

# OTTAWA JEWISH BULLETIN

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## Remembering Jon Braun, 1957-2020

**Jon Braun**, director of athletics, leagues and summer camps at the SJCC since 1988 was a beloved figure to the generations of children and adults whose lives he touched over the past 32 years.

BY PAMELA ROSENBERG  
 SOLOWAY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Jon Braun passed away unexpectedly on March 9, at age 63, leaving generations of Ottawa families at a loss. While adults were in shock, teens shared the news on social media and little kids, who came to the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC) to take part in “JB’s After School Sports” programs, wanted to know why JB wasn’t there.

Within seconds of posting the notice of Jon’s passing on the SJCC Facebook page, comments started rolling in. Just in the first hour, more than 100 people from all over, commented, shared pictures and were shocked and devastated by the sad news.

The main thing that can be taken away from those hundreds of posts is that Jon was a special person. Words like “mensch” and “legend” were used to describe this man who had a great nickname for everyone he came across, and clearly had a profound impact on the



Jon Braun always showed great pride in the accomplishments of those participating in his programs.

lives of so many over the years.

Jon, son of the late Peter and the late Miriam Braun, and brother and brother-in-law of Martin and Reesa Braun of Toronto, was born February 22, 1957 and grew up in Montreal where he graduated from Wagar High School and Concordia University. After moving to Ottawa, Jon earned a graduate diploma in sport and recreation administration and manage-

ment at Algonquin College.

In his late teens, began Jon suffering from keratoconus, an eye disease of the cornea that causes a progressive loss of vision. However, successful cornea transplants in 1981 and 1983 allowed Jon to proceed with his education and career.

Jon first came to the Chapel Street JCC in 1988 and has been an integral part of the community ever since, teach-

ing thousands of kids about the value of sports. For many, he was their connection to the Jewish community.

“Jon was all about the kids... making sure they got to experience and get a taste of different activities in the sporting world,” said SJCC Youth Programs Manager and Specialty Camps Director Gail Lieff. “This was his priority when he took over the JCC Sports Camp and turned it into the Travelling Sports Camp.”

Jon’s official title at the SJCC was director of Athletics where he oversaw sports leagues for adults and kids, in addition to being executive director of Summer Camps and director of the Travelling Sports Camp. Although none of those job descriptions include fundraising, ensuring there was enough money in the pot so that every child could experience a summer at JCC Summer Camps was something he took very seriously.

“JB had a deep belief in the inherent goodness of people. In his work with children at summer camp, he cultivated their goodness like a patient gardener,” said Maxine Miska, SJCC vice-president of Operations and Programs.

His commitment to youth sports culminated in an annual event called “Breakfast of Champions” which Jon created 17 years ago. While there were plenty of local events that honoured award-winning athletes, Jon wanted to create something that made everyone feel special. The event celebrates middle school, high school and college athletes, as well as those who tried hard in one of Jon’s SJCC sports leagues.

See BRAUN on page 2

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**Jeremy Roberts** MPP  
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# Braun: ‘His loss is tragic to the SJCC and our entire community’

Continued from page 1

And while Jon didn’t have any children of his own, it has been said that he had thousands of kids.

His long-time friend Mitch Miller said what Jon did at the SJCC was not a job for him.

“He felt so much pride when a kid who grew up at the SJCC played college hockey or graduated from law school. He would say, ‘He used to be in my program.’ He would beam with pride over their academic and athletic achievements.”

When a group of Jon’s “kids,” including David Slover, grew up and moved to Toronto several years ago, they formed a baseball team and proudly named themselves “The Jon Brauns.”

Jon was quietly put to rest at a small graveside service in Toronto on March 13 with his family and a few close friends in attendance. According to Mitch, who made the trip to say good bye to his buddy, Jon’s older brother Martin, gave a heartfelt eulogy where he shared some inside jokes between him and his little brother. He also spoke about Jon’s impact on Ottawa’s Jewish community and recalled how he gave Jon the nickname “King Braun.”

“Jon Braun was my colleague and my friend. His loss is tragic to the SJCC and our entire community. The outpouring of emotion from so many people that Jon touched has been amazing,” said SJCC President and COO Barry Sohn. “It has helped me to get through this awful sadness I feel. Jon touched generations in ways that we are just beginning to realize. We will celebrate his life and do our best to honour him in the near future.”

And while we will no longer see Jon in his “JB uniform” of grey sweats and Montreal Canadiens or Bruce Springsteen T-shirts wandering around the SJCC doling out nicknames, or sitting in his office catching up with a friend, he will forever be in our hearts and the legacy that he created in the Ottawa community will live on forever.

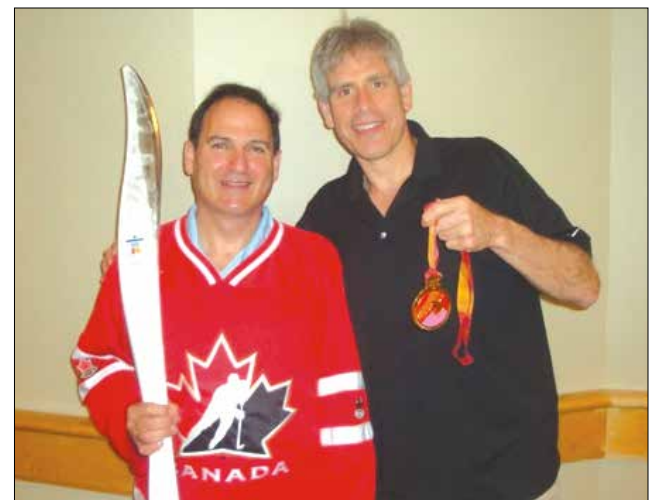
Donations in Jon’s memory may be made to the Jonathan Braun Camp Scholarship fund “to help give all children, regardless of their financial situation, the gift of a summer at JCC Summer Camps” by visiting <https://ojcf.ca/jb> or calling the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation at 613-798-4696, ext. 274.



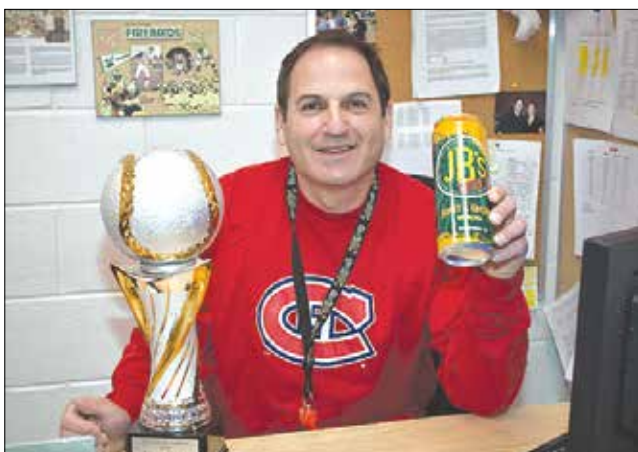
Jon Braun (second from left) and friends at the 2015 SJCC Purim Carnival.



Jon Braun and participants in the SJCC after-school archery program celebrate a bulls-eye.



Jon Braun and SJCC President and COO Barry Sohn share a celebratory moment.



Jon Braun in his SJCC office with a can of JB’s beer.



Jon Braun (right) on vacation in Deerfield Beach, Florida in 2018 with his brother, Martin Braun.

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Jon Braun at the 2014 Breakfast of Champions with members of the Olympic gold-medal-winning Team Canada women’s hockey team.



MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

Josh "Socalled" Dolgin, seen performing at the 2016 Montreal Folk Festival on the Canal, is one of the most innovative artists in Jewish music.

## Josh Dolgin brings 'Socalled Sings with Strings: Yiddish Song' to the NAC

BY MICHAEL REGENSTREIF  
EDITOR

Josh Dolgin, who grew up in the Ottawa area – and across the river in Chelsea, Quebec – has been one of the most innovative artists and far-reaching artists in Jewish music over the past 15 or more years.

I first encountered Dolgin close to 20 years ago when he was playing accordion and singing in Shtreiml, the Montreal-based klezmer band. But Dolgin really rose to prominence a few years later, under the stage name "Socalled," with an unlikely and unique fusion of hip-hop and klezmer music. Writing about his album "Ghettoblaster" in a 2008 Ottawa Jewish Bulletin Review music column, I noted, "While Dolgin is taking Jewish music in directions it's never before gone, there is always the sense that he knows, understands and has the utmost respect for the musical traditions he's challenging and changing."

In a twist that may have surprised long-time Socalled fans, Dolgin recorded his latest album, "Socalled Sings 'Di Frosh' and Other Yiddish Songs," with the Kaiser Quartett, a classical string quartet, and will be bringing his show, "Socalled Sings with Strings: Yiddish Song," to the National Arts Centre's Azrieli Studio on Tuesday, April 28, at 8 pm.

As Dolgin explained in a recent conversation, the process of developing a Yiddish song repertoire to perform with classical string quartets began years ago when he was searching for sounds to incorporate into his hip-hop explorations.

"I started to fall upon Jewish records, Yiddish records, cantorial music, Chasidic music, klezmer, and then Yiddish folk songs, Yiddish theatre music, Yiddish art songs. I was looking for samples, little sounds I could use in making new music. In the process of that, I fell in love with the music, with that culture and I started to get involved with this so-called revival of Yiddish culture that started in the 1970s.

That revival, spurred by a new generation of klezmer musicians and scholars, began to reverse a decline in Yiddish culture that was dealt a mortal blow when millions of Yiddish-speakers were murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust and Jewish culture in the Soviet Union was being suppressed by Joseph Stalin's Communist regime. Meanwhile, many Jews in the United States were assimilating and the new State of Israel promoted the revival of Hebrew as the lingua franca of the Jewish people.

