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Rabbi Reuven Bulka joins Aviva Ben-Choreen as co-chair of Annual Campaign

Although the next Jewish Federation of Ottawa Annual Campaign kickoff won't take place until September, **Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka** began in the role of campaign co-chair on January 1 and he's raring to go. **Louise Rachlis** reports.

It was difficult to say no to the request to co-chair," said Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka, rabbi emeritus of Congregation Machzikei Hadas and a dedicated volunteer renowned for his tireless commitment to the community.

Rabbi Bulka has joined Aviva Ben-Choreen, who is returning for her second year as co-chair of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Annual Campaign.

"I'm a big fan of getting ready earlier than later," said Rabbi Bulka. "It doesn't hurt to get a head start. The race may begin in August, but you have to have gas in the car early."

He had high praise for Sharon Appotive, who preceded him as co-chair of the Annual Campaign.

"I don't pretend that I'll be any better than the people who preceded me," said Rabbi Bulka, "I've learned, even just into it, the enormous work involved. It's always more than they say it's going to be."

An experienced fundraiser, Rabbi Bulka said he knows "it's got to be fun for the canvassers to be successful – for them to look forward to an opportunity to do something important."

It's important, he says, that the Annual Campaign raises enough funds to sustain the community.

"With all of the wonderful organizations, if we don't



ASHLEY FRASER

Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka joins Aviva Ben-Choreen as co-chair of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Annual Campaign.



HOWARD SANDLER

Fundraising supports the community, says Aviva Ben-Choreen, returning co-chair of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Annual Campaign.

have the money, everybody suffers. I'd like to get us in a better financial situation than we are. ... Everyone involved in the community wants to see the good organizations get better and the needs be addressed."

Ben-Choreen, also a veteran volunteer in the community, says it's important to step up when called on.

"I know it's not easy to find someone who will take it on," she said. "Fundraising is everyone's least favourite activity, but it's necessary, and it's what supports our community."

Over the past year as Annual Campaign co-chair, Ben-Choreen said she realized that Ottawa's Jewish community is filled with generous people who are willing to help. They just need to be asked.

"That's the whole point of the campaign," she said, "making the 'ask.' We do have our stalwarts who year after year take it as a given they'll be giving, but people like to be asked. We don't take anyone for granted."

Ben-Choreen said she has also learned that "it doesn't really matter whether you're giving a large gift or a small one. If you're giving the best that you can give, that's the important thing. A lot of people are doing their utmost to help the community – it's amazing to see. It's very inspiring."

For more information on the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Annual Campaign, visit www.jewishottawa.com or contact Ariel Aronson at aaronson@jewishottawa.com or 613-798-4696, ext. 272.

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New executive directors appointed at Machzikei Hadas and Kehillat Beth Israel

Two of Ottawa's largest congregations have new executive directors who say they are thrilled to be able to share their passion for Ottawa's Jewish community. **Louise Rachlis** reports.

'Since I've made Ottawa home for 15 years now, it has been important for me to help the Ottawa Jewish community be all it can be," said Rena Garshowitz, the new executive director at Kehillat Beth Israel (KBI), a Conservative congregation launched in 2016 by the amalgamation of Congregation Beth Shalom and Agudath Israel Congregation.

"I grew up in a shul environment with parents who were really engaged in shul life in Toronto," she said, "and so it's really nice for me to be able to come full-circle and work with the amazing community at KBI, as I know how passionate and committed shul volunteers are."

Before joining KBI, Garshowitz worked at the Jewish Federation of Ottawa where she was the event planner and sponsorship coordinator from 2011 until 2016 before taking on the role of Annual Campaign manager in 2017. She and her husband David have a four-year-old daughter, Lyla.

Prior to joining Federation, Garshowitz worked in communications and public affairs at the Embassy of Israel in Ottawa, in several federal and provincial government roles, as well as in the private sector. She holds an honours degree in history from Carleton University.

"It's my time to give back to the community," said Jayson Taller, the



Rena Garshowitz, new executive director of Kehillat Beth Israel, says she is looking forward to working with the dedicated shul community.



Jayson Taller, new executive director of Congregation Machzikei Hadas, is among his family's third generation to be involved in the congregation.

new executive director of Congregation Machzikei Hadas (CMH), a modern Orthodox synagogue.

In a letter sent out to the congregation, Taller said he was "both humbled and privileged to serve CMH and the community which I have been blessed to be of part of for 32 years."

The Taller family has been deeply involved in CMH since its founding, "so there is obviously a very special attachment here," said Taller, who attended Hillel Academy (now the Ottawa Jewish Community School) and Camp B'nai Brith of Ottawa.

"I am a third-generation member of

CMH, going back to my zaida, Archie Taller Z"L, who, along with his two brothers, Morton Z"L and Samuel Z"L, purchased the land on which the current synagogue is located. And my father, Joel Taller Z"L, served as president of CMH from 1999 to 2002," he wrote.

For the past eight years, Taller worked in the financial services industry, working as a financial advisor at Scotiabank and then for TD.

"I look forward to bringing my experience in finance and management to assist the rabbis, board of directors, staff, volunteers and you – the all-important CMH shareholders – in growing and strengthening Machzikei Hadas," Taller added.

"Any success I have achieved thus

far has been the result of two things: an abiding commitment to provide value to those I am serving, complemented by an understanding that listening to those I serve is the only way to ensure that my efforts respond to their needs. I hope to bring a renewed energy to all aspects of the CMH program and welcome any and all suggestions that you may want to share to help us achieve our shared goals."

Taller also expressed his appreciation to Rabbi Michael Goldstein, "who served as my trailblazer in the role of executive director. His innovative ideas, strategic thinking and tireless efforts to increase the visibility and enhance the credibility of Machzikei Hadas were, and continue to be so very much valued."

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Barrhaven street-naming honours Alex Polowin

BY NORAH MOR

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in Ottawa's Barrhaven area, November 30, to mark the official naming of Alex Polowin Avenue.

Alex Polowin, 92, a Second World War veteran who served in the Royal Canadian Navy and is a member of Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Ottawa Post, was thrilled at what he described as a rare honour.

"I'm the only veteran who had a street [in Ottawa] named after him in his lifetime," Polowin told the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin.

Polowin said he was just shy of turning 17 when he joined the Navy in the spring of 1942 – serving until September 1945. He participated in battles in the English Channel and, during D-Day, in Normandy.

Born in 1926 to Jewish immigrants from Lithuania, Polowin said he was well aware at the time of the atrocities Jews were facing in Europe.

"I take great pride in being Jewish," said Polowin, who has spoken about the war more than 200 times in Ottawa classrooms over the past 20 years.

"I'd like them to know more what a great country we live in," said Polowin about his sessions with students.

In addition to the street-naming, Polowin has been honoured numerous times for his service including being a recipient of the French Legion of Honour, the Russian Ushakov Medal, the United Kingdom's Arctic Star, and Canada's Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Polowin met Queen Elizabeth, then-U.S. president Barack Obama, and other world leaders when he was chosen to represent veterans in 2014 at the 70th anni-



Ottawa City Councillor Jan Harder presents a framed citation to Alex Polowin at the street-naming ceremony in his honour, November 30, on Alex Polowin Avenue in the Barrhaven area.

versary of D-Day ceremonies in Normandy.

He remains "a navy person," he said. "I never speak of 'me' or 'I,' but of 'we,' when speaking to students... I'm always speaking as a Canadian, and never say that our enemies were Germans – but only Nazis or fascists."

Polowin served on two ships during the war – the HMCS Pictou and HMCS Huron – and notes, sadly, that

he is the last sailor from either of those ships still alive.

Polowin said his family in Ottawa and Montreal keeps him busy. He still speaks to students, attends services regularly at Kehillat Beth Israel, and manages to visit the gym almost every day.

"If I had known how good getting old is, I would've done it years ago," he joked. "I'm happy with my age and I wouldn't want to be one day younger."

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Novel set in Ottawa recalls the Holocaust and Canadian anti-Semitism

BY LOUISE RACHLIS

As local author James L. Turner began doing his book research two years ago, he discovered that he hadn't realized growing up the anti-Semitic views of such leaders as Ottawa mayor Charlotte Whitton and former prime minister Mackenzie King.

"I became instantly captured and fascinated by what I was reading... I wanted to know how this can arise," he said.

And so, as with many works in progress, Turner's first novel "started off being one thing, and ended up being another."

Turner had begun writing a memoir of family vignettes, and then decided to do more.

"My older sister Josephine, five years older than I am, remembered POWs working at Haley's Cinder Block company; the prison was in Hull," said Turner, who was born in 1944.

The resulting novel, *Strange Wind*, is set in Ottawa in the late 1950s with flashbacks to Europe during the Second World War, addresses the horrors of the concentration camps and the Holocaust and their relevance to today's world, and institutional racism and anti-Semitism, then and now.

A retired computer professional, Turner has worked as a chaser/killer in a slaughterhouse; in the Royal Canadian Navy, serving aboard Canada's last aircraft

carrier, the Bonaventure; as an executive for 20 years for a large U.S. computer firm, and, for five years prior to retirement, as a contractor for the Canadian Forces National Counter Intelligence Unit. Now a resident of Aylmer, Quebec, he has lived in many cities and travelled extensively.

