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# OTTAWA JEWISH BULLETIN

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## Shem Tov Award: Michael Landau is thankful for the opportunity to help

BY LOUISE RACHLIS

**M**ichael Landau will receive the 2018 Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award from the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. The award is given annually to an outstanding volunteer for a lifetime of service dedicated to the betterment and enrichment of Jewish life in Ottawa.

Landau began fundraising for the United Jewish Appeal in Toronto while he was still in dental school there.

"When I came back here in 1991, I kept on fundraising," said Landau, now 54. "My parents did volunteer work as long as I can remember; it's just something you do. You somehow discover you're comfortable with it, and you just keep on.

"Whatever it is you do outside your regular job, do it

because it's satisfying not because you're forced to, or someone *made* you. It's not a chore, it's fulfilling," he said.

"With everything I do, what's important is the interaction with people. It's interaction with people at a different level compared to your work, and it's very interesting and enjoyable... The hope is my children, who are now in university or beyond, will learn from what I do. I hope that in their time they will take on their responsibility as best they can."

Landau has an extensive history chairing major community fundraisers such as golf tournaments, Federation's Annual Campaign and the community walkathon.

He is the immediate past-chair of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation and currently sits on the Foundation's

See Landau on page 2



Volunteerism is a "lifelong endeavour," says Shem Tov Award recipient Michael Landau. "I hope to always do what I can, however I can."

## Freiman Family Award: Aaron Smith called 'a very gifted and trusted young leader'



"In my work, we're all about action and impact," says 2018 Freiman Family Young Leadership Award recipient Aaron Smith.

BY LOUISE RACHLIS

**A**aron Smith, who grew up in Sarnia, Ontario, "a super small Jewish community," has been chosen to receive the 2018 Freiman Young Leadership Award.

"My dad and brother and I made up 30 per cent of the minyan," said Smith, whose grandfather was Ottawa kosher caterer Jack Smith.

The fact that Aaron Smith has a busy job and young family was not a deterrent to his becoming involved in the Ottawa Jewish community.

Born in Sackville, New Brunswick, Smith lived in Ottawa for a few years when he was younger, before moving to Sarnia. He did his undergraduate degree in genomic medicine at Western University, a business course at Ivey, worked for a few years and then studied health industry management and strategy at York University.

Now based in Ottawa, he is a healthcare consultant with hospitals, government and health industry providers across the country, frequently traveling coast to coast. This month he

was planning a trip to Yellowknife.

"My wife and I moved to Ottawa five years ago when we were having our third child," he said. We had two children born in Toronto, but once we were five, we wanted to be closer to family."

They enrolled their son in senior kindergarten at Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS), "and didn't even have a house yet," he said. "I worked with Ian Sherman at EY and he connected me to people in Ottawa.

Smith, who turned 40 in February, quickly became involved with OJCS. From 2014 to 2017, he served as president of the OJCS board, after previously serving as chair of sales and marketing in 2013. He and his wife Erin currently have two children at OJCS and one at Ganon Preschool.

"In my work, we're all about action and impact, and adding value for our clients," he explained. "The secret for me is that I was always action-oriented. You can get lost in analyzing a situation. Sometimes you have to work with your time to

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Sara Vered and the generation of 1948 > Section 2, p. 7

A letter from a young Israeli in Ottawa > Section 2, p. 9



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# Students who led fight against BDS to share Student Leadership Award

BY LOUISE RACHLIS

For inspiring and leading University of Ottawa students in the fight against the anti-Israel boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement, Jewish student leaders at uOttawa will collectively receive the 2018 Student Leadership Award from the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

“What our Jewish and pro-Israel students accomplished this year is nothing short of monumental,” said Dovi Chein, director of Hillel Ottawa.

“This award is a way for the Jewish community in Ottawa to tell our students, thank you,” he said. “Thank you for standing up for what is right. Thank you for never backing down in the face of adversity, and for being an example and inspiration for the whole community. As director of Hillel, I am beaming with pride and gratitude for these incredible students. The future of Jewish life on campus looks stronger and more unified than ever before.”

The award is “very well deserved,” said Rabbi Chaim Boyarsky, co-director with his wife Yocheved of the Chabad Student Network.

“It brought out a real Jewish pride. Over 40 students wore their kippahs the entire time. Students came out feeling very proud and happy after the resolution was defeated. They came over to Chabad House after, and there was dancing and celebration, a sense of real Jewish pride. The trick is to keep that spirit and pride alive. The president of

*‘By making the university a more inclusive and ultimately better campus for current and future students, these students exemplified leadership and represented the community in a remarkable way.’*

the university, Jacques Frémont, came to Chabad for dinner in January with 100 students. The president said ‘please wear your kippahs. We want every minority to be proud of who you are.’ He was so supportive of the Jewish community.”

“I found it to be a very emotional experience for students,” added Yocheved Boyarsky. “Their Jewish identity came to the forefront. They felt a real threat and it brought out the joy of being Jewish. Each time the resolution was defeated, they felt a sense of togetherness. It brought everyone together. It was wonderful to see that uninhibited pride and joy to be Jewish, to feel they had nothing to be ashamed of or to hide.”

Jewish student leaders, who include members of Hillel Ottawa and the Chabad Student Network, rallied hundreds of other students to stand up against BDS and succeeded against great odds, and systemic bias, to defeat three separate votes to advance BDS. Their leadership inspired others to take action

while giving immense courage and comfort to all students and have been hailed as a model for social action, justice, hard work, and community.

“The students involved in this fight at uOttawa are true leaders in the fight against BDS,” wrote Allyson Grant of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs in a letter nominating the student leaders for the award. “Whether it was spending hours researching how to defeat the motions, recruiting record numbers of students to vote, delivering passionate speeches at a meeting, or simply supporting their peers when things got tough, I am truly impressed by their intelligence, commitment and bravery in the face of this discriminatory movement.”

“I could not think of a group of students that are more deserving of this award,” said Sam Morgan, a fourth year

pre-med student at uOttawa. “They defeated BDS on three separate occasions this year – not to mention also overcoming the Student Federation decertifying Hillel as a club on campus. The composure and collectiveness displayed while these anti-Semitic events occurred speaks to the types of individuals these students are. By making the university a more inclusive and ultimately better campus for current and future students, these students exemplified leadership and represented the community in a remarkable way.”

The 2018 Community Service Awards will be presented at the Jewish Federation of Ottawa’s annual general meeting on Wednesday, June 20, 7 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. For more information, contact Solange Ashe at [sashe@jewishottawa.com](mailto:sashe@jewishottawa.com) or 613-798-4696, ext. 236.

## Landau: ‘Embodies kindness, respect’

Continued from page 1

board and fundraising committee. In addition to these leadership roles, he helps the community in other ways, whether serving as a gabbai at Kehilat Beth Israel or as a member of the Chevra Kadisha, he always makes himself available to lend a helping hand.

“When I’m asked to volunteer for something, I’m thankful for being given the opportunity to help in some way and to be valued in such a way that I can help,” he said. “It means that some-

one values my abilities and I’m appreciative of that.”

“Michael’s volunteer activities could be best described as continuous and considerate,” wrote Maxine Miska, assistant executive director of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC) in her letter nominating Landau for the Shem Tov Award. “He does what needs to be done for many community organizations, and he embodies the principles of kindness and respect.”

“Fundraising for the community at various levels seems to be a lifelong endeavour,” said Landau. “I hope to always do what I can, however I can.”

The 2018 Community Service Awards will be presented at the Jewish Federation of Ottawa’s annual general meeting on Wednesday, June 20, 7 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. For more information, contact Solange Ashe at [sashe@jewishottawa.com](mailto:sashe@jewishottawa.com) or 613-798-4696, ext. 236.

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# Chief Rabbi David Lau's historic visit to Ottawa celebrates our living link to Israel

BY OTTAWA JEWISH BULLETIN STAFF

**R**abbi David Lau, Israel's Ashkenazic chief rabbi, visited Ottawa and was the featured speaker, May 3, at a celebration of Israel entitled "Israel at 70: A proud past, a bright future," held at Congregation Machzikei Hadas. Rabbi Lau was on a tour organized by Mizrahi Canada that also included stops in Montreal and Toronto.

Approximately 350 community members participated in the evening, chaired by Sharon Appotive and Bram Bregman, headlined by a conversation between Chief Rabbi Lau and Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka, rabbi emeritus of Machzikei Hadas. The entire program traced the indelible historic link that celebrates Israel's living history that runs right through our nation's capital. From the moment Cantor Moshe Krauss, the first chief cantor of the Israel Defense Forces and Cantor Pinchus Levinson, a former Israel Defense Forces member and cantor emeritus at Congregation Machzikei Hadas, sang the Canadian and Israeli national anthems, the historic connection came alive.



(From left) Rabbi Elan Mazer, national director of Mizrahi Canada; David McGuinty, Ottawa South MP; Israeli Chief Rabbi David Lau; Bram Bregman, event co-chair; John Fraser, Ottawa South MPP; Sharon Appotive, Event Co-Chair; and Jean Cloutier, Ottawa City Councillor for Alta Vista, at Machzikei Hadas, May 3, during the chief rabbi's visit to Ottawa.

Crystalizing the links were remarks by Sara Vered, an esteemed member of Ottawa's Jewish community, who was a member of the Haganah in Israel's War of Independence. Vered spoke eloquently about her service and emphasized the importance of remembering that the State of Israel was not formed in 1948, but had been in formation for many

years before that, including the period between 1881 and 1948 when the Jewish population grew exponentially from 15,000 to 600,000.

The cycle of history Vered described was exemplified when two young students, Tehilla Botwinik of Torah Day School of Ottawa and Yardayna Miller of the Ottawa Jewish Community School,

read a prayer for the State of Israel in flawless Hebrew. Vered fought to create the Jewish state and now shares her stories with young people to ensure they understand the history of our people. These young students demonstrated that the lessons of the past are resonating and that the future is in very capable hands.

The importance of Jewish unity and the valuable contributions of Jews from all denominations of Judaism were emphasized by Israeli Ambassador to Canada Nimrod Barkan who described how for 70 years Israel has strived to be a light unto the world, which also entails being a light unto ourselves. This includes working to avoid internal strife and building a homeland where all Jews feel welcomed. The ambassador's remarks took a different approach to the theme of living links by emphasizing the connections and responsibilities we have one to another.

The chief rabbi's remarks centred on the theme of "know from where you came." In making this point, he told an incredible story of a member of the czar-

See Chief Rabbi on page 5

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## Key Jewish community issues in Ontario election campaign

GUEST COLUMN  
**ALLYSON GRANT,  
CIJA**

**O**n May 9, Ontario's provincial election campaign went into full swing in anticipation of Election Day on June 7. The campaign provides many opportunities to engage with local candidates seeking support at community events or the front door.

When you meet a candidate, it is important for them to hear from the Jewish community. By combining our voices, we are more likely to be heard. After consultation with grassroots community members, Jewish agencies, organizations and institutions, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs has identified several key issues for discussion with your local candidate during this election campaign.

Although most Ontarians reject all forms of hatred, anti-Semitism nevertheless persists at the margins. The working definition of anti-Semitism from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) now serves as an international standard and has been adopted by governments around the world, including Canada. The government of Ontario, law enforcement, and other provincial agencies should also adopt the IHRA definition and use it to identify and address anti-Semitic incidents.

Despite the important steps taken to address accessibility and inclusion in affordable housing programs, the needs of individuals with disabilities are still often overlooked as governments attempt to address the broader challenges of poverty. This shortfall is particularly acute for those with developmental disabilities and, to counteract it, the Ontario government should earmark five per cent of the affordable housing budget to support people with develop-

mental disabilities.

According to Statistics Canada, the Jewish community is the religious minority most frequently targeted for hate crimes, many of which target places of worship, religious schools, and community centres. Along with other groups at risk, we collectively spend millions every year protecting users of our respective community facilities. The Ontario government should, therefore, provide funding for training community institution staff and funds to cover half the costs of hiring paid-duty police officers.

When Canadians and Israelis work together, both countries benefit. This is certainly true for Ontario, which has fostered extensive trade, academic, technology, and healthcare ties with Israel. The government of Ontario has hired a trade representative based in Tel Aviv and announced its intention to open a permanent trade office in Israel. The next provincial government should move forward with these plans to open an Ontario trade office in Israel.

Until recently, Canadians who underwent potentially lifesaving genetic testing could be compelled by insurance companies or employers to disclose their results, a policy that exposed many – including Jewish women of European descent more likely to carry the BRCA marker connected with ovarian and breast cancer – to potential denial of employment opportunities or insurance coverage. While a federal law was recently passed banning genetic discrimination, the bill is currently before the courts. It is therefore crucial that the next Legislative Assembly act to protect Ontarians from genetic discrimination.

Talking about these issues with your local candidate will ensure Jewish community priorities are understood and appreciated when the next government of Ontario is formed. So make sure to get out and engage with candidates – and enjoy what's surely an exciting election season!

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## Chief Rabbi: Responses to questions centred on respect for rules

Continued from page 3

ist secret police, who while not acknowledging his own Jewish religion (his Jewish roots could be traced back generations), was insistent that his eight-day-old son have a bris. The policeman's logic being that his son should always bear the mark of his ancestry and know from where he came.

In the conversation with Rabbi Bulka, Chief Rabbi Lau conveyed in a broad sense the vast and diffuse nature of his role and how much time he spends connecting with individuals and trying to make a difference in their lives. For example, Tuesdays are the sacrosanct time he spends sitting in the Supreme High Court and adjudicating on individual cases to, as he put it, "bring peace to individual people." Similar to other rabbis around the world, he conducts pastoral visits to incarcerated Jewish inmates and tries to meet with as many congregants – the people of Israel, as possible. He described how it is not atypical for him to deliver nine speeches on any given day. Tellingly, the chief rabbi did not describe the time he spends with world leaders, but rather the uniqueness of his position and the responsibility it bears to help individual Israelis. While there is no typical day in the life of the chief rabbi, he said, each day is a helping day.



Rabbis, dignitaries and community leaders gather with Chief Rabbi of Israel David Lau, May 3, at the Lag B'Omer parade and fair organized by Chabad of Centrepointe and the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. The Torah held by Rabbi Chaim Mendelsohn has been donated to an IDF army base.

In his indomitably gentle and humorous way, Rabbi Bulka made sure to ask some of the tough questions on the minds of many Diaspora Jews – including about conversion, the Kotel and migrant workers from Africa.

While the chief rabbi's answers may not have pleased everyone, his answers centred on the theme of respect for rules. For example, he does not see the Kotel as a religious question, but one of respect for the custom of a place and an issue of basic politeness, akin to how

when he enters a mosque, he removes his shoes.

The MC for the event was Rabbi Idan Scher, spiritual leader of Congregation Machzikei Hadas. Rabbi Scher's thoughtful remarks focused on the need to both speak and listen. It is a privilege, he said, to hear from Chief Rabbi Lau and it is the responsibility of audience members to both listen and to ask questions – and it is the chief rabbi's responsibility to hear the diversity of views and opinions being expressed.



Chief Rabbi David Lau (left) in conversation with Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka at Machzikei Hadas, May 3, during the chief rabbi's visit to Ottawa.

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FEDERATION  
REPORT



**NIMROD BARKAN, AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL TO CANADA**

## An inspiring tale of resilience and ingenuity, of innovation and hope

technologies in water management such as drip irrigation and desalination. Both of which, among other practices, have helped Israel achieve water security in a region plagued by water scarcity.

Working to ensure that others have the same, Israel is sharing its cutting-edge technological know-how with the world. From installing solar-powered water pumps in villages in Senegal, to bringing the first ever Israeli-designed mobile water purification system to the Marshall Islands, Israeli tech is delivering life-changing solutions to millions of people around the world.

I am inspired by MASHAV, Israel's international development and aid agency, that since it was founded by then-foreign minister Golda Meir has provided training and support to nearly 300,000 people from some 140 countries. Through its work with individuals and communities on agriculture, health care, education, gender equality, and women empowerment, MASHAV is enabling so many across the developing world to improve their lives, and

is reflective of Israel's commitment to helping the disadvantaged.

This philosophy of assisting those in need speaks to the very core of Judaism and the value of tikkun olam that reverberates throughout the Jewish state in both our words and deeds.

I am inspired by everyday Israelis, who despite decades of conflict and terror have continued to lead happy and full lives. In fact, according to the UN's 2018 World Happiness Report, Israel is the 11th happiest country in the world.

And I am inspired by Israel's improved relations with countries around the world. From Guatemala to Ethiopia, India to the Gulf States, world leaders now view Israel as a strong partner in a variety of fields.

Earlier this year, in a historic first, a flight from India travelled over Saudi airspace en route to Israel – an act that was previously denied by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The improving relations with Gulf States underscore that peace and friendly relations between the Jewish State and the Arab world are

feasible. Like the peace deals secured with both Egypt and Jordan, Israeli leaders have, and will continue to pursue a just and lasting peace with all our neighbours, including the Palestinians.

Together, Canada and Israel are working towards achieving a more prosperous, sustainable and inventive future for generations to come.

From joint international development projects to our mutual commitment to gender equality and empowering women and girls around the world, the cooperation between our two countries spans various fields and is reflective of the strong ties that bind our multi-partisan friendship, rooted in shared values, and buttressed by strong Jewish communities such as this one.

Israel and Israelis are deeply grateful for your tremendous support.

May the State of Israel, its friends, and Jewish communities here in Canada and around the world continue to move from strength to strength; and, in the words of the Prophet Isaiah, be a "Light unto the Nations."

