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Community mourns loss of lives, prays for peace at solidarity gathering

BY MONIQUE ELLIOT

"Try to imagine how you would cope with the constant sirens and bomb shelters with your family."

Steven Kimmel, chair of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, shared the memory of a night he experienced in 2012 that was much like the ones so many Israelis have been living through in recent months and particularly since Operation Protective Edge began on July 8.

Sentiments of solidarity, mourning and activism were expressed by the more than 400 community members who gathered, August 6, for the *Standing Together with Israel* evening at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC).

It was the third time this summer that the community came together in solidarity with Israel, following an evening of remembrance, July 3 at Congregation Machzikei Hadas, for the three murdered Israeli teenagers, and Rally for the People of Israel, July 16 at the SJCC, held after the first week of Operation Protective Edge.

"We would all have preferred that an evening of solidarity was not needed at this juncture," Kimmel said. "But the tragic losses in Israel and the ongoing violence necessitate our coming together as a community once again."

Less than a month after the last rally, both organized by the Federation and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), the evening provided an opportunity for community members to reflect on the month-long conflict. The gathering was held during a 72-hour cease-fire brokered by Egypt that began the day



A standing-room-only crowd of more than 400 gathers in solidarity with Israel at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, August 6. PHOTO: MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

before. During the cease-fire, talks continued in Cairo aimed at establishing an ongoing truce.

Israeli Ambassador Rafael Barak said it is important to "take stock" of the facts and lessons learned during the past month.

"We learned that we are a strong democracy," he said. "We learned that these terrorists will do anything in their power to claim innocent Israeli lives and that Hamas places no value on its own civilian population."

Barak summarized the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) statistics of both damage

and triumphs that have been achieved since the beginning of open hostilities, including destroying 32 Hamas tunnels into Israel, more than 1,600 rocket-launching facilities, 191 weapons caches and 97 terrorist command centres, striking 4,700 terror targets and killing more than 750 terrorists.

Barak noted the figures challenge those provided by Hamas, but said he felt confident the "real picture" would be revealed in the coming days.

"We have all been left in grief, appalled and devastated by the innocent loss of life on both sides," Barak said.

"Our reverence for life is stronger than [Hamas's] culture of death," Barak said. "We know the price of war. We continue to pay this heavy price to live in our homeland. We don't have any other place."

Among the stark reminders of war was the tally of dead: 64 IDF soldiers and three civilians were killed during Operation Protective Edge. The first among the civilians killed was 37-year-old Dror Hanin whose story was one of several read aloud by Jennifer Loomer-Gencher and Manya Greenberg during a

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Solidarity: 'We need you. Israel needs you,' leaders tell crowd

Continued from page 1

presentation that also remembered the lives of two soldiers lost by Israel during the operation. Loomer-Gencher and Greenberg had been in Israel during the operation as participants in the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project mission.

The Ottawa Jewish community's connection to the conflict was made even clearer when *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* columnist Jason Moscovitz explained, via audio recording, his family's connection to 2nd Lt. Hadar Goldin, 23, an IDF soldier thought to have been captured by Hamas, but later discovered to have died in combat.

Goldin was the brother-in-law of Moscovitz's daughter Emmanuelle who lives in Israel.

"I have been around words all my life, but it took up until that moment to fully understand the meaning of the word, 'surreal,'" he said. "When his death was confirmed on Saturday night, I was numb, thinking of all those who suffer such great personal loss in Israel."

Goldin came from a lineage of committed Zionists. His grandparents made aliyah to Israel after surviving the Holocaust. Both Goldin and his twin brother Tzur served as officers in the IDF, and fought in Gaza at the same time. Goldin was engaged and had planned to marry in September.



Manya Greenberg (left) and Jennifer Loomer-Gencher present the story of Dror Hanin, the first Israeli civilian killed in Operation Protective Edge.

"Filled with exuberance, religious conviction, strength of character, intelligence and loads of good looks, I can still see him ... dancing his heart out [at my daughter's wedding]," Moscovitz said.

Moscovitz had been scheduled to speak in person at the rally, but travelled to Israel to be with family members there. His presentation was introduced by another of his daughters, Simonne Moscovitz, who eloquently reflected on

her family's connection to Goldin. Several speakers also made it clear that Israel is relying heavily on its allies for both emotional and physical support, emphasizing and praising both Canada's and Ottawa's Jewish communities' dedication to Israel.

"Here in Canada we, as a community, can take a great measure of pride in how we've managed over the last eight weeks," said CIJA CEO Shimon Koffler

Fogel, also referring to the anxiety related to the kidnapping of three young Israelis later found dead.

Fogel applauded the Canadian government and political leaders from the three major federal parties for their "moral clarity" and support, while highlighting CIJA's continued efforts to engage the Canadian population through rallies, infographics, social media and its particularly successful Four Questions campaign, which reached an estimated 100,000 people.

Federation President and CEO Andrea Freedman further encouraged the community to get involved by staying informed and to engage with the media and politicians as an active participant.

"The past seven weeks have been agonizing, terrifying and humbling," she said. "Raw emotions have made us all yearn for opportunities to gather together and invoke in all of us a strong desire to make a difference."

Freedman expressed her gratitude to those who had already donated to the Israel Crisis Fund, which has already raised \$170,000. She stressed that 100 per cent of donations are allocated strategically and wisely.

"And so, tonight, even as we mourn the devastating loss of Israeli lives, let us take steps to empower ourselves and translate our grief into strategic, united and positive action," she said.

Freedman also invited the community to travel to Israel in May 2015 with the Federation's community mission or for the Dragon Boat Israel festival.

"We need you. And, more importantly, Israel needs you," she said.

"We realize that life is a partnership," echoed Rabbi Reuven Bulka, whose closing remarks included passionate prayers for the state of Israel and the welfare of the soldiers defending it.

Emotions had swayed from tears and grief during the readings of soldiers' biographies to empowerment and hope as Cantor Jeremy Burko led the assembly in singing "Oseh Shalom," during which many in the crowd began to clap in time with the music and wave Israeli flags.

Donations to the Federation's Israel Crisis Fund can be made by contacting Jean Myers at 613-798-4696, ext. 242, or jmyers@jewishottawa.com.



(From left) Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka; CIJA CEO Shimon Koffler; Col. Adam Susman, Israel's Defense Attaché to Canada; Federation President and CEO Andrea Freedman; Federation Chair Steven Kimmel; and Israeli Ambassador Rafael Barak take part in the solidarity gathering for the State of Israel, August 6.



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Meet Arie Rosenblum and Ariel Fainer

These two new Federation staff members share the mutual goal of engaging community in their respective new roles. They spoke with the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin's* Monique Elliot.

It's not always easy being the "new guy," but **Arie Rosenblum**, the new director of Development for the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation, said the community and his colleagues have made him feel like he truly belongs.

A former investment adviser with a flair for the written word, Rosenblum left the corporate world of Bay Street in 2000 to build on his years of volunteerism as a professional with a series of Canadian Jewish organizations – work that he finds much more fulfilling.

Moving to Ottawa to spearhead community development and fundraising for the Federation and Foundation has been a big change, but from past visits, Rosenblum said he knew it would be a great place to be.

"I felt it was a natural progression. This is the next step," he said.

Rosenblum is responsible for all Federation and Foundation fundraising, including the Centre for Jewish Philanthropy and the Annual Campaign.

"What I hope to accomplish, first of all, is to engage with what is appearing, ever more clearly, to be a wonderful community," Rosenblum said just one week after relocating to the nation's capital from Toronto. "I'm already very impressed with the community."

Rosenblum said his challenge now is to get to know community members on a one-to-one basis so he can learn what the priorities are in all elements of the community, as well as introduce himself and become a familiar face at events and around the city. He spent his first Ottawa Shabbat at Congregation Machzikei Hadas and intends to spend time at each of Ottawa's congregations, he said.

Rosenblum added that he is confident the skills he developed working for Jewish organizations will serve him well in Ottawa. Rosenblum came to the Federation and Foundation after five years as the operations and communications director for NCSY Canada and Torah High.

He has also worked for B'nai Brith Canada, was director of Israel Affairs and Crisis Management at the National Jewish Campus Life, and has done advocacy consulting with the Centre for

Israel and Jewish Affairs.

All those experiences are "just more tools in the toolbox" to improve upon the past fundraising initiatives, he said.

"I'm honoured to be able to work with people who I know have been volunteering, have been giving themselves, of their time, their effort and of their cheque books," he said. "Learning from all the great volunteers who are so much a part of what makes it tick and grown it to this point has inspired me to take it to the next level."

Rosenblum said the Federation and Foundation's strategic plans are solid, and he plans to work within its framework to achieve the benchmarks set out from 2014 to 2019 to increase the resources to meet the needs of the community. He also said he hopes to add some innovative new initiatives in the process.

"You only build constituencies by listening and hearing what the concerns, the needs and the observations of the Jewish community are."
– Arie Rosenblum

All of his work will be done with the welfare of the community as his motivation and he will be listening closely for feedback and constructive criticism, he said.

"I think the key elements are building constituencies, and you only build constituencies by listening and hearing what the concerns, the needs and the observations of the Jewish community are."

Rosenblum started work in Ottawa as Operation Protective Edge was underway in Israel and he praised the community for quickly raising more than \$170,000 for the Israel Crisis Fund.

Ariel Fainer becomes the Federation's director for the Emerging Generation following a year as event planner and sponsorship co-ordinator during Rena Garshowitz's maternity leave.

"I was really excited to get back into the Jewish community and really excited to see how I could build my connection," Fainer said. "I'd been sort of isolated for a



PHOTO: MONIQUE ELLIOT

Arie Rosenblum (right) has joined the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation as director of Development, while Ariel Fainer is the Federation's new director for the Emerging Generation.

while and it was my way of getting back into the community and finding my place within it."

Fainer, 27, will be only the second person to hold this relatively new position, which was established almost three years ago to engage the emerging generation of Jewish adults aged 18 to 45 in community and networking events, social action missions, fundraising and initiatives.

Fainer said her background in events and recreation goes back to when she was a 16-year-old working as a lifeguard at City of Ottawa wading pools.

She quickly worked her way onto the special events team at the City's recreation department, organizing events at the pools, and then the city-wide sports division. She later spent two years running recreational programs and facility management of the Rideau Canal for the National Capital Commission.

Fainer said she is excited for her experience to be tested as the emerging generation director acts as a liaison and co-ordinator with such local organizations and community programming groups as jnet, the Glebe Shul, the Jewish Medical and Law Students Associations and the Young Women's Leadership Council.

Fainer succeeds Samantha Banks as director for the Emerging Generation.

Banks, who recently moved to Toronto to work with The House, an organization for young, Jewish adults, said she is "overjoyed and extremely excited" to hear that her former colleague is taking on the role she held for almost three years.

"I think she will be able to move the division and bring it to what the community needs," Banks said.

Fainer said engaging the emerging

generation requires a meaningful approach because of the challenges facing this unique demographic.

The many single people and the many couples starting families have both similar and drastically different needs, and it is important to find out what matters most to them. This ensures that they can find their own place within the community and create the foundation for their children and future generations, Fainer said.

"Personally, I was totally unengaged before working at the Federation. I sort of had a vague idea of what was going on, but I wasn't compelled to participate," she said.

Fainer said she is now an active community member at her shul, Congregation Machzikei Hadas, and said she has noticed that, while many young families are also active members, they do not take advantage of additional resources for themselves and their children, such as supplemental Jewish schooling.

"It's really important that we create a community feel, rather than isolating ourselves in pockets of the community," she said. "I think with the young families, they're really preoccupied and there's a lot of family stuff going on and new experiences happening. And it's really important that we find ways for them to be involved as a family unit."

As a member of the emerging generation herself, Fainer said she understands how important it is to take risks now in order to avoid having regrets. Getting directly involved with the Jewish community in a big way was one of the best decisions she could have made, she said.

"I couldn't have imagined how well it would turn out and how much I would learn and get out of the opportunity," Fainer said.

As chapter closes, Shimon Peres hailed by normally divided Knesset

BY BEN SALES

JERUSALEM (JTA) – In the midst of a grinding war in Gaza, a sometimes near-empty Knesset gallery was packed last month for an uplifting moment: what probably was the final political act of Israel's elder statesman.

Shimon Peres – former Israeli prime minister, defence minister, foreign minister and now former president – stood before the Knesset for the last time as a public servant on July 24, just prior to the inauguration of his successor, Reuven Rivlin.

Facing his professional home for almost all of the past six decades, Peres gave a farewell speech that traced the arc of his long career, recounting Israel's

past, defending it in its present predicament and offering hope for its future.

