messages that Jacqui Gold had died in hospital of pneumonia. It was a week before her birthday party. This wasn't about being shocked or surprised. It was just about being sad for such a young life gone and for a family that had been through so much.

Jacqui was diagnosed with leukemia in her early 20s. She battled through the long process of chemotherapy and she courageously recovered. In remission, she completed her education, finishing at the top of her class at the University of Ottawa. Jacqui became a teacher at the Hebrew Foundation School in Montreal.

While in good health, Jacqui's friends and family say she did everything to take in and enjoy the pleasures of life, which most healthy people take for granted. Jacqui met the love of her young life and they had just moved in together when the cruel news struck almost two years ago. The cancer was back.

The second round was much more difficult than the first. The second round involved a bone marrow transplant and hospitalization for more than a year.

Apart from infrequent weekend visits at home, she lived in a hospital cancer ward.

Jacqui's funeral in Montreal was the biggest I had ever attended with people standing four deep along the back and side walls. Because I brought my elderly parents, we arrived an hour early to ensure parking and seating and many others had the same idea. The chapel was already a quarter-full when we arrived.

The funeral was packed because Jacqui had touched so many people from three generations. Jacqui's 87-year-old grandmother Selma, a friend of my parents and countless others, had her friends supporting her. I was there for Caryl, along with what seemed to be at least a thousand other baby boomers. And then there were Jacqui's and her siblings' friends from Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Los Angeles and points beyond.

Watching the room fill up with three generations of Jewish Montrealers, I thought I saw my life flashing in front of me. Seeing children I grew up with now in their 60s and their parents in their 90s, I couldn't help but think of how

many years have gone by. It was strange to see people and remember their faces and their voices, but, aside from hello, there was so little to say. It was like so many lifetimes had gone by since childhood that you wouldn't know where to start – even if you wanted to.

It was also that a sad funeral is an abrupt meeting place that is not conducive to personal conversations about where you've been and what you've done. Being five years old again for a few fleeting seconds was about as much as anyone wanted to handle.

In addition to being the biggest funeral I am sure most people there had ever attended, it would also qualify as one of the most dignified. There was an overwhelming quiet in the room as everyone was deep in thought and focused on Jacqui and her family.

There were eulogies from Jacqui's friends, her boyfriend and her siblings. To the surprise of many, her mother, Caryl, was the final speaker.

The eulogies spoke about the heart and soul of a very special young woman who left a positive vibe everywhere she went and with everyone she came into contact with. She was described as a person who fought cancer with all the dignity she could muster.

Jacqui's dignity in death is the dignity with which the rest of her family carries on.

I was in Israel when I received an email invitation to a masquerade ball celebrating a young woman's 30th birthday. It was a two-fold event: the birthday and a fundraiser for leukemia research. I've known the young woman's mother since I was five. We grew up across the street from each other.

I wrote back saying it would be great to attend the special birthday party and noting how much my old friend Caryl must be looking forward to having this meaningful celebration for her daughter. Her reply was filled with optimism, hope and happiness.

Three days after I returned to Canada, my brother and sister called within five



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Violinist Daniel Aizenshtadt, winner of the Ilona Kornhauser Prize for Violin at the 2014 Aviv Competitions, is one of three young Israeli musicians who will perform May 25 at Tabaret Hall.

## Three of Israel's top young musicians to perform in Ottawa, May 25

BY JANE GORDON  
CANADA-ISRAEL CULTURAL FOUNDATION

The Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation (CICF) and the Embassy of Israel will present a concert with three gifted Israeli musicians on Sunday, May 25, 7:30 pm, at Tabaret Hall, 550 Cumberland Street, on the University of Ottawa campus.

Pianist Tomer Gerwitzman, violinist Daniel Aizenshtadt and violist Shira Majoni are all recipients of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation's Sharett Scholarships, and Ottawa's CICF chapter is delighted their North American tour will include a concert here.

Gerwitzman was born in Israel in 1990 and began his studies in Haifa at age eight. He has received many national and international awards, most recently the Rafi Guralnik Prize for Piano at the 2014 Aviv Competitions, and the Meira Geyra Audience Award Prize in Piano. He completed his bachelor's degree at Tel Aviv University and is currently pursuing his master's degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Aizenshtadt was the winner of the Ilona Kornhauser Prize for Violin at the 2014 Aviv Competitions. He was born in 1992 and initially studied violin with his mother.

He has performed as a soloist both in Israel and internationally and is currently studying at the New England Conservatory in Boston. He plays a Lorenzo Storioni violin, built in 1792, on loan from the Yehuda Zisapel Foundation as part of his 2014 Aviv Competition winner's package.

Majoni won the Rachel and Dov Gottesman Family Prize for Viola and the Ministry of Culture and Sport Prize for the best performance of an instrumental Israeli work at the 2013 Aviv Competitions. Born in 1989, in Florence, Italy, she started her musical studies at the age of five.

In 2004, she and her family made aliyah to Israel, where she continued her studies, performed nationally and internationally, and served in the IDF as an "outstanding musician" playing in a string quartet. She is now pursuing her master's degree at the New England Conservatory.

Tickets are \$25 (adults) and \$15 (students). To reserve tickets in advance, or for more information, contact Evelyn Greenberg at [evgreen@rogers.com](mailto:evgreen@rogers.com) or 613-234-8934. Tickets will also be available the door on a first-come, first-served basis.

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**Supporting Israeli farmers**

On the recent JNF Staff Mission, staff visited the Arava Research and Development Station, where we learned about new and existing projects coupled with a tour of hothouses and a sampling of local produce. The JNF experts showcased their research and let us sample the red peppers, each crop and skin thickness customized according to the demands of particular European markets. We also visited an experimental garden, where scientists modify flower brands. As an example, scientists were able to manipulate the colour of sunflowers to crimson to help the Israeli farmers create new products to export. This same research station helps neighbouring Jordanians, living just across the "borderless" border maximize their farming efforts. And, new high-tech/low-consumption watering technologies are also tested and piloted in the Arava.

**Negev's "Silicon Valley"**

Further south, closer to Eilat, Udi Gat, the mayor of Eilat-Eilat, introduced us to his mission to create the "Silicon Valley" of Israel in his region. Transforming desert into power-generating solar stations is driving job creation in the Negev. Investing directly and/or by making donations to a start-up accelerator is yet another way that JNF can potentially contribute to the Israeli clean-tech industry. (Watch for an upcoming visit to Ottawa by Mayor Udi Gat this summer.) As an aside, KKL-JNF also leases land to the Arava Solar Power Company, Israel's largest solar power company, in an ongoing effort to monetize land, create jobs and, yes, to help Bedouins harvest solar energy.

**Reaching out to those at-risk**

This year, JNF adopted a project at Retorno, a rehabilitation centre near Jerusalem. The addiction treatment centre uses animal therapy to help at-risk kids, teens and soldiers who are in financial need and could not otherwise afford the therapy. JNF is rebuilding the animal petting zoo shelter to give the patients and the animals a new, supportive and interactive environment.

**Thought you knew JNF?**

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# WordSwap: Visiting Jewish and Arab Israelis open doors to dialogue on Ottawa university campuses

BY SUNNY COHEN  
FOR HILLEL OTTAWA

**Y**ou may be familiar with the adage that worries go down better with soup. And, if you don't have soup, students will gladly accept a cup of coffee.

On March 12, a group of Israeli students visited Ottawa's university campuses offering free coffee and the opportunity to engage in friendly conversation about Israel.

The students, visiting with the innovative Israeli WordSwap program, came from all walks of life: Jewish sabras and olim, as well as Druze and Israeli Arabs. WordSwap and the Israeli students who visited us are a reflection of Israel's multicultural and multi-ethnic diversity.

The WordSwap team visited Carleton University in the morning and the University of Ottawa in the afternoon and facilitated an amazing exercise of drawing in students to speak about Israel.

The diversity of the Israeli participants allowed students here to hear unique perspectives on life, culture and politics in Israel. Most importantly, the group's ability to engage students in English, French, Spanish and Arabic meant that language was not a barrier.

Through these conversations, many students who traditionally have seen Israel in a negative light were shown the other side of situation in the Middle East. Engagement in dialogue was the main goal of the WordSwap program because dialogue is what leads to understanding and factual information.

We students who advocate for Israel on campus do so in part to promote a more understanding and unified student body. To this end, Hillel Ottawa and the Israel Awareness Committee hosted WordSwap and a group of Arab and Muslim student leaders for a special lunch. For some of the students in attendance, this lunch was their first opportunity to chat with Israelis – a process I believe was largely facilitated by the fact that the conversations were not limited to English. Through this program, we have been able to open doors to dialogue with key students and groups on campus – and this new dialogue is already showing encouraging signs for continued engagement.

