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Young Israelis from families affected by war and terrorism gather at the Embassy of Israel in Ottawa, August 14, during their trip to Canada sponsored by the Israeli Victims of War association. MATTHEW HORWOOD

A much-needed month of respite

Over the past 35 years, IVOW has helped more than 2,000 Israeli youth from families affected by war and terrorism enjoy a summer in Canada. Bulletin reporter **Matthew Horwood** joined them on their day in Ottawa.

More than 100 bar and bat mitzvah aged Israeli youth visited Ottawa, August 14, near the end of their month-long stay in Canada.

The Montreal based Israeli Victims of War (IVOW) association brings a group

of kids from Israeli families affected by war and terrorism to Canada each summer where they spend three weeks at a Jewish summer camp in the Laurentians and a final week visiting Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto to participate in “exciting and meaningful activities” before

returning to Israel.

IVOW’s day in Ottawa began with a visit to Parliament Hill which included witnessing the Changing of the Guard ceremony, before heading to the Israeli Embassy to meet Ambassador Nimrod Barkan and learn about modern-day diplomacy using Israeli Nobel Laureate Robert Aumann’s game theory.

After a picnic lunch, the group toured the Canada Aviation and Space Museum, where they learned about various aircraft, from First World War biplanes to jetfighters from the modern era.

Finally, the group ended the day at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre where they swam in the outdoor

pool, played basketball in the gym and enjoyed a pizza dinner catered by Babi’s Restaurant.

IVOW was founded after the 1973 Yom Kippur War and, to date, has benefited over 2,000 children.

Abie Moses, an Israeli IVOW representative, told the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin that many of the children speak about wanting to return to Canada with IVOW next year.

“Last night, I jokingly said the kids’ stay in Canada would be extended by two weeks, and they all cheered,” Moses said. “Only one child said he needed to get back home, because he needed to go

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Jeremy Roberts MPP
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IVOW: Visit to Canada allows kids to see life without ‘bombs and soldiers’

Continued from page 1
to school.”

Moses was himself a victim of terrorism in 1987, when a Palestinian terrorist threw a Molotov cocktail through the windshield of his family’s vehicle while they were travelling through the West Bank. Moses was able to pull his three children from the burning vehicle, but was unable to reach his pregnant wife in time, and his youngest son died in hospital three months later from his injuries.

Moses – who has burn scars on his arms from the attack – joined the Organization of Victims of Terror in 1989, and became chair of the organization in 2016. IVOW uses the organization’s database of terrorism and war victims to connect with the children in order to bring them to Canada.

Ovi Ben Haim, a board member of Beit Halochem Israel–Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, an organization which helps Israel’s 51,000 disabled veterans, is another Israeli representative of IVOW. All three of his children have been to Canada with IVOW.

Ben Haim became involved with Beit Halochem and IVOW after he was injured by a sniper’s bullet while serving in the Israel Defense Forces.

“The bullet crossed my head from side to side, and I became paralyzed in two legs and one hand and was made temporarily blind. It took me more than



Young Israelis from families affected by war and terrorism enjoy a swim in the Soloway Jewish Community Centre outdoor pool during the final stop of their visit to Ottawa, August 14.

a year to recover,” Ben Haim said.

Ben Haim said when he first visited Canada with IVOW five years ago, he was “amazed” by how accommodating Canadians were of the group.

“When I see what the Canadians are doing here, it makes me respect and salute them. The people give us so much love and care – without even living in Israel – and they have been doing that for over 35 years,” he said.

Tzippy Buchris, another of IVOW’s

Israeli representatives, was a survivor of the 1974 Ma’alot massacre, a Palestinian terror attack that resulted in the deaths of 31 Israelis. She was the subject of an iconic photograph taken after the massacre, which depicts her being carried to safety by her brother, Galil Maimon.

Buchris said IVOW allows the children to experience another life that does not involve “bombs and soldiers” and reassures them “the future will be OK.”

While two of Buchris’ sons were IVOW madrichim this year, she said all of IVOW feels like her family.

“This group has given me a new life that I can’t get in Israel. I very much love this group,” she said.

Amitai Marcus, one of the IVOW kids,

said his father was injured in the 1982 Lebanon War.

“He only had one leg, so growing up I couldn’t do activities with him like running around or learning to ride a bike,” Marcus said.

While at camp, Marcus learned how to sail and make bracelets, and played sports like football, tennis and soccer. Marcus said most summer camps in Israel are day camps, so to be able to attend a sleepaway summer camp in Canada was a “different and unique experience in a beautiful place.”

Amitai’s twin brother Gavriel agreed, saying his time in Canada was “wonderful.”

“The experience was one of the best things I have ever done, and I think IVOW is doing a great thing,” he said.



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Some of the Israeli youth on the IVOW trip pose for a photo on Parliament Hill, August 14.

Meet Temple Israel's new rabbi

Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg started out to be a medical doctor, but changed direction when he realized his interest lay in “spiritual healing.” **Matthew Horwood** reports.

Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg began his tenure as the new spiritual leader of Temple Israel on August 1. Speaking with the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin about two weeks after assuming his new pulpit, Rabbi Mikelberg said he has been overwhelmed by the kind welcome he has received from the Reform congregation.

“People have been so generous in making me feel at home and helping me to establish my roots,” he said. “I have two Shabbats under my belt and am excited for many more.”

Rabbi Mikelberg, who was born in Montreal and grew up in Vancouver, said his original career plan was to become a medical doctor. He earned his bachelor of science degree in biopsychology at the University of British Columbia, but soon realized he wanted to focus on a “different type of healing.” He began studies at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, the Reform movement’s seminary in Los Angeles, where he earned his rabbinic ordination in 2008.

“Some people don’t understand how one can go from wanting to be a doctor to becoming a rabbi, so I respond that both paths focus on healing, but my priority is spiritual healing,” Rabbi Mikelberg said.

After ordination, Rabbi Mikelberg returned to Temple Sholom – his home congregation in Vancouver – as assistant rabbi. In 2011, he moved to Toronto to serve as an associate rabbi at Temple Sinai. He was at Temple Sinai for eight years until his move to Ottawa and Temple Israel.

As a Reform Jew, Rabbi Mikelberg said he is committed to making the world a better place and “integrating the old and new” of Judaism.

“When I think of how we live Torah, it is important to recognize the realities, opportunities and challenges of the 21st century, and to recognize that Judaism is an evolving religion,” Rabbi Mikelberg said.

Rabbi Mikelberg said he was heavily involved in social action programming at his congregations in Vancouver and Toronto, striving to have participation “across generations” and to find “different



“It is important to recognize the realities, opportunities and challenges of the 21st century, and to recognize that Judaism is an evolving religion,” says Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg, the new spiritual leader.

and creative ways to connect to our faith.”

One of the programs he developed involved working with young people whose Judaism “perhaps didn’t look the same as their parents,” in order to reconnect them to synagogue life.

Another program he led at Temple Sinai involved building partnerships with Indigenous communities. Rabbi

Mikelberg said his own experiences as the grandchild of Holocaust survivors provided some common ground with Indigenous grandchildren of residential school survivors.

Like Temple Israel in Ottawa, Temple Sinai also sponsored a Syrian refugee family in making a new home in Canada, which Rabbi Mikelberg said was an “incredible means of building bridges between cultures and finding ways to address the fractures in our world.”

Rabbi Mikelberg said he was drawn to Temple Israel because the congregation prioritizes the concepts of inclusivity and tikkun olam.

Rabbi Mikelberg moved to Ottawa with his husband Zach and their son Jacob, and as the father of a two-year old child, said one of his priorities will be working with families of young children to “make sure their kids are excited about their Judaism.”

Stephen Asherman, president of Temple Israel, said Rabbi Mikelberg is “a beautiful fit” for the congregation, “a mensch and a pleasure to deal with.”

Asherman said when the rabbi first visited Temple Israel, the congregation’s response was very positive.

“The feedback we received from our congregants was that he had a warmth and authenticity that came through right away,” Asherman said.

Young Israel of Ottawa welcomes new spiritual leader

Rabbi Gavriel Rudin is looking forward to life in Canada. **Louise Rachlis** reports.

Rabbi Gavriel Rudin, with wife Malka, and their six children, ages (nearly) two to 10, arrived in Ottawa in August from Norfolk, Virginia, having never lived in Canada before. The new spiritual leader of Young Israel of Ottawa is looking forward to life in Canada.

“I know Canada has a lot of diversity and I’m looking forward to that,” Rabbi Rudin told the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin. “Everyone should be welcome, everyone should be accepted... It’s always good to have a strong central mission statement. The synagogue is a place for worship and a place of study, but also a place to come and socialize and build community.”

In Virginia, Rabbi Rudin served as outreach coordinator for the Norfolk Kollel and assisted the rabbi of B’nai Israel Congregation with teaching, programming and outreach.

Rabbi Rudin grew up in Passaic, New Jersey. He spent many years studying Talmud and *halachah* (Jewish law), and

received his *semicha* (rabbinic ordination) from Ner Yisroel in Baltimore.

After receiving his *semicha*, Rabbi Rudin spent two years teaching at the Jewish Study Network of Palo Alto, California.

Malka Rudin was born in Tucson, Arizona and spent most of her formative years in Monsey, New York. She works part-time as a social worker and full-time as a mother of six. In addition, Malka finds time to connect to Jewish women of all backgrounds and to learn with them one-on-one or in small groups, and teaching occasional classes.