"We are a people that experienced unimaginable agony," Peres said. "And we are a people that reached the lofty heights of human achievement. We made great efforts. We paid a heavy price."

It was a toned-down ceremony due to the continuing conflict in Gaza and was an inauspicious time for Peres, 91, to be exiting the political scene.

For decades, the man, who, in 1994, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for helping engineer the Israeli-Palestinian Oslo Accords, has repeated over and over that peace is within reach and could be



Israeli president Shimon Peres visits Rideau Hall during a state visit to Ottawa, May 7, 2012.

achieved in his lifetime. Yet the final months of his presidency saw the acrimonious collapse of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, the murder of four boys – three Israeli teenagers and a Palestinian teen – and Israel's bloodiest military offensive in five years.

Peres is known today as a peacemaker, but he began his career in the Defense Ministry, helping to cement a close military alliance with France in the 1950s and developing Israel's nuclear program in the 1960s. Following the 1967 Six-Day War, Peres advocated the settlement of the West Bank and Gaza.

Only in the 1980s, as Labor Party leader, did Peres become the peacenik he's known as today. And it was only after he left party politics for the presidency, in 2007, that he rose above the parliamentary rivalries and failed leadership bids that had embroiled and foiled him over the previous few decades

to become the unifying figure he is today.

Peres is the phoenix of Israeli politics. From hawk to dove, from faction leader to uniter, he has ridden the wave of Israeli history and somehow stayed afloat while others fell, faded away or died. It is that history that makes Peres one of the few Israeli leaders who could deliver the speech he did last week: at once vociferously defending Israel's offensive in Gaza while also calling for an aggressive approach to Israeli-Palestinian peace.

"There is no place to doubt our victory," Peres said, adding immediately: "We know that no military victory will be enough. There is no permanent security without permanent peace, just as there is no real peace without real security."

In a political career that spans 55 years, Peres has never prevailed in a popular

See Peres on page 8

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NCSY inspires Jewish futures

This past year, NCSY Ottawa underwent a significant change in leadership, with its founder and executive director of 10 years, Bram Bregman, moving on to the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, where he is now the Vice-President of Community Building.

As the incoming executive director of NCSY Ottawa, Gaby Scarowsky, had big shoes to fill. Fortunately, Gaby's seven years of experience with NCSY Ottawa under the mentorship of his close friend and colleague helped prepare him for the role.

His real challenge was to expand and improve upon a model that already reaches between 175 and 200 Jewish teens annually through its main two programs, Jewish Culture Clubs and Torah High.

NCSY's first area of focus was finding a way to send more kids on organized trips to Israel. The ideal partnership presented itself when Gaby was selected to be a co-chaperon for March of the Living, a two-week trip to Poland and Israel, and



(From left to right) GG Farber, David Gertsvolf, Eadan Farber, Jacob Silverman and Ariel Buchler enjoy a Torah High barbecue.

one of the most impactful programs available to Jewish teens today. Perfectly situated to assist with recruitment and pre-programming, NCSY was instrumental in bringing 24 teens on the journey of a lifetime. This was a record-high number, with two-thirds of them coming from Torah High. NCSY's presence on the

March of the Living committee will help ensure future March of the Living trips have a steady supply of teens embarking on this life-changing journey.

The other significant initiative NCSY will be launching this September is a joint Grade 8 program between Torah High and Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School

(OTTAS).

Although NCSY Ottawa's primary focus has been on teens already in high school, it has identified a huge gap in Jewish programming for students entering Grade 8 in Ottawa. Local Jewish supplementary schools end after Grade 7. Combine that with the prevalent practice of "peaking" Jewishly once a teen has his or her Bar or Bat Mitzvah, this unfortunately results in a perfectly timed exit from the world of Jewish education and experiences. Considering that many psychologists consider the teenage years to be the identity-forming years, the timing of this exit couldn't be worse. In order to ensure a smooth Jewish transition from Grade 7 through to high school, NCSY Ottawa is proud to be able to offer the Torah High experience to Grade 8 students, bringing the best of both Torah High and OTTAS to the newly formed "Talmud Torah High."

For more information about NCSY and any of our programs, please contact Gaby Scarowsky at gaby@ncsy.ca.

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FEDERATION REPORT



**SHIMON KOFFLER FOGEL, CENTRE
FOR ISRAEL AND JEWISH AFFAIRS**

My first real memories of Israel date to the Six Day War and the shock waves that an imminent threat to Israel's existence sent throughout the Canadian Jewish community. As I reflect on those tenuous days in 1967, I cannot help but be saddened by the fact that our children have just borne witness to their own generational war in Gaza.

For countless young Jewish Canadians, the connection to Operation Protective Edge is both instant and palpable. Email, Skype, Facebook, and Twitter provide real-time updates and images from

Gaza conflict calls for redoubled advocacy

friends and family in Israel. That I was able to tweet a photo of my nephew, Yaron, a paratrooper in Gaza, just goes to show how the pen-pal era has been replaced with complex, far-reaching and fast-moving social media communications. Implications for pro-Israel advocates are significant.

Throughout the summer, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) has been extremely active in explaining to our fellow Canadians – via social media and other means – the reasons for Israel's operation against Hamas. This has entailed activities across the country: engaging traditional media, providing daily written briefings to every MP, mobilizing allies in other faith communities, creating and sharing compelling infographics online, and hosting a parliamentary solidarity mission to Israel – to highlight a few. This is to say nothing of the tremendously successful community rallies held across Canada, particularly a nationally streamed event hosted by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

Perhaps most importantly, we have

made an effort to engage members of the community to take an active advocacy role during this difficult time. Many have answered their need to take meaningful action through the simple but powerful act of conversing. Our *4 Questions: Speaking with Canadians about Israel* campaign may prove a successful model for grassroots mobilization.

By challenging our grassroots to engage four friends in four days while providing clear and reasonable information on the four most difficult questions surrounding the conflict, CIJA tapped into a communal desire to take action. In a matter of days, the campaign earned more than 5,000 “likes” online. This is in addition to the abundance of emails sent to parliamentarians from all parties by Jewish (and non-Jewish) pro-Israel Canadians activated through email action alerts.

It is crucial that we build on this collective momentum in the coming weeks and months. Redeployment of Israeli troops out of Gaza following the destruction of Hamas' attack tunnels is a source of relief for all with family serving

in the IDF or living in southern Israel. De-escalation, however, will not mean an end to advocacy challenges stemming from recent hostilities.

Working with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and our Federation partners nationally, CIJA will be launching various initiatives to further engage the grassroots in the effort to express solidarity with Israelis and strengthen support for Israel in Canada. Whether your interest is in contacting your local MP, writing a letter to the editor, or BUYcoting Israeli products targeted for boycott, now is the time for action – and I urge you to contact us for more details at advocacy@cija.ca.

More importantly, and in the spirit of “crowd-sourcing,” I encourage you to let us know if you have an idea for a pro-Israel advocacy initiative to unite the community, inspire grassroots action and build support for the Jewish state among our non-Jewish neighbours. Indeed, the tumultuous events of recent weeks should serve to ignite our passion for Israel and reaffirm the indivisible bond between the Jewish people and the world's only Jewish state.

Shimon Koffler Fogel is CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), the advocacy agent of the Jewish Federations of Canada.

FROM THE PULPIT



**RABBI MENACHEM BLUM
OTTAWA TORAH CENTRE**

Iwrite as a 72-hour cease-fire comes into effect between Hamas and Israel, following four weeks of Operation Protective Edge.

Our precious IDF soldiers, fighting this war on the front lines, were faced with a new frightening threat, a challenge that didn't exist before: the network of tunnels dug by Hamas to infiltrate into Israel and cause havoc.

While other wars were fought above ground, in this one, the focus was on the underground tunnels. In addition to watching what is being fired above ground, Israel has to take precautions now to deal with this new threat below.

As King Solomon wrote in *Kohelet* (Ecclesiastes), “God has made one

The tunnels of goodness

corresponding to the other.”

God created the world in a way that good and evil have an equal counterpart. Kabbalah teaches that every force in the world, even the most evil and heinous force, has its counterpart in goodness and holiness.

In light of this, there exist tunnels of goodness and holiness, tunnels that are the total opposite of the ones our soldiers have been working hard to destroy.

The Maharal of Prague, one of the greatest Jewish thinkers of the 16th century, explained the symbolism of tunnels. He wrote that, in each of us, there are hidden powers beneath the surface. Digging a tunnel allows us to discover and access them. We may look at ourselves, or at our fellow man, and observe that, on the surface, there seems to be a great disconnect with who we really are, with God, with our fellow man, and a lack of purpose and happiness.

If we dig deep inside, however, and we excavate what lies beneath, we will discover the oneness that organically unites us with God and our fellow man.

We all have a spark of Divinity, our core power, our essential wholeness and happiness, which can never be damaged or broken. Our core may be covered up by layers of dirt and stones,

by mountains of skepticism, ignorance, insecurity, resentment and confusion. But, if we can go into our tunnel, into our true essence, we will realize it is all really one.

This hidden power has indeed been unearthed during this challenging period. Despite our differences, Jews throughout the world have united to stand strong with Israel, to strengthen each other and to offer support.

This crisis has brought to the fore an underground truth: that we are indeed *Am Echad* (one nation). Whether it was the thousands of people attending the funeral of a fallen soldier or delegations of Jews from around the world who travelled to Israel to offer their support, it is clear we are one.

And when we are united we are strong.

Another subterranean truth revealed is our organic connection to God. In the past few weeks, Jews of all types gathered for prayer, for study, to perform mitzvot in honour of Israel. The *underground* sense of Jewish belonging and connecting has emerged.

As our soldiers work hard to ensure the Hamas tunnels are destroyed, let us pledge to make sure our tunnels of goodness, holiness and oneness stay clear and open.

Am Israel Chai Vekayam.

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FROM THE
EDITOR

MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

In the book review on page 38, I write about Nora Gold's fine new book, *Fields of Exile*. Set 14 years ago as the Second Intifada was breaking out, the main theme of the novel is the effect on a Jewish graduate student at a Toronto-area university of campaigns meant to demonize and delegitimize the State of Israel – campaigns that too often cross the thin line into what is now referred to as the “new anti-Semitism.”

Despite the fact that Judith, the book's protagonist, is a committed liberal who had just returned to Canada after a decade in Israel where she had been active in the peace and civil rights movements and in Jewish-Arab dialogue efforts, to the anti-Zionists among her professors and fellow students, she was just a Zionist.

To those who would demonize and

Israel's war with Hamas also plays out in the media, online and in the streets

delegitimize the State of Israel, a Zionist is a Zionist. A liberal Zionist working for a two-state solution to Israel's conflict with the Palestinians and for fully realized civil rights and equality for Israeli Arabs is no different from an extremist who would annex the West Bank and Gaza while offering no rights to the Palestinians living there.

Fields of Exile proved to be timely reading this summer as war raged between Israel and Hamas and the other terrorist groups in Gaza – groups that have subjected Israelis to unrelenting rocket fire aimed almost exclusively at civilians and who have poured so much of their resources into building an extensive network of cross-border tunnels to be used to commit acts of terrorism.

While Israel has been fighting the Gaza-based terrorists, battles have also raged in the media, in social media and in public demonstrations. The kind of marginalization and anti-Semitism experienced by Judith in *Fields of Exile*, and by pro-Israel university students around the time of campus events like

the so-called Israel Apartheid Week, have also been experienced by many of us who have Facebook or Twitter feeds or who follow the news – especially by reading articles online at sites with un-moderated comments.

This summer, Europe has witnessed levels of widespread anti-Semitism unheard of in the post-Holocaust era (see the article by JTA reporter Cnaan Liphshiz on page 19) and too many disturbing reports of anti-Semitism have surfaced close to home in places like Calgary where a small group of pro-Israel demonstrators were assaulted, in Toronto where anti-Semitic rhetoric was spouted at a Al-Quds Day rally at Queen's Park, and even here in Ottawa where the Hamas flag was proudly carried at an anti-Israel march past Parliament Hill.

Make no mistake, waving the flag of a terrorist organization whose charter explicitly calls for the killing of Jews is a profoundly anti-Semitic act.

I've read several articles and blogs this summer by people who have seen their social media feeds disintegrate into

confrontations – sometimes ugly confrontations – over the conflict. I've seen it on my own Facebook feed where I have unfriended a couple of people after they've posted articles or written comments that I perceive as having crossed the line into anti-Semitism.