There will always be individuals who seek to delegitimize and condemn Israel on campus. But, through our efforts to promote positive dialogue, we are ensuring that malicious activity on campus is met with educated and informed students who see past the misinformation. This is an incredible and encouraging step forward for Israel advocacy and dialogue on our campuses!

The WordSwap visit to Ottawa was made possible through the efforts of StandWithUs, an international organization that advocates for Israel on campuses, and the generous supporters of Hillel Ottawa.

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# Reform rabbi at centre of Israeli Supreme Court case visits Ottawa

BY LOUISE RACHLIS

**R**abbi Miri Gold, the first non-Orthodox rabbi to receive a government salary in Israel, was in Ottawa last month speaking about her precedent-setting court case and promoting the Reform movement in Israel.

Rabbi Gold began to receive the government salary well after an Israeli Supreme Court ruling in May 2012 that she should be paid. Rabbi Gold's test case at the Supreme Court paved the way for Reform and Conservative rabbis in Israel to earn salaries. Her case was filed in 2005.

In January, JTA reported that four Reform rabbis were now receiving a salary, but that the funding was filtered through the Culture and Sports Ministry rather than the Religious Services Ministry, which funds Orthodox rabbis.

Under the terms of the ruling, only Reform and Conservative rabbis serving in Israel's regional councils – and not in major cities – are recognized as “rabbis of non-Orthodox” communities.

Rabbi Gold was in Ottawa, March 17 and 18, during a visit to Canada – which also included stops in Toronto and Montreal – sponsored by ARZA Canada, the Canadian arm of Reform Judaism. While here, she spoke at Temple Israel and to students at the Ottawa Jewish Community School.

“Every Reform congregation in Israel needs multiple partners in North America,” said Rabbi Gold, who spoke with the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* prior to her presentation at Temple Israel, adding that face-to-face interaction is vital for promotion of Reform Judaism in Israel.

Looking around Temple Israel, Rabbi Gold said she admired the community here and recalled the Temple Quilt Project, which sends baby quilts to Israel, and Temple Israel's soup project, which raised \$16,000 after Anat Hoffman of the Israel Religious Action Centre challenged Reform congregations to raise \$10,000 each for an Israeli food bank by making and selling soup.

At her sessions, Rabbi Gold spoke generally about her court case, the situation in Israel, and about what it's like to be a Reform Jew and Reform rabbi in Israel.

Born in Detroit, she made aliyah in 1977 and settled at Kibbutz Gezer along with other North Americans. When the founder of Kehilat Birkat Shalom, the kibbutz congregation, left, she began leading High Holidays services and preparing children for bat and bar mitzvahs.



Rabbi Steven Garten of Temple Israel and Rabbi Miri Gold of Kehilat Birkat Shalom in Israel, at Temple Israel, March 17, hold the ladle symbolizing the Temple Israel soup project, which raised funds for an Israeli food bank.

Deciding to become a rabbi, she entered the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1994, and was ordained in 1999.

“It took from 2005 to 2013,” said Rabbi Gold, 64, of the time it took for her case to be filed, ruled on and implemented. “I didn't actively do anything but hang in there. But I learned valuable lessons. You have to look at the bright side. You have to be acting and doing.”

She said there were times when she “never thought it would happen. I thought I would retire first.”

Rabbi Gold said she sees progress in the growth of Reform Judaism movement in Israel.

“The youth movement has a summer camp for a couple of weeks, and campers go into the world with a strong sense of who they are. In the Israeli textbooks, now there is mention of Reform Judaism,” she said. “That's brand new.”

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# Music at the Temple to feature European and Canadian art song concert, May 8

BY MORTIMER BERCOVITCH  
FOR TEMPLE ISRAEL

Temple Israel's *Music at the Temple* will feature baritone Matthew Zadow and pianist Dina Namer in *Mid-Atlantic: A European and Canadian Voyage in Art Song*, on Thursday, May 8, 7:30 pm.

The program will include European works by Gustav Mahler, Hector Berlioz, Robert Schumann and John Ireland and Canadian compositions by Pierre Mercure, Oskar Morawetz, Jean Coulthard and Gena Branscombe.

Zadow comes from a musical family in Kingston, but didn't seriously consider music as a career until his final year at

Queen's University, when he switched to the music department under the tutelage of voice teacher Bruce Kelly. Now based in Brussels, Zadow has steadily expanded his opera, oratorio and concert repertoire and enjoys an active performing career in Belgium, the Netherlands and Ireland, with occasional tours back to his Canada.

Born in New York City, Namer received her musical education at the Eastman and Manhattan Schools of Music. She lives in Ottawa, where she is active as a soloist, chamber musician and teacher. She has performed and recorded a wide range of repertoire, from baroque



Pianist Dina Namer and baritone Matthew Zadow will perform at Temple Israel, May 8.

harpsichord works to contemporary Canadian compositions. She also teaches piano performance at Queen's University. Tickets are \$20 (adults) and \$15

(students) and will be available at the door or by advance reservation. For more information, or to reserve tickets, call Temple Israel at 613-224-1802.

## A Walk Down Memory Lane...Do you remember these alumni?



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**1994**

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**2004**

Sophie Barenburg, Gus Ilacqua, Liam Niznick

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# Students learn important lessons at Moot Beit Din

BY ELLA SABOURIN, GRADE 9  
OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Last month, I participated in Moot Beit Din, a life-changing Jewish learning experience.

Moot Beit Din is a program sponsored by RAVSAK: The Jewish Community Day School Network, in which a legal case is given to students of Jewish schools.

The issue this year was whether industrially raised meat is a violation of *Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayim*, the Jewish principle that bans inflicting unnecessary pain on animals. We had to choose a position using halachic sources and other resources to support our argument.

Participants travel to the Moot Beit Din host city for the competition. This year, it was Kansas City from March 27 to 30.

The Moot Beit Din team from the Ottawa Jewish Community School included Ethan Sabourin, Shmuel Prizant, Gabriel Hamburg and me. We searched for sources and wrote our opinion as well as created and completed an oral presentation on this issue.

In Kansas City, I met Jewish teenagers from all over North America who came from all kinds of Jewish backgrounds. There were kids who were unaffiliated, kids who were Orthodox and kids who were somewhere in between, and I was

able to befriend Jews from all walks of life. For example, I was in the same room as an Orthodox girl who was an incredibly kindhearted, intelligent and compassionate person. Although she lives a lifestyle that is very different from mine as a Reform Jew, we still had so much in common.

Although I'm aware of tension between different denominations and have experienced it myself, participating in the Moot Beit Din gave me hope for the future of the Jewish people. It made me believe that Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, unaffiliated, secular, and any other kind of Jews can become friends.

We all came to the event to make friends and have fun and that's what we did.

Working on our case with my teammates was enjoyable and I learned a lot. But the most important lesson I took from the Moot Beit Din was not whether industrially raised meat is permissible – it was that we need to unite the Jewish people of all denominations.

We don't all follow Halachah to the same extent, but we all share the Jewish value of being a good person, of being a *mensch*. That is what I learned on this trip.

I encourage readers to meet and befriend someone from a different denomination, to participate in Jewish



(From left) Rabbi Howard Finkelstein and students Shmuel Prizant, Ella Sabourin, Ethan Sabourin and Gabriel Hamburg with the Ottawa Jewish Community School's second place award (Group B) at the Moot Beit Din competition, March 27-30, in Kansas City.

learning events, and to attend a Jewish community school in order to break the archaic and flawed denominational stereotypes of the past. I encourage

readers to go out into the Jewish community with tolerance and acceptance of all denominations. That is what I learned at the Moot Beit Din.

*"They are remembered always, in our hearts, in our prayers, and, most importantly, in our resolve. Never again."*

– PRIME MINISTER HARPER

WRITTEN IN THE YAD VASHEM GUEST BOOK DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S HISTORIC VISIT TO ISRAEL, JANUARY 21, 2014

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

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

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**Math competition achievement:** Ella Sabourin, a Grade 9 student at the Ottawa Jewish Community School, took part in the University of Waterloo's Pascal, Cayley and Fermat Math Contests for high school students, February 20, and earned a medal of achievement for her high marks. The medal was presented to Ella by math teacher Heather Thur at the school assembly, March 26.

## AJA 50+ Trivia Night returns, May 25

**BY FRED TABACHNICK  
FOR AJA 50+**

Don't put your fun in jeopardy with trivial pursuits. Put your team together for this year's Trivia Night fundraiser for AJA 50+, on Sunday, May 25, 7 pm, at Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive.