“It’s early and I’m trying to get a feel for what the needs of the community are. [Young Israel of Ottawa] hasn’t had a rabbi for a year now,” said Rabbi Rudin when asked about his plans for the Orthodox congregation.

Rabbi Rudin said the Young Israel membership encompasses a broad range of ages and personalities.

“It’s a diverse but cohesive group, and very special,” he said. “The little



The synagogue is a place for worship and study, and also a place to socialize and build community, says Rabbi Gavriel Rudin, the new spiritual leader of Young Israel of Ottawa.

time I’ve been here it seems everybody is involved and everybody is dedicated to getting things done.”

“We are all so excited about the arrival of Rabbi Rudin and his family,” said Shayna Kahane, a Young Israel board

member who served on the rabbi search committee. “They’ve really added to the warm and welcoming atmosphere of the shul.”

Kahane said the board was really taken by how “friendly and knowledgeable” Rabbi Rudin is, and knew that he’d be a good fit for the congregation.

For the past year, Young Israel has held services and other programs at the former Kollel building at 1762 Carling Avenue, near the Jewish Community Campus. High Holiday services will be held there as well. Cantor Pinchas Levinson, chazzan emeritus of Congregation Machzikei Hadas, will join Rabbi Rudin in leading High Holiday services.

“People should definitely come check us out,” said Rabbi Rudin. “We’re open for business and we welcome everybody.”

The community is invited to attend an installation ceremony to welcome Rabbi Rudin as the new spiritual leader of Young Israel of Ottawa on Sunday, September 15, 5:30 pm. An optional dinner (\$36 per person) will follow the ceremony. Email info@yiofo.ca for more information or to RSVP.

Meet Avi Marcovitz: new head of Jewish studies at Ottawa Jewish Community School

Believes the OJCS will be seen as a model Jewish day school in North America.

Louise Rachlis reports.

Avi Marcovitz, the new head of Jewish studies at the Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS), believes in excellence and moving forward.

“I’ve always been a believer in the words of the founder of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, who said, ‘the old will be renewed and the new will be sanctified,’” he told the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin. “At any of the institutions I’ve worked at, I’ve never started a school. I’ve realized there were philosophies that were there at the start, but that education continues to change.”

Marcovitz, who holds a doctorate in education and is working toward a second doctorate in Holocaust and genocide studies, believes in the partnerships that OJCS Head of School Jon Mitzmacher has built locally, across Canada, in North America and in Israel, and said he believes OJCS will come to be seen as “a model for all of North America.”

“We need to have a global portal that

everyone models. How can we conceptualize it through all the disciplines?” he asked rhetorically. “Menschkeit excellence means all the partners of the larger Ottawa community.”

Originally from Toronto, Marcovitz has lived and worked in the U.S. and Israel.

“I’m very excited to come back here,” he said. “I attended Camp Ramah in Canada and have friends here. Michael Levitan was a bunkmate at Camp Ramah and now his children are attending the school.”

Marcovitz previously served as director of family engagement at Temple Israel Center, a Conservative congregation in White Plains, N.Y., where he organized events to engage 800 families, revamped and oversaw the bar and bat mitzvah family curriculum, and reinvented and oversaw Shabbat and holiday youth services. He was also a teacher for adult education, and for elementary and high school-aged students.

In Israel, Marcovitz served as director



Avi Marcovitz, the new head of Jewish studies at OJCS, is excited to return to Canada after stints in the United States and Israel.

of the International School of Holocaust Studies, World Jewry Division, at Yad Vashem where he initiated, created and sustained educational programs in over 30 countries.

He also served as CEO of Best Buddies Israel, creating the first nonprofit program in Israel to focus on the socialization and interaction of individuals with

intellectual disabilities. He established more than 20 Best Buddies chapters throughout Israel, overseeing the organization’s growth into a dynamic organization with over 1,500 participants.

Marcovitz said he hopes that his experience in Israel will be of benefit to the whole Ottawa Jewish community.

“I’ve had wonderful conversations about working with individuals of all types of disabilities such as TILES [Thinking in Pictures Educational Services] and Chabad of Centrepoin’s ‘A Ripple Effect’ program. I believe all children deserve a Jewish education, for that matter, an education,” he said. “I hope with my past experience, and partnering with the committed faculty at OJCS, I will be able to contribute to the ongoing success and to provide a nurturing, challenging Jewish experience for all OJCS students and the greater community.”

Marcovitz concluded his interview with the Bulletin by quoting Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, the former British chief rabbi: “To defend a country you need an army, to defend a civilization you need schools.”

“With the right education, we’ll become leaders and excel,” Marcovitz added.

Ashkenazi Jewish women should be screened for breast cancer genes, U.S. task force says

BY MARCY OSTER

(JTA) – Ashkenazi Jewish women should be screened for the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes linked to breast cancer.

That’s the recommendation by a U.S. task force announced in an editorial published August 20 in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

One in 40 Ashkenazi Jews have a BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation, compared with one in 300 people in the general population, according to studies.

The U.S. Preventative Services Task Force says that primary care doctors should assess women’s BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation risks if their ancestry is prone to BRCA mutations, such as Ashkenazi Jewish women, and if they previously were treated for breast or ovarian cancer.

The editorial also said that “researchers are actively reporting higher BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation frequencies across diverse populations than previously realized.”

It also called for an increase in the number of cancer-specific genetic counsellors.



Some Ashkenazi Jewish women who carry a particular BRCA-1 genetic mutation have a 65 per cent chance of developing breast cancer.

The editorial was co-authored by Dr. Susan Domchek, executive director of the Bassett Center for BRCA at the Abramson Cancer Center at the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Mark Robson, a medical oncologist and chief of Breast Medicine Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

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For High Holy Day information please contact Temple Israel.

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Jewish Federation of Ottawa

Annual Campaign KickOff 2020

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**FEDERATION
REPORT**



**EVELYN & HOWARD SILVERMAN,
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN
KICKOFF CO-CHAIRS**

We are so pleased to be co-chairing the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Annual Campaign Kickoff on September 10 at the Algonquin Commons Theatre, featuring Hollywood actor and comedian Elon Gold.

Elon has an extensive list of film roles and on such TV shows as “Stacked,” “In-Laws” and the hit show, “Bones.” He also has a Netflix special, and appeared at the Just for Laughs comedy festival this summer in Montreal. He is well known for his modern take on Jewish

Kickoff to feature comedian Elon Gold

The thought of taking on this role was a bit unnerving. Nonetheless, we were honoured to be asked, and decided to go for it. Our family has benefitted so much from this community.

humour, and we are so excited to share a light-hearted and enjoyable evening with him.

For those of you who don’t know us, our family has a relatively short history here in Ottawa (only 20 years!), although Howard grew up in Alta Vista. We are so happy to have chosen Ottawa as our home, largely because of the vibrant Jewish life and community that has been so welcoming to us. Like so many Ottawa ex-pats, we began our lives together in Toronto, and then lived in the United States while we pursued Howard’s education and began building our family of four children. When it came time to launch Howard’s career, we returned to Ottawa with our young family and have enjoyed it ever since.

We reconnected with old friends and found so many new ones. All of our children attended and graduated from

Hillel Academy/Ottawa Jewish Community School, and Evelyn, already an experienced teacher, worked there for many years, further connecting us with the community. Our kids attended and eventually worked at Camp B’nai Brith of Ottawa, and we were active members of Agudath Israel/Kehillat Beth Israel where each of our kids trained and achieved their b’nai mitzvot. We are currently members of Machzikei Hadas, which brings Howard back to his roots as a child, where his family belonged.

Our family has now grown up and is currently dispersed, pursuing education and careers in Montreal, Toronto, Kingston and Tel Aviv, and our parents, Flora Silverman and Linda and Dan Moss, live in Ottawa and Toronto respectively, leaving us firmly ensconced in the sandwich generation.

We must confess that when we were

asked to co-chair this year’s Kickoff, our immediate response was, “Why us?” We are more of a behind-the-scenes kind of couple, and the thought of taking on this role was a bit unnerving. Nonetheless, we were honoured to be asked, and decided to go for it. Our family has benefitted so much from this community that we felt it was time for us to contribute in a more tangible fashion, and happily accepted.

The Federation team – including Andrea Freedman, Micah Garten and Tanya Poirier – has been phenomenal in guiding us, and we are so enjoying the process. We are so grateful for our happy life here in Ottawa, and as we have become more involved in Federation, we have come to realize how much hard work, effort and passion is delivered from those of us who regularly contribute their time, energy and resources.

As such, we encourage all of you to join us September 10 for Kickoff with Elon Gold. Come on out, see some old friends, say hi to some new ones, and have a great evening!

Visit <https://jewishottawa.com/home/> for tickets.

**FROM THE
PULPIT**



**RABBI IDAN SCHER,
MACHZIKEI HADAS**

Sometimes you read a story and it seems so simple. But on reflection, you realize how powerful it actually is. That happened to me when I read this little fable:

There was once an old farmer living on his farm with his animals. One day, a mouse looked through a crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap.

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning to all of his fellow animals. “There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!”

The chicken heard the mouse’s warning, raised her head and said, “Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is of grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. A mousetrap won’t trap me. I cannot be bothered by it.”

We are all in this together

There was once an old farmer living on his farm with his animals.

The mouse turned to the sheep and told him, “There is a mousetrap in the house.”

The sheep sympathized, but said, “I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray for you. Be assured you are in my prayers. But honestly, I am little affected by it.”