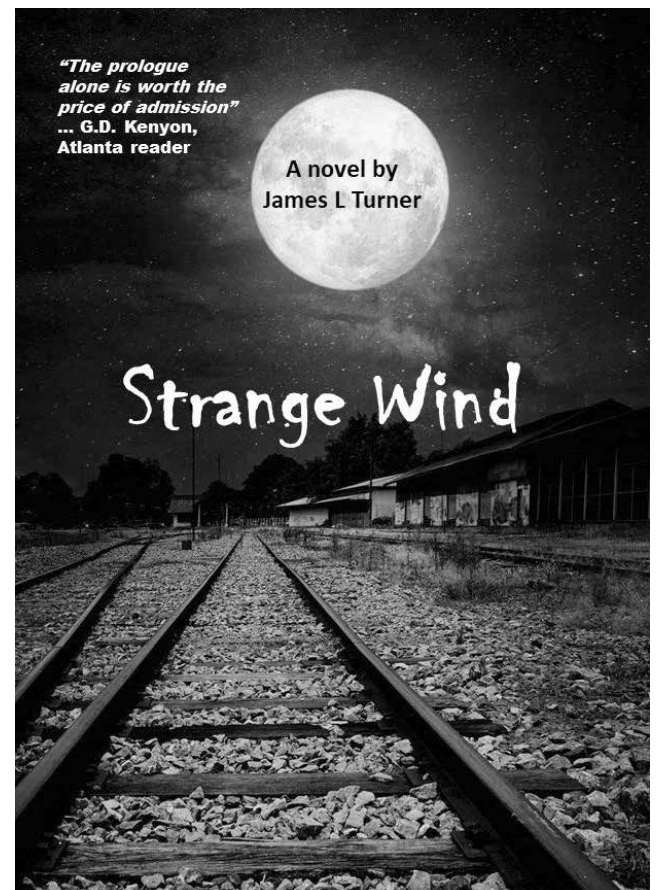
Turner said his book's editor, Rene Moesser, is the son of a German immigrant and that he provided "a lot of insight into how it could happen there," referring to the rise of the Nazis to power and the ensuing evils they committed.

A non-practicing Catholic, Turner has six sisters and three brothers who "weren't very happy about me rattling family skeletons" as he tells his family's story as well in the novel.

"I point strong fingers at the Catholic Church... I touch on residential schools, Japanese internment camps, and Canadian anti-Semitism throughout the war," he said.

Turner said he hopes his book will help open eyes so that readers will "recognize things for what they are and question them.

"As I talk to kids, and my own family, I see they have a limited understanding of history, they don't understand the reality of it. You kill 10 people it's a terrible disaster. You kill 10 million, it's a statistic... I'm trying to point out the evils that happened in the camps are universal, not a one-time aberration."

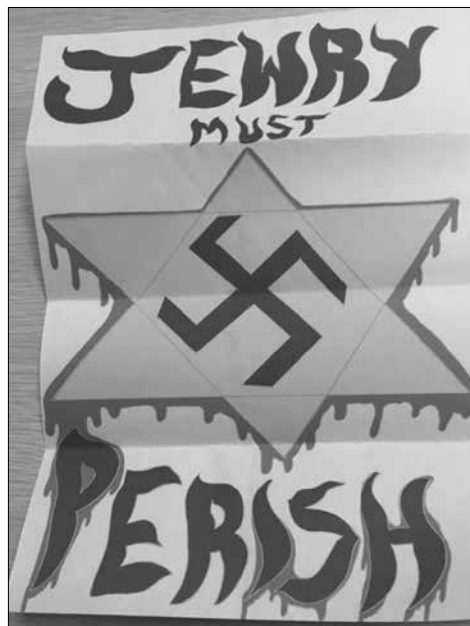


Canadian synagogues receive anti-Semitic messages during Chanukah

Young Israel of Ottawa, an Orthodox congregation in the Westboro neighbourhood, was among at least 13 Canadian synagogues – from across the denominational spectrum – which received a coordinated anti-Semitic hate message in December during the Chanukah holiday.

Other shuls which received the message – which included a swastika inside a Star of David and the words, "Jewry Must Perish," included Congregation Beth Ora and Shaare Zedek Congregation in Montreal; Adath Israel Congregation, Beth Tzedec Congregation, Temple Har Zion and Beth Tikvah Synagogue in Toronto; Beth Israel Congregation in Kingston; Anshe Sholom Temple in Hamilton; Beth Israel Synagogue and Temple Beth Ora in Edmonton; Congregation Emanu-El in Victoria; and the Chabad-Lubavitch Centre in Calgary.

The letters were mailed from Calgary



This anti-Semitic message was mailed to at least 13 synagogues in Canada during Chanukah.

"Although these incidents are unsettling and offensive, our assessment – shared by police – is that they do not pose a security threat," said the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.

and police in all affected cities are investigating.

"Although these incidents are unsettling and offensive, our assessment – shared by police – is that they do not pose a security threat," said the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) in a statement released via Twitter.

"While the police investigation remains ongoing, these incidents are almost certainly part of an annual pattern that takes place during the holiday season. We must be responsible and

smart in how we respond to these acts. We always advise vigilance, but we do not wish to fuel the perception that these acts reflect a security threat – for which there is no evidence at this time," the CIJA statement continued.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was among officials at all levels of government condemning the anti-Semitic messages and pledging support to the Jewish community.

"Sending my full support to the Canadian Jewish community. These recent acts of hatred & anti-Semitism have no place in our country and we will not tolerate it," wrote Trudeau on Twitter.

"The anti-Semitic messages Canadian synagogues received this week are vile & have no place in Ontario. Diversity is our greatest strength, and as communities celebrate their faith this holiday season, our tolerance, love & understanding unite us against hate," added Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne in a tweet.

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(From left) Richard Marceau, general counsel and senior government adviser of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs; Isabelle Benhamou, president of the Sephardi Association of Ottawa; speaker Christopher Silver; and Itay Tavor, spokesperson and head of public diplomacy at the Embassy of Israel, gather at an event commemorating the Day to Mark the Departure and Expulsion of Jews from the Arab Countries and Iran, November 30, at the SJCC.

Jewish life in Arab countries recalled at Sephardi Association event

BY NORAH MOR

The Sephardi Association of Ottawa commemorated the Day to Mark the Departure and Expulsion of Jews from the Arab Countries and Iran, November 30, with a lecture by Christopher Silver at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre on “Jewish Life in the Arab World at the Mid-20th Century.”

The day, which has been observed in Israel since 2014, was created to recognize and acknowledge the trauma of about one million Jews who left or were forced out of Arab countries and Iran in the wake of the establishment of the State of Israel.

November 30 was chosen for this observance as it is the day after the anniversary of the United Nations vote in 1947 to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states – thus beginning the persecution of Jews in Arab countries.

Silver, an assistant professor of Jewish studies at McGill University, discussed some of the most prominent Jewish musicians who created and performed in Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria.

“The Jewish-music scene in the Arab countries was an entanglement of Hebrew and Arabic,” said Silver.

“Back then,” he said, “a Jewish Moroccan could become a superstar in Morocco, and his fans were Jews and Muslims.”

In Morocco in 1947, Salim Halali, a Holocaust survivor, established a cabaret

in Casablanca that became “the talk of the town,” Silver added.

Although Zionism was outlawed in Egypt in the 1950s, the distinction between Judaism and Zionism was very vague; so many Egyptian Jews were still able to balance their Egyptian and Jewish identities, Silver said.

“At that point in time, many Egyptian Jews were not yet sitting on their suitcases, ready to leave,” he said. “In 1951, Egyptian radio returned to normalcy and resumed playing ‘Kol Nidre’ on Yom Kippur.

“Jewish and Muslim lives were still intertwined,” he added, “and they were extraordinary and ordinary, exhilarating and devastating.”

The second speaker was Radamis Zaky, an Egyptian-Canadian PhD candidate at the University of Ottawa, who recently visited Israel.

Growing up in Cairo, Zaky recalled the Jewish community was enclosed in “a small neighbourhood, guarded by police, dehumanized and sometimes referred to as ‘traitors.’”

Zaky presented a series of photos showing the remarkable old Ben Ezra Synagogue in Cairo and the monumental collection of Jewish manuscripts known as the “Cairo Geniza” that were discovered there.

“Anti-Semitic nationalism has prevented preserving Jewish heritage in Egypt. But, it needs to be preserved soon,” Zaky said, “because Jewry there will soon be gone.”



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FEDERATION
REPORT



JONATHAN AND
NAOMI MITCHELL,
MITZVAH DAY CO-CHAIRS

Ottawa's Jewish community is set to come together for Mitzvah Day on Sunday February 4. Now in its 12th year, Mitzvah Day is one of the most vital community-building events organized by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. As many as 500 to 600 people will pack the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC) that morning with the united intent of doing good deeds. This is the reason we chose to become chairs of this great event.

Growing up in Toronto (Naomi) and

The community gathers on Mitzvah Day to do good deeds

Montreal (Jonathan), we were taught the importance of volunteering, and of giving back, as well as *tikkun olam* – performing acts of kindness with the goal of making the world a better place. Now, as parents of two young children, these are values we wish to pass on. And what better occasion than Mitzvah Day to teach our children? The fun, hands-on activities – surrounded by other community members all doing mitzvot together – provide the perfect opportunity for us all to highlight to our children the impact a person can make as an individual and as part of a community.

This event benefits not just our Jewish community, but also helps the broader Ottawa community. As in years past, the day will start with the hair donation ceremony where we can cheer on those generous people cutting off their locks to help others. Community members will be donating at least six inches of their hair to Hair Donation Ottawa, an

organization that raises funds for child and adult cancer research and empowers kids suffering from hair loss by providing them with free wigs.

Other mitzvot include assembling soup ingredients into bags to create easy meals that will be donated to the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank; creating birthday celebration kits to be distributed to children living in shelters; and creating regulation kits, in conjunction with Crossroads Children's Centre, to help children who need to learn to self-soothe and calm themselves. There will also be a singalong with residents of Hillel Lodge, sandwich-making for the homeless and craft/learning sessions about Shabbat and the environment.

In addition, this year, you can donate items to help several organizations. In support of the Multifaith Housing Initiative, a successful organization that works to create subsidized housing for people of all faiths, we are collecting sporting equipment for residents of

their new Barrhaven housing community. You can donate games, books, and reusable bags to Youville Centre – a charity that helps adolescent mothers and their children. You can also donate gloves, warm socks, underwear, and new toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.) that will be assembled into *Bracha Bags* for Jewish Family Services' Street Smarts program. New for this year, you can bring in small used electronics – used batteries, AC adapters, old cell phones, and gaming devices – to be properly recycled.

More information about all these events can be found on the Mitzvah Day website. Please also note that registration is required, so take a moment right now and go online to www.mitzvahdayottawa.com.