Once again our quizmasters are Rabbi Steven Garten and Lisa Hans.

In addition to the usual round of trivia questions, the evening will feature an auction of donated items, including the special prize of two original scripts from *The Simpsons* signed by the writers

(reserve bids for the scripts can be made by email to [execdir@aja50plus.ca](mailto:execdir@aja50plus.ca)).

Space is limited. Last year, we entertained 120 people. To reserve your table, contact Flo Morgan at 613-224-8286. The cost is \$25 and tasty desserts will be served.

The entire community is invited to participate in Trivia Night, and the questions are designed to bring out the competitive spirit in all.

With more than 400 members, AJA 50+ provides a wide range of cultural, health, fitness, recreational, social and educational programs for retirees.

## Holocaust survivors targeted by scam

(JTA) – A scam targeting Jewish Holocaust survivors in Canada claims they are entitled to a share of a \$75 million pot and asks for a large fee in return.

Letters delivered to survivors in Alberta and Ontario claim they are entitled to funds from the "Holocaust Claims Processing Office" and request personal banking information.

The letters promise the funds will be transferred to a "secure numbered account" and asks for 60 per cent of the sum as a fee, the *National Post* reported.

The letter was signed by Larry Dubali, identified as a senior partner of Tenure Consulting in New York.

Reached by the *National Post*, Dubali, who seemed to speak with an African accent, hung up without answering questions. The phone number and

address on his letters are associated with complaints about telephone frauds, the newspaper noted.

"It's so clear that this is a scam," said Sara Saber-Freedman, executive vice-president of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, which notified police, phone companies and Internet providers about the scheme. "It's just vile. This is just odious."

The Canadian Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants organization sent letters to rabbis and community leaders warning about the scam.

"This is an obvious attempt to defraud members of the Jewish community and should be ignored," the letter said.

"It's obscene as far as I'm concerned," said the organization's president, Sidney Zoltak.



PHOTO: IRV OSTERER

**Rabbi Bulka portrait:** Merivale High School student Isaaca Rosenberg holds her portrait of Rabbi Reuven Bulka. The artwork was featured at *Ottawa FACE2FACE*, an exhibit held April 4-21 at Gallery 112 in the James Bartleman Centre. The exhibit celebrated Archives Awareness Week in Ottawa.



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- As featured in Ottawa Life Top 25 in the Capital Region 2013 Issue

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## Israeli-Palestinian film offers glimmers of hope

BY GABRIELLA GOLIGER  
CANADIAN FRIENDS OF PEACE NOW

What happens when ordinary people on both sides of a seemingly intractable conflict meet face-to-face and really try to listen to one another?

This is the theme of *Two Sided Story*, a moving documentary about a group of Israelis and Palestinians from many walks of life who confront one another in dialogue and achieve some surprising breakthroughs.

The film will be shown Sunday, May 11, 7 pm, at Temple Israel.

The screening is co-sponsored by Canadian Friends of Peace Now and Temple Israel's Social Action Committee. A short facilitated discussion will follow the 75-minute film.

Directed by Emmy Award-winner Tor Ben Mayor, the film tracks 27 Israelis and Palestinians who meet through a unique project led by the Parents Circle Families Forum (PCFF), an Israeli-Palestinian organization of over 600 families, all of whom have lost a family member as a result of the prolonged conflict.

Participants in the dialogue project

include bereaved families, Orthodox Jews, religious Muslims, settlers, former Israeli soldiers, former security prisoners, Gaza residents, kibbutzniks, second generation Holocaust survivors, and others.

All hold their own historical truth and carry their own emotional baggage. They talk about the touchstones of their conflicting narratives: the nakba, the Holocaust, the occupation, suicide bombings, the separation wall, etc.

As they talk and listen, they gain a clearer understanding of the other's perspective. And they get to know one another as human beings. The project does not offer grand political solutions, but it does show that people can work through pain and anger to take steps towards reconciliation. In doing so, they can achieve results that elude politicians and offer glimmers of hope.

Admission to the event is free, but there will be an appeal for donations to help cover expenses.

The trailer for *Two Sided Story* can be seen on the PCFF website at [www.theparentscircle.com](http://www.theparentscircle.com).

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# Canada Israel Hockey School spends 10 incredible days in Washington

BY MITCH MILLER  
CANADA ISRAEL HOCKEY SCHOOL

**A** Christian, a Druze and a Jew walk into an arena. Sounds like the opening to a joke, but it is actually part of the foundation for the Canada Israel Hockey School (CIHS), the only hockey program in Israel dedicated to teaching the passion for hockey to young Israelis.

Two years ago, the CIHS – which is based at the Canada Centre in Metulla, in Ottawa’s Partnership 2Gether region in Israel’s Northern Galilee – visited Ottawa on its first ever “road trip.” Last year, it visited Winnipeg and Los Angeles, and an all-girls group visited Finland.

This year, in March, 24 young hockey players from Israel visited Washington, D.C. The JCC of Greater Washington (JCCGW) and the National Hockey League’s Washington Capitals hosted an incredible 10 days of hockey in the American capital.

The Jewish community of Greater Washington opened their homes and each host family welcomed one Jewish and one Arab child. The visiting children were bonding both on and off the ice.

Of course, no hockey road trip is complete without Olympic athletes, and the CIHS was honoured to have the company of Tessa Bonhomme of Canada’s gold medal team and Lisa Chesson of the United States’ silver medal team from the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver. The two are best friends and were roommates as members of the Ohio State Buckeyes, but described themselves as “mortal enemies in international competition.” After their first practice with the CIHS, both female hockey legends were instant stars with the young Israeli hockey players.

While in Washington, the CIHS played two games. First, they faced off against the JCCGW’s Maccabi hockey team and then played against the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. They practised every weekday at the Kettler Iceplex – the practice facility of the Washington Capitals – and skated with a group of inspiring young people from the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club program for inner-city youth who are changing their lives through this unique hockey program.

Off the ice, the young hockey players from Israel were guests of Ambassador Gary Doer at the Canadian Embassy in Washington. The ambassador and four members of Parliament on a visit to Washington presented each of the children with a pair of Team Canada mittens.

Following their visit to the Canadian Embassy, they wore their CIHS hockey jerseys and red Team Canada mitts to Capitol Hill, where Congressman Mike Quigley of Illinois greeted and amazed the youngsters as his office, with its big desk and many papers, had photos of the Chicago Blackhawks with the Stanley Cup, a hockey



Young players from the Canada Israel Hockey School in Metula, Israel, at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. with Ambassador Gary Doer; MPs James Rajotte, Andrew Saxton, Gerald Keddy, Dave Van Kestern and Mike Allen; and Women’s Olympic Hockey medalists Tessa Bonhomme and Lisa Chesson.

net and a few sticks. The Israelis laughed as they tried to imagine a member of the Knesset with a hockey net in his or her office.

A definite highlight was a special “alumni” game with fundraisers from D.C. Imagine, young Jewish and Arab hockey players from Israel on the ice with Olympic medalists, NHL (Washington Capitals) alumni – including Stanley Cup Champion Rod Langway – and the chair of Ottawa’s Soloway Jewish Community Centre. It was worth the price of admission to see the smile on CIHS captain Noy Rosenberg’s face when she scored the first of her two goals and her line mate was Lisa Chesson.

Female hockey players in Israel hadn’t had women role models until then. But Tessa Bonhomme and Lisa Chesson inspired them to reach for their own Olympic dreams.

Tessa Bonhomme and NHL alumni Laurie Boschman of Ottawa will visit Israel this summer to help lead a camp to improve the skills of young Israeli hockey players.

*Mitch Miller, chair of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, is an organizer and volunteer coach for the Canada Israel Hockey School.*

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# What kind of society ignores the poverty of its ordinary citizens to reward killers?

In the real world, a man who bashed in the head of an elderly security guard in cold blood would receive far more punishment than reward.

He would spend years in prison, but might get a university degree or learn a trade. In a Canadian federal prison, he would be paid an average of \$3 a day.

Given that his prison wage would have to cover such extras as stamps, stationery, soap, deodorant and other toiletries, his savings upon release from prison would be paltry at best.

Depending on his level of remorse and his behaviour during his sentence, he would eventually be paroled. But, upon release, he would likely have a hard time getting hired, starting a new relationship or finding a productive and valued place in society.

Now consider the world of Muqdad Salah, a Palestinian terrorist – or “freedom fighter,” according to friends and family in his native village near Nablus – who was released from an Israeli prison last summer as part of the U.S.-brokered peace talks.

