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Mitchell Bellman: Former Federation CEO to receive community's highest honour

BY BENITA BAKER

In recognition of his passionate and longstanding commitment to Ottawa's Jewish community, Mitchell Bellman will be the 2014 Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award recipient.

"I am incredibly honoured to be selected," said Bellman. "It was a complete surprise. I am still surprised. The past award recipients have had an incredible impact on our community and I am really touched to be included as part of that group."

The Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award is the highest tribute Ottawa's Jewish community can bestow on an individual for exceptional service over many years. Initiated in 1980, it

bears the name of the late Gilbert Greenberg, a past president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'ir (now the Jewish Federation of Ottawa), who exemplified the qualities of leadership the award seeks to recognize each year.

It is Bellman's numerous accomplishments at the helm of the Ottawa Jewish community for 15 years, first as executive director of the Vaad and then as president and CEO of the restructured Jewish Federation of Ottawa, that are being honoured with this award.

"He served honourably as the leader of the community and brought much-needed stability from the very beginning," said Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka, who

nominated Bellman for the award. "He worked hard, long hours to help make the community work. He cared deeply for the community and oversaw many significant moves forward."

During his tenure with the Federation, Bellman worked with the community's beneficiary agencies to ensure their needs were being addressed and was a catalyst within the community, inspiring the involvement and participation of many, motivating and guiding the future leadership of the community.

His ability to work collaboratively with the numerous chairpersons, board members and committees of the Federation, facilitated and enhanced the



Mitchell Bellman, Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award

See Bellman on page 12



Henry Molot, Shem Tov Community Service Award

PHOTO: HOWARD SANDLER

Henry Molot: 'I hope I have made a difference'

BY BENITA BAKER

Henry Molot has been selected to receive the 2014 Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award. The award recognizes an outstanding and active volunteer within the Jewish community who, through many years of service, has contributed to the enrichment of Jewish life in Ottawa.

"A community could not survive without its volunteers," said Molot.

"So, I guess I represent the hundreds of volunteers who are working to support and strengthen our community. This award has been given to me on behalf of them."

Molot chaired the board of Hillel Academy and sat on the boards of the Jewish National Fund, the Ottawa

Jewish Historical Society, Young Israel of Ottawa, Congregation Machzikei Hadas, Jewish Family Services and Yitzhak Rabin High School. He currently serves on the Ethics Committee of the Ottawa Hospital, is the assistant gabbai at Hillel Lodge and is a steadfast fundraiser for the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Annual Campaign.

His most enduring volunteer commitment has been to the Ottawa Chevra Kadisha, which he joined 30 years ago.

"I found the hands-on nature of the work more gratifying than other volunteer activities," he said. "Often, when you volunteer, you are raising money or making administrative decisions. This is more immediate, more personal."

Molot made his work with the Chevra Kadisha a priority in his life, which included organizing and leading the organization's annual general meeting, its annual fast day services and the annual banquet. He assumed the leadership of it in 2011.

"He has done great service in so many ways in the community," said Rabbi Arnold Fine. "Certainly most recently with the Chevra Kadisha, carefully moving that august and very traditional organization to view and accept different methods and regulations."

Born and raised in Ottawa, Molot grew up in the Glebe, where his father, a pharmacist, owned a drug store. He

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Ottawa celebrates Yom Ha'Atzmaut with flag-raising and huge party

BY MONIQUE ELLIOT

In a bright and lighthearted Yom Ha'Atzmaut party, families from across Ottawa's Jewish community danced, laughed and feasted on Israeli cuisine as they celebrated Israel's 66th Independence Day, May 6, at the Hellenic Meeting and Reception Centre.

The organizing committee set up a variety of activities that allowed for children to be more involved in their own entertainment this year by creating a "Passport to Israel" that allowed them to learn about Israel and Israeli culture while making arts and crafts projects they could bring home.

The family-oriented event, sponsored by the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, the Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program and the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, also included buskers, stilt-walkers, face painting and Israeli folk dancing for the estimated 800 people in attendance.

"It's become such a big party in the last few years because we've turned it into a celebration the way they celebrate in Israel," said event chair Penny Torontow.

"It's really important that we show our connection and stay united with them," she added.

Children's crafts and activities organizer Arielle Kreisman said she couldn't be more excited to volunteer for one of the major events of the year, which took the supply teacher and her core volunteers about five months to plan.

"For me, I've gone to these events as a kid and, just coming back to the Ottawa Jewish community, I thought it was really important to get involved," she said.

Earlier in the day, about 200 people gathered in Marion Dewar Plaza at Ottawa City Hall to see the Israeli flag raised to fly alongside the Canadian, Ontario and Ottawa flags on Yom Ha'Atzmaut.

Speakers making brief remarks at the flag-raising included Mayor Jim Watson, Israeli Ambassador Rafael Barak and Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka. O Canada and Hatikvah were sung by Cantor Jeremy Burko and the MC was Federation CEO Andrea Freedman.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut was further celebrated, May 13, at an elegant reception



PHOTO: MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

(From left) David Wollock and Sara Vered, both of whom served in the Israel Defense Forces, and David Cohen of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Ottawa Post, listen to O Canada and Hatikvah before raising the Israeli flag at Marion Dewar Plaza in front of Ottawa City Hall on Yom Ha'Atzmaut.

hosted by Ambassador Barak and the Embassy of Israel at the Fairmont Château Laurier. The event was attended by members of Parliament, including cabinet ministers, foreign diplomats, Canadian military officials and business and Jewish community leaders.

Michael Regenstreif contributed to this report.



PHOTO: MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

The flags of Ontario, Israel and Canada flying at Marion Dewar Plaza in front of Ottawa City Hall on Yom Ha'Atzmaut.



PHOTO: MONIQUE ELLIOT

(From left) Volunteers Hailey Desormeaux, Jaclyn Friedlich and Arielle Kreisman hold the "Passports to Israel" activity booklets they gave to children participating in the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration at the Hellenic Centre.



PHOTO: MONIQUE ELLIOT

Two-year-old Elisheva Lavi waves her Israeli flag on the dance floor at the community Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration at the Hellenic Centre.



PHOTO: MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

A stilt-walker outside the Hellenic Centre welcomes celebrants to the community Yom Ha'Atzmaut party.

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Tamara Fathi: 'A huge honour to be recognized for something you love to do'

BY BENITA BAKER

Tamara Fathi is the recipient of the 2014 Freiman Family Young Leadership Award. The award recognizes a person under the age of 40 who has contributed actively and has rendered exceptional service to Ottawa's Jewish community.

"This is a huge honour," said Fathi. "It was completely unexpected. I am extremely overwhelmed. I love what I do for the Ottawa community. It is a huge honour to be recognized for something you love to do."

Fathi, 32, began volunteering at age 16 when she delivered kosher meals-on-wheels. But, long before that, she remembers tagging along with her parents, Ellen and Ray Fathi – who have held a number of leadership positions in the Jewish community, including co-chairing telethons and walkathons – and helping out in whatever way she could.

"That's how I grew up," she said. "Volunteering was what you do. My parents taught me that it's important to give back to the community. When they

co-chaired telethon, I ran cards. When my mother went to a synagogue sisterhood meeting, I went with her."

Fathi's nomination for the award was spearheaded by Sharon Diamond.

"Tamara is not only the perfect candidate for the Freiman Family Young Leadership Award, but an excellent example of a dedicated young woman who goes over and above to contribute to her community, and make it a better place for her generation, and generations to come," wrote Diamond in her nomination letter.

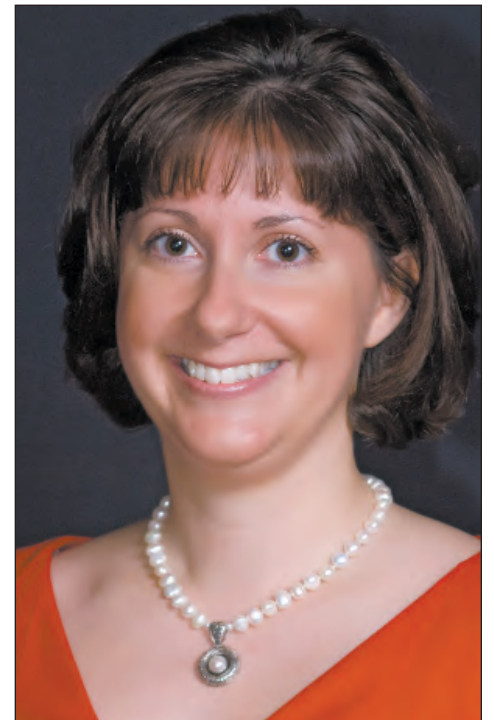
Fathi has co-chaired the Sisterhood Committee of Congregation Machzikei Hadas and was part of the synagogue's search committee for a new spiritual leader. She chaired the Social Action Mission to Israel, helped organize the Dragon Boat Foundation's fundraising event and participated in the inaugural Dragon Boat Israel festival. She sat on the board of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and is currently a member of the Federation's Finance Committee.

It is her role as co-founder of jnet, a grassroots organization aimed at bringing together young Jewish professionals and graduate students in Ottawa, that she is most proud of.

"Ottawa is a transient town, with so many young adult Jews who come to study or work here, or who were born here. Yet there was nothing bringing them together. A small group of us got together with the goal of changing that. We wanted to showcase Ottawa, to show that it is a vibrant city. It worked. It's all about the network."

Howard Fremeth was also part of jnet's founding group.

"Today, Ottawa is blessed with one of the most dynamic young adult Jewish communities in Canada," he wrote in a letter of support for Fathi's nomination. "I am certain that this dramatic shift would never have happened without the commitment and dedication of Tamara Fathi. ... In trying to make Ottawa a better place for her to live and to make a future for herself, Tamara has made



Tamara Fathi, Freiman Family Young Leadership Award

PHOTO: HOWARD SANDLER

Ottawa a better place for all young Jewish adults."

A graduate of Hillel Academy, the pioneering class of Yitzhak Rabin High School and Carleton University, Fathi

See Fathi on page 12

ORDER OF CANADA

Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka and Sara Vered were among the distinguished group of Canadians who became members of the Order of Canada in a ceremony, May 7, presided over by Governor General David Johnston at Rideau Hall.



The Order of Canada citation for **Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka, CM**, noted, "Rabbi Reuven Bulka's dedication and inspiring leadership have enriched the lives of many Canadians. Rabbi of Congregation Machzikei Hadas for more than 45 years, he has also shared his faith and counsel as an author, broadcaster and regular newspaper columnist. A blood donor 345 times, he is best known for his tireless community involvement in interfaith dialogue, health care and humanitarian causes, including the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation Courage Campaign, the Trillium Gift of Life Network, and Kindness Week, which he founded.



The Order of Canada citation for **Sara Vered, CM**, noted, "Sara Vered has spent her life bettering the world around her. Her community stewardship and philanthropy have benefited numerous organizations, including the National Gallery of Canada and the University of Ottawa Heart Institute. She is also a beloved member of Ottawa's Jewish community. In an effort to foster a better understanding of Judaism in Canada, she funded the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program at the University of Ottawa.

Ottawa Jewish Community School chooses educational visionary as new head

Marlene Wolinsky will lead OJCS beginning with the 2014-2015 school year.

**BY DAVID SACHS
OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL
HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS) has chosen its next head of school. A cornerstone of our community, the OJCS will be led starting this fall by Marlene Wolinsky, an educational leader with more than 30 years' experience.

The new head of school's impressive educational journey began right here as a rookie teacher at Hillel Academy, long before it evolved into the OJCS.

"In the world of education, someone with Marlene Wolinsky's level of experience, skills and knowledge is a real star. We're excited to introduce her to the school and community, and to continue to build a path of excellence for OJCS," said OJCS Board President Lisa Miller.

Wolinsky – who holds a master's degree in educational administration – has held multiple teaching and administrative roles in diverse schools,

including 17 years as a principal and vice-principal in Ottawa and Toronto. In each role, she has introduced new practices to improve educational outcomes.

The OJCS head of school search began two years ago, with the decision by current head Sheldon Friedman to step down in the summer of 2014. Under Friedman's leadership, the OJCS overcame significant enrolment challenges through a ground-up redefinition as an elite academic institution.

With OJCS students now performing well above Ministry standards, and remarkable levels of awards and scholarships for graduates, OJCS has seen encouraging student retention. By giving two school years to prepare for his departure, Friedman was able to help the OJCS board in its search for his successor, and ensure the continuation of his legacy.

A rigorous international search process led to 40 applicants for consider-

ation by the search committee.

Five with outstanding credentials were short listed for introductory interviews and reference checks. Two finalists were then chosen for in-depth meetings with stakeholders in Ottawa, including the board, faculty, students, parents, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and donors.

Through that process, Wolinsky stood out for her exemplary credentials, her collaborative and executive skills, and her love for kids. She is dedicated to education, continued professional development, and to passing on our Jewish heritage. Lengthy in-person discussions and a visit to her Toronto school confirmed Wolinsky is a leader with both vision and the strategic thinking to achieve it. Her career progression seems to have been designed with this position as an end goal.

As the Ottawa Jewish community faces challenges, including increasingly diverse family backgrounds, the OJCS becomes more important than ever as a central piece of Jewish infrastructure for the whole community. At the same time, today's Jewish parents have more options available to them, and place general academic standards at a higher



Marlene Wolinsky is described as an educational leader with both vision and the strategic thinking to achieve it.

priority than ever. The OJCS has made a committed decision to fight declining enrolment by raising the OJCS into a school of academic excellence, along with offering modern Jewish learning, Hebrew language, tradition and community. Wolinsky will continue strengthening OJCS academics, while building the school community by reaching out to Ottawa's diverse Jewish families. With her children and grandchild already in Ottawa, she is excited to rejoin and take on a key role in the community.

The Soloway JCC and the Vered Israel Cultural & Educational Program would like to thank Yom Ha'atzmaut Event Chair Penny Torontow for all of her hard work and dedication.



Penny and her daughter Eliana

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Jewish organizations closely watching volatile situation in Ukraine

BY LOUISE RACHLIS

The deteriorating situation in Ukraine, particularly for the Jewish community, may mean Canadian Jewish organizations will be looking at additional mobilization to help where needed.

"During this tense time, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa is incredibly proud of our partners, all of whom receive funding through the Annual Campaign," said Federation president and CEO Andrea Freedman.

"The Jewish Agency for Israel is working around the clock to expedite aliyah to Israel," she said.

"Despite harrowing circumstances on the ground, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is managing to maintain critical services to the most vulnerable members of the Jewish community."

The Centre for Israel Jewish Affairs (CIJA), Freedman added, "has been incredibly responsive and helpful in facilitating discussions with the Canadian government to ensure a heightened state of readiness to help move people out of harm's way if necessary."

Freedman also praised Jewish Family Services of Ottawa (JFS) for being the driving force in Canada to ensure the Jewish community is prepared to "meet our responsibility to assist our brothers and sisters in the former Soviet Union."