On behalf of the Mitzvah Day committee, Yael Pfeiffer, Scott Ship, Eliana Mandel-Carsen, and Dennis Le, we look forward to seeing you at the SJCC on February 4 for Mitzvah Day!

FROM THE
PULPIT



RABBI S. ROBERT MORAIS,
TEMPLE ISRAEL

In December I had the opportunity to attend the Union for Reform Judaism's biennial convention. It was a series of remarkable experiences. Shabbat services with 6,000 participants, incredible cantors and Jewish musicians filling the hall with ancient and new melodies for prayer.

The biennial convention serves many purposes. It is a time for the movement to come together – professional and lay leadership – to learn Torah, to hear from the movement's leadership. As part of the Canadian delegation I had the opportunity to meet with our other lay and professional leaders from the over 20 other Canadian Reform congregations.

We also heard keynote addresses from people like U.S. Senator Elizabeth

Social justice is a moral issue

Warren and Reverend William J. Barber, a minister and civil rights leader, who taught messages of collective social responsibility.

"We must demand a moral agenda," said Reverend Barber, "an agenda that says there are issues that are not about left versus right... Pro-labour, anti-poverty, anti-racist policies are moral issues. Living wages and guaranteed income for the poor are moral issues. Transitioning away from fossil fuels and guaranteeing labour rights and affordable housing, these are moral issues. Fair policies for immigrants are moral issues."

As a Canadian delegation, we sponsored a resolution calling on both American and Canadian congregations to advocate for increased resources to assist in the plight of the Syrian refugees from their respective governments.

For Temple Israel, social justice has always been a moral issue, and our decision to adopt a Syrian refugee family was a moral decision. The Canadian Council for Reform Judaism-sponsored resolution said: "Between 2015 and 2017, 12 Reform congregations across Canada raised nearly \$500,000 to sponsor 60 refugees across 17 families. Some temples partnered with churches, mosques, and other Jewish congregations and institutions to raise the necessary funds for sponsorship... Although this refugee

crisis will not be solved by North America alone, there is an important role for our congregations to play."

In support of that decision, we have been awarded a grant by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration to run a 10-12 week training program for new immigrants and refugees. The program will help train them on how to effectively work in Canada's multicultural/multifaith workforce. Our goal is that the program will help dispel commonly held prejudices and stereotypes.

All too often we wring our hands wondering how we can stem the ever growing tide of anti-Semitism. While I have no allusions that this new program will stop anti-Semitism, the participants of this program will have the personal experience of getting to know me as one of our community's rabbis, and various other leaders of the Jewish community. The goal of the program is to make sure that refugees and new immigrants who participate in the program have a good understanding of what it means to work in the multi-faith, multicultural milieu that is the Canadian workplace. As we all know, once a personal relationship has been established, people think differently about the stereotypes and prejudices they see and hear.

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FROM THE EDITOR



MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

The Ottawa Jewish Bulletin only publishes one print edition per month in December and January and the December issue comes out early in the month while the January issue comes late in the month. That production schedule was set up years ago to allow the Bulletin staff to take vacations in what is usually one of the quietest times of the year for news.

Perhaps the biggest news to break in the Jewish world during our production break was U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital city and that the U.S. embassy in Israel would eventually be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

In fact, a law recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and providing for the embassy to be moved to Jerusalem was

U.S. announcement was recognition of the obvious: Jerusalem is Israel's capital

passed by the United States Congress in 1995. So Trump's announcement was really an acknowledgement of what has been American law for more than two decades. By the way, the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support: 93-5 in the U.S. Senate and 374-37 in the House of Representatives.

One of the provisions in the law provides for a waiver to enable the president of the United States to delay moving the embassy to Jerusalem for six months. Since 1995, every U.S. president – Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Trump – has signed the waiver every six months.

Indeed, after making the announcement, Trump signed a waiver keeping the embassy in Tel Aviv for another six months and it remains to be seen if or when he will stop signing them.

In many ways, Trump's announcement was recognition of the obvious. Jerusalem has been the capital of the modern State of Israel for almost 70 years. The Knesset – Israel's parliament – is in Jerusalem. So are the Israeli Supreme Court and other important institutions and offices of government.

And although no country currently

locates its embassy in Jerusalem – ambassadors from all countries present their credentials at the Jerusalem residence of the Israeli president.

But the status of Jerusalem – a holy city for Judaism, Christianity and Islam – has been in dispute for as long as Israel has been a modern state. Recall that the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine, passed in 1947, called for the creation of two states: one Jewish and one Arab. But partition was rejected by the Arabs and the new State of Israel was invaded by the surrounding Arab countries when the Jewish state declared independence in 1948. When the War of Independence ended, Israel held West Jerusalem and Jordan held East Jerusalem along with the West Bank.

Under Jordanian rule, Jews were not allowed to live in East Jerusalem or the West Bank, or to have access to such holy sites as the Western Wall. That was the status quo until 1967 when East Jerusalem and the West Bank were captured by Israel in the Six Day War. Jordan had renounced any claims it had to East Jerusalem and the West Bank long before signing a peace treaty with Israel in 1994.

Palestinians now claim East Jerusa-

lem as the capital of a future Palestinian state and the policy of the Canadian government, like that of many democracies, is that the final status of Jerusalem should be resolved in the context of settling Israel's conflict with the Palestinians – a policy that has been long unchanged by both Conservative and Liberal federal governments.

Trump's announcement, while recognizing the obvious fact that Jerusalem is, indeed, Israel's capital, did not preclude an eventual shared sovereignty for the city (a shared sovereignty that Israel offered the Palestinians in peace negotiations as recently as 2008 – negotiations the Palestinians walked away from).

I believe that a two-state solution will be the best possible outcome for Israel's future and for the future of the Palestinian people. But settling the conflict, and creating a Palestinian state, will take serious negotiations. While many question how serious Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is about settling the conflict, at least he insists he's ready to negotiate. Unfortunately, the Palestinians continue to seize on any excuse – including Trump's announcement – to refuse to even come to the table.

IDEAS AND IMPRESSIONS



JASON MOSCOVITZ

Competition is a consumer's best friend – but not necessarily when those competing for your business will say practically anything. Communications companies like Bell, Rogers, Shaw in the West, and Videotron in Quebec, continue to fall over each other to get Canadians to sign up with them.

The result is a Wild West culture where there is no set price. Often, the cost quoted is whatever it takes to get you to sign on to bundle your phone, cable and Internet needs with another company.

When this fierce competition ignited a little more than 10 years ago, the companies set up groups in their organiza-

They won't tire me into submission

tions to talk to unhappy clients. They called it "client retention." Client retention meant consumers would be given better deals if they resisted taking their business to a competitor.

In no time friends and family would regale in their getting a "great deal" from their cable provider. Conversations inevitably revolved around comparing prices and what became obvious was that those who screamed the loudest often got to pay the least for the same services. Clearly this fits in the category of "whoever said life was fair."

Over the past decade, the forces of competition have led to aggressive marketing unlike anything Canada had ever seen. As huge, publicly-traded entities, numbers mean everything to communication companies. Every new household they get their claws into is another feather in their corporate hat. Every household they take away from a rival is competitive nirvana.

But there are also countless stories that detail the inevitable "bundles of frustration" when healthy competition gets twisted and warped.

My story goes like this. After many years with the same provider, there was a problem. The price wasn't great

while the technology in the house was old and tired. Over time, ads for Bell's Fibe TV service became more appealing. But it was a slow process. It took more than a year to even call Bell. For much of that time changing providers just seemed like too big a hassle.

The call was finally made this past August on a lazy hot summer day when there was not much else to do. There was also a new promotional offer from Bell that caught my attention. Finally, after thinking about it for so long, I decided to see what else was out there.

One should always be in the right frame of mind to do business and I was. Not surprisingly, so was Bell. The promotional offer, as it turned out, was only a starting point. It was the appetizer to get me to call. Once engaged, I discovered there was no base price. It was a negotiation.

I negotiated the best two-year deal I could but although I was satisfied, I got a little worried when told the installation would be in 48 hours. A warning light went on because I never knew Bell Canada to move that quickly.

The next day I phoned and asked if I could get an email confirming my deal. I got several emails except the

one I asked for. Another warning light went on which prompted me to phone again the morning of the installation. As the details of my deal were accurately repeated to me, I rationalized that, email or not, it was all in the file and I was ready to move forward.

The free installation was efficiently done and Fibe TV greatly exceeded expectations. It was all excellent until the first bill arrived. It was a shocker. In no way did it reflect what I had agreed to. Not even close.

Back on the phone with Bell, my contained anger was no match for the employee who answered my call, so I was transferred to a "case manager" who was sympathetic. He said and did the right things. He adjusted my bill and promised the agreed-to rate would apply going forward.

I have received three bills since then and none have reflected my agreement. Each time significant adjustments were made to satisfy me. But I am tired of bandages, tied of spending more than an hour on the phone every month. I want my agreement to be honoured without having to fight for it. Maybe Bell figures they will tire me into submission.

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Palestinian reconciliation creates an opportunity for families of slain soldiers held by Hamas

BY RON KAMPEAS

(JTA) – Israel's government may be ambivalent about the nascent reconciliation between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, but it outright opposes Palestinian bids for statehood recognition through international bodies, including the United Nations.

However, for one influential Israeli constituency – the families of Israelis held captive in Hamas-controlled Gaza – both developments present an opportunity: to hold someone accountable for those who are still captive, as well as the remains of dead ones.

"Now the Palestinian Authority is responsible," said Leah Goldin, whose son, Hadar, was captured and killed after a ceasefire went into effect ending the 2014 Gaza War.

Unlike Hamas, which is widely considered a terrorist organization by Israel, Canada, the U.S. and others, the Palestinian Authority is recognized as the representative of the Palestinians.

Goldin argued as much last month at a special session of the UN Security Council convened by the United States and Ukraine.

If the Palestinian Authority fails to address Hamas' refusal to release Hadar Goldin, Oron Shaul, and two Israeli civilians, Avera Mengistu and Juba Abu Ganima, who crossed over into Gaza, they would be "violating international law," she said. Mengistu and Ganima are

presumed alive.

