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Truce marks end to Israel's longest, bloodiest war in Gaza

A truce in Israel's 50-day long war with Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza came into effect on August 26 as this issue of the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* was in production. As we went to press on August 29, the truce appeared to be holding. Israel-based JTA reporter **Ben Sales** looks back.



Israeli soldiers attend a ceremony at the Mount Herzl Military Cemetery in Jerusalem honouring Lee Matt, who died in July while fighting in Gaza, August 21, 2014.

TEL AVIV (JTA) – A rocket barrage fell on Israel, a boom sounded over Tel Aviv and then it was over – at least for now.

After 50 days of missiles, airstrikes, ground operations, tunnel incursions, truce talks, ceasefire proposals, death and destruction, Israel and Hamas agreed to an open-ended truce on August 26.

The ceasefire announced by Egypt stipulates that Israel and Egypt will open all border crossings to allow international humanitarian aid and construction materials to enter the Gaza Strip.

The agreement requires Israel and Hamas to cease hostilities, but, according to reports, does not include commitments to allow an international airport and seaport in Gaza. After a month, should the quiet hold, Israel and Hamas will restart indirect negotiations in Cairo on easing Israel's blockade of the coastal strip and disarming the enclave.

The end of the operation should not

include "any significant political achievements for Hamas, which is a terrorist organization which doesn't accept our existence here," said Tzipi Livni, Israel's justice minister.

Livni added that the truce should be "part of an overall accord with those who seek peace."

Hamas did not achieve any of its demands in the wake of Israel's operation in Gaza and "begged" for a ceasefire, said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, August 27, in his first public statements after the truce came into effect.

The Israeli military, Netanyahu added, achieved its goals.

He said Hamas' demands included promises of an airport, seaport and the release of prisoners in Israeli jails. Several of the demands reportedly will be discussed in a second phase of the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire after one month of quiet on the Gaza border.

Netanyahu emphasized that Hamas was struck hard, including the deaths of about 1,000 fighters and the destruction of tunnels and rocket launchers. He called it the worst blow to Hamas since its founding.

The Israeli leader asserted that the goals of the military were met: to hurt Hamas and to bring prolonged quiet to Israel's southern communities.

"We brought in ground troops for that reason," Netanyahu said. "When the mission was complete, we withdrew our troops so as not to give Hamas the opportunity to kill or kidnap them."

Netanyahu said his government will try to take advantage of "the new diplomatic opportunities" created through the Gaza operation.

The agreement was the culmination of Egyptian-led ceasefire efforts that were ongoing throughout the conflict. Earlier in August, Israel and Hamas had agreed to a string of temporary ceasefires, which ended when Hamas resumed rocket fire on Israel.

The fighting was Israel's third major conflict with Hamas since 2008, following conflicts in 2008-2009 and 2012. This one, however, was the longest and costliest between the sides since Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005.

More than 2,000 Palestinians and 71 Israelis died in the latest conflict, which wounded more than 10,000 Gazans and 500 Israelis, according to Israel's Foreign Ministry. Also, 20 Palestinians died in

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inside: Mitch Miller helps bring hockey to Israel > p. 3

Meet Rabbi Norman Klein, interim rabbi at Temple Israel > p. 11

Yonaton Curry on his personal solidarity mission to Israel > p. 12

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Truce: Gaza operation deals heavy blow to Hamas

Continued from page 1

protests in the West Bank against Israel's operation, according to a report in the *Guardian*.

The fighting created ghost towns across Israel's South and devastated Gaza, destroying thousands of homes. Israeli forces delivered a punishing blow to Hamas during the conflict, with airstrikes destroying thousands of rockets and ground troops eliminating much of its tunnel infrastructure both under the Israel-Gaza border and across Gaza.

An Israeli airstrike on August 21 killed three senior Hamas commanders and the chief of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, may have been killed in a separate attack the day before.

Israel's aggressive military tactics, along with a high Palestinian civilian death toll, drew widespread international criticism.

In July, the United Nations Human Rights Council said it would send a fact-finding mission to investigate possible war crimes committed during the fighting. Israel has indicated that it likely would not co-operate with the investigation, alleging anti-Israel bias.

Even the United States, an Israel ally, issued harsh criticism following an Israeli airstrike that hit a United Nations school on August 3, and tightened its controls on weapons shipments to Israel. American assistance to Israel continued during the conflict, though, as the U.S. approved an added \$225 million for Israel's Iron Dome missile defence system.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki said the U.S. "strongly supports" the truce.

"We view this as an opportunity, not a certainty," Psaki said. "Today's agreement comes after many hours and days

of negotiations and discussions. But certainly there's a long road ahead. And we're aware of that and we're going into this eyes wide open."

Hamas saw many of its attempted attacks on Israel frustrated. Iron Dome intercepted nearly all of the rockets Hamas aimed at city centres, and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) stopped Hamas' infiltrations into Israel close to the border.

Nevertheless, Hamas killed 64 Israeli soldiers in Israel's ground invasion of Gaza – the highest death toll for Israel since the Second Lebanon War in 2006 – in addition to six civilians.

Despite being ineffective, Hamas rockets proved to have an increasingly long range – mortar fire reached nearly all of Israel for the first time. While residents of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem were largely able to carry on with life under the protection of Iron Dome, they found themselves running for shelter daily at the sound of warning sirens, an experience that had previously been confined principally to southern Israel.

And Hamas rocket fire on central Israel led a number of international airlines to cancel flights to and from Israel for two days in July, leaving Israelis feeling isolated. The U.S. Federal Aviation Authority instituted a 24-hour ban on flights to Israel, which some criticized as unwarranted. Hamas celebrated the cancellations in a statement as an "air blockade."

The conflict began on July 8 following a barrage of Hamas rockets on Israel. Tensions between the sides had risen after Hamas operatives in the West Bank kidnapped and murdered three Israeli teens on June 12. Israeli troops swept the West Bank in the ensuing weeks, arresting hundreds of Hamas members, according to Israel. The July 2 kidnapping



PHOTO: DAVID BUIMOVITCH/FLASH 90

An Iron Dome missile defence battery launches near the southern Israeli town of Ashdod on July 14, 2014. Each interceptor missile costs Israel \$50,000.

and murder of a Palestinian teen, who was burned alive by a group of Israeli extremists in a likely revenge attack, further stoked the flames.

Israel began its campaign with airstrikes across Gaza, targeting Hamas weapons and infrastructure, but also killing hundreds of civilians. But, following Hamas attempts to infiltrate Israel by tunnel and sea, Israel launched a ground invasion of Gaza on July 17, which lasted two weeks.

The ground operation ended as Israel and Hamas agreed to the first in a string of temporary ceasefires. During the calm, the sides engaged in Egyptian-mediated negotiations begun early in the conflict on a long-term truce. But the talks ended August 19 without an agreement as Hamas broke the ceasefire and resumed rocket fire.

As in previous conflicts, a vast majority of Israelis supported the operation, with 95 per cent of Israeli Jews in favour, according to the Israel Democracy Institute. But the conflict also opened divisions within Israel's governing coalition, as more hawkish ministers called for the IDF to deal a harsher blow to Hamas and opposed the various ceasefires. Residents of the South, who have withstood rocket fire for more than a decade, also have called for a continued operation.

"Any concession to Hamas is a surrender to terrorism," Ashkelon Mayor Itamar Shimoni said August 26, according to *Haaretz*. "The residents of the South wanted to see this campaign resolved, but that will probably not happen."

– This article incorporates other files from JTA.



PHOTO: FLASH 90

Israeli soldiers leave the Gaza Strip, August 4, 2014.



PHOTO: EMAD NASSER/FLASH90/FLASH 90

A Palestinian child stands amid the rubble after Israeli airstrikes in the northern Gaza Strip, August 18, 2014.

North American and Israeli youth play hockey together in Metula

The Canada Israel Hockey School is a unique venture bringing Canada's favourite sport to Israel. Organizer **Mitch Miller** of Ottawa spoke with the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin's* **Monique Elliot**.

Young hockey players from Canada and the United States had a unique experience this summer as they played together with young Israelis at the Canada Israel Hockey School (CIHS) located at the Canada Centre in Metula, Israel.

Metula, located very close to the border with Lebanon, is in the Upper Galilee, Ottawa's partnership region in the Partnership 2Gether program.

"The trip was a huge success because it was the first year we've had a hockey camp in Israel for North Americans to attend," said CIHS organizer Mitch Miller, who is also chair of Ottawa's Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

"The fact that we've had five kids this year along with the probably 45 or so kids from Israel was great," he said. "And I know we'll get more kids in the future because of the experience these kids had: a mixture of touring, hockey and just hanging out with the Israelis."

The majority of the North American delegation was not Jewish, a fact that only encouraged many of the players to get to know their teammates and enjoy exploring a new country.

"They shared the same passion as you," said Zach Springer, one of the two teen-aged Canadian goalies from Kingston who coached at the camp. "It didn't seem to matter what their religion was. They were just there to play hockey."

Springer said the appeal of coaching "was one of the main reasons I went."

The Canadian delegation also included Laurie Boschman, a National Hockey League (NHL) veteran who played for the Toronto Maple Leafs, Edmonton Oilers, Winnipeg Jets and New Jersey Devils, and finished his NHL career in 1992-93 as captain of the Ottawa Senators; and Tessa Bonhomme, who played for the Canadian women's gold medal-winning team at the 2010 Olympics.

The group spent several days exploring Israel. The old city of Acre, the Sea of Galilee and a kibbutz and Druse village, the home of some Israeli hockey camp participants, were just some of the stops on their tours.

The CIHS camps are a testament to the efforts of the late Roger Neilson, a longtime NHL coach who, with a key group of supporters and volunteers, began to introduce hockey to Israel almost 20 years ago. His passion is recognized for having stimulated Israel's growing affinity for hockey.

The camps are organized for both boys and girls, and more than 450 players have participated since the first camp at the Canada Centre in Metula in 1997.