He’s the subject of a creepy *New York Times* article, “Remaking a Life, After Years in an Israeli Prison” ([www.tinyurl.com/pj2z6ca](http://www.tinyurl.com/pj2z6ca)) in which reporter Jodi Rudoren bends over backwards to generate sympathy for Salah and his fellow released murderers.

In June 1993, Salah and a friend went to the Hotel Sironit in Netanya, where 72-year-old Holocaust survivor Israel Tenenbaum worked nights as a security guard.

They failed to find their original target, an alleged Palestinian collaborator with Israel, so decided to kill the sleeping Tenenbaum “as a protest against the occupation.”

Salah’s original life sentence for murder was reduced to

32 years, and he served 20 years before his release as part of the peace talks.

But, unlike his fellow murderers in the real world, Salah faces neither poverty nor stigma. He received \$100,000 U.S. upon his release, thanks to the monthly salary his family received from the Palestinian Authority (PA) on his behalf during his incarceration and a release bonus of \$50,000 U.S.

Now 47, Salah has been welcomed as a hero, started a business, found a younger bride – who is soon to start fertility treatments, also paid by the PA – and was given the honorary rank of brigadier general.

Surprisingly, Tenenbaum’s daughter, Esti Harris, supports such prisoner releases if they advance the peace process.

Not so Frimet Roth, whose 15-year-old daughter Malki was murdered along with her best friend in the 2001 Sbarro Restaurant bombing in Jerusalem. The female terrorist, who drove the suicide bomber to the restaurant, showed him where to sit for maximum carnage and later rejoiced at the number of children killed in the attack was released in October 2011 as part of the exchange to release captive Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit.

“There is really only one constant, immutable, irrefutable flaw in these releases,” Roth wrote in *Front Page* magazine ([www.tinyurl.com/lu7oztr](http://www.tinyurl.com/lu7oztr)) earlier this month.

“They are unjust. Plain and simple: undeniably unjust. They isolate one category of murders from the rest and declare them less significant, less tragic, less criminal, less intolerable.”

What of the society that not only glorifies these killers,



BARBARA CROOK  
MY ISRAEL

but pays them salaries 38 per cent higher than the minimum wage and calculates their release bonuses based on the length of sentence?

According to Palestinian Media Watch ([www.tinyurl.com/kmcwqxc](http://www.tinyurl.com/kmcwqxc)), the PA announced in February that it was allocating an additional \$46 million U.S. to released prisoners.

Ordinary car thieves or burglars receive no benefits. Under Palestinian Authority law, the big bucks go only to “anyone imprisoned in the occupation’s [Israel’s] prisons as a result of his participation in the struggle against the occupation” ([www.tinyurl.com/ngp55n2](http://www.tinyurl.com/ngp55n2)).

Given that the PA economy is not exactly booming, these salary increases for terrorist murderers are subsidized by foreign aid. And many of the released terrorists actually went on strike last fall because they felt they deserved higher salaries and better prospects for advancement within the PA bureaucracy.

What kind of “partner for peace” saves its highest honours for the murderers of children and Holocaust survivors? What kind of society ignores the poverty of its ordinary citizens to reward killers?

Unlike Ahlam Tamimi, the released terrorist behind the Sbarro murders, Salah claims to regret his actions. But he’s chafing at the restrictions of his new life.

“I want to travel,” he told the *New York Times*. “I want to see people. I want to breathe the air, I want to walk.”

So did Israel Tenenbaum – before Salah snuffed out his life for the crime of being an Israeli Jew.

# Style-conscious youth finds an H&M fashion faux pas

Finally, after a long winter, it is almost T-shirt season in Ottawa.

Spring fashions are typically known for bright patterns, sweeter hues and light-hearted messages.

Edgy designs are also often popular among young people, but international fashion retailer H&M was forced to pull a T-shirt off its racks in stores worldwide last month after customers complained that the dark design was anti-Semitic.

The offending item, a sleeveless white T-shirt, depicted a skull superimposed on two triangles that strongly resembled a Star of David. The design was reported to have sold globally, including in Israel where H&M has 14 locations.

Eylon Aslan-Levy, a post-graduate student at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, first publicly exposed the design in an op-ed article for the *Times of Israel*.

“At first I was taken aback; then I was slightly amused, because this design was obviously a horrible mistake,” wrote Aslan-Levy, who also serves as the National Council chair for the Union of Jewish Students.

“Then I began to wonder whether I was simply being paranoid – perhaps only Jews immediately think of a Jewish symbol when they see two overlapping triangles, and perhaps worrying about a symbol of death emblazoned above the iconic Jewish hexagram was simply my Jewish anxiety in overdrive.”

It has also been widely reported that Moshe Kantor, president of the European Jewish Congress, called the design “thoughtless and insensitive,” and approved of



MONIQUE ELLIOT  
EMERGING GEN

the clothing company’s decision to take it off its racks, which it originally refused to do, as H&M’s customer service initially told Aslan-Levy that the print was not intended to represent a religious symbol.

H&M was quick to issue a public apology after management learned of the issue: “We are sincerely sorry if the T-shirt print has offended anyone, it was not our intention to provoke such a reaction,” the Swedish company said in a statement.

Provocative, thought-provoking, or offensive fashion statements have become commonplace in an industry that is always seeking to push limits, creativity and social norms.

Dark imagery like skulls and religious symbols have become a common sight in fashion, particularly involving the Christian cross, a symbol that, in and of itself, has been a strong fashion trend in the past year.

True faith will always transcend the materialism of fashion and capitalism, and it will also continue to inspire contemporary trends.

While religion and clothing have been strongly intertwined for centuries, companies who push the limits of fashion should know their customers and how their clothing could be interpreted.

“It is at minimum an extremely unfortunate oversight in the H&M department, which has displayed an egregious failure of cultural awareness and sensitivity,” Aslan-Levy wrote. “There is a long history of associating Jewish symbols with satanic imagery, and this product inadvertently falls within this tradition.”

This is not the first time H&M has had to apologize for one of their designs. The company removed a headdress from its shelves last summer, after First Nations groups deemed the headpiece to be insensitive cultural appropriation.

Many minority groups have had to contend with accusations of oversensitivity when an issue arises that falls within a *grey area* where arguments could be made for and against each side. Even Aslan-Levy said via email that he considers it surprising how much attention this “non-story” has received globally.

“Jewish history has been so replete with tragedy, that we have developed a fine radar for picking up anti-Semitism, and I wonder whether we have become primed to see threats where none exist,” wrote Aslan-Levy in the email from the UK.

“I think we should be extremely cautious about making such accusations, because in most cases no offence is intended, and we are probably the only ones who make these connections,” he added.

In this case, Aslan-Levy’s sobering self-reflection helps to put the situation in perspective, considering the context and response of the company.

A measured response to a perceived threat ultimately can be the best method to address an issue and stimulate dialogue.

And that way of thinking should always be in fashion.

# Nobel winner Kertész delights in contradictions

## Dossier K.

By Imre Kertész

Translated by Tim Wilkinson

Melville House

216 pages.

**I**mre Kertész – the 2002 Nobel laureate for literature – is a Hungarian Jew born in 1929. As a child and young man, he survived the break-up of his parents’ marriage, Auschwitz and Buchenwald during the Holocaust, and the Communist dictatorship in postwar Hungary. He has written five novels, two of which are available in English translation. One of them, *Fatelessness*, based on Kertész’s experiences during the Holocaust, was made into a motion picture.

*Dossier K.* is a memoir based on a series of conversations between Kertész and his “friend and editor, Zoltan Hafner,” recorded during 2003 and 2004. Kertész began writing the book after he received the transcripts.

The book takes the form of a dialogue. Generally, the conversations consist of questions – sometimes lengthy – posed by Hafner and answers – usually lengthier – from Kertész. Sometimes, though, it is Kertész who asks the questions.

The book, writes Kertész, is a “veritable autobiography.” Then he refers to a dictum of Friedrich Nietzsche that Platonic dialogues were the prototype of the novel as an art form, and thus *Dossier K.* may be a novel.

Perhaps an Auschwitz survivor is entitled to thusly tease his readers. Later he writes, “A book is either an autobiography or a novel,” and explains the difference in detail. For those who have read Kertész’s novels, this book may illuminate the fiction. For me, *Dossier K.* was interesting on its own terms, and I will read his novels when I get the chance.

Kertész relates his family history, beginning with his grandparents, and the arguments between his parents when he was a child and in his early teens, as he navigated Budapest between the homes of his parents, both of whom remarried.