Like Judith in *Fields of Exile*, I see myself as a liberal person committed to peace, to universal civil rights and to the two-state solution, which I believe is the key to both Israel's future as a Jewish and democratic state and to the future prosperity of the Palestinian people.

It is because I am a liberal that I support Israel – seemingly the only bastion of liberalism in the Middle East – and am profoundly disappointed to see anyone who claims to be committed to peace and civil rights finding common cause with groups with Hamas or Islamic Jihad, which have no interest in anything to do with peace, civil rights, or justice.

Those marching alongside the Hamas flag, or cheering at the Al-Quds rally, or even posting a stream of one-sided articles on Facebook that blame Israel alone for all of the ills in the Middle East, are not really advocating for peace or civil rights.

As I write on August 15, there is a cease-fire in effect and rumours that a long-term truce is close. I pray that it will have come by the time you read these words.

IDEAS AND
IMPRESSIONS

JASON MOSCOVITZ

The most heart-wrenching side of Israeli life

close to a thousand people a day came to the shiva. A huge tent was set up in the parking lot outside the Goldins' condo building in Kfar Saba. Security fences leading to the tent were draped with Israeli flags. Filled with plastic chairs, this tent even had air conditioning. Outside the tent stood two portable toilets, which I only mention to illustrate how huge a public event this was.

Food for the visitors arrived free of charge by the truckload. No one ever made an order. No one ever sent a bill. There was everything imaginable. Tables lined the tent walls filled with food.

Israelis came from everywhere – from all parts of the country and all walks of life. This outpouring was the product of a proud, determined people fighting yet another war costing yet more young soldiers' lives. But the mood at the shiva was never gloomy. The mood seemed to be one of resolve, acceptance, sadness – but no tears.

Hundreds of soldiers came to the shiva with their ever-present machine guns slung over their shoulders. Many were friends and colleagues of Hadar and his

twin brother Tzur. The soldiers looked so young because they are. And, while it seems so unfair that they face such danger, they look so strong and appear so unshakably fearless. The sad truth is these young people with almost baby faces are hardened professional soldiers who don't play war games. They may only wish they could.

Hadar's parents, Leah and Simcha, spent a lot of time talking to the soldiers. It seemed to be a comforting way for them to remember and honour their son's memory.

Hadar was engaged and would have been married in mid-September. His fiancée, Edna Sarusi, and her family never left the shiva. A lasting memory was watching the father of Hadar's fiancée – a small religious man with curly hair and a thick moustache, with, so far, 22 grandchildren – as he never stopped offering food and water to the visitors.

Other lasting memories are of the old high school friends of Simcha and Leah who worked tirelessly cleaning and organizing family meals and of all the other special friends who supported and

reinforced the Goldins' strength. It was always easy to know who those people were.

For two days in a row, my daughter pointed out those she said were “Hadar's soldiers.” On the first day, I didn't say anything, but, on the second, I asked why those soldiers weren't in uniform. They were not in uniform because they had recently completed their military obligations and were not called up to serve in Gaza.

Hadar, too, could have been out of the army with them. But he and his twin brother agreed to stay at least another year. Hadar may have made the military a career. We will never know, but we do know his staying on the extra year cost him his life. No one says a thing about that. Israelis look forward. There is no time to waste on regrets or second guessing.

As the shiva wound down as Shabbat neared, they began to take down the tent. This extraordinary event ended. Shabbat fell a week to the day after Hadar's suspected kidnapping in that tunnel in Gaza. A week, only a week, and yet so much had happened, so seemingly slowly and quickly at the same time.

As I left to say goodbye after Shabbat, I embraced Leah and Simcha, reminding them I will be back in January to celebrate a happy occasion: the birth of a grandchild we will share.

I write this from Israel thinking about the week that was and reflecting on attending a shiva the memories of which will last me a lifetime. It was a unique experience, a learning experience, a first-hand view of the most difficult, heart-wrenching side of Israeli life.

As I write, there have been 64 Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza. One of them was Hadar Goldin. He was my daughter Emmanuelle's 23-year-old brother-in-law. Before his death was confirmed, there was reason to believe he had been kidnapped, and his story became huge news around the world. In Israel, the story took on epic proportions. The whole country galvanized around the Goldin family.

It was amazing. My guess would be



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THANK YOU FROM ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER

The Jewish people always come together to face shared challenges. Today is no different.

Over the past two months, beginning with the kidnapping and murder of our three teenagers, and continuing into Operation Protective Edge, the support of Jewish communities around the world has been a source of great strength for the people of Israel.

At the same time, we know that this has been a difficult period for Jews around the world, as many of you face increasingly virulent and sometimes violent manifestations of anti-Semitism.

On behalf of the people and State of Israel, I thank you for the defence of our just campaign to provide the

sustained peace and security that all Israelis deserve. I ask that you continue to make your voices heard to counter the lies and libel directed against the Jewish state.

For our part, we in Israel will continue to stand by your side as you confront hatred and intolerance. Jews everywhere must be able to live proudly and without fear.

I have great faith in the Jewish people and the justice of our cause. I look forward to building with you our common future.

Benjamin Netanyahu
Jerusalem, Israel

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

Peres: Elder statesman still yearns for peace

Continued from page 4

election. He became prime minister in 1984 after his party, unable to form a government, entered into a unity coalition with the Likud. He also occupied the post briefly in 1977, after Yitzhak Rabin resigned, and in 1995, after Rabin's assassination.

The peace treaty Peres yearns for has yet to be signed. But, whether or not peace comes in his lifetime – though in his 10th decade he still appears energetic – his starring role in so much of Israeli history has earned him a respect that transcends political divisions.

At the Knesset session on July 24, Peres received thunderous applause from a generally divided house.

The man who succeeds him, Reuven Rivlin, is in many ways Peres' opposite. Rivlin is a lifelong Likudnik; Peres has bounced between three parties. Rivlin wants to annex the West Bank; Peres prefers a two-state solution. Rivlin has pledged to focus his efforts on healing Israel's internal divisions; Peres at times has acted like Israel's second foreign minister.

Though he is no longer a government official, Peres is unlikely to disappear. He intends to continue working for regional reconciliation at his Peres Center for Peace and he still will be a presence in the media and at international conferences.

And Peres' story remains woven into the history of Israel – its successes, its failures, its frustrations and its resilience.

"When I return and meet the beauty and strength of the State of Israel, I find myself shedding a tear," he said near the end of his speech.

"Maybe excited slightly more than my younger friends because, throughout my years, I witnessed the entire incredible journey and the miracles of Israel."

Fundraising Event Coordinator Part-time position

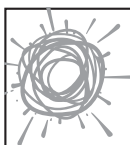
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- Reliable and dependable

This position requires approximately 16 hours/week from September to June with time off for school holidays. Includes some hours in the evenings and weekends prior to, and including attendance at, two main events.

Résumé, cover letter and the names of two references should be submitted to Rabbi Zischa Shaps at zshaps@gmail.com



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Emergency shelter for southern Israel
It is our obligation to ensure a future for those individuals that heeded the vision of David Ben-Gurion to populate the Negev.

Since the outset of the rocket attacks from Gaza on southern Israel's border communities, many organizations have been raising emergency funds for civilian victims. JNF-KKL worldwide has intensified fundraising for these residents and for very specific projects – from mobile bomb shelters, to respite for children who live in Sderot and elsewhere in JNF camps up north, to IDF packages.

Many of the communities that have 15 seconds to find shelter once the siren blasts have been given donated portable bomb shelters. These include: Ofakim, Bnei Shimon, Gan Yavne, Sderot, Naveh, Bnei Netzarim, Sedot Negev, Eshkol, Hof Ashkelon, Merhavim, Shaar Hanegev, Netivot – and in the Bedouin sector – Beit Lakiya, Segev Shalom, Rahat and Hura.

Negev Dinner solidarity with the South

It is in this spirit of solidarity with Israel that we have shifted our attention from Jerusalem to the south for the October 21 Negev Dinner. Given the continuing needs of Israel's southern communities, our gracious honouree, Dorothy Nadolny, requested that her tribute gift to Israel focus on the residents, on needed infrastructure, on making a difference to the quality of their lives now.

As such, we have adopted Ofakim, a small town of 25,000, home for many immigrant Jews from North Africa, Europe, the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia. This multicultural community is subject to ongoing rocket fire and simply does not have sufficient shelter to escape the barrage of incoming explosives. So JNF has undertaken to build mobile and then permanent shelters for residents.

Ofakim's history resonates with today's war

Although founded in 1955, the significance of Ofakim dates back to Persian times. Archeologists have discovered traces of Israelites' immigration from Persia that date back to between the 11th and 5th centuries BCE. In Israel's history, Ofakim was also home to the Patish Fortress, from which the Ottomans attempted to enforce order in 1894 when deadly feuds had erupted between Bedouin tribes. During the First World War, the British launched a surprise attack on Beersheva from Ofakim to outflank the Turkish force in Gaza – a victory that would pave the way for the creation of the State of Israel.

One of the world's most influential Jewish voices, Michael Oren, to speak at Negev Dinner

Michael Oren is a speaker for our times. A former Israeli ambassador to the United States, a *New York Times* bestselling author, lecturer at Ivy League schools including Harvard, Yale and Georgetown, he is hailed by the *Jerusalem Post* as one of the world's top 10 influential Jews.

JNF Negev Dinner invitations are being mailed this week to all JNF donors and supporters of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, as a considerable portion of funds are going to support its Cardiovascular Research Hub. If you did not receive an invitation, please contact our JNF office today at 613-798-2411. Reserve your seat today – tickets are still \$300. Corporate sponsorships, ads and tribute gifts are available.

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



ottawa.jnf.ca

Backed by Bloomberg, Genesis launches 'big ideas' competition

BY ANTHONY WEISS

(JTA) – It is now open season for those who would like a chunk of Michael Bloomberg's change and think they have a big idea up their sleeves.

The Genesis Prize Foundation has announced the launch of the Genesis Generation Challenge, a competition offering 10 awards of \$100,000 each to teams that can successfully present innovative projects "guided by Jewish values to address the world's pressing issues," according to a foundation statement. Teams must have approximately 10 people and be led by someone aged 20 to 36.

The money for the prize had been awarded to Bloomberg as the inaugural Genesis Prize recipient. Bloomberg, a billionaire and the former mayor of New York, promptly re-gifted the money to Genesis.

The Genesis Generation Challenge is the latest in a series of prizes aimed at coaxing a "big Jewish idea" in some form or another.

In 2007, philanthropist Charles Bronfman launched a competition for an innovative Jewish idea, with the reward of a book deal and a two-year appointment as the Charles R. Bronfman Visiting Chair in Jewish Communal Innovation at Brandeis University, with a six-figure salary. The first winner was Yehuda Kurtzer for *The Sacred Task of Rebuilding Jewish Memory*. The academic position has since lapsed due to lack of funds.

Jonathan Sarna, a professor of American Jewish history at Brandeis University and the chair of the selection committee for the Bronfman "big idea" competition, said the recent focus on major transformative ideas in the Jewish world was elicited by the success of Birthright Israel – what he called "Birthright envy." Sarna also argued that the focus on innovative breakthroughs was spurred by the modern culture of rapid technological change.

"People got used to the idea that there are big things – a cellphone, the iPhone – that would truly change our world," said Sarna. "I do think there is a sense that the world is changing faster than it used to change. It may not be true, but that's the view."

Wayne Firestone, president of the Genesis Prize Foundation, said the competition's focus on big ideas

came in part from looking at Bloomberg's own experience in starting a competition in New York City to attract the attention of young talent.

"Bloomberg saw the benefit of reaching into the target population to come up with target answers," Firestone told JTA.

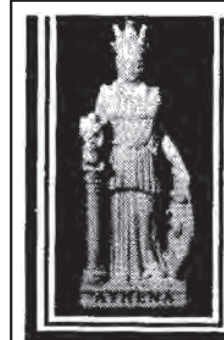
The Genesis competition also will focus on encouraging collaboration and communication among the competing teams, and on offering mentorship, support and expertise to teams as they develop their proposals.

The Genesis Prize, which will be given out annually, is awarded to an accomplished, internationally renowned professional who is a role model in his or her community and can inspire the younger generation of Jews worldwide, according to the Genesis Prize Foundation website.

Although the prize was launched with the explicit purpose of inspiring young Jews, the Generation Challenge is open to applicants of all backgrounds, and teams are encouraged to address global problems. But Firestone was confident that the competition would nonetheless attract the interest of young Jews.

"When you go looking in the innovation space, you will find young Jews," said Firestone, noting that the competition's online portal already was attracting one of its strongest concentrations of visitors from Tel Aviv. "We think you're going to find lots of Jewish individuals, but not only by asking people 'are you Jewish?'"

