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Memorial gathering in Ottawa held in solidarity with Pittsburgh's Jewish community

BY MATTHEW HORWOOD

More than 550 people filled the Soloway Jewish Community Centre social hall to capacity for a memorial gathering, October 28, in solidarity with Pittsburgh's Jewish community, after a mass murder shooting spree at the Tree of Life Synagogue there.

The shootings at the synagogue, located in Pittsburgh's historic Squirrel Hill neighbourhood, happened during Shabbat morning services on October 27, the day before. Eleven worshippers were killed and six others – including four police officers responding to the incident – were injured.

At the memorial gathering, quickly arranged by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, 11 empty chairs and memorial candles were set on the stage in honour of those who lost their lives.

"We are here today to mourn together,



Eleven chairs, each with the name of a murdered victim from the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, and each with a lit memorial candle, at the memorial gathering for the victims of the Pittsburgh synagogue massacre, October 28, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

er, lament together and commiserate together," said Rabbi Reuven Bulka,

Federation's Annual Campaign co-chair, who acted as MC for the event.

Rabbi Bulka thanked the police officers and security guards present at the event saying, "We are here in the presence of people who have put their lives on the line for our community."

Ottawa Police Services Chief Charles Bordeleau was the first of several speakers to make brief remarks. He said police have heightened vigilance at Jewish community institutions in the city while assuring the gathering that there has been no indication of heightened threat levels.

Deputy Mayor Mark Taylor, speaking on behalf of Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, who was out of town, said the attack on those who had come together in prayer and in peace on Shabbat was "not only criminal, but betrayed all of humanity."

"Hatred is hatred – whether it's anti-Semitic or based on ethnicity, gender, race, language or any other motive – and our fight is against the forces of
See Memorial on page 2

Jewish communities everywhere were devastated

BY MICHAEL REGENSTREIF
EDITOR

The calm of Shabbat morning services was shattered on October 27 when a man burst into the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh shouting, "All these Jews need to die!" He opened fire with an AR-15 assault rifle and three Glock .357 handguns killing 11 worshippers – ranging in age from 54 to 97 – and wounding

two others; and also wounding four of the police officers who responded to 911 calls from the scene.

The tragedy – which the Anti-Defamation League said was the worst anti-Semitic attack in American history – devastated both the local Jewish community in Pittsburgh and every Jewish community around the world. In the days following the massacre, vigils and memorial gatherings were held in

almost every Jewish community – large and small. Here in Ottawa, a quickly-arranged memorial gathering the next evening filled the Soloway Jewish Community Centre to capacity. The anguish felt by all us present that Sunday night was palpable – and it was no different in other Jewish communities far and near.

The grief that virtually all of us feel over this incident is very personal. Although the murders took place in

Pittsburgh, and although most of us didn't know any of the 11 victims personally, it really could have happened almost anywhere. All of us know people like Joyce Fienberg, Richard Gottfried, Rose Mallinger, Jerry Rabinowitz, Cecil Rosenthal, David Rosenthal, Bernice Simon, Sylvan Simon, Daniel Stein, Melvin Wax and Irving Younger.

Or we understand that there are rare-
See Editor on page 7

inside:

Leslie Kaufman on growing up in Squirrel Hill > p. 3

Aaron Smith on the JFNA General Assembly in Tel Aviv > p. 5

Barbara Crook on Partnership 2Gether projects in Northern Israel > p. 9



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Memorial: 'We are all members of the same family'

Continued from page 1

hatred, intolerance and ignorance," Taylor said. "We only begin that fight when people of good faiths, of all faiths, and of no faiths, stand vigilant together, as we are tonight."

Taylor also said the "only source of solace in this tragedy" is that it gives people additional courage and fortitude to come together and denounce every form of hatred and intolerance.

Ontario Minister of Children, Community and Social Services Lisa MacLeod, the MPP for Nepean, said there "weren't a lot of words" she could give to make things right, "other than you have my continued support for your community, and you can count on me to call out hate when I see it and to stand with you against anti-Semitism."

"Tonight, we are here together, showing we are in defiance of those who don't want us to assemble, to those who would try to threaten us, and to those who do not believe in freedom of worship," MacLeod said.

Federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna, the MP for Ottawa Centre, said there is still "far too much anti-Semitism and hate," not just in the United States but in Canada as well. "When we look at Statistics Canada, we see that Jews remain the community most targeted in the country."

McKenna said that on behalf of her family and the prime minister, "we mourn with you, we pray with you, we express solidarity with you and we promise as a government we will do everything we can to keep you safe."