Seven decades ago, the nascent State of Israel had its fair share of difficulties.

The country possessed little natural or financial resources, public services were limited, housing and employment were scarce, and the very existence of Israel was in jeopardy.

Through it all, Israel persevered; and we not only survived, but we thrived.

Today, Israel's story has unfolded into an inspiring tale of resilience and ingenuity, of innovation and hope.

When I think of my country, its people, and its achievements, I am inspired. I am inspired by Israeli innovation and

FROM THE  
PULPIT



**RABBI HOWARD FINKELSTEIN  
BEIT TIKVAH**

## Freedom of the road

nity is based on commitment founded on the principles of Jewish education that cuts across all ages from the very young to the adult community.

We are blessed with educational institutions of all stripes in our community, and we support their continued survival as the foundations of Jewish continuity in its truest sense – not simply by numbers but by demonstrated commitment to the tenets of our faith. We lose too many of our sisters and brothers to the scourge of assimilation due in no small part to the fact that so few in our community are taking advantage of Jewish educational opportunities that are available in Ottawa, or that could be available with the reestablishment of a community Jewish high school that only will become a reality if parents really want it passionately.

To put this whole theme of discussion through a Torah perspective, Rashi at the end of Parashat Behar speaks of the community's obligation to redeem a Jewish slave sold to a non-Jewish master. The community cannot ignore this hapless Jew who finds himself enslaved to someone whose values do not reflect his own. The slave, by definition, emulates his master in terms of the latter's failure to observe Judaism thus resulting in the loss, albeit spiritually, of a

member of the community.

In a sense, general society is the master, and the Jew who has no Jewish educational background or interest in anything Jewish is the slave. His freedom from religion is simply another manifestation of an adherence to an alternative pathway of life that in many ways reflects moral relativism rather than moral constancy. While there are many blessings to an open society in which we live, there are many drawbacks as well which pose challenges to Jewish continuity and preservation.

As we begin our travels on the Federation superhighway in terms of community building, we have to think back to another superhighway that was taken thousands of years ago, when the Jewish people travelled from Egypt to the Promised Land. The tribe of Dan was given the assignment to gather that which was left behind by other tribes as the Israelites travelled through the desert. There will be many stragglers falling off of the road of the superhighway, and we have a responsibility to pick them up. It is our role as a community to support and to reach out to those who fall off the *derech* (pathway) that we are traveling in the years to come in the Ottawa Jewish community.

We have to drive carefully, and ensure that no Jew is left behind.

The recent unveiling of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's superhighway plan for the future of Ottawa's Jewish community is a welcome opportunity for us to grow in our quest for greater involvement in Jewish communal issues and projects. It is highly commendable that Federation is setting its sights on the future, and that is the M.O. of a successful venture which requires our support.

At the same time, there has to be a service road that parallels this highway – specifically in the area of Jewish outreach in order to enhance Jewish organizational affiliation and, equally if not more importantly, increased Jewish observance of the laws of the Torah and Talmud. Our future as a Jewish commu-

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**PUBLISHER**  
Andrea Freedman

**EDITOR**  
Michael Regenstreif

**PRODUCTION CONSULTANT**  
Patti Moran

**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
Eddie Peltzman

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FROM THE EDITOR



MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

The campaign for the June 7 Ontario election is now in full swing and there are some important issues you won't hear party leaders Doug Ford, Andrea Horwath or Kathleen Wynne – or, for that matter, any of their candidates – talking about.

Among those issues is funding for non-Catholic faith-based schools in Ontario. Ontario provides 100 per cent of the funding to run the Catholic school system in the province and no funding at all for the schools of all other faith groups. This province is the only jurisdiction in North America which still funds the religious school system of one religion to the exclusion of all others. A number of other Canadian provinces, including Quebec, Man-

## Funding for faith-based schools in Ontario

itoba, Alberta and British Columbia, have put formulas in place to provide some level of public funding to faith-based schools that meet their provincial curriculum standards.

In 1999, when the Progressive Conservatives were in power under premier Mike Harris, the United Nations Human Rights Commission said the province's funding of Catholic schools but not those of other religions was discriminatory and a violation of Canada's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The UN commission reiterated that ruling again in 2005 when the Liberals were in power under premier Dalton McGuinty.

The Progressive Conservatives, under leader John Tory (now the mayor of Toronto), seized on the issue in the 2007 provincial election campaign and promised to find a formula for non-Catholic faith-based school funding in the province. But Tory and the Tories (pun intended) did not manage the issue well. Instead of reaching out to the Liberals and New Democrats and finding consensus on an issue affecting only a relatively small minority of the population they let it become a partisan election issue. McGuinty and the Liberals played cynical, populist politics and made what could have – and should

have – been a consensus-building issue into a deeply divisive wedge issue.

McGuinty, whose own children attended Catholic schools, said that children attending other faith-based schools "become sequestered and segregated," implying that these children do not integrate well in society. This was surely insulting to all of the Jewish day school graduates in Ontario who have proven time and again how well they have integrated and who have made immeasurable contributions to society. And this is surely true, as well, for students who have attended the schools of Muslim, Hindu and Sikh communities, and various non-Catholic Christian communities including Armenian Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, Evangelical Christian, Seventh Day Adventist and Mennonite.

Playing wedge politics on faith-based school funding worked for McGuinty and the Liberals in the 2007 election. Tory and the Progressive Conservatives were shellacked on election night and dropped the issue. None of the parties have brought it up since and this is now the third Ontario election campaign since 2007.

During the 1993 federal election campaign, Progressive Conservative leader Kim Campbell – then briefly

the prime minister – said, "An election is no time to discuss serious issues." Campbell was ridiculed for the comment and went down to perhaps the biggest election defeat of an incumbent in Canadian history. But maybe there was some truth to her comment. Some issues should not be partisan election campaign issues where party positions become hardened and polarized – as they did in 2007 on the issue of funding for non-Catholic faith-based schools. When talking about rights – or at least about what is right – an issue should be approached through nonpartisan consensus building.

The status quo in Ontario education funding has been in place since Confederation in 1867. But society has changed immeasurably over the course of 151 years. Other provinces have recognized this and adapted and so should ours.

I've heard MPPs from all three parties at Queen's Park say off the record that if it were up to them, they'd support funding for faith-based schools. A common front of faith-based communities in Ontario needs to help the political parties find the consensus needed to correct the situation. The work should begin as soon as possible after the election.

IDEAS AND IMPRESSIONS



JASON MOSCOVITZ

I remember it so well although it didn't resonate at the time. When I retired, my father told me I should keep working for as long as I could. It wasn't about keeping active it was purely financial.

"You don't understand," he said. "It costs an enormous amount of money to get really old."

With three of my four grandparents dying in their 60s, as many people did 60-plus years ago, it is a remarkable to have an almost 96-year-old father and a 93-year-old mother; and to say that my life partner also has a father who is 95 and a mother who is 88 makes it that much more impactful.

People can tell you on a birthday

## The enormous cost of being really old

that approaching 70 is like closing in on the new 50 – but anything over 65 makes you a senior citizen, which is a polite term for 'old.' So if you are over 90, 'old' becomes 'elderly' and for someone closer to 100 than 90, 'ancient' quietly comes to mind.

While most senior citizens in today's developed world are in good health, it is a safe bet that most people over 90 are not. Their health problems can be mental, physical, or both. While we know how modern medicine has greatly extended people's lives, the warranties on the body and mind have expired and that is where the struggle begins: the struggle of balancing the joy of being alive for another great-grandchild's milestone with the daily reality of living in an often sadly diminished state.

As many of you know, the experience of being in hospital emergency rooms, long-term care homes, seniors' residences, and witnessing the ultimate challenge of elderly people trying to stay in their homes, doesn't make one an expert, but it does bring you face to face with their day-to-day realities. It is often the case that some problems don't have solutions. Somehow it seems more like treading water knowing that tomor-

row will not be better. It is a merry-go-round of challenges that never stops.

It is disheartening when you arrive at an emergency room with a parent over 90 and you and the parent are directed to a waiting room or a corridor for a double digit number of hours of waiting. Respect for the elderly, let alone anything close to special treatment, is non-existent. No disrespect aimed at the medical profession, but sometimes you wonder if anyone cares.

It is not unusual in a hospital to have your efforts advocating for an elderly parent dismissed with, "After all your parent is 95," which comes across in two ways. First, that there is not much to do and even if there were, a 95-year-old is not a priority in an emergency room. True or not, that is what it feels like.

And should it happen that an elderly person is admitted, it is interesting to see how visiting hours suddenly become a sanctioned and required 24/7. Family members need to be there at bedside because hospital employees can only do so much, which is not nearly enough for frightened and frail elderly people.

Recent horror stories in some Ontar-

io long-term care homes chronicle a desperate account of abuse and hardship for the residents and their families. Seeing so many severely compromised people wallowing aimlessly in wheelchairs, and in beds in the corridors, is beyond sad. On every visit you see the same diaper-clad people, in the same places, with nowhere to go. Those who can afford the daily expense of personal caregivers are the only ones who seem to get the attention they need.

Still being at home in your 90s means needing a scheduler and a bookkeeper to manage all the people who are hired because being home alone at that age, in most cases, is not an option – and, needless to say – paying all those people who are coming and going and sleeping over can amount to many thousands of dollars a month.

When you are a healthy senior citizen you tend to think, because no one ever explicitly tells you otherwise, that medicare in Canada covers people of all ages from birth to death.

You need to live the experience of the elderly to know the medicare card does not cover the prohibitive cost of special personal care the elderly so desperately need.

# Legacy of Colonial Furniture founders honoured with memorial fund

**Max and Grete Cohen's love story began in Europe in 1920 and continued in Ottawa where Grete became a pioneering woman leader in the Jewish community Pauline Colwin reports.**

The Max and Grete Cohen Memorial Fund at the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation honours the founders of Colonial Furniture. After Grete died in 1992, her sons, Ed and Sid, created the fund in their parents' memory. This past January, in commemoration of Sid's first *yahrzeit*, his three children (Steve, Brian, and Susie) have done likewise, remembering their father and grandparents with a significant donation to their family's fund.

This story began in the summer of 1920 when a young Ottawa man met the love of his life on a summer trip to Europe. Max was in Europe buying goods to resell in Canada when he met his bride-to-be, Grete, in the Prussian seaside town of Kolberg (now Kołobrzeg, Poland).

"It was love at first sight," explains the couple's grandson, Mike Cohen.

That summer romance led to a courtship by mail.

"Distance made their hearts grow fonder," says granddaughter, Susie Charendoff. "They wrote trans-Atlantic love-letters for three years!"

In 1923, they married in Europe, and Grete moved from Berlin to Ottawa. The wooden sidewalks and lumber mills of Ottawa were a far cry from cosmopolitan Berlin. But Grete quickly made new friends and joined Max's large family already there from Russia.

The loving couple soon had three children: Ed, Sid, and Erica. Initially, they lived in a basement apartment on College Avenue (now Copernicus) on the University of Ottawa campus.

Max had an entrepreneurial spirit and tried many ventures to support his growing family. One of his early businesses was a 130-acre chicken farm off Albion Road South. During the war, if you took a job on a farm, you could leave school three weeks early, so Ed and Sid became enthusiastic, teenage chicken farmers. Their neighbour in Sandy Hill



Grete Cohen, the 1971 JNF Ottawa Negev Dinner honouree, surrounded by members of her family. Grete was the first woman to be honoured at a JNF Ottawa Negev Dinner. In 1988, she also became the first woman to receive the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award – the highest honour bestowed by the Jewish community of Ottawa.

was a kosher butcher who taught them how to slaughter.

"It's hard to imagine, but apparently my 'poppa' was quite good at it!" says Sid's granddaughter, Olivia Grete Cohen, a second year McGill University student, who carries her great-grandmother's name.

Max's sudden and unexpected death in 1944 left Grete a single mother of three. But Grete had no plan to give up.

"She got up, brushed herself off, and did what she had to do," says Brian. At the time, his father Sid was only in Grade 12 but started work immediately. Likewise, Ed had to get a military discharge from the Air Force in Manitoba, in the middle of the war, to attend the funeral.

Ed and Sid joined their mother on a mission to save the family business. Grete dressed her boys in suits and drove to the Bank of Montreal offices in Old Montreal in a bold move to speak face-to-face with the bank manager.

"She convinced him that they could run the store and asked for some debt flexibility," explains the couples' grandson, Steve Cohen, who grew up hearing this impressive story of resilience. "It was also the first time my dad smoked a cigar – he did it to look older!"

Against all odds, the bank manager agreed, and, with Grete at the helm, the family started to revive the business. A few months later, the war ended and the economy rebounded. The boys worked full-time, and their younger sister Erica worked part-time while earning a commerce degree at Carleton – she was among Carleton's first female graduates in 1952.

Despite this successful turnaround, it was a difficult time for Grete. The loss of her husband was followed by the

crushing news that her youngest sister, Else, and husband had been murdered by the Nazis. Miraculously, their son Ben survived, hidden by a non-Jewish couple in Belgium. After the war, Grete not only adopted her nephew but sponsored his rescuer-parents, as well. They came to live on the same street in the Glebe and were eventually recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations for their actions.

Grete had been raised in a Zionist home and, in Ottawa, devoted herself to Jewish, communal and early-feminist causes, such as Canadian Hadasah-WIZO, Israel Bonds, B'nai Brith, and ORT. She was the first female honouree of the JNF Ottawa Negev Dinner in 1971, and the first female recipient of the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award in 1988 for lifetime leadership in Ottawa's Jewish community.

Grete, the single mother, business-woman, and community volunteer, retired and left Ed and Sid in charge of the store until they sold it in the 1980s. (The new owners kept the Colonial name because of its good reputation.)

To honour their parents, Ed, who died in 2005, and Sid created the Max and Grete Cohen Memorial Fund after Grete's passing at age 92.

Coming full circle, Sid's three children continue this charitable legacy to the Foundation as a testament to their family's century-long involvement in and support of the community.

"I'm the fifth generation in Ottawa," says Billy Max Cohen, a fourth-year Carleton University student who carries his great-grandfather's name. He is fortunate to have grown up in a family with such strong role models and loving family bonds.

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**Blooming Israel-Kenya  
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**JNF to help grow a pilot forest in arid African soil**

Teach someone to fish and they fish for life. Such is the nature of the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Kenya and Israel. However, instead of fishing, it's forestry and food security.

The MOU focusses on afforestation in arid regions, building capabilities and exchanging knowledge with delegation visits over a period of three years.

**Forests and food security**

The Kenyan Forest Service is interested in increasing forested land in the country to 10% from 7% by 2022. In order to reach this goal, they asked for assistance from KKL-JNF in creating the first forest on an area of 1,250 acres. As part of the process, the Kenyans aim to learn from KKL-JNF experts about the rehabilitation of degraded lands and the best possible way of taking advantage of water sources to increase forested areas. KKL-JNF's assistance will also help provide food security and a livelihood for local residents.

**Kenya's enormous challenge is Israel's  
unique opportunity to make a difference**

Kenyan Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources Professor Judi Wakhungu said that she was "very happy to host the KKL-JNF professional afforestation delegation. The challenges that Kenya is facing are enormous... We will be happy to be instructed and trained in how to implement KKL-JNF knowhow, especially in arid and semi-arid regions, because these are the only places in which we can increase already existent forested land."

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Gabi Ashkenazi, then the outgoing chief of general staff of the Israel Defense Forces, speaks at the Herziya Conference, February 7, 2011.

**Former head of IDF to speak  
at Foundation AGM, June 6**

BY OTTAWA JEWISH BULLETIN STAFF

**G**abi Ashkenazi, chief of general staff of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) from 2007 to 2011, will be the guest speaker at the annual general meeting of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation.

The Foundation AGM will be held Wednesday, June 6, 7 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

Ashkenazi, whose illustrious military career spanned nearly 40 years – including service as director-general of Israel's Ministry of Defense – is now chair of the Rashi Foundation. Established in 1984, Rashi is the oldest private foundation in the State of Israel, directing its resources to Israel's underprivileged, focusing on the young generation and populations with special needs.

Ashkenazi, whose father was a Holocaust survivor and whose mother immigrated to Israel from Syria, was born and raised in Moshav Hagor in central Israel. During his impressive army career, he also found time for academic studies. He earned a BA in political science from the University of Haifa and is a graduate of the Harvard Business Management Program for senior executives.

In 2011, Gabi joined the Brookings Institute in Washington, D.C. as a distinguished military fellow. In his post-military career, he also served served as chairman of the board of directors of Shemen Oil and Gas Refineries from 2011 until 2013.

For more information on the Foundation AGM, or to RSVP (by May 31), contact Sara Miller at [smiller@jewishottawa.com](mailto:smiller@jewishottawa.com) or 613-798-4696, ext. 252.

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(Front row, from left) “My Heart in a Suitcase” cast members Alex Rafala, Jamie Lee Kearns, Paula Shtein and Katrina Klein. In the rear are stage manager Sarah Resnick (far left), Ridgemont student crew members, and Ridgemont teachers Jessie Lavallee and Nadia Gandhi (centre).

## Ridgemont students moved by drama about Kindertransport

BY LOUISE RACHLIS

A burly Grade 9 student at Ridgemont High School student turned to his teacher after watching the performance of “My Heart in a Suitcase” at the school on May 11.

“Miss, I shed a tear,” said the usually undemonstrative student. His two friends were equally attentive and moved.

The play was performed by ArtsPower, a non-profit touring theatre company from New York City. Ottawa was their first Canadian visit.