"Great! But they threw the baby out  
See Dolgin on page 4



Speaker, Maxwell Smart

## Yom HaShoah Community Commemoration

**Please join us** for the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's annual commemoration, and hear Maxwell Smart's story of survival and transformation. Interview by journalist Stephanie Levitz.

# Monday, April 20 7 pm

Soloway JCC, Social Hall • 21 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.  
Free event, all welcome.

Maxwell Smart was born in Buczacz, Poland in 1930. While his family was forced from their home by the Nazi invasion in 1942, Maxwell escaped to the woods of Eastern Europe. Surviving by hiding in forests and small bunkers, his life was a world of hunger, illness, and fear. In 1948, at the age of 17, a war orphan, Maxwell immigrated to Montreal where he began his prolific career as an artist and author.

Today, Maxwell Smart is recognized as "a Jewel of the Montreal art scene."

Info or RSVP to Anne Read at [aread@jewishottawa.com](mailto:aread@jewishottawa.com)  
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Josh "Socalled" Dolgin will perform Yiddish songs with the Warhol Dervish String Quartet, April 28, at the National Arts Centre.

## Dolgin: 'A classy Yiddish show'

Continued from page 3  
with the bath water and for someone like me, looking for an identity, looking for who I was, and looking for what it meant to be Jewish... looking at my own roots, which come from eastern Europe, Ukraine and Romania, where my grandparents came to Canada from, I started to find this music and it spoke to me. It was uniquely my own and was something I wasn't hearing anywhere else," Dolgin said.

As he pursued his various projects on the cutting edges of Jewish music, Dolgin kept finding himself immersed in the traditional Yiddish song repertoire.

"Even though I'm sort of this hip-hop klezmer renegade, I'm also kind of a traditionalist and I really like what it used to sound like. I don't want to mess with it. I love recordings from the 1920s, '30s, '40s and '50s, so, over the years, just singing the songs more, I'd always have one Yiddish song in a set, no matter where I was," he said.

Dolgin also began to explore choral music. He sang in the choir at the Shaar Hashomayim, perhaps Montreal's most renowned synagogue choir, and began directing Yiddish choirs at KlezKanada – the annual celebration of Yiddish culture held at Camp B'nai Brith of Montreal in the Laurentians at the end of summer – arranging the songs in four-part group harmony.

"If you're trying to rediscover the lost tradition and you find a four-part harmony arrangement, it gives you a whole other layer of detail of how to harmonize the song in a Jewish way. It's not just a melody, it's not just a rhythm, it's not just the lyrics, it's also the arrangement and the way things are harmonized," he said.

Meanwhile, Dolgin began writing musicals and was developing skills in arranging and composing for string quartets.

"It all came together," he explained, "the love of harmony, the love of repertoire, string quartet writing, wanting to take it to another sophisticated level, kind of growing up a little, kind of a mid-life crisis, not just wanting to be the rapper/crazy guy who raps over Yiddish beats, trying to grow up as a musician, but with something that felt real."

Dolgin had grown up at Temple Israel of Ottawa and the congregation invited Dolgin to present a concert as part of its 50th anniversary celebrations in October 2016.

"I thought this could be the excuse to get together that repertoire to do a classy Yiddish show," Dolgin said.

"I asked some arranger friends to take either old recordings and transcribe them or to take these four-part harmony choral arrangements and write them out for string quartet and voice. I chose my favourite pieces from art song, from Yiddish theatre, from folksong, from children's lullabies, to funny political songs and I made a repertoire."

From its humble beginnings at Temple Israel, Dolgin has taken "Socalled Sings with Strings: Yiddish Song" around the world performing with string quartets in North America, Europe and Australia.

At the National Arts Centre, Dolgin will be working with a Montreal-based string quartet called Warhol Dervish, led by violist Pemi Paull, whose roots are also in Ottawa's Jewish community.

"I even wear a tux," Dolgin explained with a laugh. "I always pooh-poohed dressing up to do a [Socalled] show. But with this concert, I thought it needed a touch of class, so I started wearing the black tux."

Tickets for the April 28 concert are available at the National Arts Centre box office, online at <https://nac-cna.ca/en/event/23696> or by phone at 1-888-991-2787.

# Federation announces new grants to help ensure care for the vulnerable

BY KEVIN BARWIN  
GRANTS AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE  
JEWISH FEDERATION OF OTTAWA

“No one left behind” is one of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa’s new strategic goals. Our vision is a community where everyone is welcome and has access to Jewish life. Now, with the approval of grants from the Fund to Ensure Care for the Vulnerable, Federation will be supporting seven new and innovative programs that will serve our most at-risk community members, to help reach that goal.

The Fund to Ensure Care for the Vulnerable will invest \$240,000 in these seven programs over the next three years. The objective of these one-time grants, each spread over three years, is to assist local Jewish organizations to care for the vulnerable and/or to help prevent future vulnerability. The maximum value of each grant is \$50,000. The Grants and Evaluation Committee reviewed many proposals and considered how each new project could have long-term positive impacts and whether the projects were meeting an unmet community need,

*The Fund to Ensure Care for the Vulnerable will invest \$240,000 in these seven programs over the next three years.*

amongst other criteria.

The approved grants include a proposal from the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank to offer a “Cook and Carry” program that will support clients with cooking classes and special kitchen items. The classes will reduce social isolation and improve healthy eating and cooking skills.

A partnership of Tamir, Jewish Family Services of Ottawa (JFS), JOIN-Jewish Ottawa Inclusion Network and Federation will fund a part-time community inclusion coordinator to help the Jewish community and local Jewish organizations make their programs and facilities more welcoming to people with special needs. AJA 50+ also received additional funding to support Creative Connections, a popular day program for cognitively-well seniors that provides interesting activities and lunch to a growing demographic in our community. Jewish Family Services was granted

funds for two programs. Moadon – which is Hebrew for meeting place – will provide a drop-in space at the JFS offices for regular clients where they will have access to computers, snacks, activities and more. The JFS Care for the Caregiver program is designed to improve how Jewish Ottawa supports care for seniors, by understanding and providing education and support to family caregivers. This program will work in synergy with another program at Hillel Lodge. The Hillel Lodge Frail Elderly Support day program is a two-year project that will provide respite and care for seniors through physically, emotionally, and cognitively stimulating activities in a positive Jewish environment.

Hillel Lodge, together with community volunteers Helen and Mayer Alvo, also received a grant to launch Café Menorah, a volunteer-led program that will provide a kosher hot meal and an opportunity for

those in need to socialize and make Jewish connections. The program is inspired by Montreal’s Le Café program.

We are fortunate in our community that the 2019 Annual Campaign exceeded its targets, which has enabled innovative, critical investment in our community. Through the work of Federation’s Strategic Funding Task Force, several new funds were created to help address specific community needs. So far this year, the Grants and Evaluation Committee has reviewed and approved grants for day school programs, supplementary school programs, and security matching grants (dependent on government and Security Infrastructure Program grants).

The final strategic funding grants to roll out will be the Jewish Journeys grants to be awarded for programs that enable Ottawa Jewish organizations to reach more people in our community and help them take the next step in their Jewish journey. Applications for these grants close on April 20. For more information, contact Federation Director of Community Collaboration Kara Goodwin at [kgoodwin@jewishottawa.com](mailto:kgoodwin@jewishottawa.com) or 613-798-4616, ext. 200.

## YOM HAZIKARON 2020


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




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Tuesday, April 28 • 7:00 pm

Soloway Jewish Community Centre • 21 Nadolny Sachs Private

In partnership with Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program and The Embassy of Israel in Canada



For more information please contact Ella Dagan: 613-798-9818 x243 • [edagan@jccottawa.com](mailto:edagan@jccottawa.com)

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**FEDERATION  
REPORT**



**RABBI BORUCH PERTON,  
HEAD OF SCHOOL,  
TORAH DAY SCHOOL OF OTTAWA**

Torah Day School of Ottawa (TDSO) is more than a school that follows the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum. TDSO is also more than a school that year-after-year produces academic results above the public and private school norms based upon annual standardized testing. Who are we?

We are a school where students smile as they approach every learning opportunity with a determined grin. Where dedicated teaching staff care deeply about every child. Where edu-

## At Torah Day School we are ‘community’

cators appreciate the delicate balance between creating a warm atmosphere while maintaining a professional learning environment. Science labs, robotics, core and enriched French, Hebrew language, Judaic studies, intramural sports leagues, chess club, taekwondo, Shabbatons, chesed, skating and more unique opportunities and fun activities create a well-rounded graduate.

We are a school where the students come from homes representing all demographics within our broad Jewish community. In this milieu, children learn to appreciate each other (and not just tolerate each other). We are a school that graduates future leaders who have a deep understanding of Jewish text, culture and community. We are a school that instills a love and pride in being Jewish every single day. Judaic studies aren’t a course at TDSO – they are a way of life.

We are a school that is on an upward growth trajectory. We are excited to welcome new families who are moving to Ottawa, who have chosen Torah Day School for their family in September.

*We are a school that graduates future leaders who have a deep understanding of Jewish text, culture and community.*

Recently received grants have allowed us to improve our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) curriculum. We now have mobile science carts (thanks to the Jewish Federation of Ottawa) allowing teachers and students to engage in hands-on, innovative studies. Our interactive math program allows our teachers to individualize student learning. This facilitates parents, students, and teachers to collaborate together. Our enriched French program allows students to not only learn vocabulary and grammar, but practical, conversational French ensuring our students are able to converse in both official languages. Creative, talented and caring teachers offer unique lessons to our students, bringing learning to life in

all subject areas with small groups and one-on-one assessment.

Our Judaic studies curriculum continues to inspire, excite and amaze. Our students are fluent in Hebrew, knowledgeable about the Jewish life cycle and eager participants in their synagogues, at Shabbat tables, community seders and other Jewish rituals and events.

