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‘Thank you for all you’ve done’

The ceremony to rename Featherston Park in honour of **Rabbi Reuven Bulka** was attended by community members and by leaders from across the political and religious spectrum. **Matthew Horwood** reports.

If I were to name all of Rabbi Bulka’s contributions, we would be here for a long time,” said Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson.

Watson was speaking at the official dedication of Rabbi Bulka Kindness Park on October 27. While officials had hoped to hold the ceremony outside in the park, heavy rains that day pushed the ceremony indoors at Congregation Machzikei Hadas, which is adjacent to the park in the Alta Vista neighbourhood. Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka served as spiritual leader of Machzikei Hadas from 1967 until 2015 and is now the congregation’s rabbi emeritus.

The decision to rename Featherston Park on Virginia Drive as Rabbi Bulka Kindness Park was made by Ottawa City Council on September 11.

“The varied turnout you’ve had today, from people across the political and religious spectrum, and the community itself, is a testimony to the high regard all of us have for you,” Watson said to Rabbi Bulka during his remarks.

Watson listed just a few of Rabbi Bulka’s many achievements, including founding the Ottawa-based charity Kind Canada in 2008, donating blood with Canadian Blood Services 369 times and receiving the Key to the City of Ottawa in 2010. Rabbi Bulka has also taken



Rabbi Idan Scher (left), spiritual leader of Congregation Machzikei Hadas, congratulates Rabbi Reuven Bulka, the congregation’s rabbi emeritus, at the dedication of Rabbi Bulka Kindness Park.

leadership roles supporting healthcare through Ottawa’s Regional Cancer Foundation, the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario and the Trillium Gift of Life Network, and with many community groups including United Way, the Canadian Christian-Jewish Consultation and Canadian Jewish Congress. He is currently co-chair of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Annual Campaign.

Rabbi Bulka’s passion and concern for humanity have led him to become “not just a leader for the Jewish community, but a leader for all citizens in a way that is truly remarkable and unprece-



(From left) Ron Prehogan, co-chair of the Celebration of Rabbi Bulka’s 50 years of Leadership; City Councillor Jean Cloutier (Alta Vista); Mayor Jim Watson; Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka; and Bram Bregman, co-chair of the Celebration of Rabbi Bulka’s 50 years of Leadership, at the ceremony dedicating Rabbi Bulka Kindness Park, October 27, at Congregation Machzikei Hadas.

ented,” Watson said. “Thank you for all you’ve done for the community. You continue to amaze all of us.”

City Councillor Jean Cloutier of the Alta Vista Ward brought forward the motion to rename the park in honour of Rabbi Bulka. Cloutier said it was “very fitting” as the rabbi is “widely renowned for his activism, charity work and his deep commitment to humanitarian causes.”

During the park’s commemorative naming process, Cloutier said he received numerous letters from community members in support of renaming

the park for Rabbi Bulka.

“As councillor for Alta Vista, it has truly been my honour to have played a modest role in this process, and it is my privilege to acknowledge the wonderful man Rabbi Bulka is,” Cloutier said.

Bram Bregman and Ron Prehogan, co-chairs of the Machzikei Hadas Centennial and the Celebration of Rabbi Bulka’s 50 years of Leadership, praised the rabbi for his decades of service to the community.

Prehogan said while the phrase “random acts of kindness” is popular, in

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'From Dachau to Cyprus': Story of survivors' internment in Cypress after the Holocaust to be told

BY LOUISE RACHLIS

The topic of Jewish refugees held in camps in Cyprus between 1946 and 1949 is relevant to the refugee situation in the world today.

"The history of the Cyprus camps reminds us that in the face of persecution and suffering, people will endure huge sacrifices in search of safety," said Eliana Hadjisavvas, a historian of modern Europe with particular interests in migration and displacement, in an interview with the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin.

Hadjisavvas will be speaking at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre on Wednesday, November 27, 7 pm, at "From Dachau to Cyprus: Jewish Refugees and the Cyprus Internment Camps 1946-1949," a Holocaust Education Month event presented by the Shoah (Holocaust) Committee of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa in partnership with the Cyprus Embassy.

"Now, as then, state-imposed draconian immigration measures have done little to deter those who are desperate and displaced," she said. "The detention of people risking their lives for a better future will do little to prevent global population movements. The internment of Jewish refugees in Cyprus offers a historical lens from which we can analyze contemporary migration crises."

Although the history of the camps has remained relatively unknown, their significance "must not be underestimated," she said. "The Cyprus narrative broadens and enriches our understanding of both the Holocaust and its aftermath, demonstrating the way Jewish life continued following the horrors of the Second World War."



"The internment of Jewish refugees in Cyprus [following the Holocaust] offers a historical lens from which we can analyze contemporary migration crises," says historian Eliana Hadjisavvas.

As the camps had traditionally been considered a mere "stopover" for refugees bound for Palestine, she said her audiences "are often surprised to learn how extensive the Cyprus program was." More than 53,000 Jewish refugees were interned in Cyprus between 1946 and 1949, and approximately 1,500 babies were born.

"Although I was born and raised in the U.K., I am of Greek-Cypriot descent and so was intrigued by this narrative," said. "As I began to research the subject, it became clear that very little had been written about this topic, with the history of the camps often relegated to footnotes in wider studies on the post-Holocaust period."

According to Hadjisavvas, a number of young American and Canadian Jewish men also played an active role in the Cyprus story.

"These *machalniks* (volunteers), many of whom had fought for the Allies during the war, were dedicated to helping Europe's surviving Jews by assisting clandestine immigration passages to Palestine.

"Tasked with manning the immigrant ships, those captured by the British would disguise themselves amongst the refugees to avoid detection and were consequently interned in Cyprus themselves."

Hadjisavvas recently completed a PhD in history at the University of Birmingham. Her doctoral research examined the history of British-run internment camps for Jewish refugees in colonial Cyprus, significantly reconfiguring historical understandings of this period, moving the Cyprus camps from the periphery to the centre of the question of post-war European migration and British imperial politics through a transnational lens.

Eliana's postdoctoral project at the Institute of Historical Research of the University of London, "Migrant Movements in the Mediterranean: Jewish Displacement in the British Empire, 1940-1950," will centre on interdisciplinary approaches to the study of migration.

"The High Commissioner of the Cyprus Embassy sent us a variety of photographs of the detainment camps, which Eliana will be using to create a photo-narrative exhibit," said Anne Read of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. "This is in addition to her talk, which will address her own research, as well as how her research has been received, on the same subject."

Rose Lipszyc, a Holocaust survivor who was caught by the British in 1947 in pre-state Israel and sent to an internment camp in Cyprus, will also speak about her experiences there.

For more information, contact Anne Read at aread@jewishottawa.com or 613-798-4696, ext. 355.

Park: 'A repository for kindness,' Rabbi Bulka hopes

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Rabbi Bulka's case there is "absolutely nothing random about his kindness." When Bregman asked by a show of hands who had been helped by Rabbi Bulka, many in attendance at the ceremony raised a hand.

Bregman and Prehogan announced that in celebration of Congregation Machzikei Hadas' 100-year anniversary, they intend to work with Cloutier to build a structure at Rabbi Bulka Kindness Park that "all residents of Alta Vista can benefit from," such as a community garden, theatrical stage, walking path or park benches.

Other speakers at the ceremony offering support and congratulations included MP David McGuinty (Ottawa South), MPP John Fraser (Ottawa South), and Rabbi Idan Scher, who succeeded Rabbi Bulka as spiritual leader of Machzikei Hadas, and his wife, Shifra Scher.

After receiving a lengthy standing ovation, Rabbi Bulka shared a "very simple idea" from the second chapter of *Pirkei Avot*, "it is not incumbent upon you to finish the job, neither are you free to desist from it."

Rabbi Bulka explained the quote's meaning as, "there is nobody amongst us who can do everything, but there is nobody amongst us who should do nothing." He said this passage applies to acts of kindness, of which there are "infinite possibilities."

Rabbi Bulka said he hoped the park could be a "repository for kindness" where everyone could get along and be included. He added a wish that all would be sure to "park a little bit of kindness" wherever they went. Then the kindness park will be something more than "just a piece of geography, it will be part of real life."



Rabbi Reuven Bulka is congratulated by his son, Shmuel Bulka (right) and grandson Avi Bulka (centre) who came from New York for the ceremony dedicating Rabbi Bulka Kindness Park.

'Be bold' says Erica Ehm at new event for women

Sisters on Board is a new event designed to encourage leadership by women on community boards. **Louise Rachlis** reports.

One day, when Erica Ehm was eight years old, she told her mother she was hungry.

Her mother, Evelyn Hannon, replied, "Order a pizza."

"But Mom," said Erica, "I'm eight!"