The 550 students attending the play were mostly Grade 8, 9 and 10 students at Ridgemont, but there were also students there from St. Patrick’s High School and Alta Vista and Sawmill Creek Elementary schools.

In the play, Anne Lehmann and her family no longer feel safe in their Berlin home. Life in 1938 Germany is deteriorating quickly for all Jews living there. In order to protect their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Lehmann may have to say goodbye to her forever.

By bringing the play to Ottawa students, the Shoah Committee of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa hoped to touch the students by providing historical content “in an emotionally powerful format to which they could relate.” It obviously succeeded, as there was lots of clapping, cheering and many rising at the end of the performance.

Speaking to the students before the performance, Shoah Committee Chair Debbie Halton-Weiss said that “similar to the true story portrayed in this play,” her father escaped from Czechoslovakia 80 years ago, “got on a train bound for England, and never saw his parents or any members of his family again.”

She said that it was an honour to welcome them, “as it makes me feel that a little bit of meaning has been added to the lives of my family who were so needlessly murdered for no other reason

than that they were Jewish.

“Six million other Jewish people were killed during the Second World War, over one million were children, but it is a number so huge, it’s just impossible to understand or visualize,” she said. “So instead we need to remember that each person who was killed had a story, a life, a family... So today’s program is not just a history lesson, but also an opportunity to teach the next generation, all of you, the importance of tolerance and understanding, so that we don’t repeat the horrific mistakes of the past.”

The Shoah Committee, along with the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and play sponsors Miriam and Michael Leber, brought “My Heart in a Suitcase” to Ottawa as a way to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport which rescued thousands of Jewish children from Nazi Germany by bringing them to Britain between 1938 and 1940, Halton-Weiss told the Bulletin before the event.

The Shoah Committee wanted to reach out to students of diverse cultural and religious backgrounds to teach about the Holocaust “in an accessible, and even entertaining way,” she said. “Many of these students, aged 12 to 15, will not even have heard about the Holocaust, and we are hoping this play and the Q&A following the performance will be a way of teaching the lessons of the Shoah, with the hope that this will raise further conversations and introspection.”

The Shoah Committee knows it is important for Jewish audiences “to commemorate, and acknowledge our own history,” said Halton-Weiss. “But equally and sometimes more importantly, we want to ensure that the next generation of Canadian students, from all backgrounds, understand the dangers of intolerance, and how we as individuals and a society, have the obligation and responsibility to speak out when faced with intolerance, prejudice, and racism.”

# Jeanne Beker: Fashion icon intertwines life, art and survival

BY TOBY HERSCOVITCH  
CENTRE FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION  
AND SCHOLARSHIP

In her defence of the winning book during this year's Canada Reads competition on CBC Radio, Jeanne Beker said she recognized her own parents' courage against unimaginable suffering and the impact such stories have on future generations.

Beker, a Fashion Television icon, media personality and 2014 recipient of the Order of Canada, is the daughter of two Holocaust survivors. She will discuss how her parents' experiences intersected with her own life at "In Conversation with Jeanne Beker," presented by the Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship and the Azrieli Foundation on June 11.

"Those of us lucky enough to have heard our families' survival stories firsthand share a window into a world of unspeakable loss. But it's these very tales of toughness and tenacity that often define who we are," said Beker, in



Jeanne Beker, seen at Rideau Hall in 2014 on the occasion of her investiture in the Order of Canada for her support of the Canadian fashion industry, an award she was thrilled her mother could witness. Her mother passed away the next year.

praising the book *Forgiveness* by Mark Sakamoto, about his grandparents' torments during the Second World War.

The lives of Beker's own parents, Bronia and Joseph (Josio) were thrown into chaos when Germany invaded Poland in

1939. By 1941, all the Jews in the town of Kozowa (now in Ukraine) were confined to a ghetto. Beker will recount the tragedy that befell her mother's family, and how her father Joseph helped his then girlfriend Bronia escape Nazi roundups.

What their story doesn't reveal is how Beker, who lives in Toronto, used her parents' encouragement and sheer guts to develop a trailblazing fashion and media career, while giving back to the community.

"My parents, especially my mother, instilled in me a love of the arts," said Beker. At age 16, despite a lack of experience, Beker had the chutzpah to audition for a CBC production – and miraculously won the part.

This led to "bits and pieces" in film, acting school in New York, and eventually to entertainment anchor on a local Toronto newscast and host of Fashion Television.

"My parents encouraged me to dream big. My father's motto was 'don't be afraid and never give up' – that's what

saw them through the Holocaust," said Beker.

Among her many awards, in 2016 Beker received a star on Canada's Walk of Fame in Toronto "on the very sidewalk my dad walked every day to his small slipper factory."

Beyond influencing her own life, Beker says, "These accounts are stories of hardship and courage, and primarily tenacity – the ability to rise from the ashes and keep going, no matter what. They can also help others move forward with acceptance and compassion... and resonate with future generations."

Beker's passion in telling her parents' story promises to make Monday, June 11 a riveting evening. All participants will get a copy of Beker's parents' story, *Joy Runs Deeper*, courtesy of the Azrieli Foundation's Holocaust Memoirs program. The event takes place at 7 pm at Carleton University's Singhal Family Theatre, Richcraft Hall, 9376 University Dr. Tickets (\$25) are available at <https://carleton.ca/ches/jeanne-beker>.

# Curious George documentary coming to Temple Israel

BY LOUISE RACHLIS  
FOR TEMPLE ISRAEL

Curious Jews will have a chance to satisfy their curiosity about Curious George, on Sunday, June 10, 1 pm, when Temple Israel screens the documentary "Monkey Business," directed by Ema Ryan Yamazaki with narration by Sam Waterston.

The full-length movie tells the story of H.A. (Hans) and Margret Rey, Jews who fled Nazi Germany and eventually made it to the U.S. where they sold the original Curious George manuscript.

The first Curious George book was published in 1941, followed by more books and television shows, movies and

video games.

"Temple Israel has been given the honour of hosting the Canadian premiere of this amazing film," said Merle Haltrecht-Matte of Temple Israel. "We are planning a multi-generational experience in which teens and adults will watch the documentary in our social hall. Simultaneously, in our school wing, we will host an afternoon of learning about Curious George through the books, watching the animated movies, and with activities that tell the story of the Reys in an age appropriate way. We'll also be selling popcorn," she said.

"There will be an opportunity to have your picture taken with Judaism's most

famous monkey, and for families to have a great experience learning about the Jewish roots of this iconic children's literary character," Haltrecht-Matte added.

"Monkey Business" tells the Reys' story using animation, photographs and interviews with people who knew them.

"This documentary is the story of two young adults who fled Europe, taking with them a manuscript that would change the lives of countless children," said Haltrecht-Matte. "It is a powerful reminder of how many fantastic pieces of literature, art, and innovation were

lost or destroyed.

Having the opportunity to view the film and learn about the Reys' incredible story will be a wonderful way to also explore the ideas of what was lost during the Shoah... The values and morals that are deeply embedded in the stories of Curious George can easily be traced to the Reys' Jewish heritage."

There is no charge for the movie afternoon but RSVP is appreciated to Temple Israel at 613-224-1802.

For more about the film, visit [www.curiousgeorgedocumentary.com](http://www.curiousgeorgedocumentary.com).



Curious George creators Margret and H. A. Rey in Hamburg, Germany, May, 1973.

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# National conference begins overdue conversation on inclusion in the Jewish community

GUEST COLUMN  
**HARVEY GOLDBERG**

Inclusion of people with disabilities was the topic of a first-ever national conference organized by the Canadian Jewish community. “Pushing the Boundaries: Disability, Inclusion & Jewish Community,” held in Toronto from April 15 to 17, discussed how to remove the many social, economic and physical barriers faced by Jews with disabilities.

The conference, sponsored by the Jewish Federations of Canada-UJA, UJA Federation of Toronto, and other organizations, spotlighted Canadian and Israeli programs and organizations working on disability issues. Equally important, it allowed around 150 people, with a variety of expertise and lived experience, to begin an overdue discussion.

Sarah Beutel, Jewish Federation of Ottawa vice-president (community building) attended the conference along with a number of other community members including Tamir Executive Director Mark Palmer, who highlighted the recently-announced plans to build an integrated living centre on the Jewish Community Campus, as part of a panel addressing housing adapted to the needs of people with disabilities.

While the disability rights movement has been pushing for inclusion for decades, the Canadian Jewish com-



Harvey Goldberg (centre) with Tamir staff members (from left) Stacey Bellemare, Mark Palmer, Estelle Allen and Lisa Griffin at a reception during the “Pushing the Boundaries” conference in Toronto.

munity has lagged behind. The conference discussed how the most persistent barrier to inclusion is the tendency to see people with disabilities as “the other,” and to stigmatize and marginalize them. Bimahs without ramps; Jewish schools that do not adequately accommodate the needs of children with disabilities; lack of affordable, adapted housing; and community spaces that are not fully accessible are still common.

Jewish communities across Canada are beginning to catch-up. Several Jewish communities have hired inclusion coordinators to facilitate the inclusion of people

with disabilities and other stigmatized groups in community life. In Toronto, innovative social enterprises are hiring people with intellectual disabilities and paying them real wages for real work. And the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs has included disability rights in its advocacy agenda.

The conference attendees also heard from several Israeli organizations, such as Krembo Wings, a fully integrated youth movement. Several of the Israeli organizations at the conference are working in partnership with Canadian federations, to ensure inclusion in the Jewish state.

The discussion started in Toronto continued in Ottawa on May 2 when one of the conference organizers, Linda Kislowicz, president and CEO of Jewish Federations of Canada-UJA, spoke at the Jewish Federation of Ottawa members’ meeting. As Kislowicz emphasised, disability rights are now firmly on the Canadian Jewish community agenda. The enthusiasm to keep the conversation going, by participants at the conference and organizing partners, was encouraging. It would be supported by her organization, she said, by the allocation of seed financing to grassroots inclusion projects.

Anyone interested in an informal discussion on how to make the Ottawa Jewish community more inclusive is invited to contact me at [harveygoldberg700@gmail.com](mailto:harveygoldberg700@gmail.com).

*Harvey Goldberg is a semi-retired senior policy advisor at the Canadian Human Rights Commission where he has worked for over 25 years on issues regarding the rights of persons with disabilities.*



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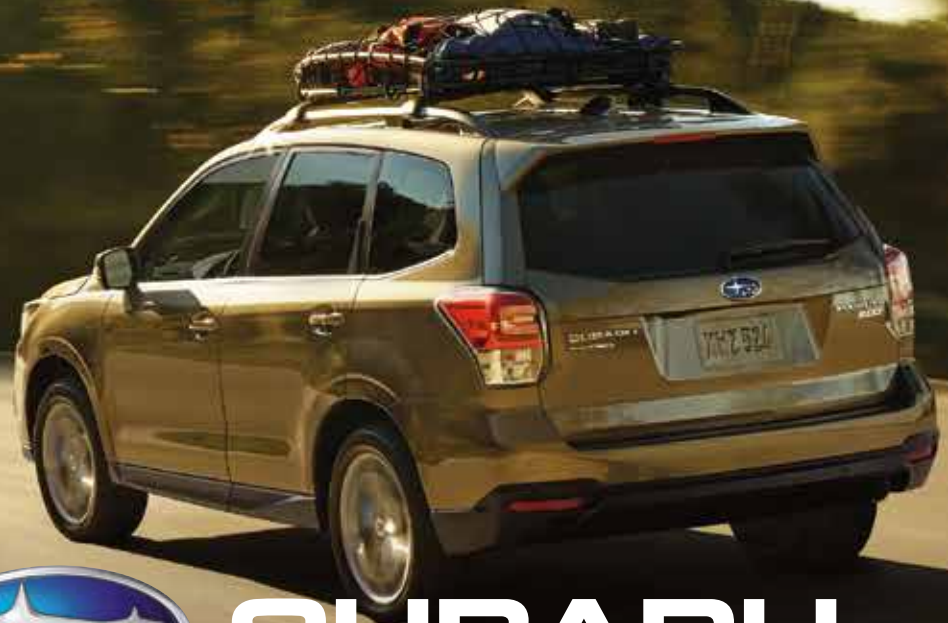
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# Gala Emunah dinner to honour Rivka Kraus

BY GLADYS ZARECKI  
EMUNAH OTTAWA

This year's Emunah Family-in-Israel event will be held Monday, June 18, 6:30 pm, at Congregation Machzikei Hadas. Co-Chairs Anna-Lee Chiprout and Barbara Crook promise a most elegant and inspiring affair: a gala dinner honouring Rivka Kraus, a tireless and passionate lifetime volunteer. Our guest speaker, coming from Israel for this unique occasion, is Shlomo Kessel, director of World Emunah.

Emunah's honoree, Rivka Kraus, was raised in Israel and married Cantor Moshe Kraus at age 17. The couple lived in Belgium, South Africa, Mexico, and Canada, and in each community they made their mark. Arriving in Ottawa 40 years ago, Rivka became an active Emunah member and later served as local president and treasurer. She is currently national vice-president of Emunah Canada.

Thanks to Rivka's wide range of interests, and her numerous contacts with dignitaries and politicians of all stripes, whom she invited to speak at events, Emunah Ottawa is well known for its tremendous programs and guest speakers. Along with members of the executive committee, Rivka canvassed for multiple sponsors and ads, kept the books and made thousands of phone calls, all the while keeping administrative costs to the minimum. Her goal was always that money raised would go straight to helping children at risk in Israel.

Rivka's dedication and never faltering belief in the importance of Emunah's lifesaving and life-affirming mission, has inspired many women to become proud Emunah life members. With her characteristic foresight



Honoree Rivka Kraus has chosen Rythmusic, a music therapy program for at-risk children in Israel to receive the proceeds from this year's Emunah Family-in-Israel event.

to ensure continuity, Rivka sent several members on Young Leadership Missions so they could discover the tremendous breadth and scope of what Emunah is achieving in Israel.

When Rivka was asked which of Emunah's projects she would like this event to support, her answer was

*Rivka's dedication and never faltering belief in the importance of Emunah's lifesaving and life-affirming mission, has inspired many women to become proud Emunah life members.*

immediate: music. Given her passion for opera and classical music, she chose to have the funds dedicated to a special music therapy program known as "Rythmusic" at the Emunah Multipurpose Daycare Centres.

These centres cater to children that come from challenging home environments. The daycare staff – working with the social services department in Israel – creates individualized programs for each family they serve with a goal of keeping families together. Very often these children do not receive sufficient enrichment and stimulation at home so the Rythmusic program is important. It combines music and occupational therapy, allowing children to receive the stimulation they need to thrive and succeed.

Proceeds from the dinner will go to support the Rythmusic program for 200 of the most vulnerable and neglected children in the Emunah Canada Therapeutic Daycare Centres in Ashkelon and Ashdod.

For more information, to receive an invitation, and to find out about sponsorship opportunities, contact the Montreal Emunah Office at [montreal@emunahcanada.org](mailto:montreal@emunahcanada.org) or 1-514-485-2397. In order to make this gala an elegant and dignified affair, reservations by June 4, are required.

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Soloway JCC

## Smith: 'I wanted a great school for my kids,' says award recipient

Continued from page 1  
move forward and get things done. Less time talking, more time doing... Not that talking is unimportant – things we're doing require a lot of thoughtfulness – but that needs to lead to action."

The Freiman Young Leadership Award is given to a young leader who has demonstrated proven leadership to the benefit of Ottawa's Jewish community. The recipient also receives the Lawrence Greenberg Young Leadership Development Award which allows him or her to participate in the annual General Assembly of Jewish Federations of North America.

In his letter nominating Smith for the Freiman Family Award, Ian Sherman called Smith "a very gifted and trusted young leader," praising his "exceptional talent, credibility, poise, determination, innovativeness and professionalism."

Active on other boards in the Jewish and wider community as well, Smith particularly chose to be involved with OJCS because "I got behind something that had a personal interest to my family.

"I wanted a great school for my kids to go to," he said. "Growing up in a really small place, where there weren't a lot of Jewish choices, you were a central part of that community. I've always been motivated to help people get involved more Jewishly. I see day school as the way to make that happen for the kids, and for the parents as well."

The 2018 Community Service Awards will be presented at the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's annual general meeting on Wednesday, June 20, 7 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. For more information, contact Solange Ashe at [sashe@jewishottawa.com](mailto:sashe@jewishottawa.com) or 613-798-4696, ext. 236.

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# Special tour offers the new and the ancient in Israel

BY MAURICE KLEIN  
AJA 50+

Active Jewish Adults (AJA) 50+ is excited to offer a trip to Israel from October 27 to November 7 under the leadership of Rabbi Steven Garten. This travel opportunity targets the 50-plus age group and will be paced accordingly.

Rabbi Garten has taken a special interest in the development of this extensive tour and describes it as, “a unique opportunity to see Israel at its most complicated best.”

“The New and Ancient in Israel” will take travellers to fascinating off-the-beaten-path locations in the Western and Northern Galilee, Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and will be of interest to returning visitors as well as first-timers.

The 10 days of touring will feature many unique experiences from the time you land in Israel until you leave. Participants will begin by exploring the Ein Hod artist colony near Haifa, and then visit Zippori National Park to view its extraordinary ancient mosaics. On subsequent days you will learn first-hand about the security issues confronting Israelis in the Upper Galilee – the partnership region of Ottawa’s Jewish community. Those with a taste for the

*The 10 days of touring will feature many unique experiences from the time you land in Israel until you leave.*

mystical and the Kabbalah will enjoy the town of Safed.