She said JFS executive director Mark Zarecki deserves to be acknowledged for recognizing early on that action may be required on the part of our government and Canadian Jewish communities.

"We have a lot of Russian and Ukrainian Jews who live here," said Zarecki. "Weeks ago, we clearly understood that there was physical violence, and Jews were getting beaten up. We had the emailed medical reports of people from Ukraine. Many were hospitalized after being beaten so badly."

Zarecki said the Canadian government has been very sympathetic and supportive to the anti-Semitism crisis in Ukraine and appointed a liaison with Jewish Family Services and JIAS Toronto.

"There are many layers to unravel" when considering the current situation in Ukraine, Crimea and Russia, and, as is often the case, "the Jewish community is especially vulnerable," said CIJA CEO Shimon Koffler Fogel.

"As a minority, it relies on the government for ensuring peace, security and institutional protections. With the breakdown of civil order, the potential for spontaneous riots, violence and the like increases significantly. Add to that the unchecked inflation – which has created shortages in everything from food to medicine – and the overall situation has become exceedingly tense and volatile," Fogel said.

He said the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee have

stepped up their presence in Ukraine, increasing material aid to the Jewish communities, providing enhanced physical security, and serving a deterrent function as well.

"Interest in aliyah has increased, although community leaders have consistently and repeatedly rejected the notion that the Jewish community is in any special danger or at greater risk than the overall population."

Organizations are working to ensure the Jewish community is prepared to 'meet our responsibility to assist our brothers and sisters in the former Soviet Union.'

Nevertheless, "the situation in Ukraine has generated very high levels of general distress, anxiety and uncertainty. The instability of such situations invariably is amplified within the Jewish community ... for good reason. And, while the situation right now is not acute, Israeli agencies and Jewish organizations are watching the situation closely and have contingency plans should things spiral out of control."

"On the broadest geo-strategic level," said Fogel, "this reflects the latest in a succession of attempts by Vladimir Putin to reassert Russian dominance in the region and reclaim pre-eminent status as one of the two superpowers in the world."

Historically, Fogel explained, Crimea and the eastern part of Ukraine have not only been the home of Russian speakers and ethnic Russians but, at various times, have been part of Russia.

"That said, Ukraine as a whole, has been agitating for closer ties with Europe and unrestrained independence from Russian dominance and influence. So, the drive for sovereignty is as much about freeing Ukraine from oppressive and even exploitative Russian dominance as it is the economic pull of drawing closer to and benefiting from the financial support from Europe and the west."

He said that to justify its aggression, Russia has lobbed a number of accusations, including charges that its actions are "just a reflection of its responsiveness to the desires expressed by the majority of Crimean calls for Russian protection and concerns about Ukrainian anti-Semitism."

Freedman noted there are conflicting reports about anti-Semitism.

"The Ukrainian leadership has been very clear in denouncing violence and hateful rhetoric targeted specifically to the Jewish community," she said, "and

this provides a measure of comfort. However, on multiple occasions, the vulnerability of the Jewish community has been starkly evident. Furthermore, history has shown that uncertainty and unrest often translates into increased violence against minority groups, in particular the Jewish community."

It should be noted that Putin has a fairly strong record of support for and defence of the Jewish community in Russia, said Fogel.

"He has played on historic perceptions of intense anti-Semitism in Ukraine, dating back to the Second World War and Ukrainian collaboration with the Nazis. ... Many Jews are involved in the Maidan revolution, and Ukrainians have gone to great lengths to eliminate or suppress any anti-Semitic tendencies from elements of the far right. In truth, there are individual Jews on both sides of this conflict, but the Jewish community, per se, is irrelevant to this drama."

However, despite efforts to suppress anti-Semitism, it does still exist.

In Ottawa, CIJA has arranged consultations between Jewish organizations like JFS and the government "to ensure that we can be as responsive as necessary, if the crisis places the Jewish community at greater risk," said Fogel. "This would include additional supports for the community in situ, movement to Israel and reunification with family here in Canada, where that is an option."

"The situation in Ukraine is extremely complex and volatile," said Freedman. "In our role as a convener, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa is uniquely positioned to provide funding for our partners and to bring organizations together as needed. While we hope and pray the tension subsides and there is no further escalation, we have a responsibility to be prepared for any eventuality."

Escalation may necessitate the need to raise additional funds or for a community-wide effort to welcome new members to our Jewish community, she said.

"The future is not yet clear. However, working with our overseas partners and leaders like Shimon and Mark, we will be ready to meet the challenge."

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**FEDERATION
REPORT**



**JULIE ROSS AND MITCH MILLER
WALKATHON**

Am Echad Walk/Run for Jewish Education puts the ‘fun’ in fundraiser

support Jewish education are doubly important.

Many reading this column will have attended a past Jewish community walkathon in Ottawa or any other Jewish community that hosts an annual walk for Israel or the local Jewish federation. If you have attended, then you know the great feeling of seeing so many members of the community walking together, walking proud, walking strong, sharing a few laughs, catching up with friends, and, of course, eating together.

In the last few years, Ottawa’s Jewish community walkathon has evolved into the National Capital Region’s only kosher timed race in support of Jewish education. We walk and run together with people who share the value of Jewish education being important to their family and to our community. We participate together as One People, as Am Echad.

We invite you to visit our website – www.amechadwalkrun.com – and learn more about the history of the walkathon (compliments of the Ottawa Jewish Archives) as well as learn about the many different options for Jewish education in Ottawa by choosing the link that tells you who is supported by this annual event. Once you’ve visited the site – you should register and choose which school you would like to support – or register multiple times and support many schools (who are we to tell you to support only one school?).

“Where does the money go?” is a question we are often asked.

The answer is “to the school that you choose to support” or “to the school that the person you are sponsoring has chosen to support.” Every dollar pledged goes to Jewish education in Ottawa. The cost of registering participants covers the costs of the event. The Jewish Federation

of Ottawa and the Ottawa Jewish Community School ensure that this annual community event is a “fun-raiser” and a “fund raiser” for every Jewish school in Ottawa that chooses to participate and be at the start line. David Smith of Creative Kosher Catering ensures that everyone is well fed once they cross the finish line.

As co-chairs, we have many individuals and organizations to thank for playing small and large roles in making the Am Echad walk/run a huge success. We hope you know how much we appreciate what you have done to make this one of the most successful community events in Ottawa. Where else will you find people of different ages, who celebrate their Judaism in different ways, living in different parts of Ottawa all joining together to support Jewish education? Education is our community’s future.

We were planning on telling you about some special guests who will be attending this year’s Am Echad Walk/Run – but it looks like we’re almost out of space. So we invite you to register soon and attend on Sunday, June 8 to find out who they are.

See you at the start line!

After a few years of co-chairing the Am Echad Walk/Run for Jewish Education in Ottawa, we’re looking forward to this year’s event on Sunday, June 8.

In a community filled with wonderful volunteers and a passion for education, we always find it amusing when people ask us why we have chosen to take on the responsibility to chair this important annual community event. The answer is simple. Jewish Education is important, Jewish community events are important, and Jewish community events that

**FROM THE
PULPIT**



**RABBI ARI GALANDAUER
YOUNG ISRAEL**

A story to remind us ‘how unique and special the Jewish people are’

ultimate redemption comes on the heels of much struggle.

One thing is for certain, the ability of the Jewish people to continuously rise up, rebuild and become stronger from our experiences, is testimony to our unique character as a people, as a nation and as a family, and must be highlighted and celebrated on Yom Ha’Atzmaut.

I would like to share an amazing story, which really emphasizes how special it is to be a part of the nation of Israel.

Mrs. Imanuelov lost her husband after an illness, leaving her to raise their son, Dvir, alone. When he reached 18, he joined the Israeli army. His mother protested because he was all she had left. He wouldn’t budge, though, and eventually his mother gave in, knowing her husband would have been very proud. The son became a paratrooper and fought in Operation Cast Lead when Israeli forces entered Gaza city to wipe out the terrorist cells that had been firing rockets into Israel for so long.

Unfortunately, Dvir was the first Israeli soldier to be killed in the war. His mother was heartbroken and she became depressed, barely leaving her home.

A couple of years later, her friends invited her to a concert in Jerusalem where her favourite singer would be

performing. After much persuasion, she agreed to go.

During the concert, she felt a constant tapping on her shoulder. When she turned around, she saw it was a little boy, not yet two years old.

“Stop Dvir, that’s enough, stop touching that lady!” she heard the child’s mother tell him.

Mrs. Imanuelov couldn’t help herself and asked the lady why she had named her son Dvir.

The mother responded, “When I was pregnant, my baby had some complications and I was admitted to the hospital. During my stay, I watched the news and heard that an Israeli soldier was killed in Gaza: Dvir Imanuelov of blessed memory. I prayed to God and said, if my child is born healthy, I will name him Dvir, after that soldier who was killed defending his people.”

Mrs. Imanuelov choked up and said, “Dvir was my son.”

Mrs. Imanuelov was overcome with joy and, today, she is like a grandmother to that little boy. Not only has he helped her recover from depression, he has given her a new understanding of what it means to be part of a Jewish country, and how unique and special the Jewish people are.

Every year, when reflecting on Israel’s national holidays, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha’Atzmaut, I’m always amazed at how we are able to transition from the sad and painful emotions experienced on Israel’s Remembrance Day one day, to the joy and jubilation of Israel’s Independence Day the next.

While there has been some debate regarding the scheduling of these two important days, the way in which we celebrate them very much mirrors Jewish history, as well as Jewish philosophy. Like the slavery in Egypt that preceded the Exodus, to the Holocaust that cemented the need for a Jewish state, our history is replete with patterns of darkness before dawn. The Talmud, as well, specifically refers to the period before the Messiah comes as the “birth pangs of the Messiah,” showing that our

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FROM THE EDITOR



MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

Fascinating results from a survey of global anti-Semitism

hate Jews because of the way Jews behave.

Someone answering yes to six or more of the stereotypes was deemed to be anti-Semitic.

The results are fascinating, both in the global scope and in region-by-region, country-by-country, and even by age and religious demographic breakdowns.

Around the world, 26 per cent of adults were deemed to be anti-Semitic. Unsurprisingly, the highest regional rate was in the Middle East and North Africa where 74 per cent of the population was found to be anti-Semitic. The lowest regional rate was 14 per cent in Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, etc.).

The Americas had a regional rate of 19 per cent. Western Europe was at 24 per cent, while Eastern Europe was 34 per cent. Asia was 22 per cent, while sub-Saharan Africa was at 23 per cent (in sharp contrast to North Africa).

Sadly, but not surprisingly, the highest rate of anti-Semitism in the world, 93 per cent, was found among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Rates were high in all of the Arab

countries, even in Jordan (81 per cent) and Egypt (75 per cent), where rates of anti-Semitism did not seem to have been much affected by peace treaties with Israel, and in Morocco (80 per cent), which had a historically important Jewish community and where several thousand Jews still live. In fact, the Moroccan rate was higher than in Lebanon (78 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (74 per cent).

Perhaps the most surprising result in the Middle East and North Africa was that Iran, at 56 per cent, had the lowest rate of anti-Semitism in that part of the world. Despite all of the deeply anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist propaganda – including Holocaust denial – of Iran’s Islamist government in recent years, nearly half of the people there are not anti-Semitic according to the ADL standard.

Things are generally less bleak in the Western world. In the United States, which has the biggest population of Jews in the Diaspora, only nine per cent of the population is anti-Semitic according to the ADL standard. Here in Canada, the figure is higher at 14 per

cent, but still well below the global average.

Western Europe is a study in contrasts. In the United Kingdom, where the movement to delegitimize Israel in academia is particularly noisy, the rate is only eight per cent. Meanwhile, in Greece, a country that has been developing close ties with Israel, the rate is horrendous at 69 per cent.

France, which has the biggest population of Jews in Europe, is particularly concerning with a rate of 37 per cent, well above both the global average and the average for Western Europe.

Among the saddest results of the survey and demographic breakdown are that only 54 per cent of people around the world have even heard of the Holocaust, and that 70 per cent of those considered anti-Semitic have never even met a Jewish person.

The results of the survey are presented on an excellent interactive website – <http://global100.adl.org/> – that allows you to navigate the results in all sorts of ways.

However, as interesting as the results are, questions must be asked about the reliability and interpretation of the methodology.

Does the presentation of negative stereotypes lead directly to some degree of negative response? And, is a person really anti-Semitic, if he or she agrees with six negative stereotypes about Jews, but not anti-Semitic if he or she agrees with only five?

IDEAS AND IMPRESSIONS



JASON MOSCOVITZ

If only there were more shows worth watching

have watched CNN speculate about the disappearance of that Malaysian airplane for two straight months, but I chose not to. News networks used to be there to inform viewers about what happened and why. Now their so-called experts guess, theorize and contradict each other. They do everything but properly inform.

The fact is they just don’t know why the plane fell out of the sky and the constant guessing and speculating is not worthy of television journalism. Call me old-fashioned, but I know Walter Cronkite would not have done it.

And then there are programs like *Dancing with the Stars* and *America’s Got Talent*. Somehow, those programs are all so different and yet so similar. They all have judges who try to be funny and hosts who try to be hip. They all try to build up to a point of interest and then, just when they may have your attention, they take a commercial break that seems like an eternity.

Then there’s the technology of television. By the late-’70s, the remote

control clicker was becoming commonplace. The original idea was to create new channels and to spare people from having to get up to change the channel. But it has turned into a gadget that kills concentration – not just for television, but for just about anything.

As soon as we’re bored, we click to look for something more interesting. Channel surfing makes me crazy, and I think it is harmful to the minds and powers of concentration of young and old alike. It is the intellectual curse of our time.

It is unfair to dismiss all television technology because, for people like me, there is a saving grace: my personal video recorder (PVR). My life now revolves around setting my PVR. Unlike the old video cassette recorders, a PVR is actually 95 per cent idiot-proof. I can set my PVR with confidence my programs will be there when I look for them.

So, if I don’t like television, what do I record? I record the national news every night and watch it in the morning with

breakfast. I build up a library of documentaries and movies, which I will watch when I can, but I delete many things months later without having seen them.

As a sports fan, I record games and delay watching them for a couple of hours so I can see them commercial-free. That’s one thing my son, another huge sports fan, can’t understand.

“Unless it’s live,” he insists, “it’s not worth watching.”

That must be the generation gap. Of course, I don’t watch TV and surf the Internet simultaneously, so I can understand why, in his world, watching anything on delay is impossible.

Growing up in the ‘50s, television was everything. It was a lifeline to modern life and a connection to the world. But it was almost pathetically primitive with its black-and-white, often snowy and grainy picture. It’s funny to remember playing with the rabbit ears antenna on top of the TV to improve the picture as we watched the *Ed Sullivan Show* and *Hockey Night in Canada*.

Technologically, today’s television is as perfect as perfect can be. It’s hard to imagine it getting better, although they keep innovating, so, clearly, there is no cap on perfection.

If only there were more shows worth watching.