Erica reluctantly ordered the pizza.

"My mom said, 'See, look what you learned from this... you have to learn to ask for what you want.' I can trace every one of my successes to that story. All of us have to take the opportunity to ask for what we want, even if it's hard."

Ehm, the entrepreneur and former MuchMusic VJ, was speaking, October 24 at Sisters on Board, a new Jewish women's event, held among the large colourful paintings of Orange Art Gallery.

Hosted by the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation, the sold-out event was created to encourage women to take leadership roles by participating on community boards. The event was designed to be inclusive to women of all professional and philanthropic experience, and there were many enthusiastic younger women in attendance.

"The idea for Sisters on Board began when I noticed that I was sitting at a boardroom table with some of the smartest minds in the city and a disproportionate number of them were men," said Adina Libin, the event's chair in explaining its conception. "I started thinking about how many brilliant women I know who were missing out on access to these minds; as well as how this table was missing out on access to these brilliant women."

The title of Ehm's talk was "Courageous Leadership: Put Your Bold Face On."

She illustrated her remarks with projected images of some of her many role models, from Hazel McCallion, the former mayor of Mississauga, to singer Jann Arden, and Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland.

"If you don't believe boldly, you can't lead boldly," she said. "Everyone in this room has something that's important to them, something that turns them on."

"Why are women so dismissed? Why can't we be more than somebody's mom?" she asked. "That passion triggered me, and I still can't help talking about it."

Ehm referred to herself a "bold faced opportunist."

"Opportunist is not a bad word. It's



Keynote speaker Erica Ehm poses with the Sisters on Board organizing committee, October 24, at the Orange Art Gallery. (From left) Tracy Spiegel, Julie Greenspoon, Erica Ehm, Adina Libin (event chair) and Lynne Oreck-Wener.



"If you don't believe boldly, you can't lead boldly," said keynote speaker Erica Ehm seen speaking at the inaugural Sisters on Board event presented by the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation, October 24, at the Orange Art Gallery.

a bold word... To be an opportunist means coming up with mutually beneficial scenarios. That's the sign of someone being a leader. You're constantly working for new opportunities," she said.

"Today, I really do hope you take the passion and network. I've already met five people in the room who blew my mind."

Ehm gave examples of putting on her bold face and making cold calls and being turned down until slowly her business began to happen. "You have to stick with it," she said.

She said that one of the interesting things about leadership is that "the quiet ones in the corner are the ones to look out for. Oprah got famous not because she talks well, but because she listens.

"Listening to your enemies or competitors is a strategic thing to do... As a listening leader, listen to your gut. It tells you this is the right thing to do or the wrong thing."

In the spirit of the Sisters on Board event, Ehm suggested that members of her audience put on their bold face and

join a board.

"You have work to do. What is it you want to achieve in life? What is it you want to do to make the world a better place? Don't be afraid to ask. I challenge you to give it a shot. Every time you reach out to someone, you're making a relationship. If you initiate conversations, they will remember. If you ask for something, you never lose, because you make a connection in the process."

And don't be afraid to put your bold face on when you need help, Ehm advised, noting, "It's strength, not weakness." Ehm said she needed help when her company was doing well but she "couldn't read the numbers."

"Put your bold face on when you communicate," she said. "There's an app you can download called 'Just Not Sorry.' Men don't walk around apologizing. You need to own it, not shrink away."

"I have a plan," said Ehm, in conclusion. "Tomorrow night when you go home, someone's going to order pizza. And it's not you."

In her greetings, Andrea Freedman, president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation, spoke about the hateful graffiti discovered that morning at the Ottawa Centre campaign office of newly re-elected MP Catherine McKenna, and told the audience, "I'm going to put one extra burden on you. Think about a friend, a colleague, and take their hand. It's up to every one of us to fight for what we believe in, for each of us to stand up and answer the call."



The history of Ottawa's distinguished Jewish lawyers

BY MICHAEL REGENSTREIF
EDITOR

‘What was it like to be a young Jewish lawyer in Ottawa in the 1960s? What was the legal landscape at the time? Who preceded them? Who were their teachers, their mentors, their heroes? And what were some of their highlights?”

Moderator Ross Baylin posed those questions as he introduced a panel of distinguished Jewish lawyers – Abe Feinstein, Sol Shinder, Leonard Shore, Lawrence Soloway and Stephen Victor – to discuss “The Jewish Legal Experience in Ottawa: History, Highlights and Heroes,” in a presentation of the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society’s Shirley Berman Lecture Series presented in conjunction with the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC).

The event, attended by more than 160 people, took place October 24 at the SJCC and each of the participants talked about what it meant or means to be a Jewish lawyer, about their own careers, and about some of the legendary Jewish lawyers who inspired them.

Sol Shinder began the presentations by describing “the landscape that faced aspiring young Jewish lawyers and law students in the first 70 years of the 20th century.”

As Shinder explained, “Virtually all of the ‘white shoe’ law firms were predominately made up of ‘WASPs,’ and up until the early 1970s they rarely employed Jews, women and other minorities as lawyers.”

Of the 206 lawyers who graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in Shinder’s 1960 class, “the three medalists were brilliant, Jewish and none of them got a job with any prominent non-Jewish law firm. They did however go on to have very successful and distinguished careers in the law, federal government public service, business, academia and the judiciary.”

Such discrimination in those years was not limited to law firms in Ottawa, Shinder added, “It was also prevalent in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg and other major cities in Canada and the United States. It also prevailed at businessmen’s clubs like the Rideau Club, and at major golf clubs like the Royal Ottawa and the Hunt.”

As the major law firms would not hire Jews, it was common for Jewish lawyers to form their own firms. As a young lawyer, Shinder first worked at Greenberg, Wright and Gorsky, before joining with Arnell Goldberg and Sol Shmelzer to form the firm of Goldberg, Shmelzer and Shinder.

“Although we were a predominately Jewish law firm, our clients were from a

cross section of the wider community. In fact, our first client ... was a French Canadian from Embrun. A law firm like ours could not exist on a strictly Jewish clientele,” he said.

Shinder also paid tribute to Abraham H. Lief, who graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1929 and practiced in Ottawa for many years. In 1963, Lief – who served as president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha’Ir (now the Jewish Federation of Ottawa) from 1953 to 1956 – became the first Jew appointed a justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario.

Stephen Victor began his presentation by paying tribute to Sam Berger, “one of the leading and accomplished lawyers in Ottawa from the 1920s, and for decades thereafter.”

Berger was born in Ottawa in 1900, the son of a rabbi, and grew up to have “many careers: journalist, lawyer, Air Force officer, real estate developer, city controller, and sports franchise owner. He even ran unsuccessfully for mayor against Charlotte Whitten in 1960 and 1962. All of these accomplishments made him a seminal figure in the growth of Ottawa,” Victor said.

Berger co-founded Berger, Greenberg – later Berger, Greenberg and Soloway – which “became the leading Jewish firm in Ottawa, and employed many prominent Jewish lawyers who got their start at his firm,” said Victor. He made many contributions to the city – including serving as president of the Vaad – but became best known as owner of the Ottawa Roughriders football team which played in seven Grey Cup games during his tenure, winning four, before selling the team in 1969 and donating his share of the profits to charity. He later owned the Montreal Alouettes and served as president of the Canadian Football League.

Victor also noted that the Jewish lawyers who preceded his generation made important contributions to the Jewish community of Ottawa, to Israel, and to the City of Ottawa generally, which inspired him to work in those areas.

“So, I became involved in Jewish community affairs locally, nationally, and in connection with the State of Israel [serving as] director of Camp B’nai Brith, president of the Jewish Community Centre, UJA chair, president of the Vaad, national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee, national president of Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and chair of the University of Ottawa Heart Institute Foundation. It is so important, especially today, for all of us to be so involved,” Victor said.

Victor said that while the antisemitism that kept Jewish lawyers out of non-Jew-

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“From Dachau to Cyprus” Jewish Refugees and the Cyprus Internment Camps 1946-1949

After the Holocaust, the British government created camps in Cyprus as part of its effort to stem immigration to then-Palestine. Nearly all detainees were Holocaust survivors. Surrounded by barbed wire and watch towers, the camps were under constant guard.

PHOTO EXHIBIT AND TALK WITH HISTORIAN DR. ELIANA HADJISAVVAS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2019
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For more info and a full list of events in November, please visit our website, jewishottawa.com/HEM

Special guest and
Holocaust survivor, Rose Lipszyc
will share her story.



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In recognition of
Holocaust Education Month

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ish law firms from the 1920s through the '50s has largely been eliminated, "the scourge of antisemitism still exists today and has re-emerged in a different, more dangerous and frightening form. We, as Jews, must fight this antisemitism. And, to do so, we must choose to be in the arena, to be involved in Jewish community affairs and in connection with the State of Israel, to play some role in supporting and safeguarding the State of Israel and the Jewish people."