Boschman and Bonhomme led drills for players both on and off the ice. The off-ice conditioning sessions included running the rink's steps as well as weight training.

Tom Newberry, a coach from Washington, trained more than 20 Israeli



Hockey player Noy Rosenberg from Kibbutz Kfar Giladi near Metula with Canada Israel Hockey School organizer Mitch Miller of Ottawa.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MITCH MILLER

coaches wanting to earn certification from USA Hockey, the sport's official representative to the United States Olympic Committee and the International Ice Hockey Federation.

Newberry, USA Hockey's Southeast director, taught new strategies and techniques to the Israeli coaches through a combination of 12 hours of in-class instruction and on-ice work to develop basics skills appropriate to athletes' ages. He also helped them develop personal coaching philosophies and how to teach complex skills to struggling players.

The Ice Hockey Federation of Israel will recognize the certifications with the purpose of developing an Israeli coach certification program, he said.

The majority of coaches in the course came from in-line hockey programs as there are only three ice hockey rinks in Israel: in Metula, as well as Maalot and Holon.

"These are people who are quite passionate about hockey. That's really fun to see in a non-traditional hockey market," Boschman said.

Despite the lack of rinks, the enthusiasm for hockey has been intensifying. The mother of one Israeli player told the delegation that the family moved to Metula to be closer to the rink.

"It warms my heart to hear those kinds of stories," Miller said.

The group of North Americans played hockey and toured Israel from July 3 to 13, just as hostilities with Hamas were escalating. Miller said the group was very safe in Metula, near Israel's northern border, despite the two rockets fired from Lebanon that landed a few minutes away

from where the group was staying.

"It was not a big deal for us," Miller said. One landed in a field and the other on a road in the middle of the night when there was no traffic. The group travelled that road the next day and saw that road crews had already repaired the minor damage, he said.

It is speculated the rocket fire must have come from rogue individuals as the Israel Defense Forces confirmed that Hezbollah or any other terrorist organization did not fire the rockets, Miller said.

The experience was transformative for kids and adults alike, he added.

"It was awesome, it was an unreal experience," said Springer, despite needing to seek out a bomb shelter with the group in Tel Aviv while meeting with visiting Canadian senators and members of Parliament.

"[I was] a little nervous," Springer said about seeking cover. "But seeing all the local people around me who were just very calm about it; they had trust in the Iron Dome. It was kind of calming to see that."

Miller said the plan is to continue to offer the summer hockey experience in Israel to North Americans.

"Hopefully we'll get more Ottawa participation," he said, noting the challenge of solidifying the summer camp dates farther in advance so that families can plan accordingly for the 10-day trip.

"It was a great opportunity for people to get to experience Israel and play hockey," he said.

For more information about how to get involved or participate in future hockey camps in Israel, contact Mitch Miller at mitch@canadaisraelhockeyschool.com.

— Part of this article was based on files from JTA/Hillel Kuttler.



Former Ottawa Senators captain Laurie Boschman instructs young Israeli hockey players at the Canada Centre in Metula.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURIE BOSCHMAN

Panel to discuss media coverage of Israel

BY MONIQUE ELLIOT

The recent Israel-Hamas conflict has increased scrutiny of the way international media presents both sides of a conflict, but it's not always possible to report the full story with each update, said J.J. Goldberg of New York's *Jewish Daily Forward*.

Goldberg will be one of four panelists participating in "More Than Meets the Eye: What we say (and don't) when we cover Israel," an event organized by the New Israel Fund of Canada to foster discussion on understanding media coverage of Israel. The discussion takes place Monday, September 15, 7 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

Providing context in reporting is essential, Goldberg said, adding that it is impossible for everything to be repeated in each article for the uninitiated, who can often be the most opinionated.

"What is the cutoff point? And does it really matter?" he said of the long and complex history between the state of Israel and the many regional players involved in each rise of hostilities.

Goldberg is editor-at-large at the *Forward*, where he worked as the editor-in-chief from 2000 to 2007. He writes both a regular column as blogs on the *Forward* website. He has also worked, in various roles, for the *Jerusalem Report*, *New York Jewish Week*, *Jewish Frontier* magazine and *HaMevaker*, a Hebrew-language newsweekly based in Los Angeles.

During his time as editor-in-chief of the *Forward*, Goldberg said it was a challenge to get an authentic message across because of the biases through which people consume the news.

"I wanted the paper to speak to the broad Jewish community," he said. "People get easily offended in all direc-

tions, so you want to say things in a way people can hear them."

While Goldberg said his own bosses did not enforce a strict policy of what could and could not be reported, he self-censored in his own way due to his unique knowledge of the region.

"Some things you just want to leave unsaid, because you don't think they'll be heard properly," he said.

As a columnist and blogger, Goldberg said self-censorship is not entirely necessary for him; his work is opinion-based, so he can be a "little rougher and a little more sarcastic," but he also wants people to read his work and take him seriously.

"It's the same feeling as holding a fragile box of eggs in my hand," he said.

Goldberg was a founding member of Kibbutz Gezer near Tel Aviv, where he believed he would live before coming back to North America to pursue journalism. The New York-based writer and editor had also served as a sharpshooter with the Israeli Border Police Civil Guard. He often translates articles and columns from Hebrew publications into English so that a broader audience can read the experiences of those living in Israel, from their perspective.

Three other media professionals – including *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* editor Michael Regenstreif – will join Goldberg in the panel discussion and share their own perspectives about media coverage

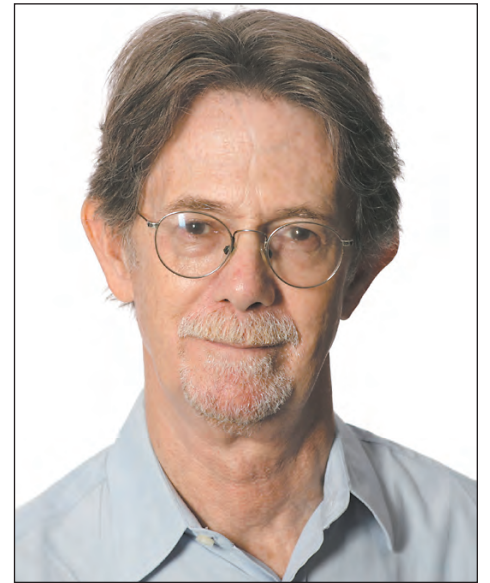


PHOTO: DAN LOMBROSO

"People get easily offended in all directions so you want to say things in a way people can hear them," says J.J. Goldberg, editor-at-large of the *Jewish Daily Forward*.

of Israel. The other panelists are Lisa Goldman, co-founder and contributing editor of the Israeli-based, online magazine +972 and director of the Israel-Palestine Initiative at the New America Foundation; and Joseph Rosen, author of "The Israel Taboo," a widely discussed article in *The Walrus Magazine* (January-February 2014).

Admission to the panel discussion is free of charge, but attendees are encouraged to register in advance for the free symposium through the events page on the New Israel Fund Canada website at www.nifcan.org or by calling 416-781-4322.

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.

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The Federation supports our community agencies through your generous donations to the Annual Campaign.



Our Jewish “home away from home”

Enter the Soloway JCC lobby on a winter afternoon and you are greeted by children gathered around the Chanukah candles singing the Hebrew blessings and songs while they eye the baskets filled with chocolate gelt. Suits and ties are out of place at the SJCC when everyone else is dressed as queens, kings and fantastical beings for Purim. Even when not celebrating holidays, the SJCC offers the Ottawa Jewish community a profound immersion into Jewish culture on a daily basis, throughout their lives.

“We don’t talk about Jewish continuity – we enact it daily,” says Assistant Executive Director Maxine Miska. “Walking through our building, you can see babies in our Shabbat Shalom programs, preschoolers at Ganon, children and adults of all ages learning and socializing, but, most significantly, together under one roof – as a community.”

The connection begins early in life as



Campers from one of the Soloway JCC’s Specialty Camps, the Great Adventure Group, show their solidarity with Israel.

new parents gather at the SJCC for playgroups, Shalom Baby and Shabbat programs. By age two, children are enjoying all the Ganon preschool has to offer and are beginning to learn about Jewish values and holidays and spending summers at JCC of Ottawa Summer Camps.

The SJCC is part of a natural Jewish lifecycle as kids who love JCC summer camps grow into teens who work at summer camp as counsellors and life guards and remain engaged in the Jewish community as they progress through BBYO and

develop into community leaders.

“The SJCC is your child’s Jewish ‘home away from home,’ providing a nourishing space where children of all traditions can gather together, build a community of support and develop skills and values that become their foundation for success,” says Gail Lief, SJCC Director of Youth & Teen Programs.

Daily, adults of all ages and backgrounds visit the SJCC for classes on Jewish texts and history, watch a Yiddish play or learn to speak Hebrew, all taught

by rabbis and local scholars.

The SJCC connects the community to Israeli arts and culture through concerts by visiting Israeli musicians, the annual Israeli Film Festival and the celebration of Yom Ha’Atzmaut. The 10,000-volume Greenberg Families library is a repository of Jewish history, religion, fiction and film, available to the entire Jewish community, old and young.

“We are very serious about our Jewish mission” says Executive Director Barry Sohn. “The SJCC is a place where all Jews can come together in harmony regardless of religious denomination. We are a community centre and take pride in serving our community, but we are always mindful of our Jewish mission and strong connection to Israel.”

While the SJCC is many things to many people, at its core it is the focal point of Jewish activity in Ottawa and a place where all members of our community are welcome.

For more information about the SJCC, visit www.jccottawa.com.

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**FEDERATION
REPORT**



**JEFF MILLER, CAMPAIGN CHAIR
AND LEIBA KRANTZBERG,
WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN CHAIR**

Serving as co-chairs of the 2015 Jewish Federation of Ottawa Annual Campaign is an honour. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of canvassers and volunteers, and a generous community.