You will meet Israelis in their homes, and visit sites you have never been to before, including art galleries, ancient synagogues, a Druze village, archaeological treasures and the newly opened Ammunition Hill Museum.

Our special tour will enhance your knowledge of other religions in Israel, one of the highlights being the holiest sites of the Baha’i faith.

Both first-timers and returnees will be inspired by the historic sites in Jerusalem, where you will also celebrate Shabbat. On other days, join in Israeli dancing and listen to street musicians during fun-filled evenings.

Previous trips have sold out quickly, so plan to join us for an exciting adventure with your friends and community. For more information about the trip, including the detailed itinerary and pricing, visit [http://static.daatravel.com/Flipbooks/AJA\\_Oct\\_2018/](http://static.daatravel.com/Flipbooks/AJA_Oct_2018/) and our page on Facebook.



AJA 50+ travellers gather in Jerusalem during a tour of Israel in November 2010.

## JFS’ Rebecca Fromowitz receives social work award

BY MARK ZARECKI  
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF OTTAWA

Rebecca Fromowitz, assistant executive director at Jewish Family Services of Ottawa (JFS) and director of Counselling Services, received the Bessie Touzel Award from the Ontario Association of Social Workers on April 25. The award recognizes the achievement of social workers who demonstrate leadership, vision and dedication in the practice of social work and who have made significant contributions to the social work profession. Areas of social work practice taken into consideration may include: direct service, management, community development, public policy, education, advocacy and research.

The agency is particularly pleased that Rebecca received the award this year. It has been JFS’ policy over the years to identify and hire Jewish professionals. This has been a great challenge with so few Jewish social workers staying in Ottawa. Rebecca started at JFS as a student placement from Carleton University and quickly became a leader and one of our assistant executive directors.

In her role as director of Counselling Services, Rebecca has grown the program and has helped with the expansion of the vision of the agency. She is a visionary thinker and a leader in the Ottawa social service sector. She is a champion of advocacy for our clients as well as the sector. Under her leadership, The Counselling Group at JFS has expanded from a staff of five to over thirty clinicians. Rebecca has also integrated numerous additional languages of service, mirroring the languages that the Settlement Sector offers clients, includ-



Rebecca Fromowitz is the 2018 recipient of the Bessie Touzel Award from the Ontario Association of Social Workers.

ing Arabic and Spanish.

Another example of Rebecca’s work is her implementation of the very successful Walk-In Counselling Clinic. The agency currently has eight locations in the Champlain LHINS region. The program was created and coordinated by JFS. The agency is providing supervision and training for the staff across all sites. The model is being replicated in other communities, and is being recognized as a successful model for quick and free walk-in counselling service. The Walk-in Counselling Clinic ensures that those in our community who do not have resources have access to immediate no-fee counselling.

Rebecca has spear-headed changes to the unit, responsively meeting the needs of Ottawa and ensuring services continue to be as sustainable and accessible. Rebecca’s receiving the Bessie Touzel Award is recognition of the cutting edge nature of the work that JFS has been offering over the years.

*Florence Melton School Graduation:  
A Celebration of Learning*

**Thursday, June 21 - Tammuz 8, 5778**  
7:30 PM – Soloway JCC Social Hall

The community is invited to celebrate with the 2018 graduates of the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning. This ceremony acknowledges the culmination of a remarkable two year Jewish education journey.

**Director of the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning – Rabbi Steven Garten**  
**Faculty – Rabbi Steven Garten, Rabbi Idan Scher**

*Reception to Follow*

*2018 Melton Graduates*

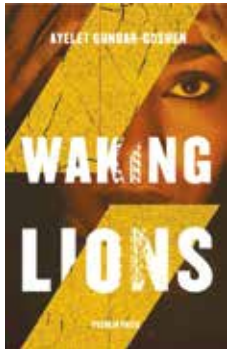
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Carol Kershman		

For information and to reserve your spot contact Roslyn Wollock,  
Adult Education SJCC (613) 798-9818 ext. 254, [rwollock@jccottawa.com](mailto:rwollock@jccottawa.com)

the florence melton school of adult jewish learning  
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# Israeli novels confront ethical dilemmas

**RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN**  
THE REPORTER, VESTAL, N.Y.  
**BOOK REVIEW**



**Waking Lions**  
By Ayelet Gundar-Goshen  
Back Bay Books  
352 pages

One moment – one decision – can change the course of a lifetime. That’s what Eitan Green discovers in Ayelet Gundar-Goshen’s fascinating *Waking Lions*.

Eitan’s life has already taken an unwanted turn: he and his family moved to Beersheva when his career as a neurosurgeon was derailed due to a conflict with the professor who served as his mentor. While his wife Liat, who works as a police detective, and their two children have adjusted to their new home, Eitan is frustrated. Then one night, after an unsatisfying time at work, he decides to drive in the dunes surrounding Beersheva, even though it’s dark. Unable to see, his car hits an Afri-

can migrant. Believing they are alone, Eitan does the unthinkable – or, at least, an action he once assumed would be unthinkable: He leaves the man on the side of the road and drives away.

Unfortunately for Eitan, there is a witness: Sirkit, the man’s wife, who shows up at Eitan’s door – first demanding money and then his medical services for other illegal migrants. When Liat is assigned to investigate the African’s death, Eitan must again face the moral and ethical implications of his act.

Gundar-Goshen explores a variety of issues: how our perception of ourselves may differ from our actual behaviour; the relationship between spouses, including whether it’s possible to ever truly know someone; the lingering prejudice against poor Sephardic Jews; and the plight of African refugees who are afraid to return to their native lands. The author’s view is intensely personal, giving readers a nuanced, detailed view of her character’s inner lives that is incredibly well done, even if once in a while a character’s introspectiveness seems a bit too much.

Gundar-Goshen’s greatest triumph, though, is her slow and careful revelation of Sirkit’s inner life, one that remains invisible to those unable to see past her status as an illegal migrant. The impossibility of truly understanding a person – unless you’ve shared their history – serves a major theme throughout the novel.

*Waking Lions* is an eye-opening

work about Israel and human nature. Book club readers may find themselves agreeing with both sides of the issues raised, while lovers of literary fiction will definitely want to add Gundar-Goshen’s novel to their must-read list.



**Three Floors Up**  
By Eshkol Nevo  
Other Press  
288 pages

An apartment building is like a miniature city: each person lives in separate, but loosely connected worlds. In Eshkol Nevo’s excellent *Three Floors Up*, the lives of three tenants are explored in close detail. What connects their stories – in addition to the fact all three live in the same apartment building – is that each of the main characters is in desperate need of a confidant with whom they can share their troubles.

One of the first floor apartments is occupied by Aron, who confides in an army friend he hasn’t seen in ages. Hani, who lives on the second floor, writes letters to a childhood friend, to formulate an objective view of the changes in her life. Devora, a retired

judge who lives on the third floor, speaks to the past by relating her tale to her late husband by means of an old answering machine whose message he recorded.

All three narrators are facing a crisis in their lives. Aron is distraught over whether an elderly neighbour did something unspeakable to his daughter. His fear begins to undermine not only his marriage, but his sanity, as his obsession distances him from those he loves. Hani is unsatisfied with her life as a stay-at-home mother, especially during the times her husband must travel for business. She understands not only her own complaints, but how her husband could successfully rebut them. This doesn’t prevent her from breaking one of his rules: when her brother-in-law shows up at the apartment door, she invites him inside, even though he’s wanted by the police.

My favorite section focused on Devora, who lived her life according to her husband’s high standards, even when that meant not supporting their only child. Now that she lives alone and is no longer working, Devora is at a loss. A decision to attend a demonstration in Tel Aviv changes the course of her life.

Each section in *Three Floors Up* is compelling and Nevo manages to create believable characters and suspense about their behaviour. His book is a wonderful look at human nature and Israeli society.

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A Hillel Lodge **Honour Fund** is a permanent pool of capital that earns interest or income each year. This income then supports the priorities designated by you, the donor.

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Ruth and Irving Aaron Mazel Tov on your 65th wedding Anniversary by Issie and Leah Scarowsky and Peter and Minda Wershof

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**R'Fuah Shlema:**

Paula Silver by Ruth and Irving Aaron

**In Memory of:**

Cila Farber by Ruth and Irving Aaron

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**In Observance of the Yahrzeit of:**

Bill Adler Beloved father by the Kaiman family and Dave, Elayne, Jordan and Benjamin

**Norman and Stella Beck Family Fund**

**In Observance of the Yahrzeit of:**

Norman Beck Beloved husband, father,

grandfather and great-grandfather by Stella, Harry, Irit, Sheila, Brian, the grandchildren and great grandchildren

**Sid and Barbara Cohen Family Fund**

**In Honour of:**

Normie Zagerman by Barbara Cohen

**In Memory of:**

Sylvia Monson by Barbara Cohen

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**In Honour of:**

Dale and Ruth Fyman Thank you for your warm hospitality by Elaine Friedberg and Bob Dale

**Nell Gluck Memorial Fund**

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Carole and Bernie Starkman Mazel Tov on the birth of your first grandson by Henry, Maureen and Edie Molot

**R'Fuah Shlema:**

Jennette Affleck by Julia, Ted, Jess and Ayelet

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Ruth Levine by Sol and Estelle Gunner

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**In Memory of:**

Paul Cook by Issie and Evelyn Hoffman

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Morris Kimmel Beloved father by Issie and Evelyn Hoffman

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**Nordau and Roslyn Kanigsberg**

**Family Fund**

**In Memory of:**

Goldie Davis by Marcia and Steve Aronson, Anna and Sam Wex and Sarah, Jack,

David and Lev Silverstein

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Joe Levitan Wishing you a full and speedy recovery by Margo and David Kardish

**Morris and Lillian Kimmel Family Fund**

**In Honour of:**

Stephen Schneiderman Wishing you continued good health to enjoy the next chapter of your life by Janet and Stephen Kaiman

**In Memory of:**

Cila Farber by Jack, Sarah, David and Lev Silverstein

**Bill and Phyllis Leith Family Fund**

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Roz and Morty Elman Mazel Tov on your grandson Matthew's Bar Mitzvah by Arlene and Seymour Isenberg

**Gert and Norm Leyton Family Fund**

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Dina Teitlebaum In appreciation by Cheryl Leyton and Manuel Glimcher

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**In Honour of:**

Libby Labell Wishing you a very happy Birthday by Ken and Leah Miller and family

**Schachter / Ingber Family Fund**

**In Honour of:**

Brian Schachter Wishing you a happy 60th Birthday by Rachel, Howard, Davida, Josh and Kayla

**Anna and Samuel Wex Family Fund**

**In Honour of:**

Michael Landau Mazel Tov and best wishes on receiving the Shem Tov Award by Anna and Sam Wex

\*\*\*\*\*

**Feeding Program**

**In Honour of:**

Ingrid Levitz With much appreciation for being a jewel to the Jewish community and to Hillel Lodge by Stephen Saslove  
Harold and Rosalie Schwartz Mazel Tov on the birth of your granddaughter by Marcia and Steve Aronson

**In Memory of:**

Cila Farber by Liz Petigorsky and Semyon Ioffe, Brenda and Stephen Saslove

\*\*\*\*\*

**Recreation Program**

**In Honour of:**

Eric Elkin and Molly Hirsch Mazel Tov on the birth of your granddaughter Ruth by Esther and David Kwavnick  
Burt Gorenstein Mazel Tov on your second Bar Mitzvah by Esther and David Kwavnick

\*\*\*\*\*

**Therapeutics Program**

**In Honour of:**

Mrs. Lee Curry Have a happy and healthy special Birthday by Carol Gradus  
Melissa Weiner Happy and healthy special Birthday by Carol Gradus  
Bruce Weiner Happy and healthy special Birthday by Carol Gradus

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ritual Program**

**In Honour of:**

Issie and Leah Scarowsky Mazel Tov on being honoured by JET by Rosalie and Harold Schwartz

\*\*\*\*\*

**In Memory of:**

Darleen Rattew by Elaine Chalmers  
Cila Farber by Sam and Roberta Goldmaker

\*\*\*\*\*

**In Honour of:**

Janet Wolfe Mazel Tov on the joyous occasion of your 70th Birthday by Laura and Eric Vernon  
Bunny Cogan Mazel Tov on your special Birthday by Ethel Bloom and Liane Freedman  
Ingrid Levitz Mazel Tov on the birth of your granddaughter by Stephen and Debra Schneiderman

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Tuesday, June 12

7 pm

Join us for a one hour session to discuss your and your loved ones' needs.

Speakers:

**Patrick McGarry**  
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**Howard Lithwick**  
Lawyer - Wills and Estates

Space is limited

To RSVP: Call the Hillel Lodge LTC Foundation at 613-728-3990 or email Mitch Miller at [mmiller@hillel-ltc.com](mailto:mmiller@hillel-ltc.com)



## Hillel Lodge BIKING for BUBBIES

Sunday, September 16, 2018



Register on our website, call the Hillel Lodge LTC Foundation office at 613-728-3990 or email [mmiller@hillel-ltc.com](mailto:mmiller@hillel-ltc.com)

Chairs: Adam Schacter and Seymour Mender



### Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge

## Get To Know Us

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**David Silverman**

**David Silverman** was born in Toronto on January 19, 1934. At 84, he is one of the younger residents at the Lodge. David's parents, Sarah (from Austria) and Ephraim (from Poland) were married in Europe and then immigrated to Canada in 1928. David was the little brother to Florence (who passed away last year), they lived in Toronto's Kensington Market area on McCaul Street. David became the man of the house very early, as his father died when David was a very young boy.

In 1951, at the age of 17, David dropped out of Givins Commercial School (after attending Ryerson Public School) to help his mother pay the bills. He started working for the Federal Government's department of National Health and Welfare processing "Baby" bonuses. He worked for the Federal Government for 44 years before retiring (Interesting that the government recognized only 43 years as they started counting once he was 18).

David met his wife Netta at a dance at the YMHA on Spadina (now the Miles Nadal JCC). Netta will tell you that David did his talking through dance. He loved and still loves to dance just like his late mother did. Two years after they met on the dance floor – David and Netta were married on February 28, 1960.

David and Netta have two children and five granddaughters (ages 16-24) that they are very proud of. Their daughter Sharon lives in Toronto. Their son Michael and his family are in Ottawa and regularly visit the Lodge as well as actively volunteering on the Lodge's Family Council.

It was in 2013 that David and Netta moved from Toronto to Ottawa. David had been in the Toronto General Hospital for seven months and when the family

discussed Long Term Care – they decided that Ottawa and more specifically Hillel Lodge would be a good choice.

These two Torontonians will tell you what many of us in Ottawa already know, "Ottawa is a beautiful city and the people here are very friendly". David adds that "the Lodge has many great activities" – highlighting the bingos and monthly birthday parties.

When I asked David what makes the Lodge special, he told me that when he was in Toronto, he attended Shabbat services regularly for almost 40 years at Adath Israel near Wilson and Bathurst. In his own words "it's important to go to shul, and at the Lodge I can do that". David is a regular at the Lodge's Shabbat services.

David feels that people should try to do more for themselves. It may take a little longer and not be as easy as asking for help, but he encourages people of all ages to try and try and try again before asking for help.

I asked David a simple question at the end of our interview, as a Resident - what do you think the Lodge needs? An open-ended question that could have had many responses. David didn't hesitate to reply "More staff. The current staff are great, but they don't have time to do everything they need to do and spend time getting to know us."

When we were wrapping up, Netta and David were laughing that for a guy who didn't say much for most of his life...he found his voice at the youth-filled age of 80. We look forward to many more years of hearing what David has to say.

David will be participating in the 10th annual Biking for Bubbies. To help him reach his goals visit [www.hillel-ltc.com/pledge](http://www.hillel-ltc.com/pledge)

By Mitch Miller, Executive Director, Hillel Lodge LTC Foundation



# A Shabbat in the Heights getaway

BY ALICIA HEARNS  
JEWISH YOUTH LIBRARY

During the last week of April, members of Ottawa's Jewish community travelled by bus to Crown Heights in Brooklyn to take part in a "Shabbat in the Heights" weekend getaway. This annual event, organized by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) in conjunction with the Lubavitch Youth Organization, is a "spirited Shabbat experience in the nerve centre of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement." The trip from Ottawa was organized by the Jewish Youth Library.

The Shabbaton lived up to the expectations of participants from Ottawa. Of the 300 adults and children in atten-

dance, the group of 20 from Ottawa was the largest delegation.

Participants were provided with an "insider's tour of the neighbourhood." This included a walking tour of Crown Heights, a visit to the synagogue of Lubavitch World Headquarters, "770," Chabad Central Headquarters, the Jewish Children's Museum, a Chassidic art gallery, the Rebbe's house, the Ohel, and more.

Accommodations organized by JLI with friendly and welcoming families residing in Crown Heights allowed individuals to gain a more in-depth experience of what it is like to live in the city and participate in the night life within the community.

The weekend included such events as Shabbat candle lighting and traditional Shabbat ceremonies, uplifting Chassidut gatherings, group study and dinners. There were also many opportunities to participate in insightful lectures and workshops organized with wonderful and inspiring keynote speakers such as Rabbi Benny Zippel, Rabbi Chaim Hanoka, Rabbi Mordy Dinerman, Molly Resnick and more.

"I had hoped for a life-expanding Shabbaton. It was much better than that. It was life altering... All of the speakers were very human, compassionate and enthusiastic with their life lessons," said Ottawa attendee Tom Dewar.