Alongside her at the Security Council meeting was Irwin Cotler, the former Canadian justice minister who is representing Goldin pro bono in her attempts to obtain answers about her son. He noted that the Palestinian Authority had recently joined the International Criminal Court (ICC), an action taken in order to advance criminal prosecutions of Israelis, also made the Palestinian Authority more accountable, Cotler said.

The Palestinian Authority, by not taking action, is in "standing violation" of prohibitions in the statute that created the ICC against "outrages upon personal dignity" and "humiliating and degrading treatment."

In an interview, Cotler, who now is the chair of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, said that strategy could extend to other bids by the Palestinians to join international bodies with member nation status.

"You can't join international agreements unless you are fulfilling obligations under international law," Cotler said. "You cannot be a violator of international humanitarian law and also be a member in good standing of these organizations."

To be clear, neither Goldin nor Cotler endorsed reconciliation or Palestinian ascension to statehood status at international organizations; instead, they were arguing that as long as these processes were underway, the Palestinian Authority should assume the concomitant responsibilities.

Reconciliation between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, launched in October, is still in its nascent stages. It's not clear to what degree Hamas has transferred powers to the Palestinian Authority, and whether the Palestinian Authority has made an issue of conveying information to Israeli families about the living captives or the remains of the dead. A JTA request for comment from the office of the Palestine Liberation Organization envoy to Washington was not answered.

Israel has expressed concerns about reconciliation, and whether it will leave Hamas militias in place. It is adamantly opposed to recognition of Palestinian statehood outside the context of peace talks, which have yet to resume, although the Trump administration is endeavouring to restart talks.

Palestinians in the past have countered that Israel also uses captives and the remains of the fallen as bargaining chips. Cotler said these were not comparable to the plight of the Goldins: Israel, he said, abided by laws requiring that information be conveyed to the families of captives and the fallen. Moreover, he said, Goldin

See Reconciliation on page 10

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Making the desert bloom and heal

Tu Bishevat Telethon 2018 is Sunday!

It might be cold and snowing in Ottawa, but in Israel the festival of trees – Tu Bishevat – is just around the corner. This year, JNF Canada is planting trees in the Negev desert, in the Mishmar HaNegev forest, northwest of Be'er Sheva.

The project includes preparing the land for planting, creating installations to collect runoff and planting native species in limans and on ridges. The variety of trees to be planted includes acacia, mulberry, jujube, sycamore, carob and Atlantic pistacia.

JNF's planting strategy helps the desert bloom in harmony

JNF plants trees utilizing a strategy known as savannization – planting to create a green environment that is appropriate for a desert and not according to North American or European standards. Savannization was developed by JNF as a tool to rehabilitate eroded soil, stabilizing the soil and preventing future erosion, thus allowing the desert to bloom. The result is a well-balanced desert with its unique flora and fauna.

Greening using ecologically-minded techniques

The first technique is to plant tree clusters in limans. Limans are a micro-catchment tool and collect water runoff from desert floods – thus, planting trees using rainwater is an extremely efficient and ecologically wise method. Second, trees are planted on ridges in low densities as terraces to prevent soil erosion. Trees are irrigated for three to four years until they become established and they are protected from grazing damage.

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Take on a green garden to improve quality of cancer care

Treating and healing cancer patients in Israel's south

Tu Bishevat focusses on trees, but why not consider helping to construct a healing garden? JNF Canada is involved in the creation of a healing garden at Be'er Sheva's newly integrated and comprehensive Soroka Medical Centre – the largest in Israel's south. The Soroka Medical Centre is a university medical centre affiliated with Ben-Gurion University. In recent years, the number of cancer patients in Israel's south has risen sharply. As a result, Soroka treats 18,000 cancer patients every year to all residents of Israel's south – Jews, Bedouins, Arabs – 750 of whom are children.

Studies show that green areas inside medical facilities help to reduce patient and staff stress levels and to yield better results from treatment. A rooftop garden, the healing garden will include benches, chairs, decorative rocks, trees, shrubs and more.

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OJCS robotics team uses Lego to study water management in Israel

BY NICOLA HAMER
FOR OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Thanks to a group of hands-on grandparents, students at the Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS) have been using Lego to learn about water resource management in Israel. They even brought what they learned to a city-wide competition so others can learn about it, too.

Every year, grandparents are welcomed at the school to see what and how their grandchildren are learning. Actively involved grandparents belong to the Grandparents Circle, which raises money and then allocates it towards school improvements such as Smartboards for the classrooms. They had the opportunity to see the Lego club in action and talk to the kids about their nascent robotics projects.

"The grandparents were very excited to support this growing initiative," said Chelsea Cleveland, who coaches the robotics team with fellow teacher Melissa Thompson. The Grandparents Circle used money they had raised to purchase the Lego Mindstorms EV3 robotics software, enabling the club to take robotics to a new level.

For the past three years, the OJCS RamBOTS have competed in the First Lego League's (FLL) robotics competition, held in Ottawa this year at Algonquin College. The first year the school was involved, competition day was a Saturday and the team could not fully participate. But since then, the local FLL has taken care to schedule it on a Sunday, so the school's team has been able to fully and enthusiastically take part.

The FLL is a world-wide annual competition based on a different theme. This year's theme was Hydro Dynamics. The theme could not have fit more per-



The OJCS RamBOTS: (Back row, from left) Talia Freedhoff, Oliver Kolatacz, Elana Rogoff, Sasha Sachs, (front) Jacob Spanglet, Samuel Kolatacz, Jacob Greenberg and Jacob Spivock.

fectly into the OJCS curriculum. The team researched how Israel 'makes the desert bloom,' reaching out to the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research for information, and discovering that Israel leads the world in water research.

On December 3, the RamBOTS shared a third-place finish with a number of other teams, but it is clear that for the students involved, the team is what matters, not just winning.

"I learned basic programming and how to persevere even when nothing seems to be working out," said Grade 8 student Talia Freedhoff, who has been part of the club for three years. "Every year I look forward to getting to know the team and completing tasks together. And let me tell you, completing those tasks is no easy feat! When we do complete one, we all celebrate and cheer each other on for the next one."

The kids have such a great time playing with robots and learning to work as a team that they don't even realize that how much they are actually learning, said OJCS Head of School Jon Mitzmacher.

"The Robotics Club is the type of high-quality STEM activity that that we are committed to providing our students. We are proud of their achievement and even prouder of the learning."

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Reconciliation: Hamas holds remains of soldiers Hadar Goldin and Oron Shaul

Continued from page 8

was not nabbed during the conflict but in its immediate aftermath, likely for the express purpose of being a bargaining chip.

“At this point, it is known who is being held, where they are being held,” he said. “There is also a process of legal appeal in Israel.”

Goldin said she was heartened by

the response to her presentation to the Security Council, first in that all but one nation – China – attended, and China’s envoy sent apologies, noting a scheduling conflict. The Security Council was convened under a semi-formal mechanism that does not require attendance by all members.

Among those attending was Egypt, one of a handful of nations that has

influence with Hamas – because of the border Egypt shares with Gaza.

Cotler in his presentation noted that Hamas – and, he argued, the Palestinian Authority, by dint of the reconciliation process – was in violation of the 1990 Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in

Islam, which declares that “the state and the society shall protect one’s body and burial place from desecration.”

For Egypt, the declaration is a signal of the leadership it aspires to in the Arab and Muslim worlds. The PLO is a
See Reconciliation on page 13

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Leah Goldin, mother of late Israeli soldier Hadar Goldin, at a meeting in the Israeli Knesset, April 19, 2017.

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Family donates British Holocaust hero's medals at Ottawa ceremony

BY NORAH MOR

Frank Foley (1884-1958) was a British Secret Intelligence Service officer who served as passport control officer at the British embassy in Berlin in the 1930s.

Between Kristallnacht on November 9, 1938 and the outbreak of the Second World War on September 3, 1939, Foley was instrumental in helping thousands of Jewish families escape from Nazi Germany. For his actions in saving Jewish lives, Foley was recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations in 1999.

At a ceremony held in Ottawa on November 27 at Earncliffe, the residence of the British high commissioner, Foley's service medals were donated to the United Kingdom by Canadian members of Foley's family.

"Frank Foley exhibited the physical bravery of a 'Bond' in both world wars and displayed the intellectual dexterity of a 'Smiley' in running agents in pre-war Nazi Germany," said Mark Seaman,



A portrait of Frank Foley, his service medals, and other documents on display at the residence of the British high commissioner in Ottawa, during a ceremony at which the medals were donated to the United Kingdom by Canadian members of Foley's family.

a U.K. cabinet historian and expert on British military intelligence, who spoke at the ceremony.

As head of the British passport control office, Foley issued thousands of visas to German Jews from all

backgrounds and walks of life – even though many did not meet eligibility requirements.

"Frank's openness, tolerance and self-sacrifice were astonishing and overwhelming," said British High Commis-

sioner Susan le Jeune d'Allegershecque at the ceremony.

Following the deaths of both Foley and his daughter, his medals were passed on to his nephew, Dennis Foley, of Toronto. It was Dennis, and his sons, Teddy and Mike, who decided to return the medals to the United Kingdom.

"It was a very easy decision," Teddy Foley told the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin.

The idea began during a family visit to the British embassy in Berlin where they saw a plaque honouring Frank Foley.

"We took a photo next to it, and only then began to realize how incredibly proud Britain is of him," said Teddy.

"Before that," added Mike Foley, "nobody really noticed the medals in our house or was aware of their significance to Britain," although they did know of his role in saving thousands of Jews.

"Giving the medals back to Britain, where people really care and are aware of his story, is simply the best way to honour Frank," said Mike.

Ottawa women planning group trip to Israel

BY MERLE HALTRECHT-MATTE
FOR PAULA AGULNIK AND YAFFA GREENBAUM

If you are an adventurous, curious, news-hungry woman, this is may be the trip of a lifetime. Ottawans Paula Agulnik and Yaffa Greenbaum have worked with Nancy Fortune of Marlin Travel to put together an opportunity for a small number of women to witness firsthand some personal situations of Israeli women and to experience special aspects of Israeli culture. Participants will spend 10 days – April 22 to May 2 – touring Israel on an itinerary that brings to life a feminist view of the Jewish state.