We are committed to making this the most successful campaign to date. There are more than 23 beneficiary agencies that receive funding from this campaign, each one equally important. These agencies depend on Federation, and in large part, the Annual Campaign to ensure they can continue to run programs that help Federation in enriching lives.

Jewish Federation of Ottawa Annual Campaign is the life blood for our beneficiary agencies

The campaign is their life blood, and we want you to understand exactly what your generosity provides.

**FEDERATION IS ...
SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY!**

"Whether it's for quality kosher food or needed extra time and additional skilled nursing/professional attention for some of the Lodge's most frail and vulnerable, the funds received make a tangible difference in the lives of our residents," says the Bess and Moe Greenberg Hillel Lodge Chief Executive Officer Stephen Schneiderman.

"Tamir is the sole Jewish organization in Ottawa dedicated to ensuring people with developmental disabilities live with dignity and respect. Thanks to Federation, we can ensure some of our most vulnerable citizens, who live alone, are kept out of harm's way, and children and teens with developmental disabilities have opportunities to enjoy March break and summer camp experiences," says Tamir Executive Director Mark Palmer.

"The Tikvah allocations from Federation support over 550 individual Jews in the community living below the poverty line. We are able to provide direct financial relief, case management, and advocacy services," says Jewish Family Services of Ottawa Executive Director Mark Zarecki. "Federation funding for the Thelma Steinman Seniors Support Services leverages \$250,000 of provincial funding that is critical for hundreds of Jewish seniors to remain and live independently in their homes while reducing the risks associated with isolation."

**FEDERATION IS ...
STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY!**

We are very aware of what is happening in Israel, and we must continue to demonstrate our unwavering support.

This cannot happen without an incredibly united community. It is incumbent upon us to "do our part" and further enhance our support of the community. Federation does more than just raise money; Federation is the

foundation upon which our community stands.

We need to continue to strengthen the community in order to continue supporting Israel.

**FEDERATION IS ...
GRATEFUL TO OUR COMMUNITY!**

We want to thank our volunteers who dedicate their time. We understand how difficult it is to ask people to give, but it is a lot easier when you believe in the cause. Do not think of it as asking for money, but rather as asking for a building block as we continue to strengthen our already solid community.

We are so proud to see the involvement of our emerging generation, as both canvassers and donors. They are the future of this community.

Plan to attend the official Kickoff for the 2015 Jewish Federation of Ottawa Annual Campaign with Ben and Jerry's founder Jerry Greenfield on Sunday, September 14, 7:30 pm, at Centrepointe Theatre. And there will be other events like telethons and Mitzvah Day where you can get involved.

**FEDERATION IS ...
FOREVER OUR COMMUNITY!**

**FROM THE
PULPIT**



**RABBI HOWARD FINKELSTEIN
BEIT TIKVAH**

Unless one has gone through the horrors of war and its aftermath, it is impossible to understand the emotions and feelings of the victims of these horrible situations. In recent years, we have been exposed to the phenomenon of post-traumatic stress disorder among soldiers returning from combat, and the media provides accounts of those returning from the front lines having experienced the loss of fellow soldiers and not knowing what will be the effects on the survivors.

Almost surreptitiously, the media tires of covering Operation Protective Edge and shifts focus to the suicide of a well-known comedian, bringing out information concerning depression and its connection

The media is not the message

to Parkinson's disease. Just as quickly, it shifts to bring viewers more misery related to Iraq and Ferguson, Missouri. Why does the media expose its viewers to this constant flow of misery?

The cynic says that good news does not attract money. Indeed, the media plays on the emotions of its captive audience to *empathize* with the plight of those who are suffering, although it is all play acting, as the audience goes back to its mundane activities as soon as the media is turned off.

Unlike media, whose goals are to titillate and, conversely, to depress, the Torah addresses the real issues of misery and provides an antidote to all that surrounds us. While it is too facile to attribute to Torah study the capability of healing all ills, emotional and otherwise, it is a source of comfort for those seeking a healthy respite from the travails of daily life, whether they be individualized or supplied by a ravenous media that seeks to enwrap its followers.

The Torah promises that, if the people of Israel were to follow the word of God, He would remove all illness from the community. There is no question these statements could be challenged by well-meaning individuals who have not seen that benefit come to pass for them or their loved ones.

But these messages are ones of hope and

encouragement. A community must place its faith in God and Torah in order for it to survive emotionally and perhaps physically. It must look to our sources with trust and confidence that indeed the picture painted by media and the harsh reality of the outside world can be modified and altered.

One message that stands out as a source of comfort for all appears in the Talmud Yerushalmi Shabbat 14:3 and is based on a sentence from Deuteronomy 7:15. The Torah indicates God will remove all illness, with the Talmud commenting that said illness refers to anxiety. Interestingly, the Talmud, in describing anxiety, uses a word that, in modern Hebrew, alludes to an idea, or *raayon*. The Torah Temimah comments that the relationship between *raayon* and anxiety is that one who worries too much becomes absorbed by those troublesome thoughts or ideas, which become an unshakable heavy burden to bear. These worries overcome the individual to the point that he cannot function.

There is no question that anxiety is paralyzing, but perhaps our Torah can be a source of comfort to one who is troubled. The study of Torah can indeed be satisfying and self-fulfilling. Especially in this crazy world, the message of Torah as a *sam chayim* (medicine of life) becomes that much more important and appreciated.

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FROM THE EDITOR



MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

The Ottawa Jewish Bulletin office is in the Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building – the location of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC) – on the Jewish Community Campus. I try to arrive an hour or so early several times per week so that I can swim in the SJCC’s terrific indoor pool. (How lucky am I to have such facilities downstairs from my office?)

Today – I’m writing on August 29 just before this issue goes to press – was one of those mornings I came early to swim. But, as I arrived at about 8 am, I saw several fire trucks and ambulances from the Ottawa Fire Services’ Hazardous Material Unit pulling into the parking lot.

Those of us who work in Jewish facilities have a heightened awareness of security. “While there is no indication of

Fire trucks and ambulances were a reminder that we all need to be vigilant



First responder in a hazmat suit works with teenagers taking a lifeguarding course in the SJCC outdoor pool.

an increased threat in Ottawa,” as Jewish Federation of Ottawa President and CEO Andrea Freedman wrote in a message to the community this week about security issues, we are aware of the increased incidents of anti-Semitism that occurred around the world this summer during Israel’s war with Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza. And the horrible and senseless murders by a neo-Nazi outside a JCC in Kansas this

past April remain a vivid memory.

So, when I saw the ambulances and fire trucks pull up beside Hillel Lodge, I assumed there must have been some sort of threat or emergency there.

But my mind quickly started to ease when I didn’t see the first responders acting with any sense of urgency – and I also quickly realized there were no police cars on the scene. Surely, in the event of an emergency, the police would be there.

Before I could walk over to see what was what, the fire trucks and ambulances pulled out of the parking lot, turned onto Broadview Avenue and parked again in the Ottawa Jewish Community School parking lot near the SJCC’s outdoor pool.

“Was there a problem at the school?” I wondered.

It turned out the firefighters and paramedics from the Hazardous Materials Unit were at the SJCC to spend the morning working with the teenagers taking an SJCC training course for potential lifeguards.

So, while, thankfully, the first responders were not on the Jewish Community Campus for an emergency situation, seeing them arrive before I knew the reason they were there was a powerful reminder that we should all be vigilant as we go about our business – whether on the Jewish Community Campus or anywhere.

OPERATION PROTECTIVE EDGE

With the seeming end of Operation Protective Edge, one can only hope that all Palestinians will come to understand that the road to a future for their children lies in building a constructive society and state, not in attempting to destroy Israel. Terrorism only leads to more hate, more destruction and more death.

Two states for two people – no matter how hard it is to achieve – remains the way forward.

IDEAS AND IMPRESSIONS



JASON MOSCOVITZ

It really is shameful almost 50 per cent of eligible voters didn’t vote in June’s Ontario election. It is so hard to imagine that voting has become nothing more than an annoyance, or worse, for half the people.

Of those who opted out, young people are among the highest number. The day of the Ontario election, I happened to have separate conversations with two 25-year-olds in our community, one a young man, the other a young woman.

I asked them if they were going to vote, and they both said they wouldn’t. Both of them, and it is interesting how they echoed each other, said they hadn’t followed the election, they didn’t really

Why many people don’t vote: they can’t get past the disdain

care about Ontario politics and that they wouldn’t know who to vote for.

In both instances, I tried to tell them what an important thing it was to vote and how easy it was to do. I told them how close their respective voting stations were, in one case, across the street, in the other, down the street. I told them it takes seconds and that, by voting, they would be doing a good thing for themselves. No argument prevailed. Both were among the no-shows. I wondered if they ever had civics lessons in school.

Traditionally, people believed it was important to vote because that is how democracy works. But I was struck by something the young people said, which helps me better understand their position. When they said they never followed the election because they had no interest in it, and they wouldn’t know who to vote for, I wondered if they were just being honest and truthful. Why would you vote, if you hadn’t shown any interest, hadn’t followed the issues and didn’t know who to vote for?

The traditional argument has always been that voting is not just a right, it is an obligation. To some, it is a sacred obligation, which people fought and died for. So, does that mean one should still vote even if they have no idea who to vote for? Is a thoughtless, mindless vote worthy of the traditional view of the sanctity of the vote itself?

Although it might be easier to understand why young people in such high proportions can’t be bothered to vote, it is, by any measure, sad and worrisome. It is not good for them, or for democracy, or for the country.

One would have thought, in the age of social media, there would be a significant increase in the level of young people’s interest and participation. It certainly helps some young Canadians become more engaged, so one can only wonder how much worse it would be without social media. But the bottom line is that it’s as bad as it is, and there is little, if any, reason to be hopeful.

Twenty-five-year-olds are just starting their lives and their careers. It is

unthinkable that the political process doesn’t have an impact on them. The Ontario election was about future debt, jobs and tomorrow’s pensions. All three subjects have such incredibly huge repercussions on young people and their future. The rejection can’t be about the issues. They are all topical. It is something else that drives them away in droves.