This is an exciting time for Torah Day and for the entire community. A wonderful example of community is how 14 rabbis from across Ottawa, together with parents, grandparents, Jewish leaders (including a Federation team) are running as part of Team TDSO in the upcoming Ottawa Marathon as during Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend. We would love for you to come cheer us on (or even sponsor us at [www.runottawa.ca](http://www.runottawa.ca)) on Sunday, May 24, when we “Run with the Rabbis” in support of Jewish education in Ottawa.

For more information about Torah Day School of Ottawa and our special “community,” please contact Head of School Rabbi Boruch Perton at [rabbi.perton@torahday.ca](mailto:rabbi.perton@torahday.ca).

**FROM THE  
PULPIT**



**RABBI CHAIM MENDELSON,  
CHABAD OF CENTREPOINTE**

Although this “From the Pulpit” column appears in the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin after Purim, I am writing it just a few days before this joyous festival. As such, I would like to devote this article to the timeless message of Purim.

Most of us are familiar with the incredible story behind our joy. But allow me to share with you a short synopsis.

The wicked Haman, viceroy of the king of Persia is intent on wiping out the Jewish people. Due to the intervention of Queen Esther, cousin of the Jewish leader Mordechai, whose Jewish identity is unknown in the palace, the decree of Jewish extinction is averted.

The miracle was recorded in detail by Mordechai and Esther in the Megillah which we read every year on Purim. In addition, we celebrate by eating a

## We all beat with one proud Jewish heart and soul

*On Purim, we are committed to clinging to our joint religion and heritage. We all beat with one proud Jewish heart and soul.  
Am Yisroel Chai.*

festive meal, donating to the poor and distributing food baskets to our friends.

If I was asked to capture the message of Purim in one short phrase, it would be “Jewish Pride.”

You see, Haman’s anger against the Jewish people was because they refused to bow to him and treat him as a deity while stubbornly remaining loyal to God, Torah, tradition and culture. They remained fiercely proud of their heritage, refusing to assimilate. In fact, the Megillah records Haman’s justification to the king for wiping out the Jewish nation, and it is precisely because they refused to blend in.

Living today in North America with unprecedented religious freedom, I am afraid we are still battling a different type of Haman. Modern society begs us to assimilate and blend in, to forget

about our rich heritage and culture. The record level of intermarriage within North America is riveting proof of how overwhelming this battle truly is. Many of our youth today have very little idea of what it even means to be Jewish, let alone to live Jewish.

That is why I was particularly heartened to witness a group of 10 local teens who travelled with my wife Bassy to New York to join 3,000 other teens for a memorable weekend focused on Jewish pride. In fact, the highlight of the weekend was a Jewish concert in Times Square where the teens screamed “Shema Yisroel” at the tops of their lungs.

As participant Mimi Breiter wrote in a text message, “The trip was very inspiring. It was so different to all the other Shabbatons I’ve been on. I have never seen so many Jews in one place before. I was proud to be Jewish with everyone, and because of this I felt so included.”

Perhaps this is the reason behind wearing masks on Purim. It is as if we are collectively saying, on this day our personal externalities cease to matter. On Purim, we are committed to clinging to our joint religion and heritage. We all beat with one proud Jewish heart and soul. Am Yisroel Chai.

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FROM THE EDITOR



MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

## COVID-19 now affects all of us

since been many more. Sports leagues – including the NHL, the NBA and Major League Baseball and others – have suspended or postponed their seasons. Broadway has cancelled all of its shows for at least a month and other cultural venues have followed suit. Here in Ottawa, the National Arts Centre and the Meridian Theatres @ Centrepointe have cancelled all scheduled performances and events until (at least) April 5.

The House of Commons has been adjourned until April 20 and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is among the Canadians in self-isolation at home because his wife, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, who had travelled to England for a charity event, was the second person in the Ottawa area to test positive for COVID-19.

Our Jewish community in Ottawa has been affected. Since, March 13, I have been working from home because the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin office is in the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC) and the SJCC, like many facilities in Ottawa and across the country, has been closed as a precaution. The SJCC has announced it will tentatively reopen on March 30 but “will re-evaluate as the situation evolves.”

Meanwhile, the Ottawa Jewish Com-

munity School, like many Jewish day schools elsewhere, will remain closed until after the Passover break next month, and Hillel Lodge, like all long-term care facilities in Ontario, has been closed to visitors until further notice.

The first event cancellation or postponement I learned of in the community was Limmud Ottawa – one of my favourite annual community events – which was to have taken place on March 15 at the SJCC. Other community events, no doubt, will be cancelled or postponed in the days, weeks and, perhaps, months ahead. I would advise verifying with organizers that scheduled events are going ahead before leaving home.

Our lives will be more complicated until COVID-19 is under control, but even as we engage in precautions like vigilant hand-washing, safe sneezing and coughing, and “social distancing” practices ranging from avoiding large-scale events and nonessential travel (see Jason Moscovitz’s story in the space below), to not shaking hands, etc., such adversities also have a way of bringing communities together. Turn to page 17 for an inspiring story about how a large cluster of COVID-19 cases has affected the Jewish community of New Rochelle, New York.

### JON BRAUN

Like so many in our community, I was shocked and deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Jon Braun, the director of athletics, leagues and summer camps at the SJCC for more than three decades, and a beloved figure to generations of kids and adults in Ottawa’s Jewish community.

I met JB, as he was affectionately known, on my first day of work at the Bulletin in 2007. We’d see each other almost every day at the SJCC and had countless conversations about our common Montreal background, about our shared passion for music, about the community, about politics, and even, sometimes, about sports, even though I’m not much of a sports fan.

JB was passionate about his work and, appropriately, the SJCC has established the Jonathan Braun Camp Scholarship Fund at the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation to help support Jon’s vision that all Jewish children in the community have the opportunity to enjoy a great summer at one of the JCC day camps. Visit <https://ojcf.ca/jb> for more information or to make a contribution.

I know I’m not alone in offering my deepest condolences to JB’s family and to his many friends, but also to the entire community – we’ll all miss him.

As I write, the world seems to be in a state of constant flux as COVID-19, the novel corona virus, spreads and governments, organizations, families and individuals take actions and precautions to slow the spread of the pandemic and mitigate its effects.

So much about this story has changed rapidly in such a short period of time. Not too long ago, we were looking at hot COVID-19 zones in China, Iran and Italy. Today virtually the entire world has been affected in some way or another.

Events, large and small, have been cancelled. South-by-Southwest in Austin, Texas is one of the largest music festivals in the world and it was one of the first major events to be cancelled. There have

IDEAS AND IMPRESSIONS



JASON MOSCOVITZ

## ‘We missed Purim in Jerusalem’

I missed.

Ironically, even when the reports of COVID-19 started to intensify, we didn’t think we would have to be concerned about *safe* Israel, so far from the epicentre in China. Not only that, we were flying directly from Canada. There was no risk transferring at a European airport. For weeks, we didn’t see a problem.

But, as the departure date approached, there was one constant we had to deal with. Every day the status of the virus was worse than the day before. Every day there were more countries hit, more people sick, and more dying. The real shocker was news that Israel had its own growing number of people suffering from COVID-19 and that there were many more there at risk.

I can be stubborn, and even facing formidable reasons to stay home, my mind still raced back and forth. There were some moments we were 100 per cent sure we would go and some we were 100 per cent sure we wouldn’t. Back and forth our minds went like a seesaw. Something had to happen to either get us to go or not go.

Less than a week before departure, my 97-year-old father phoned from Montreal. Never one to mince words, Eli

said we couldn’t go. He told me it was too risky. I got upset and said, “I’m not going on holiday. I’m going to see my grandchildren.”

“You can see them another time,” he replied.

True, but I didn’t want to hear that.

The father-son conversation was getting a little heated and I told him I didn’t want to talk about it anymore. As sharp as ever a few months away from his 98th birthday, he told me he didn’t understand why we wanted to walk into a hornets’ nest. Now that stung.

I got off the phone and tried to use a logical approach to the risks and possibilities. I instantly realized the dilemma. There was no way in the world of knowing what lay ahead. The unknown was the hornet’s nest.

That very afternoon I reasoned the next three weeks would be critical. Either COVID-19 would be reasonably under control or in three weeks the world would be upside down with a raging pandemic. I don’t know why I thought three weeks. Perhaps, subconsciously, I knew we were going away for three weeks.

That night I was watching CNN and New York Times columnist Thomas

Friedman said what I had been thinking all afternoon. “The next three weeks,” he said, “were critical.” That really got my attention. I needed another day to think.

The lure of family and grandchildren is as strong as iron and when your loved ones live far away, need I say more? But we didn’t go. By a long shot, it was the right decision.

The day after cancelling, I got unexpected news. My daughter Emmanuelle was in self-quarantine at home in Jerusalem. She had travelled to Paris on business the week before and was ordered by the government not to go outside for 10 days.

I can only imagine how disappointing it would have been to be there with my daughter confined to her residence.

Who knows how easily, or how hard, it might have been to travel home at the end of March? “Who knows anything about anything?” has been the truly scary part of COVID-19 from the beginning.

We missed Purim in Jerusalem. We missed Shalev who was Superman. We missed Aurianne who was Queen Esther.

And Jerusalem missed my big fur winter hat.

At the beginning, COVID-19 meant deciding whether to travel or not. For me and my partner there appeared to be only one answer, not to travel, although to the end we were heavily leaning the other way.

Almost every year since 2008, I have ended winter early by going to Israel in March to enjoy full-blown spring and even some summer-like days wearing shorts and T-shirts in Jerusalem.