From Tel Aviv to Jerusalem to Northern Israel, dinner speakers will include Eetta Prince-Gibson, an award-winning journalist, academic activist and lecturer. She is currently the Israel editor for Moment Magazine and was formerly editor-in-chief of The Jerusalem Report. Her writing focuses on Jerusalem, Israeli-Arab relations, gender equality, and civil society.

Participants will also attend a panel discussion at the Canadian ambassador's residence on the topic of post-traumatic stress disorder with experts from Haifa University discussing the causes of this disability and its impact on day-to-day life in Israel. The group will also meet with Miriam Barak, a retired Foreign Service officer who recently spent several years in Ottawa while her husband, Rafael Barak, was ambassador of Israel

to Canada.

The group will visit Kfar Kara to see the Yad BeYad (Hand in Hand) bilingual school, dedicated to bringing together Jewish and Muslim children in a positive, natural learning environment.

There will be an Israeli cooking experience with Galileat at a local Arab or Druze home to explore the world of Arab cooking. Likewise, a visit to Kibbutz Sde Elyahu will feature an interactive tour with one of the women guides of the Bio-Bee fields and facilities. On a working kibbutz, the group will encounter flies, bees and owls being used to tackle issues of environmental improvement.

The political will not be overlooked. Knesset Member Aida Touma-Suleiman, chair of the Knesset's Status of Women and Gender Equality Committee, and one of only two Arab female members of the Knesset, will give her view of politics in Israel. Much more is packed into this special trip, including a bit of shopping, a soak in the Dead Sea and an optional climb of Masada.

Ending on a musical note, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra is on the agenda as well.

The intent of this women-only trip is to learn and share a better understanding of life in Israel. For more information, contact Yaffa Greenbaum at 613-266-6677 or yaffa.greenbaum@gmail.com or Paula Agulnik at 613-298-7520 or agulnikpaula@gmail.com.



Yaffa Greenbaum (left) and Paula Agulnik have planned a 10-day trip for women to experience Israel through a feminist lens.

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Reconciliation: Two living Israelis also held in Gaza

Continued from page 10

signatory.

Egypt's envoy did not comment, but many others at the session expressed sympathy, Goldin said, among them nations like Sweden that have an otherwise fraught relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

Also attending are countries not currently on the Security Council, which has five permanent members and 10 members elected to two-year terms. "We welcome today's session and Canada wishes to stand in solidarity with the families – to quote former Canadian minister of

'Every country that has relations with the Palestinian Authority should consider seriously what the PA is doing to return Hadar, Oron and the civilians.'

justice Irwin Cotler, who testified before us today – we wish to tell you that you are not alone," Louise Blais, the deputy Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, said in remarks addressed to Goldin.

Goldin credits Nikki Haley, the

U.S. envoy to the United Nations who has made bold declarations of the alliance with Israel a centrepiece of the U.S. mission, for initiating the session and also thanked Ukraine for co-sponsoring. The issue of troops held hostage incognito is a sore point for Ukraine in its ongoing war with rebels backed by Russia.

"This is another real opportunity to resolve our case," Goldin said. "Every country that has relations with the Palestinian Authority should consider seriously what the PA is doing to return Hadar, Oron and the civilians."



Israeli soldier Lieutenant Hadar Goldin was killed by Hamas terrorists on August 1, 2014, two hours after Hamas agreed to a ceasefire in Operation Protective Edge.

ADVERTISEMENT

Ottawa's Premier Jewish Summer Experience for Kids

By Lillooet Nordlinger McDonnell

Are you wondering what to do with your kids this summer? Are you hoping to give them the opportunity to make new friends while engaging in fun activities and learning about their Jewish heritage? Look no further than Camp Gan Israel (CGI), Ottawa's premier Jewish summer day camp.

Camp Gan Israel offers campers of various ages and religious backgrounds a chance to engage in a plethora of stimulating activities while developing pride in their Jewish heritage and broadening their religious connections and observance. Devorah Caytak, CGI Executive Director, explains that CGI is much more than a break from the regular school routine. "It's a comprehensive program designed to strengthen the body and the soul. It provides a child with a rich and wholesome summer vacation of fun and excitement along with friendship and meaningful educational experiences."

Just ask Ottawa parents Anna and Danny Tal, who began sending their children to Camp Gan Israel 5 years ago. Until they found CGI, the Tals had sent their eldest daughter Ava, 10 years old, and son Gabriel, 8 years old to a variety of private and public summer day camps. In general, they found these camps to be overcrowded and impersonal. When Ava and Gabriel finally attended CGI, they fell in love with it, explains Anna Tal. It was just what they were looking for: stimulating activities involving sports, games, crafts, and dramatics, small groups, and counsellors who cared (they give hugs and greet campers by name and may even drop by your house after camp hours). The counsellors come from all over the world including places as far away as Australia and Israel. Many



come back year after and the warmth and love that they bring is key to making the camp a success.

Tal describes her family as moderately traditional, not religious per se. She says that while attending Camp Gan Israel her kids feel completely comfortable to be who they are. To her surprise they enjoy the davening and learning about the different holidays. Tal says that because of the happiness that CGI brings her children, she even tries to convince her secular Israeli friends to sign up their children to CGI. They often resist because they think that the camp is too "religious." To this day, the families that Tal convinced remain grateful.

Camp Gan Israel had such a profound effect on 10 year old Ava that it inspired to her return to the Ottawa Jewish Commu-



Jewish, an identity that the Tals realized that the public school did not nurture. So they made the decision and sent Ava back to OCJS. Despite the added financial commitment, Ava's happiness was well worth it. This summer Ava and Gabriel's little sister, Alyssa, age 4, is looking forward to attending CGI along with her older siblings.

Camp Gan Israel enjoys a well-earned reputation as a trend setter with innovative ideas, creative programs and new activities. This year it will run for 5 weeks from July 3 until August 2, 2018, serving campers from age 18 months through 9 years old for the boys division and up to 14 years old for the girls division. Campers may sign up for one or more weeks or for the whole session.

For more info see
www.cgiottawa.org

No matter how religious your family is, if you haven't sent your kids there yet, make this summer a Camp Gan Israel summer, your kids will be thankful!

nity School (OCJS), where she had been a pupil from senior kindergarten through grade 3. The Tals thought it important for their daughter Ava to learn French and so placed her in a French immersion public school. The following summer she attended CGI and two weeks before she was to commence her second year in public school she told her parents that she did not want to return, because she wanted to feel

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Jozef Straus receives Order of Ottawa: Noting his “lifetime of extraordinary achievements in technology innovation and business success in the telecommunications industry” and his involvement in various charitable endeavours, community leader Jozef Straus received the Order of Ottawa in a ceremony, November 16, at City Hall. Straus (centre) was congratulated by Mayor Jim Watson (left) and Councillor Jeff Lieper.



Stanley Levine receives Nepean’s Canada 150th Anniversary Medal: Stanley Levine (right) received Nepean’s Canada 150th Anniversary Medal from Nepean MP Chandra Arya (centre) on December 17 at Ottawa Torah Centre (OTC). Levine was recognized for volunteering his time and knowledge during the construction of the new OTC building. Rabbi Menachem Blum of OTC is on the left.

Apply today for the *Ilana and Steven Rubin Scholarship*



Steven Rubin with 2017 recipients (left) Olivia Vale and (right) Yaffa Segal.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: APRIL 13, 2018

Valued at \$1,800, the **Ilana and Steven Rubin Scholarship** aims to help students who are planning to attend a Canadian or Israeli post-secondary institution in a program of at least 2 years. This award is intended for high school students graduating in 2018 with a B average or higher, with demonstrated financial need, who are seeking their first academic award.

FULL DETAILS AT OJCF.CA

Information: foundation@jewishottawa.com
or call 613-798-4696, ext. 252



OTTAWA JEWISH
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Adath Shalom: Adath Shalom Congregation held an event, November 25 at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, featuring Palestinian-Canadian peace activist Awad Loubani which was attended by members of Ottawa's Jewish and Muslim communities.
(From left) Habiba Mitha, Paul and Parinaz Adler, Awad and Yasmeen Loubani, Nada Ladhani, and Mansoor Mitha.



Canadian Jewish Experience: The Canadian Jewish Experience presented a special program on Cecil Hart, the Jewish head coach of the Montreal Canadiens from 1926 to 1932 and 1936 to 1938, December 16 at Library and Archives Canada. The Hart Trophy, awarded annually to the most valuable player during the National Hockey League's regular season, was named for Hart.

Andrea Freedman (left), president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, and Rabbi Reuven Bulka, rabbi emeritus of Congregation Machzikei Hadas, are seen at the event with the Hart Trophy and the Stanley Cup.

ADVERTISEMENT

The Friendship Circle of Ottawa is Opening a New Season in 2018



The Friendship Circle of Ottawa is opening its new season in 2018. This nonprofit program has successfully existed under the auspices of the Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa since 2006, and now we are looking into expanding and enriching it even further. This amazing program connects children with developmental and/or other disabilities with a teenage or university age volunteer friend, who visits once a week for an hour. Our goal is to provide every child with special needs the support, friendship and inclusion that they deserve. Friendship Circle is founded upon the

idea that within each person is a soul; and that soul is equal and worthy of boundless love. With this inspiration, the lives of the families we serve are enhanced, while the volunteers reap the rewards of selfless giving.

Both the child and the teen benefit from such friendship immensely. The program provides children with the chance to bond with their volunteers in an environment they are most comfortable in— their own homes. Together, they play games, create arts and crafts, read books or do anything fun!

The parents and siblings of a special needs child benefit as well. They can have a little break with some time for themselves. On the other hand, parents have a chance to watch their children grow socially and emotionally with a new friend.