Visit www.genesis-generation.org for information on the Genesis Generation Challenge.



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MP Carolyn Bennett addresses the Canada-Israel Solidarity Rally, July 30, in Jerusalem. With her at the podium: (from left) Sen. Grant Mitchell, MPs John McCallum, David Sweet and Ted Opitz, and former senator Jerry Grafstein.

CIJA advocacy efforts encompass Jewish communities, the public, media and parliamentarians

BY MONIQUE ELLIOT

Now is the time for the Jewish communities of Canada to reach out on a large scale to ensure a positive Jewish narrative is making headlines in the mainstream media, say officials at the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA).

"Our job is to advance our narrative and to advance our issues with advocacy targets," said Martin Sampson, CIJA director of communications and marketing.

CIJA does this in two main ways, he said. The advocacy approach is to reach out to mainstream media and politicians to have "real conversations" about the facts of the Israel-Hamas hostilities, while fundraising and awareness campaigns are meant to engage constituents and inspire grassroots campaigns.

"We believe that, if we articulate our side of the issues effectively, they essentially become supporters," he said, many of whom have been getting regular briefings on the conflict.

These efforts were reflected in the recent CIJA-organized trip to Israel, in what has been described as the largest solidarity mission to Jerusalem since Operation Protective Edge began on July 8.

"Our ongoing work, I think, speaks for itself in terms of government support, particularly at the federal level," Sampson said.

Six parliamentarians, including one senator, who have all travelled to Israel in the past, joined the last-minute trip in late July to hear briefings from the Israeli government and military officials. Conservative MPs David Sweet, Randy Hoback and Ted Opitz, Liberal MPs John McCallum and Carolyn Bennett, and Liberal Sen. Grant Mitchell made the trip. No NDP MPs were part of the delega-

tion, citing a preference for a mission organized by a neutral organization, according to CBC reports. Yet Sampson maintains that all three major political parties are still strongly united with Israel.

"What we're seeing is that, on this issue, in this conflict, all three federal political parties ... particularly the government, are standing strongly with the only liberal democracy in the Middle East, that is Israel," he said.

"What we have on our side is righteousness, meaning that the government, and any person of goodwill who is also intellectually honest, I think, will look at these issues and naturally come to the conclusions that they've come to," he added. "We're pretty proud of what we've achieved on that front."

The same reasoning drives CIJA's efforts facilitating grassroots campaigns such as the Four Questions campaign, which encouraged members of the Jewish community across Canada to engage in a discussion with four of their (specifically non-Jewish) friends about four key issues surrounding the Israel-Hamas conflict within four days. This has been one of CIJA's most successful campaigns engaging the non-Jewish communities.

Within the Canadian Jewish communities, CIJA has been partnering with the various federations – including the Jewish Federation of Ottawa – to connect communities through solidarity events. These events have been successful, and these "proud partnerships" will be maintained going forward, Sampson said.

CIJA will maintain these efforts, Sampson said, with the Twitter hashtag campaigns such as #ThisIsIsrael and #ThisIsHamas to create an ongoing conversation with the public where anyone can now easily join the online discussion.

Campaign Kickoff speaker, co-founder of Ben & Jerry's, explains 'spiritual aspect of business' leads to success

BY SUZANNE KURTZ

(JTA) – A scoop of Ben & Jerry's may taste like heaven, and, for company co-founder Jerry Greenfield, the business of making ice cream has a spiritual side as well.

"There is a spiritual aspect to business, just as there is to people," Greenfield said in 2011 at a Jewish Federation of Greater Washington event.

Greenfield – co-author with Ben Cohen of *Ben & Jerry's Double Dip: How to Run a Values-Led Business and Make Money, Too* – will be in Ottawa to speak at the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Annual Campaign Kickoff event on September 14. And he's bringing ice cream!

The ice cream company known for its colourful pint-size containers, funky flavours and creative marketing has implemented smart business practices that have advanced its bottom line as well as its do-good corporate culture.

Raised on suburban New York's Long Island, Greenfield, 63, and his longtime friend and business partner Ben Cohen met in gym class in junior high school after discovering a shared dislike of running track. They were chubby kids who always enjoyed eating, Greenfield said, and both attended Hebrew school and had their bar mitzvahs at the Reform Congregation of Merrick.

Though a self-described "cultural Jew," Greenfield said his religious education helped sensitize him to discrimination, marginalization and the needs of "other people in society and around the world."

In his mid-20s, after being rejected from some 20 medical schools and not content with working as a lab technician, Greenfield split a five dollar correspondence course on ice cream-making with Cohen and embarked on a new business venture.

In 1978, with \$12,000 scraped together

from loans and savings, they opened Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc. in a renovated gas station in Burlington, Vermont. Their single storefront venture would grow eventually into a \$300 million global ice cream empire owned by the Unilever Corp.

Neither Greenfield nor Cohen is still active in the day-to-day running of the company. Instead, Greenfield said, his present role with Ben & Jerry's holds "no responsibility and no authority," joking that it should be a position that those attending the Federation event also strive for in their careers.

But their vision for an ice cream company that would be both profitable and care about the needs of society has left a lasting impact on both employees and customers.

"Simply operating this way had so many benefits for the company," said Greenfield, as he detailed some of the values-driven business practices that also saw him and Cohen named U.S. Small Business Persons of the Year in 1988.

One oft-cited example of Ben & Jerry's socially conscience business practices is its purchase of \$8 million annually of chocolate brownies baked at the Greyston Bakery in Yonkers, N.Y., a non-profit that offers job training and hires workers who might have a difficult time finding jobs elsewhere, such as ex-convicts, former substance abusers and welfare recipients.

"We came up with this popular flavour [for using the brownies] and the bakery is pretty happy with it, too!" said Greenfield.

In 1984, when the company needed to raise additional capital to grow the business, they let their Vermont neighbours "get a scoop of the action" by holding an in-state public offering.



Ben & Jerry's co-founder Jerry Greenfield will speak on business and social responsibility at the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Annual Campaign Kickoff, September 14, at Centrepointhe Theatre.

"People of essentially any economic situation could participate," said Greenfield, and one in every 100 Vermont families became shareholders in the company. "As the business supported the community, the community supported the business."

In 1985, the company made a public stock offering and also established the Ben & Jerry's Foundation. It began donating 7.5 per cent of pre-tax profits to nonprofit organizations – the highest percentage of any publicly traded company at the time, he said.

"As you give, you receive," Greenfield said. "As you help others, you are helped in return."

He added, "And just because the idea that the good that you do comes back to you is written in the Bible and not in some business textbook doesn't mean that it is any less valid."

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa Annual Campaign Kickoff, Sunday, September 14, 7:30 pm, at Centrepointhe Theatre, 101 Centrepointhe Drive. Tickets are \$20 and available at <http://tinyurl.com/kickoff-tix> or 613-580-2700.



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Improving the welfare of women is part of this leader's family tradition

Sarah Beutel to become national president of Na'amat Canada

BY MONIQUE ELLIOT

Sarah Beutel will become national president of Na'amat Canada at its 17th triennial convention, September 12 to 14 in Ottawa. Beutel becomes the first Ottawan to hold the national presidency of the Jewish women's organization.

Na'amat, the Hebrew acronym for *Nashim Ovdot Umitnadvot* (Movement of Working Women and Volunteers), is an international charity that seeks to improve the welfare of women and families in Jewish communities in Israel and in the Diaspora.

In Ottawa, there are five chapters representing women of all ages. Beutel is a member of the Otzma Chapter specifically for women aged 30 to early-40s.

Beutel, professionally the director of Community Collaboration, at the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, says she has been active in community-minded organizations for most of her life, Na'amat in particular.

"It's always been in my family. My mother, for her professional career, was the executive director of Na'amat in Montreal. So I kind of grew up with it," she said. "When I came to Ottawa, I was part of the group that started up our chapter for our age group. And then I just kept going."

Beutel has served on the national executive board of Na'amat Canada in various three-year-term positions, including council president, member-at-large, chair of membership and chair of fundraising. She said she anticipates a smooth transition to the role of national president.

Na'amat Canada is a network of smaller chapters within city branches of the organization, each co-ordinating its own fundraising initiatives, and contributing to large-scale national and international projects.

"Na'amat, like many other Jewish organizations, faces a lot of challenges, in terms of fundraising," Beutel said.

"We have challenges that we have to face, but my goal is to keep things moving in a forward direction, keep trying to build, find new members and raise more money,

"I believe very strongly in the mission and I like the connection to Israel and I like the group of people we have here



Sarah Beutel assumes the national presidency of Na'amat Canada when the women's organization assembles in Ottawa, September 12 to 14 for its triennial convention.

in Ottawa that are involved," Beutel said.

The upcoming convention will provide a forum for chapters from across Canada to come together to strategize and build on the existing partnerships between cities.

"The triennial convention is important for us because it's a geographically diverse organization so it's an opportunity for us to come together and get to know members in other cities," she said.

"This is a volunteer organization, [so] there's not many staff," Beutel said. "That's one of the things that I hope to do, is to build on the relationships we have and to make sure that we have a strong, national body."

Na'amat has branches in countries from Belgium to Australia to Uruguay. Na'amat Canada has eight branches in major cities across the country.

Each branch has smaller chapters that host regular meetings and participate in fundraising projects. Ottawa's five chapters are Chana Senesh, Aviva, Otzma, Tikvah and Ma'ayan.

"I'm going to carry on what the other women before me have started," Beutel said.

For more information on Na'amat Canada and how to join, visit www.naamat.com.



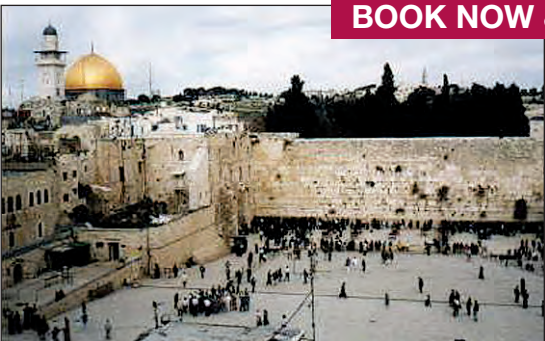
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Ottawa's lone soldiers: Ottawa's Jake Goldstein (right), currently on active duty as a "lone soldier" with the Israel Defense Forces, gets together with fellow Ottawan Tobin Kaiman during Operation Protective Edge. Tobin, who previously served as a lone soldier, returned to Israel as a volunteer during the operation. Both Jake and Tobin are graduates of the Ottawa Modern Jewish School (OMJS), which adopted them as OMJS' lone soldiers. OMJS students have written letters and sent Misloach Manot to them during their service.



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Grade 8 collaboration with Torah High among exciting changes at Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School

BY RABBI DAVID ROTENBERG
OTTAWA TALMUD TORAH
AFTERNOON SCHOOL

Having served the community for nearly 90 years, Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School (OTTAS) is Ottawa's oldest Jewish school.

Throughout our history, the school's mission has always been to provide families of any Jewish background with the most comprehensive Jewish education possible outside of the day school framework. Also constant throughout is the commitment to exploring new ideas in order to create the best learning environment for OTTAS students and their families.

Over the past few years, under the leadership of a new principal and board, OTTAS has consulted with experts to augment its curriculum and strengthen its educational philosophy, adopted new modern texts for Hebrew language, started a homework club before weekday afternoon classes, and introduced a series of family engagement programs and parents' classes to our regular schedule.

These initiatives all work to transform the school into more of a community, and to involve family members in their

children's education.

As the 2014-2015 school year approaches, OTTAS is excited to announce two major developments: the introduction of a two-day-a-week school format, and a community-wide Grade 8 program run jointly with Torah High offering a high school credit.

OTTAS has always served families from diverse Jewish backgrounds and levels of practice, but who are committed to a high standard of Jewish education. In recent years, through consultations with parents and community leadership, the OTTAS board has seen there is a desire for some additional flexibility in the school schedule if the quality of education can be maintained.

To that end, we explored numerous alternatives to the three-day schedule and are eagerly anticipating our exciting new format starting in September.

OTTAS will now be holding classes twice a week, on Sunday mornings and Tuesday afternoons. Despite one less school day, extending the Sunday schedule will mean teaching time is reduced by just one hour per week.

At five hours per week, OTTAS will remain the supplemental school offering the most classroom hours while provid-

ing school families with much additional flexibility.

In the other exciting development, OTTAS is extremely proud to partner with Torah High to introduce Talmud Torah High.