The mouse turned to the cow and pleaded for help. She said, “Mr. Mouse. I’m sorry for you, trust me you will be in my thoughts and prayers.”

So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer’s mousetrap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house – like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer’s wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught.

The snake bit the farmer’s wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital, and she returned home with a fever.

Now of course, hot chicken soup is the best medicine for a fever. So the farmer walked off to the farmyard to fetch the soup’s main ingredient.

But his wife’s sickness continued, so friends and neighbours came to sit with her around the clock. To feed all of the visitors, the farmer slaughtered the sheep.

The farmer’s wife did not get well and she passed away. So many people came for her funeral the farmer had to have the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

We pray every day. And on the High Holy Days, which are soon upon us, we pray even more. And so many of our prayers are not said in the singular only for ourselves. Rather, they are said in the plural, for all of humanity.

But as we pray, and as we pledge allegiance to this holy endeavour of caring about others, it cannot be just lip service – “You are in my thoughts and prayers.” Radical and active empathy is called for, just as if we or someone very close to us was suffering. This story warns us that if we don’t take this seriously then we ourselves may eventually be struck, because we are all in this together. But more importantly, as much as we may try to convince ourselves otherwise, if we truly cared about our fellow human beings we would respond to their suffering just as we would respond to the suffering of someone who we are very close with.

This High Holy Day season is the time to open our hearts and to truly be there for those that so badly need it.

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FROM THE EDITOR



MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

My column in our August 19 issue discussed the explicitly racist attacks of U.S. President Donald Trump on four rookie members of the U.S. House of Representatives, all of whom are women of colour. In the days and weeks after that issue went to press, there have been some downright bizarre developments to the story.

Two of the congresswomen, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, who both support the anti-Israel BDS movement, were scheduled to visit East Jerusalem and the West Bank in August. In July, despite a law allowing Israel to bar BDS supporters from entering the country, Ron Dermer, Israel's ambassador to the United States (who is known to be extremely close to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu), announced, "Out of

The news is now stranger than fiction

respect for the U.S. Congress, and the great alliance between Israel and America, we would not deny entry to any member of Congress into Israel."

That changed on August 15 when Trump tweeted, "It would show great weakness if Israel allowed Rep. Omar and Rep. Tlaib to visit. They hate Israel & all Jewish people, & there is nothing that can be said or done to change their minds."

Immediately following Trump's tweet, Israel announced that Omar and Tlaib would not be allowed to visit after all. Although Netanyahu and his ministers claimed the change had nothing to do with Trump's tweet, few analysts believed that.

The decision was immediately condemned by mainstream American Jewish organizations including AIPAC, Jewish Federations of North America, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, the Israel Policy Forum, and J Street as contradicting democratic values.

Barring Omar and Tlaib may well have provided more PR value to the BDS movement than the visit itself would have.

Then the story got even weirder. On August 20, Trump proclaimed, "I think any Jewish people that vote for a Democrat; I think it shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty."

(According to the Pew Research Center, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton received 71 per cent of the Jewish vote in 2016, compared to 24 per cent for Republican candidate Trump. In the 2018 midterm elections, after two years of the Trump administration, 79 per cent of the Jewish vote went to Democratic candidates, compared to just 17 per cent for Republicans.)

Trump invoked the antisemitic trope about the loyalty of Jews – one of the most common expressions of antisemitism throughout history. In the following days, Trump doubled-down and tripled-down on the trope elaborating that Jewish Democratic voters (in other words, Jews who don't support Trump) are disloyal to the Jewish people and to Israel.

"In my opinion, if you vote for a Democrat you're being very disloyal to Jewish people, and you're being very disloyal to Israel. And only weak people would say anything other than that," he declared on the White House lawn.

And in a tweet, Trump quoted and thanked talk radio conspiracy theorist Wayne Allyn Root for his "very nice words": "President Trump is the greatest President for Jews and for Israel in the history of the world, not just America, he is the best President for Israel in the history of the world and the Jewish

people in Israel love him like he's the King of Israel. They love him like he is the second coming of God."

The nightly news – in these Trumpian times – is, indeed, stranger than fiction.

THANKS STEPHANIE

As Stephanie Shefrin notes in her column on page 21, she is stepping back from being a regular contributor to Modern Mishpocha, the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin parenting column she created six years ago. Stephanie's insights and discussions of various family and parenting issues have made her columns compelling reading for parents, grandparents and others.

One of Stephanie's innovations was to recruit other contributors to the column and we'll continue to publish Modern Mishpocha columns from Jen Perzow and Shirlee Press. In the coming months, we'll also introduce a couple of new contributors Stephanie has recruited.

Thanks, Stephanie, for making discussions about modern mishpochas a vital part of the Bulletin. I know I speak for many when I say we'll look forward to any not-regularly-scheduled Modern Mishpocha columns you'll contribute in the future when inspiration demands and time allows.

IDEAS AND IMPRESSIONS



JASON MOSCOVITZ

The joys of being 'Papa Jason'

United States.

The two oldest are almost four and almost five. They are certainly old enough to engage with each other – as well as with their grandparents – once everyone figures out which language they can do it in.

Shalev is the little boy from Jerusalem who speaks French and Hebrew. He undoubtedly understands English, but does not speak it yet. Beatrice, the New Yorker, speaks French and English.

My daughters deserve all the credit in the world for honouring their mother's wish to see their French preserved for another generation – not an easy thing to do in New York City and Jerusalem, but they did it. Good thing too. Without their French, the young cousins wouldn't be able to talk to each other.

Culturally, welcoming grandchildren to what to them is a foreign country leads to fun moments. Shalev, my first-born grandson, sees everything. He often remarks on how big the houses are in Canada. He often points out that three floors in a house is a lot.

After he returned home, he asked his mother why they lived in such a small apartment. She told him houses

in Israel are smaller than in Canada. He looked around and said, "Well, there is one good thing about that: in a small house you don't have to run to the bathroom when you have to make pee-pee."

Despite the infrequency of his visits, Shalev's Canadian blood runs strong. He never leaves a park without finding and collecting huge maple leaves. At the cottage, he lives to go canoeing. When there is no one to go with him, he sits in it alone on shore with a paddle in his hand pretending to be a voyageur.

Shalev, who loves music and can sit for hours watching street performers, got a special treat this year. His parents took him to Gatineau where he saw Cirque du Soleil. He still can't believe what he saw and heard.

His cousin Beatrice is almost four, but when she speaks you think she is six. New York City can't be an easy place to grow up and the street smarts a child develops are uncannily real. She lives in Queens, where the overhead subway runs outside her bedroom window. Once asleep, believe me, Beatrice can sleep through anything.

When I visit there, I always think of

the childhood flashback from "Annie Hall" when the family dining room and china shook from the nearby roller coaster on Coney Island. New York City is a noisy place, but resilience can see you through.

Beatrice goes to a multinational day-care and the class photo would make the Statue of Liberty proud. She can sing "Happy Birthday" in Spanish and Mandarin with perfect accents in both. Her mind is wide open.

Emile from England will speak French and Hebrew, but his Israeli father insisted he soon get a tutor once a week to begin his English lessons. So I guess I can look forward to a grandson with a British accent by next summer. I think it will make me laugh.

Aurianne from Jerusalem is always smiling. At 14 months, this was the first visit to Canada she might remember. The same goes for Felix, who's a month younger. He is the lucky New Yorker. His bedroom is on the other side of the apartment. The subway is not outside his window but I can't say his room is silent.

Being "Papa Jason" to all five is my treat, wherever, and in whatever language.

It has been a crazy summer. The Trump business has gotten as bad as it gets, although, as always, it is difficult to know where the bottom is.

Here, in politically civilized Canada, the election is around the corner. There are so many things to think and write about. But somehow, for me, as the summer ends, there is only one subject that I feel like writing about.

The subject is family. This is about having a chance to be a grandfather in real time and in person with all of my family in the same time zone. Please excuse me, but my chances do not come that often as my five grandchildren come from three different countries: Israel, Great Britain and the

Nefesh Mountain: Acclaimed Jewish bluegrass band coming to Ottawa

BY FRED LITWIN
FOR KEHILLAT BETH ISRAEL

Nefesh Mountain, a critically acclaimed Jewish bluegrass group from the U.S., will perform two concerts at Kehillat Beth Israel (KBI) on Thursday, September 19: a family-oriented show at 5:30 pm, and an all-ages (but adult-focused) performance at 7 pm.

In between the first and second concerts, KBI will host a welcome fair to show different aspects of the congregation.

"I fell in love with the music of Nefesh Mountain from the first time I heard them," said KBI spiritual leader Rabbi Eytan Kenter. "Their combination of Jewish themes and bluegrass music is one of a kind."

Nefesh Mountain is the place where bluegrass and old-time music meets Jewish heritage and tradition. The leaders of the band are the husband and wife and team of Doni Zasloff and Eric Lindberg, and they are quickly making a name for themselves around the world. Nefesh Mountain currently plays over 150 gigs throughout the year and has toured throughout North America, Israel, England and Australia.

"We are taking authentic old-time, bluegrass and Appalachian Americana

sound and blending it with Jewish spirit. We sing upbeat songs with *ruach* (soul) that make you want to get up and dance, and slower songs that are very pure and honest. Our music expresses all sides of spirituality – the joyous and the more prayerful," said Zasloff who, as "Mama Doni," was a well-known Jewish kids' music performer before cofounding Nefesh Mountain.