Participating in Shabbaton getaways such as "Shabbat in the Heights" is one of the ways in which individuals in the Jewish community can develop a deeper sense of connection with those they share similar philosophies and ideas. Through the participation of such gatherings and in seeing so many individuals with similar values congregate, it is impossible not to feel a deep and profound sense of belonging and acceptance.

For more information on the various programs offered by the Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa and to keep up to date on information regarding future getaways visit us at [www.jewishyouthlibrary.com](http://www.jewishyouthlibrary.com) or call Devora Caytak at 613-729-7712.

# Malka Touger speaks to Jewish students and women

BY ALICIA HEARNS  
JEWISH YOUTH LIBRARY

In April, the Jewish Youth Library welcomed world-renowned lecturer and author Malka Touger to deliver a series of workshops for students and women in Ottawa's Jewish community. Touger is a teacher and author whose insights have attracted audiences around the world. She has also produced several educational videos in both English and Hebrew, as well as a film in collaboration with JEM.

During her stay in Ottawa, she visited many schools including the Ottawa Jewish Community School, Torah Day School and Torah High to deliver lectures on a variety of important topics such as "How do Jewish teens preserve their Judaism in a public high school environment?" "Why Judaism is relevant to teens this day and age" and "Preparing yourself for Matan Torah: Learning from the Beis Hamikdash."

Such topics are highly important among Jewish youth who may face a number of obstacles regarding their beliefs as they prepare for adulthood. Touger's talks allowed students to begin to consider the possibility of such difficulties and emphasized the importance

of maintaining their ties to their Jewish community and the values and ideas they have cultivated through their education.

Touger also conducted a two-part series of workshops for women in conjunction with Congregation Machzikei Hadas which explored ideas of marriage and intimacy in connection to Judaism. Part one, "Renew, Rejuvenate and Reconnect," explored how Jewish women can gain tools to refresh a relationship. Part two, "The Inside Story," discussed the Torah perspective on intimacy.

Through these workshops, Touger discussed ideas of personal growth and development in relation to women, providing a well-rounded, text-based look at this integral and sensitive part of a Jewish women's life. These talks emphasized the importance of men and women remaining in sync throughout their marriage and of maintaining the same values. Furthermore, she discussed the importance of taking initiative in relationships and bridging the gap with others to try to improve and invest in relationships in a positive way.

Her ideas regarding marriage, family and women's issues were greatly appre-

ciated. "Mrs. Touger's workshop on this relevant topic drew women from all different neighbourhoods and from across a diverse range of age groups. As women, we know that the strength in our relationships translates to strength in our marriages, strength in our friendships

and strength of connection to our family," said attendee Stacy Goldstein.

For more information on the various programs offered by the Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa and to keep up to date on information regarding guest speakers, visit us at [www.jewishyouthlibrary.com](http://www.jewishyouthlibrary.com).



**Jewish Unity Live:** Dedicated community volunteers Leah and Issie Scarowsky were honoured, May 6 at Centrepointe Studio Theatre, when JET (Jewish Education through Torah) presented its annual Jewish Unity Live event.

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# What would you do to protect the one you love?

**A**ct 5, scene 3 of “Romeo and Juliet” is the well-known death scene. Juliet is lying in the tomb under the influence of a sleeping potion that makes it appear she has died. Romeo finds her in the tomb. He mourns over her body, then drinks poison as he believes that Juliet is truly dead. Juliet wakes up moments later and overcome with grief, stabs herself in the heart. If the one she loves no longer lives, life is not worth living.

Read the scene again, this time focusing on your own response. Do you see two foolish teenagers hopelessly infatuated and blind to the world around them? Do you see yourself in them and ask what you would sacrifice for the one you love?

William Shakespeare is not the only author who has asked this difficult question. The Talmud tells us that there are three sins for which one is required to die: idolatry, sexual misconduct (incest, adultery, bestiality) and murder. Although ordinarily one is permitted to transgress halakha when a life is in danger, certain situations require one to give his or her life, for what they believe. The Talmud is comfortable equating belief and love, for it understands that to preserve the essence of our faith, our people, which we love and believe in, requires the ultimate sacrifice.

We are rarely placed in the position to make such difficult choices. Our lives are usually immune from such life and death situations. Yet there is one set of circumstances for which many of us are not simply uninterested bystanders: intermarriage.

Intermarriage occurs when a person of Jewish birth chooses to marry a person born into a non-Jewish family without prior conversion. In 2013, the Pew Research Center found that 44 per cent of married Jews in the



*Our community is confronted with post-modernity. We are no longer strangers in a strange land.*

United States have a non-Jewish partner. The numbers are somewhat smaller in Canada but in both countries the rates of intermarriage are rising exponentially.

We are well aware of how emotionally charged this topic is for our community. All members of the community have staked out positions on the spectrum: clergy who will officiate at ceremonies between Jews and non-Jews and those who will not; parents whose children marry non-Jews and want a rabbinic officiant; those who feel as if the sacrifices made to raise their children in a Jewish home have been for naught when the child brings home an unconverted spouse-to-be. In all these circumstances, the overwhelming intentionality has been to “save the Jewish people,” to “preserve the Jewish religion.” It is our love of Judaism that serves as the source of our emotional response.

Last June, 19 rabbis gathered in New York City for an urgent meeting. It wasn't a secret meeting, but it was certainly not public. The rabbis, all members of the Conservative Movement's Rabbinical Assembly,

gathered to decide what to do about intermarriage.

Since the 1970s, the Conservative Movement has banned its rabbis from officiating or even attending wedding ceremonies between Jews and non-Jews. But over time, the number of rabbis challenging this stance has grown steadily.

Following the meeting, Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, dean of Zeigler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, wrote: “We are committed to the principles of inclusiveness and welcoming and human dignity of all people. We're also committed to the principles of the integrity of Jewish law and commanded-ness.” His words were part of a letter sent by the Rabbinical Assembly to its members in response to a declaration by a small but significant group of Conservative rabbis that they would begin officiating at intermarriages.

What a dilemma! If you love Judaism with all your heart and all your soul, what are you prepared to do to preserve it? On one hand, intermarriage is a reality; let's reach out and hope that our efforts engage Jews. On the other hand, how can we desert the principles that we have lived and died for? It sounds like the words to a song from “Fiddler on the Roof.” In Anatevka, Tevye was confronted with the beginnings of modernity. Our community is confronted with post-modernity. We are no longer strangers in a strange land. We are citizens fully integrated into the societies in which we live. Unlike Tevye, we can't run away seeking a fresh start.

The discussion taking place within the Conservative Movement is not relegated to one movement – it is the conversation of every person who loves Judaism, who wishes to preserve Judaism, and is willing to do more than just chat about it.



**Sunday, June 10, 2018**  
**1pm at Temple**  
**1301 Prince of Wales Dr**  
**Are you curious about Curious George?**

You may remember Curious George as a sweet little monkey who can't help but get into trouble and his friend “The Man in the Yellow Hat,” who tries to take care of George and always ends up saving the day.

However, did you know that the book series was written and drawn by Hans Augusto Rey and Margret Rey, a Jewish couple that grew up in early-20<sup>th</sup>-century Germany? Have you heard the story of how they fled Paris on bikes carrying the *Curious George* manuscript with them just a few hours before the city fell to the Nazis?

Temple Israel is proud to announce that we will have the honour of hosting the Canadian Premiere of this amazing film. During the premiere of the documentary, there will be programming for children between the ages of 4 – 10 that will include games, crafts, book readings, and videos all about Curious George. There's a rumour that a character from the book series may even make an appearance!

There is no cost to attend this event – all we ask is that you bring your family, friends and your curiosity about the stories that have been favourites of children and parents alike for over 70 years.

Please RSVP to Temple office 613-224-1802 or [reception@templeisraelottawa.com](mailto:reception@templeisraelottawa.com)



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Fri: *The Afterlife*

**Jewish Mysticism/ Kabbalah 101**  
-or-  
**4 Jewish Habits for a Happy Life**  
7:20 – 8:20 PM

**The Mussar Path to Personal Transformation**  
-or-  
**The Ten Commandments**  
9:15 - 10:30 AM

**MORNING CLASSES & LUNCH AND LEARNS**  
@ Hillel Lodge

**EVENING CLASSES**  
@ The Soloway Jewish Community Centre

**SHABBATON**  
@ Congregation Beit Tikvah

**A Jewish Look at Christianity**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM

**The Ten Plagues**  
A Text Based Class  
8:00 - 9:00 AM

**Marvelous Miriam**  
A Text Based Class  
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# Find your place in the sun by adapting to your body's changing needs

This spring it felt like we went from an extended winter straight into summer. In mid-April we were subjected to heavy freezing rain referred to as Ice Storm 2018. We had snow and temperatures well below the seasonal norm. In the third week of April we suddenly had a balmy 20 C. The last remnants of winter finally melted. It felt wonderful to peel away the layers of winter jackets, hats and boots and cast off the winter blues that weighs so many of us down.

Neighbours I'd only seen over the previous months as we waved to each other while driving in and out of our garages were now outside doing yard cleanups and walking across the lawn to chat. Walkers, runners and cyclists were out in droves as was the new crop of spring babies being pushed in strollers.

One mild and sunny day in April, while out for one of my spring training runs in preparation for Ottawa Race Weekend, I passed by the Ottawa Civic Hospital and observed numerous patients seated outside in wheelchairs. They were wearing hospital gowns, bathrobes and slippers. Some patients had intravenous poles. Despite their personal health challenges, they looked content being outdoors and able to feel the warmth of the sun on their faces, the gentle breeze on their skin. Like the crocuses eagerly pushing their heads up through the thawing ground, we'd waited so long for our springtime reawakening. I felt compassion for these patients but my heart sang for them too, knowing that despite their suffering they could emerge from the hospital for a few moments of bliss.

I felt so much more energetic than I had for months. I cleaned out the garage and organized the



GLORIA SCHWARTZ  
**FOCUS ON FITNESS**

*Sometimes a few modifications to your gear or the way you perform certain activities can help you overcome obstacles.*

winter and summer sports gear and gardening supplies. I treated myself to a new-to-me bicycle. Having experienced and nearly fully recovered from over six months of pain caused by bulging discs, I decided that rather than give up certain activities, I would adapt accordingly. I did some research and determined that if I wanted to cycle, I needed to get a bike that would allow me to sit fully upright; forward flexion is not conducive to many lower back problems. My trusty quarter-century-old mountain bike was no longer suitable. With my less sporty-looking but very back-friendly cruiser style bicycle that I was lucky to find on consignment for less than half the price of a brand new one, I've been able to enjoy leisurely rides all around town. Being able and willing to adapt to one's changing needs and abilities is key to staying active and fit.

Mother Nature wasn't quite done having fun with

us. In early May, we had a windstorm with 100 km-per-hour winds. But then a few days later it was 25 C., sunny and glorious! There's an older gentleman I used to notice from time to time walking his dog. Then for a few years I'd see him walking with poles. I'm guessing the dog died. This spring while out running, I saw the man using a walker. He could have stayed home. Instead, he seems to be facing his progressive mobility challenges with courage. I find that inspiring.

A common changing need I and most runners experience at some time is foot-related. Finding a shoe that works best for your feet can make the world of difference. After several of my 20-km runs, I was fed up with the shoes that had been recommended by a foot specialist a few years ago. Whenever I run long distances, these shoes give me horribly large painful blisters. So I reverted back to wearing a different type of running shoe that I had. It doesn't give me blisters but is too narrow; I only made my situation worse. A couple of long runs and several toenails were bruised and blistering underneath – telltale signs that they'd fall off in the weeks and months ahead. I've lost some toenails over the years and just like a lizard's tail, they eventually grow back. To accommodate my changing feet, I finally bought a different type of shoe that I hope will be kinder to my tender tootsies.

If your changing physical needs are preventing you from getting outdoors to exercise in this wonderful weather, don't despair. Sometimes a few modifications to your gear or the manner in which you perform certain activities can help you overcome obstacles. I hope you find your place in the sun.

**KARIN HOWARD**  
ONTARIO PC CANDIDATE FOR OTTAWA SOUTH

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

## ONGOING EVENTS

### 15th Annual Israeli Film Festival

May 24 - June 10, 7 - 9 pm, Arts Court, 2 Daly Ave.

Contact: Ella, [edagan@jccottawa.com](mailto:edagan@jccottawa.com)

Cost: \$13 general, Members \$9

June 3: *The Band's Visit*, and *Saving Neta*

June 7: *Scaffolding*, June 10: *The*

*Policeman* and, *To Be a Child Again Israel*

Sponsored by Vered Israel Cultural and

Educational Program, Soloway Jewish

Community Centre, The Embassy of

Israel, Jewish Federation of Ottawa,

Canadian Film Institute, Canada Israel

Cultural Foundation.

## TUESDAY MAY 29

### All-Candidates meeting on issues of importance to the Jewish community

7 - 9 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel

Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Ave.

Contact: [rena@kehillatbethisrael.com](mailto:rena@kehillatbethisrael.com)

Meet the candidates in Ottawa West-

Nepean and discuss issues of impor-

tance to both the Jewish community

and the broader Ottawa community.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

### Machzikei Hadas Blood Drive

Wednesday 3:30-7:30 pm and Thursday,

10 am - 4pm, Ottawa's Blood Donor

Centre, 1575 Carling Ave.

Contact: Nachman Ariel Aarenau at

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[https://blood.ca/en/blood/join-your-](https://blood.ca/en/blood/join-your-organization)

[organization](https://blood.ca/en/blood/join-your-organization), including Machzikei ID

number: MACH006465.

### Hillel Lodge Annual General Meeting

7 - 9 pm, Hillel Lodge,

10 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.

Contact: [cindyc@hillel-ltc.com](mailto:cindyc@hillel-ltc.com)

The Bess & Moe Greenberg Family Hillel

Lodge Annual General Meeting.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 1

### Middle Eastern Shabbat Dinner with Yitzchok Meir Malek

6:45 - 10 pm, Congregation Machzikei

Hadas, 2310 Virginia Dr.

<http://cmhottawa.com>

Leading this special experience is

accomplished musician Yitzchok Meir

Malek. Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:45 pm,

followed by a Pareve Middle Eastern

Buffet, catered by B'Tavon. Register

online or by contacting the shul office.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

### Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation Annual General Meeting

7 - 9 pm, Contact: Sara Miller,

[smiller@jewishottawa.com](mailto:smiller@jewishottawa.com)

Guest speaker Gabi Ashkenazi, chair of

the Rashi Foundation and former chief of

staff of the Israel Defense Forces.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 7

### Paint Night

7 - 9 PM, Congregation Machzikei Hadas,

2310 Virginia Dr.

RSVP essential: [alecia@cmhottawa.com](mailto:alecia@cmhottawa.com)

or [margiemoscoe@gmail.com](mailto:margiemoscoe@gmail.com)

Cost: \$30. POP UP PAINTERS will

provide step-by-step instruction for

creating your own Judaica masterpiece.

Refreshments will be served.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 10

### Breakfast of Champions

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## MONDAY, JUNE 11

### In conversation with Jeanne Beker

7 - 9 pm, Richcraft Hall, 9376 University

Dr, Contact: Sharon Rosenberg

[chesatcarleton@gmail.com](mailto:chesatcarleton@gmail.com)

Cost: \$25. Discover Jeanne Beker's many

lives. Courtesy of the Azrieli Foundation,

the audience will receive an autographed

copy of *Joy Runs Deeper*. Sponsor: Center

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## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

### Information Session for Holocaust Survivors and Families

1:30 - 3:30 pm, Jewish Family Services,

301-2255 Carling Ave.

RSVP: Iris Beer, [ibeer@jfsottawa.com](mailto:ibeer@jfsottawa.com)

An update on the various compensation

programs for survivors. Q&A session.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 17

### Shahar Hason Israeli Stand up comedy show (in Hebrew)

7:30 - 9:30 pm, Richcraft Theatre -

Shenkman Arts Centre, 245 Centrum Blvd.

Contact: Eitan Rachlis

[http://www.laughlaughproductions.com/](http://www.laughlaughproductions.com/events/category/events/18008810939)

[events/category/events/18008810939](http://www.laughlaughproductions.com/events/category/events/18008810939)

## MONDAY, JUNE 18

### Emunah Family-in-Israel Gala dinner honouring Rivka Kraus

6:30 - 9 pm, Congregation Machzikei

Hadas, 2310 Virginia Dr.

Contact: [Marsha.kaiserman@rogers.com](mailto:Marsha.kaiserman@rogers.com)

Cost: Complimentary. Honouring Rivka

Kraus for her years of service to Emunah.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 19

### Na'amat Ottawa Jewish Telephone Directory: Advance Sale Days

June 19 to 21, 8:30 am- 1 pm

Contact: Judy Field,

[ojteldirectory@yahoo.ca](mailto:ojteldirectory@yahoo.ca)

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New to the city or moved recently?

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### AGING ISN'T FOR SISSIES - JFS Talks about Planning for the Future

7 - 8:30 pm, Jewish Family Services of

Ottawa, 300-2255 Carling Ave.

Contact: Tal Palgi, [tpalgi@jfsottawa.com](mailto:tpalgi@jfsottawa.com)

Topics include: Wills, POA and decision-

making and end of life. Q&A will follow.