OTTAS offers programs for kindergarten to Grade 8, includes bar/bat mitzvah lessons as part of tuition and runs a subsidized transportation service from most area schools.

While most supplemental school programs graduate their students after Grade 7, OTTAS offers its graduates an optional Grade 8 class.

For 2013-2014, students expressed interest in a number of diverse topics, which inspired the "Ulpan Plus" program. Grade 8 students will attend class once a week, studying Hebrew language alternating with a guest speaker series on topics that include the afterlife, leadership, Israeli politics and pop culture, a tzitzit-tying workshop, and much more.

With the success and novelty of the program gaining interest from those

outside the school, OTTAS and Torah High have partnered on this initiative to offer the program community-wide.

In addition to bringing this exciting program to a wider audience, and eliminating the gap year between the completion of most supplemental school programs and Torah High's core program, this partnership creates other benefits for students. Talmud Torah High's Grade 8 students will have the opportunity to take advantage of Torah High's educational trips and activities, Jewish Culture Clubs at public middle schools, free snacks served at every class and, most importantly, a ministry-recognized Grade 9 credit.

With these new initiatives ready to launch, and the school leadership motivated to keep improving the program, exciting times are ahead for Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School.

OTTAS offers programs for kindergarten to Grade 8, includes bar/bat mitzvah lessons as part of tuition and runs a subsidized transportation service from most area schools.

For information about any of the above-mentioned programs, or to register, contact the office at 613-722-8827 or ottas@ottas.ca.

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Karen Fainstein checks the Kasher Food Bank donation bin in the lobby of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

PHOTO: MONIQUE ELLIOT

Increased costs and fewer donations put strain on Kasher Food Bank

BY MONIQUE ELLIOT

“People need food banks,” she said. “What’s more important than feeding your family?”

Karen Fainstein knows the importance of a full belly. Now, after nine years as chair of the Kasher Food Bank, she is essentially retiring for a second time to focus on family.

“I felt it was a very good cause,” she said, reflecting on how she got involved. “I felt it was a cause that a lot of people didn’t realize was so necessary here.”

It cost, on average, just more than \$5,500 per month to serve the 66 families – about 175 people – who used the food bank last year.

The Kasher Food Bank is not a drop-in service. The families and individuals who use it are vetted by Jewish Family Services of Ottawa to assess their need. Privacy at the food bank is maintained with a small volunteer staff of three people on the two monthly distribution days – but there is a group of about 25 volunteers who help “behind the scenes,” Fainstein said.

The cost of kosher food has increased by 30 per cent, while donations have decreased by about five per cent during the past few years, Fainstein said. The Kasher Food Bank has been running a deficit as a result.

Fainstein said she believes people are simply unaware of need for the Kasher Food Bank, noting that poverty levels within the Jewish community are on par with those of society at large.

All items distributed by the Kasher Food Bank are strictly kosher, and volunteers gather donations from donation bins at various locations,

through collaboration with the Ottawa Food Bank and Mazon Canada, or by buying supplies using the monetary donations when kosher items are on sale at Loblaws College Square. Rideau Bakery donates a loaf of bread per family every month.

Fainstein said those who use the Kasher Food Bank just have “worse luck” than others, which can change at any time. This is why she said individual donations are so important.

A one-time windfall donation of \$15,000 from a community member last year reduced the shortfall of resources to two per cent in 2013. The Kasher Food Bank had a deficit of 12 per cent the previous year due to the rising costs of food and donation decreases.

An additional \$15,000 to \$20,000 is needed annually to ensure the continued existence of the Kasher Food Bank, Fainstein said.

Former Agudath Israel Rabbi Arnold Fine, who saw that Jewish community members were going to food banks in church basements and unable to keep kosher, established the self-supporting Kasher Food Bank with the Agudath Israel Social Action Committee in 1997.

“People don’t realize how close we all are to needing a food bank,” she said. “You never know.”

Donna Klaiman succeeds Fainstein as chair of the Kasher Food Bank.

Kasher Food Bank bins are located at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, various Ottawa synagogues, and Loblaws College Square. Donations can also be made by calling Agudath Israel at 613-728-3501.

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P2G brings Ethiopian-Israeli interns to JCC Day Camp

BY MONIQUE ELLIOT

Two Ethiopian-Israeli interns infused the JCC Day Camp with Israeli culture and language this summer, as they worked as camp counsellors for kids up to age 10.

Ester Ambaw, 23, and Danny Ayanou, 27, worked at the camp for just over three weeks as part of an internship program at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya that sends Ethiopian-Israeli students to placements around the world.

"I work with the little children and I love them," said communications student Ayanou, who was one of the counsellors in charge of the boisterous team known as the Junior Jocks.

Ambaw and Ayanou said they were excited for the opportunity to practise their English and learn more about the Canadian Jewish culture, which Ambaw says is very different from how Israelis relate to Judaism in their culture.

"The Jewish community is very, very different from Israel," said economics student Ambaw, noting that, while most Israelis are Jewish, in Canada, Jews are a small minority community.

Ambaw added that she noticed how

intense the Ottawa Jewish community's connection is to Israel.

In Ottawa, Ambaw stayed with three different host families while working at the camp. Ayanou was able to stay with one family for the entire duration.

Their placement in Ottawa was facilitated and funded by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Partnership 2Gether committee.

The internships were an opportunity to create *Gesher Chai* (living bridge) for both Israelis and Canadians alike, explained Federation Director of Community Collaboration Sarah Beutel.

"We were looking for other opportunities [within our mandate] and things come our way," she said.

"One of the benefits is we bring Israel to Ottawa and we make those people-to-people connections. The other thing is that we are able to provide to one of our organizations, the JCC Day Camp, some Israeli and Jewish-cultural content."

It was the second year the P2G committee was able to bring two Ethiopian-Israeli interns from IDC Herzliya to work at the JCC Summer Camp.



JCC Day Camp counsellor Ester Ambaw bonds with a group of seven-year-old campers.



JCC Day Camp counsellor Danny Ayanou, 27, works with his boisterous group known as the Junior Jocks.

PHOTOS: MONIQUE ELLIOT

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PHOTO: CNAAN LIPSHIZ

Protesters at an unauthorized anti-Israel rally in front of Paris' Gare du Nord train station, July 19.

Reporter's notebook: Wanna kill me? Take a number

BY CNAAN LIPSHIZ

(JTA) – My friend Alain Azria gave me a puzzled look when I told him, with some indignation and disbelief in my voice, that I had heard talk of killing Jews at an unauthorized anti-Israel demonstration last month in Paris.

A young black man with a Parisian accent told a dozen friends loudly, but without shouting, “OK, guys. Let’s go hunt some Jews.”

His friend answered, “Let’s break their heads.” To which the first speaker replied, “Catch them fast, kill them slow.”

The group blended into a mass of thousands of people who were marching toward the Gare du Nord train station while shouting slogans accusing Israel of genocide.

My shock stemmed from the fact that, while anti-Semitic violence accounts for a fair share of my reporting here in Europe, I have personally been insulated from it

– perhaps because I live in Holland, where such occurrences are rarer, or maybe because I had lived most of my life in Israel, where one receives only a theoretical understanding of the phenomenon.

But, for Alain, a freelance news photographer who specializes in documenting France’s anti-Semitism problem, this was just another day at the office. Which is to say he didn’t really have time for my astonished discovery of the banal.

“OK, OK, welcome to Paris. Now let’s move it along,” he said as he took us on a shortcut designed to reach the station before the procession.

Over the course of the following fortnight, as Israel’s fight against Hamas in Gaza continued to fan the already considerable flames of anti-Semitic violence and incitement across the

See Reporter on page 27

Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Ottawa Post, is offering two (2) \$1,000.00 scholarships to deserving Jewish students who are graduating in 2014 from secondary school and entering university in 2014.

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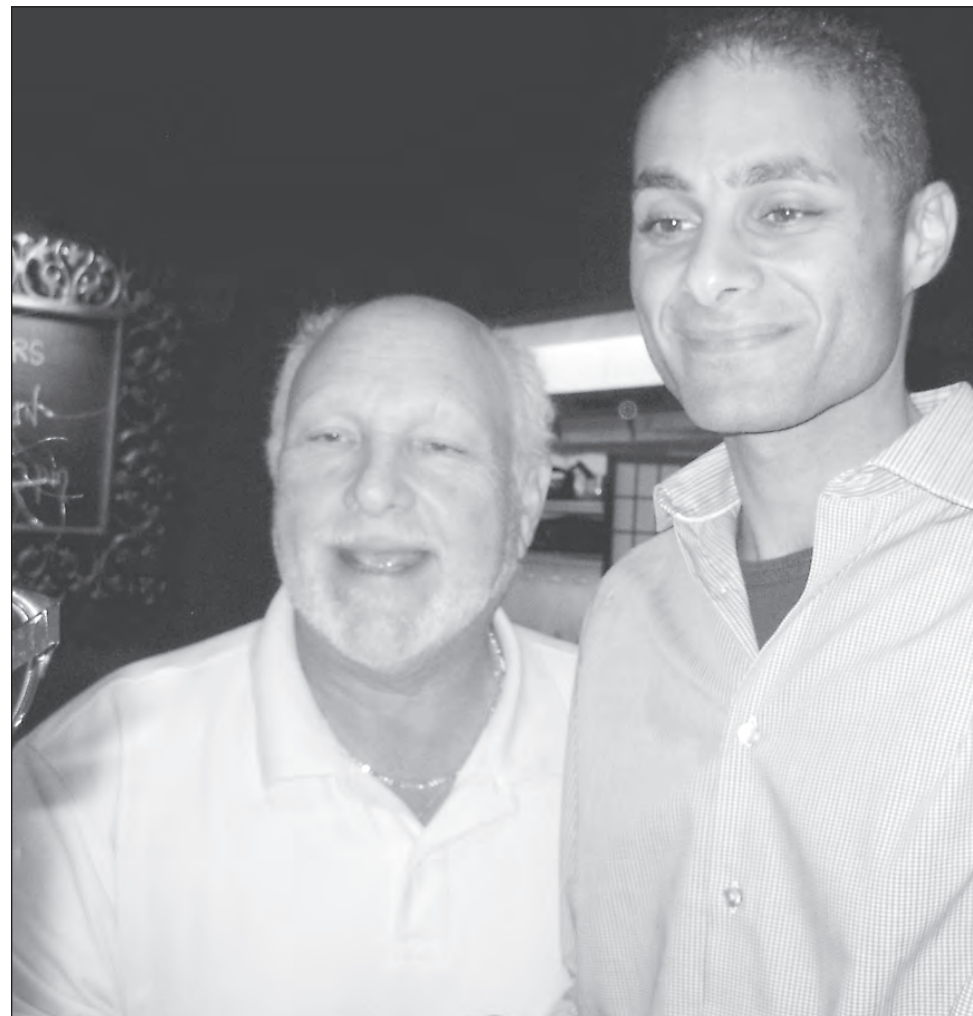
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Rabbi Steven Garten (left) and Imam Mohamad Jebara at the multi-faith Iftar supper, July 24.

Jews and Christians join Muslims for interfaith Iftar supper

BY MERLE HALTRECHT-MATTE
FOR TEMPLE ISRAEL

What happens when people of diverse backgrounds come together, to share humanity, friendship and love?

As the world is shaken and destruction occurs on all sides through hatred and resentment, harmony can be constructed.

Jews, Christians and Muslims may all celebrate holidays differently, eat different foods, pray differently, but can celebrate together – which is exactly what happened on July 24. The Cordova Spiritual Education Center invited Temple Israel and Glebe St. James United Church congregants to experience the breaking of the fast in a traditional Iftar supper at the Tandoori Fusion Restaurant in Bell's Corners.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast each day. As the invitation stated, "This is a time of spiritual cleansing when Muslims pursue the cultivation of hope and trust, and, ultimately, true love and reverence of the Divine."

Christians, Jews and Muslims experienced this special meal through the guidance of Imam Mohamad Jebara, chief imam and resident scholar at the Cordova Center. Among other educational comments, he spoke about the five pillars of

Islam: Testament to one God; Prayer; Zakat (giving charity); fasting during Ramadan; and Haj, the pilgrimage to Mecca.

"Events like this are invaluable, great opportunities to meet people from other faiths and learn more about them. It was an honour to be part of it," said Jackie Byram, a Temple Israel member.

"It was a beautiful evening of prayer, learning and sharing. We were blessed by the hospitality of the entire gathering," said Rabbi Steven Garten, Temple Israel's rabbi emeritus.