Is it a change of life, or old age, or a new era? What is it? I used to be an avid television viewer and now I can’t tolerate the sight of the screen – even when it is off. I can recall the beginning of this change a couple of years ago, and I now know it’s not temporary.

There is something about the commercials being so loud and irritating that, when I turn off the TV and hear the quiet around me, I suddenly feel peaceful. I put on jazz or classical music and breathe a sigh of relief.

Aside from the commercials, what is it about TV that turned me off? I could

Israeli Film Festival to feature comedy, documentary, drama and film noir

BY MAXINE MISKA
SOLOWAY JCC

Ottawa's 11th Annual Israeli Film Festival will feature four films that force apart fissures in Israeli society.

The festival opens Sunday, June 8 with *Hunting Elephants*, a bittersweet bank heist comedy directed by Reshef Levi. Sasson Gabby stars as the leader of a gang that robbed banks during the British Mandate and is now living in an old age home with his comatose wife. Patrick Stewart plays an insolvent British actor seeking to liquidate his family's property in Jerusalem. These unlikely sidekicks plot a bank robbery utilizing the infirmities and indignities of old age to their advantage and then pleading dementia as a defence.

Farewell Herr Schwartz (Thursday, June 12) is a documentary by Berlin-based Israeli filmmaker Yael Reuveny, which investigates the story of her great-uncle, Feiv'ke Schwartz, whose existence after the Holocaust was indeterminate. His

sister, Reuveny's grandmother, immigrated to Israel and established a life and family. Reuveny, against her mother's wishes, moves to Berlin and discovers that her great-uncle chose not to reconnect with his family. He continued to live in the small German town where he had been imprisoned in a concentration camp, married a German woman, changed his name to Peter and lived out his life among his former jailers.

As Reuveny unravels the story, she discovers that Peter's children and her mother instinctively obeyed an interregnum of silence about the Holocaust, not even breeched when Peter's son reached out to his Israeli aunt and cousin. It is only the third generation that is able to toggle between Germany and Israel and bring the family together.

A Place in Heaven (Thursday, June 19) pits two Israeli archetypes against each other: the military man pursuing victory and the religious man seeking a place in heaven. Where do they meet but in biblical



The comedy *Hunting Elephants* is the opening film of Ottawa's 11th Annual Israeli Film Festival.

narrative? In the struggle between religious and secular, father and son are echoes of David, Jacob and other biblical heroes.

In Yossi Madmony's film, a brash commander, ironically nicknamed "Bambi," returns to his base ravenous after a battle. The cook's assistant, an Orthodox man, offers to buy the officer's guaranteed place in heaven as a saviour of Jews, for a plate of shakshuka. The non-religious officer dismissively signs the contract.

Bambi pursues his goals – both military and personal – ruthlessly. To gain permission to marry the only daughter of a Yemeni rabbi, he works and lives as a religious Jew for a year, but later refuses to say Kaddish for his father-in-law. Not part of the contract. In the 40 ensuing years, Bambi has become a general and then a politician, and the son he longed for has become Orthodox and estranged from his father.

The festival's final film, *The Wonders* (Sunday, June 22) directed by Avi Neshet, is a film noir mystery set in Jerusalem's nighttime, with a well-intentioned but naïve hero, a tough private eye, and a femme fatale of ambiguous motives. The film is streaked with bright flashes of Jewish playfulness and absurdity.

Ariel Navon, nicknamed Arnav (rabbit) from the first syllables of his name is a pothead bartender and graffiti artist, but, as his name implies, an *ish navon* (a good person). He discovers that a rabbi known for his prophetic powers seems to be held captive by ultra-Orthodox men in the abandoned building next door. A private eye horns into his apartment with surveillance equipment and introduces his client, a beautiful, mysterious woman. Arnav wants to help, but cannot figure out whom to trust.

All films begin at 7 pm, have English subtitles, and take place at the Auditorium at 395 Wellington Street. Tickets are \$12 (general public) and \$8 (Soloway JCC members, Canadian Film Institute members, seniors, students and children under 15). Tickets are available at the door, cash only.

The Israeli Film Festival is sponsored by the Canadian Film Institute and The Israel Cultural Forum (Soloway JCC, the Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program, the Embassy of Israel, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, and the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation).

For more information contact Maxine Miska at mmiska@jccottawa.com or 613-798-9818, ext. 263.



The film noir *The Wonders* will close the Israeli Film Festival.



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Welcome to our new JNF Ottawa Board Members

At our AGM in June, JNF Ottawa will welcome two new board members: **Randi Sherman** and **Lindsay Kotick**.

A very active community volunteer, Randi was heavily involved with the former Hillel Academy PTA, chaired Arts Alive for two years and was a committee member for two years prior; volunteered for Camp B'nai Brith of Ottawa; Congregation Beth Shalom; the Soloway JCC; co-chaired the 2013 Jewish Federation of Ottawa Campaign kickoff; and chaired Mitzvah Day 2013.

Randi's first trip to Israel in 2010 gave her the passion to get involved with JNF.

Lindsay is a financial services professional who has held a number of progressive positions within the banking industry over the past 20 years. He relocated from Toronto with his wife Laura and daughters Gillian and Sarah in 2007 and is looking forward supporting the JNF efforts in the Ottawa community.

We extend a very appreciative welcome to our new board members and look forward to working together to raise funds for our JNF-KKL projects in Israel.

We will also say good-bye to Jackie Sitwell who is retiring after many years as a board member. We thank her for her commitment and dedication to JNF Ottawa and her work chairing the Bar and Bat Mitzvah Certificate program.

Although his successor at Congregation Machzikei Hadas has been announced, our spiritual board member, Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka, will continue to be centre stage with JNF Ottawa. He has graciously accepted our invitation to be the master of ceremonies at the JNF Ottawa Negev Dinner to be held October 21 when we honour Dorothy Nadolny in conjunction with Canadian Friends of Hebrew University.

66th Yom Ha'Atzmaut focussed on women and so is JNF Ottawa

The theme of the State of Israel's 66th Independence Day was women's significant contribution to different aspects of Israeli life including culture, the economy, security, education, society, the environment and civic activism. At KKL-JNF, women play an important role in all areas of the organization's activities and offer a shining example of women's achievements and the challenges they face. Today women compose 30 per cent of the work force at KKL-JNF and they are engaged in all aspects of our activities: in the field, in specialized professional jobs, and in management positions.

JNF Ottawa and Agudath Israel Congregation present award-winning author Judie Oron

The event will be held May 29, 7:30 pm, at Agudath Israel. Please see the article about Judie in this edition of the *Bulletin* for more information.

JNF Ottawa Negev Dinner honouring Dorothy Nadolny

As noted above, this year's Negev Dinner honouring Dorothy Nadolny on October 21 will be held in partnership with Canadian Friends of Hebrew University.

JNF donors dig Israel

Several donors have planted a tree at the JNF-KKL public planting sites in Israel. It's easy to arrange to do this as long as we have your date of travel to Israel. Remember to send us a picture.

JNF Golden Book Subscriptions

To **Erenne Dreyfus** and **David Barr** of Toronto in honour of their union from **Penney Prud'homme**.

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Attendees at the Yom Hazikaron ceremony rise to sing O Canada and Hatikvah.

PHOTO: MONIQUE ELLIOT

Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror remembered on Yom Hazikaron

BY MONIQUE ELLIOT

The solemn Yom Hazikaron ceremony, May 4 at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, saw many attendees quietly dab away tears as they remembered those who have lost their lives defending Israel and those who have died as victims of terrorist attacks.

"This is a day when the past, present and future meet on a continuum," said Israeli Ambassador Rafael Barak. "Tonight, our gratitude is profound. Each one of them, we remember."

Four candles were lit as the personal stories of four community members who had lost their lives defending Israel were told to a room so full that additional chairs had to be brought in during the ceremony.

A *Green Kippah*, a short documentary, told the personal stories of loss of three American Jews, and was named for the green kippah one of them, Michael Levin, wore as a soldier in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Levin died in combat during the Second Lebanon War.

Ottawan Tobin Kaiman, a former lone soldier and paratrooper who joined the IDF in 2011, commented on the close relationship between Canada and Israel.

"Canada stands behind Israel, not because it is obligated to, but because we share the same morals, values and ethics, which Canada and Israel hold to the highest regard," he said. "These close ties made me proud to be a Canadian citizen serving in the IDF."

Kaiman was not the only Ottawan to have served in the IDF. When mothers

whose children have served in the IDF, past and present, were asked to stand and be recognized at least nine women stood among the crowd.

Cantor Jeremy Burko of Agudath Israel Congregation said, although he often sings about "the giving of one's self and one's own blood" in order to keep the Jewish people safe, it is impossible to understand that sense of loss experienced when a family member makes the ultimate sacrifice and does not return.

"I wish I had something to say to those mothers who have lost so much," he said. "To witness it firsthand, to have relatives I know there on the ground, who were pulling people from houses [and hearing] how they felt about it, everything is very, very near and dear, even though it's on the other side of the world," he said.

"Just being here and acknowledging and seeing does something."



SAVE THE DATE
TAMIR
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 24, 2014
Agudath Israel Congregation
1400 Coldrey Avenue, Ottawa

Meeting begins at 6:30 pm

*Please RSVP
to Katherine before June 20th,
by email katherinecarter@tamir.ca
or 613-725-3519 x 104*

Temple Israel to mark rabbi's retirement with 'Garten Party'

BY LOUISE RACHLIS
FOR TEMPLE ISRAEL

A "Garten Party" will be held Sunday, June 15 at Temple Israel to celebrate with Rabbi Steven Garten as he makes the transition from full-time pulpit rabbi to rabbi emeritus.

The party will run from 2 to 4 pm, with a short program at 3:30. All are welcome and refreshments will be served.

"Hopefully, Rabbi Garten will continue teaching in the city," said Merle Haltrecht, chair of the planning committee for Rabbi Garten's retirement party. "He is passionate about imparting knowledge and his ideas and opinions on Judaic history and Zionism, and many other topics of interest."

"The program will include wishes, tributes, brief words to thank Rabbi Garten for his years of dedication to Temple, to the wider Jewish community, and for his presence in Ottawa," she said. "Rabbi Garten won't disappoint the attendees, and will reply in kind."

Anyone wishing to share photos of themselves with Rabbi Garten for a slide show should email them as JPG files to execdir@templeisraelottawa.com by May 29. Photos can also be left at the Temple office to be scanned (label them with



Rabbi Steven Garten

your name, if you want them returned).

In lieu of gifts, Rabbi Garten asked that donations be made to Yad LaKashish: Lifeline for the Old, an organization in Jerusalem he has been supporting for several years.

Yad LaKashish teaches needy seniors how to make beautiful and useful craft items to be sold at the Yad LaKashish Gift Shop and online at www.lifeline.org.il.

All of the elderly artisans at Yad LaKashish are immigrants to Israel who



Artisans make jewelry at Yad LaKashish: Lifeline for the Old in Jerusalem. In lieu of retirement gifts, Rabbi Garten has asked that donations be made to Yad LaKashish.

have experienced their own personal "Exodus" from persecution to freedom. Participants speak many languages and have come to Jerusalem from all over the world. They receive payment, free bus passes, lunch, dental subsidies and day trips.

To make a donation to Yad LaKashish and receive a tax receipt, send cheques labelled "Recommended for Yad La-

Kashish in honour of Rabbi Steve Garten" to The Ne'eman Foundation, 75 Lisa Crescent, Thornhill, ON L4J 2N2 or donate at www.neemanfoundation.com by clicking the "donate now" button and choosing "general donation." In the notes box, write "Recommended for Yad LaKashish in honour of Rabbi Steve Garten."

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Visit the Ottawa Jewish Archives during Doors Open Ottawa

The Ottawa Jewish Archives will be one of the sites attracting visitors, Sunday, June 8, 10 am to 4 pm, during Doors Open Ottawa, an annual celebration of the city's heritage.

The Ottawa Jewish Archives collects and preserves material that documents the history of Ottawa's Jewish community.

Built by Barry J. Hobin & Associates Architects Inc. in 1998, the Archives operate under the auspices of Jewish Federation of Ottawa and are located within the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. More than 25,000 records and 8,500 photographs detail the community's history, starting in 1880s Lowertown.



From the Archives: Jacob Cohen (centre) and Bessie Cohen (right) standing with an employee outside Cohen's Fruit Store on Bank Street, circa 1935.



Archivist Emily Leonoff in the Ottawa Jewish Archives vault with some of the collection.



80th Annual General Meeting

The Chair and President
of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa

Invite you to attend the
Annual General Meeting
of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

7:00 pm

Social Hall

The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building
21 Nadolny Sachs Private

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RSVP to Rachel Abenhaim, rabenhaim@jewishottawa.com

Community Awards Presentation

**Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award • Mitchell Bellman
Freiman Family Young Leadership Award • Tamara Fathi
Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award • Henry Molot**

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Bellman: 'I loved every minute of the job, I loved the community'

Continued from page 1

ability of the community to work through its many challenges and achieve success in many of the initiatives undertaken.

"Everything I did was part of a team of staff, volunteers and donors," said Bellman. "Whatever we accomplished, we did together. They were inspiring. It was a privilege to work with them. I valued their input and their friendship."

Born and raised in Montreal, Bellman relocated to Ottawa with his parents when his father accepted a job with the federal government. After one year at Carleton University, he spent a year living on a kibbutz in Israel. On his return from Israel, he enrolled in the political science program at McGill University in Montreal.

A job with MP David Berger brought him back to Ottawa, where he established a working relationship with Rob Ritter, then the national executive director of the Canada-Israel Committee. Ritter encouraged him to apply for a job with the Vaad and, in 1995, Bellman was hired

to be director of communications. He became executive director in 1998.

The Vaad, then, was very different from today's Federation. The organization was housed on Chapel Street in a building that was no longer the community hub. That changed in 1998, when Bellman oversaw the construction and expansion of the new Jewish Community Campus.

"We moved from offices rarely visited to a place that would speak proudly to the whole community," he said. "We were able to make the changes necessary to meet the needs of the community."

Other significant community achievements during Bellman's stewardship include the amalgamation of Hillel Academy and Yitzhak Rabin High School as the Ottawa Jewish Community School; the introduction of such popular events as Mitzvah Day, Choices and Dragon Boat Israel; the creation of the Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award and the introduction of the Grinspoon-Steinhardt Awards for Excellence in Jewish Education to Ottawa; several highly

successful fundraising relief efforts for Israel and other communities in distress; and the implementation and management of the strategic planning process, which resulted in a new governance structure for the Federation.

One of Bellman's most memorable accomplishments was the Stand with Israel Solidarity Rally on Parliament Hill on April 22, 2002, hastily organized by the Ottawa Jewish community. What began as a local response to a wave of terrorist attacks in Israel, mushroomed into a national event with 20,000 Canadians arriving from as far away as Calgary and Vancouver to show their support.

"It was incredible what a small community could pull off in such a short time," Bellman said. "It was such an impactful event with a powerful message about our support and solidarity for Israel."

Bellman regards the late Gerry Levitz, a past president of the Vaad, as a mentor.