Entrenched second generation cynicism is the root cause of today’s indifference among young people. Today’s young people grew up hearing their parents downgrade politics and politicians to such a great extent that they have been completely turned off. They never get to the importance of the issues that affect them, because they never get past the disdain.

It was in the 1980s, in the age of sound clips and the beginning of the 24-hour news cycle, that western politics became somewhat less of an honourable profession. It became more of a media-generated business of people saying what they had to say to get elected in 15-second clips. Damn the consequences of not saying what you really mean, because winning is all that matters.

What is really sad, as much as I don’t want to admit it, I fear young people who don’t vote may be more justified than it appears.

MAILBAG | bulletin@ottawajewishbulletin.com

MESSAGE FROM WOUNDED IDF SOLDIER

The IDF needed to destroy the tunnels. There were so many and it is unclear how Hamas had successfully built so many. Hamas' plan was to destroy complete

communities. What luck the IDF was able to dismantle them before tragedy struck.

We have a lot of soldiers and have many wounded. As tradition dictates, previously wounded soldiers like me, visit the wounded. When I left my most



Hagai Zeira (kneeling, left) was one of the wounded and disabled Israeli soldiers from the Beit Halochem rehabilitation centres who visited Ottawa in June. He is seen here with the other disabled soldiers who visited, and with Ruth Aaron who has hosted the annual Beit Halochem visits to Ottawa for more than 25 years.

recent hospital visit, I felt at once broken and optimistic. I saw their wounds, and it hurt me. And yet they are so young, they have faith and hope. It's that hope and faith in the strength of the Jewish people that fill me with optimism. What a unique nation we are, there is no other like us. Everyone is unified, we care for each other, we support each other and we love each other.

My moshav hosted a large number of children evacuated from the Israeli hot zones. It was a joy for me to see them benefit from a respite from the sirens and falling pieces of rockets. It's the innocents that I mourn for, not just for the Jewish people, but the innocents of Gaza, who are forced to hide behind Hamas and its military arsenals.

I am overwhelmed by your support and concern for us in Canada. It's really unbelievable. I keep reliving, in my mind, my recent visit to Ottawa and Montreal. Because of your warmth and hospitality I felt at home in both cities.

Watch over yourselves and please send warm regards and love to the Ottawa Jewish community.

Hagai Zeira, 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.

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Ambassador Michael B. Oren Keynote at Negev Dinner

We are very pleased to welcome Ambassador Michael Oren as this year's Negev Dinner keynote speaker on October 21. Now a contributor to CNN's team of analysts, Ambassador Oren served as Israel's ambassador to the United States from 2009 to 2013. As ambassador, he was instrumental in securing U.S. support for Israel's defence and upholding Israel's right to security and peace. The *Forward* named Ambassador Oren one of the five most influential Jews in America and the *Jerusalem Post* listed him as one of the ten most influential Jews worldwide.

Born in the United States and educated at Princeton and Columbia, Ambassador Oren has been a visiting professor at Harvard, Yale and Georgetown, and was a Distinguished Fellow at the Shalem Centre in Jerusalem. His books – *Power, Faith, and Fantasy: America in the Middle East, 1776 to the Present* and *Six Days of War* – were both *New York Times* bestsellers.

In Israel, Ambassador Oren served as an officer in the Israel Defense Forces, in the paratroopers during the Lebanon War, as a liaison with the U.S. Sixth Fleet during the Gulf War, and as an IDF spokesman during the Second Lebanon War and the Gaza operation in January 2009. He acted as an emissary to Jewish refuseniks in the Soviet Union, as an adviser to Israel's delegation to the United Nations, and as the government's director of Inter-Religious Affairs. He was a gold-medal-winning athlete in the Maccabiah Games.

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For 'hardcore' Jews displaced by Ukrainian fighting, Israel beckons

BY CNAAN LIPSHIZ

(JTA) – Each time he dispatches a car into Lugansk, Rabbi Shalom Gopin readies himself for hours of anxious anticipation.

The scene of brutal urban warfare between Ukrainian troops and pro-Russian separatists, this eastern Ukrainian city now has no regular power supply, running water or cell phone reception. Mortar rounds can fall without warning. Much of the population, once 450,000, has fled.

But, despite the risks, Rabbi Gopin, the city's exiled chief rabbi, has dispatched more than a dozen cars to Lugansk, each one intended to quietly ferry Jews to a camp he runs for the internally displaced in Zhytomyr, near Kyiv. More than 117,000 people are internally displaced within Ukraine, the United Nations reported last month.

Over a weekend, Rabbi Gopin welcomed several cars to Zhytomyr carrying a total of 13 passengers. For Rabbi Gopin, each arrival brings relief, but also sadness over the disintegration of a community he has spent 15 years building.

Initially intended to provide temporary shelter for Jews fleeing the fighting in the east, the facility, which functions mainly as a summer camp, is now home to 250 displaced Ukrainians. Rabbi Gopin says more than half have no plans to return.

"It's a sad reality," Rabbi Gopin told JTA. "Many people are now realizing the bad situation may remain, so people who never even thought about making aliyah are going ahead with it. The city, my home, is emptying of Jews as it slowly consumes itself out of existence."

The Jewish Agency for Israel, the quasi-governmental agency responsible for facilitating immigration to Israel, is expecting more than 3,000 arrivals from Ukraine this year – a 33 per cent increase over the 1,982 Jews who immigrated in 2013. More than 1,550 individuals have emigrated from Ukraine in the first five months of 2014 alone; more than double the 693 who arrived in the corresponding period last year.

Hundreds of the new immigrants hail from Lugansk, a city of 7,000 Jews. Many others come from Donetsk, a

See Ukraine on page 10



Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, founder of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, meets with Jews who fled eastern Ukraine, July 2014.

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OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Ukraine: Rebel-held areas and surroundings ‘totally lawless’

Continued from page 9

rebel-held city with more than 10,000 Jews, which is under constant shelling as government forces prepare to storm it.

“My sense is that 80 to 90 per cent of the Jewish population of Donetsk already emptied out of the city, including my own family,” said Sasha Ivashchenko, who fled the city last month and is waiting to make aliyah with his wife. The

couple married recently in a ceremony in Donetsk held with the background noise of bombardments by Ukrainian warplanes.

In Zhytomyr, Alexander, a refugee in his 50s who asked to be identified only by his first name, fled Lugansk after three men with rifles entered his small packing factory in the city’s industrial zone and informed him it had been “comman-

deered for the city’s defence.” One of the men, who Alexander believes were pro-Russian separatists, asked him to leave.

“So now, even if the fighting stops, I expect there will be very little for me to come back to,” Alexander said. “I stayed here because this was my place, my business. Now there’s no point.”

When Alexander left the city late last month, public transportation was still operating. But rail traffic ground to a halt on July 26 following the shelling of the train station, effectively trapping much of the population – including hundreds of elderly Jews – in a city that many warn is the site of a looming humanitarian catastrophe.

Currently, there are 47 urgent cases of Jews in need of rescue, according to Eleonora Groisman, the founder of a non-profit that maintains a database of Jews seeking rescue. Among them is a woman in her 80s trapped inside her Lugansk apartment.

Getting such people out is a complex and risky operation that requires traversing a circuitous route through Russian territory and greasing the palms of forces encountered along the way. Using his contacts with rebel leaders, Rabbi Gopin has established an escape route in which a driver picks up the evacuees in Lugansk, crosses the border into Russia

and then returns to Ukraine farther north in an area not held by separatists.

“You have to understand, the rebel-held area and its surroundings are totally lawless,” Rabbi Gopin told JTA. “So the car could get stopped and detained or turned back by rebels, suspicious government forces or even thieves preying on the helpless – complications that increase exponentially what is already a serious risk.”

To deal with such possibilities, Rabbi Gopin provides his drivers with an envelope full of cash for bribes.

“Luckily, we’re talking about bribes at around the \$50 or \$70, so that’s still affordable,” said Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, founder of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, a Jerusalem-based organization that has spent millions providing relief to Jews in Ukraine.

To outsiders – and even to some Ukrainians – the decision by thousands of Jews to remain in a war zone seems incomprehensible. But it’s no mystery to Natan Sharansky, the Jewish Agency’s chairman, who was born in Donetsk.

“The Jews that stayed, they are the hardcore,” Sharansky told JTA.

“They’ve watched friends and family leave throughout the 1990s and after, choosing every time to stay. But there comes a time when reality trumps even the hardcore.”

Chazzan Yoni Jakubovic to lead High Holy Day services at Ohev Yisroel

BY HESHEL TEITELBAUM
OHEV YISROEL

Ohev Yisroel, Ottawa’s only Orthodox synagogue in downtown Ottawa, is pleased to announce that Chazzan Yoni Jakubovic of Toronto will return to lead our High Holiday services for a second year. Chazzan Moshe Kraus has described his davening as inspiring and those who were present last year agreed it was very meaningful.

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PHOTO: MONIQUE ELLIOT

Rabbi Norman Klein is serving as interim rabbi for one year as Temple Israel searches for a permanent spiritual leader.

Interim rabbi arrives at Temple Israel for transitional year

BY MONIQUE ELLIOT

He has been in Ottawa only a few short weeks, but Rabbi Norman Klein said he is excited about his yearlong Canadian adventure as interim rabbi at Temple Israel.

"I've never lived in Canada before. I visited several times over the years, but ... that still takes some getting used to," he said. "There are some remarkable differences."

Rabbi Klein, an American, will serve the congregation for a year as it looks for a permanent rabbi to replace Rabbi Steven Garten, who retired in June after more than 19 years leading Ottawa's Reform congregation.

Rabbi Klein said he understands the issues and emotions that arise from both the community and lay leaders while navigating such a transitional phase.

"One of my main goals is to find out what the congregation needs and help them get there," he said.

"I still have plenty to learn about what's going on with the congregation, what are the issues, what are the strengths, weaknesses, organizing principles, and people the Temple counts on to make the organization function."