"The evening was an example of generous hospitality, of community building and peace-building," said Reverend Sharon Moon of Glebe St. James United Church. "Shalom, a deep peace that creates wholeness of mind, body, spirit, relationships, political, social, economic, and ecological systems brought Christians, Jews and Muslims together for a few hours."

Imam Jebara said the interfaith evening was a joyous success.

"It was, indeed, a great privilege and an honour to be among you, to extract from your blessed aura," he said.

Previous interfaith gatherings have included a Sukkot celebration and a model Passover seder. More interfaith events are being planned.

For more information, contact Merle at merle.haltrecht@opera.ncf.ca.

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Solidarity and unity on Jewish Women's Renaissance Project mission to Israel

BY EILEEN MELNICK-MCCARTHY
AND JENNIFER LOOME-GENCHER
FOR JET

Canadian Jews who have visited Israel usually return home with a stronger connection to the land, its people and their faith.

"A trip to Israel is powerful, but experiencing Israel with hundreds of women while learning together, well, that's transformative," said Lauren Shaps, leader of the JET (Jewish Education through Torah) Ottawa delegation on July's Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP) mission to Israel.

On July 20, we joined women from Australia, the U.S., Toronto and Montreal for what began as 10 days of learning, sharing and inspiration, but became much more.

In the days leading up to our departure, the headlines were not good. Hamas rockets and missiles were targeting Israeli cities every day and Operation Protective

Edge was underway.

Lori Palatnik, JWRP founding director, assured participants the fighting in Gaza was isolated to that area and we would not be travelling near the fighting. While the Iron Dome was detecting and destroying missiles and bombs launched into Israel, bomb shelters, if needed, were located at every stop on our itinerary.

For the 13 brave women in the Ottawa delegation, many of whom were first-timers to Israel, what initially began as a trip to reconnect with our Jewish roots quickly became a solidarity mission. We arrived the day before many flights to Ben-Gurion Airport were cancelled and, everywhere we went, Israelis would hug us and thank us for being with them.

"This trip gave me insight into what life is like for Israelis, and I became more spiritually open," said participant Barb Veder. "I came away with a clearer sense of solidarity and unity with Israel."

During our visit, we travelled to Israel's



JET's Ottawa participants on the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project July mission to Israel.

northernmost region to visit several programs funded by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa through Partnership 2Gether.

In Safed, we visited the Bar Ilan medical facility, which serves Arabs,

Christians and Jews from five neighbouring communities. We met with biomedical researcher Dr. Orly Avni. As she spoke to us about her work, she held back tears as she thanked us for not

See JWRP on page 25

J.J. Goldberg

Editor-at-Large,
Jewish Daily Forward

Lisa Goldman

Contributing Editor &
Co-Founder, +972 Magazine,
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More Than Meets the Eye

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In Honour of:

Thomas (Tommy) Gussman Happy 65th birthday with love by Laya and Ted Jacobsen

(Continued on page 25)

The unveiling
for
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Sunday, September 7th
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JWRP: A lifetime of 'ah ha' moments from mission to Israel

Continued from page 23

cancelling our visit to Israel. She apologized for being emotional, explaining that her son had just been deployed to Gaza.

"I'm no different than 20,000 other Jewish mothers," she said.

We met with young Israeli soldiers working at checkpoints who must contend with the possibility of a suicide bomber approaching them. Shabbat dinner was particularly moving as we heard from lone soldiers, young men and women from the Diaspora who have joined the Israel Defense Forces to protect Israel. We had the honour of bringing them four duffle bags filled with items donated by members of Ottawa's Jewish community, as well as pictures and thank you cards from Ottawa children.

Rachel Fraenkel, mother of Naftali Fraenkel, one of the three Israeli teens murdered in June, addressed us. Somehow, despite her grief, she's been able to give strength and inspiration to a nation. She told us that, if Hamas could have predicted the solidarity they had created throughout Israel, they would never have kidnapped the boys.

"Israelis just want to live in peace. We will come together for peace because we value our lives and even the lives of the Palestinians," she said.

Palatnik said the hardest part of the trip would be describing it. How can you possibly describe those "ah ha moments of inspiration"? All who participated in this experience will have a lifetime to figure it out. And, of course, we all we hope to return.



(Continued from page 24)

Alex Okun Happy milestone birthday by Laya and Ted Jacobsen

Lynne Shulman Happy milestone birthday by Laya and Ted Jacobsen

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Joanna Abrams In appreciation by Anonymous

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Avraham Iny with love by Carol Gradus

In Memory of:

Lynn Nadler by Lysette and Louis Kohn and

their children, Julie and Andrew, Melissa and Jamie and Jonathan and Lilah

IN HONOUR OF:

Elayne and Wesley Schacter Mazal tov on becoming grandparents by Eric and Joy Weisbloom; and by Susan and Charles Schwartzman and family

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Anna and Hymie Rabinovitch Thank you for a lovely evening and your friendship by Toby and Tedd Nathanson

Sydney Lipsey Happy 100th birthday by Ellie Moidel and Marvin; and by Ruth Mendell

IN MEMORY OF:

Arnie Vered by Arlene and Norman Glube; by Eric and Joy Weisbloom; by Rabbi and Mrs. Teitlebaum; and by Roz and Steve Fremeth

Father of Steven Baker by Judy Cleiman
Vita Lehberg by Arlene and Norman Glube
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Lynn Nadler by Bev, Bryan, Alison and Rob Glube; by Valerie and Gaby Terkel

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In *Dancing in Jaffa*, Pierre Dulaine teaches dance to Israeli Arab and Jewish children. The film will be screened Sunday, September 14, 3:30 pm, at the Mayfair Theatre.

Dancing in Jaffa: an inspiring film for troubled times

BY GABRIELLA GOLIGER
CANADIAN FRIENDS OF PEACE NOW

Can anything cut through decades of enmity between Arabs and Jews in the Promised Land? One man offers a most unlikely answer: ballroom dancing.

Fulfilling a lifelong dream, Pierre Dulaine, a celebrated New York dance instructor, returned to Jaffa – the town of his birth – to teach Jewish and Arab children to overcome their differences through the magic of tango and rumba. His quixotic quest is documented in a sensitive, entertaining film, *Dancing in Jaffa*, by Peabody Award-winning Israeli director Hilla Medalia.

Ottawa audiences can see the film on Sunday, September 14, 3:30 pm, at the Mayfair Theatre. The one-time-only showing will be a fund-raiser for Canadian Friends of Peace Now.

Dulaine was born in 1944 of an Irish father – a soldier in the British army – and an Arab-French mother. The family fled Jaffa in 1948 during Israel's War of Independence. The Jaffa he returns to for the first time as a man in his late-60s is a city of deep divides that he's determined to bridge.

He begins teaching ballroom dancing at the city's mostly segregated schools, first working with Jewish and Arab fifth-graders separately. Even that part of the plan has its challenges. There's the usual "yuck reaction" to get past bringing pre-teen

girls and boys together, plus Muslim religious strictures against physical contact between unmarried males and females. Resistance skyrockets when the kids learn Dulaine wants them to "dance with the enemy." Some of the kids remain hostile, but others are eventually won over by Dulaine's persuasive charm and the irresistible appeal of dance itself.

Medalia's film focuses mostly on the complex stories of three of the youngsters who struggle with a slew of barriers – awkward bodies, uncomfortable emotions, politics and religion – as they take on the challenge of a dance competition. The film shows the power of dance to overcome both prejudice and personal insecurity. In so doing, it serves up pain, joy, charm and hilarity, along with infectious Latin rhythms.

Although *Dancing in Jaffa* is upbeat as a whole, it doesn't gloss over the difficulties of the politics underpinning the story. Dulaine's program is hardly a panacea for what ails the Middle East, but it does offer a glimpse of what's possible when the magic of art pushes politics aside. It draws us to that vision and ignites in us a yearning for more such moments as the one in which a student announces, with joy and wonder, "We learned to trust one another."

Advance tickets for *Dancing in Jaffa* are available at the Mayfair Theatre and through goliger@rogers.com.

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Reporter: Shocked by acceptability of anti-Semitism

Continued from page 19

continent, I would come to better understand Alain's apparent nonchalance at the hate fest he was documenting.

This understanding came through frequent visits to Paris – including the scene of one attempted pogrom – and discussions with professed anti-Semites there. But it also grew out of observing unprecedented phenomena gripping the area around my own home in The Hague that the Dutch media have dubbed “the Sharia triangle.”

Shocked by how acceptable anti-Semitism has become in France, I was glad to be back home in the Netherlands, a country where I chose to settle in part because of its strong tradition of tolerance.

But, in Schilderswijk, my neighbourhood of The Hague where roughly half the population is Muslim, hundreds had demonstrated three times since July 7 at rallies that featured flags of the ISIS terrorist group and calls to slaughter the Jews. On August 10, the protesters were back on the street, hurling stones at police.

Central to my understanding of the banalization of anti-Semitic violence in Europe were the July 20 riots in Sarcelles, a northern suburb of Paris with many Muslims, but with a Jewish population large enough to earn it the nickname of “little Jerusalem.”

There I saw riot police fending off a predominantly Arab mob that, unable to reach the main local synagogue, had smashed the windows of Jewish and non-Jewish businesses while chanting “Death to the Jews” in Arabic and French. The avenue leading to the synagogue was shrouded in a cloud of tear gas and black smoke rising from several fires that crackled on the asphalt and tram tracks. Nearby, rioters hurled a firebomb at a synagogue, resulting in little damage. It was the ninth assault on a French synagogue since

July 8, when Israel's military operation against Hamas began.

The temporary breakdown of the rule of law may seem strange to many North Americans, but it is normal in France, where police often opt to contain rather than bust illegal behaviour by Arabs from the suburbs of large cities – to “let sleeping dogs lie,” as Sammy Ghozlan, a French former police commissioner and founder of the National Bureau of Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism, told me.

*The avenue leading to
the synagogue was shrouded
in a cloud of tear gas and black smoke
rising from several fires that crackled
on the asphalt and tram tracks.
Nearby, rioters hurled a firebomb
at a synagogue, resulting in little damage.
It was the ninth assault
on a French synagogue since July 8.*

“We call these areas ‘the lost territories’ because they are no-go areas for police, who fear the escalation of a minor incident into a repeat of the 2005 riots,” he said. “You have such areas in Israel, too,” he reminded me.

More than the breakdown of public order, I was surprised by the drilled response of local Jews. Within minutes of the eruption of the riots in Sarcelles, 100 of them gathered with baseball bats and other weapons. Surrounding the besieged synagogue, they started singing the French anthem. I asked several of them when they began relying on their own strength for their defence. The older ones said it has been like this for many years. The teenagers added, “Since forever.”

At the Sarcelles train station, the riots disrupted train traffic. Taxi drivers generally avoid the area after dark, and I overheard an Algerian man explaining to a Congolese woman that it was the Jews of Sarcelles who struck first.

“Like always, first they attack or steal or kill. Then

they bring the media to lie about it,” said the man, who identified himself to me as Mohammed abu-Chaich, a security guard at Charles de Gaulle Airport. “I hate Jews. I’m not ashamed to say it.

“They initiated the war in Algeria just to kill Arabs,” abu-Chaich, who is in his 40s, told me of his country’s civil war, waged by Islamists. “Hitler killed them for similar reasons,” he added loudly as others around him nodded approvingly.

Feeling sad from my conversation with abu-Chaich (I didn’t tell him I was Jewish), I went into a Cameroonian restaurant for dinner. It wasn’t long before I ended up chatting with some of the patrons about Africa – a continent where I have worked and which I love. Ten minutes into the conversation, two of my interlocutors invited me to stay with them during my next visit to Yaounde.

I was feeling tipsy from the cheap banana beer and happy to have my new Cameroonian friends restore my faith in mankind when one of them began speaking hopefully of the bright future that lay ahead for his country when it finally taps its massive reserves of liquid gas.

“It will be heaven,” he said. “I just hope the Jews don’t take it away from us like they did in Germany before Hitler used that gas to kill them.”

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AJA 50+ announces fall programs

BY ANNETTE PAQUIN
AJA 50+

This season marks the 14th year of programming for AJA (Active Jewish Adults) 50+. With more than 100 programs over the course of the year, AJA 50+ strives to offer activities for all in the community who are over age 50.

This summer, AJA 50+ members participated in many different events, including historic and art walking tours of Almonte, Perth and neighbourhoods in Ottawa. Nature hikes were held both in the city and in the Gatineau Hills, including a cave tour and a mineral tour that took in several mines. Members enjoyed two plays at the Classic Theatre Festival in Perth and a visit to an alpaca farm.