This year, we were going to arrive on Purim. I was going to wear a big fur winter hat that makes my young grandchildren laugh because I tell them it’s not a hat it’s my hair. Instead of having that pleasure, I stayed in Ottawa to wear winter boots and think about what

# Remembering an inspiring Israeli hero

**Shai Sagi**, one of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's shinshinim from Israel, remembers Israeli astronaut **Ilan Ramon**.

**O**n February 1, we commemorated the anniversary of the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia, which exploded during re-entry to Earth's atmosphere following a 16-day science and research mission in 2003. One of the team members was Ilan Ramon, the first and to-date only Israeli to travel in space.

Ramon was born in 1954 to a family of Holocaust survivors and grew up in Ramat Gan and in Beer Sheva. He served in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) as an air force pilot, having graduated from his training course with honours.

On June 7, 1981, Ramon took part in Operation Opera, the bombing of a nuclear reactor site that was being built in Iraq. He was one of the first to take part in the planning of the operation and as the youngest pilot of the team, he was the last in the attack structure. This position is considered to be particularly dangerous because as the last aircraft carrying out the attack, the surprise element is lost and the enemy can easily hit back.

Following that operation, Ramon served in several important positions in the Israeli air force and was considered a very gifted pilot. He later completed a degree in computer science and served as head of air force's weapons division.

In 1997, Ramon was chosen to be the first Israeli astronaut. A year later, he and his wife Rona and their four young children moved to the U.S. in order to train with NASA.

During his training, one of the things concerned him was how he could observe Shabbat in space as there is neither sunrise or sunset in space. An important tip he got from one of the rabbis he consulted was to count 24 hours



Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon perished in the Space Shuttle Columbia explosion on February 1, 2003.

six times to determine Shabbat begins.

While researching Ramon's story, I learned more about him through the objects he brought with him to space including flags of the State of Israel, of the cities where he grew up, and of the institutions where he worked and studied. He took also a painting drawn by a

Holocaust survivor and a Torah book. All of these objects demonstrate how closely Ramon was connected to his roots and to Judaism.

While in space, Ramon kept a diary and eight pages from it survived the explosion and were restored. In the pages found, Ramon documented his experiences from the day of the launch until his sixth day in space. On one of those pages Ramon wrote the words of the Kiddush words for Shabbat.

The remains of the objects that were found are all displayed at the Ilan Ramon Museum and Memorial in Mitzpe Ramon, in the Negev. As well, there are schools in Israel named for him and the Ramon Airport in Eilat is named for Ilan Ramon and his son, Assaf Ramon, an Israeli air force pilot who was killed in a 2009 plane crash at age 21.

Ramon was a big inspiration for many people. Thanks to him it was possible for Israel – such a small country –

*In 1997, Ramon was chosen to be the first Israeli astronaut. A year later, he and his wife Rona and their four young children moved to the U.S. in order to train with NASA.*

to have a representative in space.

I feel that I cannot speak about Ilan Ramon without talking about his wife, Rona Ramon.

Rona is also inspiring. Following the Columbia explosion and the death of Ilan, Rona and their four children returned to Israel. When it was time for Assaf, the eldest son, to join the IDF, he knew he wanted to be a pilot just like his father. In the IDF, a strict guideline says that if you are from a family in which a member has been killed in service you cannot serve in a combat position unless a parent agrees. Rona knew that it the strength of Assaf's desire to serve as a fighter pilot and agreed. Assaf was a phenomenal pilot and finished first in his training course with honours.

Six years after Ilan was killed, Assaf died when his plane crashed during a training session. It was an enormous tragedy and I remember how sad everyone in Israel was.

Even with all the sorrow and the great loss, Rona succeeded in finding strength and energy and founded the Ramon Foundation in the memory of Ilan and Assaf. The foundation promotes education and leadership to Israeli youth, providing scholarships and opportunities for kids from lower socio-economic areas.

Another program of the foundation is Ramon Spacelab, which allows teams of students to submit an experiment to the International Space Station.

During Israel's annual Space Week, astronauts and Space Agency representatives from around the world visit Israel to participate in a Ramon conference all under the Ramon Foundation events.

In 2016, during the 68th Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebrations, Rona had the honour of lighting a torch at the annual torch-lighting ceremony on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. And in June 2018, she was awarded an honorary fellowship by the Technion in recognition of her many years of work and contribution to Israeli society.

Rona died in December 2018 from pancreatic cancer. The following year, she was posthumously awarded the Israeli Prize for her lifetime contribution to society and the State of Israel.

I recently read her book *Aim for the Sky* and understood even more what an amazing woman she was.



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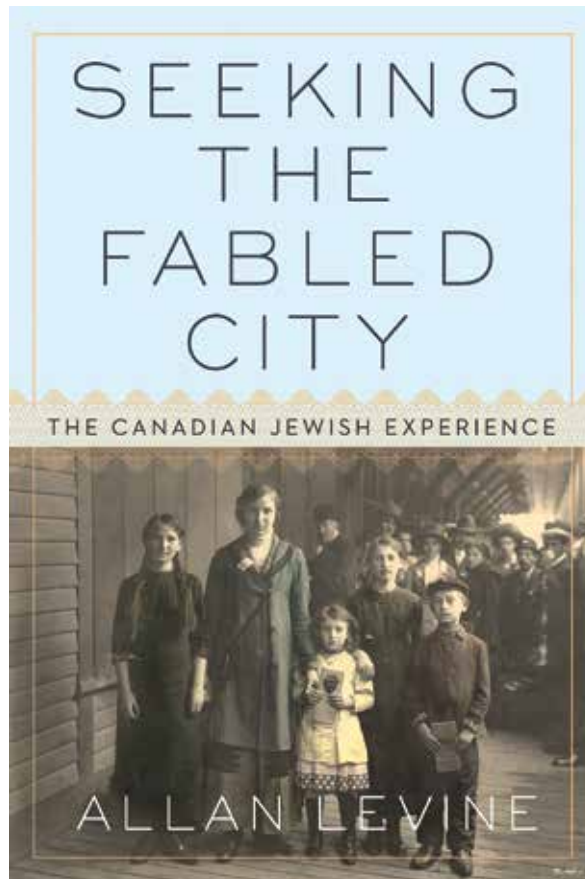
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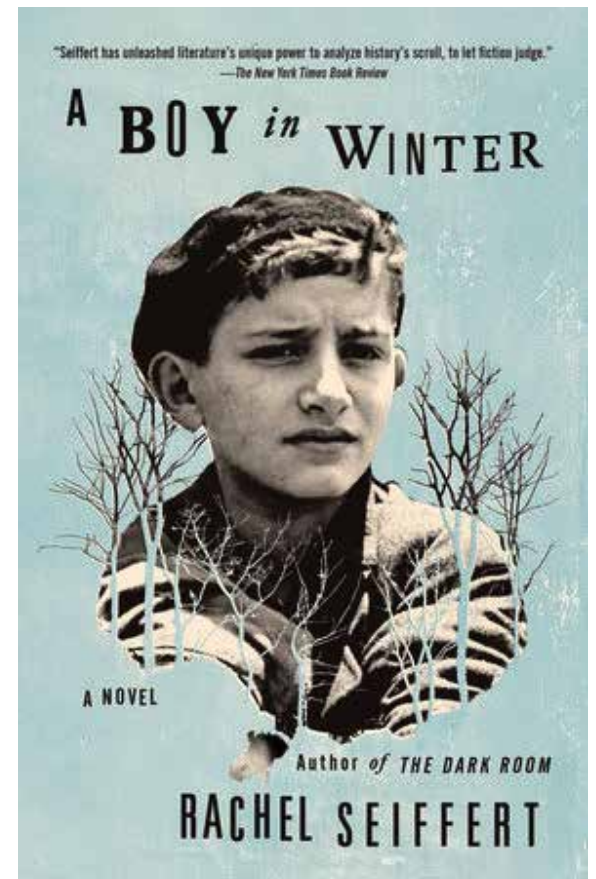
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## Temple Israel announces Books and Bagels spring program

BY ANNE ALPER  
 FOR TEMPLE ISRAEL

**B**ooks and Bagels will resume this spring with two more sessions at Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive.

The popular program features reviews and discussions of books of Jewish interest and is open to the entire community. Sessions take place on Sundays with a bagel breakfast at 9:30 am followed by a book review and discussion at 10. Pre-registration is not required and it is not necessary to have read the book to enjoy the discussion. There is no charge but a voluntary donation to cover the cost of breakfast is appreciated. Everyone is welcome.

April 19: Allan Maslove will review *Seeking the Fabled City: The Canadian Jewish Experience* by Allan Levine. Relying on an abundance of primary sources and first-hand documentation and interviews, *Seeking the Fabled City* chronicles the successes and failures, the obstacles overcome and those not conquered, of a historic journey and the people who travelled it.

May 3: Deborah Saginur will discuss *A Boy in Winter* by Rachel Seiffert. This novel, set in Ukraine in 1941 after the retreat of the Soviet army, provides a startling portrait of the Nazis' arrival as they move to implement the Holocaust.

For more information about Books and Bagels, contact Shayla Mindell at [shaylamindell@rogers.com](mailto:shaylamindell@rogers.com) or 613-594-4556.

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**A Ripple Effect in New York:** Teen volunteers from A Ripple Effect, a Chabad of Centrepointe program, travelled to New York City on the weekend of February 28-March 1 to experience a Shabbaton with 3,000 other Jewish teens from around the world. The Ottawa girls on the trip are seen enjoying an outdoor Jewish concert in Times Square on Saturday night, February 29.