Not surprisingly, many of the band's lyrics are in Hebrew. "When we sing in Hebrew, it's us celebrating our heritage and history," said Lindberg.

Their music has been called "refreshingly eclectic" by Rolling Stone magazine, and critics and audiences are gushing about their latest CD, "Beneath the Open Sky." No Depression magazine, a leading roots music publication, said that it was "one of the finest, wholly bluegrass records one will hear in not only 2018 but as a touchstone moving forward."

Editor Michael Regenstreif wrote about "Beneath the Open Sky" in last year's Rosh Hashanah edition of the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin:

"Songs like 'Halleluyah,' which I suspect will eventually become a staple in non-Orthodox musical prayer services, and 'On and On (L'Dor Vador),' about the continuity of generations, easily flow



Doni Zasloff (left) and Eric Lindberg are the leaders of Nefesh Mountain. The Jewish bluegrass band will perform two concerts at Kehillat Beth Israel on September 19.

back and forth from English to Hebrew lyrics, while the traditional bluegrass gospel standard, 'Bound for the Promised Land,' is stripped of its Christian references and rewritten by Nefesh Mountain as wishful expression for peace in the Holy Land. One of the most joyous songs is their bluegrass setting of 'Oseh Shalom,' and after an intense collection of full band bluegrass tunes, they

end the CD quietly with a lovely version of Irving Berlin's "Russian Lullaby."

Kehillat Beth Israel is located at 1400 Coldrey Avenue. Tickets for the 7 pm evening concert are \$18 in advance, or \$25 at the door; the 5:30 pm family concert is \$36 per family. For further information or to purchase tickets, visit www.kehillatbethisrael.com or call KBI at 613-728-3501.

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JNF Ottawa 2019 Negev Dinner proceeds are being directed to the building of a new Children's Hospital at Wolfson Medical Centre, the current home of Save a Child's Heart. JNF Ottawa is thrilled to host one of SACH's medical trainees, Dr. Stella Mbawla.

Please join JNF Ottawa on September 16 at 2:30 pm to welcome Save a Child's Heart pediatric cardiology trainee Dr. Stella Mbawla. Dr. Mbawla is a 36-year old mother of three who is training under Dr. Alona Raucher Sternfeld, head of pediatric cardiology at Wolfson Medical Centre. Dr. Stella's long-term goal is to serve as an independent pediatric cardiologist in Tanzania. Her husband was the first pediatric cardiac surgeon in Tanzania. He trained in Israel for five years, returned home, and now it is her turn. They have three small children and both believe it is their responsibility to do this training for their country.

About Save a Child's Heart

Founded in 2001, Save a Child's Heart Canada's mission is twofold: to save children's lives and to *teach others to save children's lives*. Save a Child's Heart is a global humanitarian healthcare initiative serving children with heart disease in developing countries without the necessary resources for treatment. Save a Child's Heart has provided life-saving surgery for over 5,000 kids from 59 countries around the globe. Save a Child's Heart is dedicated to giving every child the best medical treatment available, regardless of the child's nationality, race, religion, colour or gender. Our work enables children from around the world to live a healthier and more productive life by providing cardiac care that would otherwise be inaccessible.

"This responsibility is bigger than us," says Dr. Stella Mbawla on the need to bring pediatric cardiology to Tanzania



RSVP is essential to JNF Ottawa at ottawa@jnf.ca or 613-798-2411.

Location: University of Ottawa Heart Institute. The specific location will be given at time of RSVP. Parking is very limited at UOHI. If feasible, a shuttle might be arranged from a nearby location. Donations welcome to the JNF Ottawa Negev Dinner honouring Sharon and David Appotive in support of building a pediatric clinic at the new Children's Hospital for SACH.

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Books and Bagels continues at Temple Israel

BY ANNE ALPER, FOR TEMPLE ISRAEL

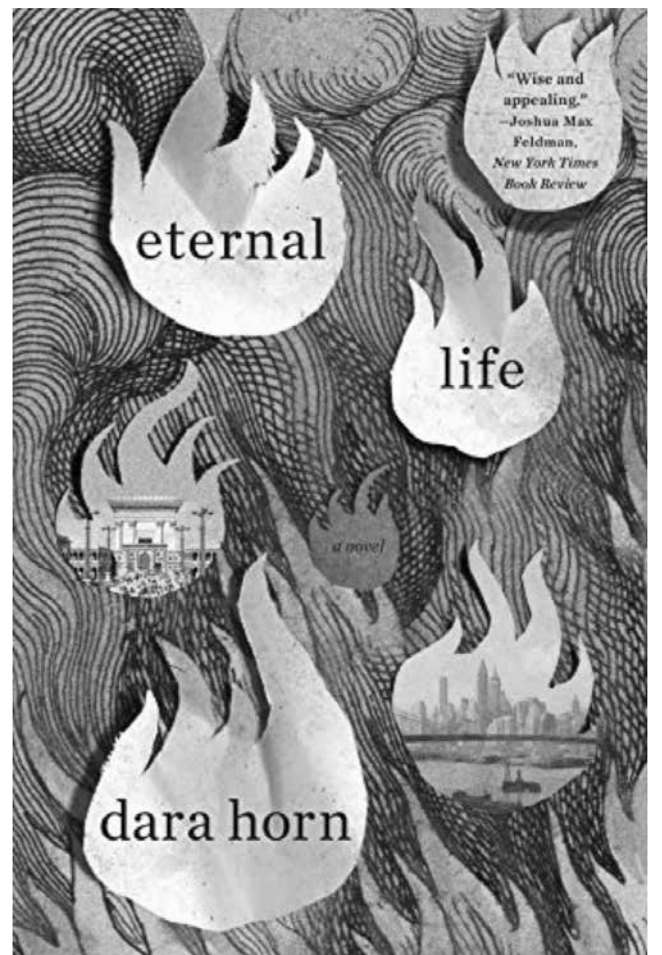
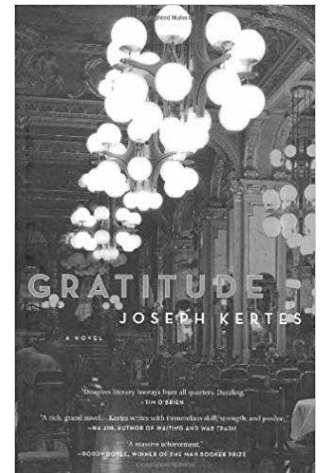
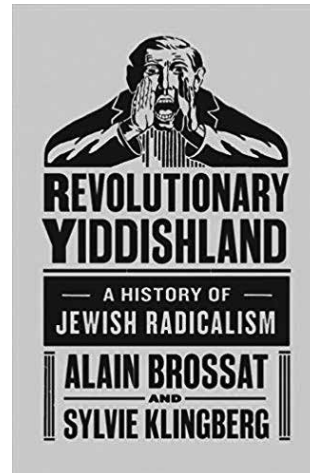
Temple Israel's Books and Bagels continues this fall with an exciting line up of books and speakers. All sessions are on Sunday mornings at Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive, and begin with a bagel breakfast at 9:30, followed by a book review and discussion. There is no charge or pre-registration required, but a voluntary donation to cover the cost of breakfast is appreciated. Everyone is welcome.

On September 15, Rabbi Steven Garten, rabbi emeritus of Temple Israel, will review *Gratitude* by Joseph Kertes. This novel tells the story of the darkest moments of the Second World War for Hungarian Jews, through the eyes of the wealthy Beck family, whose lives and loves are saved and lost. At the centre of it all is Paul Beck, a young lawyer whose chance meeting with Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg may alter the inevitability of the Jews' fate.

On October 20, Angus Smith, a reviewer and writer for several publications whose interests include Jewish and Russian culture, music, art and national security, will review *Revolutionary Yiddishland: A History of Jewish Radicalism* by Alain Brossat and Sylvie Klingberg. Before the Holocaust, "Yiddishland" was a vast expanse of Eastern Europe running from the Baltic Sea to the western edge of Russia and included hundreds of Jewish communities, some 11 million people. Revolutionaries, raised with the fear of God and respect for religious tradition, were caught up in the great current of revolutionary utopian thinking embodied in the activity and radicalism of a Jewish working class. This book traces the struggles of these militants, their singular trajectories, their oscillation between great hope and doubt, and their lost illusions.

On November 17, Allan Silburt, who enjoys books on science, Jewish history and historical fiction, and is himself an author, will review *Eternal Life* by Dara Horn. In this novel, Rachel enters into a bargain with God to exchange her mortality for the life of her ailing child in Roman-occupied Jerusalem, resulting in centuries of troubles. The novel explores the question of what it would mean to live forever – examining the role death plays in a meaningful life, love that endures beyond time, and the relevance of religion in a changing universe. Alan's review will also cover Chapter 1 of Yuval Harari's *Homo Deus*, which speculates in other ways about the social impact of extended life spans.

For more information, contact Shayla Mindell at shaylamindell@rogers.com or 613-594-4556.



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Documentary shows how ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ made it to the stage

BY CURT SCHLEIER

(JTA) – Instinctively, director-choreographer Jerome Robbins (né Rabinowitz) knew the musical that he was preparing for Broadway was something far greater than just the story of a Jewish family facing persecution in czarist Russia.

So at one of his early meetings with the creatives behind the project, he made clear the route he intended to take them on: “Fiddler on the Roof” touched on many themes, he said, but at its core it was about tradition.