Rabbi Klein's first service was a community bat mitzvah, and Shaina Lipsey, Temple Israel's president, said the community response to Rabbi Klein has been "unanimously and overwhelmingly positive" so far.

"He's a lovely, charming man and he brings a lot to the table," she said. "He's

got some really good experience and some really good ideas."

This is not Rabbi Klein's first time as an interim rabbi. He spent the last year at Temple Beth Torah in Wellington, Florida, where he said his skills as a certified interim rabbi were put to use.

"Interim rabbis are trained, specifically, to go into a congregation and help the congregation understand what it is it needs to look for in a new rabbi," Lipsey said.

"Understandably, when you've had someone in a pulpit for 19 years, you will have someone whose ways are very, very familiar to the community; and, if you replace that person immediately with a new permanent rabbi, what you're going to get is a community that then may be divided," she said.

Rabbi Klein is rabbi emeritus of Sinai Temple in Champaign, Illinois, where he served from 1995 to 2013.

Lipsey said Rabbi Klein's experiences will be invaluable.

"I think people are really excited about this new phase, this new stage, that we're going into in terms of doing things a little differently, understanding that different is not a judgment on old ways. It's just different and new, and experimenting and seeing where we can grow and how we can grow," she said. "I think his guidance will be priceless."

Rabbi Klein said he would do what he can to make this a productive year.

"I chat with everybody I run into," he said. "But there are still plenty to get to know in the congregation ... I've got plenty more to do there."

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Yonatan Curry visits the Haas Promenade lookout in Jerusalem.

Reflections from a personal solidarity mission to Israel

BY YONATAN CURRY

A spontaneous decision saw me on an Air Canada flight to Israel for a brief two-week visit at the end of July during Operation Protective Edge. A personal solidarity mission, it elicited a wide range of emotions.

A sense of anticipation on the flight was palpable. This was replaced by relief and excitement as I cleared visa security and headed to Jerusalem.

Disappointment followed in finding only five other guests at my hotel and seeing the almost deserted Ben Yehuda and Jaffa Streets in the coming days. But a friendly greeting at the Great Synagogue gave a comforting sense of normalcy, and a visit to the Kotel literally bolstered my faith.

The following day saw more disappointment when almost no one showed up for the free municipal Shabbat walking tours at Safra Square. On Sunday, this feeling was compounded into shocked disbelief when I was shown all the empty pages in a religious tour company's schedule.

Solace returned with some food and books from the Geula stores, which have become my favourites, as I read in the warm sunshine.

Sadness was mixed with pride as I attended the funeral of St.-Sgt. Liel Gidoni on Monday evening. Amongst the large crowd of mourners on Har Herzl, I have never felt so close to Israel.

A taxi ride the following day to the Modiin Cemetery where the three murdered students are buried beside each other was both moving and uplifting. On the way back, I got off at the Sanhedria Cemetery to visit the grave of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

Friends and merchants were surprised, but happy, to see me back so soon after my last visit to Israel, and their constant refrain was "Canada is a friend of Israel!" I couldn't agree more.

Donations of tzedakah money to various Israel Defense Forces charities felt empowering. Handing out our coloured quarters to individual soldiers made this personal.

Hebron yielded *excitement* when my minivan was attacked and rocks shattered a side window. A rock thrown from an apartment just missed a boy in my party. This *excitement* was replaced by the satisfaction of being able to give some Clif bars and military T-shirts to the soldiers stationed at the Tombs of Ruth and Yishai.

Further excitement ensued at Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem with demonstrations on the way and smoking refuse fires in the roads. The sense of mother Rachel's presence was comforting, but wholly new.

I felt disappointment upon learning that travel to Sderot was restricted and I would not be able to provide support to children in bomb shelters. There was shock at seeing the destroyed bus shelter from a tractor attack in Jerusalem. But real panic at finding a 3-inch long cockroach in my bathroom that night!

Coffee with familiar Ottawa faces, Rabbi Barry and Shira Schlesinger, at a café was relaxing. A huge concert with Avraham Fried and Yehoram Gaon was an emotional high later that week.

The overarching feeling I had as I stood at the Kotel on the morning of my departure was one of faithful gratitude that, once again, I had been privileged to visit Israel. This time to show her brave people, as they again battled adversity, they were not alone.

Rosh Hashanah at Cannmore Apple Orchards



September 14

Enjoy an afternoon of apple picking, wagon rides, and more while we welcome in the Jewish New Year with honey cake and apple juice. The bus leaves the SJCC at 12:00 pm and returns at 4:30 pm. To register please contact Gail Lief.

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Trip to Israel inspires rabbi's life-affirming pledge: 'I refuse to collaborate with hopelessness'

BY RABBI ELIZABETH BOLTON
OR HANESHAMAH

In 500 words.

In 500 words, convey a key experience, or a snapshot, about my trip to Israel this July.

In 500 words, talk about arriving on July 4, during the mourning period for the three boys and the aftermath of the fourth boy's death. Convey the impact of hearing about Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi's death on July 4, of spending a day of davening in the German Colony of Jerusalem with his mourning Chassidim from the Jewish Renewal community, and then making a shiva call to his daughter in Geula.

In 500 words, explain the significance of the Shabbat service in Tel Aviv with Beit Tefilah Israeli, moved from the *namal* (port) to a community centre for safety; a joyous, music-driven, deeply Israel, yet wonderfully familiar Kabbalat Shabbat – attended by the rabbi of the yeshiva where two of the murdered boys studied.

In 500 words, include a description of a walk along the Burma Road, built with great haste and ingenuity in 1948 to bypass Jerusalem, with the high school-age travelers from Camp JRF, the Reconstructionist movement summer camp, who thoughtfully took in what might have taken place at that spot – the site of an Arab village abandoned (evacuated? destroyed?) in the wake of making the road.

My visit to a cave inhabited for almost a century by the same Bedouin clan, slated for demolition. An Iftar (Ramadan break-fast) meal on the 17th of Tammuz, also a fast day, at the Jerusalem

Intercultural Center near Zion Gate. A study session at the Knesset with MK Ruth Calderon. A talk by, and with, Yossi Klein-Halevi at the Shalom Hartman Institute. My first siren, while standing out at the light rail stop near East Jerusalem's Damascus Gate, watching the trails and hearing the booms of the Iron Dome response. More sirens in Tel Aviv – at a restaurant on the seaport, on a tour of graffiti in the Florentine neighbourhood, during a meal at our hotel. More news, always more news.

In 500 words, how I learned that my flight was cancelled, that I would not arrive in Ottawa in time for my son's return from his summer program, yet was graciously welcome to stay as long as needed (an extra nine days!) in the remarkable Ottoman-era Jerusalem home of Jo Milgrom, a great Judaica artist and scholar.

In 500 words, the eagerness to see my old favourite cafés, to find they had most definitely changed, as has Israel. The pleasure of remembering shortcuts, staircases and bus routes in and around Jerusalem. Of visiting old friends and family. Of witnessing the prevailing despair.

On July 29, five days after my originally scheduled departure date, and three days before I returned, how I scribbled this note to myself: "I refuse to collaborate with hopelessness."

Now is the time to bring my own pledge to life: from now through the High Holiday services to events beyond, working so this experience can be shared – and maybe, next time, we'll go there together.

Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton is spiritual leader of Or Haneshamah (OrH), Ottawa's Reconstructionist congregation.

Visit www.orh.ca or call 613-239-4988 for information on OrH's High Holiday services.



Rabbis Elizabeth Bolton (right) of Or Haneshamah and Toba Spitzer (left) of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek in West Newton, Massachusetts, with Jo Milgrom, a Judaica artist and scholar, in her home and studio in Jerusalem. The rabbis are wearing tallitot they created after studying about tzitzit with Milgrom.



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Ashkenazi Jews four times more likely to suffer from inflammatory bowel diseases

BY JESSICA DIENER
FOR 3C FOUNDATION

There are a number of theories that try to explain the high rates of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) among Ashkenazi Jews.

Geneticists, folklorists and patients alike have speculated how everything from our genetic heritage, to kosher diets, or our penchant for “eating our kishkas out” might attribute to the four-times-higher prevalence of IBD among Jews of Eastern European descent.

Regardless of its origins, there’s a strong likelihood that someone close to you is affected by these diseases.

Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis, the two main conditions that fall under the IBD umbrella, are caused by an adverse response in the immune system adversely affecting the digestive tract, which results in a number of debilitating and stigmatizing symptoms.

These illnesses bring about struggles that can be difficult to share with others and, historically, few resources have been available to those trying to cope and seek support.

Fortunately, there’s the 3C Foundation, an Ottawa-based charity, which aims to improve the well-being of persons living with Crohn’s disease and colitis.

The foundation provides research funding to help enhance quality of life for children living with IBD and provides education and support for people

affected by these illnesses.

I have had the fortune of being involved as both a participant and volunteer in many of these programs, including the successful Youth Gut Together events for young people and their families affected by IBD. Having been diagnosed with IBD at age 13, and subsequently seeing other family members suffer with these illnesses, I can attest to the importance and power of a supportive community.

I am bringing this to the attention of the Jewish community because the 3C Foundation is looking to expand its reach and better support people living with IBD.

We run a number of programs that serve patients of varying ages and needs, but recognize that there are communities, like the Jewish community, where, despite its prevalence, IBD has not been given enough attention. It is time that changes.

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Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad set to open new facility

BY MONIQUE ELLIOT

The Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad (OTC) will celebrate a major milestone when the doors of its new \$4.5 million multipurpose facility in Barrhaven open on September 15, said Rabbi Menachem Mendel Blum, OTC's executive director.

"We're only getting started, and this is the next step," he said.

As a young couple, Rabbi Blum and his wife Dina wanted to settle in an area in Ottawa where there wasn't much Jewish infrastructure in order to make their own contribution to the local community, Rabbi Blum said.

"We figured we'd set up shop here, get the families together, and share the beauty of Judaism and teach," he said.