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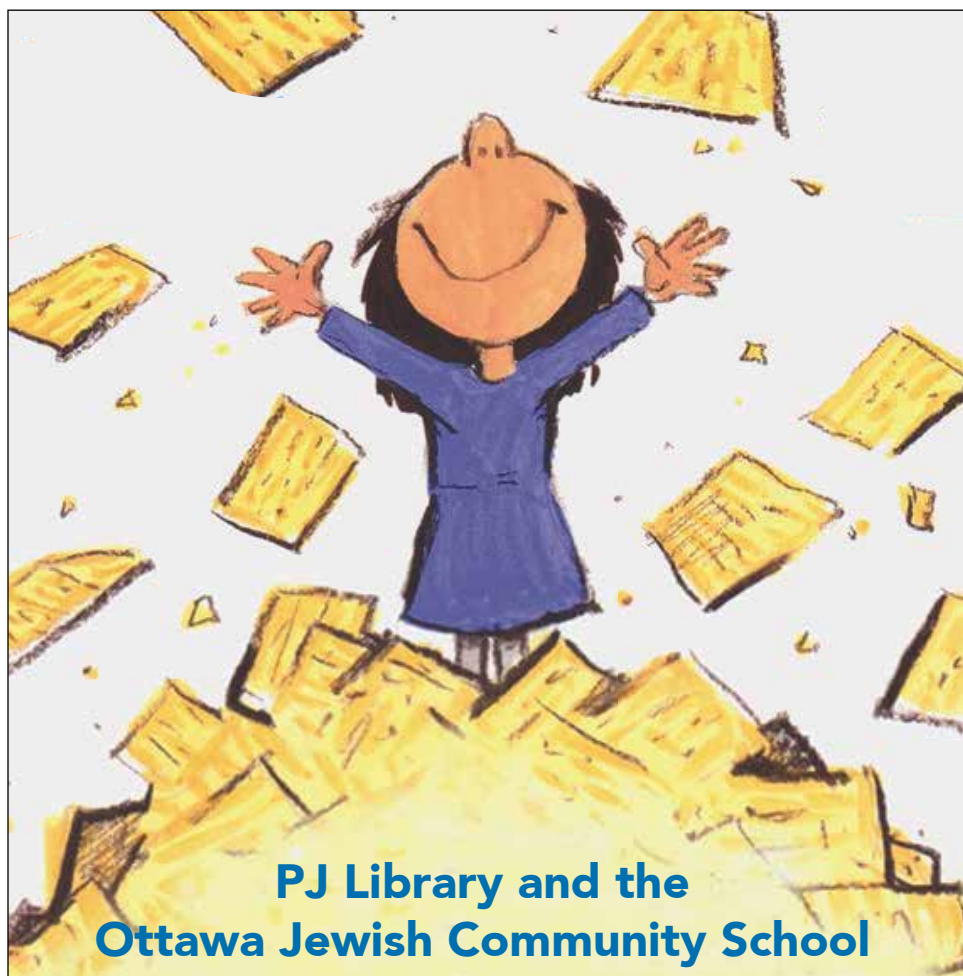
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# No one should face dementia alone

Many people experience symptoms of dementia long before they receive a dementia diagnosis. As such, they may be relieved to understand what is "going on" yet for others, the diagnosis creates fear and worry. What does it all mean, what does it mean for my spouse, partner, family, friends and future? All of these thoughts are natural and expected, yet they need not overwhelm. The Dementia Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County is here to walk with you and your family, to understand your goals and help you live them. We are your own community of support.

Dementia is an umbrella term used to describe a group of symptoms that occur when brain cells stop functioning properly. The symptoms of dementia vary from person to person, but usually involve changes significant enough to affect a person's ability to manage day-to-day activities. There are 24,000 people living with dementia in our region, 419,000 Canadians living with dementia, and nine people newly diagnosed every hour in Canada.

Our mission is to make sure that no one faces dementia alone.

The majority of people, who approach the Dementia Society for help, are walking the dementia journey as a caregiver, spouse, child or close friend. On other occasions, an individual who receives a dementia diagnosis will connect to us. With some funding from the Local Health Integration Network (Ontario Ministry of Health) and particularly with the support and generosity of many donors, we provide a number of programs and services for people impacted by dementia. Some programs are solely for caregivers, others are for caregivers and their loved ones.

If you are interested in learning more, becoming dementia friendly, or donating to help support those living with dementia, please contact us at 613-523-4004.

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# Will exercise reduce your risk of colds, flu or coronavirus?



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**A**re you concerned about catching a cold, flu or the novel coronavirus? According to the World Health Organization (WHO), coronaviruses “are a large family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases” such as serious respiratory syndromes. A novel coronavirus is a new strain not previously identified in humans (<https://tinyurl.com/u4upd62>). The current novel coronavirus has been named COVID-19.

As of early March, what is known about COVID-19 is that it’s more deadly (estimates are as high as 3.4 per cent death rate compared to less than one per cent for seasonal flu). There are over 90,000 known infected people worldwide and 3,000 deaths. As of March 10, Canada had 93 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with one death so far. Older adults and people with underlying chronic conditions are most at risk as are health care workers. Most of the confirmed cases haven’t become seriously ill. Some people are asymptomatic and may unknowingly transmit the virus. By contrast, seasonal flu impacts tens of thousands of Canadians each year, including children, and millions of people worldwide.

What are some common-sense measures you can take to reduce your risk of catching colds or flus? Get a flu shot to protect yourself and others. Some people can’t, due to medical conditions. Unfortunately, there’s no vaccine yet for COVID-19, but there’s a race to develop one. Reduce environmental exposure, for example, avoid shaking hands and refrain from touching surfaces with bare hands in public spaces such as door handles and shopping cart handles. Use a paper towel or your sleeve, your arm, shoulder or hip if you must open a door or press an elevator button. Avoid touching your face. Move away from people who are coughing or sneezing. You may not be able to completely avoid crowds and coming into contact with shared surfaces. Regular thorough handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds is one of your best defences. Use hand sanitizer when you’re on the go such as after touching shopping cart handles, gym equipment and handrails. If you have symptoms of a cold or flu, sneeze and cough into your elbow and

stay home to prevent spreading germs.

Other than avoidance and hygiene practices, what can you do? According to Harvard Medical School, a healthy lifestyle is your best strategy for a healthy body that includes a strong immune system. If you keep yourself fit and well-nourished, you avoid smoking and second-hand smoke, you don’t drink alcohol excessively, you maintain a healthy weight, get adequate sleep and manage stress, and you take steps to avoid infection, your immune system will work well to protect you from infectious diseases such as viruses and from some chronic diseases. Exercise directly promotes good circulation, which “allows the cells and substances of the immune system to move through the body freely and do their job efficiently.” While the report concludes that a scientifically proven direct link between exercise and our immune system hasn’t been established, it also states that moderate regular exercise appears to enhance your immune system’s responses to bacterial, viral and other antigens. The WHO states that “general healthy-living strategies are a good way to start giving your immune system the upper hand.” <https://tinyurl.com/y7ftgxf>

The Cleveland Clinic states that regular exercise and a healthy diet can boost your immune system by increasing the diversity of the gut microbiota or gut bacteria in your intestines. <https://tinyurl.com/wxk5gf6>

Starting in our 20s, our immune system declines on average by two to three per cent per year. However, regular exercise partially prevents it from declining. A study of 125 older adults ages 55-79 who participated in endurance cycling for most of their adult lives found they had immune systems comparable to people decades younger. They had better immune systems, as measured at the cellular level, compared to a control group of inactive adults. The good news is that you don’t have to be an endurance adult and cycle hundreds of kilometres to strengthen your immune system. Regular moderate exercise – an average of 20 minutes per day – improves your immune system. The authors of the study believe that regular exercise in old age also improves the efficacy of vaccines, meaning seniors who are active and vaccinated are even less likely to catch the flu and pneumonia than seniors who are vaccinated but inactive. The conclusion is that staying physically active as part of a healthy lifestyle may help your immune system protect you from viruses. <https://tinyurl.com/wuhbulh>

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# When COVID-19 came to my New York Jewish community

BY SHULI KARKOWSKY

Six months ago, after giving birth to a beautiful son (our third!), we gave up on the delusion of being a cool urban family and moved from the Upper West Side of Manhattan to New Rochelle, in New York's suburban Westchester County.

We joined a local shul, Young Israel of New Rochelle, and have never felt more welcomed in our lives. From the moment we joined, we weren't considered "new members" – we were firmly part of the community.

Having lived here approximately 30 weeks, we've been invited to Shabbat lunch by fellow synagogue members approximately 28 times. I already belong to a WhatsApp group of working moms; we offer to pick up groceries for each other when we go to the store, knowing we're all busy and trying to keep it together. I also belong to a shul-wide WhatsApp group offering rides to and from the neighbourhood to our local Metro-North station, with the understanding that it is totally cool to beg a ride off someone you've never met before. Here, that's what community means.

On March 8, we found out that a member of our warm, tight-knit community was diagnosed with the COVID-



A significant number of COVID-19 cases have been identified among members of Young Israel of New Rochelle, an Orthodox congregation north of New York City. (Courtesy of Young Israel of New Rochelle)

19 coronavirus. Hours after that, our entire congregation – including me, my husband and those aforementioned three children, including a little baby – was quarantined.

This first diagnosed member of our shul was in critical condition. (He was hospitalized at New York-Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan and was reported to have an underlying respiratory ailment.) I think I met this gentleman once, briefly, about four months ago, while walking to shul on Shabbat. Even that, I couldn't swear to – I honestly didn't remember what he looked like until the newspaper published a photograph of him. But the photo sparked a

memory of a warm smile and some welcoming words.

Two days later, after many rumours about how he was doing, I found out that that man's condition had stabilized. He was out of the coma and improving. I cried. Warm, wet tears streamed down my face at the thought of this man and his family being reunited – hopefully – one day soon. Yes, some of those tears were selfish tears – if he's OK, maybe we'll all be OK – but I honestly think the vast majority were community tears.