Lawrence Soloway devoted his presentation to discussing his father, Hy Soloway, who came to Canada from Ukraine at age 10 in 1923, and about Soloway Wright, the Ottawa law firm he founded.

"Although he didn't speak a word of English when he arrived, he quickly caught up with his classmates, became valedictorian of his class at Glebe High School and went to Queen's for undergraduate studies. After disappointing his Jewish mother, who sent him off to Queen's with the gift of a stethoscope, and had fervently hoped that he would become a doctor, he graduated Osgoode Hall Law School in 1939," Lawrence Soloway said.

Hy Soloway began his legal career at Berger, Greenberg before serving in the Army during the Second World War. After the war, he teamed with brothers Jack and Mervin Mirsky to form Mirsky, Soloway and Mirsky.

Lawrence Soloway explained that Mervin Mirsky left the firm early on to join his family's beverage business and Jack Mirsky died in 1962. Maurice Wright then joined the firm in 1963 as a name partner.

"The firm would have many different names over the following years but the first two were always Soloway and Wright," he said.

In 1965, after Sam Berger had moved to Montreal and Mike Greenberg became ill, their firm merged with Soloway and Wright.

"The firm grew steadily through the '60s, '70s and '80s," explained Lawrence Soloway. "In those years, a number of Jewish lawyers came and went – including such well-known individuals as Stephen Victor, Ken Radnoff, Henry Molot, Murray Citron, Fred Cogan, Bernie Pearl and Herbie Pearl."

Lawrence Soloway joined the firm as a young lawyer in 1976 and notes his father kept working until October 31, 2003. Hy Soloway passed away the following summer at age 90.

Abe Feinstein began his presentation by paying tribute to Sam Lepofsky, who "joined the Ottawa legal fraternity in 1922. His importance to the Ottawa legal community and the Ottawa Jewish community is summarized in the memorial tributes to him after he passed away in 1956.

"John Mirsky, on behalf of the members of the Ottawa bar, described Mr.



(From left) Stephen Victor, Lawrence Soloway, Abe Feinstein, Leonard Shore and Sol Shinder discuss the history of Jewish lawyers in Ottawa, October 24, at a panel discussion presented by the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society's Shirley Berman Lecture Series.

Lepofsky as 'a gentleman in the true sense of the word. His integrity, honesty and enthusiasm for his cause were inspiring.'

"Hy Soloway, [then] president of the Jewish Community Council, said; "For 25 years, Mr. Lepofsky had taken an extremely active interest in the work of the Jewish Community Council of which he was vice-president. His dedication in bringing about a betterment of conditions for all concerned has been unsurpassed. His loss to us and the city as a whole is truly a heavy one."

Feinstein also noted that Lepofsky's daughter, Constance Glube, became the first woman appointed a justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia and "made history again when she was the first woman to be appointed chief justice of a Canadian Court."

"I was called to the bar in 1965," said Feinstein. "It was my good luck that there was a merger of two large Ottawa law firms, the Soloway firm and the Greenberg firm. There was a need to hire lawyers and I was hired as a real estate junior.

"At that time, Soloway Wright had three of the most competent solicitors in Canada: Hyman Soloway, Irving Greenberg and Murray Citron. They were great mentors to me. Hyman Soloway's competence is widely known to all and in need of no discussion. Irving Greenberg did the first mortgage of air rights in Ottawa on the building over the Central Library. He was also retained by the Government of Canada to advise them on the development of the Rideau Centre. Murray Citron [arranged] the first high-rise condominium in Ontario and the first condominium conversion in Ottawa – and perhaps the first in Ontario," said Feinstein.

Feinstein described some of the highlights of his career in real estate law, noting his service as president of the County of Carleton Law Association (CCLA), the

association of Ottawa lawyers.

In 1975, "I became a founding director of Centretown Citizens of Ottawa Non-Profit Housing Corporation. We started with \$500 in the bank. Today, Centretown Citizens Non-Profit Housing Corporation owns more than 50 properties and 1600 units," Feinstein said.

"In 1982, I became a member of the Committee of Adjustment of the City of Ottawa and eventually became chair... The Committee of Adjustment made hundreds of planning decisions that affected the real estate development of Ottawa."

In 1991, Feinstein was elected to be a director of the Ontario Law Society. "I remained on the board as an elected director for 16 years and as life director for another 10 years," he said. "The Law Society acts in the public interest, licenses lawyers and ensures that they are ethical and competent."

He was also elected to the board of

the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, the national organization of Canadian law societies that regulate Canada's 120,000 lawyers and was elected president of the federation in 1999.

"With luck, mentoring, teamwork and the support of the partners, associates and staff of Soloway Wright and my family, I have had and am still having an interesting legal career," Feinstein said.

Leonard Shore began by speaking of his hero, Uncle Michael (Michael Greenberg), his accomplishments in the legal and building fields as well as to his contributions to Ottawa and its Jewish community. He also spoke of his family and what it was like growing up in the Billings Bridge neighbourhood in the 1940s and finished with some amusing anecdotal criminal law stories.

"Mike [Greenberg] and Hy [Soloway] were the two giants of my youth in the legal, Jewish and general communities who inspired me with their commitment to family, profession and Jewish values. Their sons, my cousins, Steve [Greenberg] and Lawrence [Soloway] are my present day giants with their philanthropic instincts, largely unheralded, who would make their fathers proud," said Shore.

Family members of the late Shirley Berman, a longtime supporter of the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society and founder of the Ottawa Jewish Archives, for whom the lecture series was named, attended the event.

"My father, Shier, sitting in the audience with us, was deeply moved and impressed by the event. I know I speak for both he and my siblings, all of whom have attended the memorial lectures, when I express how delighted we were by how the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society has found a way for my mother to continue to inspire and strengthen our community. We look forward to even greater attendance next year," said David Berman.

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FEDERATION
REPORTEMMA MALLACH AND
ZEV KERSHMAN, EG DIVISIONEmerging Generation: The future of
our Jewish community

to reservations people might have about getting involved, in the hope we can identify some common ground.

Some defining programs over the past year that served individuals and families include: the annual EG Chanukah party with nearly 100 guests (we'd like to see that number grow at this year's party on December 14!); this summer's PJ in the Park event with close to 200 parents and children in attendance; and a growing pool of EG volunteers to help us with EG and PJ events, canvassing for the Campaign, and creating the best quality events for the Ben-Gurion Society, young adults who donate \$1,000 or more to the annual campaign.

Thanks to the generous donations of local families who participated in the 2019 Challenge Fund gift-matching incentive, Federation was able to broaden EG grants to create the Jewish Experience Microgrants program, which is now available to individuals as well as Jewish organizations that serve the Ottawa Jewish community. Have a great

idea that brings people in the Ottawa Jewish community together? You can get up to \$2,500 to make it happen.

These funds are providing seed funding for interesting and innovative programs for young Jews in Ottawa. An example of a recent and ongoing project funded by Federation Microgrants is the Stock the Freezer program. This project is a series of group cooking events in which various community members (b'nai mitzvah students, families, co-workers) come together to cook and freeze healthy meals for later distribution to Ottawa Kosher Food Bank clients. Several successful cooking events have taken place with three more coming up. So far, the grant has supplied lasagnas, honey cakes, and apples and honey packages to 28 families.

Another new program is Jewish Jumpstart. This was a membership incentive grant for Jewish individuals and families who were not yet members of an Ottawa synagogue or the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. Within a few months, the program reached capacity with 118 approved applications!

Clearly, Federation understands that

it is people who are at the core of this community. It's the personal connections that we're building for ourselves, and which persist over generations, that motivate us to stay involved. Countless volunteers are devoting time, energy, and resources to the community and the Annual Campaign and we thank them for this investment.

EG represents the future of Ottawa's Jewish community. Over the past seven years since the division was formed, we've demonstrated that we are dedicated to the Federation's goals. Our numbers may be small, but there's no question we are strong and mighty.

We thank you in advance for your support and hope to see you at our next event!

Emma Mallach and Zev Kershman are co-chairs of the Emerging Generation Division of the 2020 Annual Campaign.

For more information on upcoming EG events and how you can get involved, contact EG Director Jordan Waldman at jwaldman@jewishottawa.com or 613-798-4696, ext. 240.

We are excited to share an update on the Emerging Generation (EG) in Jewish Ottawa. EG is a division of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa made up of young professionals aged 40 and under. It's a crucial demographic since this age group often includes the unaffiliated and less engaged. Until, of course, people start having kids, at which time it is common to form or re-establish links to the Jewish community.