### Ottawa Jewish Historical Society Annual General Meeting

7:30 - 9 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel,

1400 Coldrey Ave.

Contact: Elaine Brodsky, [ojhsoc@gmail.com](mailto:ojhsoc@gmail.com)

Annual General Meeting to take place in

the chapel. Refreshments to follow.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

### Federation Annual General Meeting

7 - 9 pm, Contact: Solange Ashe,

[sashe@jewishottawa.com](mailto:sashe@jewishottawa.com)

## FRIDAY, JUNE 22

### TOTally Shabbat at Temple Israel

5:30 - 6 pm, Temple Israel,

1301 Prince of Wales Dr.

RSVP: Cathy in office 613-234-1802

A multi-generational program for

families with children under 6 years of

age. Free family-friendly meal at 6:00 pm.

Erev Shabbat services at 6:30 pm.

Everyone welcome!

## SUNDAY, JUNE 24

### PJ in the Park

10 am - noon, Centrepark Park

Contact: Jordan Waldman, [jwaldman@](mailto:jwaldman@jewishottawa.com)

[jewishottawa.com](mailto:jwaldman@jewishottawa.com)

Cost: \$10. Come spend time with other PJ

families and enjoy snacks and activities.

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JUNE 1	8:25
JUNE 8	8:31
JUNE 15	8:35
JUNE 22	8:37
JUNE 29	8:37
JULY 6	8:35

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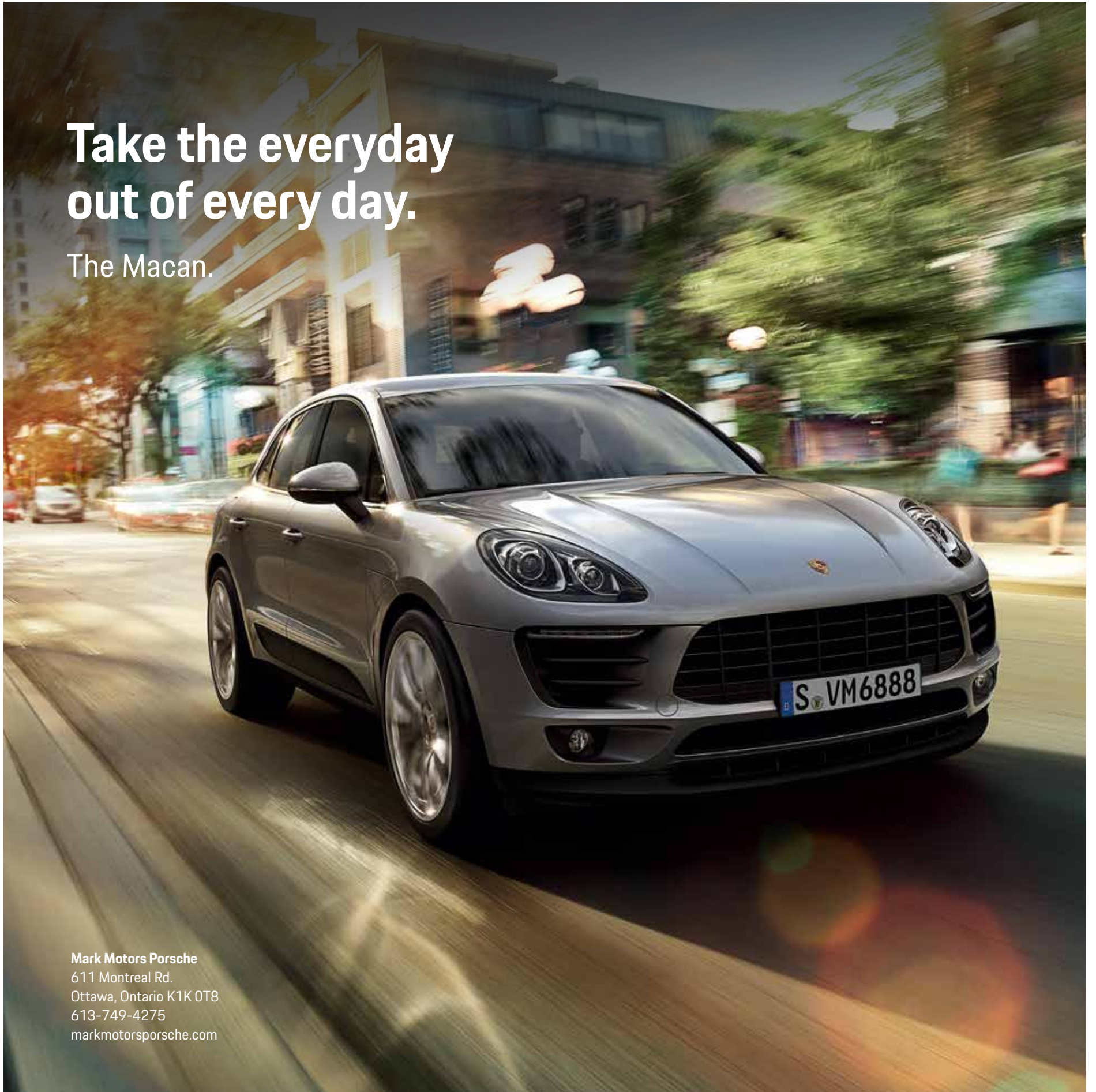
Bernie Zaifman

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# OTTAWA JEWISH BULLETIN

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# Israel at 70



**Ottawa Jewish Bulletin  
celebrates 70 years of  
modern Israeli statehood**

# The generation of 1948 who made the State of Israel possible

As a teenager, Ottawa philanthropist **Sara Vered** served as a radio operator in Israel's 1948 War of Independence. In this article, **Ariel Vered** offers a tribute to her grandmother's actions then, and to her lifetime of support for the Jewish state.

Every culture has its raconteurs, the individuals entrusted with communicating the history of a people. Sara Vered considers it her responsibility to tell the story of the establishment of the State of Israel; it has been a thread that has been woven throughout her life's story.

The history of the founding of the State of Israel is, essentially, Sara's story. She was 12 when she joined Gadna, the pre-Haganah training organization. Four years later, at the age of 16, she joined the Haganah and was chosen as one of 10 students to be trained as a wireless communications operator. This was a time when being found with a radio apparatus was punishable with jail time.

This experience demonstrated Sara's commitment to an ideal, a view that Sara would go on to carry with her throughout her life. The circumstances may have been perilous, but the greater good of establishing and protecting a home for the Jewish people was what counted.

Sara is first and foremost a Sabra. Born in Tel Aviv, she spent most of her youth in Jerusalem, where her father built a macaroni factory. She remained in Jerusalem to perform her communication duties during the siege while her family left for Tel Aviv. This was only a fraction of the remarkable experiences she had in the formative years of the State of Israel. Later, she served in the communications office of the headquarters of the Negev. Shortly after marrying Zeev Vered in 1950, the couple came to Canada.

They made their mark instantly as the first Israeli students at McGill University. Sara and Zeev eventually moved to Ottawa and built Ron Engineering, Arnon Development and Gilad Parking, all of which have helped shape the building landscape of the city today. More meaningful to them than building a successful construction group, of course, Sara and Zeev's 58-year marriage produced three sons, three daughters-in-law and 11 grandchildren.

Perhaps it is because she played a part in shaping history that Sara has always felt a need to educate. Always ready to help her grandchildren with their homework and projects, Sara is a born teacher, eager to speak to classrooms and school groups about her experiences. Sara has brought to the Ottawa Jewish community the wisdom and courage of her childhood and ado-



Sara Vered's philanthropic efforts have touched thousands of lives in both the Jewish and broader communities.

lescence and has enriched so many lives with her wealth of knowledge.

Sara has touched many lives. A few years ago, she addressed a group of Torah High students and their thoughts on the experience were compiled in a booklet for her. Their comments speak to Sara's ability to communicate her experiences in a meaningful dialogue.

"The most important lesson I took from Mrs. Vered's courage is that youth is the driving force in change," said Michael Rogov, "and that if we try hard enough we can do whatever we like."

Ben Silverman said, "Hearing her stories and experiences really touched me. It made me realize how truly special Israel is and it also made me see what sort of things people can do when fighting for something they believe in."

Educating and giving back have been important values that Sara and Zeev promoted in their family and in the community. Sara has served on boards of the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation, the National Gallery of Canada, the University of Ottawa Heart Institute and the Royal Ontario Museum. She was the second chair of the Women's Division of United Jewish Appeal. She was honoured by the Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner in 2010 and as one of 15 recipients of the inaugural Order of Ottawa in 2012. She became a Member of the Order of Canada in 2014.

As Israel celebrates 70 years of independence, Sara feels that it is important that young people today should learn the history of the State of Israel and remember the people of the generation of 1948 who made it possible for the Jewish people to have a state of our own.



Sara Vered (centre) was a Haganah wireless operator during the siege of Jerusalem in Israel's 1948 War of Independence.

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# Why Israel is investing in Diaspora Jewish education

BY NAFTALI BENNETT  
MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND  
DIASPORA AFFAIRS  
STATE OF ISRAEL

JERUSALEM (JTA) – For decades, world Jewry helped Israel. Organizations gathered and sent funds to the feeble, small state; our Air Force and Navy were formed and trained by Jewish volunteers from around the globe.

As we celebrate our 70th year as a state, we should thank the previous generations while shifting to a new era, one in which we reverse the roles and Israel spends more time and resources helping the Jews of the world.

Since its inception, Israel has played two roles: First, it is the country of all of its citizens, Jews and non-Jews alike. Second, it is the nation state for all Jews, citizens or not. The Law of Return, which offers immediate citizenship to any Jew interested in living in Israel, is the best example of this idea. As the Jewish homeland, Israel has always felt a sense of responsibility toward the Jews of the world and has acted, often quietly, to safeguard those in need – simply because they are Jews.

Sadly, recent events in France and Poland highlight the rise of anti-Semitism and the need to maintain such actions. However, the greatest danger facing the Jewish world in the 21st century is disengagement: Millions of Jews, mainly in North America, are drifting away from Judaism and, as a result, from Israel. Israel cannot ignore this reality. Acting as the home of the Jews, Israel helped Jews in physical danger. Now it is time to help those at risk of losing their connection to Judaism and Israel.

Not long ago, I told our government that Israel ought to drastically increase its investment in promoting Jewish



“After 70 years of Diaspora Jews helping Israel, it is time for Israel to help Diaspora Jews,” says Israeli Minister of Education and Diaspora Affairs Naftali Bennett.

education and identity, multiplying the resources allocated to projects like Mosaic United, Birthright or Masa by at least tenfold. This statement – and my continued policy of investing in education for Diaspora communities – caused people to ask why. “Why should our tax monies go to a child in Dallas or Budapest?”

I have two answers to this question. The first is a one-word answer coming from my kishkes: because. Jews are family, and we need to help our family, whether in Brazil, England, Canada or the United States. We help them because we are all Jewish.

The other answer is a far second, but it, too, has its place: Maintaining strong Jewish communities is not only the moral

thing to do, it is also a strategic investment by Israel because when you disengage from Judaism, you tend to disengage from Israel. The toughest challenge facing us is the masses of Jews distancing themselves from Judaism and Israel. This distancing has little to do with the disputes between the Diaspora and Israel. The often harsh criticism directed by Diaspora Jews at the Israeli government is being voiced by Jews who are connected and care deeply. Those angry at Israel are those who love Israel and feel they have a stake in the Jewish state.

In North America, for example, they are a minority, not the majority. I am concerned with the 75 per cent of North American Jews, or more, who don't

care enough to be mad at Israel. To be clear, I wish we could resolve all the disagreements between North American Jews and the Israeli government, but we have to be realistic. There are serious differences between North American and Israeli Jews, including the size and significance of non-Orthodox denominations. This, in turn, influences political representation and resulting public policy. So while it is unlikely we will solve all the issues, we must work hard for an open dialogue based on mutual respect and understanding.

Despite the massive gaps, I refuse to give up. Seeing a Jew drift away from our heritage and traditions, away from  
**See Bennett on page 12**

**Mazel Tov**

to the State of Israel on your **70th** Anniversary

Adam, Matthew and Jonathan at the Kotel – Summer 2010 Sherman Family Trip

From Randi, Ian, Jonathan, Inna, Matthew and Adam Sherman

**“If you will it, it is no dream!”** – Theodor Herzl

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# Israel at 70: It's time to reclaim the Z-word, Zionism

BY GIL TROY

JERUSALEM (JTA) – All too often, when I ask campus organizations that are pro-Israel and deeply Zionist why they avoid using the “Z-word” in their messaging and literature, I’m told, “Zionism doesn’t poll well.”

True, not polling well is one of today’s great sins. But imagine what our world would be like if our ancestors feared the polls. The American Revolution wouldn’t have polled well. Suggestions that Northerners crush slavery in 1860 wouldn’t have polled well. And proposing a new Jewish state in 1897 wouldn’t have polled well either. At the time, most European Jews believed enlightened Europe was outgrowing anti-Semitism – *that* polled well.

Let’s learn from our heroic predecessors – and from feminists, gays and African-Americans, whose first attempts to defend their rights didn’t poll well either. Take back the night, resist internalizing our oppressors’ hatred of us.

Reclaim the Z-word: Zionism.

You cannot defeat those delegitimizing Israel by surrendering Zionism, the movement that established Israel. If a century ago Zionism brought pride back to the term “Jew,” Jews and non-Jews today must bring pride back to the term

“Zionist.”

In his book on “the strange career of the troublesome” N-word, the African-American Harvard law professor Randall Kennedy explains the “protean nature” of political words. Groups can triumph with linguistic magic by defining themselves and their aims; when enemies define them, they lose. Kennedy warns against allowing the hater to define the hated, and that’s what is happening.

First, “shame on them”: Shame on the anti-Zionists who single out Jewish nationalism, meaning Zionism, in a world organized by nationalisms, and call it “racist.” Shame on them for libeling a democratic movement. Shame on them for ignoring Judaism’s national-religious duality, which allows non-Jews to convert into the Jewish religion and join the Jewish nation, making Zionism among the *least* biologically based, least racist, most permeable forms of nationalism. And shame on them for racializing the national conflict between Israelis and Palestinians – inflaming hatred, making peace more elusive.

Alas, shame on us, too. Zionism should be a more popular term than “Israel.” Until 1948, Zionism was the movement affirming that Jews are a people with a homeland and that like other nations, Jews have the right to



“If we don’t start celebrating and reclaiming the Z-word now – at Israel’s 70th – then when?” asks McGill University Professor Gil Troy.

establish a state on that land (others may, too – nationalism involves collective consciousness, not exclusive land claims). Since 1948, Zionism has been the movement to perfect that state.

Like all countries, Israel makes good

and bad moves. If you’re anti-Zionist, you reject Israel’s very existence. If you’re critical of Israel somehow, you’re a thinking human being.

America’s president offers an opportunity.  
See Z-word on page 5

# Mazel Tov!

To the State of Israel on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of your Independence.

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## Z-word: 'Most Israelis are instinctively Identity Zionists'

Continued from page 4

tunity to understand that distinction. The 77 per cent of American Jews who hate Donald Trump still remain proudly American. Why can't we love Israel and Zionism regardless of particular prime ministers or policies, too?

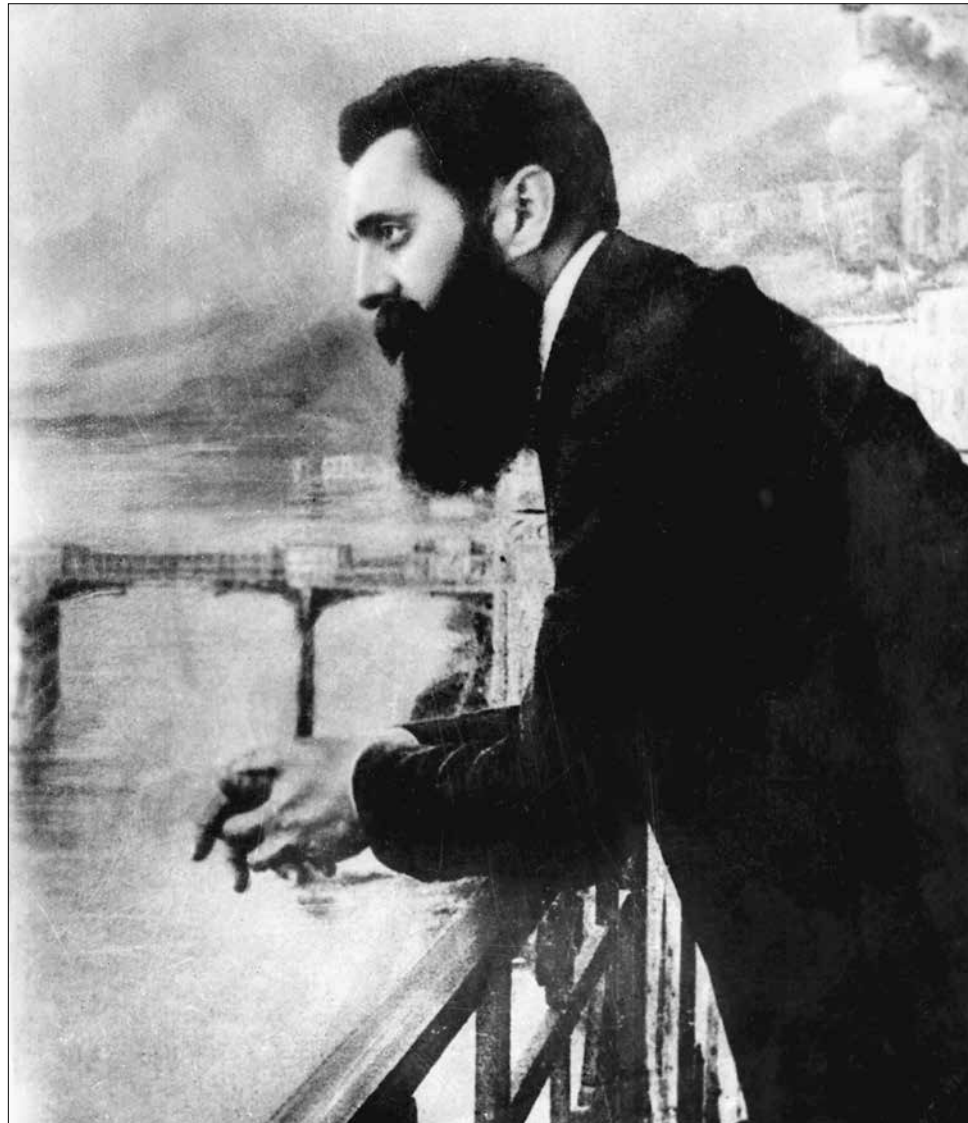
Here's the real question for Jews: Do you feel connected to Israel, today's great Jewish people project? If so, you stick with it because you belong to the Jewish people. And you help perfect that state through Zionism – embracing different schools of Zionist thought. It could be Religious Zionism or left-leaning Labour Zionism or right-leaning Revisionist Zionism or Cultural Zionism.