"I could go to him about any issue," said Bellman. "He would always lend his ear and his thoughtful attention. He had

a great sense of perspective and judgment. After he died, I would stare at his photo in the board room and wonder what his advice would be."

As president and CEO of the Federation, it was Bellman's responsibility to notify the community award recipients they had been chosen. Now the tables have turned.

"I've told so many people that they are award recipients and heard the emotion in their voices," he said. "Then I saw the pride on their faces when they received their awards. It definitely feels unusual to be on the receiving end."

"I loved every minute of the job. I loved the community. I loved the Federation. People would say, 'You have such a tough job,' but I never thought so. It was great helping the community. Having such a great job was a reward in itself."

The Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award will be presented to Mitchell Bellman at the annual general meeting of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa on Wednesday, June 18, 7 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

Molot: 'Volunteering strengthens connection to the community'

Continued from page 1

studied law at the University of Ottawa and Yale Law School.

After graduating, he accepted a position as a law professor at the University of Ottawa and then at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. In Edmonton, Molot joined a shul and, before long, the 30-year-old assumed his first volunteer role when he was recruited to sit on the synagogue board.

On his return to Ottawa, Molot began a distinguished, 36-year career with the Department of Justice, as well as an enduring community volunteering commitment. In addition to his highly regarded legal work, Molot organized weekly Talmud classes at the office with the input of local rabbis and created a weekly *Parshat Ha'Shavuah* commentary, which he distributed to hundreds of people worldwide.

The *Ottawa Law Review* described Molot as a "consummate administrative law practitioner and scholar" and "a leading authority on administrative law," who wrote more than 1,700 legal opinions during his career. When he retired in 2007, Molot was given the Public Service Award of Excellence for an Outstanding Career.

"It strikes me how many people I know because of my involvement in the community," said Molot.

"Volunteering strengthens your connection to the community, to the people you meet who feel committed like you, and to Israel."

Molot is married to Maureen, a Carleton University professor who was

the first woman to be president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'ir (now the Jewish Federation of Ottawa), and the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award recipient last year. They have two children and six grandchildren.

The Molots are recognized as "community connectors," regularly opening their home to people, including Israeli ambassadors, on Shabbat and the Jewish holidays.

"We do not have much family here and my wife is very involved in outreach at the university, meeting Jews who are working or studying away from home,"

Molot said. "It is always so interesting to have new people and different ideas at our table."

According to Adam Dodek, vice-dean research and associate professor at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law, whose family has enjoyed the Molots' hospitality, "The Ottawa Jewish community is blessed with many outstanding dedicated volunteers. Henry has never sought recognition for the mitzvot that he does, but he warrants it."

"I am grateful to the community," said the self-effacing Molot. "I don't know if I am a role model to others, but I hope I have made a difference."

Fathi: 'Tamara has made Ottawa a better place for all young Jewish adults'

Continued from page 3

describes herself as "totally a product of Ottawa's Jewish community." She has studied or worked in six countries – Canada, Ecuador, Belgium, Spain, France and the United States – and has two master's degrees.

After obtaining an MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Arizona, she got a job in the U.S., but a poor economy brought her back to Ottawa and a job in global financing with Export Development Canada, where she manages a \$4 billion portfolio.

"I never thought that I would move back here from the U.S.," she said. "I'm so

glad I did."

In addition to crediting her parents for their support and guidance, Fathi considers Marueen Molot and Debbie Halton-Weiss to be her mentors.

"I am truly grateful to have worked with wonderful people," she said.

Fathi's nomination was enthusiastically endorsed by several community members, including Rabbi Reuven Bulka, who described her as "extraordinary," and her uncle, Eli Fathi, who praised "her unwavering commitment to making a difference to the lives of people in the Ottawa Jewish community."

The recipient of the Freiman Family Young Leadership Award also receives

"I'd like to think that I left the Chevra Kadisha and the other organizations I have been involved in stronger and more viable than when I joined. Maybe we are enriching others by recruiting them to engage in activities they may have never considered or thought about."

"This award was such a surprise. Who thinks they will win an award for doing what they love to do?"

The Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award will be presented to Henry Molot at the annual general meeting of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa on Wednesday, June 18, 7 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

the Lawrence Greenberg Young Leadership Development Award, which allows the recipient to attend the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America (GA) where young leaders from across North America are honoured. The GA will be held this year from November 9 to 11 in Washington, D.C.

The Freiman Family Young Leadership and Lawrence Greenberg Young Leadership Development Awards will be presented to Tamara Fathi at the annual general meeting of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa on Wednesday, June 18, 7 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

Semester at Hebrew University: An experience I will never forget

BY ABIGAIL FREEMAN
FOR CANADIAN FRIENDS
OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY

Four months in Israel! What could be better than that? I've been very fortunate to be at the Rothberg International School at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for an academic exchange from McGill. I've met wonderful people from around the world, visited with family and friends, travelled around the country, and learned a lot in the Ulpan and other courses at Hebrew University. It's truly been an eye-opening, fun and overall incredible experience.

Coming to Jerusalem in January, I knew only two people. I was a little nervous but extremely excited as I was looking forward to meeting other students and experiencing what it's like to actually live in Israel.

Since my time at Hillel Academy, Torah High and Machzikei Hadas, my love for and connection to Israel, Judaism and the Hebrew language have strengthened immensely! Hearing Hebrew spoken everywhere, having the choice to eat in so many kosher restaurants and seeing and living history has just been the best!

Among the highlights of my time in Jerusalem has been spending time at the Kotel, in the Old City and at the Shuk, whether alone or with friends. I don't take it for granted that I could visit the Kotel whenever I want, or hang out in the Old City after class.

The Shuk is an amazing experience on its own. For anyone who has been there, you know there is nothing like it: the people, the pushing, the yelling and the smells and tastes of the delicious spices, fruits, vegetables, cheese, breads. I just hop on the light rail and get there in 15 minutes.

Prior to officially starting the semester at Hebrew University, we took an Ulpan course where we listened to and sang Israeli songs, played games in Hebrew and made presentations, with the goal of improving our conversational Hebrew.

My four courses – all except Hebrew language are taught in English – have been eye-opening. Studying the history of the modern State of Israel, the architecture of Jerusalem and about the Palestinian experience has been enlightening and interesting. We are learning more than the academics, especially in the Palestinian class.

So, I've met many great people,



Abigail Freeman in the Stephen and Gail Victor Plaza of the Hebrew University Botanical Gardens on Mount Scopus.

travelled, eaten a ton of delicious food, seen lots of incredible sites and visited with friends and family. I can easily say that my expectations have been far

surpassed! While I'm not sure when I'll return, or for how long, I know I will. This experience has been one that I will never forget!

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at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre



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TUESDAY, JUNE 17
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The importance of asking, and answering, questions

Jews love questions. We all know the story of the non-Jew who approaches his Jewish friend and asks him, “Why do Jews answer questions with a question?” And the friend replies: “How *should* I answer?”

Traditionally, we are a people who ask and seek, question and probe. I heard a theory regarding this cultural quirk suggesting that we ask questions as a result of being victims of persecution. Ever wary of questions being asked of us, we seek clarity and insight before giving any definitive answers.

The truth is the Jewish tradition of asking questions goes back to the beginning of our people, long before anti-Semitism. We find that Avraham questioned God about destroying Sodom and Amora (“Shall the Judge of the entire earth not do justice?”), and Moshe questioned God after his first interaction with Pharaoh didn’t go as planned (“Why, God, have you brought trouble on this people?”). The very founders of our nation questioned God directly!

The children who ask the Four Questions of the Passover seder are an annual reminder of how Jews foster intellectual curiosity and spiritual growth at an early age. Judaism does not believe in blind compliance, but rather, encourages the pursuit of knowledge as the basis for understanding our traditions and customs.

What got me thinking about this subject was a story in the Talmud I recently learned (Tractate Shabbat, 31A). Two men bet whether one of them could anger Rabbi Hillel, who was known for being gentle and patient. So, one of the men went to the home of Rabbi Hillel

BRAM BREGMAN GUEST COLUMN

right before Shabbat – a busy time – and indignantly called out: “Is Hillel here? Is Hillel here?” Rabbi Hillel greeted him. “My son, what do you require?” he asked, and the man replied with this: “Why are the heads of the Babylonians so round?”

Rabbi Hillel was the leader of the Jewish people in his generation, and was well in his place to have ignored the man for having asked such an inane question. However, Rabbi Hillel factually replied with: “Because they do not have skilled midwives.”

The belligerent man posed two further pointless questions in an attempt to provoke Rabbi Hillel into losing his temper, but as you can imagine, he lost the bet.

How to explain Rabbi Hillel’s patience?

According to Rabbi Yaakov Reischer’s 18th century commentary on the Talmud, Rabbi Hillel would always answer what was posed to him, because he never wanted people to think they could not approach him with their questions.

The role of questioning is as important in modern Jewish society as at any time throughout our history.

A current trend with Jewish organizations – and for that matter all not-for-profit organizations – is a shift away from closed leadership to a much more open approach. A generation ago, Jewish organizations were typically run by a small group of individuals who made



Bram Bregman

all the decisions and acted fairly independently, but always with good intentions.

Recently, there has been a clear shift away from closed leadership, as stakeholders demand more accountability and transparency from their leaders and decision-makers. While some lament these changes, I have always seen them as positive; a way to foster greater connections between organizations and the people they serve.

There are really two sides to this new model: stakeholders and leaders. It is important for stakeholders, whether they be community members or donors to

Jewish organizations or synagogues, to be able to ask questions about what they are investing in. Naturally, questions should be productive and respectful, but this is a right that every individual should have and exercise.

More importantly, the people who so generously give of themselves to lead an organization, whether they’re professional staff or board members, should come to understand how vital it is for the people they serve to be able to seek the answers they need. This was the greatest lesson of Rabbi Hillel: He understood the importance of people asking questions, but, more significantly, as a Jewish leader, he understood the value in answering them with friendliness and warmth.

Leaders of Jewish organizations today should not be frustrated by questions asked of them, but rather, follow the example of Rabbi Hillel and use it as an opportunity to bring the individual closer to the cause.

The more someone knows about any matter, the more they understand and value it. Whether it is an ancient custom, or how a board makes a decision, everyone should find the time to ask questions and seek answers.

A sustainable and meaningful connection to Judaism requires each of us to have an intellectual understanding of why we do what we do. As someone who works for the community, I must always be receptive to questions, accountable and transparent.

I guess Rabbi Hillel was ahead of his time.

Bram Bregman is vice-president of community building for the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. He can be reached for questions at bram@jewishottawa.com.

Rabbi who consults for the FBI to headline JET’s Yarchei Kallah

BY LAUREN SHAPS
JET

Law enforcement is one of the most stressful of all professions. Routine exposure to the worst aspects of our society – violence, rape, theft and murder – often under tragic circumstances, results in law enforcement professionals with high rates of alcoholism, domestic violence and burnout.

Rabbi Cary Friedman, author of *Spiritual Survival for Law Enforcement* and *Wisdom from the Batcave* is an expert on the subject and a highly sought-after consultant and lecturer for the FBI and police forces all over the United States. This summer, during JET’s Yarchei Kallah from July 6 to 12, he’ll be sharing the same Jewish wisdom that he teaches to law enforcement professionals. This classically Jewish outlook

provides comfort and guidance in the most difficult of circumstances.

Every summer, women and men from Ottawa’s Jewish community come together to recharge their passion for Jewish education and enhance the depth and breadth of their knowledge base with classes geared both for those who have never had a Jewish education and for those for whom Torah study is part of their regular routine.

This week of study is based on an ancient Talmudic custom called *Yarchei Kallah*, literally the bride of the moon, when Jews would take a leave from work to renew their passion for Judaism and her bride, our Torah.

Rabbi Reuven Tradburks – who was born and raised in Ottawa and now lives in Israel where he works for the Rabbinical Council of America – will be joining the program. His topics will

include the challenges and opportunities inherent to the Jewish State, and the mystical underpinnings of the Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service.

For those looking for text-based study, Ellie Reisel, a teacher at the Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy, a modern Orthodox day school serving the Washington, D.C. area, will examine sections from the book of *Bamidbar* (*Numbers*) complete with classical commentary.

Just like exercise, we often think we don’t have time to enhance our Jewish education. Try out a class or two, a lunch and learn, or the opening night program. This taste of Torah will have you returning to the Yarchei Kallah buffet looking for more!

For more information, visit www.jetottawa.com or contact JET at info@jetottawa.com or 613-695-4800.



Rabbi Cary Friedman, who teaches Jewish wisdom to law enforcement officials, will be in Ottawa in July to participate in JET’s Yarchei Kallah.

MAILBAG | bulletin@ottawajewishbulletin.com

ABBAS' STRATEGY

I usually agree with the political comments in *Bulletin* Editor Michael Regenstreif's columns, but I cannot do so with respect to his column headlined "It seems like Abbas wanted to force the peace process to fail (May 12)."

True, the reaction to a possible coalition between Mahmoud Abbas' Palestinian Authority and Hamas was predictable. Israel refused to deal with a group that refuses to recognize its right to exist. However, given the state of the peace process and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu continuing to allow

new settlements and expansion of existing ones in what the Palestinian Authority considers its land, what alternatives did Abbas have?

If Netanyahu can play double or nothing, so can Abbas. He is consolidating his position for when the current peace process fails and he looks to other options such as going to the United Nations, which is likely to look more favourably on a united Palestinian position than on two separate entities. At least he has a long-term strategy.

David B. Brooks

LETTERS WELCOME

Letters to the Editor are welcome if they are brief, signed, timely, and of interest to our readership.

The *Bulletin* reserves the right to refuse, edit or condense letters.

The *Mailbag* column will be published as space permits.

Send your letters to Michael Regenstreif, Ottawa Jewish Bulletin
21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, ON K2A 1R9.
Or by email to bulletin@ottawajewishbulletin.com

Tennis lessons at Camp Gan Israel of Ottawa



Tennis lessons will be among the many activities on the agenda at Camp Gan Israel of Ottawa. The day camp is a project of the Jewish Youth Library. Visit www.cgjottawa.org for more information or call Devora Caytak at 613-729-7712.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Jewish Federation of Ottawa • Director, Emerging Generation •

The Director, Emerging Generation is a key member of the Community Building Team responsible for engaging young Jewish professionals in their 20s and 30s in Ottawa. The Director, Emerging Generation is responsible for cultivating relationships with singles, couples, and young families in this demographic to connect them in meaningful ways to the Jewish community and with the Federation. This includes developing unique programming for this cohort, promoting participation and volunteerism with existing Jewish organizations, schools, and synagogues in Ottawa, as well as creating appropriate leadership development opportunities. This position also entails managing the emerging generation fundraising division of the Federation Annual Campaign.

The Federation is looking for someone who is passionate about Jewish community life and understands the needs and desires of young Jewish singles and families looking for connection with each other and within the Jewish community. This position requires someone who loves working with people and has the skills to engage them in programs and volunteering in order to strengthen our community. A friendly, warm disposition, with a natural understanding of customer service, is a must.