Teenagers that have previously volunteered for the program said that they loved the experience for many reasons. Some stated that it was an absolutely eye-opening involvement that eliminated the “labels” and the prejudices that exist around children with special needs. Others said that these children “are the same but different”, meaning that they might differ from other children, but they enjoy good company and play the same as other children do. Most of all, these children need love and understanding. Many volunteers stated that the experience had a big impact on their life and taught them to appreciate their life more. Children with special needs often have fewer friends, they are less exposed to social interaction. Therefore, many of them appreciate a new friend so much, a friend that comes home just for them!

The Friendship Circle aims to promote an inclusive community that values all individuals regardless of the challenges they face. Devora Caytak, co-director of Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa and the founder of the program said that she was very pleased to have Tania Levin as the program coordinator. “We are planning to impact more families and involve more volunteers”, she added.

“We are very flexible, and we are trying our best to find a good match between a child and a volunteer. We take everything into account: characters, interests, geographic proximity. We often visit families to see if everyone is happy”.

While the program is run through the Jewish Youth Library, Mrs. Caytak said it is open to the city as a whole. “When a family calls us and says they need our help, we never say no”, she said.

Another off-shoot of the program are the Sibshops. They are fun programs for brothers and sisters of kids with special needs, who might often feel a bit left out since parents often tend to devote more time to a more demanding child. Sibshops are aimed at providing a space for siblings to connect with each other for peer support as well as to learn more about disabilities and how to navigate social situations related to their sibling with special needs. Previous Friendship Circle programs also included mom's Spa nights out, Sunday circles, Walkathons and many more.

A few more important things worth noting: there is no charge for families who have a child with special needs to participate in this program. Teen volunteers, on the other hand, will receive valuable community volunteer hours.

A teen or young adult volunteer gets an incredible volunteer opportunity, a family gets respite, even if it is only an hour a week, and a child with special needs who has many doctors/therapists in his/her life experiences friendship.

We are now looking for families who have a child with special needs and teenage/university age volunteers.

Please spread this information among your friends. Please contact Tania Levin, the program coordinator at 613-700-6456 or friendship.circle@rogers.com



Chabad of Centrepoinite: Chabad of Centrepoinite launched “A Ripple Effect,” a new teen volunteer program giving teens the opportunity to reach out to children affected by illness or health challenges. The first training session was held November 29 at the home of Rabbi Chaim and Bassy Mendelsohn. Visit www.arippleeffect.ca for more information.

The Friedman Family would like to thank
our many friends for their cards and donations
to the Kaysa and Alfred Endowment Fund.
It is much appreciated.

Alfred, Stefanie and Michael Friedman

Visit www.ottawajewishbulletin.com for
breaking news and feature articles.

CHANNUKAH 5778 IN OTTAWA



National Holocaust Monument: (From left) MP Michael Levitt, Rabbi Chaim Mendelsohn of the Canadian Federation of Chabad Lubavitch, MP Anthony Housefather and former MP and justice minister Irwin Cotler light a menorah on the first night of Chanukah, December 12 at the National Holocaust Monument.



Ottawa Torah Centre: Rocky and the Goldstein, a musician from New York City performs, December 13, at Ottawa Torah Centre's Chanukah party for adults.



Chabad Hebrew School: Chabad Hebrew School students present a Chanukah musical for family and friends, December 17, at the Ottawa Torah Centre.



Merivale High School: The Merivale High School Jewish Culture Club celebrates the second day of Chanukah, December 14, with Latkepalooza.



Sens game: A giant menorah was lit and Chanukah treats were served on the eighth night of Chanukah, December 19, during the second intermission of the Ottawa Senators vs. Minnesota Wild game at the Canadian Tire Centre. (From left) Andrea Freedman, president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, Spartacat and Rabbi Menachem Blum of the Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad.



Glebe Shul: (From left) Adir Glikson, Shira Brass (partially hidden), Rabbi Yoey Shaps and Uri Marantz are among those enjoying the Glebe Shul Chanukah Party, December 12, on the first night of Chanukah.

Chabad of Centrepoinette: Elmo was one of the special guests on hand for Chabad of Centrepoinette's 14th annual Chanukah Menorah Lighting at Ben Franklin Place, on the fifth night of Chanukah, December 16.



Julius Rosenwald: Inspiring tzedakah and tikkun Olam

BY ARIELLE STIRLING
JET

Despite his prominence and many achievements, Julius Rosenwald never became a household name. But thanks to a new documentary film by Aviva Kempner, Rosenwald's philanthropy and partnership with African-American communities in the Jim Crow South has become a foundational tale of *tzedakah* (charity) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).

JET Ottawa and the 2017-2018 cohort of the Developing Future Leaders (DFL) program of the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University will present a screening of "Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African-American Communities" on Tuesday February 6 at the Soloway

Jewish Community Centre. Reflecting Rosenwald's spirit of *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*, the screening at 7:15 pm will be preceded by a silent auction at 6:30.

Rosenwald, the child of German immigrants, grew up in Illinois where his father was a peddler. At age 16, Rosenwald was apprenticed to his uncles' clothing manufacturing business in New York. From there, through a series of business partnerships and family connections, Rosenwald eventually took over Sears, Roebuck & Co. Under his direction, Sears became the largest retailer in the U.S.

Rosenwald was heavily influenced by his Jewish values and community in Chicago. Incensed by racial inequality in the early-20th century, Rosenwald saw connections between the pogroms against European Jews and the violent attacks and lynch mobs against blacks. This led him to make significant philanthropic contributions to both Jewish and African-American causes, including sponsoring the first meetings of the NAACP and partnering with prominent activist Booker T. Washington to build over 5,300 schools for black children in the rural Deep South.

These "Rosenwald schools" profoundly shaped the educational trajectories of countless African-Americans, including Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, and others. Rosenwald's compassion, empathy, and kinship with a persecuted community led him to apply his foundational Jewish values to change the world around him – an inspirational story that JET and the students of the DFL program are honoured to be able to share with the Ottawa Jewish community.

Tickets for the screening are \$10 and are available at www.jetottawa.com or by calling 613-695-4800. Refreshments will be served.



Julius Rosenwald (left) and Booker T. Washington at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, February 22, 1915.

To Our Family and Friends,

We thank you for your donations, cards and visits for our loss of a dear brother and brother-in-law, Mendel Shore.

Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

David and Debi Shore

The Chair and Board of Directors OF THE Soloway Jewish Community Centre INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE Annual General Meeting

and Presentation of the Grossman Klein Teen Leadership Award
and Ben Karp Volunteer Service Award

Wednesday, February 7th, 2018 at 7:00pm

The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building
21 Nadolny Sachs Private

 **SolowayJCC**

New! Soloway JCC Cultural Membership

The SJCC's new Cultural Membership gives you member pricing on Jewish educational programs, concerts, lectures, exhibits, Jewish Film Society programs plus access to the Greenberg Families Library and its extensive collection of Jewish themed books, films and music.

For more information on the Cultural Membership contact Membership Director Patrice Berdowski (613) 798-9818 ext 233, pberdowski@jccottawa.com or stop by the SJCC Front Desk.

\$300

Tax Receipt of \$180

No access to fitness facilities or pools

 **SolowayJCC**



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5-year annualized return (net of fees) as of Dec. 31, 2016. * Please note that past performance is not an assurance of future Foundation growth.

Contact: Micah Garten,
Director of Development at 613-798-4696 x270
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Morris and Leah Melamed on the upcoming wedding of their granddaughter by Isabel Lesh.

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Toby and Joel Yan Mazel Tov on the birth of your new grandson by Henry and Maureen Molot and family

Cheryl Gluck Mazel Tov on your special Birthday by Henry and Maureen Molot and Julia Gluck and Ted Overton

Rabbi Reuven Tradburks Mazel Tov on your Birthday by Henry and Maureen Molot
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In Memory of:

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In Honour of:

Ruth Shacter Mazel Tov on your very special Birthday by Carole and Norman Zagerman

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In Memory of:

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Ken Kavanat In appreciation by Zelda and Stephen Shore

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In Memory of:

Jack Feldberg by Karen Fainstein, Robert Brunet, and Joan and Yetta Yanofsky
Elsie Besser by Kay and Bob Otter, Michael and Mindy Sperber, Queenie and Sol Nayman, Rochelle and David Handelman, Alexis and Shawn Rothschild, Dorothy and Kevin Love

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Finding communal solidarity amidst communal diversity

When I served as spiritual leader of Temple Israel, I participated in the rotation of pulpit rabbis who offered words of Torah in the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin's "From the Pulpit" column. Now that I have the honour of following in the footsteps of Barbara Crook and other wise and insightful columnists who have contributed to these pages, it requires a different approach than "From the Pulpit."

I have chosen to follow the wisdom of my paternal grandfather in naming this column "A View from the Bleachers." Growing up in New York City, the Bronx to be exact, I had the pleasure of attending many a baseball game at Yankee Stadium. When I went with my grandfather, he always bought bleacher seats, then the cheapest seats, those furthest away from home plate and the pitcher's mound.

I once asked him if we could afford the more expensive seats, closer to the action. He said that we could sit closer but the view would not be as good. Puzzled, I asked him to explain and he said, with great surety, that from the bleachers we could see everything. Up close, we would miss the movements of all the players, the nuances of the game, the intellectual duel between hitter, pitcher and fielders.

At the time I did not understand him but I gradually accepted his wisdom as my own. The closer to the action you are, the more tunnel vision you develop. I love to sit up high at a symphony so I can see all the members of an orchestra at once. Watching a play from the orchestra narrows my field of vision and my sightlines. Looking at our Jewish world from the pulpit certainly narrowed my perspective. So now I sit in the bleachers and offer some perceptions from afar.



RABBI STEVEN H. GARTEN
A VIEW FROM THE BLEACHERS

Three decades ago, the power of the Jewish community was made most obvious to me. Freedom Sunday for Soviet Jews was a march and political rally held on December 6, 1987 in Washington, D.C. An estimated 250,000 participants gathered on the National Mall, calling for Soviet Union president Mikhail Gorbachev to extend his policy of glasnost to Soviet Jews by putting an end to their forced assimilation and allowing them to immigrate to Israel.

My children and I were participants in that march. We were part of two plane loads of Jews who flew from Toronto to Washington. Thirty years ago, Jews from all over North America gathered under the slogans, "We Are One" and "Let My People Go": a thrilling moment for a united North American Jewish community. It was perhaps the last time we found a way to gather together as a united community.