It's with this outlook that we are co-chairing the EG Division for the 2020 Annual Campaign. We take pride in showcasing the amazing programs, opportunities and people that define our Jewish community. We encourage participation and listen attentively

FROM THE
PULPITRABBI CHAIM MENDELSON
CHABAD OF CENTREPOINTE

A reason to dance

did the Torah command us to add an independent holiday called Shemini Atzeret at the conclusion of Sukkot?

Ask the average Jew why we celebrate Passover, they will immediately respond that it marks the exodus from Egypt. Ask them how about Shavuot, without a second's hesitation they will tell you it is the day the Jewish nation received the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai. Or ask why we observe Sukkot and you will likely hear that it acknowledges the protection God provided the people of Israel when they were traversing the desert. And so on and so forth.

But inquire about the reason behind Shemini Atzeret and you will almost certainly receive nothing more than a blank stare.

In fact, the Bible itself offers no clue as to what Shemini Atzeret is about.

In his commentary to the book of Leviticus, Rashi uses an analogy to offer the following beautiful explanation:

[God says to Israel,] "I have detained you [to remain] with Me." This is analogous to a king who invited his sons to feast with him for a certain number of days, and when the time came for them to leave, he said: "My sons! Please, stay

with me just one more day; it is difficult for me to part with you!"

Rashi is telling us that after the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot, when we connect to God by attending synagogue, by eating in a sukkah and by shaking the four species, God begs us not to leave just yet. He implores us to stay one more day. It is difficult for him to part with us, and us with him.

In other words, Shemini Atzeret transcends reason. We are not marking this day because God did something for us. Rather we mark it because of our collective and individual identity as a child of God. We celebrate our inherent union with God almighty.

It is no accident that we recite Yizkor, a memorial prayer for our departed loved ones, on Shemini Atzeret. We do not miss and reflect on the lives of our loved ones because of what they have done for us, rather we focus on our internal bond that transcends logic.

I would suggest that the ultimate reason for our great joy on this Holiday is because we know that God loves us and cares about us because we are one with him.

And if that is not enough reason to dance, I don't know what is.

Well, my legs are certainly feeling sore. It is not because I ran a marathon. Rather, I write this article one day after Simchat Torah. On Simchat Torah, we dance and dance and dance with the Torah. We celebrate the completion of another cycle of reading the entire Torah.

What you may not be aware of is that the completion of the Torah coincides with the biblical festival of Shemini Atzeret. In other words, our sages selected this biblical holiday to celebrate the annual completion of the Five Books of Moses.

So, what is Shemini Atzeret? Why

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FROM THE EDITOR



MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

I wrote my last Ottawa Jewish Bulletin column three days before the October 21 federal election and noted opinion polls showed the Liberal and Conservative parties virtually tied with both parties in the range of taking 132 seats – far short of the 170 seats needed to form a majority government.

While the popular vote nationally gave the Conservatives a slight edge, the way the vote broke across the country gave the Liberals a much stronger minority government than expected with 157 seats. The Conservatives took only 121.

Here in Ottawa, the Liberals won seven of eight seats – with only MP Pierre Poilievre holding Carleton for the Conservatives.

While Jews make up about one per

Notes from the election(s) front

cent of the population nationally, the Canadian Jewish News reported there are 14 ridings – mostly in the greater Toronto and Montreal areas, but also one in Winnipeg – where Jews constitute between five and 37 per cent of the population. The Liberals won 13 of those ridings – with only MP Peter Kent holding Thornhill for the Conservatives.

Among the most interesting of the election races in those 14 ridings were in the Toronto riding of York Centre, where Jewish MP Michael Levitt was running for re-election, and the Montreal riding of Mount Royal, where Jewish MP Anthony Housefather was running for re-election.

In those ridings the Conservatives targeted many Jewish voters with a direct-mail pamphlet featuring a photo of leader Andrew Scheer and a headline reading “Jewish community in Canada?” in block letters. The pamphlet painted the Conservatives as very strong and the Liberals as very weak on issues such as Israel and antisemitism.

The pamphlet didn’t seem to have the effect the Conservatives hoped for. Both Levitt – the chair of the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Group – and Housefather were re-elected with significant increases in the proportions of their

votes from the 2015 election.

The direct-mail pamphlet was also sent to some Jewish voters in several other ridings across the country. I live in Ottawa West–Nepean and received one. Several other people I know in Ottawa told me they also received the pamphlet. Anecdotally, everyone I talked to who received the pamphlet was unhappy about being directly targeted as a Jew.

In Quebec, the Bloc Québécois’ singular defence of the province’s Bill 21 – which bans certain public servants, including teachers, police officers, prosecutors and judges from wearing such religious symbols as the Muslim hijab, the Sikh turban and Jewish kippah – led to the separatist party’s resurgence under a banner of Quebec nationalism.

However, as popular as Bill 21 is said to be in Quebec, the Liberals – the only party whose leader said his or her government *might* join a court case against a law for which a provincial government invoked the notwithstanding clause to suspend provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms – won more seats and a higher proportion of the popular vote than the Bloc.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Likud Party leader, has failed to form a governing coalition

in Israel following the September 17 election there (the second inconclusive Israeli election in 2019) and the mandate to try and form a government has been passed to Blue and White Party leader Benny Gantz.

It is unlikely that Gantz will be any more successful than Netanyahu in putting together a coalition that commands at least 61 of the Knesset’s 120 seats. It is probable, as I’ve suggested before, Likud and Blue and White will form a unity government alternating the premiership or there will be a third Israeli election.

And, in the United Kingdom, voters will go to the polls on December 12 with the leadership of both major parties in the hands of highly polarizing figures.

The Conservative Party is led by Boris Johnson, whose major issue is achieving Brexit, the so-called exit of the U.K. from the European Union (while Brexit was approved by 51.9 per cent of voters in a 2016 referendum, current polling suggests support has fallen to about 44 per cent).

And the Labour Party is led by Jeremy Corbyn, a once fringe figure whose anti-Zionism has frequently flirted with antisemitism and who has allowed antisemitism to fester in the British Labour Party.

IDEAS AND IMPRESSIONS



JASON MOSCOVITZ

He got to the letter ‘M’

couch, people got trigger happy and brain function has never been the same. Channel surfing and scrambled brains go hand in hand.

Today, of course, the remote is old technology. Now when we watch something that interests us on television, we sit down on the couch with a smartphone, or a tablet, and we are literally all over the place as we multitask.

In the television news business, a reporter knows he or she has seconds to grab the attention of the viewer or they will disappear into cyberspace. Sometimes you literally have to jolt the audience in the first 10 seconds to keep viewers watching.

For example, precious little detail of government policy or legislation make it onto most newscasts. It is easy to see why political shenanigans dominate rather than substantive policy discussions.

Politicians screaming at each other at breakneck speed is the result, with the prize going to the most theatrical soundbite of the day. The winner’s trophy is having their one-liner on national television.

In an attention seeking business, getting on television makes a politician’s day and they fight for all the airtime, or face-time, they can get. The irony is

that serious thinkers don’t usually make it because ‘serious’ is too often equated with ‘boring.’

I remember years ago what happened to Ed Schreyer, a former NDP premier of Manitoba, who prime minister Pierre Trudeau appointed to be governor general in 1979. In the public domain he was classic boring. I am not sure I ever came across a more starved-for-spark political figure in my life. Yet, he was a political success serving as premier of Manitoba for eight years.

As governor general, he was asked, as all governors general are, to speak at the annual Canadian Parliamentary Press Gallery Dinner. The only mandate was to be funny. Poor Ed. He couldn’t be interesting let alone funny, and in their tuxedos and long gowns, reporters threw buns at him from all corners of the Parliamentary Dining Room.

Pierre Trudeau found the bun throwing at the governor general to be in such poor taste that he boycotted subsequent dinners. Without the prime minister, the dinner lost considerable cachet, but “the Trude,” as we used to call him, made his point.

A few years later, Schreyer’s term as governor general ended and the “state broadcaster,” the CBC, had to do a story

on his leaving. I won the lottery that day (ha ha) and went to Rideau Hall to interview him.

Even my low expectations fell short. We started the interview with a blazing fire place behind him and 50 minutes later there were only embers – and I still didn’t have an interesting segment. Then I went fishing.

I recalled a reporter friend telling me that he once asked Schreyer privately what he did all day as governor general. The specific question was, “How did he keep himself busy every day at Rideau Hall?” Schreyer told him that he took to reading the Encyclopedia Britannica.

With the fireplace sucking for fire, with the governor general beginning to really sweat from the TV lights, and with me still looking for something – anything – of interest, I said, “I understand you spent some time during your mandate reading the Encyclopedia Britannica. Is that correct?”