The deportation of Jews from Hungary, which was an ally of Nazi Germany, took place in 1944. Kertész was in a forced labour group of Jewish teenagers who worked



outside the Budapest city limits, when they were seized and sent to Auschwitz.

Kertész, the only one of the group to survive, recalls the guards vanishing from Buchenwald when American General George Patton’s tanks arrived. In the 1990s, he visited the Buchenwald memorial and found a record that said he died on February 18, 1945. He believes someone forged the record to protect him from being murdered in the Nazi genocide.

Later, he used those events in *Fatelessness*, and the protagonist in the novel attributes his survival to an “incomprehensible absurdity.” Kertész distances himself from the boy in the novel, but it is clear he thinks the same of his own survival.

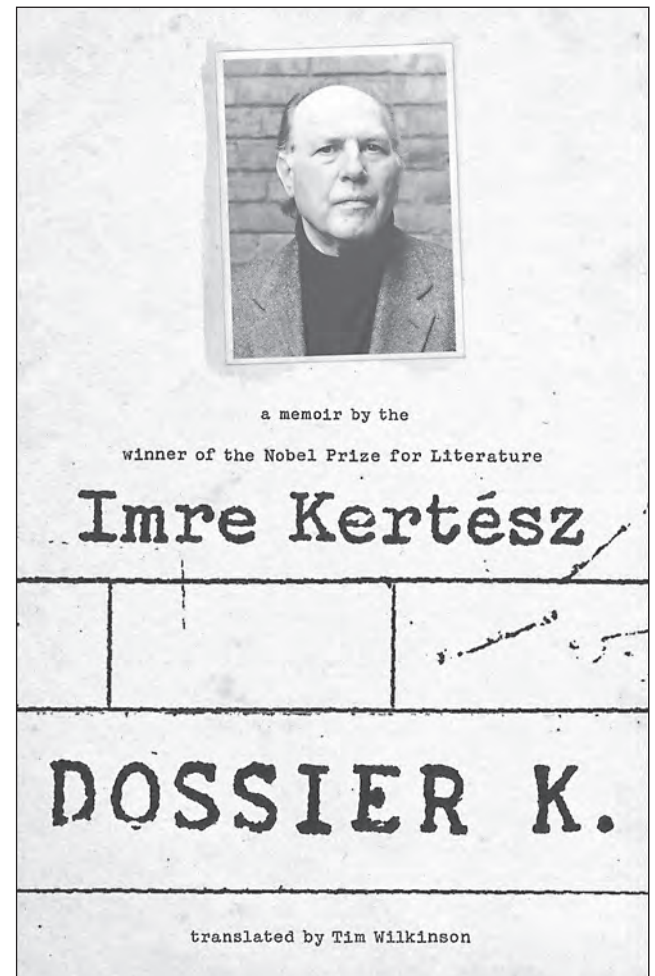
Kertész’s cast of mind is absurdist throughout *Dossier K.* “Where Auschwitz starts, logic stops,” he writes. He is referring to the whole Nazi process in which survival is “really the result of an industrial accident in the machinery of death.”

Having survived the Holocaust, Kertész found himself out of work in Communist Hungary.

“The world order has not changed, even after Auschwitz,” he writes.

When he was referred to a comrade in the Ministry for Metallurgical and Engineering Industries, who gave him a job and protected him, he identified the comrade as a fellow Jew on the basis of “the only thing two Jews have in common is their fears.”

When the interlocutor asks, “What are you, according to your conviction?” Kertész responds: “Jewish – but a Jew who has nothing in common with any of the Jewish modes of life that were known before Auschwitz, neither archaic Jews, nor assimilated Jews, nor Zionist Jews. Or with Israel. That may be the hardest thing of all to say.”



There is no evidence that Hafner, after conducting the interviews, took part in writing the book. It may be that, as in the Platonic dialogues, a lot of the words attributed to the interlocutor were actually crafted by Kertész, so he is answering the questions he chooses to answer.

In the final exchange in the book, which follows a quote from one of his novels, Kertész, is asked, “Don’t you think there is a contradiction here?”

“Of course I do! I see contradictions at every hand, but then I take delight in contradictions.”



Canadian Friends of Peace Now  
and Temple Israel’s  
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## Two Sided Story

A powerful film about reaching out to your enemy

**Sunday, May 11, 7:00 pm**

Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive

Sometimes ordinary people can achieve results that elude politicians. This moving documentary follows a group of Palestinians and Israelis as they talk through their differences and take steps towards reconciliation. A short facilitated discussion after the 75-minute film.

Admission free. Donations to cover expenses welcome.

## OBITUARY

**Helen (Altow) Better  
1933-2014**

On March 3, 2014, Helen (Altow) Better, a former resident of Ottawa, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in Montreal at the age of 81. Wife of the late Dr. Ned Better, she was the daughter of the late Morris and Anne Altow. She was the older sister of Bill Altow (known as Billy), sister-in-law to Debby Altow (née Schwartz) and was a graduate of the first class of the nursing school at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal. She is survived by her three sons and their families: Robert and Judy, Howard and Bobbi, Mark and Lynda and their children.

The Altow family had strong roots in the Ottawa community; the family attended the Rideau Street shul and subsequently the Beth Shalom synagogue.

Helen’s time in Montreal was characterized by a zest for life, a dedication to her profession and her family and a wide range of volunteer and community activities. She remained an active member of the Hadassah nursing group long after retirement.

# The relationship between bar and bat mitzvah simchas and synagogue life

In a *From the Bimah* column in the *Canadian Jewish News*, Rabbi Yael Splansky of Toronto's Holy Blossom Temple expressed concern over the state of bar and bat mitzvah celebrations today ("Worrisome bar and bat mitzvah trends," March 27).

Of less concern to Rabbi Splansky in that piece is the lavishness all too often seen at many bar and bat mitzvah celebrations – a point that has been debated in this column and on the website of the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*. Rather, her point was to chip away at various additional emerging trends. Among these are DIY (do-it-yourself) and destination bar and bat mitzvah events.

Like most pulpit rabbis, she has an inherent interest in promoting strong synagogue attachment. Synagogues depend on their members seeing their home bimah as the place to have a bar mitzvah. Renting a separate space in town, or going abroad – whether to Israel or elsewhere – naturally undermines what used to be the unquestioned place of the synagogue in community life.

I admit that I understand her sentiment both from what must be her personal standpoint (what pulpit rabbi wants to see the erosion of synagogue life?) and from a communal perspective (synagogues have historically formed the bedrock of Diaspora Jewish communities).

Nevertheless, her points are worth scrutinizing on two levels. One is the financial pressures all too prevalent in

today's practice of Jewish life. The second is the chicken-and-egg dynamic of values and standards at play here.

Even without lavish food and entertainment choices, there is no doubt that having a large, local celebration – the kind that accommodates one's ordinary local network of family, friends, congregants and community contacts, can be very costly. Going away – where the guest list will automatically be much smaller – can seem a cost-effective and meaningful way of marking the occasion. Rabbi Splansky acknowledges that it might feel meaningful. But she ignores the financial factor in her piece.

Similarly, and depending on one's synagogue denomination, if one does not normally keep strictly kosher, DIY affairs can help bypass the additional costs for catering under kosher supervision.

The second point involves the circular reasoning inherent in this debate more generally. I have heard rabbis talk about "standards." The question goes like this: what are the standards we want our community members to uphold, when it comes to the relationship between simchas and synagogue and educational life?

According to this logic, some shuls insist that bar and bat mitzvah celebrations happen only on Shabbat morning, so as to avoid having these events become private affairs. Google "Saturday night bar mitzvah" and you'll see that this is a point Rabbi Jeffrey Wolfson Goldwasser



MIRA SUCHAROV  
VALUES, ETHICS,  
COMMUNITY

makes at *about.com* where he is the Reform movement representative for the website's *Ask the Rabbi* column. The logic of holding a Saturday night event, of course, is that one saves several thousand dollars from not hosting both a luncheon and a night party – the typical duo of celebration that has become the modern bar and bat mitzvah weekend.

Fair enough. Rabbis and other synagogue officials can insist that bar and bat mitzvahs remain a symbol of communal engagement, and that a certain number of years and weekly hours of Hebrew school study have been obtained by the bar or bat mitzvah celebrant (as some Ottawa synagogues currently do), and that only certain times of day are appropriate for marking this milestone in a Jewish young person's life.

But the problem remaining is this: standards are only meaningful if the values they are seeking to protect are actually held by the audience in question. Standards in higher education, for example, are maintained because the employment marketplace rewards the achievement of official university and college accreditation. Is Jewish life akin to the professional marketplace? My fear is that Jewish families may come to view these synagogues' so-called standards as initiation rites to clubs they don't ultimately care enough to want to join. And if that, sadly, should become the case, then the call for standards will become little more than whistles in the wind.