I barely know this man, but I truly care deeply about him and his family. We may have only met for a moment, but he is part of my community. He is

a part of my life. He's someone who would invite me for a Shabbat meal; he's someone who would give me a ride to or from the train. He's a part of my life in a real way now, and I want desperately for him and his family to be all right.

Since the quarantine was announced, those same WhatsApp groups have been fountains of comfort and filled with offers of help. I've received tons of emails from local people and businesses, all of whom are trying to help the affected families in any way possible – offering to deliver groceries to those who can't leave the house, taking pictures of the kosher food inventory at our local stores so we can make good selections, commiserating over WhatsApp with just the right GIFs.

It's a hard thing to have joined a shul that abruptly and unexpectedly put us at significant risk, sending my family into quarantine. But here's the thing: I didn't join a shul. I became a part of a community. From the day we joined, that shul was not about what happened inside the building. Rather it's about what gathering in that building has done to us: It's allowed God to dwell among us, binding a group of people into an "us." And for that reason, I don't have a single regret.

*This story originally appeared on Kveller.*



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# A salute to Israel's largest women's movement

BY ROSALIE SCHWARTZ  
NA'AMAT OTTAWA AVIVA CHAPTER

*This article on the history of Na'amat, internationally and in Ottawa, was written in celebration of International Women's Day on March 8 and the 70th anniversary of Na'amat's Ottawa Jewish Telephone Directory in 2020.*

**P**ioneer Women – known as *Moetzet Hapoelot* (Working Women's Council) – was founded in 1921 in British Mandate Palestine. A North American branch, Pioneer Women USA, was founded in 1925 and was dedicated to aiding the women trying to survive in pre-state Israel. These women were attracted to the Zionist cause as they were at the forefront of “creating legislation that involved women and children.”

Canadian chapters of Pioneer Women were affiliated with Pioneer Women USA until 1965 when Canada established its own separate organization. In 1975, Pioneer Women in Israel changed its name to Na'amat (*Nashim Avdot Umitnavdot*), a Hebrew acronym for working women and volunteers.

Na'amat Ottawa's first group was founded in 1938. The group was named after Golda Meir, a founding member of Na'amat and future prime minister of Israel. Meetings were held once a week and were conducted in Yiddish. Their stated purpose was to aid morally and financially the institutions connected to the labour movement in Israel. Degania, the first English-speaking chapter in Ottawa, was formed in 1943 under the guidance of Sylvia Shinder and Ida Krakover.

The second English-speaking chapter, Kinnereth, was founded in 1946 from an identified need to attract newer and younger members for Na'amat to survive. The group's emphasis was on cultural programming, and though this group was often criticized for their social vs. political aspirations, they continued to strongly identify with Israel and many of their programs were motivated by political awareness.

In each city, Na'amat chapters were assigned a predetermined amount of

money to raise and it was recognized that to reach its quota, Na'amat Ottawa would have to reach out to Ottawa's larger Jewish community. As a result of this, the Ottawa Jewish Telephone Directory was created and we are proud to say the directory will celebrate its 70th anniversary in 2020. Sonia Viner was its first chair and Goldie Shabinsky was captain of teams to solicit ads. The directories were hand delivered to Jewish homes at a cost of \$1 and were gladly accepted into many homes. The Ottawa Jewish Telephone Directory became an important connective tool for Ottawa's Jewish community.

Sonia Viner founded the Chana Senesh chapter, which though no longer active, still has members who support Na'amat financially. In the 1970s and subsequent years, several local Na'amat chapters formed: Aviva, Nitza, Otzma, Tikvah and Ma'ayan. Today, members of Aviva and Otzma remain actively involved in Na'amat Ottawa.

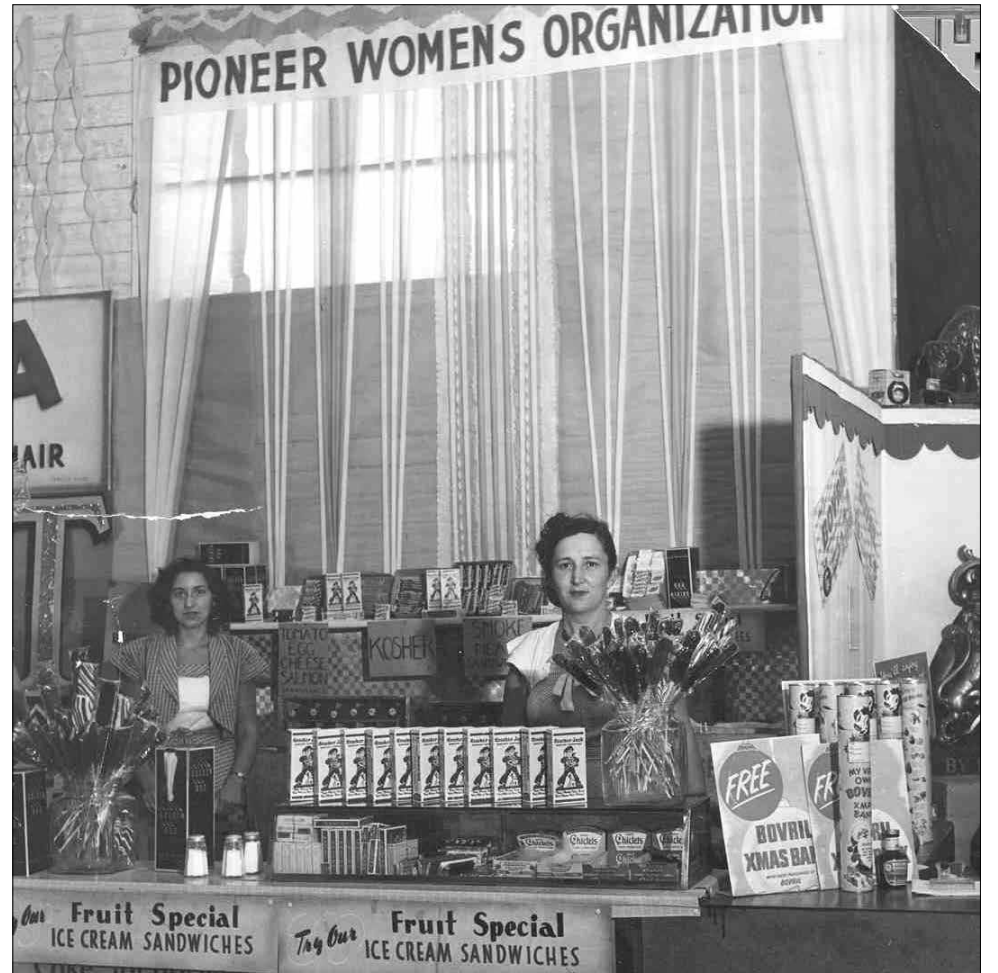
Here we are, 82 years since the founding of Na'amat Ottawa and nearly 100 years since the founding of the worldwide organization. Na'amat has become Israel's largest women's movement. We continue to work to improve human rights in Israel, Canada, the U.S.A. and eight other countries. It is through the strength of women that Na'amat, to this day, continues to support daycare centres; technological high schools; youth villages for troubled teens; legal aid for women; centres for the prevention and treatment of domestic violence and shelter for battered women; scholarships to college and for post-graduate degrees; women's rights in the Knesset and in courts.

We should be proud to be members of this wonderful organization and salute the women who made Na'amat a part of our lives.

Information for this article was drawn from “Immigration and Ethnic History,” a 1995 paper written by then Carleton University student Corrina Walter. The paper can be found in the Ottawa Jewish Archives. Information was also obtained from the websites of Na'amat Canada and Na'amat USA.



(From left) Rae Nadolny, Sylvia Shinder, Dora Green, Claire Levinson and Dina Shalom celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the first Pioneer Women chapter in Ottawa. The photo was taken in 1963 at the Histradut Centre, 292 Laurier Avenue East.



Lil Dubrofsky (left) and Sylvia Shinder at the Pioneer Women's booth at the Israel Trade Fair in Ottawa, September 20, 1948.

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Jewish Life Happens Here

# Standing up for each other: Having our WITS about us

Every week we receive a school update from our kids' principal. The other week, the update focused on a program that is being incorporated throughout the kindergarten to Grade 6 learning cycle. Called WITS, it brings together schools, families and communities to create safe and responsive environments where students are empowered to make positive choices when dealing with peer conflict and bullying. As noted at [www.witsprogram.ca](http://www.witsprogram.ca), WITS is an acronym that stands for Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out, and Seek help:

**“Walk away!** Just leave the situation you are in. Take a friend with you if you can. Get help if you need it.

**“Ignore!** Ignore is an action not a passive response. Don't respond to meanness or teasing. Sometimes it works. If not, seek help.

**“Talk it out!** This one is tricky – talk it out can mean a lot of things: Speak Up, Use your words, etc. It also means that there is a solution to the problems you are having, but you may have to be brave and go ahead and talk about it. Sometimes it is hard, but using words really is the best way to resolve conflicts.

**“Seek help!** All children deserve to feel safe and that the adults in their lives will help if needed. Keep asking for help from someone new – if the first person you ask doesn't help you to fix the problem.”

We are now in between two holidays that contain complementary themes: Purim and Passover. Timed a month apart, from one full moon to the next, both holidays contain models of standing up to forces of bullying and discrimination, and valuing all that each



JENNY T. BURNS  
**MODERN MISHPOCHA**

*We are now in between two holidays that contain complementary themes: Timed a month apart, from one full moon to the next, both holidays contain models of standing up to forces of bullying and discrimination, and valuing all that each of us has to offer.*

of us has to offer.