And thus was born one of the great opening numbers in the history of musical theatre and the groundwork for one of the most important and popular plays ever. It opened in September of 1964 and became the longest-running Broadway musical of the time. It ran for a decade, spawned five Broadway revivals and has been performed everywhere from Vienna to Mexico City to Reykjavík.

A new documentary, “Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles,” digs into the show’s origin story and much more.

Filmmaker Max Lewkowicz expertly combines archival footage with interviews of show participants from over the years to weave a story that is at once heart-warming, entertaining, informative, and in some ways eye-opening.

Ironically, considering its subsequent success, “Fiddler” had a rocky start. A friend gave lyricist Sheldon Harnick a copy of the book *Wandering Stars* by Sholem Aleichem. Harnick thought it would make a great musical, and forwarded the book to his writing partner Jerry Bock who agreed and in turn sent it to playwright Joseph Stein. Stein, however, didn’t believe it would work as a musical. Instead, he suggested another Aleichem work, *Tevey the Dairyman*, a book of stories that his father had read to him in the original Yiddish.

Though it had the backing of the three award-winning Broadway pros, it was still far from a sure thing. Producers were wary, afraid it was too Jewish. “What do I do once we run out of



(From left) Cast members Maria Karnilova, Tanya Everett, Zero Mostel, Julia Migenes and Joanna Merlin backstage at opening night of “Fiddler on the Roof” at the Imperial Theater in New York City, Sept. 22, 1964.

Hadassah benefits?” is what one allegedly said. It wasn’t until the late Harold Prince signed on to produce that the play achieved any momentum.

Even then, success was not assured. Reviews following an out-of-town opening in Detroit were uniformly negative. Even after substantial changes, The New York Times’ influential critic at the time, Walter Kerr, offered a tepid review after its Broadway debut.

But the next day, there were lines around the block.

The film is replete with fascinating anecdotes about the process: how star Zero Mostel and Robbins feuded because the latter named names before the U.S. House Un-American Activities

Committee; how Robbins attending a Chasidic wedding provided the inspiration for a fun dance scene; how the play was initially intended to be called “Tevey” until someone saw Marc Chagall’s painting “The Fiddler” and renamed the play as a tribute to him.

There have been at least two books written about “Fiddler” – but while both share many of these anecdotes, neither can satisfactorily describe the gleam in the eyes, the smiles on the faces and the pride in the voices of the dozens of actors interviewed here who have played a part in the “Fiddler” phenomenon.

Lin Manuel-Miranda, who is interviewed in the film, first performed in a

“Fiddler” production in Grade 6. He was so enchanted by the experience he and his entire wedding party rehearsed and choreographed the song “L’Chaim” as a surprise his bride, Vanessa. The performance went viral.

Harnick remembers attending an early Tokyo performance and being asked: “Do they understand it in America? It’s so Japanese.”

Although there are no overt political references, ties to the current spike in antisemitism and hate seem obvious. As Danny Burstein, who played Tevey in the last Broadway revival, notes: “As long as human beings exist and continue to have troubles, ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ will be there.”

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Left-wing antisemitism has had British Jews debating loyalty for years

BY CNAAN LIPSHIZ

(JTA) – In the United States, many felt a line had been crossed when President Donald Trump asserted, “I think any Jewish people that vote for a Democrat; I think it shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty.”

His August 20 and 21 remarks on this theme prompted an avalanche of condemnations from Jewish organizations, many of whom said Trump had invoked antisemitic tropes about dual loyalty. Some critics were especially incensed when the president clarified that Jews who vote for Democrats are “being disloyal to Jewish people” and “disloyal to Israel” – as if he could presume to tell them how “good” Jews vote.

But for Jews in Britain, this discussion was nothing new. There, the growth of antisemitism in the left-wing Labour Party introduced years ago discussions on whether Jews who support it are betraying themselves and their coreligionists.

To be sure, it is off base to equate or compare the explosion of antisemitism within Labour under Jeremy Corbyn to its alleged expressions within the Democratic Party. Trump and other Republicans have focused on two freshman House Democrats, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, who support the boycott Israel movement and have been accused of using antisemitic tropes. But the Democratic-led House overwhelmingly passed resolutions denouncing antisemitic rhetoric like Omar’s and rejecting the boycott.

By contrast, Corbyn, a far-left politician who was elected to lead Labour in 2015, is himself accused of promoting antisemitism, though he denies this. A British watchdog group, in a digital dossier that ran to 15,000 pages, documented hundreds of Labour members and officials promoting antisemitic views.

Many critics say Corbyn has instituted a laissez-faire attitude toward anti-Israel rhetoric that spills over to classic antisemitism. Numerous lawmakers have quit the party in disgust.

British Jewry’s leaders, including Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, the former British chief rabbi, said it would be an “existential threat” to their community were Corbyn to come to power. In a recent poll, 85 per cent of British Jewish respondents said Corbyn is antisemitic.

By contrast, over 75 per cent of American Jews voted for Democrats in the 2018 elections. Despite the emergence in its radical fringes of anti-Israel – and some say anti-Jewish – rhetoric, the vast majority of Democratic lawmakers in the House and Senate staunchly support Israel, even if they are more likely than their Republican counterparts to disagree with its current government.

Still, British Jews understand better than most that the growth of antisemi-



British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, shown making a speech during a visit to Pen Green Children’s Centre in Corby, England, Aug. 19, 2019, has been accused of allowing antisemitism in his party.

tism on the left is a “problem” and that American Jews “should not be complacent about it,” according to David Hirsh, a senior lecturer at Goldsmiths, University of London and an expert on left-wing antisemitism.

Corbyn for years had been a backbench outlier inside the Labour party, Hirsh noted. When he hosted Hamas and Hezbollah officials in parliament in 2009 and called them his friends, for example, he was dismissed as an entrenched radical with views so extreme they could never become influential within Labour, which was then still the political home for most British Jews.

When Corbyn defended an antisemitic London mural in 2013, British media were so indifferent to what many regarded as his contrarianism that it was barely reported. But Corbyn arguably has made this worldview party policy after becoming its leader thanks to a combination of factors, including a polarizing debate about globalization and Britain’s relationship with Europe.

“In Labour, Corbyn wasn’t in charge, and that’s the analogy,” Hirsh said, meaning the prominence of first-term lawmakers Omar and Tlaib. “The point is not that this phenomenon appeared on the fringe, but that we should not let it become mainstream.”



U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House, Aug. 20, 2019. Later he said at a news conference that Jews who vote for Democrats show “great disloyalty.”

The mainstreaming of antisemitic rhetoric within Labour’s ranks ushered in a debate within the Jewish community and beyond on whether it was ethical, sensible and – yes – loyal for Jews to continue to support Labour.

The Conservative cabinet minister Sajid Javid angered some Jews when, in a Rosh Hashanah greeting last year, wrote that when British Jews are feeling under threat from Corbyn, “all decent people” must “stand together and celebrate our Jewish community.” To critics,

the implication was that Jews who support Labour aren’t decent.

Others have been more explicit. Fred Dalah, a 64-year-old Jewish businessman from Edgware in northern London, wrote in 2018 in the Jewish News of London that, “Jews who vote Labour are lambs to the slaughter.”

In addition to Sacks, the president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and three of the leading British Jewish newspapers have called Corbyn an existential threat to British Jewry. These warnings were designed to sound an alarm and prevent Corbyn from becoming prime minister. But they also emboldened British Jews and non-Jews to call out Jewish supporters of Corbyn as traitors.

At the same time, Corbyn’s supporters cite these loud warnings as a political attempt to weaponize antisemitism and sabotage a left-wing politician’s chances.

All this means that, in Britain, “Now you have the situation where there is good Jews, bad Jews, and good antisemites and bad antisemites,” said Dave Rich, head of policy at the Community Security Trust and author of a 2016 book, *The Left’s Jewish Problem: Jeremy Corbyn, Israel and Anti-Semitism*, during a speech in 2018. “I don’t think this is really going to work.”

Special touches make Camp Gan Izzy special

BY TZIPORA REITMAN
FOR CAMP GAN ISRAEL

Camp is fun. Camp is friendship. Camp is spirit, sports, swimming, singing, and s'mores. But really, camp is much, much more. The impact of a few weeks at camp far outweighs its relatively short duration.

Research from the Foundation for Jewish Camps indicates that "the key to the Jewish future is Jewish camp."

Camp Gan Israel (CGI) of Ottawa was founded in the late 1970s by Rabbi Motti Berger, of blessed memory, and Rabbi Dovid Hayes. In 1998, it relaunched with only a small group of campers under the auspices of the Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa, directed by Yosef and Devora Caytak.

CGI is part of the Chabad-affiliated Camp Gan Israel network, which includes camps in more than 40 countries around the world.

Anna Tal, a mom of three children, has been a CGI parent for six years.

"It's unbelievable how much they do at Gan Izzy in just one day," she said, mentioning exciting activities like archery, sailing, swim instruction, go-karting, karate, woodworking, carnivals, Judaica crafts, and more.

For Sari Zelenietz Mills, who was



Camp Gan Israel of Ottawa campers and counsellors gather for a group photo.

thrilled to find a day camp that pleases all three of her children, ages four, six, and eight, it is the staff that sets CGI apart.

"The activities are amazing, but you can't replace the amazing counsellors," she said. "They truly care about the kids, and they are so enthusiastic about everything. Things that might be a drag at school are fun at camp."

The counsellors come from all corners of the world to create that exciting, fun atmosphere and to share their passion for being Jewish. This year's staff includ-

ed counsellors from Israel, Guatemala, New York, Nevada and Canada.