Among the special events was a tea hosted by Israeli Ambassador Rafael Barak and his wife Miriam where the ambassador gave an excellent presentation on the connections between Canada and Israel. Another – inspired by John Diener’s *Connecting the Branches* column in the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* – was a visit to the Jewish community in Potsdam, New York.

The calendar is full again this fall with more than 40 dynamic programs ranging from field trips to folk music. Of special interest is a tour of the Transportation Safety Board’s research facility that will highlight the important work the lab does during airline accident investigations analyzing black box data.

Other programs include “Hate on the Internet,” “Medical Statistics,” tours of three exhibitions at the National Gallery of Canada, the ever popular “AJA 50+ Chess for Fun,” as well as other lectures, music programs and tours.

AJA 50+ also has weekly drop-in programs such as mah-jongg, bridge, “Sharing the Music that Moves You,” and, new this session, Scrabble mornings.

Programs are suggested and organized by members in order to ensure that they reflect the interests of the group.

Registration and membership is ongoing for the fall programs. The program guide and registration information can be found at www.aja50plus.ca or by contacting Annette Paquin at 613-526-2968.



Irwin Brodo leads an AJA 50+ nature walk in the Gatineau Hills.

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Love of Israel prompts local grassroots events and campaigns

BY MONIQUE ELLIOT

Several grassroots events and campaigns have been organized by individuals in Ottawa's Jewish community anxious to show their support for Israel during its operation in Gaza this summer.

Organized independently in just a couple of days, the Children's Unity for Israel program, drew about 100 people – including 70 children – to the Soloway Jewish Community Centre W(SJCC) on July 31. The children said prayers for Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers and made cards and wrote letters to send to them. Each child in attendance was given one dollar to donate to Chayel El Chayel, an organization that supports lone soldiers in the IDF, and to Israel Aid Mission.

Support for Israel “unites us all,” said organizer Nili Szilagyi of her inspiration to create a program to empower kids to “be advocates in their own way” for Israel. “I just felt that it was really important for children to have a chance to feel a communal sense of connection to Israel.”

Szilagyi, who reached out to local congregations, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and the SJCC to help get out word about the event, said she encourages others to take the initiative and create their own Israel solidarity programs for children.

Fred Litwin, co-founder of the newly established Ottawa Zionist Council,



Pro-Israel supporters rally on Parliament Hill, August 6.

PHOTO: ANNETTE PAQUIN

quietly organized a grassroots, pro-Israel lunchtime rally on Parliament Hill, August 6, which drew more than 100 supporters with just email and social media notices.

Litwin said a grassroots rally on Parliament Hill would be less likely to garner attention from anti-Israel protesters.

“We tried very hard to keep it a little secret,” he said. “It was completely peaceful.”

Litwin said he hopes to partner with other local organizations and synagogues for future events, and to engage the non-Jewish community as well.

As well, a number of individuals have

quietly led grassroots fundraising efforts to buy smaller items for Israeli soldiers that are not made available to them by the IDF.

Lyon Hamburg said he was inspired to fundraise for Leatherman multi-tools, similar to a Swiss Army knife and useful to combat soldiers, when an Israeli friend, a reserve IDF soldier serving in Sderot, contacted his mother and asked her to help him buy some for his fellow soldiers.

After a friend in the United States started a campaign for medical supplies that netted more than \$15,000, Hamburg felt he could raise at least a few hundred dollars for the tools.

“I started my own campaign and was overwhelmed by how many people responded. Many people responded that I did not even contact,” Hamburg said. “They came to know about the campaign through speaking with their friends, who were friends of friends of mine.”

Hamburg said he raised more than \$8,000 for IDF soldiers by the end of the first week of August. He said he is excited that the money will go directly to Israel, as all equipment is to be purchased locally from an Israeli business.

Social media and email are drastically changing the way grassroots fundraising campaigns are run, he said, noting that he reached more than 100 people in 35 minutes via Facebook messages and email.

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Continued on page 33

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We would like to thank all of our family and friends for their donations, cards, meals and expressions of sympathy on the loss of Judi Kerzner. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated during this time.
Ed, Cari and Beth



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A program of



' Hamas is telling the world its true intentions. Isn't it time we started listening?'

You can't trust Hamas to honour a ceasefire. Or allow foreign journalists to report the truth without fearing for their lives. Or stop using its people as human shields by deliberately firing rockets from schools, hospitals and other heavily populated areas.

But you can trust Hamas on one topic: Its desire to wipe Israel and the Jewish people off the map.

Furthermore, it is completely open about its intention to use any Palestinian unity government to further this goal.

When the rockets and air strikes give way to peace talks and political maneuvering, Israel and its allies cannot afford to lose track of these truths.

And Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should stick to his original resolve that a merger between the political wing of Hamas and the so-called moderate Palestinian Authority under Mahmoud Abbas is not the solution to disarming Hamas.

At the time of writing, Hamas has broken the latest 72-hour ceasefire and resumed its rocket attacks on Israel.

Foreign journalists who have left Gaza are now revealing facts they couldn't initially report for fear of retaliation.

"We saw the Hamas men," a Spanish reporter told *Ynet News*. "But had we dared point the cameras at them, they would have opened fire at us and killed us."

Indian journalist Sreenivasan Jain posted a video (<http://tinyurl.com/mqjqutz>) showing Hamas members setting up a rocket launching site right beside a hotel occupied by foreign journalists. He later saw the rockets fired minutes before a 72-hour ceasefire.

France 24 correspondent Gallagher Fenwick aired a report (<http://tinyurl.com/nez5mox>) showing rockets



BARBARA CROOK
MY ISRAEL

being launched close to a hotel and a mere 100 metres from a UN facility. His video includes shots of kids playing with the rocket launchers.

Sudarsan Raghavan of the *Washington Post* blogged (<http://tinyurl.com/khf3op2>) about visiting a bombed mosque in Gaza City. The building had been obliterated, but a pile of burned, ripped copies of the Koran lay on top of a perfectly intact prayer rug.

"The scene was too neat ... the symbolism was obvious, almost too perfect," he wrote.

"It was clear that someone had placed them there to attract sympathy for the Palestinian cause. A television crew spotted the pile and filmed it. Mission accomplished."

It should be noted that none of these reporters has any particularly loyalty to Israel. In fact, they are highly critical of the Israeli air strikes and what they call the "Israeli propaganda machine."

But they have independently confirmed Israel's longtime insistence that Hamas rockets are deliberately placed in heavily populated civilian areas, often in or near UN facilities.

These rocket attacks, of course, draw return Israeli air strikes that cause heavy civilian casualties and international condemnation of Israel.

But let's get back to the subject on which Hamas is (almost) completely trustworthy.

I don't apologize for being a broken record about the fact that Hamas is a religious-based movement whose charter explicitly and unequivocally calls for the destruction of Israel and the extermination of the Jews.

Or the fact that Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas, the Fatah leader, despite being the lesser of two evils, is no true partner for peace.

In fact, Palestinian Media Watch reports that the Abbas-controlled PA media have continued to fan the flames of the Gaza conflict, including rebroadcasting an Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade video vowing to "turn Tel Aviv into a ball of fire." (<http://tinyurl.com/oot8rga>)

But even I am astounded by how open Hamas is being about how it would manipulate any unity government to its advantage.

In a remarkably candid interview with the *New York Times* (<http://tinyurl.com/n3gjedz>), senior Hamas political leader Mousa Abu Marzook said that Hamas would welcome a coalition government with Fatah. But he insisted that Hamas would keep its military wing outside the government – so that it could prepare for another war with Israel.

"Of course, they are outside the government," Abu Marzook said of the military wing, the Qassam Brigades.

"It is as simple as that, like the way that Israel wants to destroy Qassam, and they haven't done that, right?"

Some observers suggest that the only way Hamas will agree to a lasting ceasefire is to be allowed to preserve its military wing.

But why should Israel agree to yet another deal that only postpones the inevitable – two or three years of relative quiet followed by an even deadlier campaign of kidnappings and rocket attacks?

As Abu Marzook says, "We know how to make our resistance each time better than the previous time."

Hamas is telling the world its true intentions. Isn't it time we started listening?

Is dance the fountain of youth?

On a recent vacation in Palm Beach, Florida, my husband and I stumbled upon a gem of a restaurant. We discovered that the bygone era of the supper club was alive and kicking at 264 The Grill where the talented Switzer Trio performed hits from such legendary singers as Frank Sinatra, Rosemary Clooney and Nat King Cole. I developed a fondness for this type of music growing up listening to my mother's record collection. I still treasure these records two decades after her passing.

Many of the restaurant's patrons appeared to be seniors, but I could immediately sense their joie de vivre as couples enthusiastically danced to the songs of their youth. And they knew how to dance properly!

One couple made my jaw drop. Both in their late-70s, the tall, slim white-haired gentleman led his vivacious, elegantly attired wife around the dance floor. The applause nearly drowned out the band each time he dipped, twirled or lifted his wife with dramatic flair.

Between dinner courses, or whenever a song they fancied began to play, this couple would approach the dance floor; their posture and overall body language seemed to change. It was as if they'd just taken a sip from the fountain of youth. Although they later informed me they are self-taught amateur dancers, they sure could cut a rug. Whether it was the cha-cha, tango, samba or salsa, they moved with style and grace.

They left me breathless, especially when the woman placed the back of her head in the nook of her husband's arm, and he lowered her backwards until she was suspended just inches above the dance floor. And he



GLORIA SCHWARTZ
FOCUS ON
FITNESS

held her there for what seemed like an eternity. Nearly three decades older than me, she had the flexibility and balance of a much younger person.

I never learned to ballroom dance. My disco generation did the bump, the hustle and a lot of freestyle, frenetic arm-flailing, hip-gyrating moves. That evening at the restaurant, I lived vicariously through all of the talented, mature couples; they demonstrated that, when you engage in an activity you love, it helps you keep physically and mentally fit, and age doesn't matter.

Dancing provides many health benefits. It improves proprioception, balance, agility, co-ordination and strength. Dance can be an excellent form of aerobic exercise. Dancing also employs different cognitive skills, such as rote memory needed to perform steps in a particular sequence and creative thinking as one adapts on the fly to the nuanced moves of one's partner. Movement to music helps alleviate stress and distracts us from our feelings of exertion, thereby allowing us to engage in the activity longer or with more intensity.

Dancing also offers social benefits and reduces feelings of isolation. A study conducted by Jonathan

Skinner of Queen's University Belfast examined the effects of social dancing on seniors. He found that dancing can contribute to better physical, emotional and mental health. The study suggests that seniors who engage in social dancing can reduce incidences of illness and improve their sense of happiness.

Dance is an excellent way for people of all ages to work their heart muscles and burn calories while having a good time. You can find opportunities to dance at community centres and different types of clubs geared for different styles and age groups. You can take dance lessons, but don't feel limited to ballroom dancing. For example, square dancing and line dancing are popular social activities. Israeli folk dancing – which my friends and I did many times as a social activity when we were single – is offered weekly for all levels in Ottawa. Information is available from judy@ottawaisraelidance.ca.

My husband's Aunt Gertie recently passed away. She must have been over 90. She ran a dance studio for many years in Zimbabwe for much of her life. When she moved to South Africa, she became a volunteer dance instructor at retirement homes. Upon her passing, many of her former dance students from years ago shared personal memories on social media. Her passion for dance improved the quality of her life and countless others.

If you'd like to hear some of the great oldies, but you don't have a music collection, tune in to Legends Radio free at www.legendsradio.com. And remember to "dance like nobody's watching!"

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

What are the ingredients of a successful marriage?

This week, as I write, marks my 15th wedding anniversary. While every year has felt significant, 15 has a somewhat mystical overlay. The Hebrew equivalent for 15 would normally contain *Yud* and *Heh*, two of the four letters of the tetragram spelling God's name, so there is a different customary formulation: *Tet Vav* or *Tu*, for short. Sprinkle in some multilingual word play – *tu* meaning “you” in French, and “to” in English connoting a mutual connection, and 15 is rife with meaning.

This anniversary has also prompted me to consider what goes into a lasting marriage. I began by polling Facebook friends who've surpassed the 15-year mark. Among the responses: trust, communication, acceptance, humour, generosity, patience, commitment, common values and mutual respect for one another's journey through life. One friend offered the idea of love as measured by actually enjoying listening to what the other person has to say. Curiously, no one mentioned sex.

There is an inherent catch here, of course: how can we know which of these many laudable qualities are signs of a healthy marriage and which are prescriptions? In other words, can a troubled marriage be saved by adopting these practices, or do these practices simply flow, automatically, from a solid union?

Some friends did offer some potential advice.