There is an amazing passage in the Book of Esther about speaking out and speaking up that is super relevant today. Mordechai says the following to Esther:

“Do not imagine that you will be able to escape in the King's palace any more than the rest of the Jews. For if you persist in keeping silent at a time like this, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from some other place, while you and your father's house will perish. *And who knows whether it was just for such a*

*time as this that you attained the royal position!”* (Book of Esther 4:13-14)

The climax of the Purim story is when Esther, keeping her WITS about her, reveals herself as a Jew to Achashverosh, her husband and king, and stands up to Haman. In doing so, she saves her people.

In turn, the holiday of Passover is also called *Chag Ha-Cherut* (the festival of freedom). The essence of the Passover story is God's freeing of the Israelite slaves in Egypt from Pharaoh, with Moses' cry of “Let my people go!” Universally, Passover and the story of the Exodus from slavery symbolize the hope that all people should be free to live in dignity, free from bondage, from bullying, from discrimination. Through our collective Jewish experience as slaves in Mitzrayim we are reminded to care for each other. We are reminded at least 36 times in Torah to “love the stranger” because we collectively remember what it was like to be a stranger in Mitzrayim.

As a parent, I love how both Purim and Passover are holidays that encourage active celebration by our children, and that contain great messaging to take with them wherever they go: to be themselves, to stand up for each other, to care for each other and for others. In this way the holidays reinforce the WITS teachings that our children are receiving in school and to resolve conflicts in respectful ways, to speak out against bullying and discrimination, to seek help when needed, and to stand up for each other.

Wishing you and all of us a meaningful journey from Purim to Pesach!

# Achieving Jewish and democratic values

The most recent election in Israel, the third in less than 12 months, offered a clear window into Israeli voting patterns. The voters' preferences are ossified. The results of each election have changed very little. A small shift in votes provides an additional seat or the withdrawal of a seat. What is clear to all is that the status quo between the Palestinian Authority and Israel's government is acceptable to most Israelis. These elections have not been a contest between the parties of peace and the parties of aggression. Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud might be more aggressive about actualizing U.S. President Donald Trump's permission to annex 30 per cent of the West Bank, but Benny Gantz's Blue and White is not a party of the left. It publicly avoids speaking of a two-state solution and suggests the annexation of the West Bank is to be determined by negotiations sponsored by international organizations.

The results of this election will bring joy to many Diaspora supporters of Israel. Those who support the status quo as a reasonable and prudent response to Hamas and Hezbollah will be ecstatic with the right-wing “victory.” Those who support a theocracy will be overjoyed that the political promise of a weakened Orthodox religious establishment did not materialize. Those who support the biblical view of a greater Israel will be gratified.

Of course there are those who might be disheartened by the results. Especially those supporters of Israel hoping for a return to a more redemptive notion of an Israel dedicated to values of the Hebrew prophets and democratic ideals of inclusivity and equality. All too often, individuals in this camp find themselves adrift. They cannot support the policies of the Israeli government and consequently they do not have a



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

focus for their desired support of the State of Israel. At times such as these, it is useful to remember that the results of elections do not stop Israelis from actualizing their desire for a peaceful coexistence between competing peoples and competing national narratives. Israelis have a pantheon of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to which they can direct their commitment, energies and funds.

Some of these NGOs look for support from Diaspora Jews. So rather than kvetching about Israeli politics or the results of the election, those living outside Israel might be better served if they became better acquainted with the myriad of initiatives dedicated to making Israel a land of Jewish and democratic values.

This list is not exhaustive but provides insight into the hard work done to promote peace and understanding. If one of the NGOs on the list catches your interest, perhaps a more exhaustive internet search will show a path to participation and/or support.

According to the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace & Security, the Arik Foundation, established by Yitzhak Frankenthal in 1994 in memory of his son, Arik, who was murdered by Hamas terrorists, “seeks to resolve the reactions of repression and denial among both Israeli and Palestinian populations, aiming to foster reconciliation, tolerance and peace.”

HaMoked, Gisha, and Yesh Din are three human rights organizations in Israel dedicated to promoting, assuring and achieving structural improvement to the human rights situation in the West Bank and Gaza. Though each has a particular area of focus, together with B'Tselem and Rabbis for Human Rights, they actively work to prevent human rights violations in Israel and the territories.

According to the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace & Security, Seeds of Peace “is an organization dedicated to empowering young leaders from regions of conflict with the leadership skills required to advance reconciliation and coexistence.” Its programming is well known to our community as for years a summer camp for Israeli and Palestinian teenagers was held here in Ottawa. A variant of this type of programming is Kids4Peace, or Open House.

Parents Circle-Families Forum and Combatants for Peace are just two of many grassroots initiatives dedicated to bringing the families of violence together to find hope and reconciliation out of their grief.

There is one organization that calls out to all hoping and yearning for an Israel dedicated to a Jewish State without compromising on its commitment to humanistic and democratic values. The Israel Religious Action Centre fights against religious extremism and gender separation, it fights against racism and advances a shared society between Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs and it promotes an adherence to law by all the arms of the civil society. IRAC is the legal advocacy arm of the Reform Movement in Israel.

All of these organizations give hope to those dispirited by the election results that the Israel of Zionist dreams is not written in the past tense.



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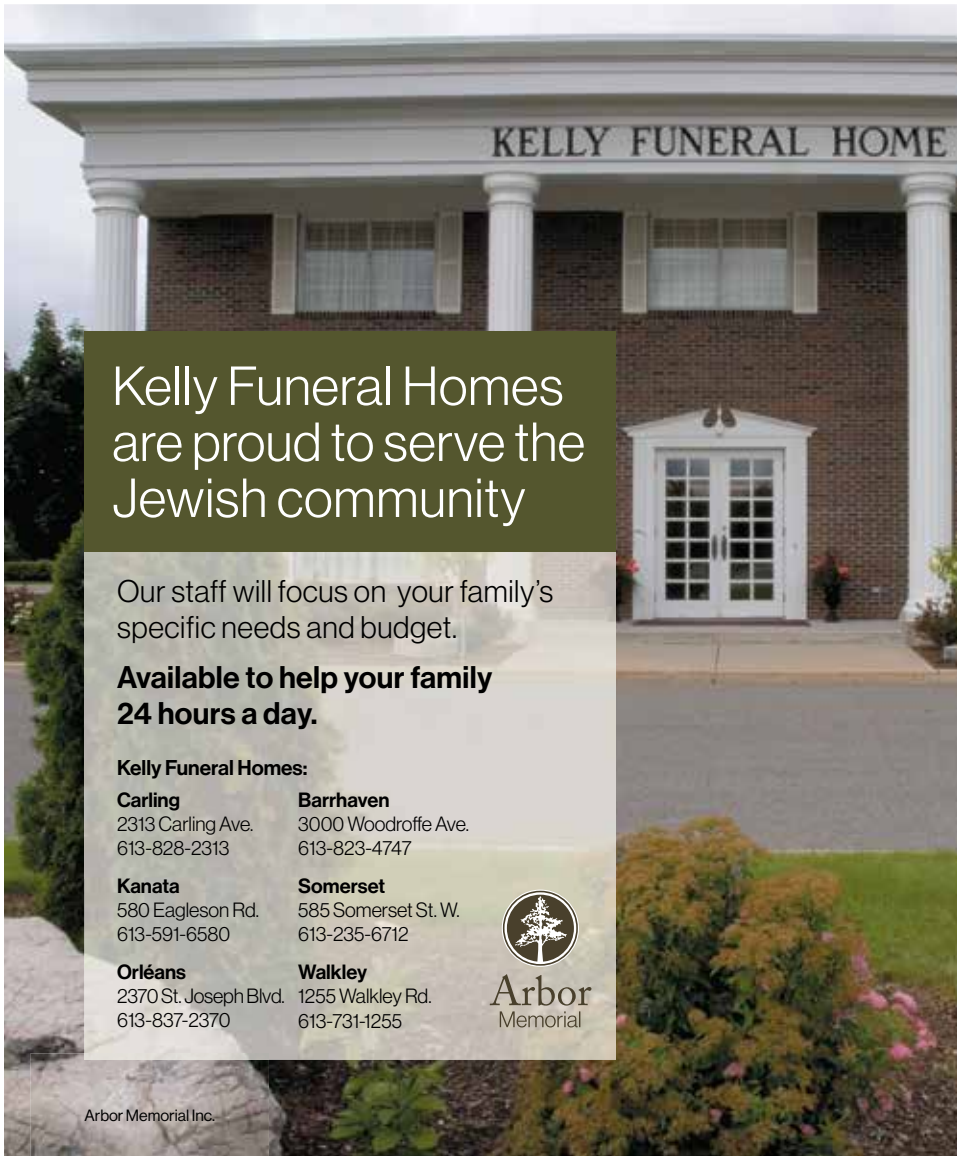
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<b>Kanata</b> 580 Eagleson Rd. 613-591-6580	<b>Somerset</b> 585 Somerset St. W. 613-235-6712
<b>Orléans</b> 2370 St. Joseph Blvd. 613-837-2370	<b>Walkley</b> 1255 Walkley Rd. 613-731-1255

Arbor Memorial Inc.



Logan Lerman (left) and Al Pacino as Jewish Nazi hunters in Amazon's "Hunters."

# Drop 'Hunters,' the head of Steven Spielberg's Holocaust foundation tells Amazon

BY CNAAN LIPSHIZ

(JTA) – The director of the Holocaust foundation founded by Steven Spielberg has called on Amazon Prime not to produce a second season of "Hunters," its fictional show about a crew of Nazi hunters in 1970s America.

"Survivors of the Shoah sought justice, not revenge," Stephen Smith, who heads the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, the archive of survivor testimonies initiated by Spielberg in 1994, wrote in an op-ed published March 12 by the Jewish Journal. By blurring the difference, he wrote, the show "collapses all meaningful differences between victim and perpetrator."