In honour of Israel at 70, I just published *The Zionist Ideas*, updating Arthur Hertzberg's classic anthology *The Zionist Idea*. Adding the "s" broadens the conversation, from the 38 thinkers in his book to the 170 in mine. As part of its publication I am urging readers to host Zionist salons, home-based conversations addressing "what Zionism and Israel mean to me today."

Establishing Israel in 1948 fulfilled the Zionist *idea* – that powerless Jews need a state as a refuge, immediately, and as a platform to flourish and express Jewish values, long-term. Seventy years later, debating Zionist *ideas* welcomes debate from left to right, religious and non-religious, about what Zionism and Israel can mean to me as Jew, as a person – and how some of these ideas can help Israel become a model democracy.

That's why Zionism didn't end in 1948 – the debates continue.

If Zionism as an *idea* asserts that Jews are a people with a homeland, and Zionism as a *movement* builds, protects and perfects the state, Zionism as a *value* is more personal. Zionists see it as a way



Theodor Herzl, the father of modern Zionism, leaning over the balcony of the Drei Konige Hotel during the first Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, Aug. 29, 1897. (GPO via Getty Images)

of explaining Judaism as a culture, a civilization, an ethnicity, a tradition, not just a religion. It anchors us in a self-indulgent, throwaway society, providing a sense of community in an often lonely, alienating culture, and a sense of mis-

sion in an often aimless world.

Reclaiming Zionism often entails moving from Political Zionism – asking what we can do for our country – to Identity Zionism – asking, with apologies to JFK, what your country can

do for you. There's a reason why Israel ranks 11th on the world "Happiness Index," despite the nation's many challenges. Most Israelis are instinctively Identity Zionists. Their identity blossoms from the Zionist state – which appreciates strong family values, robust community ties, deep patriotic feelings – and a broader sense of mission in life. That's part of the package Birthright participants and other tourists appreciate when visiting Israel. And that's the recipe that makes so many Israelis happy despite the rush-rush of their society and the roar-roar of some Palestinian neighbours demanding their destruction.

Zionism isn't the only way or the best way, it's just my way, my people's way. I'm not smart enough to improvise another framework.

Identity Zionism includes commitments to Jewish education, Jewish action, to making Jewish ethics come alive, to Jewish peoplehood and Jewish community – these are core *Zionist* values I, for one, would – in Churchill's words – never surrender.

Today, the #MeToo conversation spotlights how often victims – especially women – internalize persecution, letting bullies win. Anyone interested in abandoning Zionism first should ask: How much of this internalizes the delegitimization campaign?

If we don't stand up for ourselves, who are we? If we let those haters win, what are we? And if we don't start celebrating and reclaiming the Z-word now – at Israel's 70th – then when?

*Gil Troy is a Distinguished Scholar of North American History at McGill University in Montreal. Follow him on Twitter @GilTroy.*

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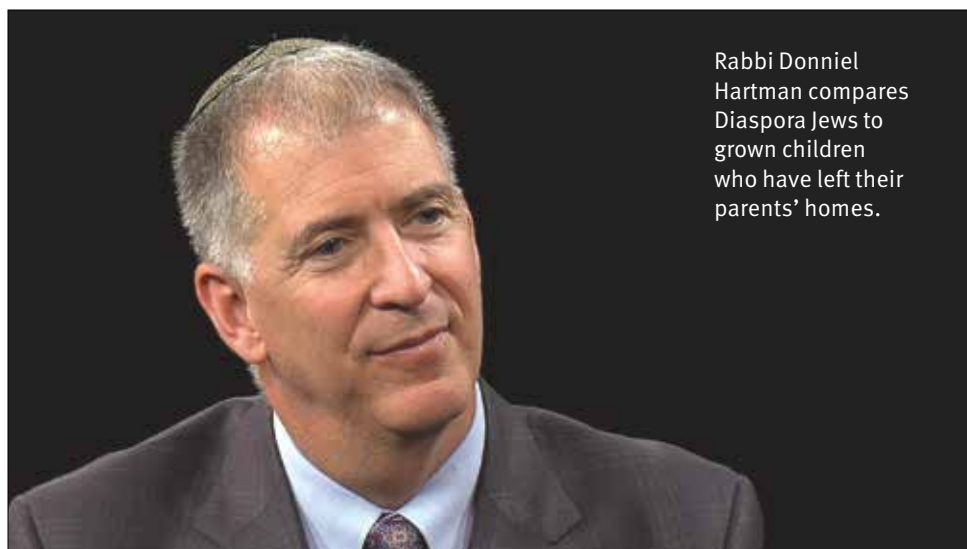
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Rabbi Donniel Hartman compares Diaspora Jews to grown children who have left their parents' homes.



Rabbi Shira Koch Epstein compares the relationship between Jews who live in Israel and Jews who live in the Diaspora to a relationship of siblings.

## Israel at 70: Israeli and Diaspora Jews are siblings living in very different homes

BY RABBI AVITAL HOCHSTEIN

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Rabbi Donniel Hartman, who lives in Jerusalem yet works regularly in North America, likens Diaspora Jews to grown children who have left their parents' nest and created their own space and home outside the homeland of the Jewish people.

The beloved grown adult children still feel at home when they visit their parents – that is, Israel. Yet they may not go freely into every room in the house or feel at ease, even though it is still their ancestral, family home.

Rabbi Shira Koch Epstein of the 14th Street Y in New York spins that metaphor in another direction. She understands the relationship between Jews who live in Israel and those who live elsewhere as one of siblings. She prefers a portrait conveying greater equality between the two groups.

Epstein says that Israeli Jews are like the children who have moved back into their parents' home, while Jews elsewhere are like the children who have set up a new home. Jews around the world

are free to create their own new spaces as they understand them, with no limitations stemming from parental baggage. Israeli Jews face a more arduous task. Feeling free to innovate when one has moved back into the home of one's parents is more challenging, she says.

I appreciate both metaphors of family dynamics. This is an important conversation. Yet I am uncomfortable. The shift from understanding the relations between Israeli Jews and world Jewry as one between parents and grown children, to appreciating them as the relations between siblings, is interesting, challenging and compelling. But the constraints that Rabbi Koch Epstein describes feel foreign to my experience as an Israeli.

While the sibling metaphor is a helpful way to understand the realities and challenges of Jews today, I would flip it: World Jewry, not Israelis, are the grown children living in their parents' home, as indeed, Jews have been living outside Israel, with no sovereignty and as a minority, for more than 2,000 years.

Thus, Jews around the world are living in their parents' environment

and struggling, often with success, to break free from old traditions and ways, despite being in an all-too-familiar environment.

Israeli Jews, on the other hand, are the siblings who have broken with old family ways and are meeting new situations at every turn. Being the majority and having Jewish sovereignty are new experiences for Jews, even after 70 years of having a state.

As we mark our 70th anniversary as a state, we have a lot of work ahead of us figuring out how, for example, we should treat minorities ethically and Jewishly. We must continue asking how

an ethical Jewish army should function, how to collect taxes and spend government revenues, and many more issues.

Jews in Israel today face new challenges and novel circumstances. But we also have new tools to use because there exists a state with a Jewish majority and sovereignty. In our homeland, we have the freedom to innovate, to experiment, and to meet those challenges and circumstances in our own way.

*Rabbi Avital Hochstein is a research fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and president of Hadar in Israel.*



I am delighted to congratulate the members of the Ottawa Jewish community, and the team at the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin, in recognition of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the State of Israel. Mazel Tov!

C'est avec plaisir que je félicite les membres de la communauté juive d'Ottawa, ainsi que l'équipe de l'Ottawa Jewish Bulletin, à l'occasion du 70<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de l'État d'Israël. Mazel Tov!

Jim Watson, Mayor/Maire

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# How Israel's tech scene is helping wounded combat veterans

BY BEN SALES

TEL AVIV (JTA) – When Elad Horovitz was shot in the head during Israel's 2014 war in Gaza, his first concern was survival, not how to maintain peripheral vision while driving.

Horovitz, then 20, was shot through his left ear and right eye. Somehow he survived, losing half of his hearing and sight, and underwent two years of rehabilitation before he was able to return to normal life. Now he's a psychology student at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

He has a driver's licence, but his vision problems provide obstacles: Horovitz can't see past the right corner of the car, making it difficult to drive on the narrow streets that crisscross Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities.

That, however, changed a few weeks ago.

At a South Tel Aviv garage, Horovitz watched as a couple of computer engineers worked on his car. One bent under the open hood while the other crowded the left side of the steering wheel

with electronics. One small rectangular screen was connected to sensors on the front-left corner of the car, blinking if it got too close to anything. A camera similar to the now-common rearview cameras was for Horovitz's blind spot.

"Today I can do almost everything, and I drive a lot, almost every day," he said. "If I avoid going down narrow streets, it's just because I'm a little scared. Now I'll stop avoiding it. So these are things you can overcome, and that reduces the presence of my wound day to day."

The Horovitz project was one of 14 showcased at "Makers for Heroes," a three-day Tel Aviv event that ran through May 2 at which wounded former soldiers worked with 150 Israeli tech engineers to devise solutions to problems posed by their disabilities. After two months of prepping, the veterans and their tech teams met April 30 in the basement of a WeWork office and spent much of the next 72 hours building their products with code, 3-D printers, polymers and the electronic guts of



Elad Horovitz, whose vision was affected after he was shot during Israel's 2014 war in Gaza, tests a device that will make it easier for him to drive.

medical devices.


Some of their innovations seemed like they would be helpful to a broader clientele. One team created a wristband that could sense the advent of a panic attack by measuring the wearer's pulse and the moisture on their skin, then playing a soothing song or providing a different distraction.

Another project aimed to prevent blood clots by wrapping a veteran's legs in blood pressure sleeves and pushing blood back up the veins.

The teams were drawn from Tel Aviv's fertile tech ecosystem. Some took off three days from their jobs to participate in the "make-athon," while some local startups sent teams to participate.

"These soldiers gave us everything they can – their health, their entire life," said Shoshi Rushnevsky, a former Israeli tech worker and the founder of Restart, an organization that aids wounded Israeli veterans and organized the event with the Reut Institute think tank. "Let's take

See Tech on page 10



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# A letter to Israel – from a young Israeli in Ottawa

**Noa Gill** is one of the shinshinim in Ottawa this year. Shinshinim are Israeli high school graduates who spend a year volunteering in Diaspora Jewish communities before returning home for their military service. Noa wrote this letter to her homeland, the Jewish homeland, last month on the occasion of Israel's 70th Yom Ha'Atzmaut.

## DEAR STATE OF ISRAEL,

Like every birthday of a friend or a relative, and for your 70th birthday, I have decided that you deserve a real birthday greeting.

All these years I lived within you – a third generation Sabra. I spoke your language, Hebrew, from the moment I learned to speak. I had my most beautiful memories amongst your landscapes. I cried, and I was happy and excited by the sound of your songs. I was educated in the youth movement according to your values, and I ate your food, which like every mother's food, is the most delicious food in the world. I never thought I had a special privilege to be your daughter, but like every child, who really appreciates their parents when they are young?

I came here to Ottawa, the capital of Canada, for a year of *shnat shurut* (volunteering). I delayed my life a year for the honour of serving you, to talk about you and to educate about you. A year in which my goal has been to bring together people – children in school, adults in the synagogue and kids at the summer camp – about you. One year that the most exciting thing I can be is “the girl from Israel” or “the one who knows Hebrew.” A year when I was asked to cook shakshuka, which I had never cooked before, just because I'm Israeli. When I had the mission to represent all the opinions of the entire State of Israel on political issues, to be a guide for people who want to visit Israel, and be proud of everything I am and everything you are as part of my identity: my

language, my customs, my Israeli chutzpah, the music I hear, and in my various experiences of the holidays in Israel. This year you were not my far-away state-of-origin, you were the closest home that was possible.

I know it's not always simple for all of us. We remembered this on Yom Hazikaron – Israel's Memorial Day for fallen IDF soldiers – and we are reminded of it each day anew in the difficult reality we live in. But I and everyone else knows it's worth it. That the complicated reality in which we live only makes us appreciate everything you are. Even if it is difficult, even if it is frightening, even if it is expensive – we know that we have no other country.

You are worth the struggle, worth the less-than-ideal realities and worth the difficult moments. In the 70 years of your existence, and with the hard work of the generations before me, you have developed into a country worth fighting for. The state that develops in all areas, the state in which brotherhood and friendship among its people will prevail, and the state that is our home. And whether we live in Israel or Canada, you are home for us. Home to return to when life is hard and you need a warm place and sustenance, or just when you miss it and feel a bit homesick. A home where we will always feel comfortable to be who we are, to wear our kippah and tefillin, to speak our language and dance our dances. A home filled with family that will be there for you no matter what. A home that is always in our hearts, wherever we go.



Shinshinim Noa Gill (left) and Idan Ben Ari celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, April 19.

I want to wish you, my country, to just keep going like this. To be complicated and complex, but also the most basic and simple place you can be. To be developed and first in so many areas, and get better in new areas as well. To be good to your people but not make them take you for granted. Keep us real, but take care of yourself and us within you. Keep being so beautiful, so beautiful it hurts – from the snow on Mount Hermon to the coral reef in Eilat, a beauty you cannot stop missing. Con-

tinue to nurture differences, and also to bring the encounter closer.

I could not be more proud of you and everything you are. Proud to say “I am from Israel,” to speak Hebrew and stand tall when we sing “Hatikvah.” You are the strongest component of my identity and in everything I am. I am grateful for the person you made me be and am constantly trying to be a better person. May you continue to be so strong in our hearts: Happy 70th Birthday!

Noa



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## Tech: Plans for these innovative projects to be available free online

Continued from page 8

our connections, our knowledge, our experience, and help the wounded get out of the cycle of injury. The injury cycle can really get you stuck. That feeling of immobility is what we want to set free.”

The Israeli government funds rehabilitation for its 51,000 living wounded veterans – a population that receives public sympathy in a small country where most citizens are subject to a mandatory draft. Wounded soldiers also receive public benefits following their rehab.

Restart’s mission is to support the soldiers after the government scales back its obligations to them, providing them with benefits to ease their daily lives. One program matches 15 wounded veterans with professional mentors who can help them find jobs and burnish themselves professionally. “Makers for Heroes,” which has taken place twice, aims to bring Israeli tech prowess to bear on helping the veterans.

“There’s an inclination after the war to neglect the wounded soldiers,” said Niv Efron, an Israeli veteran who was shot in the chest and hand in the 2014 Gaza war and underwent six surgeries. Efron participated in the first iteration of “Makers for Heroes” two years ago, where his team built a device to help him do pull-ups.

“You can’t blame them,” Efron said of Israelis who stop paying attention to



Shoshi Rushnevsky, the founder of Restart, hopes “Makers for Heroes” will make the lives of wounded veterans a little easier.

the wounded. “They need to go back to work. But the wounded soldiers are still there.”

The engineers brought experience

ranging from biomedical tech startups to Israel’s robust security tech industry. For the most part, the veterans themselves did not take part in the tech develop-

ment. They were there to test out their teams’ innovations and guide them on what would be most helpful. They also helped figure out which projects would be possible to complete within a three-day period. Horovitz, for example, decided not to pursue creating a hearing aid that would alert him when someone was speaking to his deaf ear.

“I told them my problem, we discussed it, they came up with the idea and they banged it out,” said Assaf Dory, an Israeli American who had his leg amputated after being wounded twice on police duty in Florida. His team was fashioning a cushion that would allow the ex-Israeli soldier to sit in any chair.

“It’s amazing to see all these professionals dancing, doing their thing,” he said.

None of the products will end up being licenced by a savvy tech firm. Instead, they will all be uploaded online, complete with plans and open-source code. The idea, Dory said, was to help the veterans and empower them. If someone wants to copy any of the ideas, he said, they can go ahead.

“It’s the ability to do something you couldn’t or thought you couldn’t,” Efron said. “We find a product to enable [a veteran] to do what he wants to. It will also show him that even with his limitations, he can still do things.”

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# The Israel Bible highlights Jewish links to Land of Israel

BY RENEE GHERT-ZAND

JERUSALEM – In 1903, American evangelist and Christian Zionist William E. Blackstone sent Theodor Herzl a personal Bible. It was a gift with a specific message.