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree required & 2-5 years of work experience preferred
- Proficiency in social media and awareness of new technologies used by this demographic
- Ability to work with volunteers of different backgrounds, ages and outlooks
- Knowledge of Israel, Jewish values and tradition
- Strong interpersonal, social, communication, organizational and networking skills
- Passion for and knowledge of the Ottawa Jewish community is an asset

COMPLETE JOB DESCRIPTION IS ONLINE - PLEASE VISIT jewishottawa.com/careers

Please send your cover letter and resume by June 9, 2014 to

Bram Bregman, Vice President of Community Building at bram@jewishottawa.com

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Opening Night - Sunday, July 6

Join Rabbi Cary A. Friedman for a special screening of *Legends of the Knight*

An inspiring documentary showcasing true stories of individuals who have become superheroes in their own lives through their love of Batman.

Location: Soloway JCC
Time: 7:30pm
Cost: \$15



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Author to discuss daughter's journey from slavery in Ethiopia to motherhood in Israel

BY LYNDA TALLER-WAKTER
JNF OTTAWA

I met Judie Oron on a recent flight returning from Israel. A new grandmother with a warm smile, Oron began chatting about her grandchildren and her life travelling back and forth from Toronto to Israel to visit them. I soon discovered that Judie was no ordinary grandmother as she began to reveal bits and pieces of her life, and of her adopted daughter, Wuditu, a former child slave and now a mother herself.

Oron is a Canadian-Israeli journalist and an award-winning author. Her book, *Cry of the Giraffe*, tells the story of her Ethiopian Jewish daughter Wuditu's years in slavery, which only ended when Oron – who had already adopted Wuditu's younger sister Lewteah – went to Ethiopia to find her and buy her freedom.

Oron raised Wuditu and Lewteah in Israel for two decades, along with her two natural-born sons, and the family did not speak to others about Wuditu's experience as a slave until a few years ago, when Wuditu decided that she wanted her story told.

Cry of the Giraffe tells Wuditu's story in her voice. As such, it can be viewed as the diary of an Ethiopian Jewish slave.



Author Judie Oron

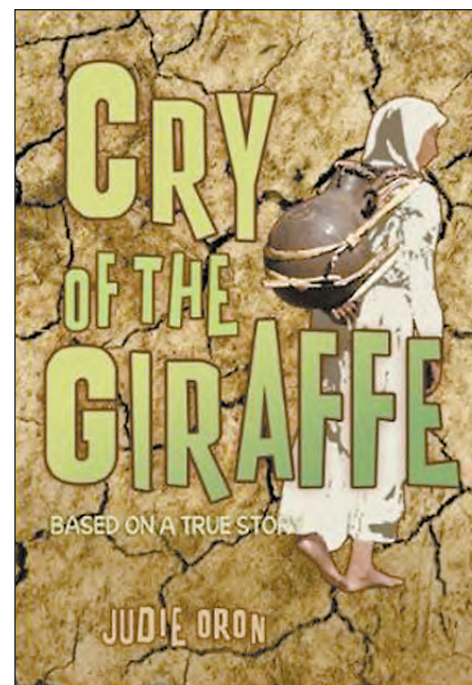
Wuditu took a personal risk in revealing her story and Oron highlights her daughter's reasons for exposing her experience. The book shows the courage and strengths of the Ethiopian Jewish community, stimulates further dialogue about Israel's rescue of Ethiopian Jewry, and highlights the issue of child slavery, which is still widespread in Ethiopia.

Oron's articles have appeared in the *Jerusalem Post*, the *Jerusalem Report*, Australia's *Christian Woman* and *Christian Daily*, *Lifestyles Magazine*, the *Canadian Jewish News* and *Weekly Press Pakistan*. She researches and speaks about child slavery, bride kidnapping and human trafficking in Ethiopia.

JNF Ottawa and Agudath Israel Congregation welcome Judie Oron to Ottawa on Thursday, May 29, 7:30 pm, at Agudath Israel to share the story behind *Cry of the Giraffe*. Tickets are \$10 or \$20 (which includes a copy of the book).

Proceeds from the evening will support JNF's interactive animal centre at Retorno, which uses animal therapy to help at-risk youth and IDF soldiers.

For more information, or to reserve a book, contact JNF Ottawa at 613-798-2411.



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Federation holds *L'Chaim of Appreciation* event for 2014 Annual Campaign donors



PHOTO: HOWARD SANDLER

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa held a *L'Chaim of Appreciation* for donors to the 2014 Annual Campaign with food compliments of Creative Kosher Catering and a gorgeous view compliments of the Ottawa Convention Centre.
(From left) Federation President and CEO Andrea Freedman, Israeli Ambassador Rafael Barak, Campaign Co-Chairs Charles Schachnow and Leiba Krantzberg.



PHOTO: BARRY PRICE

Bob Bossin's *Davy the Punk* coming to Ottawa Fringe Festival

Bob Bossin brings his one-man show, *Davy the Punk*, to the Ottawa Fringe Festival for six performances between June 19 and 29 at the Ottawa Dance Directive space, 2 Daly Avenue. Bossin describes *Davy the Punk*, based on his book of the same name, as "a very Jewish show" and "a window on the great migration experience: my zayde's world and its clash with my father's."
Visit www.ottawafringe.com and www.davythepunk.com for information.

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Come visit the *Yiddish Akademia Far Kuntz*

BY SHIRLEY STEINBERG
DIE FOLKSHPIELER

Die Folkshpieler, the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC) Yiddish Players cordially invite you to visit the *Yiddish Akademia far Kuntz*, (Yiddish Academy of the Arts).

There you will meet the school's director, Professor Binyomin Blustzich and the notable teachers of Yiddish drama, voice and creative writing and observe their efforts to inspire their students with the rich and myriad hues of Yiddish. It all culminates with their students' achievements highlighted at the graduation ceremony.

Yiddish Akademia far Kuntz will be performed Sunday, June 15, 2 pm, at the SJCC. Admission is \$10 (nosh included).

Kum! Vest Kaikl'n far gelechter (Come! You will chuckle with laughter). English translation will be available.

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



A scene from Die Folkshpieler's 2013 production, *A Neie Velt*. The troupe returns, June 15, with its new comedy, *Yiddish Akademia far Kuntz*.

PHOTO: SYLVIA KLEIN

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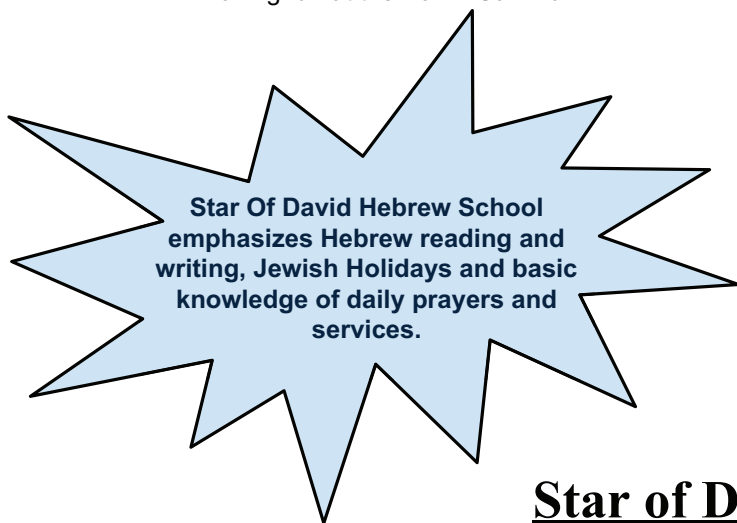
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SJCC Shiru Lach Choir to host benefit concert for Youth Services Bureau

BY ROSLYN WOLLOCK
SOLOWAY JCC

One of every five children and youth in Ontario has a mental health problem, according to Children's Mental Health Ontario.

Disorders range from anxiety, depres-

sion and conduct disorder to eating disorders, psychoses and bipolar disorder. In Canada, suicide is the second-highest cause of death for youth aged 10 to 24, and no religion, race or socio-economic demographic is immune from the devastating effects of unchecked mental health issues.

In the Ottawa region, families are extremely fortunate to have access to the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa (YSB), the largest accredited children's mental health centre in the region. The YSB recognizes need to treat the problems within the context of family, cultural group and community, and thousands of youth struggling with mental health challenges as well as countless parents worried about those youth come to the YSB for help each year.

Among the numerous important mental health services offered is the Youth and Family Counselling Program, which addresses issues such as family conflict, bullying, depression and/or anxiety, violence and abuse, substance abuse, sexual orientation, relationships, loss and bereavement. There is a great



The Soloway JCC Shiru Lach Choir will sing Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino and Broadway songs.



Jazz singer Karen Oxorn will present songs written by Jewish songwriters.

and constant need to keep these potentially lifesaving programs operating.

On Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 pm, the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC) Shiru Lach Choir will host a benefit concert for the YSB. In addition to Shiru Lach, the performers will include jazz vocalist Karen Oxorn and Canterbury High School's 30-member Male Chorus.

Oxorn and accompanists Mark Ferguson and Martin Newman will present *Celebrating Jewish Writers of the Great American Songbook* – songs written in the 1920s and '30s by George and Ira Gershwin, Oscar Levant, Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart, Irving Berlin, Sholom Secunda and Sammy Cahn, and Saul

Chaplin.

The Male Chorus, directed by Laurie Hamilton, was the winner of the 2013 National Music Festival Choral Competition and recipient of the City of Lincoln Trophy.

Director Ellen Asherman and accompanist Aviva Lightstone will lead the SJCC Shiru Lach Choir in an eclectic repertoire of Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino and Broadway tunes.

The evening will close with a 55-voice rendition of "When You Believe" from the animated film, *The Prince of Egypt*.

Tickets are \$15 (free for children 12 and under) and are available in advance at the SJCC front desk and at the door on the evening of the show.

OJCS Students Achieve Excellence



At OJCS, our students not only reach for excellence, they achieve excellence.

Congratulations to Ethan Geist, Stephen Palayew, Jonah Leinwand, Isaac Glassman and Jonathan Miller – taught by Mr. Brian Lamb (top photo) – who placed second and third in their divisions at the recent Ottawa Regional Science Fair.

More than 350 public and private schools participated from around the region. This marks the first time in over a decade students from OJCS achieved this level of success.

Small in size, but making a big impact might be how to best describe our OJCS high school students.

Shmuel Prizant, Ella Sabourin, Ethan Sabourin and Gabe Hamburg – accompanied by Rabbi Howard Finkelstein (bottom photo) – recently represented OJCS at the Moot Beit Din conference in Kansas City, along with 20 other North American schools, and placed second in the debate-style competition, behind American Hebrew Academy, a 400-student school from Atlanta, Georgia.

Our critical thinking skills, small class sizes, and excellent teachers are just a few of the reasons why OJCS students are succeeding and achieving great things.

To learn how OJCS can help your student succeed, contact Andréa Black at 613-722-0020 or andrea.black@theoics.ca • www.theoics.ca

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Ottawa Jazz Festival to feature Israeli artists

BY MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

Musicians from the State of Israel – six acts in all – will have a significant presence at this year’s edition of the Ottawa Jazz Festival opening June 20 and continuing until July 1.

The first Israelis to make an impact at the festival will be trumpet and flugelhorn player Itamar Borochoy and tenor saxophonist Jonathan Greenstein, who will appear in concert Saturday, June 21, 9 pm, at the National Arts Centre (NAC) Fourth Stage.

Borochoy grew up in Jaffa and combines Arabic and pan-African influences with jazz improvisation in his playing. Greenstein, originally from Tel Aviv, plays jazz mixed with soul and hip hop influences.

Guitarist and singer Dida Pelled – known professionally as “Dida” – will bring her quartet to the NAC Fourth Stage on Sunday, June 22, at 5 pm.

A graduate of the prestigious jazz department at the Thelma Yellin High

School of Performing Arts in Tel Aviv, Dida combines jazz with blues, folk and pop influences for a unique and swinging sound all her own. She served as a musician in the Israel Defense Forces and lately has been creating a highly noticeable buzz on the New York City scene while furthering her music studies at the New School University.

Pianist Shai Maestro, also a graduate of the Thelma Yellin High School of Performing Arts, brings his trio with Israeli drummer Ziv Ravitz and Peruvian bassist Jorge Roeder to the NAC Fourth Stage on Sunday, June 22, at 9 pm.

Maestro served a formidable apprenticeship as pianist for Avishai Cohen, the acclaimed Israeli jazz bassist and composer, before launching his trio, which has met with its own acclaim from jazz critics around the world.

“Maestro’s shimmering chords and dynamic build ups – always capped by whizzing piano and drum cross-currents from Ziv Ravitz – highlighted the pianist’s impassioned, emotionally rich



Israeli singer and guitarist Dida brings her songs to the NAC Fourth Stage, June 22

compositions,” wrote Mike Flynn in the April 2014 issue of *Jazzwise* magazine.

One of Israel’s most influential jazz artists, saxophonist Daniel Zamir will be accompanied by pianist Omri Mor, at the NAC Fourth Stage on Wednesday, June 25, at 6 pm.

Zamir plays what’s been called “Jewish jazz,” fusing elements of traditional Jewish music with contemporary jazz. His 2006 CD, *Amen*, is the best-selling Israeli jazz album of all time.

Pianist Anat Fort, who performs at the NAC Fourth Stage on Thursday, June 26, at 6 pm, is another Israeli jazz musician to find international acclaim for concerts and recordings.

“The Israeli-born pianist Anat Fort’s second CD with her trio is turbulent but spare, knife-edged but tender, brimming with melodic hooks that loop in sinuous shapes and a slightly klezmeric insouciance,” wrote critic Fred Kaplan in his list of *Slate* magazine’s 10 best albums of 2010.

“In Anat Fort’s music, I also hear an imperishable flavour of nigguns and, as Dizzy Gillespie used to say, the endless, flowing music of the universe,” added legendary jazz critic Nat Hentoff in *Jazz Times*.

Violinist and singer Michael Greilsammer, who already has a sizable Ottawa following after an extended residency last year with the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University, will be the final Israeli artist to perform at the Ottawa Jazz Festival, when he takes to the Laurier Avenue Canadian Music Stage on Sunday, June 29 at 10:30 pm.

Greilsammer uses both classical and rock techniques in his playing, and his music incorporates such seemingly disparate influences as Irish music and reggae into a distinct, unique and crowd-pleasing blend.

Visit www.ottawajazzfestival.com for complete festival information and concert tickets.



Acclaimed Israeli pianist and composer Anat Fort performs at the NAC Fourth Stage, June 26.

Soloway JCC Breakfast of Champions to honour local athletes, June 1

BY JON BRAUN
SOLOWAY JCC

The Soloway Jewish Community Centre (JCC) will hold our 13th Annual Breakfast of Champions on Sunday, June 1, 11 am.

This annual event celebrates our community’s athletes and their accomplishments.