He gave me a look that suggested, “How do you know that?” But to his credit, he replied affirmatively. I asked, “What letter did you get to?” With some hesitation he said, “The letter M.” I laughed and then he laughed.

I got my story and years later I so remember the moment.

Experts to discuss antisemitism at workshops for teachers and police

BY SHEILA HURTIG ROBERTSON
CENTRE FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION
AND SCHOLARSHIP

Ottawa-area teachers and members of the Ottawa Police Service and their partners – including the RMCP, OC Transpo special constables, the Canada Border Services Agency, and military police, will explore antisemitism in workshops led by Bernie Farber and Len Rudner, long-time colleagues who are recognized as experts on issues of hate and antisemitism. The workshops are key components of the 2019 Holocaust Education Month programs sponsored by the Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES), based at Carleton University's Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies.

“The last few years has seen an unprecedented rise in antisemitism and many other forms of hatred emanating from the far-right white

supremacist movement,” says Farber. “At the same time, we have also seen a more frequent transition from hateful words to acts of racist violence. These workshops provide tools for those on the frontline to understand the roots of hatred, discuss means of recruitment, and identify young and vulnerable people before they are drawn into the dark world of violent extremist movements.”

Farber, the son of a Holocaust survivor who grew up in Ottawa, is chair of the Canadian Anti-Hate Network. His lengthy career has focused on human rights, anti-racism, pluralism and inter-ethnic/faith/race relations. A former chief executive officer of the Canadian Jewish Congress, his expertise has been sought by a broad range of organizations.

Rudner, a member of the Canadian Anti-Hate Network, is a principal at Len Rudner & Associates, a consultancy focus-



These Jewish tombstones desecrated with swastikas are an all-too-common example of recent antisemitic hate crimes.

ing on community advocacy, diversity, and human rights. He is the former director of community relations and outreach for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.

“The rise of extremist hate groups and racism, combined with misinformation and false news on social media, has had a significant negative impact on our youth,” says CHES Director Mina Cohn. “Building a society that is free of racism requires an ongoing commitment to education. The CHES education

team has been providing teachers with resources on various Holocaust topics since 2011 and is committed to making a difference during these challenging times. It is sad that 80 years since the outbreak of the Second World War, our workshops, entitled “Antisemitism: Then and Now,” have become essential.”

Cohn explains that the rise of extremist hate groups and racism pressed CHES to reach out to the Ottawa Police service and its partners.

“As a result, we are sponsoring the first Ottawa law enforcement workshop, which is designed to provide those in attendance with current information that will help them to recognize and counter racism and antisemitism.”

The teachers’ workshop takes place on Thursday, November 14, 4:30 pm, at Temple Israel and is open to all Grade 7-12 teachers in social studies, history, literature and religion. The workshop for members of law enforcement agencies takes place on Friday, November 15, 8:30 am, at the Ottawa Police Association. Visit <https://carleton.ca/ches/events/2019-events/> for more information about these events.

MAILBAG | bulletin@ottawajewishbulletin.com

BATTLING LEUKEMIA

In the spirit of supporting the wider Jewish community, I was moved to write in hopes of drawing Ottawa Jewish Bulletin readers’ attention to the story of Ellie White.

Ellie is a seven-year-old Montrealer, valiantly battling leukemia. Ellie was diagnosed in the winter of 2017. Her story drew support from national media outlets and a country-wide search and community-organized bone marrow drives were held. Miraculously, a match was found and Ellie benefited from a transplant at the beginning of 2019.

Ellie subsequently entered remission and after two years of missing school, she started Grade 2 in September. But what should have been a very happy day for Ellie and her family took a turn for the worse: on the same day, her parents received news that Ellie’s leukemia had returned.

Ellie has since received treatment under a clinical trial in Montreal and her

cancer is in remission again. If it stays in remission, she will be eligible to participate in an experimental treatment in Columbus, Ohio, where her family will have to move for a period of at least three months. The treatment alone will cost upwards of \$1 million, money that the family does not have. This is Ellie’s last chance.

I have no connection to the family, but as a parent, I do not know what our family would do if we found ourselves in such a situation. Rabbi Lila Kagedan, a longtime friend and fellow Ottawa Jewish schools graduate, is Ellie’s cousin and told me about her.

The White family is holding a fundraiser, which can be accessed at www.gofundme.com/f/fightforellie. As of writing, the family has raised more than \$300,000, but still has a long way to go to reach their goal.

As well, we can all help by joining the Canada Blood Services bone marrow database.

Samantha Sigler

Jewish Labour to skip campaign

BY MARCY OSTER

(JTA) – The United Kingdom’s Jewish Labour Movement will not campaign for Labour Party candidates in the December 12 election “unless in exceptional circumstances and for exceptional candidates.”

The 100-year-old organization affiliated with the Labour Party said in its October 31 announcement that the failure of leader Jeremy Corbyn to effectively deal with antisemitism in the party led to the decision.

“This crisis of antisemitism in the Labour Party stems from a failure of leadership from Jeremy Corbyn. When the answer has been to take swift, decisive action, the reality has been equivocation and token gestures. Time and time again, the party has not engaged in good faith to try to implement the actions that we believe are necessary to tackle anti-Jewish racism,” the state-



Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, shown making a speech in August 2019, has been accused of allowing antisemitism in his party.

ment said.

Corbyn, a far-left and anti-Israel politician, has faced allegations he has fomented antisemitism in Labour, though he denies the assertion.

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Café Menorah, 'a community nosh initiative,' launches

BY MAYER ALVO
CAFÉ MENORAH

Café Menorah, "a community nosh initiative," is a proposed monthly free meal program for those in our community experiencing financial hardship which can compromise healthy eating. We held the inaugural launch of our three-month pilot program on October 24. There were 15 participants, including three children, who had all been invited by the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank and Jewish Family Services of Ottawa. The event was hosted at Hillel Lodge where a delicious nutritious dinner was served by volunteers.

The meal was entirely funded by individual contributions. Rabbi Levy Teitlebaum of the Ottawa Vaad HaKashrut spoke about the meaning of the menorah, the inspiration for the name of the café. There was a great deal of mingling among the participants.

Café Menorah is a new collaborative program in our community designed to complement other important supports and by offering participants an opportunity to engage with each other and members of our Jewish community.

The pilot program continues on Thursday, November 14 and Tuesday, December 10 from 5:30 to 7 pm, and will then be evaluated. We believe this program fulfils an important need in our community, especially when we see that young children are involved. The goal, ultimately, is to obtain funds to offer the meals



Café Menorah volunteers gather at Hillel Lodge after serving a healthy meal to members of the Jewish community experiencing financial difficulty, October 24.

(From left) Elayne Schacter, Ilana Rabin, Pamela Molot, Brian Mortfield, Helen Alvo and Mayer Alvo.

on a more regular basis.

Tax deductible donations to the Café Menorah program are welcome and may be made by contacting Jewish Family Services of Ottawa at 613-722-2225.

To learn more about Café Menorah, or to volunteer, contact Helen Alvo at cafemenorah@gmail.com or 613-729-8222.

Documentary about Camp Kadimah to be screened at SJCC

BY CAROL AND LAURIE PASCOE
CAMP KADIMAH ALUMNI

'Hakshivu, hakshivu, attention in the camp!'

This was the daily clarion call for four generations of campers and staff at Camp Kadimah. Situated on Lake William in Barss Corner, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia, Camp Kadimah continues to be the home away from home for many Jewish young people from Atlantic Canada and also from all over Canada, from the United States and from other international locations.

For those of us raised in small Atlantic Jewish communities, summers at Camp Kadimah strengthened our connections to Young Judea and to daily Jewish life through song, spirit and tradition. Lifelong friendships were formed, and in some cases, we met our spouses, and then sent our children to Kadimah. As alumni parents and grandparents today, seeing Kadimah beyond the emotional attachments, it continues to be one of the best run summer camps in Canada.

"I adored my many years at Kadimah as a camper, counsellor and even co-captain in Maccabia! Those summers were among my best memories of growing up in the Maritimes," says Paula Zebberman Agulnik of Ottawa. Paula grew up in Halifax and is the niece of Eli Zebberman who, in 1940, had the vision of a summer camp where Jewish children in the Atlantic region could stay connected.

Now in its 76th year, Camp Kadimah has proudly announced the premiere of a full-length documentary film, "Camp Kadimah, The Story of Our Lives," which tells the history of the camp, from its earliest days to the present, through interviews with alumni from



A view of Camp Kadimah, a Jewish summer camp in Barss Corner, Nova Scotia.

every decade, original vintage film and memorable music.

The documentary was written, directed and produced by Lynda Medjuck Suissa of Toronto. The videographers were Sam Berns and Ottawa's own Noah Borer.