I was reminded of this long-ago event by the decision of the U.S. army to change its slogan from "Be All That You Can Be" to "An Army of One." It is their response to the powerful force of individualism in society. The U.S. army recognized that unless they can capture what links people together they will fail in their endeavour to create a unified, culturally diverse enterprise.

Thirty years after the March on Washington, our community seems to be moving in the opposite direction. We have yet to effectively master the balance between communal and individual needs. Anthropologist Clifford Geertz wrote that "sacred symbols synthesize a people's ethos," and we must ask, as Rabbi Elyse Winick notes at My Jewish Learning, "How can we present these symbols as personally meaningful as well as communally binding?"

Some of our community leaders believe that what will bind us together and preserve our future is a Jewish day school. Some of our community leaders believe that synagogue life and new models of synagogue life are an alternative to community solidarity. Some of our communal agencies see themselves in competition with the community for dollars and support. Some in our community believe that unfiltered support of the Israeli government and its policies is necessary for communal welfare. Of course there is truth and wisdom in each road travelled.

Yet, today I do not feel the urgency that permeated the marchers on the National Mall to put aside denominational, institutional, personal agendas for a greater good. I do not hear a commitment to shared visions and shared values. I wonder if the time has come for us to take the slogan, "We Are One" out of mothballs and search for the road less travelled, the road of communal solidarity laced with a new understanding of communal diversity.

My next column will be written while I am in Israel. There, in the midst of history and modernity, the notion of community takes on a very different perspective.



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Estelle Weiss by Lynne Oreck-Wener and Bob Wener, Elsa Black, Ernie and Reva Goldberg, Sharon and Paul Finn, Cally and Sid Kardash, Norman and Myrna Barwin, Charles Laurito, Eileen and Harvey Grossman, Margo and Judah Silverman, Bernard and Beverly Friedman, Heather and Mark Evenchick
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Lillian McDonald by the residents, staff and Boards of the Lodge and LTC Foundation
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Frank Wolff by Joan and Yetta Yanofsky
Harold Wolf by Joan and Yetta Yanofsky
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Miriam Silburt With thanks from your admiring Bridge players (Sue, Sylvia, Evelyn, Toby and Sheila)
Joel Yan In appreciation by Dr. Ora Kendall Sonia Shaffer Mazel Tov on your Birthday by Libby Katz and Barbara Farber
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A unique period in Canadian Jewish history

MURRAY CITRON
BOOK REVIEW

The Jewish Hour: The Golden Age of a Toronto Yiddish Radio Show and Newspaper

By Michael Mandel
Now and Then Books
325 pages

One Sunday morning, when I was in grade school in Toronto, I came into the kitchen and found my mother wiping her eyes and laughing. She was listening to a musical sketch on the Jewish Hour that had a father walking home from shul with his little boy, who had a complaint. The boy was jealous of some of his friends, who got to go up to the front and say Kaddish. He wanted to say Kaddish too, and the father kept trying to shut him up.

I was a child myself, and in my family we didn't go to shul, and I didn't get it. It took a while. But I always got the importance of the Jewish Hour. In those days I had a peculiar view of the universe. I thought all the Jews in the world lived in an area of about 30 city blocks centred on the intersection of Spadina Avenue

and College Street, near Kensington Market. All the Jews were poor. Outside this area lived the English, who were rich.

In my Jewish Toronto, the storefront signs were as likely to be in Yiddish as in English. Grownups spoke Yiddish (we called it Jewish) or heavily accented English. The kids spoke English. The adults who spoke English without an accent were the schoolteachers and the policemen.

Into this world the radio, which was the only broadcast medium, brought news, music, sports, and comedy, in English. We knew that Eddie Cantor and Jack Benny were Jewish, but they performed in English.

And there was the Jewish Hour, that brought a Yiddish *vort* – Yiddish songs, Yiddish theatre sketches, Yiddish advertising – over the airwaves into Jewish homes. Actually there were a number of Jewish Hours that ran at different times, on different radio stations, usually on Sunday, often in sharp competition, often, for reasons of cost, on stations not in Toronto, like Hamilton and St. Catharines. There were Jewish performers and presenters, who used Yiddish. One of them was Max Mandel – the father of author Michael Mandel, who was born in 1948, when the out-migration of Jews to the northern, and better-off, parts of Toronto, was beginning.

Max was born in Apt, in the

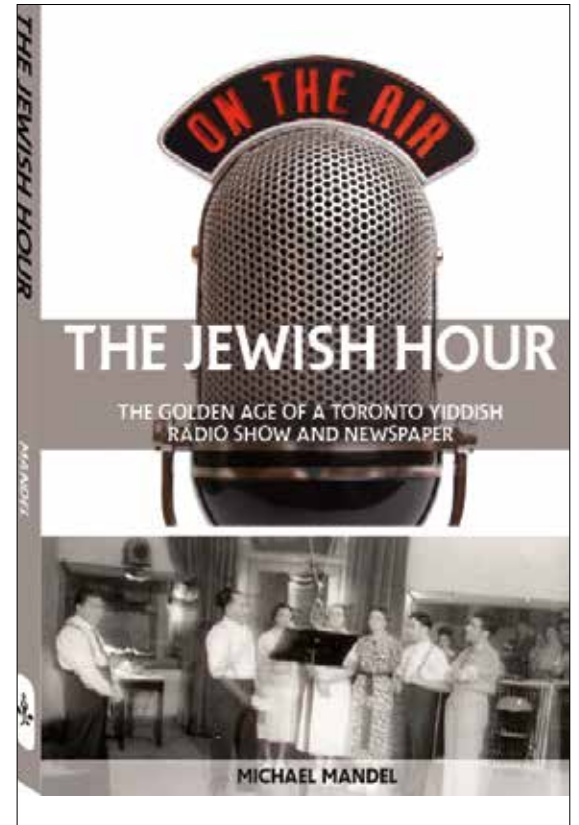
Kielce-Radom district of Poland, in 1908 and came to Toronto in 1927. The largest number of Toronto Jews came from that part of Poland. Max struggled to make a living in the clothing business and was drawn to theatrical work. He became one of the stars of the Jewish Hours, and of the Jewish stage. Michael tells touchingly, near the end of this book, how his father died suddenly at home, apparently of a stroke, in 1953, when Michael was four.

Michael grew up to become a law professor at Osgoode Hall Law School and wrote a number of books. Sadly, Michael also died too early, in 2013, at 65. *The Jewish Hour: The Golden Age of a Toronto Yiddish Radio Show and Newspaper*, which he had to rush to finish, was his final book.

Michael tells us that he while he made his living teaching law, music was his first love – he sang with Yiddishland Café and the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir. Growing up, he was told that his father had been a big star, but all he had were a couple of photographs and a few old records. The Ashkenaz Festival in Toronto, knowing his background, commissioned Michael to research the history of Jewish radio in Toronto. That took him to the Ontario Jewish Archives, where the archivist brought him an old binder of issues of Kanader Nayes, a Toronto Yiddish newspaper published from 1935 until 1954, for four years as a biweekly and then as a weekly.

In the paper, Michael found his father's wedding photograph and a front page story about the "first Jewish radio hour," which mentioned "the sweet singer of folksongs Max Mandel." Michael went "hopping around the room barely able to control myself." He had found his father, and the beginning of his book.

Kanader Nayes was produced by the Dworkin family, which had an office on Dundas Street and a number of business enterprises, one of which was selling New York's Yiddish newspapers in Toronto. Kanader Nayes, with Toronto and Canadian news and advertising, was inserted as a supplement in the New



York papers. Today newspapers try to protect advertising revenue by adding Internet service to their subscriptions. In those days radio was the new technological rival, so newspapers sponsored radio stations, or radio programs. The result was the Jewish Hour.

The book's story is told largely through photographs, news items, and announcements, copied from the Yiddish original of Kanader Nayes, with translations by the author. The Dworkin family and Kanader Nayes had political positions – socialist and anti-communist at home, Labour Zionist abroad. The time frame is from the depth of the Depression in the 1930s, through the Second World War, the Holocaust, the arrival of refugees in Canada, and the creation of the State of Israel.

So the story is more than just the story of a radio show. As Michael Mandel writes, *The Jewish Hour* is about "a unique time in Jewish history, as seen through the very eyes of the Yiddish-speaking immigrant struggling to find a way in a new and unfamiliar place."

A lifetime later, I now wonder if it was Max Mandel performing the father-son sketch I heard on that Sunday morning Jewish Hour when I was in grade school.

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Make 2018 the year of living positively

Mr. Freydick and Mr. Krekhtser (fictional characters) are acquaintances who bump into each other from time to time.

“How are you?” asks Mr. Krekhtser.

No matter how he’s feeling, Mr. Freydick typically smiles and replies, “I’m fine, thanks. How are you?”

Mr. Krekhtser never says he’s fine. This week it might be a sore back. Another time it might be a headache, a cold, a restless night or his allergies acting up. It’s always something. Mr. Krekhtser has an endless catalogue of ailments. He never fails to seize the moment and launch into a soliloquy that leaves Mr. Freydick wondering how to politely extricate himself from this mentally exhausting encounter.

Are you more like Mr. Freydick or Mr. Krekhtser? Are you starting the New Year with a positive or negative attitude? Do you see your glass as half full or half empty?

Why do some people feel the constant need to kvetch about their afflictions, not just to immediate family and close friends, but to anyone and everyone from the barista to the person ahead of them in the checkout line? What do chronic complainers gain by unburdening themselves in this manner?

People have different psychological needs and boundaries when it comes to sharing personal information. Going on ad nauseum about every twinge or ache – real or imagined – may provide some emotional comfort, but it’s unfair to the person on the receiving end. Such routine negative talk can be a symptom of anxiety or some underlying need for attention, sympathy or something else that is lacking in their life. Habitually focusing on what’s wrong instead of what’s right can alienate people and doesn’t solve anything.



Sharing one’s health concerns from time to time in moderation and being open to suggestions for resolving the problem is very different from the incorrigible bellyacher who simply seeks captive ears.