Middle school, high school and university athletes will be honoured,

along with longtime volunteers and participants in JCC athletic programs including winning teams from the JCC softball, hockey and basketball leagues. Inductees into Ottawa’s Jewish Sports Hall of Fame are also honoured at the Breakfast of Champions.

The theme of this year’s celebration will be Women in Sport, and our special guest speaker will be Genevieve Lacasse, a member of the gold medal-winning

Canadian women’s hockey team at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

A native of Montreal, Lacasse rewrote all goaltending records at Providence College – including most wins (64), most games played (127), most saves (3,482) and most shut-outs (20) – in her four-year career there.

Now completing studies toward an MBA, Lacasse also plays for the Boston Blades of the Canadian Women’s Hockey League (CHWL). In 2013, she was named the CWHL Goaltender of the Year.

The Soloway JCC is very excited to have such a wonderful role model as our guest speaker at this year’s Breakfast of Champions.

For more information, contact Jon Braun at jbrown@jccottawa.com.



Genevieve Lacasse, goalie for on the gold medal-winning Canadian Women’s Hockey Team, will be guest speaker at the Breakfast of Champions, June 1

Read the entire edition of the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin online ... and more!
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(From left) Parents of the Year honorees Doron Shmorgun and Elianna Saidenberg with Jewish Youth Library directors Devora and Yosef Caytak at the library's 30th anniversary gala tribute dinner, May 4, at the Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel.

Jewish Youth Library celebrates 30th anniversary at gala dinner

BY DIANE KOVEN

The Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa celebrated its 30th anniversary with a gala tribute dinner, May 4, at the Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel.

From a modest beginning in the basement of founders Devora and Yosef Caytak's home, the Jewish Youth Library (JYL) has grown over three decades into a well-stocked, well-used library in its own mortgage-free building.

As well as being a repository of books, JYL programs include the Westboro Jewish Montessori Preschool, the Camp Gan Israel summer day camp and the Friendship Circle, which matches teenage volunteers with special needs children. JYL also regularly hosts courses and programs that appeal to a broad spectrum of Ottawa's Jewish community.

When the Caytaks arrived in Ottawa as young newlyweds, they decided to start a library for the benefit of their new community. By 1989, with the blessing of the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, they took the plunge and purchased a building to house their library.

"So, with about 50 dollars in the bank, we started to look for a building for our library," Devora told the 200 supporters attending the gala.

"With a no-interest loan from the Reichmann family in Toronto, and support from the community, the library bought a beautiful building across the street from our home ... The library paid back every penny to the Reichmanns and subsequently paid off its mortgage also."

At the gala, Erin Gailor was honoured as Teacher of the Year at the Westboro Jewish Montessori Preschool.

As the spouse of a Canadian Foreign Service officer, Gailor, a professional Montessori teacher and principal since 1981, has lived and taught around the

world. Each time the family returned to Ottawa, she renewed her association with the JYL and eventually donated all of her Montessori equipment to the JYL, where she continues to teach. She is devoted to her profession and to her students and, in return, is beloved by her students and colleagues. Unfortunately, Gailor was unable to attend the gala due to the death of her mother, so the award was accepted by her husband, Ben.

Doron Shmorgun and Elianna Saidenberg – busy physicians who devote themselves to both their careers and family life with equal fervour – were also honoured as Parents of the Year.

Their two children, Abby and Joey, spoke about how they love to attend programs at the JYL. Because of the benefits they have seen, the parents wholeheartedly support JYL. Saidenberg has chaired the annual raffle and is involved in the Women's Health Initiative as well as other JYL programs.

In accepting the award, Saidenberg modestly and humorously listed a variety of the couple's "failings" as parents, concluding that they are, in fact, as imperfect as most parents, but do their very best.

The honorees were presented with works of art specially created for them, including the Hebrew letter at the beginning of each surname, by Michael Muchnik.

Entertainment at the gala event was provided by the Maccabeats, an acclaimed vocal group formed in 2007 by students at Yeshiva University. The gala was held on Yom Hazikaron and the Maccabeats included songs for Israel's Memorial Day for fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism. A portion of the proceeds from the silent auction will be donated to *Chayal el Chayal*, a non-profit organization that provides support to lone soldiers in Israel.

The Palestinian Authority and Hamas: Will they or won't they?

The clock is ticking towards the self-imposed deadline for the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Hamas to agree on the terms of their latest attempt at unholy matrimony.

If they actually manage to form a unity government this time around, they plan to hold presidential and parliamentary elections within six months.

But don't worry, says PA President Mahmoud Abbas. There's nothing to stop the new "technocratic" government from pursuing a peace deal with Israel based on a two-state solution.

Is there anyone out there who really believes this?

Let's pretend for a moment that Abbas and the Palestinian Authority were once potential partners for peace.

Let's also pretend that, despite glorifying suicide bombers, paying imprisoned terrorists salaries based on how many Israeli lives they destroyed and teaching an entire generation of kids to aspire to killing Jews, Abbas and his cronies really just want to make nice with Israel.

Then, why would they join forces with an organization that is based on the religious belief that all Jews must be destroyed?

Hamas is not a political movement or a nationalist movement. It is a religious-based movement whose charter is explicitly and unequivocally grounded in the harshest and most extreme interpretations of Islamic law.

Article 7 of the Hamas Charter, for example, states: "The prophet (Muhammad) said, 'The time (of Resurrection) will not come until Muslims will fight the Jews; until the Jews hide behind rocks and trees, which will cry, O Muslim! There is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him!'"

According to Hamas, all of Palestine – which includes



BARBARA CROOK
MY ISRAEL

what we know as Israel – is an Islamic *waqf* (trust) "throughout all generations and to the day of Resurrection" (Article 11). It cannot be divided by anyone other than Allah – which means Hamas cannot adhere to any "man-made" agreement involving new borders or land swaps, nor can it ever truly recognize Israel's right to exist.

Furthermore, "the liberation of Palestine is an individual duty, binding on Muslims everywhere" (Article 13).

Hamas has made it clear that it has no intention of giving up its armed struggle, recognizing Israel or abiding by past peace agreements.

Indeed, the Israeli NGO Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) reports that the Izz A-Din Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, has just released a propaganda video that warns Israelis to go back to their "country of origin" – it specifies Russia and Germany – or prepare to die (www.tinyurl.com/18tze26).

Hamas's closest ties have been with the Muslim Brotherhood, which masquerades as a religious social organization, but ultimately aims to bring about world Islamic domination.

The ouster of Egypt's Islamist president Mohamed Morsi and subsequent collapse of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, however, plunged Hamas and Gaza into economic crisis.

So Hamas is desperate for a new ally – one with deep

pockets. Better yet, if Hamas is free from the burden of actually governing Gaza, it can go back to planning global *jihad* and trying to murder Israelis.

And Abbas, at age 79, can say he was the leader who reunited the Palestinian people.

It's all pretty cozy – except for the thorny issue of where the money is going to come from.

The United States gives the Palestinian Authority about \$400 million a year. But U.S. law prohibits funding for "assistance to Hamas or any entity effectively controlled by Hamas or any power-sharing government of which Hamas is a member."

Then again, the U.S. Congress has tried repeatedly to restrict aid to the Abbas government – largely because of its continued teaching of hatred in schools and its continued glorification of terror and terrorists – but President Barack Obama has consistently used his veto to let the money through.

So it doesn't always matter what U.S. law says, especially if Abbas can convince Obama that, without continued U.S. support, his "moderate" regime will collapse and Hamas will fill the power vacuum.

Don't expect Hamas to change a word of its charter, but look out for lots of parsing and quibbling about what it means for Hamas to "recognize" Israel.

Abbas, for example, told then-U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice in 2006 that the Palestinian finance minister had to "recognize" the Israeli finance minister in order to receive transfer payments from Israel.

Expect Abbas and Hamas to profess that Hamas isn't literally part of the new government of apolitical "technocrats," who will supposedly focus on domestic issues rather than diplomatic policy.

There's one thing these erstwhile enemies can always agree on, however. When it all blows up, it will be Israel's fault.

Affecting change when faced with complex challenges

There's a reason why some clichés always ring true. The old saying, "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach," actually holds true for both genders. Home-cooked meals and familiar dishes will put just about anyone at ease when they're away from home. For those who choose to dine out, making informed choices can get pretty tedious after a while.

There are also major concerns for Jewish students living away from home for the first time. Many want to keep kosher, but may have few resources or choices available to help them make reasonable decisions – and that's especially the case during Passover.

Life can already be difficult enough for young adults who move away from their families and communities for the first time. Typically, there is a period of adjustment – whether it is awkward or relatively smooth – and taking control of their own meals often has stressful implications for those who did not think about their options and devise a necessary strategy before they left home.

Lewis Novak was one of those students who knew there would be dietary challenges to consider that went beyond the "freshman 15" (the 15 pounds many students gain from eating cafeteria and fast food) when he first arrived at Carleton University. Now finishing his third year, Novak made it his mission two years ago to get the residence cafeteria to make kosher meals available to students.

As a member of the President's Advisory Board, Novak said he and others brought up the issue because,



MONIQUE ELLIOT
EMERGING GEN

during Passover, students living on campus who have the mandatory residence meal plans could not eat anything in the cafeteria because it was not kosher for Passover.

"That's a lot of money down the drain," he said.

Novak's efforts and sustained partnerships over the last few years built upon the framework the university already had in place for dietary restrictions, such as offering Halal meat. While the university offered kosher sandwiches, kosher meat was unavailable at the time.

"It was a long process," Novak said, but, following meetings with Ed Kane, vice-president of Student Services, and David Van Dyk, district manager of Aramark, the company responsible for food services at Carleton, this was the second year kosher meat has been available to students at Carleton's residence cafeteria.

While Novak says the new kosher options for students currently only affect about 10 students living on campus who have the mandatory residence meal plans, the expanded meal plan can also act as an incentive for more Jewish students to choose Carleton for their postsecondary education.

While getting kosher food more widely available in the dining hall has been a significant step forward, Novak says there is still one major challenge that prevents all Jews from being able to feel comfortable eating kosher on campus.

"The only thing is, there's no mashgiach, so people who are really religious can't eat that. But, we're working toward getting a mashgiach on campus and having that accessible to everyone," he said.

This was a challenge for the very observant during Passover, as the student groups Hillel Ottawa and Rohr Chabad Student Network brought in kosher food from Loblaw's and prepared it strictly using separate microwaves and gloves.

"For Passover, it looks like it was a real success," Novak said, adding that both faculty members and students were able to take advantage of the meals in order to keep kosher during Passover.

"The ball was always rolling in regards to kosher foods; this was kind of another step."

Among the many characteristics of the millennial generation, their entrepreneurial mindset and ability to affect change when faced with complex challenges stand out as one of the gifts they bring to both their peers and society.

Novak is just one of many student leaders who are learning from their own experiences and then taking steps to ensure other Jewish students are able to enjoy campus life to the fullest.

Many of us can surely agree that a full plate can be an essential starting point to building a full life.

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June 8, 7:00 pm

Hunting Elephants

Director: Reshef Levi • Comedy, 2013 • 107 mins

Jonathan, a boy genius with severe social problems, tragically loses his father and is sent to live in a nursing home with his bitter grandfather. At the home, Jonathan meets a host of extravagant characters including his grandfather's friend Nick, past "Lehi" underground members and bank robbers and Jonathan's uncle, a frustrated Shakespearean actor, trying to get his hands on his sister's inheritance. Together go on a journey to rob the bank that has ignored their existence.



June 12, 7:00 pm

Farewell, Herr Schwarz

Director: Yael Reuveny • Documentary, 2014 • 96 min

Sister and brother Michla and Feiv'ke Schwarz, could have re-met in Lodz in 1945...but they didn't. She migrated to a Jewish state in the Middle East and started a family; he returned to East Germany, changed his name, married a German woman and lived the rest of his life in the town where he was once a prisoner. The outcome of their decisions affects the course of lives for generations to come. *Farewell, Herr Schwarz* is an epic documentary by Yael Reuveny, the granddaughter of Michla Schwarz.



June 19, 7:00 pm

A Place in Heaven

Director: Yossi Madmony • 2013 • 117 min

The Halacha (Jewish religious law) recognizes the trade of a person's place in heaven. What happens when this idea leaves the ancient books and becomes part of real life?

When a young officer returns from a successful operation, the assistant army cook offers him a deal where he will make the officer's favourite dish in exchange for the his place in heaven. Forty years later, while the officer is on his death bed, his son, searches for the cook to convince him to cancel the contract.



June 22, 7:00 pm

The Wonders

Director: Avi Nesher • 2013 • 112 min

Ariel, a bartender and graffiti artist from the slums of the Old City, is trying to win back his ex-girlfriend who has recently become Orthodox. Late one night, Ariel's pleasantly mundane existence is turned upside down when he encounters the mysterious Rabbi Knafo, a modern-day prophet with special clairvoyant powers and a cult of finagled followers, being held captive in an abandoned building. A pushy private eye ropes a reluctant Ariel into a plan to use his neighboring apartment as a stakeout.

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For more information please contact Maxine Miska at 613-798-9818 ext. 263 or mmiska@jccottawa.com

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Is allowing women to serve as Israeli kosher supervisors a step toward gender equality?

BY BEN SALES

Jerusalem (JTA) – In a step that further expands the opportunities for women to serve as recognized authorities in Jewish law, the Israeli Chief Rabbinate for the first time is allowing women to serve as kosher supervisors.

Nine women took the Chief Rabbinate's kosher supervision exam this month in Jerusalem. Should they pass, they would become the first women qualified to enforce Jewish dietary laws in any Israeli institution the

Chief Rabbinate certifies as kosher.

The change resulted from a 2012 petition to Israel's Supreme Court from the Orthodox women's advocacy group Emunah. The following year, with the court having not yet issued a ruling in the case, Emunah launched a six-month class in kosher supervision for women that covered the topics included on the Chief Rabbinate's exam, from overseeing non-Jewish cooks to the laws of kosher slaughter, or shechitah.

Late last year, Israel's Chief Rabbinical Council voted

to allow female supervisors.

"Everything that allows women to take part in religious services and doesn't transgress halachic principles, we'll fight for," said Liora Minka, Emunah's director general. "Everything that is at the heart of the religious Zionist consensus, we'll fight for women to take part in."

If they pass, the nine candidates will join a growing group of women recognized as authorities in particular areas of Jewish law, among them advocates who argue cases before Israel's religious courts and informal advisers in areas of women's health and sexuality, including the Jewish laws of family purity.

Some activists see this most recent development as another incremental advance toward women serving alongside rabbis as general authorities on Jewish law. But others view the change as entrenching traditional women's roles within Orthodoxy rather than a push for gender equality.

"We don't need to be kosher supervisors to be like men," said Talya Libi, a 23-year-old mother who took the course in part because she believes a Jewish woman's traditional role is to supervise her own kitchen. "Calls for advancing the status of women are wrong from their foundation."

Chief Rabbinate spokesman Ziv Maor told JTA that rabbinic authorities disagree on whether women are allowed to be kosher supervisors. The Chief Rabbinate had sided with those who prohibited women from serving in that capacity, but Rabbi David Lau, who was elected chief rabbi over the summer, took the opposite view.