The Ottawa screening of "Camp Kadimah, The Story of Our Lives," will be Wednesday, November 20, 7:30 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private. Admission at the door is \$10, cash only.

Although of particular interest to Camp Kadimah campers, staff and alumni, this documentary will be enjoyable to all who appreciate the importance of the summer camp experience as a way of building and retaining our connections to Judaism. As Paula says, "Come and learn about the Kadimah *ruach* (spirit)!"

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

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Florida principal who defended Holocaust denial fired

BY MARCY OSTER

(JTA) – The high school principal in Boca Raton, Florida, who told a parent that “Not everyone believes the Holocaust happened” was fired.

The Palm Beach County School Board voted 5-2 to terminate William Latson’s employment, effective November 21.

The board found “just cause” to fire Latson, who had been reassigned from Spanish River Community High School in July, a week after the incident came to light, for policy violations related to “ethical misconduct” and “failure to carry out job responsibilities.”

The official reason for Latson’s termination was not the comments that appeared to justify denying the Holocaust but his failure to return messages from district officials in the days after his comments became public, according to the Palm Beach Post.

The school, which has about 2,500 students, has one of the largest Jewish student populations in the U.S.

Latson in an email told the mother of a student “not everyone believes the Holocaust happened” in response to an inquiry about the Holocaust not being taught at the school.

“I can’t say the Holocaust is a factu-

The school ... has one of the largest Jewish student populations in the U.S.

al, historical event because I am not in the position to do so as a school district employee,” he wrote. “You have your thoughts, but we are a public school and not all of our parents have the same beliefs.”

“The Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County, which represents scores of individuals whose families were killed in the Holocaust, commends the move to fire” Latson, Matt Levin, Federation CEO told JTA. “We are grateful for Superintendent Donald Fennoy’s leadership and commitment to a thorough investigation resulting in this vote by the school board. Latson’s abhorrent denial of the Holocaust is unacceptable, and there is no place in our community, and certainly not in our education system, for such unethical ignorance.”

Latson’s attorney said he will appeal the firing in state administrative court, calling it arbitrary and driven by political expediency.

Latson has been with the school district for 26 years and had been principal of Spanish River since 2011.

On November 11, we acknowledge our nation’s heroes, past and present.

We remember:

The courage of our war veterans.

Those who served.

Those who fought.

Those who died.

We are forever grateful.



Novel imagines what happened to Lily Litvyak

RUBIN FRIEDMAN BOOK REVIEW

Girl at the Edge of Sky

By Lilian Nattel

Random House Canada, 2019

384 pages

Canadian Jewish author Lilian Nattel plunges us right into the plot of *Girl at the Edge of Sky* as its main character plunges through the clouds into Ukraine, just as she regains consciousness after jumping from her burning plane. We are instantly at the turning point in a Second World War story that focuses on the life of a teenaged half-Jewish girl, Lily Litvyak, born in the Soviet Union, how she becomes a fighter pilot in the Soviet air force, and what happens to her when she succeeds.

The structure of the novel relates two halves of her story in parallel, one half describing what happens after her fall and one half describing her life up to that point. By alternating chapters in one story with that of one in the other, each one ending on a point of suspense, the author leads the reader through both stories at a breakneck pace.

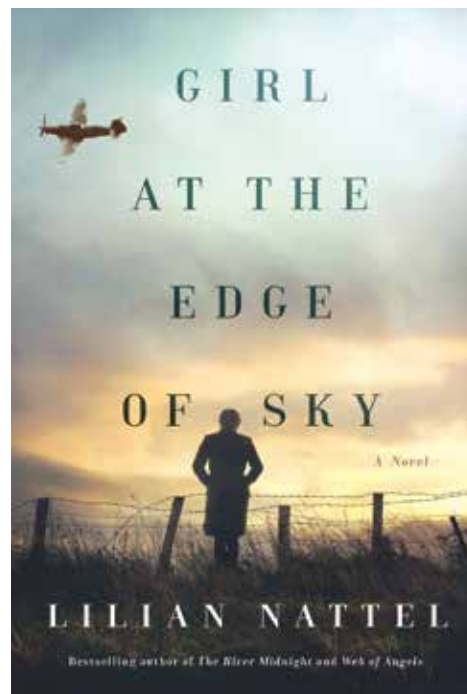
The first half of the story is based on biographical information available about the real Lily Litvyak. But even in this section, much creativity and artistic choice is involved to fill in the backstories of her family, to create the scenes and dialogue that were not recorded, and to streamline the narrative and thus exclude some characters while introducing others. Nattel's ability to do this smoothly is outstanding.

Lily knows little of Jewish religion or traditions other than stories from her father and grandmother, and these focus heavily on how they all survived previous persecutions, as well as the ongoing dangers should other things around them go badly.

Early on, her father is arrested in one of Stalin's purges and the family has no more contact with him. The whole family is therefore under suspicion and her Jewish grandmother moves away in order to reduce the mistrust directed at them.

This becomes one of the prime motivations for Lily to join the air force and prove herself as a fighter pilot. She feels the strong need to succeed, to redeem the family name, and indirectly, her father.

But the novel also deals with a story that was never recorded. It is not known



what happened to Lily Litvyak when her plane was shot down while accompanying bombers to attack German positions in Ukraine so we rely on Nattel's skills as an imaginative novelist.

At one moment in the opening chapter, the coincidences and the role of chance seem contrived to ensure Lily's imagined survival, but Nattel's storytelling and the characters are so strong that one soon forgets that Lily's life as a prisoner of war of the Nazis is wholly fictional.

Indeed, chance plays a significant role in both halves of the story and in many stories of survival from the Second World War. One comes to realize that this, in fact, makes the story more, not less, real.

At the same time, the parallels between Soviet and Nazi systems of totalitarian dictatorship are made manifest, even though the chances for a Jew to survive under the Soviets are much better. Both systems rely on informants, forced through blackmail or enticed through offered rewards, to monitor and report on even their closest friends and associates. Both use mental and physical torture to attain their ends.

The dangers Lily faces, the political and physical threats that surround her in both halves of the tale, are enough to provide plenty of tense moments as both move forward until the first story takes us up to where the second story had begun. Through the parallel experiences in the two dictatorships, it is natural that Lily comes to abandon the idea of becoming a hero and to seek rather a normal life of peace and survival. The last two chapters provide a future conclusion to both halves of the narrative, each fitting as a perfect ending to the mystery of Lily Litvyak and her ultimate fate.

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MAZEL TOV TO:
Fran Gershberg on her birthday by Isaac, Lindsay and Dylan Rybczynski

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MAZEL TOV TO:
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MAZEL TOV TO:
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Ian Zunder for his kindness by Stephen and Lana Tanner

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Rosalind Karback on her special birthday by Lynne Oreck-Wener and Bob Wener

IN MEMORY OF:
Renate Beare by Lynne Oreck-Wener and Bob and Hart Wener
Morris Asa by Rhoda and Joe Levitan

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In the Joseph and Inez Zelikovitz Long Term Care Centre**

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Continued on page 15

THE LODGE EXPRESSES ITS SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT AND APOLOGIZES FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS. DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS, THE WORDING APPEARING IN THE BULLETIN IS NOT NECESSARILY THE WORDING WHICH APPEARED ON THE CARD.

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Continued from page 14

In Honour of:
Harriet and Irving Slone Wishing you a very happy Anniversary by Ruth and Manny Schacter

Feeding Program

In Memory of:
Stan Gold by Joy and Seymour Mender and family, Sharon and David Appotive and family and Glenda, David and Jordana Moss
Myra Shinwell by Sharon and David Appotive and family
Dorothy Lief by Barbara and Steve Levinson
Morton Pleet by Barbara and Steve Levinson
Morton and Sylvia Pleet by Frank and Margo Rosen
Sylvia Pleet by Joy and Seymour Mender and family and Sharon and David Appotive and family

In Honour of:
Alex and Lynda Wakter Mazel Tov and EChaim to Tara and Kobi and Shana Tova to all of you by Ilana and Mitchell Novick
Jim and Grace Hillel Mazel Tov on your granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah by Bill and Phyllis Cleiman

Allan and Jill Bellack Mazel Tov on your grandson Ben's Bar Mitzvah by Bill and Phyllis Cleiman

R'Fuah Shlema:
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In Memory of:
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Sylvia Pleet by Jack, Sarah, David and Lev Silverstein

Therapeutic Program

In Honour of:
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In Memory of:

Elsa Safern Field by Ruth and Dale Fyman
Yetta Cohen by Charles Schachnow
Sylvia Pleet by Sharon and Santino Sirizotti,
Stewart Berson and Sharon and Paul Finn
Sylvia and Morton Pleet by Diane Koven

In Honour of:

Jane and Martin Gordon Shana Tova by Joni and Chummus Spunt
Gertrude Paul Congratulations on your 100th Birthday by Cindy (Buim) and Tim and families

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Help us to provide the Lodge with the resources to ensure that the Lodge remains a leader in providing quality care and quality of life in Eastern Ontario's only Jewish Long-Term Care Home.