# Life doesn't come with a guarantee

George Burns smoked 10 to 15 cigars every day of his adult life; yet, he lived to be 100. Burns may have had genetic protective factors such as cellular repair mechanisms. Or maybe he was just lucky.

In 2011, *Live Science* – [www.tinyurl.com/livescience-100](http://www.tinyurl.com/livescience-100) – reported on a study of 477 Ashkenazi Jews between the ages of 95 and 112, conducted at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, which showed genes are more responsible than lifestyle for longevity. The elderly subjects had just as many bad habits (smoking, drinking, poor diet, obesity and lack of exercise) as the subjects in the control group whom they outlived.

Still, the head of the research team, Nir Barzilai, said it would be wrong to ignore health advice and assume our genes fully determine how long we will live. He reaffirms that diet and exercise can postpone or ward off chronic disease and extend life. Bad genes don't always get expressed. They are influenced by many factors, including the environment and our lifestyle.

Unfortunately, we all know people who develop cancer or other life-threatening diseases despite a lifestyle replete with physical activity and exemplary dietary habits. What triggers disease has been on my mind lately, because someone I know who's always taken excellent care of herself has been dealing with advanced cancer.

Yet, I also wholeheartedly believe in the benefits of exercise and eating right. Paradoxical cases like Burns, or non-smokers who develop lung or other cancers, are outliers. Unfortunately, they're the ones we tend to notice.

Rather than proselytize, I'll quote Peter Twist, a well-known figure in the Canadian fitness industry. He is a former NHL conditioning coach and currently runs a

successful fitness business. He was in peak shape, three years ago, when he was diagnosed in his late-40s with stage 4 cancer. What does he now believe about the role of lifestyle after going through difficult cancer treatment and facing the uncertainty of his prognosis?

In an interview with the *Vancouver Sun* ("Conditioning coach Peter Twist shares battle with cancer," March 5), he said his battle has "shifted my compass a little bit from helping people to build a body that works but also understanding they need to be their best when their best is needed. That is the purpose of training and eating healthy. We all have a big challenge coming down the chute at some point."

I agree with Twist that if we get ourselves lean, fit and strong when we are well, it puts us in a better position should a medical crisis arise. This is not to say we should exercise solely to prepare ourselves for an illness that may or may not strike us at some point. When we take good care of ourselves, we can enjoy a better quality of life in the present and reduce our risks of negative health outcomes down the road – perhaps overriding genetic predisposition. We need to make smart choices, even though there are no guarantees. No one ever said life is fair. Bad things happen to good people and to people who do all the right things.

No matter what condition you're in, you can help yourself. You may not be able to do everything on your own. You may not have all the tools. It's not necessary to have all of the answers. What's more important is starting with the right questions.

Begin by listing something that would improve the quality of your life. I don't mean unrealistic fantasies like winning the lottery. I'm referring to aspects of your health, fitness or wellness that you have some control over. Perhaps you want to be able to walk around the



GLORIA SCHWARTZ  
FOCUS ON  
FITNESS

block or up a flight of stairs without being out of breath. Maybe you'd like to run a 5-km race to raise money for your favourite cause.

Next you must come up with a plan to achieve your desired outcome. What specific actions will you take? Working with a plan and taking steps in the right direction will improve your odds of success for a healthy and happier life, perhaps even a longer one. Stop making excuses and start taking action.

When I see people exercising in walkers, wheelchairs, or with a white cane, or I see my ailing friend smile and keep going forward, I am reminded that optimism and determination are essential ingredients for a life well lived.

Gloria Schwartz is a personal trainer at the Soloway JCC.

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# YOYOM HA'ATZMAUT

Tuesday May 6, 2014 | 5:00 pm

**NEW LOCATION!** Hellenic Meeting & Reception Centre, 1315 Prince of Wales Drive

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# Flag Raising Ceremony

Help us pay tribute to Israel's 66<sup>th</sup> year of independence with a flag raising ceremony.



**Tuesday, May 6**

12:30 pm  
Ottawa City Hall's Marion Dewar Square,  
110 Laurier Ave

A bus will be available to take people to and from the event. If you are interested in taking the bus please contact Penni to reserve your spot (613) 798-9818 ext. 243, pnamer@jccottawa.com.

The bus will leave the SJCC at 11:45 am.



# YOM HAZIKARON 2014

Memorial ceremony for Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror

**Sunday, May 4 - 7:00 pm**

Soloway Jewish Community Centre • 21 Nadolny Sachs Private



For more information please contact Penni Namer:  
613-798-9818 x243 • pnamer@jccottawa.com

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**Documentary Film** – The Fire Within: Jews in the Amazonian Rainforest

**Discussion with Ariel Segal**, Professor of Political Communication and International Issues from Lima, Peru. His book *Jews of the Amazon: Self-Exile in Paradise* describes his research living within the Amazonian Jewish community.

*In the late 19th century Jewish men from Morocco came to the Amazon rainforest during the rubber boom, married indigenous women and established a unique Jewish community in Iquitos, Peru. Today that community is reasserting its Jewish identity, taking on Jewish traditions, with many moving to Israel.*

**Sunday, May 25 at 7:00 pm**

Soloway JCC  
Admission \$10  
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For information contact the Sephardi Association of Ottawa  
ottawasephardiassociation@yahoo.com

## Lecture with **Dr. Henri Habib**

### 2014: A Decisive Year for the Middle East?

**Monday, May 12**

**7:30 pm**  
Soloway JCC

**Admission**  
Members: \$7  
Non-members: \$9



Contact: Penni Namer (613) 798-9818 ext. 243 • pnamer@jccottawa.com

## Author Talk with **Dr. Yoni Freedhoff**



Dr. Freedhoff will talk about his book, *The Diet Fix*.

**Monday, May 5 • 7:30 pm**

Free Admission • Soloway JCC  
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Contact Roslyn Brozovsky Wollock:  
613-798-9818 x254 • [rwollock@jccottawa.com](mailto:rwollock@jccottawa.com)

Reserve the date:  
**Tuesday, May 27 • 7:30 pm**

The Soloway JCC Shiru Lach Choir hosts a

## ***Musical Mosaic***



Featuring Shiru Lach Choir,  
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Soloway JCC  
Admission: \$15 • Children under 12: Free  
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*A fundraiser with proceeds going in part to  
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## **Interfaith Mix & Mingle for Parents**

Get to know your community! Everyone knows that it takes a village to raise a child. What happens when your child belongs to more than one village?

Discuss issues such as talking to children about their Jewish identity, and how parents and grandparents can contribute to raise an emotionally healthy, well rounded and stable child. ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Sunday, May 25, 1:00 pm**

Contact: [llazarovitz@jccottawa.com](mailto:llazarovitz@jccottawa.com) for more information

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OTTAWA JEWISH  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



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R'fuah Sh'leimah to:

Millie Weinstein by Pauline Hochberg.

**RHEA AND JEFF HOCHSTADTER  
FAMILY FUND**

In Memory of:

Esther Wolfond by Rhea, Jeff, Lorne and Elana Hochstadter.

## Join us in building our community by supporting these local agencies

**AJA 50+ ENDOWMENT FUND**

Birthday Wishes to:

Jeanette Finkelstein by Janet and Terry McEwan.

**HILLEL LODGE LEGACY FUND**

Condolences to:

Harvey and Cathy Mendelsohn and family on the loss of a beloved mother and grandmother, Micheline Polatos Nakis, by Shirley Strea-Hartman.

In Memory of:

Anne Bokhaut Koffman by Shirley Strea-Hartman.

**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES  
AGENCY FUND**

Birthday Wishes to:

Jacqueline Meltzer by Sandra, Norman, Carla, David and Adrienne Slover.

**OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY  
ENDOWMENT FUND**

Happy Passover to:

Adam Dodek, Nicole Goldstone and Ben Dodek by Margie, Aaron, Adam and Elana Moscoe.

David and Judith Kalin by Margie, Aaron, Adam and Elana Moscoe.

Ruth Levy by Margie, Aaron, Adam and Elana Moscoe.

Rabbi Zischa and Lauren Shaps by Margie, Aaron, Adam and Elana Moscoe.

Mark and Barbara Siegel by Margie, Aaron, Adam and Elana Moscoe.

In Memory of:

Ian Kagedan by the Feldman family.

**OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
ENDOWMENT FUND**

Mazal Tov to:

Peter and Janet Darwish on the engagement of their daughter, Tamara to Dan Baker, by Debi and Neil Zaret and family.