Federation Chair Hartley Stern said that while he had spent the majority of his adult life as a physician trying to heal and comfort patients, "no individual can provide the comfort and healing that is required in the context of such a horrific, intentional massacre."

"It is the collective of all that are here which has the power to do this," Stern said. "On behalf of the Jewish community of Ottawa, I wish to thank our municipal leaders, our provincial leaders, our federal leaders and all the religious leaders of every faith that are here tonight, as well as everyone who came here tonight to help us mourn, grieve and relieve our collective suffering."

The most poignant remarks of the evening were from Torontonians Dena Libman, whose cousin, Joyce Fienberg, was one of the 11 murdered at the Tree of Life Synagogue.

Libman remembered Fienberg, who grew up in Toronto before marrying and moving to the U.S. fondly, and said that while it has become "all too familiar" to hear news of random acts of mass violence, the Pittsburgh massacre felt so personal to so many because it happened in a synagogue, "a familiar place to most of us."



(From left) Rabbi Howard Finkelstein, Cantor Jason Green, Rabbi Reuven Bulka, Rabbi Menachem Blum, Rabbi Idan Scher, Rabbi Eytan Kenter, Rabbi Steven Garten and Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton sing "Ani Ma'amin" during the memorial gathering for the victims of the Pittsburgh synagogue massacre, October 28, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.



More than 550 people attended a vigil organized by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs for the victims of the Pittsburgh synagogue massacre, October 28, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

"We are all members of the same family, only some of us are closer than others," Libman said.

In a show of unity, Rabbis Menachem Blum, Eliza-

beth Bolton, Howard Finkelstein, Steven Garten, Eytan Kenter and Idan Scher – representing Chabad, Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist and Reform congregations in Ottawa – recited Psalms 121 and 128, and the prayer for the recovery of the injured, together.

The rabbis also read the names of the 11 victims: Joyce Fienberg, Richard Gottfried, Rose Mallinger, Jerry Rabinowitz, Cecil Rosenthal, David Rosenthal, Bernice Simon, Sylvan Simon, Daniel Stein, Melvin Wax and Irving Younger.

Cantor Jason Green joined the rabbis on the stage to recite the memorial prayer and to lead the assembly in singing "Ani Ma'amin," "Hatikvah" and "Am Yisrael Chai."

Rabbi Bulka concluded the gathering by suggesting everyone think of 11 acts of kindness they could perform in memory of the 11 lives lost.

"Whether it means becoming a blood donor, donating to a food bank or volunteering at a shelter, there are so many things you can do to say to the world, 'These people are not with us anymore, but they live in our spirit.'"

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'A week to mourn, to remember, to take comfort in the kindness of friends and neighbours'

While the Shabbat massacre at the Tree of Life synagogue in the Squirrel Hill neighbourhood of Pittsburgh on October 27 hit close to home for virtually all members of Jewish communities around the world, it hit particularly close to home for **Leslie Kaufman**, vice-president of corporate services for the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, who grew up in the neighbourhood and offers these thoughts.

I grew up in Squirrel Hill. My parents' house was just three blocks from Tree of Life, and around the corner from the home of Mr. Rogers (yes, that Mr. Rogers). A quiet residential neighborhood with a vibrant business district, it was the Jewish hub blended into a culturally diverse community. The iconic street corner is Forbes and Murray, which we called "up street." If you watched the Saturday night vigil, you saw that intersection – filled with thousands of people of all faiths, coming together with candles and umbrellas to pray and give support.

Within steps from that corner, you find the kosher butcher, grocer, and baker. You find the JCC, a Jewish senior living centre, small and large synagogues, and Jewish day schools.

But you also find the famous Mineo's Pizza House – not kosher, but they close every year for the week of Pesach. You find banks closed on Saturdays, but open on Sundays. You find public

schools that close for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In this community, the culture of Jewish life is a part of everyone's life.

Squirrel Hill is my home. And on Saturday, October 27, my home was tragically invaded. The building that proudly displayed on its outer wall the enormous metal sculpture of a tree, designed and crafted by my cousin, was desecrated. The mother of my brother's basketball coach was murdered, and his sister injured. The kind man whose real estate business was next door to my father's was slain. And larger-than-life Cecil – a Squirrel Hill fixture who everyone knew and loved – will no longer walk down Forbes Street or through the JCC, saying hello to everyone he passes.

I am sad. I am angry. I am homesick.