Date nights, even if it involves watching a movie on the sofa with take-out after the kids are in bed, one friend said.

Another emphasized how important it is not to “keep score.” Where sometimes partners fall into the trap of believing that “reciprocity has to be quantitatively balanced over a short period of time,” she said, it's better to think of the “partnership as rooted in generosity and mutual caring.” She added that it's important for the couple to shed external expectations, whether they



MIRA SUCHAROV
**VALUES, ETHICS,
COMMUNITY**

come from televised images, societal norms or embedded ideals with which one was raised. That imaginary third party's judgmental voice can intrude on a couple's relationship in unhealthy ways. At a dinner party I attended, one woman emphasized kindness. Her husband said it's important to park one's ego.

*Over the past several weeks,
I've been practising “turn toward”
and discussing it with whoever will listen,
my husband included.
My husband and I are now in the habit
of “turning toward” more than
we sometimes have been in the past.
We even joke about it
as we're doing it, a subtle way
of reinforcing the mental links
between intention and action.*

And what do the experts say? A recent article in *The Atlantic* by Emily Esfahani Smith (“Masters of Love,” June 12, 2014) profiled a team of researchers who study lasting partnerships. Noting how partners engage in moment-to-moment “bids” for attention, the research

team – led by John Gottman – stressed that how the partner responds to these bids is key to the marriage's success. As Smith described it, “People who turned toward their partners in the study responded by engaging the bidder, showing interest and support in the bid. Those who didn't – those who turned away – would not respond or respond minimally and continue doing whatever they were doing, like watching TV or reading the paper.”

This “turn toward” philosophy can also fall into the causality trap. Is “turning toward” a function of a healthy marriage, or a prescription for one? The answer is probably both. But that doesn't mean that a virtual cycle can't be consciously created. Over the past several weeks, I've been practising “turn toward” and discussing it with whoever will listen, my husband included. My husband and I are now in the habit of “turning toward” more than we sometimes have been in the past. We even joke about it as we're doing it, a subtle way of reinforcing the mental links between intention and action.

As for our anniversary, we did something we never get to do anymore: catch a film after work. We saw *Boyhood*, the tour de force of Richard Linklater who spent 12 years filming the same actors. Over the course of two-and-a-half-hours, we witnessed the on-screen children develop into adults and parents struggling to find their way. On the subject of marriage, the film was more bitter than sweet. But we enjoyed it, admiring the director's fortitude and creativity, and privately reflecting.

When we returned home, we discussed the film over a glass of wine, and concluded the evening by “turning toward” one another as one shared with the other some newly discovered National Public Radio podcasts, episodes devoted to love, loss and longing.

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

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MEMBERS MEETING

A meeting of the members
of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa

will be held on

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

7:00 pm

Social Hall A

The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building

Meeting is open to the public.

For more information contact:

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The Sephardi Association of Ottawa Wishes You Shana Tova U'Metuka!

High Holiday services will be held at Shikun Oz, 57 Bateman

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 24	6:30 pm
Thursday, September 25	9:00 am
Friday, September 26	9:00 am

Yom Kippur

Friday, October 3 (Kol Nidrei)	6:30 pm
Saturday, October 4	9:00 am
Ne'ilah	6:00 pm

Please join us!

You don't have to be Sephardi to enjoy a unique High Holiday experience!

*The Sephardi Association of Ottawa is holding its Annual General Meeting
on Sunday, September 14 at 2:00 pm, to be held at Shikun Oz, 57 Bateman.*

*All are invited to hear reports on last year's activities,
as well as our plans for the coming year.*

Please join us and help us build our community. Refreshments will be served.

RSVP at ottawasephardiassociation@yahoo.com

Be a Superhero answer the call!



Superweek September 28 to 30

Co-chaired by super sisters Shelley, Brenna and Marlene Rivier

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janderson@jewishottawa.com or 613-798-4696 x 232



Novel captures the effect of anti-Israel bigotry on Jewish university students

Fields of Exile

By Nora Gold
Dundurn
424 pages

University campuses are often the frontlines of the movement to delegitimize the State of Israel and, while no government – including Israel's – should ever be above criticism, we've seen many attacks on Israel, often falsely couched in the language of peace and human rights, that are nothing but thinly veiled examples of what has emerged as a new form of anti-Semitism.

In *Fields of Exile*, novelist Nora Gold – a former professor of social work at McMaster University and now an associate scholar at the Centre for Women's Studies in Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto – examines the effect of the anti-Israel movement on a liberal, Jewish grad student temporarily back in Canada after a decade in Israel.

Judith Gallanter grew up in Toronto's Jewish community and made aliyah to Israel in her early-20s. In Israel, she worked short-term contracts as a social worker and was a committed leftist active in peace, civil rights and Jewish-Arab dialogue groups promoting the two-state solution.

As the story begins, it is 2000, around the time the

MICHAEL REGENSTREIF BOOK REVIEW

Second Intifada flared up, and Judith has returned to Canada to care for her dying father. She also rekindles her romance with Bobby, a Jewish former boyfriend who is now a Toronto lawyer.

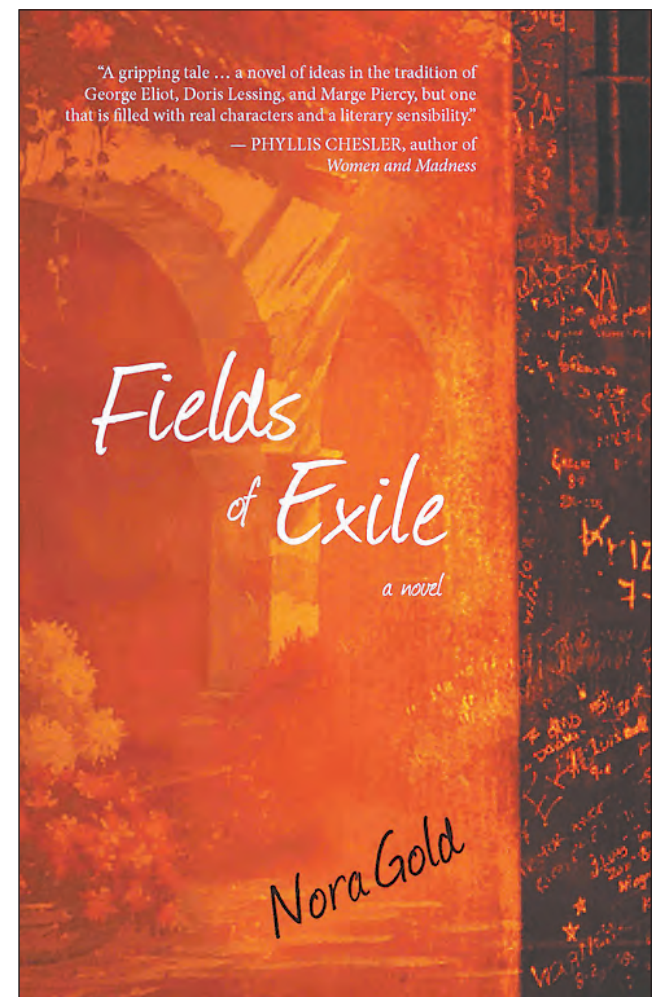
As her father dies, she promises him that she'll stay for a school year and earn her master's degree in social work. She applies to Dunhill University, a (fictional) school just outside Toronto and is accepted into its MSW program. Despite Bobby's hopes that they'll get married and live in Toronto, Judith considers Israel her home and plans to return as soon as she earns her degree. In Canada, she considers herself to be living in exile.

Things look promising as Judith settles into her program at Dunhill. She seems to make friends easily with both fellow students and her professors – and becomes particularly close with Suzy, one of her younger professors. Suzy chairs the school's anti-oppression committee and invites Judith to be her co-chair.

Judith does well in the fall semester, acing her courses and becoming a star student in the MSW program. The relationship with Suzy continues to deepen over their regular dinners in advance of the weekly anti-oppression committee meetings. However, things begin to unravel when the subject of Israel comes up in her classes and she is subjected to the kind of anti-Israel – and sometimes anti-Semitic – rhetoric that has become common on university campuses.

Things really start to fall apart for Judith when several members of the anti-oppression committee propose that an anti-Israel activist known for anti-Semitic rhetoric and for supporting Palestinian terrorism against Israeli civilians be the featured speaker at Dunhill's annual Anti-Oppression Day.

Expecting Suzy to back up her efforts to defeat the motion to bring in the speaker, she is devastated when the



professor she thought was her friend sells her out and cruelly turns against her.

While Judith had been a peace and pro-Palestinian-state activist in Israel, to the anti-Zionists at Dunhill, she was just another Jewish colonialist.

Although the anti-Israel movement in 2000 had yet to develop its BDS and Israeli apartheid tactics, campus events such as Dunhill's Anti-Oppression Day can certainly be seen as earlier manifestations or prototypes for them. In *Fields of Exile* – apparently the first novel to deal with contemporary anti-Zionism on campus – Gold skilfully captures the conflicts and, indeed, the bigotry, which many Jewish and other pro-Israel students face in today's university climate. At the same time, she develops protagonist Judith as a complex character, caught between life and love where she grew up and the country she now feels is home.

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COMING SOON

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Na'amat Canada National Convention Banquet:
Na'amat Canada's 19th Triennial Convention in Ottawa, including banquet and installation of new National Board.

The theme is "Making a difference daily."

Lord Elgin Hotel, 6:30 to 9:30 pm.

Convention runs from September 12 to 14.

Info: Sarah Beutel, 613-798-4696, ext. 253, sbeutel@jewishottawa.com

Federation Annual Campaign Kickoff 2015:
with Jerry Greenfield, co-founder of Ben & Jerry's. Find out how Jerry Greenfield and his lifelong friend Ben Cohen opened Ben and Jerry's Homemade Ice Cream parlour, became famous and profitable, turned to philanthropy, and later received the James Beard Humanitarian of the Year award. Centrepointhe Theatre, 101 Centrepointhe Drive, 7:30 to 10 pm.

Info: Ariel Fainer, 613-798-4696, ext. 241, afainer@jewishottawa.com

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

New OTC Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: Join us as we joyously open the doors to the new Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad in Barrhaven.

Ottawa Torah Centre, 111 Lamplighters Drive, 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Info: 613-843-7770, info@theotc.org

New Israel Fund of Canada presents: "More Than Meets the Eye: What we say (and don't) when we cover Israel" Featuring J.J. Goldberg of the *Jewish Daily Forward*, Lisa Goldman of *+972 Magazine* and Michael Regenstreif of the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*, 7 to 9 pm

Info: Atarah Derrick, 1-855-781-4322, atarah@nifcan.org

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Malca Pass Library Book Discussion Group
Book review and discussion.

Agudath Israel Synagogue, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 7:30 to 9 pm.

Info: Maureen Kaell, 613-224-8649, mkaell@rogers.com

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa Members' Meeting
Open to the community, 7 to 9 pm.

Info: Rachel Abenhaim 613-798-4696, ext. 236 rabenhaim@jewishottawa.com

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

The Vered Israel Cultural and Education Program presents: "Why Did Israel Win the 1948 War?"
With Derek J. Penslar, Samuel Zacks Professor of Jewish

History, University of Toronto, a comparative historian with interests in the relationship between modern Israel and diaspora Jewish societies, global nationalist movements, European colonialism and post-colonial states, 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

Info: Ella Dagan, 613-798-9818, ext. 243, edagan@jccottawa.com

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

March of the Living Information Meeting

Information Session to discuss March of the Living trip to take place in April 2015 for students who will be in grades 10, 11, 12 in the 2014-2015 school year. Guest speaker Michael Soberman, national director, Canada-Israel Experience, 7 to 9 pm.

Contact: Benita Siemiatycki, 613-798-4644, bsiemiatycki@jewishottawa.com

CANDLE LIGHTING BEFORE

AUG 29	7:25 PM	FIRST DAY ROSH HASHANAH
SEP 5	7:12 PM	SEP 24 6:38 PM
SEP 12	6:59 PM	SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH
SEP 19	6:45 PM	SEP 25 AFTER 7:37 PM

BULLETIN DEADLINES

AUGUST 27	FOR SEPTEMBER 22*
SEPTEMBER 15	FOR OCTOBER 6**

* Early deadline: Community-wide Issue

** Early deadline because of holiday closures (all dates subject to change)

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CONDOLENCES

Condolences are extended to the families of:

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Harry Hartman, Florida
(father of Cheryl Dubrofsky)

Martin Marcus

Lynn Nadler

Frances (Sanders) Shaffer,
Burnaby, BC

May their memory be a blessing always.

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