**SHIRLEY AND SHIER BERMAN FUND  
FOR OTTAWA JEWISH ARCHIVES**

Anniversary Wishes to:

Cantor Moshe and Rivka Kraus by Shirley and Shier Berman.

**SOLOWAY JEWISH COMMUNITY  
SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In Appreciation to:

Jonah Moore by Michael Malek.

**AJA 50+ DAVID SMITH  
OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**AKIVA EVENING HIGH SCHOOL  
ENDOWMENT FUND**

**ADINA BEN PORAT MACHON SARAH  
TORAH EDUCATION FUND**

**DORIS BRONSTEIN TALMUD TORAH  
AFTERNOON SCHOOL FUND**

**BARRY FISHMAN  
OTTAWA JEWISH BULLETIN  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**MARTIN GLATT PARLIAMENT LODGE  
B'NAI BRITH PAST PRESIDENTS' FUND**

**MENDEL AND VALERIE GOOD  
HOLOCAUST  
CONTINUING EDUCATION FUND**

**GREENBERG FAMILIES LIBRARY FUND  
FUND FOR THE NEXT GENERATION**

**JEWISH COMMUNITY CEMETERY  
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL FUND**

**JEWISH MEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE FUND**

**JEWISH STUDENTS ASSOCIATION -  
HILLEL FUND**

**JEWISH YOUTH LIBRARY OF OTTAWA  
ENDOWMENT FUND**

**DAVID "THE BEAR" KARDASH  
CAMP B'NAI BRITH MEMORIAL FUND**

**OTTAWA JEWISH CEMETERIES  
ZICHARON FUND**

**OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
PARENT FUND**

**OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
AGENCY FUND**

**OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
CHILDREN OF THE BOOK AWARD FUND**

**OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
FUND IN MEMORY OF EVA WINTROB**

**OTTAWA JEWISH  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUND**

**OTTAWA LODGE B'NAI BRITH #885  
PAST PRESIDENTS FUND**

**OTTAWA LODGE B'NAI BRITH #885  
PRESIDENTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**OTTAWA MODERN  
JEWISH SCHOOL FUND**

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**OTTAWA TORAH INSTITUTE  
TORAH EDUCATION FUND**

**PINCHAS ZUKERMAN  
MUSIC EDUCATION FUND**

**RAMBAM MAIMONIDES  
JEWISH CONTINUITY FUND**

**SOLOWAY JEWISH  
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND**

**SOLOWAY JEWISH  
COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ENDOWMENT FUND**

**SOLOWAY JEWISH  
COMMUNITY CENTRE  
YOUTH SERVICES FUND**

**TORAH ACADEMY OF OTTAWA  
TORAH EDUCATION FUND**

**SARA AND ZEEV VERED**

**ISRAEL CULTURAL PROGRAM FUND**

[www.OJCF.ca](http://www.OJCF.ca)



OTTAWA JEWISH  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## FOUNDATION DONATIONS | Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation

### CHERYL AND ANDRE IBGHY ENDOWMENT FUND

#### Mazel Tov to:

Gabriel Ibgly on becoming a member of the Quebec Bar Association by Cheryl and Andre Ibgly.

### KRANTZBERG KRANE FAMILY FUND

#### In Memory of:

Anette Rosenbluth by Myra and Sam Krane and family.

### ANNICE AND SYDNEY KRONICK FAMILY FUND

#### Happy Passover to:

Sally and Elliott Levitan by Richard, Alice, Sam and Molly Kronick.

### ARNOLD AND ROSE LITHWICK MEMORIAL FUND

#### Anniversary Wishes to:

Yvonne and Harvey Lithwick by Marcia and Harold Fein and family.

### SAMUEL AND LEEMA MAGIDSON ENDOWMENT FUND

#### Birthday Wishes to:

Lilyan Philipp by Roslyn and Arnie Kimmel and family.

### ANNE (BLAIR) AND HYMAN MAYBERGER ENDOWMENT FUND

#### In Memory of:

Anne Mayberger Blair by Stan and Linda Udaskin; by Nina and Jack Rezmovitz; by Elisa Udaskin; and by Adam, Sydnee and Kobi Day.

### TANYA AND SAMUEL MOSES MORIN MEMORIAL FUND

#### R'fuah Sh'leimah to:

Sheela Morin by Harvey Morin.

### ALICE NAGRODSKI AND EVELENE MORPHY MEMORIAL FUND

#### Best Wishes to:

Rebecca Nagrodski by Erica Geller; by Sandi and Eddy Cook and family; by Tinh Ly; by Rachel Abenheim; by Jean Myers; by Bram Bregman; by Diane Koven; by Sarah Beutel; and by Richard Roth.

### PHYLLIS AND ALAN RACKOW ENDOWMENT FUND

#### Birthday Wishes to:

Betty Cohen by Phyllis and Alan Rackow.

### FLORENCE AND GDALYAH ROSENFELD ENDOWMENT FUND

#### In Memory of:

Florence Rosenfeld by Eleanor Sutherland.

### SAMUEL AND RUTH ROTHMAN MEMORIAL FUND

#### In Memory of:

Regina Ben-Kalifa by Corinne and Sheldon Taylor.  
Reuben Yumansky by Corinne and Sheldon Taylor.

### HERMINA SCHACHNOW MEMORIAL FUND

#### In Memory of:

Reuben Fine by Charles Schachnow.

### FAY AND JOSEPH SHULMAN ENDOWMENT FUND

#### In Memory of:

Anne Bokhaut Koffman by Nadine and Brian Mordfield.

### STELLA AND LOUIS SLACK MEMORIAL FUND

#### In Memory of:

Anne Bokhaut Koffman by Bonnie and Paul Bowering.  
Kenneth Faloon by Bonnie and Paul Bowering.

### SAM AND SUE SLACK ENDOWMENT FUND

#### Mazel Tov to:

Bonnie and Paul Bowering on the birth of their granddaughter, Elise, by Sharon and David Appotive and family; and by Joy and Seymour Mender and family.

### IRVING AND HARRIET SLONE ENDOWMENT FUND

#### Anniversary Wishes to:

Donna and Eric Levin by Carol and Stuart Levine.

#### Birthday Wishes to:

Eric Levin by Carol and Stuart Levine.  
Irving Slone by Carol and Stuart Levine.

### DORIS AND RICHARD STERN FAMILY FUND

#### Condolences to:

Shirley and Harvey Corn on the loss of their beloved sister, Claire, by Doris and Richard Stern.

### CLAIRE AND SAM TANNER MEMORIAL FUND

#### Birthday Wishes to:

Joyce Tanner by Lana and Stephen Tanner.

### BRENT AND RISA TAYLOR ENDOWMENT FUND

#### In Memory of:

Anne Mayberger Blair by Brent, Risa and Shira Taylor.

Reuben Fine by Brent, Risa and Shira Taylor.

#### Mazel Tov to:

Arnie Vered on being the recipient of the Community Leader (Ontario) Award by Brent, Risa and Shira Taylor.

Sara Vered on receiving the Order of Canada by Brent, Risa and Shira Taylor.

Roger Greenberg on receiving the Order of Canada by Brent, Risa and Shira Taylor.

#### R'fuah Sh'leimah to:

Carol-Sue Shapiro by Brent, Risa and Shira Taylor.  
Stanley Arron by Brent, Risa and Shira Taylor.

### MICHAEL WALSH AND LISA ROSENKRANTZ ENDOWMENT FUND

#### In Appreciation to:

Lisa Rosenkrantz by Josh and Jen Zaret.

### MILDRED AND PERCY WEINSTEIN ENDOWMENT FUND

#### R'fuah Sh'leimah to:

Millie Weinstein by Shirley Streaan-Hartman.

### ZIPES KARANOFSKY FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

#### Mazel Tov to:

Steven and Elizabeth Rubin on the birth of their granddaughter, Lia Rose, by Rick and Helen Zipes.

### THE WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE PHILANTHROPY PROGRAM

Providing support for services and programs that directly benefit women and children.

### WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE ENDOWMENT FUND

#### Best Wishes to:

Rebecca Nagrodski by the Women's Collective Philanthropy Program Committee.

#### Mazel Tov to:

Chuck and Bonnie Merovitz on their son Ryan's engagement by Lynne Oreck-Wener and Bob Wener.

Neil and Debi Zaret on the birth of their granddaughter, Marlowe, by Lynne Oreck-Wener and Bob Wener.