For both families, one of the highlights of the summer was "Goodnight Gan Izzy," when the counsellors went to the campers' homes, read bedtime stories and said the Shema with the children before they went to sleep.

"It's these special little personal touches that make Gan Izzy so special," said Mills.

For some campers, CGI is their only connection to Jewish life and the Jewish community. Other campers come

from more traditional or fully observant backgrounds. Camp is the great equalizer, where labels drop away and what remains are lifelong friendships. Gan Izzy brings together families of different affiliations, broadening people's perspectives and creating a stronger and more cohesive Jewish community in Ottawa.

This summer over 110 Jewish campers experienced a summer of a lifetime.

For more information about Camp Gan Israel of Ottawa, visit www.cgittawa.org or contact Devora Caytak at 613-729-1619.

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Netanyahu wades into the debate on Ukraine's Holocaust record in commemoration speech

BY CNAAN LIPSHIZ

(JTA) – Speaking at a Holocaust commemoration event near Kiev, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the actions of the Nazis and their collaborators at a former Ukrainian killing site show how Jews need to defend themselves.

That may seem like a harmless statement, but in Ukraine the topic of Nazi collaboration is a highly sensitive subject. The country has endured several major controversies after bestowing honours to those who fought alongside the Nazis against the Soviets.

Netanyahu spoke August 19 at the Babi Yar site, a patchwork of ravines on the margins of the Ukrainian capital where Ukrainian auxiliary police took about 33,000 Jews to be murdered by German soldiers on September 29 and 30, 1941.

Among the dignitaries at the ceremony was Volodymyr Zelensky, the first Jewish president elected in Ukraine. Netanyahu's previous visit to Ukraine as prime minister was in 1999.

Netanyahu in his speech praised Ukrainian non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews from the Holocaust. But on several occasions he also addressed the role that Nazi collaborators had in the Holocaust.

After saying the Holocaust was carried out by "the Nazis and their collaborators," Netanyahu also said that "with one swipe of their sword, the Nazis and their partners ended a thousand years" of coexistence between Jews and Ukrainians.

He further said that the murders at Babi Yar "didn't happen on a different planet, but minutes away from Kiev's bustling centre. The murders of Babi Yar by the Nazis and their collaborators prepared the murder of the Jews of Ukraine."

Netanyahu in previous commemoration speeches has spoken of collaborators, but he does not always. In his 2016 Holocaust Remembrance Day address, for example, he did not talk about collaborators, despite mentioning the Nazis 11 times.

"To humanity, Babi Yar is a warning sign," Netanyahu said. "To Jews, it's a timeless command: We'll always defend ourselves by our own force against any enemy."

Zelensky did not mention collaboration in his speech.

"We cannot forget and forgive" the events at Babi Yar, Zelensky said. "The Ukrainian people will always remember crimes against humanity. We will never forget what racism and xenophobia lead to."

Zelensky told reporters that he had



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks at the Babi Yar Holocaust monument near Kiev, Ukraine, Aug. 19, 2019.

asked Netanyahu to recognize as a genocide the 1932 Holodomor famine caused by Soviet policies, but Netanyahu did not.

The Ukrainian media devoted some attention to claims that Sara Netanyahu, the prime minister's wife, insulted Ukrainians by throwing a piece of bread offered to her at a welcome ceremony to the ground.

Benjamin Netanyahu received the piece of bread from a welcoming party of three women on the tarmac of an airport in Kiev upon landing. He dipped the bread in salt and bit off a piece, offering the rest to his wife, but she reportedly quietly dropped it to the ground without tasting it, in what many Ukrainians online described as a show of disrespect.

Andriy Bohdan, head of the office of the president of Ukraine, dismissed the claims, saying Sara Netanyahu, who wore an outfit featuring the Ukrainian national colours to the welcoming ceremony, had "no intention" of disrespecting Ukraine.

Israel and Ukraine signed a free-trade agreement earlier this year. During the trip, Zelensky announced the opening of a Ukrainian government high-tech and investment centre in Jerusalem. Net-

anyahu has urged many world leaders he has met to follow the United States in moving their embassies to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv.

Israel will open its own high-tech and investment centre in Kiev.

Zelensky, a former comedian

who won the presidency last month, expressed admiration for Israel's defence capabilities during his swearing-in speech in May.

"We must become Icelanders in soccer, Israelis in defending our land, Japanese in technology," he said.

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Among the questions to be looked at are the following: What is global warming? What causes it? How does it affect humanity? What are governments doing to combat it? What can we as individual consumers, citizens and voters do to combat it? What do we and governments need to do to adapt to it?

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Jews and The Law: Through the Years and The Eyes of Some of Ottawa's Best

Thursday, October 24 • 7:30 pm

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Yiddish Cinema Yesterday and Today

with Professor Rebecca Margolis

Sunday, October 27 • 10:30 am

Yiddish cinema is undergoing a revival in international productions that feature Yiddish dialogue. This talk will present two Yiddish films: the Classic 1937 avant-garde *Dybbuk* and the 2015 drama *Demon* and discuss the uses of the Jewish supernatural before and after the Holocaust. \$5 at the door.

A Journey Through the Ukrainian-Jewish Encounter

with Alti Rodal

Sunday, November 17 • 10:30 am

A presentational overview of the long history of Jews on Ukrainian lands and their interactions with Ukrainians, and others, in the context of empires and changing political regimes, times of crisis, and centuries of co-existence and cross-cultural fertilization in music, language, folk art, folklore, literature, and cuisine. \$10 at the door

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In Memory of:
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R'Fuah Shlema:
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Pittsburgh rabbi calls to forgo death penalty for synagogue gunman

BY SAM SOKOL

(JTA) – Don't seek the death penalty for the Pittsburgh synagogue gunman. That's the message from the spiritual leader at one of the three congregations that share the Tree of Life synagogue building to U.S. Attorney General William Barr.

Rabbi Jonathan Perlman, whose New Light Congregation lost three worshippers in the October 27, 2018 attack by Robert Bowers that killed 11, has written to Barr "as a victim of the attack," reminding him that "both our religious traditions, yours Catholic and mine Jewish, vigorously oppose the death penalty."

Although the Bible does condemn those who commit certain sins to death, he continued, the Talmud says that a court that puts a man to death once every 70 years is called a "blood-thirsty court."

"I would like the Pittsburgh killer to be incarcerated for the rest of his life without parole. He should medi-

"Let him live with it forever. I am mainly interested in not letting this thug cause my community any further pain."

tate on whether taking action on some white separatist fantasy against the Jewish people was really worth it," Perlman said. "Let him live with it forever. I am mainly interested in not letting this thug cause my community any further pain."

He added that his congregants were still tending their wounds and did not wish to have them opened anew.

Bowers allegedly yelled "I want to kill all Jews" during the attack. His indictment noted that he made statements against the Jewish immigration advocacy agency HIAS and Jews on the website gab.com.

Edmonton Journal apologizes for antisemitic cartoon

BY SAM SOKOL

(JTA) – The Edmonton Journal, a Postmedia-owned newspaper that ran a cartoon seen as antisemitic has apologized following backlash from the local Jewish community.

The August 1 cartoon by Malcolm Mayes was about a data breach that exposed personal information belonging to millions of Capital One customers featuring a "data hacker" sitting with a laptop inside a wallet. The hacker had a black beard and a large nose reminiscent of antisemitic caricatures of Jews.

"We are disgusted with Mr. Mayes' cartoon, with your tacit approval of it in your willingness to publish it, or, alternatively, we are astonished by your willful blindness if you did not see the harm that this cartoon would cause," Jewish Federation of Edmonton President Steven Shafir wrote to the paper's editorial staff, according to the Canadian Jewish News.

According to Honest Reporting Canada, a pro-Israel advocacy group, "Mayes has a history of anti-Israel caricatures," including one in which hands labelled Israel and Hamas are illustrated as pushing Palestinians into a meat grinder.

The Journal apologized, saying in a statement on its website that it has "been pointed out that the image of the person bears resemblance to antisemitic tropes prevalent in some anti-Jewish propaganda. This resemblance was entirely unintentional, but given that association, the Edmonton Journal apologizes for the publication of the cartoon. We are re-examining the procedures we have in place to vet editorial content to avoid future such occurrences."

Earlier this year, The New York Times apologized for running what it called an "antisemitic political cartoon" in its international edition.

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LYNDA BALSLEV

Israeli Couscous Pilaf:

A toasty, fragrant and fresh side dish

BY LYNDA BALSLEV

This recipe originally appeared on The Nosh.

Israeli couscous, known in Israel as *ptitim* (flakes), is a pearl-shaped, pasta-like product with a delicious toasted wheat flavour. It was invented in Israel's early years as an inexpensive starch that was more affordable than pricey rice. Nowadays, it's a nostalgic comfort food in the Israeli kitchen, but has also grown in popularity abroad and among chefs in the past 30 years. It's easily found in North America, where it's marketed as Israeli or pearl couscous.

In this recipe, I've paired Israeli couscous with warm spices, fresh mint, currants and toasted pine nuts for a textural, flavoursome dish. It's an easily adaptable side that's suited to any occasion.

Make sure to check out the surprising history of Israeli couscous.