"It is not up to you to finish the work, yet you are not free to neglect it"
Pirkei Avot 2/16



For more information on how you can have a lasting and positive impact for Lodge Residents contact:
Mitch Miller at mmiller@hillel-ltc.com or call 613.728.3990



Election campaign was short on substance

The recent federal election offered something for everyone. The left-leaning voter was offered affirmation that Canada was a progressive country as the total seats accrued by the progressive parties totalled 216, a clear majority in Parliament. In addition, the progressive parties could take pride in accumulating the majority of votes cast. Those citizens who consider themselves Conservatives could take comfort in knowing that the Liberal Party was denied a majority in the House of Commons and that the Conservative Party accumulated the most votes of any single party. Every voter had something to kvell about or kvetch about. A perfect Canadian election.

While the results may have brought comfort to many, the campaign did not. It was a campaign short on substance and long on polemics and hubris. In the end, only those motivated enough to read party platforms were offered a glimpse into the policies which might serve as the underpinnings of a governing party. One of the most notable absences among the public discourse was almost any conversation about the State of Israel or the Middle East in general. Though each party might have offered some glimpse at their approach in private meetings with the leadership of the Canadian Jewish community, publicly the topic was virtually absent from the discourse. One could hypothesize about why a Canadian federal election was silent on a fairly significant foreign policy issue, but the reality was the campaign also ignored our country's relationship with China, Russia and even the United States. How a 40 day campaign could ignore the "bully" to the south is incomprehensible.

While our political leaders were mute on the subject



RABBI STEVEN H. GARTEN
A VIEW FROM THE BLEACHERS

of Israel those individuals running for the Democratic U.S. presidential nomination were not. Senator Elizabeth Warren, who at this writing is among the leaders in the polls to be the nominee, recently declared, "Everything is on the table." She was answering a question about the United States response to the Israeli government's stated policy of increasing settlements on the West Bank and annexation into Israel of the West Bank Settlements.

"Right now, Netanyahu says he's going to take Israel in a direction which is counter to U.S. policy," said Warren. "The policy of the United States is to support a two-state solution. If Israel continues in this direction then everything is on the table regarding our response, including military and foreign aid."

Warren joins Senator Bernie Sanders and South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg as candidates questioning the long standing U.S. policy of large amounts military and foreign aid to Israel. There's obviously a sizable possibility that this is all hollow rhetoric from the candidates, but it is part of a notable shift nonetheless. In addition to public opinion moving away from unanimous support for Israel, there have been recent legislative attempts to hold Israel accountable for its human rights abuses.

These are worrisome trends. Many of the reasons for

American support have not disappeared. Israel is still the only democracy in the Middle East. Israel is still the only committed ally of the United States. Israel has been a model of economic development and innovation that could offer developing countries models for self-development. It has, until recently, been a country devoted to the rule of law and justice above all.

The bipartisan support for Israel has weakened ever since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu chose to publicly embarrass president Barack Obama by not only opposing the Iran nuclear treaty, which was his right to do, but by speaking in the U.S. Congress against it. By choosing to side with the Republican Party over and against the president of the United States, Netanyahu made the State of Israel a partisan issue. However, now we have a glimpse into what the ever-changing reality of American politics and the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East could mean for those who have unquestioned support for Israel. One should not forget that the current U.S. president raised the notion of dual loyalty, even if it was contained in a typical Trump tweet.

While we might have been happy or disappointed that only one of our federal leaders spoke about moving the Canadian Embassy to Jerusalem, we might have wished that some political leader condemned the expanding settlements, or the blockade of Gaza, or rallied against the ongoing terrorism from Gaza and the expanding power of Hezbollah and Hamas. However, if we look southward to see what happens when Israel becomes part of the game of politics, we might be glad – for both Israel and our own personal security – that boring Canadian political campaigns remain boring.

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Journey Through the Ukrainian-Jewish Encounter

Alti Rodal, historian and co-director of Ukrainian-Jewish Encounter, will provide a multi-media 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.



Sunday, December 1

10:30 am
SJCC Social Hall A
\$10 at the door



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

Friday and Sunday dinners: Juggling our interfaith family

My family, like so many families, has a very busy weekend and it is bookended by family dinners. It begins with Shabbat. When we're able, our Shabbat dinner is a multigenerational affair with cousins, grandparents and a great-grandparent. It is a weekly endeavour to coordinate who is hosting, who is bringing the challah, the gluten-free challah, the wine, the dessert (you get the idea). In short, it is a cacophony and one that I value weekly.

My family's weekend ends with dinner at my in-laws, with grandparents and an army of aunts and uncles, not to mention the active array of cats and dogs. Most of the humans in the house are devoted Wesleyan Christians. In my in-laws' home, phrases like "OMG" are considered rude, and dinner is started with a grace that ends in thanking "Jesus, our most precious savior." To be honest, years of Sunday dinners and that phrase still makes me uncomfortable. In short, it's a far cry from the Shabbat dinner of two days prior.

While my partner and I are best termed an interfaith couple, we have no Jesus in our home. Ours is a Jewish house with a seder plate and chanukiot in the china cabinet. Even a decent chunk of the art on our walls is rooted in Judaism, from the papercut hamza in our kitchen to the modern art piece, "Jacob's Ladder," that hangs in our sitting room. Yet, once a week, my kids are in a deeply Christian house. At the moment they are little, but one day at the end of Sunday dinner's grace they may ask who Jesus is or why Mommy doesn't say "amen." They may even ask more pointed questions that I have yet to dream up.



JENNY T. BURNS
**MODERN
MISHPOCHA**

Once a week, my kids are in a deeply Christian house. At the moment they are little, but one day at the end of Sunday dinner's grace they may ask who Jesus is or why Mommy doesn't say "amen."

So how do we juggle these two families and dynamics? How do we keep *shalom bayit* (peace of the home) in an interfaith environment?

Now please bear in mind that everyone's situation is unique, and what works for my family, may not work for yours. In our case, I find it helpful to have soft lines in the sand and firm lines in the sand, like a fence around the Torah.

I'll give you some examples. Soft lines in the sand are places where dialogue and shared experience can happen. Rather than 'othering' my in-laws, I can focus on the aspects I admire about their religion and use them as a common ground. For instance, I love that their branch of Christianity supports egalitarian leadership. I love that their love of God and their spirituality is open and unabashed. Sometimes in synagogues, I

find people are hesitant to even talk about God, so it's refreshing to converse with people who are operating on the baseline of "of course, God is real!"

However, in my back pocket, I also have my internal firm lines in the sand that my partner and I have discussed. These are lines of non-negotiation. For instance, while we are happy to support my partner's family in their religious expressions, like attending someone's Christmas concert or someone's baptism, those practices do not come into our own home. We will not accept religious gifts from my in-laws. We will never host a Sunday dinner in our home because we won't allow their grace to be said in our home. These firm lines help reinforce that our home and my in-laws' home are different and that that's OK.

Now, with regards to my kids' reactions, how do we reinforce these soft and hard lines in the sand? My attitude right now is that we can dissuade certain non-Jewish practices without diminishing. The same way the phrases "no thank you, not safe," and "sharing is caring" are practically mantras in my kids' lives, I can create similar phrases that acknowledge and respect others' points-of-view while establishing our lines in the sand. "We don't do that in our home," or "Nanny and Grandpa do things a little differently," are phrases I'm toying with at the moment.

Most importantly though, my partner and I have to help kids learn what it is to be Jewish. Living our Jewish lives, balancing the Sunday dinner with the Shabbat dinner – this may be the most important element of all. All the dissuading and lines in the sand have to be met with something Jewish on the other end, something special worth drawing those lines around.

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Observations on staying fit – Israeli style

On a recent trip with my husband, I noticed some lifestyle differences between Israelis and Canadians in terms of diet and exercise.

We spent the first few days in Be'er Sheva, the largest city in the Negev, where one of our sons attends medical school. I've often thought that if I lived in a country with a hot climate, I'd be more fit because I'd be doing more outdoor activities. However, after spending a few days in this desert climate where it was sunny and a sweltering 38 degrees Celsius every day, I realized there can be too much of a good thing. Walking around for more than a few minutes proved challenging as I'm unaccustomed to such extreme heat. I drank so much water. Though he's already been living there for several months, our son still finds the heat challenging. Not only that, but he and I are very fair-skinned, so plenty of sunscreen, hats and long-sleeves were in order.