Blackstone had heard that at the Sixth Zionist Congress Herzl had proposed a territory in East Africa as a haven for Eastern European Jews. Opposed to the Uganda Scheme and convinced that a Jewish homeland should be created only in the Holy Land, Blackstone highlighted for Herzl the biblical passages referring to the restoration of the Jews to the Land of Israel.

One hundred and fifteen years later, *The Israel Bible*, a newly published Tanakh (Hebrew Bible) does for today's readers what Blackstone did for Herzl – and more. Centred around the Land of Israel, the people of Israel and the dynamic relationship between them, this new Tanakh provides explanations and commentaries that amplify Blackstone's message and bring it up to date 70 years after Israel's founding and a half-century after Israel's victory in the 1967 Six-Day War, resulting in Israel's capture of the biblical heartland and unification of Jerusalem.

*The Israel Bible* speaks to all who believe in biblical prophecy and that the Jews have a God-given right to the entire Land of Israel. Religious Zionist Jews are an obvious target audience, but so are the world's 700 million evangelical Christians.

*The Israel Bible's* editor, Rabbi Tuly Weisz, predicts it will be a game changer.

"The Bible that has been a source of division between Jews and Christians can now be what brings unity," he said.

Rabbi Weisz is founder and publisher of Israel365, an Israel-based, Jewish-owned and run media company tar-



With his new book, *The Israel Bible*, Rabbi Tuly Weisz is targeting audiences ranging from Jewish religious Zionists to the world's 700 million evangelical Christians.

getting evangelical Christians interested in connecting with the Holy Land from biblical and prophetic points of view.

*The Israel Bible*, published by Menorah Books, a division of Koren Publishers Jerusalem, uses the Masoretic Hebrew text and a modified version of the 1984 New Jewish Publication Society English translation. Key names and places appear in transliteration, as do all

See Israel Bible on page 12

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## Bennett: 'We will do everything we can to keep our family intact'

Continued from page 3

our people, hurts me. It is like watching a sibling walk away from the family – I'll do what I can to stop it and make him return. We are losing millions of Jews, and history will judge our efforts to reverse this dangerous trend. Giving up simply is not an option.

Over the past five years, we have invested unprecedented resources into creating an infrastructure capable of

working with Jewish leaders to save a generation of Jews. Through Project Momentum, Campus Engagement and other projects, we will do everything we can to keep our family intact.

As we celebrate Israel at 70, we find ourselves at a crossroads: One path leads to a utopian situation, the other to an almost dystopian reality. If we make the wrong choice, in 50 years we will find ourselves with a small Diaspora

working with Jewish leaders to save a generation of Jews. Through Project Momentum, Campus Engagement and other projects, we will do everything we can to keep our family intact.

Such a path, in my vision, also leads to the communities in Israel and the world

working together to fulfil the Jewish destiny – doing good and repairing a broken world. This isn't a simple task; it will take effort and time. But it must be done.

In 2018, unlike 1948, Israel is a strong country, and while we greatly appreciate and welcome the support of Diaspora communities, we no longer depend on it. After 70 years of Diaspora Jews helping Israel, it is time for Israel to help Diaspora Jews.

## Israel Bible: Commentators range from Rashi to Netanyahu

Continued from page 11

highlighted verses denoting God and the people of Israel's connection to the Land of Israel or Jerusalem.

Commentaries range from the teachings of classical Torah scholars such as Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki (Rashi) and Isaac ben Judah Abarbanel, to snippets of speeches by Israeli prime ministers Menachem Begin, Golda Meir and Benjamin Netanyahu.

A representative commentary comparing Israeli settlers in Hebron to the biblical Caleb emphasizes loyalty to God and willingness to fight for the land. It mentions the anti-Jewish violence and terror that have plagued the city for decades and how these settlers "bravely preserve both their own community and the rights of the entire Jewish people to pray in the holy Cave of the Machpelah (Patriarchs) in Hebron." The book does not mention the violence or vitriol directed at Hebron's Arab population by Jewish residents of the city, who are among the most extreme Jewish settlers in the West Bank.

The book includes maps showing the entire biblical Land of Israel as belonging to the modern State of Israel.

Though many contemporary maps used in Israel show the same, Israel's own government has never formally recognized the West Bank as part of Israel.

Inspired by the account of Blackstone and Herzl, Rabbi Weisz began a project that would eventually lead to the publication of *The Israel Bible*. He carefully read through all 24 books of the Tanakh, making note of every single mention of the Land of Israel. He ended up highlighting at least one verse on almost every page, and found hundreds of mentions of Jerusalem alone.

This was enough to convince Rabbi Weisz to immigrate to Israel with his family from Columbus, Ohio in 2011, and to found Israel365 as a way to engage non-Jews in their biblically prescribed role in the ingathering of the exiles and the rebirth of Israel.

Rabbi Weisz began by sending out daily emails with one of these biblical verses, along with a short commentary. Within a short time, his distribution list had grown into the tens of thousands. He knew he was on to something.

Rabbi Weisz recruited a team of local Torah scholars to help produce additional content, and in 2014, Israel365

self-published a booklet with the verses, commentaries and supplemental resources for the *Book of Genesis*. By December 2015, booklets for all 24 books of the Tanakh were complete. At that point, Rabbi Weisz approached Koren, a respected Judaica publisher, about putting all of them together into a professionally edited and produced Hebrew Bible.

"I wasn't necessarily looking to write a book for Christians. Our staff is Jewish and we wanted it to be authentic," he said. "But it was important for it to speak in a universal way so that non-Jews could understand the references and nuances."

Reverend David Swaggerty, senior pastor at CharismaLife Ministries in Whitehall, Ohio, recently toured Israel with a copy of *The Israel Bible* in hand.

"This is a necessity for the library of any student of the word of God," Swaggerty said.

"I have seven or eight Bible commentaries on my shelf, and they only give a limited knowledge of the original Hebrew context. That makes them merely opinion," he added. "This Bible gives a first-hand understanding, clarity and invaluable insights. It helps us better

understand what God is conveying to us."

Swaggerty emphasized that most evangelicals already believe wholeheartedly that "God gave the Land of Israel to Abraham and his seed."

"However, this Bible solidifies this for those who question. And the contemporary commentaries, like those of Netanyahu and [Jewish Agency Chair Natan] Sharansky bring it up to date, showing that the prophecy is unfolding today and nothing can stop it," the pastor said.

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, chief rabbi of Efrat and founder of the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation, contributed a foreword to *The Israel Bible*. He views it as a tool to ensure biblical literacy among Jews.

"If we are to truly enjoy the Land of Israel, it is incumbent upon us to continually study the Torah," Rabbi Riskin wrote. "*The Israel Bible* provides us the lyrical content to express our joy in living in the Land that God calls holy."

*This article was sponsored by and produced in partnership with the American Jewish Press Association. This article was produced by JTA's native content team.*



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# Israel at 70: How 1948 changed North American Jews

BY BEN SALES

(JTA) – One year after Israel’s establishment, in the dead of night, three students ascended a tower at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in New York and raised the Israeli flag.

The next morning, the Conservative rabbinical school’s administration took it down.

That act of surreptitious Zionist protest was one of several at JTS during the years surrounding 1948, when Israel gained independence, Michael Greenbaum wrote in an essay in *Tradition Renewed*, a JTS history edited by Jack Wertheimer. Students supported the new Jewish state. However, the seminary’s chancellor, Rabbi Louis Finkelstein, opposed North American Judaism focusing all its efforts across an ocean, and also needed to appease a board wary of Jewish nationalism.

But the students persisted. Once, they sang the Israeli anthem “Hatikvah” following graduation ceremonies. Another time, they convinced their colleagues at the Union Theological Seminary, the Protestant school next door, to play the anthem from their bell tower.

Today, nearly all North American Jewish institutions are vocally, even passionately pro-Israel. But even in the years after the Jewish state won its independence 70 years ago, that feeling was not yet universal.

Before the Holocaust, Zionism itself was polarizing among North American Jews. Many, in the U.S. felt support for a Jewish homeland would cause their loyalty to America to be called into question. The other side was represented by Louis Brandeis, the first Jewish justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, who saw no conflict between American values and Zionist aspirations.

By the time Israel declared independence on May 14, 1948, North American Jews, scarred by images of the Holocaust and Nazism and inspired by newsreels of tanned kibbutzniks, were largely supportive of Zionism. But they were not yet turning out for organized political advocacy and mass tourism to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Instead they were getting used



David Ben-Gurion, who was to become Israel’s first prime minister, reads the new nation’s Declaration of Independence in Tel Aviv, May 14, 1948.

to the idea of a Jewish sovereign state – gradually incorporating it into their culture, prayers and religious outlook.

“After the mid-1930s, the majority of [North] American Jews had come to be positive one way or another about the idea of a Jewish homeland,” said Hasia Diner, director of the Goldstein-Goren Center for American Jewish History at New York University. “While 1948 on the one hand was very exciting and had lots of communal programming and celebrations, it was slightly anticlimactic in the sense that opposition had been gone for at least 10 years.”

North American Jewish support for Israel was turbocharged by the Truman administration’s quick recognition of the state, and by the Israeli army’s victory against the Arab states in its war of independence.

In February of that year, Golda Meir (later Meir), raised \$400,000 in

one day (the equivalent of some \$4 million today) on behalf of the provisional state on just one stop in Montreal. In the weeks following independence, she started a drive in the United States and Canada for \$75 million more (or about \$750 million in 2018 dollars).

“There was a sense that once [North] America recognized the state, Zionism had won, and everyone wanted to link with the winners,” said Jonathan Sarna, a professor of Jewish history at Brandeis University. “It was growing very quickly, it took in all of these refugees, which solved that problem.”

After Israel secured its independence, North American Jews began to engage with the new nation in small ways. There was no rush of tourism, but North American Jews would show their support by purchasing goods from Israel, reading books about Israel or holding Israeli dance classes in their community centres.

“Here’s this new state they had to kind of develop this relationship with, [and] the cultural realm was really the place it was happening,” Emily Alice Katz, author of the 2015 book *Bringing Zion Home*, told the New Books Network podcast. “There were these years in which it wasn’t as much about rallying the troops for these massive outpourings of aid or political influence, but it was more of this coming to know Israel.”

Part of the reticence to support Israel stemmed from the ethos of the 1950s in the U.S., with its focus on suburban growth, the “melting pot” and assimilation. Against that backdrop, Jews were trying to prove they belonged as social and cultural equals in North American society. So again they were fearful of “dual loyalty” charges that could stem from vocal support for a Jewish state.

In a watershed moment in that

See 1948 on page 14

*“May He Who makes Peace in the Heavens,  
Make Peace Upon Us and Upon all of Israel.”*

**Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Israel!**



## 1948: 'Before the Holocaust, Zionism was polarizing to North American Jews'

Continued from page 13

debate, Israeli prime minister David Ben-Gurion sent a letter in 1950 to Jacob Blaustein, president of the American Jewish Committee, which for many years had been hesitant to throw its support behind the Jewish national movement. Ben-Gurion pledged not to speak for American Jewry or intervene in its affairs, and to dial down his insistence that American Jews move to Israel. In exchange, Blaustein recognized "the necessity and desirability" of supporting Israel in its nation building.

"The 1950s were the heyday of American Jewish assimilation," said Sara Hirschhorn, an Israel studies professor at Oxford University. "It was the post-war era, when American Jews were benefiting from the same things everyone else was benefiting from – the GI bill, all kinds of ways for people to move into the middle class – and they wanted to continue to make the most of that."

Nevertheless, Israel began to show up in American Jewish religious practice. A Conservative prayer book published in 1949 had readings about Israel, but not the prayer for Israel that is now standard in many prayer books. Religious schools gradually shifted their pronunciation of Hebrew from European Ashkenazic to Sephardic-inflected Israeli. Non-Zionist religious leaders, like Rabbi Finkelstein



Paul Newman in a scene from the 1960 film, "Exodus," which presented Israel in heroic terms.

of JTS, eventually were sidelined.

The biggest shift, Sarna said, was North American Jewry viewing Judaism's history as one of "destruction and rebirth." That outlook posed the Holocaust and the establishment of Israel as its two poles and, Sarna said, remains dominant in North American Jewish thinking today. He noted that Yom HaShoah, Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day, and Yom Ha'Atzmaut, its Independence Day, are commemorated about a week apart by design.

"The theme of destruction and rebirth becomes a very important theme in the lives of American Jews," he said. "So much so that American Jews don't know the history of Zionism going back, and have bought the idea that it's all about the Holocaust being linked to the birth of the State of Israel."

North American Jews became more open in their celebration of Israel about a decade after 1948. *Exodus*, the 1958 novel by Leon Uris that painted Israel in heroic terms, was a national best-seller

and was adapted into a popular movie in 1960 starring Paul Newman and Eva Marie Saint. In 1961, the Yiddish star Molly Picon starred in a Broadway musical about a visit by American Jews to Israel, "Milk and Honey," which ran for over 500 performances. A few years later, the Israel Pavilion at the New York World's Fair showcased the country's charms. And as Cold War tensions continued into the 1960s, Israel began to be seen as a U.S. ally against the Soviet Union.

In 1967, Israel's existence was again threatened by Arab armies. Between the anxious buildup to that war and Israel's lightning victory, North American Jewish acceptance of Israel had turned to adulation, placing the Jewish state at the centre of their identity. The few dissenters are found on the non-Zionist left, among various haredi Orthodox movements, and in the quiet grumblings of some mainstream leaders and rabbis who think the emphasis on Israel has thwarted the development of distinctly North American Judaism.

"Slowly but surely, Israel became more important for [North] American Jews," Sarna said. "1967 is at once a reflection of Israel's growing importance, but at the same time it is a great intensification of Israel's centrality."

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Marsh Dondurma performs Saturday, June 23, 10:30 pm, in the Ottawa Jazz Festival's Focus Israel series.



Greilsammer performs Sunday, June 24, 10:30 pm, in the Ottawa Jazz Festival's Focus Israel series.



Rotem Sivan and his trio perform Thursday, June 21, 8 pm, in the Ottawa Jazz Festival's Focus Israel series.

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# Ottawa Jazz Festival to feature Israeli artists

BY SUZAN ZILAH  
 TD OTTAWA JAZZ FESTIVAL

In honour of the State of Israel's 70th anniversary, the TD Ottawa Jazz Festival, taking place from June 21 to July 1, is celebrating the occasion in style. In association with the Embassy of Israel in Ottawa, the festival is presenting Focus Israel, a series of four concerts showcasing the finest Israeli artists with major international reputations.

"The Festival is always in the forefront of curating the world's best and most vibrant musicians to raise international awareness and collaboration," says the Festival's executive producer, Catherine O'Grady.

Israel's Rotem Sivan is making waves in the New York City jazz world – "a remarkable talent and a welcome new voice on the scene," says Downbeat Magazine. He performs and gives workshops all over the world and his work, "brings a fresh flair and a remarkable sophistication to jazz, which transcends audiences," says Jazz Times Magazine. Sivan tours with his trio most of the year, playing in world-renowned festivals and clubs. He performs Thursday, June 21, 8 pm, at the National Arts Centre Fourth Stage.

Israel's blazing hot Jerusalem-based 16-member brass band Marsh Dondurma will take the Tartan Homes Stage by storm in the OLG After Dark Series on Saturday, June 23 at 10:30 pm. What began as a local party known only to Jerusalem's live music scene soon became a well-known Israeli act. They perform regu-

larly all over the country, have collaborated in concerts and recordings with top Israeli artists, and have performed at several international festivals.

Arriving from Jerusalem with their original sound for their second Ottawa Jazz Festival appearance, Greilsammer's music creates unique fusions of emotion with groove, reggae with Irish violin, folk with rock, and classical with world music. Singing in Hebrew, French and English, musical couple Michael and Shimrit Greilsammer's live performances, accompanied by a full band, are highly energetic and promise to keep the audience on its feet! They were a hit at the 2014 Festival. They perform Sunday, June 24, 10:30 pm, on the Tartan Homes Stage, Lisgar Field.

The fourth concert in the series will be announced soon.

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**Mazel Tov on Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
  
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# Celebrating Israel @ 70!



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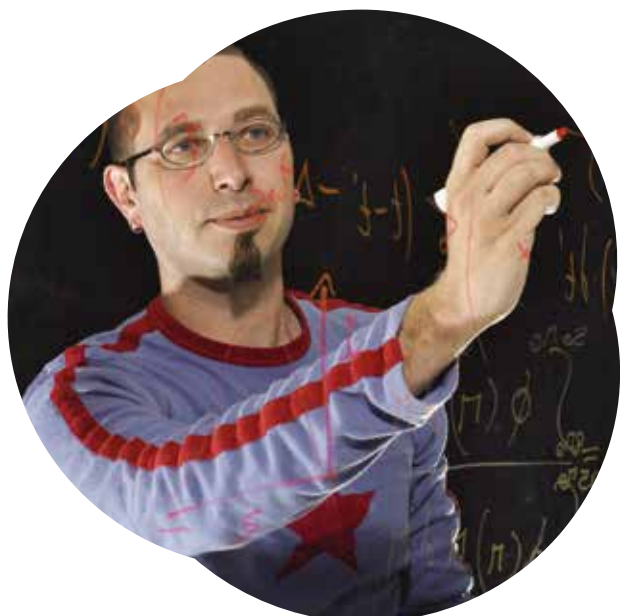
To "let's do something different" and "let's invent it all over again."



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