Smith, a renowned British scholar on the Holocaust, cited one scene in the pilot in which the vigilante avengers of a

protagonist portrayed by Al Pacino gas a former Nazi chemist in her shower.

"Jews never gassed Nazis. Period. That I must even make this point is proof enough how perilous this slippery slope can become," Smith wrote. "Amazon must not renew it for a second season."

"By blurring the line between fact and fiction, Hunters muddies the historical record, disrespects those who perished, and provides ammunition to those who seek to deny the truth of the Holocaust," he also wrote.

If the filmmakers "had taken the time and trouble to listen to some real experiences," he added, "the flashbacks to the Holocaust in the series could have been real things that happened to real people, rather than the fantasies of scriptwriters."



**Everything you need for your Passover celebration! Chag Sameach**

Prices effective March 19 - April 1 at the following Loblaws location: 1980 Baseline Rd., Ottawa.

<p><b>Yehuda Matzos Cake Meal</b> selected varieties 454 g</p>  <p><b>\$3<sup>79</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Streit's Matzo Ball mix</b> selected varieties 127-128 g</p>  <p><b>\$2<sup>49</sup></b></p>
<p><b>Kedem grape juice</b> 1.89 L</p>  <p><b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Elite flake bars</b> each</p>  <p><b>99¢</b></p>
<p><b>Gefen classic Marinara pasta sauce</b> selected varieties 737 g</p>  <p><b>\$3<sup>29</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Pierre Bonne fruit spread</b> selected varieties 250 mL</p>  <p><b>\$2<sup>49</sup></b></p>



**Ottawans in Israel:** A group of Ottawans – including visitors and those who have made aliyah – sat together at a talk about Golda Meir at the Menachem Begin Heritage Center in Jerusalem on March 8.  
(From left, first row) Rebecca Stulberg, Ned Steinman, Golda Feig Steinman, Geri Goldstein Miller, (second row) Debbie Baylin, Bob Dale, Elaine Friedberg, Maureen Molot and Henry Molot.

# WHAT'S GOING ON | March 23 to April 5, 2019

FOR MORE CALENDAR LISTINGS, OR TO SUBMIT EVENT LISTINGS, VISIT [WWW.JEWISHOTTAWA.COM/COMMUNITY-CALENDAR](http://WWW.JEWISHOTTAWA.COM/COMMUNITY-CALENDAR)

**PLEASE VERIFY WITH ORGANIZERS THAT SCHEDULED EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE.**

## ONGOING EVENTS

### TOTally Shabbat

5:30 - 6:30 pm, monthly on the 4th Friday until June 26, 2020, Temple Israel 1301 Prince of Wales Dr.  
Contact: Sue Potechin, 613-864-8156 [tirs@templeisraelottawa.ca](mailto:tirs@templeisraelottawa.ca)  
Multigenerational program for families with children under 6. Music, movement and stories with Rabbi Mikelberg and Morah Sue, followed by pasta or pizza dinner. Families are welcome to stay for Kabbalat Shabbat service at 6:30 pm.

### Motzei Shabbat Video Torah Lecture

7 - 8:30 pm, weekly on Saturdays until April 25, 2020, 1724 Kilborn Ave.  
Contact: Elie Benzaquen, 343-882-3702 [eliebenz@gmail.com](mailto:eliebenz@gmail.com)  
Join us every Motzei Shabbat for a video Torah Lecture presented by top English speakers in the Jewish world, followed by open Q & A. For men and women. Text to confirm, as we will occasionally be out of town. Sponsor: Elie & Ilana Benzaquen.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

### Rare Book Collection from the Montreal Jewish Public Library

1 - 3 pm, Contact: Roslyn Wollock 613-798-9818, ext. 254 [rwollock@jccottawa.com](mailto:rwollock@jccottawa.com)  
Books date from 1481 and will be on view, providing a snapshot of Jewish literary tradition. After the Holocaust, the Jewish Restitution Organization was responsible for reuniting stolen and hidden books with their owners. Books that could not be repatriated with their owners were distributed to libraries around the world.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 27

### Shabbat Downtown

6:30 - 11 pm, 185 Lyon St. N. (Second floor party room)  
Contact: Adam Moscoe, 613-408-6131 [adam.moscoe@gmail.com](mailto:adam.moscoe@gmail.com)  
Attendance is free thanks to generous sponsorship. A donation of \$5 (via Eventbrite) to the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank is required to secure your spot. Kabbalat Shabbat services at 6:30 pm, followed by candle lighting. Traditional Shabbat dinner starting at 7 pm. Wine, beer, and non-alcoholic drinks included. Sign up via Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.ca/e/shabbat-downtown-tickets-96350026523](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/shabbat-downtown-tickets-96350026523)

## SATURDAY, MARCH 28

### Emerging Generation Casino Night

8:45 pm - 12:30 am, La Nouvelle Scene 333 King Edward Ave.  
Contact: Tanya Poirier [tpoirier@jewishottawa.com](mailto:tpoirier@jewishottawa.com) 613-798-4696, ext. 241  
Cost: \$36. Enjoy the Roaring '20s with a glamorous evening of casino games, food, drinks and fun. Dress in your best "Roaring '20s glam!" Tickets <https://events.idonate.com/egcasino>

## SUNDAY, MARCH 29

### SJCC Biathlon Fundraiser

8 am - 11:59 pm  
Contact: Carla Gencher, 613-798-9818 ext. 278 [cgencher@jccottawa.com](mailto:cgencher@jccottawa.com) [www.jccottawa.com](http://www.jccottawa.com)  
A fun day of fitness that raises funds for the Soloway JCC.

### Identity Politics in Ancient Israel

10:30 - 12 pm  
Contact: Roslyn Wollock, 613-798-9818, ext. 254 [rwollock@jccottawa.com](mailto:rwollock@jccottawa.com)

Professor Shawna Dolansky will take you on a tour through the book of Genesis, revealing what its less well-known stories might tell us about their authors' concerns with identity politics in their larger Syro-Canaanite environment.

### Annelies – choral concert

3 - 5 pm, Church of St. Francis of Assisi 20 Fairmont Ave.  
Contact: [admin@ottawachoralsociety.com](mailto:admin@ottawachoralsociety.com), 613-725-2560  
Cost: \$25. Annelies is a choral work based on the diary of Anne Frank. Tickets available online: \$25, \$35, \$50. Sponsor: Ottawa Choral Society

### Family Chocolate Seder

3:30 - 5:30 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel 1400 Coldrey Ave.  
Contact: Rabbi Zuker, 613-728-3501 [rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com](mailto:rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com)  
Join us for a fun family learning experience as we prepare for Passover

## TUESDAY, MARCH 31

### J-Fellows Session 3 – “Well being in the Workplace”

7 - 9 pm  
Contact: Anne Read, 613-798-4696 ext. 355 [aread@jewishottawa.com](mailto:aread@jewishottawa.com)  
Cost: Free. Join Sabina Wasserlauf and Leah Labib to explore mindfulness, gratitude, and hatha yoga from a Jewish perspective. Develop stress management strategies for increased focus, and personal well being. Online registration required: <https://jewishottawa.com/our-community/j-fellows>

## SUNDAY, APRIL 5

### PJ Library and OJCS present a Passover Event

1 - 3 pm, Ottawa Jewish Community School, 31 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.  
Contact: Jenn Greenberg 613-722-0020 ext. 345

[j.greenberg@theoics.ca](mailto:j.greenberg@theoics.ca)

Passover Event hosted by PJ Library and OJCS! This event will be filled with fun, snacks as well as some Passover arts and crafts. Everyone is welcome!

### Klez 13 at the SJCC – A Touch of Klez band

3 - 5 pm  
Contact: Paul Adler, 613-521-0170 [psadler@psadler.com](mailto:psadler@psadler.com)  
Cost: \$15. A Touch of Klez will be performing, along with the Ottawa International Folk Dancers. Sponsors: Adath Shalom Congregation, Temple Israel, Kehillat Beth Israel, Or Haneshama Congregation.

### General Swim in the City

4:30 - 6:30 pm  
RSVP: [jill@cbbottawa.com](mailto:jill@cbbottawa.com) 613-244-9210  
Come for a swim, snack and friends! (Maybe even some prizes for some special swimmers). Please RSVP

### Giora Zinger Comedy Show (in Hebrew)

7:30 - 9 pm  
Contact: Ella Dagan, 613-798-9818, ext. 243 [edagan@jccottawa.com](mailto:edagan@jccottawa.com)  
Cost: \$49. Giora Zinger on Canadian tour. Sponsor: SJCC, Vered Israel, CICF.

## CANDLE LIGHTING BEFORE

MARCH 27	7:07 PM
APRIL 3	7:16 PM
APRIL 8	7:23 PM
APRIL 9	AFTER 8:28 PM
APRIL 10	7:25

## BULLETIN DEADLINES

FOR ISSUE	DEADLINE
APRIL 27	APRIL 1
MAY 11	APRIL 22

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:**

**Jonathan Braun**

**Patrick Grattan-Bellew**

**Cyril John Gedaljah Hockman**

**Murray Macy**

**Ana Warren**

**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.

INTRODUCING THE E-PACE

**WE ARE NOW OPEN!**



The Mark Motors Group is excited to announce the opening of their new Jaguar dealership in West Ottawa! The Showroom, Sales and Service Departments are open for business. Follow the new Jaguar Hunt Club on social media or visit our website for contact information, news and special offers.

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613-727-5577 [jaguarhuntclub.ca](http://jaguarhuntclub.ca)

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Monday-Friday	7:00AM-6:00PM
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<b>Sales</b>	
Monday-Thursday	9:00AM-8:00PM
Friday	9:00AM-6:00PM
Saturday	9:00AM-4:30PM

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