INGREDIENTS:

1 1/4 cups chicken stock
1/2 teaspoon sea salt
1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom
Pinch of ground cinnamon
Generous pinch saffron threads
1 tablespoon olive oil
1/4 cup finely chopped yellow onion

1 cup Israeli couscous
2 tablespoons pine nuts, toasted
2 tablespoons currants
2 tablespoons finely chopped mint

DIRECTIONS:

1. Combine the stock, salt, cardamom, cinnamon and saffron in a small saucepan and bring to a simmer over medium heat.
2. Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion and sauté until softened without colouring, about 2 minutes. Add the couscous and cook, stirring, until lightly toasted, about 1 minute.
3. Carefully add the stock to the pan and stir to combine. Cover the pan and simmer over medium-low heat until the liquid has been absorbed and the couscous is tender, 8 to 10 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat, remove the lid and fluff the couscous with a fork. Lay a clean dish towel over the pan, without touching the couscous, and place the lid over the towel. Let stand for 5 minutes to allow the towel to absorb the steam.
4. Stir in the pine nuts, currants and mint. Serve warm or at room temperature. Serves 3-4 as a side.

The unexpected lessons of Barbie

When our daughter was born, we wondered how we were going to raise her to escape the gender stereotypes we experienced in our own childhood. You know, the pink is only for girls, trucks only for boys' stuff.

Indeed, that theme was one of the first I explored when I began writing this column almost six years ago, just a few months after she was born. So, it's fitting perhaps that for this, my final [regular] Modern Mishpocha column, I find myself considering it anew.

Because my house has been invaded by Barbie.

I can remember playing with Barbies as a kid. It's a vague memory. I built a dollhouse in my closet out of shoeboxes at one point, and at another played a game with my sister that involved popping off the Barbie heads and whipping them around the room. To me, they were dolls, nothing more, nothing less.

But as we know, Barbie has come to be more than just a doll. She's ended up an example of how girls were encouraged to look a certain way, and act a certain way from the moment they were born. And that certain way was like a Barbie.

So, I swore, no daughter of mine was going to end up with Barbies.

But slowly my perspective shifted.

I had decided my girl shouldn't play with Barbies because everything I read and absorbed suggested they are the social equivalent of letting her use containers with BPA in them: toxic and would stunt her emotional and social growth.

Then I watched her play with them. I realized how much she enjoyed it, and how much fun she had building imaginary worlds with these doll friends.



STEPHANIE SHEFRIN
**MODERN
MISHPOCHA**

So, when all she wanted for her sixth birthday was a Barbie, I decided I was going to buy her one.

When we gave it to her, her eyes nearly popped out of her head. "But you hate Barbies," she said. "It's complicated," I replied, "but you love them. And it's your birthday."

See, I had come to realize three things:

One, to have a meaningful relationship with my daughter I need to meet her where she is, not where I'd like her to be.

Two, I don't truly believe Barbie has a negative influence. I was more worried about being judged for letting her play with them.

And three, Barbie has come a long way since the "math is hard" days, and the cartoons and range of dolls available are a lot more diverse and inspiring than the unrealistic bodies of the past with their airhead ways.

Those lessons are easily applied to the choices I make about community life.

How often do I just do something because it's expected, not because I find meaning? How often do I just dismiss an idea out of hand, because it goes against what I thought I know, instead of approaching it with an open mind? How often do I act because I fear being judged?

I know many who believe this community judges its own mercilessly. These are people who believe they are considered lesser if their kids aren't in day school, if their Federation pledge didn't go up this year, if they've chosen to live in a neighbourhood with few Jews.

I have been accused of passing that kind of judgment in this column.

If I sounded judgy – and the editor of the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin and my husband will back me up when I say I often worried about that – it was never my intent.

We all talk these days about living mindfully, and in writing this column I had hoped to encourage conversation and dialogue about how and why we make the choices we all do.

Recently, Ami Wise wrote a thoughtful letter-to-the-editor in response to a column of mine about our family's decision to enrol our girl at the Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS) and my struggle to understand why some people see no value in full-day Jewish education.

In his letter, he wonderfully articulated why public school mattered to his family and why it was of tremendous value to them, and how they balanced that value with finding other ways to meaningfully connect with the Jewish community.

It got me thinking about what we're missing out on by being at OJCS, what elements of that matter to me, and how we can find ways to fill those gaps.

It's letters like his, and the subsequent thinking it made me do, that I wanted this column to inspire in others. So, thank you Ami, and thanks to everyone who has read and engaged over the last few years.

I hope we can keep talking.

The relationship between the Diaspora and Israel

Summer provides perfect opportunities for two kinds of reading. Long lazy days at the cottage or beach or even in the city offer time to read mysteries or spy thrillers. It takes a quiet and relaxed soul to ponder the subtleties of a great mystery/thriller writer. However, summer can also offer abundant possibility for pondering more significant mysteries than those offered by the new Rebus, Bosch or Banks novel.

We might want to investigate the issue of gun violence and mass shootings in the U.S., or the rise of right-wing populism in Europe and North America and wonder about its impact on our security as a people. Events in France and Poland certainly cause us to pause and ponder.

But perhaps the most challenging mystery for which summer might offer ample thinking time is what happened to the relationship between Diaspora Jews and the State of Israel. There is a growing disconnect between Israel and the Diaspora. It is palpable not only in the intensified criticism of the Netanyahu government, but the ongoing discomfort with the increased power of the Orthodox religious authority, and certainly the discomfort expressed by North American Jews about the "occupation." The recent case in which the Federal Court of Canada ruled that it was "misleading and deceptive" to characterize wines from West Bank settlements as "products of Israel" was brought by one individual Jew and at least one [nominally] Jewish organization. Though it could be argued that neither party has ever had a strong relationship with the State of Israel, it is beside the point. The indicators are obvious to any and all who wish to look.



RABBI STEVEN H. GARTEN
**A VIEW FROM
THE BLEACHERS**

Matti Friedman, author of the *Aleppo Codex* and *Pumpkinflowers*, has written a most unusual book, *Spies of No Country*. It is about Israeli espionage at the time of the state's founding. It is unusual for two reasons. The usual story of the Mossad or Shin Bet begins or ends with the white European "founders" as the heroes of Israel survival. But in this book the protagonists are Israelis born in the Arab world who, due to their appearance, language and cultural understanding, will venture back into what was once familiar and now highly dangerous territory. Many will die for a country they scarcely knew. Many will be forgotten by the country they gave their lives for.

In following the story of four heroes of what was known as the "Black Section," the reader is challenged not only to learn a bit about a little known story of Israeli history, but to better understand the burgeoning disconnect between Israel and western Jews.

Friedman, a Canadian by birth, writes, "I came from the west, with the European stories of Israel – the kibbutz, the Holocaust, the Labour Zionist mystic. The longer you are here, the more you realize that those stories do not fully represent Israel. Half the country

came from the Muslim world and that informs everything about Israel – cuisine, behaviour, music, religion, politics. Many Jews think the basis of the country is the European Jewish world – Herzl/Ben-Gurion – and that the Jews from Muslim countries came and joined that story. I think it's the opposite: Israel is part of the continuum of Judaism in the Muslim world, together with remnants of the European Jewry."

Friedman argues most North American Jews try to gauge the country through outmoded categories such as religious or secular, right or left and he suggests Israelis are neither. He quite convincingly posits that Israel does not rest on socialism and secularism. It rests on a bedrock of Jewish identity that has a lot to do with people who came from Baghdad, Aleppo and Casablanca, whose understanding of being Jewish is informed by life in the Middle East and the Arab world.

He suggests that early on the state ignored the wisdom and experience of its "black" founders but now, 70 years later, that experience and world view permeates the Israeli experience.

"Israel is part of the Middle East," he writes. "Herzl's dream of Vienna and Ben-Gurion's dream of cultured Europe might have held sway once, but they no longer hold the power to mould the policies and life of most Israelis."

Friedman challenges North American Jews to dislodge the old paradigm and see that what is there is not what we hoped would be there.

In mystery novels there is often a formulaic and complete ending. Not so in *Spies of No Country*, but there is lots of great Middle Eastern 'food' to digest.

Even a brief escape from daily life is good for your health

I was lying on my back on a mat in a hot yoga class. My eyes were closed. I was breathing slowly. I was shvitzing. Relaxing instrumental music played softly in the background. The yoga instructor gave us step-by-step instructions on which body parts to move. Every so often, I popped my head up and looked towards the front of the room to see what the instructor was doing. I wanted to ensure I was doing everything correctly. I put my head back down and closed my eyes again. The instructor reminded us that the class is our time to relax and get away from multitasking. She suggested we focus on single tasking by paying attention to how each part of our body felt in that moment. My mind immediately started going to places outside of the yoga studio – probably the exact opposite of what the instructor had intended. I thought of the opening scene in Shakespeare’s “Macbeth,” when the witches’ prophesy about Macbeth includes: “When the hurly-burly’s done, when the battle’s lost and won.” I hadn’t thought about the word “hurly-burly” since studying Macbeth in 1978. Hurly-burly means busy, boisterous activity, commotion, noisy disorder.

I’d been away at my cottage and had not attended a yoga class in a couple of months. I was back in the city and took advantage of the opportunity to go to a yoga class at the gym I belong to. The hot yoga class turned out to be just what I needed. Though my mind wandered briefly, the class extricated me physically and mentally from the hurly-burly of day-to-day life. Sometimes we may not realize the stress we’re under, even from routine activities such as work, chores and errands. According to the American Psychological Association (APA), chronic stress can lead to bad habits



GLORIA SCHWARTZ
FOCUS ON FITNESS

Though my mind wandered briefly, the class extricated me physically and mentally from the hurly-burly of day-to-day life.

such as over-eating, smoking and insomnia, make you more susceptible to catching colds and increase your risk for cardiovascular disease (<https://tinyurl.com/y6cjgygj>). Among its recommended stress-reduction strategies, the APA states, “Research shows that activities like yoga and relaxation exercises not only help reduce stress, but also boost immune functioning.”