The evenings were not quite as hot and very pleasant, allowing for comfortable walks and dining al fresco. If I had to choose between living in the extreme heat of the Negev or the extreme cold of our Canadian winters, it would be a difficult choice for me. I enjoy outdoor running and I've learned to tolerate it in our brutal winters but I'm not sure I could adapt to running in such heat without fainting.

We spent the next few days in Tel Aviv. I was impressed that the adult-oriented outdoor gym on the boardwalk has been considerably upgraded since my last visit six years ago. There are various machines for strength building such as chest presses and triceps dips that use your body weight as resistance. There are also cardio machines and apparatuses for chin-ups



GLORIA SCHWARTZ
FOCUS ON FITNESS

The Mediterranean diet with plenty of fresh produce, fish and olive oil is a contributing factor to Israelis being thinner than us.

and gymnastics. These free gyms are located in various places in Israel.

It would be great if we had similar outdoor gyms in Ottawa. Our climate means that those types of structures would be underutilized during the winter, but we have play structures for kids, so why not for adults? If we want to change our culture from one that promotes being sedentary to active, we should consider investing in more outdoor recreational opportunities for young and old of all abilities and economic levels. If our parks had adult exercise equipment alongside the kids' play structures, perhaps more parents would do a bit of exercise while their children played, rather than sit on benches staring at their cellphones.

I noticed lots of Israeli cyclists have switched to electric bikes and electric scooters which are good for the environment but require less physical effort than traditional ones. The glorious weather is conducive to

a variety of other outdoor activities including jogging and swimming. Matkot is a popular beach paddle ball game. I found the constant click-clack of balls hitting paddles a bit annoying, but it was fun watching the talented players.

The rate of obesity in Israel is about half that of Canada; 14 versus 26 per cent respectively. The Mediterranean diet with plenty of fresh produce, fish and olive oil is a contributing factor to Israelis being thinner than us.

The beaches at Tel Aviv are picturesque. However, as I dug my toes into the silky sand, I noticed a cigarette butt. Then another. Nearly 20 per cent of adult Israelis smoke, compared to about 15 per cent of Canadians. A bit more toe action uncovered a plastic straw, a plastic bottle top, and then a metal bottle cap. I got down on my hands and knees and spent the next few minutes sifting through the sand with my fingers. I found hundreds of butts, several more straws and bottle caps, a plastic hair clip and food wrappers. I filled up a bag and threw it in the trash bin. There are numerous garbage bins on the beach, yet there's trash everywhere just below the surface.

Israel has a good recycling and waste management program. Much of the plastic garbage is from major polluters Egypt, Turkey and Italy, brought in by sea currents and wind. The beach at Tel Aviv has the third most plastic pollution among 22 countries in the Mediterranean. <https://tinyurl.com/y25evyzy>

Each country has its benefits and challenges pertaining to all aspects of life. By travelling, observing and sharing, we can learn how to improve as individuals and as societies.

Chanukah Gift Fair

Sunday, December 8
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Great gifts and everything you need for an unforgettable Chanukah, plus an entire day of fun for the whole family!



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Friday Kabbalat
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Saturday Shabbat Services 10:15 am

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Second and fourth Thursdays

Installation of Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg
Saturday November 16, 2019 10:15 am
Please join us for this Service.

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Jewish Life Happens Here

WHAT'S GOING ON | November 11 - 24, 2019

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

ONGOING EVENTS

Beit Tikvah Mincha (Winter edition)
1 pm, Monday-Thursday, until February 27, 2020. Congregation Beit Tikvah, 15 Chartwell Ave., 613-723-1800
With the change of the clock the first weekend of November, we are instituting a Monday through Thursday Mincha service at the shul to be held at 1 pm.

Kol Miriam Choir New Season
7 - 8:30 pm, weekly on Tuesdays until June 9, 2020, Hillel Lodge, 10 Nadolny Sacks Pvt.
Contact: Katherine Moss, 613-820-8211 katherine.moss@sympatico.ca
A diverse group of women united by our love of music, singing together and being Jewish. From traditional to contemporary.

Bible Basics with Lauren Shaps
9:15 - 10:15 am, weekly on Thursdays until December 13, 2019
Contact: Lauren Shaps, 613-695-4800 lauren@jetottawa.com
Are you searching for wisdom, peace of mind, a deeper understanding of relationships and your unique mission in life? See how the events of the Exodus speak to the challenges you face today.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

CHES Annual Teacher's Workshop – Holocaust Education Month
4:30 - 9 pm, Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Dr.
Contact: Sheila Osterer, 613-286-3336 sheilaosterer@gmail.com
“Antisemitism: Then and Now” with facilitators Bernie Farber and Len Rudner. Open to all grade 7 to 12 teachers.
Sponsors: Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship, Azrieli Foundation, Temple Israel, Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies.

Ottawa Shabbat Project Challah Bake
7 - 9 pm, Young Israel of Ottawa
1762 Carling Avenue
Contact: Gavriel Rudin, 613-879-6431 rabbi@yiofo.ca
Suggested donation: \$10. Join women from across the Ottawa Jewish community for an evening of fun, inspiration and making challah!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Young Family Kabbalat Shabbat and Installation
5:30 - 6 pm, Temple Israel
1301 Prince of Wales Drive
Contact: Catherine Loves, 613 224 1802 reception@templeisraelottawa.com
A creative Kabbalat Shabbat service with song and dance to welcome Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg to town. We honour this new beginning with our youngest friends

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15 & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Jordana Lebowitz – Scholar in Residence Dinner & Discussion
6 pm Friday - 2 pm Saturday, Kehillat Beth Israel, 1400 Coldrey Ave.
Contact: Rabbi Zuker, 613-728-3501 rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com
Spend Shabbat with Jordana Lebowitz, co-author of *To Look a Nazi in the Eye*. Friday, Shabbat dinner at 6pm followed by a discussion with Jordana of her book. A dessert reception to follow. Saturday, after Kiddush, Jordana will give a talk entitled “The Millennial Challenge: The Next Generation in Holocaust Education.”

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

SJCC Member Health Appreciation Day
9:15 am - 12 pm
Contact: Carla Gencher, 613-798-9818 ext

278, cgencher@jccottawa.com
A high-energy workout featuring some of our most popular classes, plus delicious, nutritious snacks.

CHES Second Generation Symposium – “Learning From the Past for the Future”

10 am - 2:45 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel
1400 Coldrey Ave.
Contact: Sheila Osterer, 613-286-3336 sheilaosterer@gmail.com
Panel discussion and break-out sessions. Open to descendants of Holocaust survivors. Moderator: Artur Wilczynski (former Canadian Ambassador to Norway). Panelists: Zelda Abramson, Dr Natasha Alexiun, Eva Fogelman, Daniel Brooks, Free admission, lunch provided. Sponsors: Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship, Azrieli Foundation, KBI, Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Women's Torah Study
7 - 9 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel,
1400 Coldrey Ave.
Contact: Deborah Zuker, 613-728-3501 rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com
Join Rabbi Zuker in her home for Torah study, on Wednesday evenings near Rosh Chodesh, on subjects related to women in the Torah and Jewish tradition.

Camp Kadimah - The Story of Our Lives Film Screening

7:30 - 9:30 pm
Contact: Roslyn Wollock, 613-798-9818, ext. 254, rwollock@jccottawa.com
Through interviews with alumni from every decade, vintage film and memorable music, this film shows the history of Kadimah from its earliest days to the present, bringing back collective memories and telling the story of campers' second home.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Board Leadership Series: Strategy and Effective Decision Making
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Contact: Kara Goodwin, (613) 798-4696, ext. 200 kgoodwin@jewishottawa.com
A free training session led by Hartley Stern for those serving on a non-profit board in Ottawa's Jewish community. Plan to learn how boards can work together to strategically guide organizations to improve performance. A light dinner will be served. Who should attend? Directors on Jewish community boards. What you will learn: Board strategy, decision making, non-profit leadership. Sponsor: Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Expanding the Circle for Interfaith Families
4 - 5:30 pm
Contact: Maxine Miska, 613-798-9818, ext. 263 mmiska@jccottawa.com
Interfaith families explore ways to be part of our community, puzzle over how different traditions in your family co-exist and share experiences with other families. Free program, babysitting available

CANDLE LIGHTING BEFORE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15	4:15 PM
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22	4:09 PM
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29	4:04 PM
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6	4:02 PM

BULLETIN DEADLINES

ISSUE DATE	DEADLINE
DECEMBER 9	NOVEMBER 20
JANUARY 27	JANUARY 8
FEBRUARY 10	JANUARY 22
FEBRUARY 24	FEBRUARY 5

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:

Yetta Cohen
(mother of Avalee Prehogan)

Mark Dover
Chaim Gilboa

Elianna Saidenberg

**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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