The Blums started out organizing small classes, holiday programs and get-togethers in the basement of their townhouse.

The popularity of their programming grew, "one thing led to the next" and they had to move to a home with a larger basement, then to rented storefronts to host services, Shabbat dinners and the Chabad Hebrew School.

Now, 17 years after their start, Rabbi Blum is preparing to open the new OTC building on a plot of land where he has been holding classes and services in



Rabbi Menachem Mendel Blum oversees construction at the site of the new Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad facility slated to open September 15.

temporary structures.

"Young families are moving out to what I call the 'Western suburbs,' which is Barrhaven and Kanata," he said of the more than 100 families that use OTC's various services.

The new 12,000 square-foot facility features multifunctional spaces like a gathering hall with flexible walls to accommodate prayer services and other events.

There are also classrooms that double

as meeting rooms, a library and study centre, a teen lounge, staff and volunteer offices and a kosher kitchen. Architectural firm Barry J. Hoblin & Associates designed the facility.

The multipurpose design of the building was one of the key considerations when designing it, so that it fits the needs of the community without losing money, Rabbi Blum said.

Funding for the new facility was raised through donations. Of the \$4.5 million needed to pay for construction costs, Rabbi Blum said OTC still needs to raise about \$900,000.

"Thank God, with the generosity of some of our local donors, we were able to move forward with what's going to be a beautiful facility," he said.

Rabbi Blum has been organizing daily meetings with the consultants and tradespersons to ensure construction is on track to be completed by the deadline, with the interior almost complete and landscaping being one of the final projects.

"We look forward to celebrating with the entire community," he said.

The grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad will be held on Monday, September 15, 5:30 pm, at 111 Lamplighters Drive in Barrhaven.

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Expert on Jewish military history to speak on Israel's War of Independence at SJCC

BY MAXINE MISKA
SOLOWAY JCC

During Operation Protective Edge, the Israel Defense Forces were equipped with almost futuristic armaments. By contrast, the victory of the nascent army of Israel against massed Arab forces in the 1948 War of Independence seemed almost miraculous. David Ben-Gurion said, "In Israel, in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles." Indeed understanding the history of Zionist development in Palestine provides a realistic though no less astounding explanation for that victory.

Derek J. Penslar will lecture on "Why Israel Won the 1948 War" on Sunday, September 21, 7:30 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. Penslar holds the Samuel Zacks Chair in Jewish History

at the University of Toronto. In 2012, he became the first Stanley Lewis professor of Israel studies at the University of Oxford.

Penslar studies Zionism and modern Israel in the broad context of modern European and Middle Eastern history, Jewish history, nationalism, and colonialism. His first book, *Zionism and Technocracy: The Engineering of Jewish Settlement in Palestine, 1870-1918*, placed early Zionist settlement policy in a comparative perspective in relation to these movements. His second book, *Shylock's Children: Economics and Jewish Identity in Modern Europe*, traced the history of Jewish political economy from the 18th century to the present. He is also the co-editor, with Eran Kaplan, of *The Origins of Israel, 1882-1948: A Documentary History*, which presents a

collection of original documents from the Yishuv (pre-1948 Jewish community in Palestine) augmented with introductions and comments about each document.

Penslar's latest book, *Jews and the Military: A History*, explores the long and complex relationship of Jewish people with military service in the modern world. In the book, he describes the 1948 War of Independence as a Jewish world war. A significant number of Jews fought in the First and Second World Wars and some of the military expertise gained in those conflicts influenced the development of the Zionist militias in Palestine, which evolved into the Israel Defence Forces.

In his talk, Penslar will bring various aspects of his research to explore some of the reasons for the victory in 1948, including the skills and knowledge immigrants brought to the Yishuv from military experience in the First and Second World Wars and the Russian Revolution, and the financial and material support of the Diaspora.

Sara Vered, who fought in the 1948 War of Independence, asked Penslar – who is currently writing a biography of Theodor Herzl for Yale University Press' Jewish Lives series – to come to Ottawa to



Derek J. Penslar's latest book, *Jews and the Military: A History* explores the long and complex relationship of Jewish people with military service in the modern world.

provide a deep understanding of a war, which, though it occurred 66 years ago, has emerged as a seminal event in Jewish and world history. This lecture is sponsored by the Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program and the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation.

For information, contact Ella Dagan at edagan@jccottawa.com or 613-798-9818, ext. 243.

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Malca Pass Library Book Discussion Group announces 24th season

BY MAUREEN KAELL
MALCA PASS LIBRARY

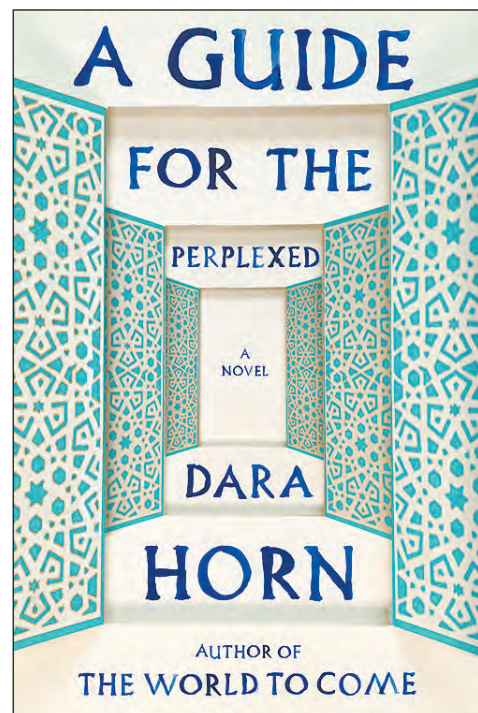
As the Malca Pass Library Book Discussion Group begins its 24th year, we're ready to welcome back current members and invite new ones to share the joy of reading with us.

This year's reviewers are all back by popular demand and we look forward to their always interesting, informative and entertaining presentations. Come for the review, even if you haven't read the book.

Meetings take place on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in the Simcha Room at Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue. Annual membership is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. You may also attend individual sessions for \$5.

The schedule for the 2014-2015 season is:

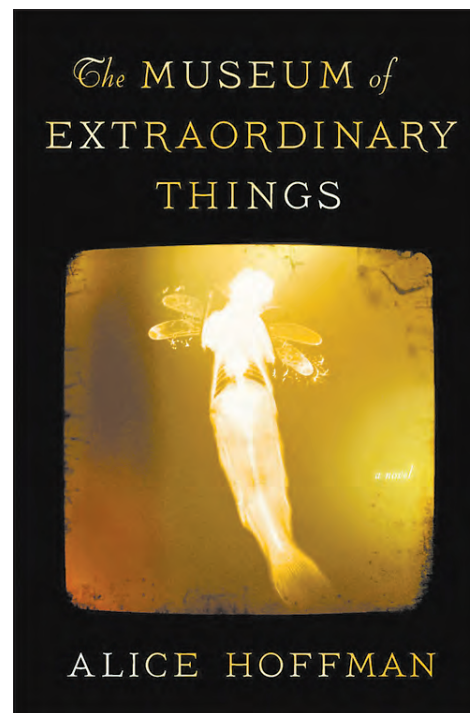
- September 16 – *The Sound of Things Falling* by Juan Gabriel Vasquez will be reviewed by Jack Schecter;
- October 14 – *A Guide for the Perplexed* by Dara Horn will be reviewed by Sophie Kohn Kaminsky;
- November 18- *The Light Between Oceans* by M. L. Stedman will be reviewed by Kinneret Globerman;
- March 31 – *The Museum of Extraordinary Things* by Alice Hoffman will be reviewed by Alvina Ruprecht;



- May 5 – *A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki will be reviewed by Norman Wolfish;
- June 2 – *Claire of the Sea Light* by Edwidge Danticat will be reviewed by Deborah Saginur.

For further information contact Maureen Kaell at mkaell@rogers.com or 613-224-8649.

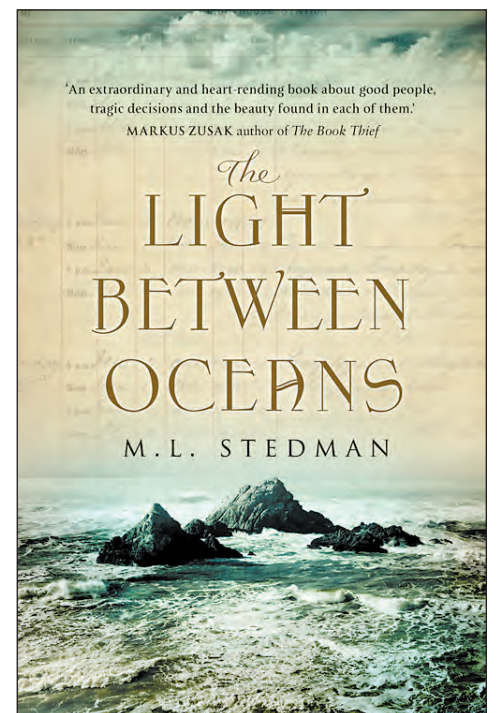
The Malca Pass Library at Agudath Israel Congregation is run by an enthusi-



astic group of volunteers.

The library is open Thursdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and has an extensive collection of Judaica, as well as books on all aspects of Jewish life and learning, Israel, and an eclectic collection of cookbooks. We also have a large collection of DVDs and music videos.

Everyone in the community is welcome to use the Malca Pass Library. Drop



by, meet our volunteers and explore the wonderful collection of Judaica and Jewish content material available to you.

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Remembering Leonard Fein: a 'state-of-the-art mensch'

The last thing I said to Leonard 'Leibel' Fein, the American Jewish leader and visionary who died August 14 at age 80, was, "Check your inbox." We had just concluded a two-day meeting for Ameinu, the progressive Zionist organization on whose board we both sat. Over coffee breaks and deli dinners, we had spoken about his writings, including *Against the Dying of the Light: A Parent's Story of Love, Loss and Hope*, the book he had written about his daughter's untimely death. I had wanted to seek some advice on finding my way into the pages of the *Forward*, where Fein had been a featured columnist for nearly a quarter century. Hence my final comment to him, as I bid him farewell.