### THE SAUL AND EDNA GOLDFARB B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM

### GABRIEL IBGHY B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

#### Mazel Tov to:

Gabriel Ibgly on becoming a member of the Quebec Bar Association by Elan, Jordanna and Jacob Ibgly.

### YITZHAK KAMIL MITZVAH FUND

#### Birthday Wishes to:

Arie Kamil by Yael Kamil.

#### Happy Passover to:

Muriel and Louis Kardish and family by Ellie, Arie, Yoni, Yael and Itzy Kamil.

Ruth Lebovich and family by Ellie, Arie, Yoni, Yael and Itzy Kamil.

Lily and Jerry Penso and family by Ellie, Arie, Yoni, Yael and Itzy Kamil.

Rabbi Simes and family by Ellie, Arie, Yoni, Yael and Itzy Kamil.

#### In Memory of:

Reuben Fine by Ellie, Arie, Yoni, Yael and Itzy Kamil.

Ilana Solomon by Ellie, Arie, Yoni, Yael and Itzy Kamil.

### ZACHARY SILBER B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

#### In Memory of:

Ian Kagedan by Shari and Lawrence Silber and family.

**Contributions may be made online at [www.OJCF.ca](http://www.OJCF.ca) or by contacting the office at 613-798-4696 extension 274, Monday to Friday or by email at [tributecards@ojcf.ca](mailto:tributecards@ojcf.ca). Attractive cards are sent to convey the appropriate sentiments. All donations are acknowledged with a charitable receipt.**

**Donating made easy at [www.OJCF.ca](http://www.OJCF.ca)**

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

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

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

**Try it TODAY!**

*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*

## Annual General Meeting of the Foundation Tuesday, June 10th, 2014

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 [info@ojcf.ca](mailto:info@ojcf.ca) up to seven days**

**(no later than June 03, 2014) prior to the election of the Directors at the Annual General Meeting. Successful candidates will serve a three-year term from June 2014 to June 2017. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.**

Please send your RSVP prior to June 03, 2014  
to [info@ojcf.ca](mailto:info@ojcf.ca)  
or 613-798-4696 ext. 252

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

[www.OJCF.ca](http://www.OJCF.ca)

"Our Future is in Your Hands"



# WHAT'S GOING ON | April 28 to May 11, 2014

FOR MORE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, VISIT JEWISHOTTAWA.COM AND SELECT 'CLICK TO SEE MORE MONTHS'

## MONDAY, APRIL 28

### Panel Discussion on Genocide: Duty to Remember and the Rebuilding of Nations

A thought-provoking discussion on genocide, exploring how tolerance, understanding and a duty to remember are essential ingredients in preventing such evil. Limited seating. St. Paul University Amphitheatre, 223 Main Street, 5:30 pm.  
Info: Benita Siemiatycki, 613-798-4696, ext. 227, bsiemiatycki@jewishottawa.com

**Healthy Living Fair:** More than 25 exhibitors provide information regarding healthy living and aging, with demos, door prizes and snacks available all day. A kosher light lunch available for sale. AJA 50+ summer program registration will also take place. Congregation Agudath Israel, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 9:30 am to 3 pm.  
Info: Annette Paquin, 613-526-2968, aja50plus@sympatico.ca

## TUESDAY, APRIL 29

### OJCS Community Open House:

Stop by and visit your community school. Ottawa Jewish Community School, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 9 to 11 am.  
Info: Sara-Lynne Levine, 613-722-0020, sllevine@theojcs.ca

### Malca Pass Library Book Discussion Group:

book review and discussion Agudath Israel Synagogue, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 7:30 to 9 pm.  
Info: Maureen Kaell, 613-224-8649, mkaell@rogers.com

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30 TO SATURDAY, MAY 10

**Counterpoint Players present Corpus** by Darrah Teitel, directed by Bronwyn Steinberg. A young genocide scholar stumbles across the mysterious relationship between the wife of a Nazi officer and a Polish Jewish prisoner in Auschwitz. (No show May 5.) Arts Court, 2 Daly Avenue, 8 to 10 pm.  
Info: www.counterpointplayers.com

## SUNDAY, MAY 4

**Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa 30th Anniversary Dinner:** featuring world-renowned a cappella group The MACCABEATS. Fairmont Château Laurier, 1 Rideau Street, 5:30 to 8 pm.  
Info: Devora Caytak, 613-729-7712, dev18@sympatico.ca

**Yom Hazikaron ceremony:** Israel's National Memorial Day ceremony for fallen soldiers and victims of terror, followed by a screening of *A Green Kippah*, which chronicles the lives and deaths of three American Jews, 7 to 9 pm.

Info: Penni Namer, 613-798-9818, ext. 243, pnamer@jccottawa.com

## TUESDAY, MAY 6

### Yom Ha'Atzmaut

**community celebration:** Celebrate with family friendly fun, including buskers, balloon artists, music, Israeli dancing and more, plus Israeli food from Creative Kosher Catering (available for purchase). Hellenic Meeting & Reception Centre, 1315 Prince of Wales Drive, 5 to 9 pm.  
Info: Penni Namer, 613-798-9818, ext. 243, pnamer@jccottawa.com

## SUNDAY, MAY 11

**Books and Bagels:** Rabbi Garten reviews *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel* by Ari Shavit. Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive, 9:30 to 11 am.  
Info: Shayla Mindell, 613-594-4556, shaylamindell@rogers.com

## COMING SOON

## MONDAY, MAY 12

**Federation L'Chaim of Appreciation to thank all donors to the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's 2014 Annual Campaign:**

Ottawa Conference Centre, 55 Colonel By Drive, 7 to 9 pm.  
Info: Rachel Abenhaim, 613-798-4696, ext. 236, rabenhaim@jewishottawa.com

## TUESDAY, MAY 13

### OJCS Community Open House:

Stop by and visit your community school. Ottawa Jewish Community School, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 9 to 11 am.  
Info: Sara-Lynne Levine, 613-722-0020, sllevine@theojcs.ca

## THURSDAY, MAY 15

**Professional Development Workshop** for local Jewish agencies and organizations on the subject of Governance, presented by Debi Zaret of Capacity Building Consulting. All organizations and agency professionals and volunteers welcome, 6:45 to 9 pm.  
Info: Sarah Beutel, 613-798-4696, ext. 253, sbeutel@jewishottawa.com

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

### Jewish Federation of Ottawa

**Members Meeting:** Everyone welcome to attend, 7 to 9 pm.  
Info: Rachel Abenhaim, 613-798-4696, ext. 236, rabenhaim@jewishottawa.com

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE AT THE JOSEPH AND ROSE AGES FAMILY BUILDING, 21 NADOLNY SACHS PRIVATE

## CONDOLENCES

Condolences are extended to the families of:

Helen Better (née Altow)  
Frances Esther Cohen  
Sarah Greenberg (née Engel)  
Gizela Klein

David Light, Delray Beach, Florida (brother of Adele Loeb)  
Kathleen Polowin  
Allen Rittenour  
Arthur Wallace  
May their memory be a blessing always.

The Condolence Column is offered as a public service to the community. There is no charge. For listing in this column, please call 613 798-4696, ext. 274. Voice mail is available.

## JEWISH MEMORIAL GARDENS

Your one-stop resource centre for funeral planning

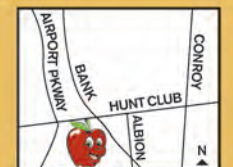
613-688-3530

www.jewishmemorialgardens.org



Cheese is a great source of protein and calcium. Since protein curbs hunger and keeps you feeling satisfied after meals and snacks, cheese can help you to lose weight. As part of a well-rounded nutrition plan, the protein in cheese can slow down the absorption of carbohydrates eaten at the same meal or snack and therefore help balance your blood-sugar levels and improve mood as well. There are many different cheeses available at Produce Depot, but the healthiest choices are cheeses that are lower in fat and sodium.

# Cheese Please!



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FOR GREAT RECIPES & WEEKLY SPECIALS, VISIT US ONLINE AT PRODUCEDEPOT.CA

Join Us For A  
L'Chaim  
Of Appreciation  
With Food & A View

Monday May 12th, 2014

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Ottawa Convention Centre

Trillium Ball Room

55 Colonel By Drive

\*\*\*

A Special "Thank You" Evening

**Complimentary**

For All Donors To The Jewish Federation of Ottawa's

2014 Annual Campaign

\*\*\*

Evening Fully Sponsored By

Creative K kosher Catering

&

The Ottawa Convention Centre

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Brief Program at 7:45

RSVP by May 9th, 2014 to Rachel at [rabenhaim@jewishottawa.com](mailto:rabenhaim@jewishottawa.com)

or 613-798-4696 x236