People who constantly over-share about everything from their upset stomach to their sore knee or hemorrhoids or whatever their ailment-du-jour happens to be, may be hypochondriacs or may simply lack self-awareness. Or perhaps they’re lonely and lacking the social skills to engage in a discussion other than about their health concerns.

Sometimes it takes two to tango. Complainers may select like-minded people with whom to commiserate. They feed off each other, even one-upping each other. Such conversations can sound like a competitive sport.

“Not uncommonly, people who complain a lot are struggling with obsessive thoughts leading them to ruminate and worry using those close to them as sounding boards,” notes Elliot D. Cohen (<https://tinyurl.com/z5ds6vo>). Routinely telling yourself and others how poorly you feel can become a vicious cycle and a self-fulfilling prophecy. It can reinforce fears and make you feel physically worse off than if you’d spent your energy on positive thoughts and conversations.

The first step towards any change is self-awareness.

Once the individual recognizes himself as a chronic complainer, he can take the appropriate steps to reshape his thoughts and modify his interactions. Here is a quick and informal quiz to help you determine if you’re a chronic complainer:

- 1 How many times in the past week have you shared information about your health, including in person, on the phone and on social media? (a) 0-2; (b) 3 or more times.
- 2 When someone asks you how you are, you usually (a) say, “Fine, thanks” and ask how they are; (b) use that opportunity to launch into a discussion of your health issues.
- 3 When you discuss a health issue with a friend or acquaintance, you usually (a) keep it brief, (b) feel the need to list your symptoms, medications, every therapy you’ve tried and/or your past medical history.

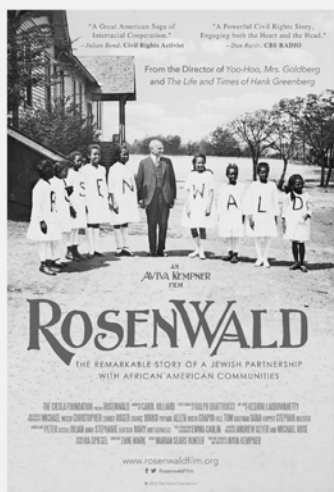
If you answered b to any of the questions, you may be a chronic complainer. A visit to a hospital ward or volunteering as a friendly visitor to patients or shut-ins can put things into perspective and help you focus less on yourself. It might even change your inner dialogue from “woe is me” to “how blessed I am.” Reading self-help literature that provides additional strategies may be valuable. In severe cases, professional help may be beneficial.

The more you Google and discuss your health issues, the more addictive and unproductive it becomes, taking you down a slippery slope of anxiety. Reset your expectations – you don’t have to feel perfect all the time. Make a commitment to yourself to stop dwelling on and sharing the negative and to focus on your blessings, your attitude and gratitude. And practice saying, “I’m fine, thanks.”

February 6, 2018

“Julius Rosenwald: The Amazing Story of Jewish Values in Action”

Film, Refreshments, and Silent Auction



Tickets \$10.00

Rosenwald is a documentary film telling the story of Julius Rosenwald, a high school dropout who rose to become the President of Sears and a prominent philanthropist.

Incensed by racial inequality in America during the Jim Crow era, and inspired by the Jewish ideals of *tzedakah* (charity) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), Rosenwald joined forces with African-American communities to build over 5,300 schools.

Drinks and silent auction - 6:30 pm
Film screening begins at 7:15 pm

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21 Nadolny Sachs Private

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Saturday Shabbat Services, 10:15 am.

Thursday morning minyanim:

second and fourth Thursdays, 7:30 am.

President Stephen Asherman
Rabbi Robert Morais
Rabbi Emeritus Steven H. Garten
Executive Director Heather Cohen

Temple Israel Religious School Principal
Sue Potechin
Administration Officer
Cathy Loves



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Celebrating 50 Years

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for all
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New
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Early check-in,
Jan. 29, 4-6 pm
in SJCC lobby.

REGISTER NOW at
mitzvahdayottawa.com

WHAT WE ARE COLLECTING:

- Soccer balls, basketballs, and knee/elbow pads for the Barrhaven Multi-Faith Housing Initiative;
- Games, books, toys (not stuffed animals or other plush toys) for the Youville Centre which serves adolescent mothers and their children;
- Adult-size gloves, socks, underwear, toiletries (all new) and gently used men's winter boots, as well as soft peanut-free Nutrigrain Bars for Street Smarts, a program of Jewish Family Services; (Please drop off items in the SJCC lobby by Jan. 29)
- Electronic Waste Recycling (please visit our website for a list of acceptable items).

Info: Tanya at 613-798-4696 x 241 or tpoirier@jewishottawa.com



Our community. Our responsibility. Our future.

jewishottawa.com  JFedOttawa  JewishOttawa



WHAT'S GOING ON | January 22 - February 4, 2018

FOR MORE CALENDAR LISTINGS, VISIT WWW.JEWISHOTTAWA.COM/COMMUNITY-CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

Mahjong at KBI

Thursdays, 1:30 - 3:30 pm,
Kehillat Beth Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Ave.
Contact: rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com
Cost: \$2. Beginners and experienced players welcome.
Bring sets and cards if you have them.

Kol Miriam Ladies Choir

Wednesdays 7:30 - 9 pm
Hillel Lodge, 10 Nadolny Sacks Private
Contact: Laura Lunn, llunn@magma.ca
Spiritual uplifting Jewish music by women for women.

Ottawa Israeli Dance

Tuesdays, 7 - 10 pm
Jewish Community School, 31 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.
Contact: Judy, judy@ottawaisraelidance.ca
Great music. Exercise. All in a fun and friendly atmosphere. Cost: \$5/evening (pay at the door)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

Bar Mitzvah Club

6 - 7:30 pm, Young Israel of Ottawa, 627 Kirkwood Ave.
Contact: Miriam Tanger, Yandm613@gmail.com
Cost: \$30/session. For boys ages 11-14, with Rabbi Tanger. Dinner, Tefillin workshop, mezuzah workshop.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

TOTally Shabbat

5:30 pm, Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Dr.
Contact: Sue Potechin, suepotechin@rogers.com
A multi-generational program for families with children under 6 years of age. Songs, prayers, dances and stories, free family-friendly meal at 6 pm. Erev Shabbat services begin at 6:30 pm. Everyone welcome!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

Shabbaton with Rabbi Ariel Goldberg

9:45 am - 2:30 pm, Adath Shalom Congregation, 31 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.
Contact: Paul Adler, psadler@psadler.com
Dvar Torah, Kiddush Lunch, Learning with Rabbi Ariel Goldberg. Giving and Taking Support During the Journey of Aging, a Spiritual-Growth Mussar Approach. Sponsored by: Adath Shalom Congregation

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

JNF Ottawa Tu Bi'Shevat Telethon

9 am - noon, 205 - 11 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.
Contact: Ilana Albert-Novick, ottawa@jnf.ca
Celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the 15th of Shevat, by planting trees in Eretz Israel. Trees are \$18 each. Certificates and cards available.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

J-Fellows Young Leadership Development - Session 1

6:30 - 8:30 PM
Contact: Natalie Abenhaim, nabenheim@jewishottawa.com
Introduction to the Ottawa Jewish Community.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Community Gourmet Friday Night Dinner featuring Mindy Pollak

5 - 8 pm, Congregation Machzikei Hadas, 2310 Virginia Dr.
Cost: See website www.cmhottawa.com/events.
Mindy Pollak is a borough councillor in Outremont since 2013, the first Chasidic Jewish woman to hold political office in Montreal.

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Guest Speaker Lauren Tuchman

Feb 2, 5 - 7 pm and Feb. 3, 9 am - 12 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel, 1400 Coldrey Ave.

Contact: rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com
February is Jewish Disabilities Awareness month. Join us for a Congregational Shabbat dinner on Friday night and spend Shabbat with our special guest Lauren Tuchman, who will be delivering a sermon entitled: *Revelation as a Blueprint for Inclusion*.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Kristallnacht Torah Comes to Ottawa

10 am - 1pm, Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad, 111 Lamplighters Dr.
Contact: Rabbi Blum, rabbi@theotc.org
Historic Torah saved from the ashes of Kristallnacht will be in Ottawa for Shabbat. Join us as we greet and read from this special Torah Scroll. Luncheon follows.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Jewish Federation of Ottawa Mitzvah Day 2018

9 am - 12pm
Contact: Tanya Poirier, tpoirier@jewishottawa.com
Join us for a day of good deeds! Register now at www.mitzvahdayottawa.com.

Machzikei Superbowl Party

6-10 PM, Congregation Machzikei Hadas, 2310 Virginia Dr.
Cost: \$25. RSVP online or by contacting the shul office at office@cmhottawa.com. Come out to watch the big game on the big screen with good friends and great food!

CANDLE LIGHTING BEFORE

JANUARY 26	4:43	FEBRUARY 16	5:13
FEBRUARY 2	4:53	FEBRUARY 23	5:23
FEBRUARY 9	5:03	MARCH 2	5:33

BULLETIN DEADLINES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31	FOR FEBRUARY 19
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14	FOR MARCH 5
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28*	FOR MARCH 26

* Early deadline: Community-wide Issue ** Early deadline: holiday closures (all dates subject to change)

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

CONDOLENCES

Condolences are extended to the families of:

Muriel Beilin

Joan Lazarus, Montreal
(mother of Linda Shiff)

Isser Smith

Jacques Bencheton

Judith Spinder

Harold Brown, Montreal
(brother of Barbara Weiss)

Suetella Levine, New Jersey
(mother of Shulamis Durden)

Barbara Thaw

Antoinette Capelle

Edith Perry

Tibor Vertes

Barry Eisenstadt

Rhoda Prager

Eva Vininsky, Montreal
(mother of Elaine Vininsky)

Louis Friendly

Abraham David Rosental,
Colombia
(father of Myriam Hill)

Estelle Weiss

Michael Gallaman, Montreal
(father of Aliza Gauzas)

Mendel Shore, Toronto
(brother of David Shore)

Diane Wexler

*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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