As I took my seat at the memorial at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre on October 28, I looked up to see a familiar face from my childhood. Ottawa is 800 km from Pittsburgh, so



A man kneels to light a candle beneath a police cordon outside the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Oct. 27, 2018.

the fact that Janey was standing two feet away from me was inconceivable. She was in town visiting a friend and heard about the memorial. Janey and I went to school together, and she too grew up mere blocks from the shul. She knew Dr. Jerry, and she knew Alan and Andrea's mom Rose. We hugged and cried together, so far from home but connected by our heritage and birthplace.

This was a week to mourn, to remember, to take comfort in the kindness of friends and neighbours. This was a week to cherish community and to once again take strength from our history. I am proud to work for the Jewish community in Ottawa, and I thank the community for embracing me – a nice Jewish girl from Squirrel Hill who has made Ottawa her new home.



Leslie Kaufman, vice-president of corporate services for the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

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We need to talk, but really we need to act

As the 2018 recipient of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Freiman Family Young Leadership Award, **Aaron Smith** also received Lawrence Greenberg Young Leadership Development Award, which allowed him to attend the Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly which was held this year in Tel Aviv from October 22 to 24. On his return from Israel, Aaron shared these thoughts and observations.

The theme of this year's Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) General Assembly (GA) was "we need to talk" with the tagline "We share a heritage. And a future. But that doesn't mean we're alike."

The theme was chosen to spur dialogue between North American Jews and Israeli Jews on the issues the organizers, and many North American Jewish organizations, feel divide us as a people at a time when the North American-Israeli relationship is shifting. Israel at 70 is very different from the Israel that needed global support to establish itself 70 years ago. Israel at 70 is a technology powerhouse that is exporting digital solutions in security, health and other sectors as the 'Start-up Nation' to the world. This is a country with very different needs, and therefore the relationship that we have as Jews in the Diaspora with Israel needs to evolve as well.

All long-term lasting relationships take time, attention, and ongoing mutual respect to thrive, flourish and evolve. Our relationship with Israel is no different, we both must change and continue to strive to understand each other's perspectives. Three different leaders presented this message in different ways, all with a focus on strengthening the ties that bind us, all with a call to action.

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin opened the GA with a rousing call to action, not for the Diaspora but for Israelis. He underscored that Israelis do not appreciate the flourishing Jewish communities outside of Israel, and said young Israelis should have a "reverse Birthright." If young Israelis can experience the richness of Jewish life in North America, surely they would grow up to appreciate the needs and desires of Diaspora Jews. "We must increase Israeli exposure to your schools, camps and communities," Rivlin said, focusing on core places North American Jews experience being Jewish.

Jewish Agency for Israel Chair Isaac Herzog, the former opposition leader in the Knesset, spoke about a dangerous divide he sees growing between Israel

and Diaspora Jewry at a time when both communities are thriving. He called for Jews around the world to ensure continuity through teaching our children to read, write and speak Hebrew, the language of the Bible and the language of modern Israel. Through a common language bond, he said, we can form a type of dialogue where we can converse on complex issues in a way that is mutually understandable.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his major concern about Diaspora Jewry is "loss of identity" and said we need to better leverage tools of the digital age to bring Diaspora and Israeli children together to learn from each other.

"Jewish survival is guaranteed in the Jewish state if we defend our state," he said. "But we have to also work at the continuity of Jewish communities around the world by developing Jewish education, the study of Hebrew, and by having young Jews come to Israel."

The fundamentally divisive issues that we read about in these pages and in Jewish publications globally, such as a pluralistic section at the Kotel, the formal recognition of the Reform and Conservative movements in Israel, the recently passed nation-state law, and the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, were mentioned frequently, but no real serious debate occurred on these complex topics at the GA.

Sessions were designed to showcase the tremendous work that JFNA supports in Israel and around the world, and it is impressive. Programs like the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (www.jdc.org), in which Jews help others in need around the world, and Neta@ (<https://tinyurl.com/yd52zk4t>) which brings together Jewish and Muslim children to learn about each other through the application and development of digital skills, are truly inspiring and are real examples of how JFNA has meaningful impact in Israel and around the world. But there was a clear and overarching imperative that we need to drive further action at home to re-energize the full cohort of Diaspora



Isaac Herzog, chair of the Jewish Agency for Israel, speaks at the Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly, Oct. 23, in Tel Aviv. He said the Israeli and North American Jewish communities need to talk, echoing the theme of the General Assembly.

Jews to embrace their Jewish roots.