Not two days later, by coincidence, I had secured a position as a contributing blogger at the *Forward* and so put off sending that email to Leibel.



MIRA SUCHAROV
VALUES, ETHICS,
COMMUNITY

But, today, I have pangs of sad regret. There was so much else I could have learned from him: how he balanced the pressures of universalism and tribalism – as Steven M. Cohen wrote about so eloquently in his tribute to Fein in the *Forward*; how he identified pressing social justice needs and found a way to address them; how he remained a steadfast supporter of Israel

while allowing himself to criticize its policies when he deemed them ill-suited to the vision of Zionism he believed in. Even in his final column for the *Forward* – published two days after his death – "From Gaza to Sderot, Trauma Marks the Past – and the Present," he effortlessly summoned empathy for "both sides."

By all accounts, Fein was a visionary giant. The fact that there was hunger in America – the land of plenty – pained him (he called it a "scandal"), so he founded MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. He was awed by the gap between Jewish literacy levels and the plague of ongoing illiteracy in America, so he founded the National Jewish Coalition for Literacy. Writing about Jewish affairs was a passion, so he co-founded, and for 12 years, edited, *Moment* magazine.

He was a committed liberal Zionist, serving on the boards of the New Israel Fund, Americans for Peace Now, and Ameinu. Sam Norich, publisher of the *Forward* (and another fellow Ameinu board member), called Fein "a *magid*, an itinerant preacher whom people came to hear because he illuminated our lives." Leon Wieseltier, literary editor of the *New Republic*, called him a "state-of-the-art mensch."

As a liberal Zionist, Leibel represented the strand of Zionism I tend to advocate when I write about Israel in the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*, and I have noticed that, of all the letters the *Bulletin* receives in response to my column, it is the subject of Israel that gets readers most incensed. But it's the legacy of Jewish leaders like Leibel that reminds me there is a third way: neither the way of vilification nor the way of whitewashing. There is a way to embrace Israel, point out its flaws and focus on promoting solutions rather than scoring political points.

I regret not asking Leibel how, in his generation, many of whose members maintain a more hawkish perspective when it comes to Israel and the Palestinians, he was able to maintain a politics of compassion. I regret not asking him about how he was able to nurse a loss so deep, the death of his daughter, that he could still contribute to the public sphere and touch so many in such a profound way. I regret not asking him about the relationship he saw between social justice issues like literacy, hunger and the plight of minorities and asylum seekers in Israel, and Israel's path forward with the Palestinians.

I indeed regret not asking him about these things. But I also suspect that, deep down, I know the answer. He was able to merge these identities and positions because, for him, the answer lay in the principles of expansiveness, relationships, empathy and connection. And, judging by the many highly personal tributes to Leibel that have been filling social media and the Jewish press over the past few weeks – mentoring relationships mourned, inspiration cherished and even secret crushes revealed, many others thought so too.

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

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Young families have many options for Jewish education

With the arrival of September, students are back in school and young families have a variety of options for Jewish education – from day schools for those seeking full-time immersion in a Jewish educational atmosphere to several supplementary schools available for families that have chosen the public school system.

Indeed, many families have chosen the public school route as witnessed by the declining enrolment in recent years at Jewish day schools throughout North America, including here in Ottawa.

According to numbers analyzed by Statistics Canada sociologist Jackie Luffman, there was a 28 per cent decline in enrolment in Ottawa's Jewish day schools between 2004 and 2011, and the decline has continued.

However, Luffman adds that, over the same time period, there has also been a 17 per cent drop in supplemental school enrolment. Luffman has tracked the state of Jewish education in Ottawa on her *Ottawa Shtetl* blog – <http://ottawashtetl.wordpress.com> – using statistics from reports released by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

Luffman's son, Zev, is in Grade 5 in public school and also attends Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School. Her daughter, Rachel, is in Grade 6 at the Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS).

Luffman said it was a tough decision to take Zev out of OJCS two years ago, as she is a fervent supporter of day school, but added it was the best decision for him.

"It's not a path I would have [initially] chosen," she said.

For young parents deciding how to give their kids a well-rounded education while fostering a strong connection to Judaism, other Ottawa parents say



MONIQUE ELLIOT
EMERGING GEN

to simply find a solution that works best for your family.

There are a variety of options for Jewish education in Ottawa.

Preschools include Ganon at the SJCC and the Westboro Jewish Montessori Preschool at the Chabad-affiliated Jewish Youth Library.

Day schools include OJCS (kindergarten to Grade 12), the Orthodox-oriented Torah Academy of Ottawa (preschool to Grade 8), the Chabad-affiliated Rambam Day School (preschool to Grade 8), and Orthodox high schools Ottawa Torah Institute – a school for boys, which is re-launching this year with a Grade 9 class after being closed last year – and Machon Sarah High School for Girls.

Supplemental schools in Ottawa include Chabad Hebrew School, Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School, Temple Israel Religious School, Ottawa Modern Jewish School, Star of David Hebrew School, and, at the high school level, Torah High. As well, Talmud Torah and Torah High have teamed up to launch Talmud Torah High, a new supplemental program for Grade 8 students.

Cost, priorities, convenience, location and curriculum are all factors parents need to deliberate. Sometimes one of these aspects is either the main deterrent

or the major draw when considering Jewish educational options.

"It is an individual choice, but I do think that what strikes against the [day] schools is that we do have very good public schools in Ottawa," Luffman said, adding that it is a popular, convenient and cost-effective option for families with many children.

While there are obvious challenges, Lisa Leith of Centrepointe said her busy family has found the solution that works for them. Leith's two children attend public school and go to Chabad Hebrew School on Sunday.

"When I attended Hebrew school, it was looked on as extra schooling, but, for my kids, it was always another extracurricular activity," she said of her kids, Zachary, 8, and Sydney, 13.

They always want to go on Sunday and come home to tell Leith and her husband, David, what they learned and experienced, she said.

The kids' enthusiasm and success tells Leith that it was a good choice for her family.

Both Leith and Luffman said they are aware their families' stories will not necessarily be the case for all, but they are making the best of a complex situation.

The common thread among families who are happier about their experience with Jewish education is that it hasn't been a forced undertaking. It's a commitment to something bigger than themselves. Yes, there are concessions and some manoeuvring to find balance within hectic schedules, but, as long as their kids are happy and learning, Luffman and Leith said they'll continue on their chosen paths.

"I think that, if people want to be involved, they can be involved," Leith said. "There's everything, but you have to want it."

Mental health is a vital component of fitness

You've probably heard the phrase, "mind, body, spirit." What does it mean? Holistic health takes into consideration the complete person, including the physical, psychological/emotional, social and spiritual components of well-being. If one or more of these interdependent components is off balance, it can negatively impact the other aspects of one's health.

Many people exercise to lose a few pounds or improve their physical fitness. Because exercise increases the release of mood-elevating neurochemicals and helps regulate the stress hormone cortisol, a byproduct of exercise is feeling better mentally. Persistent or acute mental health issues require more than exercise; it's advisable to consult with a mental health professional in such cases.

When actor and comedian Robin Williams committed suicide in August, his final act shone a spotlight on mental illness. After his death, his wife revealed he had suffered from clinical depression and early stage Parkinson's disease. He'd had his share of battles with substance abuse and had heart surgery in recent years. What came as a shock to his fans was that a person with his seemingly happy family life, wealth, success and incredible ability to make others laugh, could feel so hopeless and helpless that he resorted to taking his own life. He reportedly had sought professional help for depression. If someone of his stature, with access to the best psychiatric care available, ended up committing suicide, what message does that send to the rest of us?

Whenever such a tragedy occurs – whether it's a celebrity or an ordinary person – it makes us realize that



GLORIA SCHWARTZ
FOCUS ON
FITNESS

we are all fallible. If something good can come of this senseless death, it would be more openness about mental health. There is still a stigma and shame associated with mental illness.

Mental health issues are underreported. Many people don't get a timely diagnosis or the help they need. Some are in denial or too ashamed to seek help. Some are able to put on a happy face in public, but they suffer in silence behind closed doors. Perhaps Robin Williams was one of them. Many people are unaware of the signs, symptoms or dangers of clinical depression or other mood disorders such as bipolar disorder and chronic, low-level depression.

According to the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), a person experiencing a major depressive disorder is "grappling with feelings of severe despair over an extended period of time. Almost every aspect of their life can be affected, including their emotions, physical health, relationships and work. For people with depression, it does not feel like there is a 'light at the end of the tunnel' – there is just a long, dark tunnel." www.cmha.ca

The CMHA recommends that, if you or someone you know is in a crisis and needs immediate help, call 911. If

you need medical advice, call your family doctor for a referral to a mental health professional.

Some of the symptoms of depression may include feelings of sadness, changes in sleep habits, changes in appetite, loss of interest in activities you normally find pleasurable, anxiety, feelings of worthlessness, thoughts of suicide and unexplained physical symptoms. For a comprehensive list of symptoms, see the Mayo Clinic list at <http://tinyurl.com/mhccq9w>.

In Canada, suicide is the seventh most common cause of death in males and the 10th most common cause of death in females. In 2011, there were 16.3 male and 5.4 female deaths by suicide per 100,000 people. <http://tinyurl.com/q72myxg>

Whenever there's a celebrity death by suicide, the media latches onto the story, just as it does with airplane crashes, mass shootings or a crisis in the Middle East. As soon as ratings slide, the media moves on to the next big story. I suspect that, by the time this column is published, Robin Williams' death will no longer be in the headlines. His fans can continue to enjoy his legacy through his television shows and films. I can also savour the memories of his live performance in Ottawa a few years ago. But his family must live with the sorrow over their personal loss. We can honour the late comedian with an act of remembrance in the form of conversations that focus on whole-body fitness – an approach that includes mental fitness. Let's ensure we no longer keep the subject of mental health in the closet.