We may be so accustomed to chronic stress that we don’t know how it feels to live without it. When we intentionally remove ourselves from the routine, and surrender to tranquility, we notice the difference.

The yoga class ended with the corpse pose – a few minutes of lying face up in stillness and silence. This pose may be difficult for beginners who are not used to lying still, relaxing all their muscles and releasing

tension. It takes practice. The aim of the corpse pose is to give yourself permission to take time with your thoughts and to gain clarity. You’re away from everyone and all your responsibilities. In western culture, we tend to place the most value on constantly being busy. We fear boredom and crave stimulation – think of how often you look at your smartphone.

The class ended with the instructor telling us to slowly start moving out of the corpse pose. I felt mentally and physically refreshed. This feeling lasted throughout my day. There’s an expression “the student becomes the teacher (or master).” I think there are also times when the teacher becomes the student. As a personal trainer, I am often in the role of instructor. For my own fitness, I attend fitness classes, but my preference is to work out at the gym or go running on my own. I like to be in charge. Sometimes it’s a nice change to be on the other end, being guided and not having to think about what to do next. I don’t know much about yoga other than what I’ve experienced over the past decade as a participant. I do know that it’s liberating to allow someone else to lead. Perhaps I notice it more in yoga than, say, when I attend a boot camp class, because I don’t teach yoga. Allowing someone else to lead doesn’t mean I’m a follower. Rather, it means I’m free because I don’t have to concern myself with running a class, training a client, or with what we’ll do next or how everyone is feeling. Instead, I can focus on myself and be the student. I hope you escape the hurly-burly every now and then. It’s important for everyone, especially if you’re the type of person who dreads the idea of stillness. Sometimes what you fear may be just what you need.

Celebrate the Holidays

by placing your Rosh Hashanah greetings in the Bulletin

Greetings will be published in the September 23, 2019 issue.
Deadline: August 28, 2019.

Choose from one of these options. The messages are interchangeable.
Ads will be in colour. Cost: \$60 (incl. HST)

Option 1.



Best wishes
for a sweet, happy
and healthy New Year.
Shana Tova!

Two lines
for family name(s)

Option 2.

From our family
to yours, best wishes
for a healthy
and happy New Year.

Two lines
for family name(s)



Shana Tova!

Option 3.



May the New Year bring
all the blessings of peace,
health and prosperity.
Shana Tova.

Two lines
for family name(s)

Option 4.



To our family and friends,
happy, healthy
and peaceful New Year.
Shana Tova.

Two lines
for family name(s)

Greetings must be prepaid by VISA or MasterCard,
and must be submitted before Wednesday, August 28, 2019.

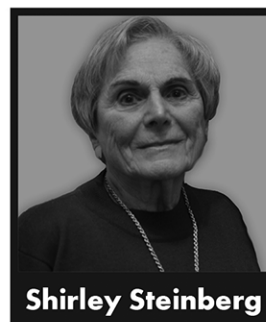
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DIE FOLKSHPIELER and the SJCC YIDDISH GRUPE (GROUP)
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TO

A Yiddish Ekstravantzta (Extravaganza)



Shirley Steinberg

Musical Presentation:

Mike Steinberg
Ruth Mendell
Minda Wershof

Aharon Zohar
Fred Brown
Joel Yan

Sunday, September 15 • 2:00 pm

Soloway JCC, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private

\$10 Billig Vi Borscht



SolowayJCC

For information contact Roslyn Brozovsky Wollock
(613) 798-9818 ext. 254, rwollock@jccottawa.com

WHAT'S GOING ON | September 2 - September 22, 2019

FOR MORE CALENDAR LISTINGS, OR TO SUBMIT EVENT LISTINGS, VISIT WWW.JEWISHOTTAWA.COM/COMMUNITY-CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

Bible Basics with Lauren Shaps

9:15 - 10:15 am, weekly on Thursdays until December 13, 2019
Contact: Lauren Shaps
lauren@jetottawa.com
See how the events of the Exodus (*Shmot*) speak to the challenges you face today.

Foundations of Jewish Living Classes for Parents

7:30 - 9 pm, weekly on Thursdays until November 21, 2019
Contact: Roslyn Wollock
rwollock@jccottawa.com
Cost: \$150 (Subsidies available). An opportunity to enrich parents' Jewish education and learn about Jewish life. With support from the Danbe Foundation

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Canvasser Inspiration Night: Jewish Federation of Ottawa Annual Campaign

7 - 9, Social Hall
Contact: Lindsay Newman
lnewman@jewishottawa.com
All canvassers are invited to join us for an evening of inspiration as we prepare to launch the 2020 Annual Campaign!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Kosher BBQ Cook-Off and Festival
11:30 am - 3:30 pm, Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad, 111 Lamplighters Dr.
Contact: Rabbi Blum, rabbi@theotc.org
Barbecue competition, food, entertainment! Volunteers needed - please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094aada929a3f49-sunday>

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Annual Campaign Kickoff 2020 with Elon Gold

7 - 9 pm, Algonquin Commons Theatre, Building E, 1385 Woodroffe Ave.
Contact: Tanya Poirier
tpoirier@jewishottawa.com
Cost: \$18. Join us for Comedy and Community. Tickets can be purchased online, or by calling the box office at 613-727-4723, ext. 6442.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Yiddish Café

2 - 4 pm
Contact: Roslyn Wollock
rwollock@jccottawa.com
Cost: \$10. A convivial, joyful Yiddish gathering replete with wit, skits, comic capers and, of course, a nosh.

Young Israel Installation Ceremony

5:30PM - 8:30 pm, Young Israel of Ottawa 1762 Carling Ave.
RSVP: info@yiofo.ca
Installation ceremony to welcome Rabbi Gavriel Rudin as the new spiritual leader of the congregation. All are invited. Optional dinner follows for \$36/person.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Author Talk with Gila Green

1 - 3 pm, Greenberg Families Library
Contact: Jack Schechter
library@jccottawa.com
Gila Green is an Israel-based Canadian author from Ottawa. She is the author of *Passport Control*, *White Zion*, *No Entry* and *King of the Class*.

Negev Cinq-à-Sept

5 - 7 pm, Howard Fine Jewellers, 220 Sparks St.
Contact: Ilana Albert-Novick, JNF Ottawa ottawa@jnf.ca
Meet Tanzanian Save A Child's Heart Medical Trainee Dr. Stella Mbawla, head of Pediatric Cardiology at Wolfson Medical Centre. RSVP is needed as space is limited.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Round Rosh Hashanah Challah Bake

7 - 9 pm
Contact: Lauren Shaps
lauren@jetottawa.com
Cost: \$5. Learn the secret of making, shaping, and baking round Rosh Hashanah challahs with an insert for honey. Go home with two challahs, new friends, skills, and memories.

Na'amat Ottawa opening meeting

7:30 - 9:30 pm, 24 Barnes Cres.
Contact: Marilyn Schwartz
marilyn_sch1970@yahoo.ca
Includes a "Jewish Author event" featuring Gila Green.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Shirley Berman Lecture Series: Jacquelin Holzman, former mayor of Ottawa

7:30 - 9 pm
Contact: Elaine Brodsky
ojhsoc@gmail.com
Ottawa Jewish Historic Society presents a talk featuring the former mayor Jacquelin Holzman.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Nefesh Mountain Concerts and Welcome Fair

5 - 10 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Ave.
Contact: Deborah Zuker
rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com
An evening of music and community! Family concert in the early evening, welcome fair for all to learn more about KBI, and an evening all-ages concert.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Jewish Federation of Ottawa Telethon for the 2020 Annual Campaign

9 am - 4 pm, Social Hall
Contact: Lindsay Newman

lnewman@jewishottawa.com
Volunteers will contact community members for donations We are seeking as many volunteers as possible to select a shift and reach out to their fellow community members!

PJ Goes to the Animals!

10 am - 12 pm, Ottawa Humane Society 245 West Hunt Club Rd
Contact: Jordan Waldman
jwaldman@jewishottawa.com
Cost: \$10 family/\$5 child. A tour of the Ottawa Humane Society. Learn about *tz'ar ba'alei chayim* (kindness to animals)

Expanding the Circle for Interfaith Families

4 - 5:30 pm
Contact: Maxine Miska
mmiska@jccottawa.com
A series of discussions and hands-on workshops on holiday traditions and social events.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Jewish Federation of Ottawa Telethon for the 2020 Annual Campaign

5 - 7 pm, Social Hall
Contact: Lindsay Newman
lnewman@jewishottawa.com
Volunteers will contact community members for donations We are seeking as many volunteers as possible to select a shift and reach out to their fellow community members!

CANDLE LIGHTING BEFORE

SEPTEMBER 6	7:14 PM
SEPTEMBER 13	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 20	6:47 PM
SEPTEMBER 27	6:33 PM

BULLETIN DEADLINES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18	FOR OCTOBER 7
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2	FOR OCTOBER 28
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23	FOR NOVEMBER 11
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6	FOR NOVEMBER 25

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:

Stanley Arron
Morton Pleet

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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