Maybe if our 'collective Hebrew' was better, we could engage in serious debate with our Israeli brothers and sisters. I have hope that if we act with conviction on the above items, we will get to a better place where Jews in the Diaspora and Jews in Israel truly feel and act like one global Jewish nation. If,

in our community, we continue to focus on ensuring all Jewish children access some form of Jewish education, learn Hebrew and learn to respect, challenge, and love Israel, we will be contributing to *Kol Yisrael Arevim zeh ba-zeh* (all of Israel are responsible for one another) and to a positive future for Jews around the world.

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FEDERATION
REPORT



JESSICA GREENBERG AND
ZEV KERSHMAN
EMERGING GENERATION DIVISION

EG division creates opportunities for young adults

adults develop meaningful connections and experiences. Through programs like PJ Library and EG Grants, Federation is providing innovative ways to engage the broad spectrum of Jewish Ottawa.

PJ Library has over 680 subscribers and is growing every day. The inaugural J-Fellows program saw 12 young professionals learn about leadership, teamwork and managing work/life balance in educational sessions.

On top of that, \$8,800 in EG Grants were awarded to organizations and community volunteers to implement exciting opportunities for young professionals and families. Here are some highlights of programs created by these grants:

- **Big Comfy Shabbat Dinners** bring together young adults, who may otherwise remain unconnected, for informal Shabbat dinners;
- **Makom Gatherings** are providing meeting points for Jews living downtown, making it easier for those who do not live near the Jewish Community Campus to meet and make Jewish connections;

- Smaller get-togethers such a **Men's Challah Bake** and **Make Your Own Wine** events, enable people to meet new friends and connect to Jewish life in ways that are meaningful to them.

For the innovators out there, please share your ideas! EG Grants is a great opportunity to build community, on your terms. Spread the word to those you know who have creative ideas and those wanting to bring more *Jewish* into their lives.

All these efforts are having tangible effects on our community. Ottawa offers an enriching and varied space for young adults and we are striving to make it even better. We want to prove that Ottawa is a great city for all of our Jewish futures. This is where we grew up and this is where we will raise our families. We stay here because of the community and the ever-growing potential, which we want to share with you.

We urge community members to join us, come out to an event, get connected and even make a donation. In order to keep these programs running, everyone

needs to do their part to support Federation's Annual Campaign. Luckily this year, your dollars can have a much greater impact as three families have generously stepped up to provide \$500,000 for a special challenge fund that will match all new and increased donations.

We are excited to do our part for the Annual Campaign and ensure that EG will continue to offer exciting engagement events for Jewish Ottawa, like the Casino Night and Chanukah Ball, and grow the PJ Library program. We are also motivated to broaden the EG base and build meaningful and lasting relationships. We thank you in advance for your support and hope to see you at our next event!

For more information on upcoming EG events and how you can get involved, visit <https://jewishottawa.com/emerging-generation/> or contact EG Director Jordan Waldman at jwaldman@jewishottawa.com or 613-798-4696, ext. 240. For information about EG Grants and how you can apply, visit <https://tinyurl.com/EGgrants>.

As co-chairs of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Emerging Generation (EG) division, which serves young professionals under age 40, we are proud and excited about the work being accomplished by our division. Young people and families are facing an unprecedented mixture of new and traditional challenges. Our goal is to serve them, to help them make Jewish connections, and to keep our community strong and vibrant.

Federation helps meet these goals by creating opportunities to help young

FROM THE
PULPIT



RABBI CHAIM MENDELSON,
CHABAD OF CENTREPOINTE

Blessed to have found my bashert

I am fortunate to have married my best friend. She is a selfless mother, a dedicated wife and an example of honesty, loyalty, sensitivity and warmth. All who know her love her. I am comfortable, indeed honoured, to be referred to by most as "Bassy's husband." I am blessed to have found my bashert, my partner, the other half of my soul.

As my wife and I took a stroll down the parkway, enjoying the mild weather and the beautiful fall colours, we reminisced about how so much in our lives has changed since we danced on our wedding night.

We settled in Ottawa, founded a vibrant Chabad house, and started a family that has now grown to seven children.

There are many memories punctuated by important personal milestones. Becoming parents for the first time, watching as our eldest children celebrated their bar and bat mitzvah, and receiving the keys to our new home were all moments of great pride that we will never forget.

There were moments when we cried tears of grief together after the passing of loved ones – particular-

ly after the passing of my esteemed father-in-law, Rabbi Mordechai Berger. There were moments when our hearts broke together, such as separating from our teenage children at the airport as they left to study abroad. There were moments we had fun together, including family trips to Disney World and to the cottage. Together. Always together.