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

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PHOTO: MONIQUE ELLIOT

Mark Klibanov, co-founder of technology start-up GestureLogic, with the series of prototypes of LEO, a smart fitness band intended to prevent injuries and improve athletic performance.

Young entrepreneur helps develop high-tech product to prevent injuries in athletes

BY MONIQUE ELLIOT

Wearable technology like pedometers and sleep and heart rate monitors are getting increasingly sophisticated and a young Jewish entrepreneur in Ottawa is hoping his product will help shape fitness and health technology.

Mark Klibanov is the co-founder and chief product officer of GestureLogic, a wearable technology company based at Carleton University.

Klibanov collaborated with his former engineering professor, Leonard MacEachern, to develop LEO, a fitness band worn around the thigh to monitor the electromagnetic pulses emitted from muscles and relay real-time suggestions to the athlete via smartphone in order to avoid injury and improve performance.

An avid tennis and soccer player and cyclist, Klibanov said he saw a major flaw in many of the popular wristband monitors on the market.

“If you’re washing dishes versus curling a barbell, washing dishes actually registers as more exercise and more

calories burned,” he said. “So that’s a very inaccurate way of measuring activity.”

LEO’s features have been critical to the success the wearable seems to be enjoying in its early stages. An online crowd sourcing campaign to raise capital to develop the product saw more than 600 people get in on the ground floor.

The Russia-born Klibanov, 24, made aliyah to Israel with his family as an infant in 1991. They later moved to Ottawa in 1999.

As a Carleton student, Klibanov became active in Hillel’s Israel Awareness Committee (IAC) and became its city-wide president in 2011 at a time of great anti-Israel sentiment on campus.

For now, Klibanov said he and the growing team at GestureLogic are all laser-focused on perfecting LEO.

The team anticipates that LEO’s technology will later be able to be applied beyond the fitness industry to physiotherapists, insurance companies and doctors.

“The sky’s the limit after that,” Klibanov said.

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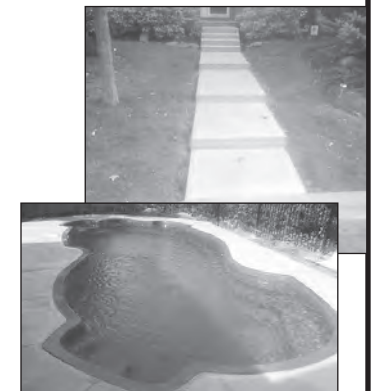
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Book examines demands for justice found in Jewish texts

Are You Not a Man of God? Devotion, Betrayal, and Social Criticism in Jewish Tradition

By Tova Hartman and Charlie Buckholtz
Oxford University Press
208 pages

In *Are You Not a Man of God? Devotion, Betrayal, and Social Criticism in Jewish Tradition*, Tova Hartman and Charlie Buckholtz take a new and innovative look at four well-known stories from classical Jewish literature: two from the Bible – the near sacrifice of Isaac, and the role of Hannah in becoming the model of how to pray; and two from the Talmud – the expulsion of Rabbi Eliezer for refusal to accept the majority decision about Akhnai’s oven, and the career of Beruriah with her ability to match her male colleagues in erudition and her anger when they fail to apply lessons learned to personal relationships. They approach each story with both a deep reading and a “voice-centred” reading tuned to nuances of language that identify or imply counter-culture commentary.

It is difficult to summarize the book, but, at heart, it is a demand for justice from people who, in these stories, may live within existing political and cultural norms, but who also subtly challenge those norms. In some cases, the challenge can be found in the text itself, in others only in Midrash. While not every argument is convincing, they all challenge the reader to reconsider accepted positions. The authors are particularly sensitive to times when power relationships permit some “greater good” to overcome the value of human relationships or commit the sin of *ona’at devarim* (humiliating someone with words).

DAVID BROOKS BOOK REVIEW

The challenge facing the highlighted in their Introduction: “These stories are all, in some way, about people who know they have been sacrificed for the sake of a ‘larger value,’ and yet feel unable to speak that knowledge fully. And so they speak it partially. It is often a hushed voice. But, as we will show, nor is there silence. The perception of silence is actually a perpetuation of the values that silenced the voice in the first place. But if we can open a space for the questioning of those values, we open a space for hearing those voices. We do that by reading with an eye toward devoted resistance.”

Much of the argument in the book is based on comparisons with other times and other disciplines. For example, Iphigenia was sacrificed to the gods by her father, Agamemnon, in order to obtain winds necessary to take the Greek army to Troy. They are compared with Isaac and Abraham at the time of the Akedah. In each case, the child is sacrificed, or nearly so in the case of Isaac; in each case, the notion of a greater good impels a father to consider

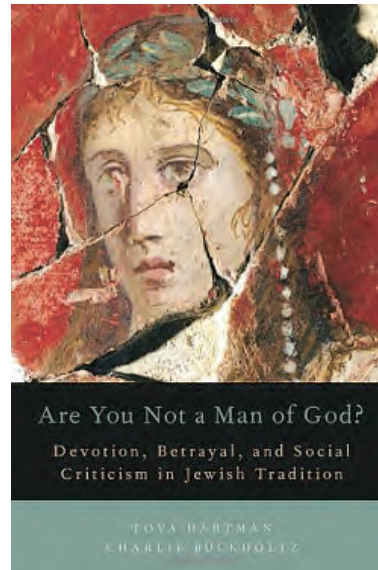
sacrificing a first-born child; and, in each case, personal relationships, notably with mothers, are what is finally sacrificed. In contrast to Iphigenia, who speaks out subtly against her fate, Isaac is largely silent. But, in a Midrash, Isaac lashes back at the system with a single sentence: “But I grieve for my mother.”

There are heroes in the book, such as Tamar, who avoided *ona’at devarim* by sending evidence of Judah’s guilt to him privately, and Rabbi Akiva, who, though voting for Rabbi Eliezer’s expulsion, presented the decision to him in a mood of mourning.

With one exception, villains are generalized to those who use power to suppress the voices of marginalized people. The one exception is Rashi, who takes one ambiguous statement about “the Beruriah Incident” in the Talmud and, ignoring all other indications of her character, concocts the story about Beruriah succumbing to seduction by one of her husband’s students.

This is an important book, but its importance may be hidden by sloppy editing, not worthy of Oxford University Press. Literary editing

should have shortened many long and complex sentences and more time is spent on Greek legends and Freudian psychology than is needed to make the authors’ points. Even so, a diligent reader will be rewarded with insights and, one may hope, an inclination to take another look at already well-explored Biblical and Talmudic stories.



Adult Educational and Cultural Programs

For detailed information please visit our website www.jccottawa.com and follow the links to Adult Programs.
Watch for full program details in the September 22 edition of the OJB.

Fall 2014/Stav 5775

Enlightened Jewish Education

- The Hebrew Bible in its Ancient Setting
- Maimonides – Heretical Rabbi?
- Kohelet – (Wisdom Literature)
- Let’s Talk About Israel

General Education

- History of Pre-Colonial Africa
- An Anecdotal History of Ottawa
- Introduction to Creative Writing
- The Canadian Short Story

Music

- **SJCC Shiru Lach Choir Open House**
Tuesday, September 16, 7:00 pm (teen lounge SJCC)
- Guitar 101: With Classical Guitarist Andrew Mah

Sundays at the SJCC

- Poetry of the Holocaust
- Sitcoms & Jewish Identities from The Goldbergs to the Goldbergs
- Great Jewish Women: The Lives of Donna Gracia Mendez Nasi and Gluckl of Hamel
- Fiddler on The Roof Celebrates 50 Years

Art

- Mosaic Glass Art
- Dare to Use Colour
- Judaic Paper Cutting

Language

- Modern Conversational Hebrew (Daytime)
- Modern Conversational Hebrew (Evening) Levels 1 and 4
- Basic Traveller’s Spanish for Your Vacation

WHAT'S GOING ON | September 8 to 21, 2014
FOR MORE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, VISIT WWW.JEWISHOTTAWA.COM AND SELECT 'CLICK TO SEE MORE MONTHS'

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.
Centrepointe Theatre, 101 Centrepointe 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

High Holiday Prep Class for the Mothers' Circle:
Learn how to create meaningful Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur celebrations. For moms of other religious backgrounds raising Jewish children, 7:30 to 9 pm.
Info: Maxine Miska 613-798-9818, ext. 263 mmiska@jccottawa.com

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

OrH Selihot program on End-of-Life Decision-Making:
Join Or Haneshamah for a pre-High Holy Day Selihot program on the ethical, spiritual and medical factors in end-of-life decision-making. First Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 30 Cleary Avenue, 8 to 9:30 pm.
Info: 613-239-4988 or info@orhaneshamah.ca

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

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

CANDLE LIGHTING BEFORE

SEP 12	6:59 PM	SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH
SEP 19	6:45 PM	SEP 25 AFTER 7:37 PM
FIRST DAY ROSH HASHANAH		SEP 26 6:34 PM
SEP 24	6:38 PM	OCT 3 6:20 PM

BULLETIN DEADLINES

SEPTEMBER 15	FOR OCTOBER 6 **
SEPTEMBER 29	FOR OCTOBER 27 **

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

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

CONDOLENCES

Condolences are extended to the families of:

Irwin Beutel, Montreal
(uncle of Sarah Beutel)

Henry Cosman

Robert Gencher

Sybil Rauh, California
(sister of Clair Krantzberg)

Dorothy Weiner

May their memory be a blessing always.

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

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Jewish Federation of Ottawa presents



Annual Campaign

KICKOFF 2015



SUNDAY SEPT 14, 2014

Jerry Greenfield

Centrepointheatre.com
Tickets \$20
7:30 pm

Event Chairs:
Gillie Vered and
Susan Viner Vered

Contact: Ariel Fainer
afainer@jewishottawa.com
613-798-4696 x241



Co-founder of
Ben & Jerry's

Tickets on sale now!