Like kosher supervisors, women gained the right to argue before religious courts only after a Supreme Court petition in 1991. Female *yoatzot halachah* (advisers in Jewish law) generally provide guidance privately and have not sought official endorsement.

"We haven't previously had institutions that were enabling the degree of Jewish legal knowledge that women are acquiring today," said Chana Henkin, the founder of Nishmat, which has trained 85 advisers since 1997. "Whether the community will be turning to women is something we'll all see within the next period of years."

Rabbi Shlomo Ben-Eliahu, who has taught women in the kosher supervision course, has employed female supervisors unofficially in his northern Israeli community for 15 years. He denied that the course constituted a revolution in Orthodoxy, noting that supervisors merely enforce Jewish legal decisions made by male rabbis.

"Every supervisor who works with me is in daily contact," he said. "You need to ask the rabbi, you need to talk to the rabbi."

But Hemda Shalom, a 54-year-old mother of five who took the exam last week, said she foresees a day when women will be able to adjudicate Jewish legal matters just as rabbis do.

"To decide Jewish law, you need very, very broad knowledge, and not a lot of people are capable," Shalom said. "If a woman meets the demands of adjudication, I don't see why not. Sometimes the grassroots dictate these things to the people up high. Time will tell."

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Is it time to reconsider the model of the rabbinic-style sermon?

I was recently at a bat mitzvah in Vancouver where the rabbi gave a provocative and timely sermon. It was about two topics I'd discussed a lot over the past week. One – the fining and public shaming of L.A. Clippers owner Donald Sterling over his racist rant – I'd parsed with friends and family over casual conversation. I had analyzed the other topic – the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations' rejection of J Street's membership bid – in a blog post for *Haaretz* filed just that afternoon.

There was nothing unusual in the form the rabbi's sermon took. He opened with two topics from the news, made an argument about each, found a common conceptual thread, and linked the entire discussion to Judaic sources.

Yet, as the sermon unfolded, I recognized a familiar, low-level anxiety I often feel when listening to rabbinic sermons, a feeling I'd seldom paused to examine before. I soon clued into the source of my discomfort: it was the discomfort of feeling silenced.

I thus couldn't help wondering whether we need a new model. What if sermons were opening statements in a broader, community discussion? What if sermons were no longer viewed as words from on high to be absorbed, silently, but rather platforms from which vigorous conversation takes place? A study conducted last year by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs revealed that, on sensitive topics such as the politics of Israel, rabbis are nervous about speaking out of fear of backlash. Might a reconsidered sermon model help



MIRA SUCHAROV
**VALUES, ETHICS,
COMMUNITY**

warm this chill factor?

At the end of the Oneg Shabbat celebration that evening, I introduced myself to the rabbi. I noted the bravery of his remarks and then proceeded to lay out some reactions of my own. There were areas that still troubled me conceptually. There were areas about which my own legal knowledge in the area of hate speech, for example, is limited, and I wanted to pose some followup questions. He listened warmly, we exchanged a few thoughts, and said goodnight.

The next day, I traded emails with a friend, a constitutional law expert, who clarified some issues for me. That night, at a family dinner, I continued the conversation with a relative who had also heard the sermon.

The upshot? I felt gratified and enriched by all of followup conversations. And, most curiously, I ended up agreeing with the rabbi's sermon more than I had when I heard it.

All this leads me to wonder, as well, whether readers of this column ever feel a similar sense of annoyance or frustration that our *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* conversa-

tion – as is the case with the newspaper form in its traditional role – might feel similarly unidirectional. There are always letters to the editor, of course, but traditional newsprint columnists are generally discouraged from responding to them directly. This ends up leading to a dynamic that feels much less like a mutually enriching conversation and more like a customer complaint.

There is another model, however. The legal scholar Stanley Fish, who used to contribute to the *Opinionator* blog on the *New York Times* website, would engage readers in a two-way, back-and-forth discussion from one blog post to the next. Surely there is an inherent satisfaction to the writer and to the reader in polishing the edges of what sometimes might feel like a brittle exchange into a productive and altogether human conversation.

It's a model that we might consider adopting more forthrightly in our communities: in our congregations, at AGMs, at public talks where some speakers have been known to be whisked offstage prior to questions so as to keep the evening "flowing," and in our community papers. One antidote that is already present is the wonderful new www.ottawajewishbulletin.com. There, readers can comment, respond to one another, and writers can even comment back. This is the way forward. While I hope my writing sometimes strikes a chord, please know that my ideas are enriched by your reactions.

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

Step out of your comfort zone

If you're unhappy with your weight, fitness level, appearance or health, you need to take action. To do that, you have to step out of your comfort zone and change direction. You need to challenge yourself by doing the unfamiliar. If what you've been doing, or not doing, isn't working – that is, it's not getting you the results you desire – it doesn't mean the results are unattainable. It means you need to rethink your strategies and refocus.

Stepping out of your comfort zone is not as frightening as you might think. But it does require courage and conviction to change and stick with it. When you begin to change, you'll realize that you're capable of more than you anticipated.

When I worked for nearly two decades in the technology sector, I was in development or management positions. My team and I provided products and services. I didn't have to sell to prospective clients. The sales team did that. Sales were never something I wanted to do. I tried sales as a teenager, but quit after a few weeks because I didn't believe in the products or sales tactics, and felt like I was bothering people. But promoting my book, *Personal Best*, has required me to step out of my comfort zone and sell not just my book, but its important message.

I've come to accept that not everyone I reach out to will be receptive and amenable. However, with risks come rewards, and the majority of people I've reached out to have been supportive. Pushing myself to go where I've not gone before has given me some unexpected opportunities, such as appearing on TV and radio shows.

I even got to meet and share my story with Chris Powell, the handsome celebrity personal trainer and host of the American TV show *Extreme Weight Loss*. Admittedly, it took some chutzpah for me to run over to Chris at the Activate Health and Fitness Expo where I



GLORIA SCHWARTZ
**FOCUS ON
FITNESS**

was selling my book. I gave him a copy and excitedly blurted out the gist of my transformation. I told him I feel better and am more fit now at age 50 than I was at 30, which is true!

During his keynote speech, Powell stepped out of his comfort zone by sharing his personal journey with prescription drug addiction and the related financial fallout. He didn't have to reveal that part of his life. He could have limited the subject of his talk to his successes. By opening up, he exposed his vulnerable side and showed that he, too, is fallible. That's what made his story most compelling and inspirational.

Powell also spoke about how he receives thousands of letters from "desperate people" seeking help for their obesity. He admitted that during his addiction he had many of the same feelings of hopelessness and self-hatred. At the time, he was a local TV personality in Arizona. He was helping people while hiding his problems. He lived in shame and allowed his ego to prevent him from seeking help or helping himself. Once he acknowledged his addiction and committed to change, he was able to conquer his problems. Not long after getting clean, he became a national TV star and has since used his show as a platform to help thousands of people improve their health.

The salient points of Powell's talk were: 1) Life will get worse, if you don't change for the better; 2) Transformation is about promise-keeping. Make a

promise to yourself and keep it as if it were a promise to someone else; 3) Love yourself; 4) Start with small, achievable steps, for example, just five minutes of exercise per day. From there you can build; 5) Nobody's perfect. If you mess up, "confess, reassess and recommit."

I'm proud to say that my health and wellness philosophies – which took me decades to discover and embrace – are aligned with Powell's. And stepping out of my comfort zone to share my personal challenges in my book has made me stronger too.

Each of us is on a unique journey. I hope you step out of your comfort zone and create your own success story.

Gloria Schwartz is a personal trainer at the Soloway JCC and the author of Personal Best: Train Your Brain and Transform Your Body for Life.

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Ottawa author creates an adventure in the Catskills with Jewish themes

**Storm King Wildlands Reserve:
Running is Life in Motion**

By Ben Kruser

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform
620 pages

As I flew to Florida recently, my travelling companions were Dinah and Selah, Bill and Norm, Johnny Pancakes and Blackie, Mrs. Murphy, Patsy and Dieter, Chumpsy, Enchante and Wawaneehi.

They are among many wacky characters in *Storm King Wildlands Reserve: Running is Life in Motion* by Ottawa author Ben Kruser.

Dinah, a Jewish single mother, and her blue-haired teenage daughter, Selah, start new lives after moving to their Catskill cottage when Dinah loses her job.

It's a fat novel of 600-plus pages, and its many themes include lost and found dreams, the value of nature and the power of running. There's a teen-novel-like story within the larger story as Selah adjusts to her new school.

Johnny Pancakes arrives in Dinah's life after she gets an email from her old rabbi that a close friend of his has moved to the area, and asking her to host him for an evening.

Earlier, it was mentioned that "Dinah was not a religious person," so it seems a bit odd that she would be on close terms with her old rabbi, but it's a device that

moves the plot along.

There is a lot of philosophical discussion with Johnny Pancakes over dinner, on natural law, law of the jungle, covenantal law. There are long preachy paragraphs by Dinah telling Selah she is "like a diamond in a slag heap" and "the people who really count know that you and I are good people. We just have to stay true to our values." Values is a recurring theme in the novel.

There are other Jewish references, such as when Selah says, "To be honest, Mrs. Murphy, I think the online Torah study I read gives me enough to figure out how to lead a decent life."

Another is the mention that "to ward off the evil eye, you have to use a red string that has been wrapped around the tomb of Rebecca seven times. There's a Kabbalistic rabbi in Israel that risks his life to wrap the string around the tomb so people who need it can have it."

Johnny has a red string he braids around Selah's wrist, whispering a prayer in Hebrew.

There's a lot of extended trivia about birds, car

LOUISE RACHLIS BOOK REVIEW



engines, science projects, rattlesnakes, running – the author tells us a bit about everything in his past experience as an outdoor educator and endurance runner.

His knowledgeable descriptions, such as nature walk camper Thomas' attempt to catch a frog, are engaging.

There are plot turns about the running of the wildlands reserve, marathon running, student drug dealers, a fake shamaness and Catskill gnomes.

"You never cease to amaze me Johnny Pancakes. So if I can ask, what is it you want to perfect yourself to become?" Dinah asks toward the end of the novel.

"What I want is to become a mensch. Who knows, maybe someday I'll get there," he replies.

She tells him she thinks he's "pretty darn close."

"I hope so, but then again, nobody's perfect," he smiles.

Storm King Wildlands Reserve is not perfect either. Among the imperfections are too many distracting typos such as mistaking "your" for "you're" and "there" for "they're." There are also too many synonyms for said – remarked, queried, retorted, exclaimed, etc. – and the dialogue, descriptions and trivia are too long, with too much trivia.

While the book may have benefited from a good editor with a firm hand, it does include many interesting and entertaining bits of information, and has a great date square recipe at the end from the author as a "Thank you for reading my novel."

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The Right Honourable Herb Gray by Gail and Stephen Victor.

David Light by Gail and Stephen Victor.

R'fuah Sh'leimah to:

Judith Slipacoff by Gail and Stephen Victor.

SONIA AND ARTHUR VINER MEMORIAL FUND

Best Wishes to:

The Aberman family by John and Gladys Greenberg.

Kevin and Michelle Viner and family by John and Gladys Greenberg.

Nancy Viner by John and Gladys Greenberg.

MICHAEL WALSH AND LISA ROSENKRANTZ ENDOWMENT FUND

In Appreciation to:

Lisa Rosenkrantz by Mark and Carol Freedman.

MILDRED AND PERCY WEINSTEIN ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday Wishes to:

Sandi Cook by Mildred Weinstein.

R'fuah Sh'leimah to:

Judith Slipacoff by Mildred Weinstein.

ROBERT WENER AND LYNNE ORECK WENER FAMILY FUND

Mazel Tov to:

Morris Fish on his appointment by Lynne Oreck-Wener and Bob Wener.

SAM AND HELENE ZARET MEMORIAL FUND

Condolences to:

Elaine Stulberg and family on the loss of her beloved mother, Freda by the Zaret family.

ZIPES KARANOFSKY FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Condolences to:

Monica Brewer and family on the loss of her beloved mother by Rick and Helen Zipes.

KAREN AND IAN ZUNDER FAMILY FUND

Mazel Tov to:

Rabbi Reuven Bulka on receiving the Order of Canada by Karen and Ian Zunder and family.

THE WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE PHILANTHROPY PROGRAM

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

WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday Wishes to:

Natalie Rozen by Lynne Oreck-Wener and Bob Wener and family.

Happy Mother's Day to:

Andree Acel by Margaret and Bob Lederman.

Jennifer Albert by Annette Albert.

Ilana Albert-Novick by Annette Albert.

Sharon Albert by Annette Albert.

Michelle Burke by Annette Albert.

Marlene Cherun by Margaret and Bob Lederman.

Sylvia Dollin by Zave Chad and Janet Dollin.

Ruth Kaplan by Devra Freedman, Fran Freedman-Kesler and Carly Kesler.

Libby Katz by Fran Freedman-Kesler and Carly Kesler.

Ethel Kesler by Fran Freedman-Kesler and Carly Kesler.

Marcia Koven by Diane Koven.

Esther Lederman by Margaret and Bob Lederman.

Donna Levin by Debi and Neil Zaret.

Corinne Levine by Debi and Neil Zaret.

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

Zoe Oreck by Lynne Oreck-Wener and Bob Wener and family.

Bert Palmer by Fran Freedman-Kesler and Carly Kesler.

Rachel Schachter by Margaret and Bob Lederman.

Evelyn Wener by Lynne Oreck-Wener and Bob Wener and family.

In Appreciation to:

Heather Cohen by Lynne Oreck-Wener and Bob Wener and family.

Deanna Drahozal by Diane Koven.

Stuart and Carol Levine by Debi and Neil

Zaret.

Mazel Tov to:

Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton on her upcoming installation ceremony by Lynne Oreck-Wener and Bob Wener.

Betina Kuzmarov on her appointment as Associate Dean by Diane Koven.

THE SAUL AND EDNA GOLDFARB B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM

NOAH BELLMAN B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

Mazel Tov to:

Mitchell Bellman on receiving the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award by Bernard and Donna Dolansky.