But, then there were the ordinary moments: paying the mortgage, washing the dishes, taking out the garbage and picking up the kids. Moments when we have to compromise and moments when we have to apologize. Moments when our patience is tested and moments when life seems too chaotic. But it is these moments that are the true barometer of our union.

When these moments are experienced together the ordinary becomes extraordinary.

So, too, it is with our relationship with God. Experiencing the Divine during the holidays is wonderful. But, when we incorporated spirituality in the seemingly mundane month of Cheshvan, we knew our relationship with God had just got real.

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FROM THE
EDITOR

MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

Continued from page 1

ly as many as six degrees of separation in the Jewish world. Dena Libman, who spoke poignantly at the Ottawa gathering was a cousin of Joyce Fienberg – who grew up in Toronto. And Leslie Kaufman, vice-president of corporate services for the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, grew up in the Squirrel Hill neighbourhood of Pittsburgh, within walking distance of Tree of Life, and knew or knew of some of the victims – or, in some cases, knew their children. Read Leslie's very moving memories of Squirrel Hill and her reaction to the tragedy on page 3.

Yes, this horrible incident could have happened almost anywhere – not just in the United States where so much of the political discourse has become so hateful and where there is such easy and unfettered access to guns.

Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland,

We must always be vigilant

speaking in Israel on November 1, just five days after the Pittsburgh massacre, told the Israel Council on Foreign Relations, "I am sad to say that Jewish people are the religious group in Canada most likely to be targeted for hate crimes – whether vandalism, graffiti, hate propaganda or racist online commentary. Last year, in my own constituency of University-Rosedale in Toronto, the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre faced a bomb threat."

Here in Ottawa, the memories of the anti-Semitic graffiti spree that targeted several synagogues, the Jewish Community Campus, and a home in the Glebe used by a Jewish prayer and study group, two years ago this month, are still strong. And on November 1, less than a week after the Pittsburgh attack, posters reading "It's okay to be white," celebrating the racist and anti-Semitic white nationalist movement, were put up in downtown Ottawa.

And in Montreal, police charged a man with making death threats after allegedly writing (in French) that he would "eliminate Jews by killing a whole Jewish girls' school. That's not a threat, it's a promise!" That threat was made on the Facebook page of the Journal de Montréal, the largest-circulation French-language newspaper in Canada,

and it remained on the Facebook page for 24 hours before it was removed.

And deadly violence against religious minorities has happened recently in Canada. Last year a gunman entered a mosque, the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City, where he murdered six worshippers and injured 19 more.

Although Ottawa Police Services Chief Charles Bordeleau, speaking at the Ottawa gathering, reassured the community that there was currently no heightened threat of anti-Semitic violence in the city, the Pittsburgh tragedy and other recent events mentioned here are reminders that all of us must always be vigilant as we go about our daily lives.

Of course, anti-Semitism is not a new phenomenon. November is Holocaust Education Month in Ottawa and there are numerous remembrance and educational events that already have and will take place this month marking the Shoah, when six million Jews were murdered, a period that ended only 73 years ago.

During Holocaust Education Month, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is scheduled to rise in the House of Commons on November 7 – a date that falls in between when this issue of the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin goes to press and when

it arrives in subscribers' homes, and a date that falls just before the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht – to offer the government's apology for Canada's refusal to admit 937 Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Germany on board the MS St. Louis in 1939 (Cuba and the United States also refused to admit the refugees). The ship – the so-called "voyage of the damned" – was forced to return to Europe where 254 of the passengers were ultimately murdered in Nazi death camps. We will have coverage of the apology in the next issue of the Bulletin.

While the 11 anti-Semitic murders in Pittsburgh broke the hearts of all Jews everywhere, they also brought us together. "We are all members of the same family," Dena Libman reminded us at the Ottawa gathering, where rabbis from all of the Jewish denominations stood and prayed together.

And the murders also showed us we are not alone as we saw support and love expressed by so many other communities. In Pittsburgh, for example, Muslim groups quickly raised the funds needed to pay for the funerals of the Jewish victims.

Yes, as Leslie Kaufman wrote, this has been a time "to mourn, to remember, to take comfort in the kindness of friends and neighbours."

IDEAS AND
IMPRESSIONS

JASON MOSCOVITZ

The Americans' great divide

sitting with a white woman. The things they said shocked me to my core. It wasn't that as a young man I didn't know about racism. What shocked me was that people could be so "out there" with their hateful racist comments to a total stranger in a foreign country.