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

In Appreciation

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who sent us expressions of kindness, cards, meals and donations, in memory of **Joseph I. Filler z"l** of Montreal, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who will be sorely missed. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are very much appreciated. **Mrs. Helen Filler of Montreal, Shelley Engel and Debbie Aarenau of Ottawa**

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

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Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation Grants to Organizations December 31, 2013

| ORGANIZATION | 2013 Dollars | |
|--|------------------|--|
| Ottawa Jewish Community Agencies | | |
| Agudath Israel Synagogue | 583 | |
| Beth Shalom Congregation | 6,833 | |
| Congregation Beit Tikvah of Ottawa | 173 | |
| Camp B'nai Brith | 17,523 | |
| Camp Gesher | 158 | |
| Canada Israel Cultural Foundation | 392 | |
| Canadian Friends of Torah Academy | 3,861 | |
| Cheder Rambam School | 32,310 | |
| Gilbert Greenberg Education Fund | 135,240 | |
| George Joseph Cooper Scholarship Award | 14,115 | |
| Hillel Academy Agency Fund | 3,514 | |
| Hillel Lodge | 121,935 | |
| Hillel Lodge Ladies Auxiliary | 303 | |
| Jewish Community of Ottawa Development Foundation* | 154,073 | |
| Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa Inc. | 34,090 | |
| Jewish Education Through Torah | 29,914 | |
| Jewish Family Services | 96,724 | |
| Jewish Federation of Ottawa | 15,364 | |
| Jewish Federation of Ottawa - Annual Campaign | 273,638 | |
| Jewish Federation of Ottawa - Ottawa Jewish Archives | 6,573 | |
| Jewish Federation of Ottawa - Hillel Ottawa on Campus | 5,418 | |
| Jewish Federation of Ottawa - Ottawa Vaad HaKashrut | 179 | |
| Jewish Federation of Ottawa - Shoah (Holocaust) Committee of Ottawa | 6,391 | |
| Jewish Federation of Ottawa/OJCS Fundraising Campaign | 36,000 | |
| Jewish Memorial Gardens | 35,657 | |
| Jewish Memorial Gardens Agency Fund | 19,041 | |
| Jewish National Fund | 5,165 | |
| Jewish Youth Library | 7,598 | |
| Kosher Food Bank at Agudath Israel Synagogue | 8,008 | |
| Machzikei Hadas Congregation | 4,115 | |
| Na'Amat Ottawa | 440 | |
| Ottawa Chevra Kadisha | 612 | |
| Ottawa Hadassah-Wizo | 1,847 | |
| Ottawa Hebrew Free Loan | 239 | |
| Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation - Legacy Challenge | 5,801 | |
| Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation - Insurance Funds | 914 | |
| Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation - PACE | 14,942 | |
| Ottawa Jewish Community School (Hillel Academy & YRHS) | 107,437 | |
| Ottawa Jewish Historical Society | 7,185 | |
| Ottawa Lodge Bnai Brith | 66 | |
| Ottawa Post Jewish War Vets | 1,014 | |
| Ottawa Modern Jewish School | 3,180 | |
| Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad | 1,142 | |
| Ottawa Torah Institute & Machon Sarah High School | 18,162 | |
| Soloway Jewish Community Centre | 118,111 | |
| Soloway Jewish Community Centre (AJA 50+) | 11,747 | |
| Star of David Hebrew School | 2,342 | |
| Talmud Torah Afternoon School | 9,207 | |
| Tamir Foundation | 77,666 | |
| Temple Israel Congregation | 1,463 | |
| Temple Israel Religious School | 5,065 | |
| Temple Israel (Ottawa) Foundation | 5,024 | |
| Torah Academy of Ottawa | 24,662 | |
| Vered Israel Cultural Centre | 15,195 | |
| Women's Collective Endowment Fund Grant recipient | 1,651 | |
| Total | 1,510,002 | |
| Jewish Agencies North America | | |
| Bnei Akiva Schools | 447 | |
| Conservatory for Judaic Performing Arts | 1,523 | |
| Emunah Women of Canada (Rachel Kizell Chapter) | 612 | |
| Imre Noam Congregation | 500 | |
| JACS Toronto | 179 | |
| London Community Hebrew Day School | 100 | |
| Mazon Canada | 50 | |
| Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation - Montreal | 74 | |
| Nishma Societal Endeavour in Understanding Torah | 38 | |
| Oir Hachaim D'Tash Bois Briand | 467 | |
| ORT Canada | 705 | |
| Reena Foundation | 216 | |
| Ruchama Fraidel Relief Organization | 179 | |
| Society for the Education of Russian Jews (SERJ) | 221 | |
| Toronto Jewish Free Loan | 89 | |
| Total | 5,400 | |
| Jewish Agencies in Israel, Ottawa and North America | | |
| Yesod & Binah Funds - Grants and Allocations (Anonymous) | 1,554,399 | |
| Tzedek Fund - Grants and Allocations (Anonymous) | 15,000 | |
| Total | 1,569,399 | |
| Israeli Institutions | | |
| Beit Halochem Canada/Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel (Canada) | 152 | |
| Canadian Associates of Ben-Guroun University of the Negev | 1,133 | |
| Canadian Friends of Alyn | 93 | |
| Canadian Friends of Bar Ilan University | 2,691 | |
| Canadian Friends of Hebrew University | 3,904 | |
| Canadian Friends of Jerusalem Blind Institute | 456 | |
| Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital | 844 | |
| Canadian Friends of Ramat Shapira Israel | 375 | |
| Canadian Friends of Shaare Tzedek Hospital Foundation | 200 | |
| Canadian Friends of Simon Weisenthal Foundation | 26 | |
| Canadian Friends of Weizmann Institute of Science | 2,726 | |
| Canadian Magen David Adom in Israel | 1,689 | |
| Canadian Technion Society | 2,658 | |
| Israel Cancer Research Fund | 37 | |
| Mizrachi Organization of Canada for Yeshiva Haye Olam | 445 | |
| New Israel Fund of Canada | 44 | |
| Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism | 392 | |
| United Israel Appeal Federations Canada | 13,078 | |
| Total | 30,943 | |
| Other Organizations | | |
| Alzheimer Society Ottawa-Carleton | 168 | |
| Andrew Fleck Integration Service | 241 | |
| Arthritis Society | 199 | |
| Canadian Association for HIV Research | 14 | |
| Canadian Cancer Society | 763 | |
| Canadian Diabetes Association | 172 | |
| Canadian Museum for Human Rights | 30,000 | |
| Canadian National Institute for the Blind | 468 | |
| Canadian Orthopedic Foundation | 468 | |
| Canadian Red Cross Society - Ottawa-Carleton Branch | 312 | |
| Canadian Tribute to Human Rights | 95 | |
| Carleton University | 3,594 | |
| Children At Risk Ottawa | 121 | |
| Children's Hospital Of Eastern Ontario | 2,772 | |
| Children's Wish Foundation | 78 | |
| Community Foundation of Ottawa-Carleton | 375 | |
| Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada | 341 | |
| Elizabeth Bruyere Research Institute | 3,000 | |
| Foundation For Fighting Blindness | 396 | |
| Girls & Boys Club of Ottawa-Carleton | 214 | |
| Heart and Stroke Foundation | 366 | |
| Kemptville District Hospital | 468 | |
| Kidney Foundation of Canada | 156 | |
| Kiwanis Club of Ottawa Medical Foundation | 174 | |
| Lisgar Alumni Association | 467 | |
| Nepean High School | 73 | |
| North York General Hospital - Sheila Cohen Fund for Womens Health | 259 | |
| Other professional fees and disbursements | 24,771 | |
| Ottawa Food Bank | 38 | |
| Ottawa Hospital Foundation | 2,402 | |
| Ottawa Humane Society | 40 | |
| Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre Foundation | 296 | |
| Parkinson's Support and Research Society | 15 | |
| Parkway House | 486 | |
| Perley and Rideau Veterans Health Centre Foundation | 1,000 | |
| Pinchas Zukerman Music Education Fund | 7,768 | |
| Queen's University | 467 | |
| Queensway-Carleton Hospital Foundation | 2,217 | |
| REACH | 98 | |
| The Salvation Army | 467 | |
| United Way of Ottawa-Carleton | 474 | |
| University of Ottawa | 1,617 | |
| University of Ottawa Heart Institute Foundation | 1,371 | |
| Water-Can | 287 | |
| Total | 89,568 | |
| Total to Jewish Causes | 3,115,744 | |
| To Non-Sectarian Organizations | 89,568 | |
| Total Grants to Organizations | 3,205,312 | |
| * Grants from the Jewish Community of Ottawa Development Foundation were allocated as follows: | | |
| Jewish Family Services | \$6,949 | |
| Vered Israel Cultural Centre | \$8,664 | |
| Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation | \$4,059 | |
| Hillel Lodge | \$55,835 | |
| Hillel Academy | \$25,768 | |
| Soloway JCC | \$25,768 | |
| Jewish Federation of Ottawa | \$27,030 | |
| Total | \$154,073 | |

Thank you to our donors.

With your support, we were able to distribute more than \$3.2 million to worthy charitable organizations.

WHAT'S GOING ON | May 26 to June 29, 2014

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

MONDAY, MAY 26

Hillel Lodge Auxiliary Telethon:
Please answer the call! 6 to 8:30 pm

TUESDAY, MAY 27

"How Does Judaism Shape Mental Health?"
A discussion with Rabbi R. Bulka, The Royal, Associates in Psychiatry Auditorium, 1145 Carling Avenue, 6:30 to 8 pm.
Info: [Leila Mackay, lggi@sympatico.ca](mailto:Leila.Mackay@sympatico.ca)

Jewish Unity Live 2014:

An evening of entertainment and inspiration at the Ron Maslin Playhouse, 1 Ron Maslin Way, Kanata, 7:15 to 10 pm. Info: [JET Office, 613-695-4800, info@jetottawa.com](mailto:JET.Office@jetottawa.com)

SJCC Shiru Lach Musical Mosaic Concert:
Benefit concert for Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa, 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Info: [Roslyn Wollock, 613-798-9818, ext. 254, rwollock@jccottawa.com](mailto:Roslyn.Wollock@jccottawa.com)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

Hillel Lodge Annual General Meeting:
The Bess & Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge, 10 Nadolny Sachs Private, 7 pm. Info: [613-728-3900, ext. 122, hillel@hillel-ltc.com](mailto:hillel@hillel-ltc.com)

Machzikei Movie Night:

"The Long Way Home," narrated by Morgan Freeman. Donations for the Kosher Food Bank welcomed. Light refreshments. Congregation Machzikei Hadas, 2310 Virginia Drive, 7 pm. Info: [613-521-9700, www.machzikeihadas.com/events](mailto:613-521-9700)

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Jewish National Fund/Agudath Israel Author Talk: Judie Oron, author of *Cry of the*

Giraffe to speak in support of JNF's interactive animal centre at Retorno. Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Info: [Ilana Albert-Novick, 613-798-2411, ottawa@jnf.ca](mailto:Ilana.Albert-Novick@jnf.ca)

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Seudah Shlishit Study and Dinner: Meet at 5 pm for study, followed by a potluck dinner and Havdalah. All are welcome. Please RSVP. The Glebe Minyan, 19 - 612 Bank Street, 5 to 8:30 pm. Info: [Anna Maranta, 613-867-5505, maranta.anna@gmail.com](mailto:Anna.Maranta@gmail.com)

Emunah Women of Ottawa

"Family in Israel" Evening:
Shlomo Ben-David will speak on "Is Charity an Investment?" In support of Emunah's projects in Israel. 2255 Carling Avenue, 3rd floor, 7:30 pm. Info: [Rivka Kraus, 613-241-5613](mailto:Rivka.Kraus@jnf.ca)

MONDAY, JUNE 2

Professional Development Workshop, Session 2: Paula Speevak-Sladowski of Volunteer Canada to discuss topic of governance. All organizations, agency professionals and volunteers welcome, 6:45 to 9 pm. Pre-registration required. Info: [Sarah Beutel, 613-798-4696, ext. 253, sbeutel@jewishottawa.com](mailto:Sarah.Beutel@jewishottawa.com)

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Am Echad Walk/Run: Jewish Community Walkathon for Jewish Education, 8:30 to 11 am. Info: info@amechadwalkrun.com

CHW Spring Tea:

In honour of Barbara Crook, at the home of Marcia and Barry Cantor, 6 Dodder Key Court,

2 to 4 pm. Info: [Patsy Royer, 613-233-3099, prouer@rogers.com](mailto:Patsy.Royer@rogers.com)

Israeli Film Festival: "Hunting Elephants"
Auditorium, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, 7 to 9:30 pm. Info: www.israelifilmfestival.ca

MONDAY, JUNE 9

Israeli Brunch: In support of Hillel Lodge at the home of Sharon Appotive, 464 Springfield Road, 11:30 am to 2 pm. Info: [Alyce Baker, 613-230-9995, the_bakers@rogers.com](mailto:Alyce.Baker@rogers.com)

Congregation Beit Tikvah of Ottawa AGM:

Congregation Beit Tikvah, 15 Chartwell Avenue, 7 to 9 pm. Info: [Sue Potechin, 613-723-1800, shul@cbto.org](mailto:Sue.Potechin@cbto.org)

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

OJCS Community Open House:
Visit Ottawa Jewish Community School, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 9 to 11 am. Info: [Sara-Lynne Levine, 613-722-0020, sl.levine@theojcs.cs](mailto:Sara-Lynne.Levine@theojcs.cs)

Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation AGM:

All members of the community are welcomed to join, 7 to 9 pm. Info: [Erica Geller, 613-798-4696, ext. 252, egeller@jewishottawa.com](mailto:Erica.Geller@jewishottawa.com)

Malca Pass Library Book Discussion Group:

The Garden of Evening Mists by Tan Twan Eng, reviewed by Deborah Saginur. Agudath Israel Synagogue, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 7:30 to 9 pm. Info: [Maureen Kaell, 613-224-8649, mkaell@rogers.com](mailto:Maureen.Kaell@rogers.com)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

Congregation Machzikei Hadas Rabbi Reuven Bulka Gala Tribute Dinner:

Keynote speaker MP Jason Kenney, Fairmont Château Laurier, 1 Rideau Street, 6 to 10 pm. Info: [Jordana Vered, 613-899-9623, gala@machzikeihadas.com](mailto:Jordana.Vered@machzikeihadas.com)

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

Israeli Film Festival:

"Farewell, Herr Schwarz"
Hebrew, German and English, with English subtitles. Auditorium, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, 7 to 9:30 pm. Info: www.israelifilmfestival.ca

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

Jewish Federation of Ottawa 80th AGM:
All members of the community are welcomed, 7 to 9 pm. Info: [Rachel Abenhaim, 613-798-4696, ext. 236, rabenhaim@jewishottawa.com](mailto:Rachel.Abenhaim@jewishottawa.com)

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Israeli Film Festival: "A Place in Heaven"
Auditorium, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, 7 to 9:30 pm. Info: www.israelifilmfestival.ca

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Israeli Film Festival: "The Wonders"
Auditorium, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, 7 to 9:30 pm. Info: www.israelifilmfestival.ca

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

Kabbalat Shabbat and Dinner:
Service followed by a potluck dairy meal and conversation. The Glebe Minyan, 91A Fourth Avenue, 6 to 9 pm. Info: [Anna Maranta, 613-867-5505, maranta.anna@gmail.com](mailto:Anna.Maranta@gmail.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:

Irving Bercovitch

Adrian Sandor Brachfeld

Gertrude Brown (née Litwack),
North Bay (sister of Sam and Moe Litwack)

Dr. Gerald Glantz

Arnold Rose

Morley Sobcuff, Montreal
(brother of Evelyn Lieff)

Faige Zylberlicht, Montreal
(mother of Marsha Kaiserman)

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.

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