While racism is still very much part of American society, it is only part of the divide. It is one crack among so many – and the ongoing political reality television fiasco exasperates the divisions in American society day after day.

As the midterm elections pass, two years into this most unusual U.S. presidency, there is one constant. Every time we think rock bottom has been hit in terms of human decency and respect, it is necessary to reset the dials as rock bottom sinks even lower.

While the great divide, historically rooted in the U.S. Civil War, has always been there, back then, on the surface at least, the issues were not, and could not have been, as multifaceted as today. Today there is hardly anything about American society that draws unanimity.

It is so hard to come to grips with the reality that a president of the United States would come to power and

deliberately stoke the fires of distrust, division and hatred for political gain. What shouldn't be surprising is that there is an audience for it. That is far scarier and it is hard to imagine that the genie can be put back in the bottle anytime soon, if ever.

During the run-up to the midterm elections, I did something I don't usually do. I watched both CNN and Fox News, giving each equal time. If anyone wants to prove to themselves that there are two distinct Americas, just give equal time to those two networks. It is not about left and right, or blue and red, or politics. It is about everything.

An interesting facet to exposing yourself to Fox is to see how the "friends" of the president can earnestly build a case for his beliefs just as CNN can tear them down. After a while, I found myself thinking that what I was watching on Fox actually made sense on some subjects. I didn't think it was fake news. I actually thought it was news presented from a different perspective based on chosen facts that fit their narrative.

The fact that so many more Americans watch Fox than CNN is one of

those facts so worth noting – and so worth not forgetting. From a Canadian perspective, there is much about the U.S. that may scare and worry us, but to so many Americans, it is becoming the life they've chosen, the society they seem to want to earnestly pursue and perpetuate.

On the anti-Trump side of the great divide, there are Americans who decry the state of affairs that rocks the boat of what they cherish as progressive thinking. They worry about a conservative Supreme Court that will undo a woman's right to choose. They worry about a Supreme Court that will not guarantee minorities and the underprivileged something as basic as voting rights.

For those same people who cringe at machine guns in the hands of troubled teenagers and known hate-mongers, it is a battle they know they have already lost. They fear losing so much more. To them, ultimately, decency lies in the balance. On the other side, it seems there is religion, the constitution and common sense which motivates them.

The United States is in a space where, if Donald Trump didn't exist, someone would have to invent him.

Almost 50 years ago, I learned my first lesson of the great divide in the United States and got my first taste of how racist our American neighbours could be. It was an ugly first-hand introduction.

It was the early 1970s and I was a summer student staying in residence at Carleton University. In those years, the Ottawa Rough Riders held their training camp at Carleton. The football players stayed in residence and the evening gathering spot was a basement pub.

I can remember the night I found myself talking to two giant players from Texas and Louisiana who commented on their African-American teammates



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PITTSBURGH TRAGEDY

Dear friends,
You and the whole Jewish community are on my mind and in my heart after [the October 27] attack in Pittsburgh. I know I speak for all Canadians in saying we are with you in your grief, horror, anger, and pain.

The Jewish community has always spoken up – often the loudest – when violence has targeted other communities. Know that so many of us stand with you today.

I will always speak out against anti-Semitism, racism, and hate in all its forms, and call on Canadians to do the same.

I've had the chance to work with you on many

occasions over the past few years, and I know the incredibly important role that your leadership plays in protecting everything that makes us who we are as a country. Jewish values are Canadian values, and Canada would not be Canada without the many, many contributions of the Jewish community.

You and your families and communities are in our hearts. Please don't hesitate to reach out and let me know what I can personally do to support you in this deeply difficult time.

May the memories of the victims forever be a blessing.

Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister

Syrian refugee children's choir to join Ottawa Klezmer Trio for Chanukah concert at SJCC

BY FLORALOVE KATZ
OTTAWA KLEZMER TRIO

Don't forget to bring your parents and grandparents to the Ottawa Klezmer Trio's Family Chanukah Concert of "dedication" to the best of our human spirit on Sunday, November 25, 10:30 am, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC).

Our lively, upbeat show will include singalong Chanukah songs, songs of peace, Yiddish and Hebrew classics, a little Broadway (from "Fiddler on the Roof"), some lively freilachs featuring clarinetist David Renaud, and then everyone can get up and dance to our closing hora medley.

Some of the Yiddish pieces – including "Roshinkes Mit Mandlen" and "Oyfn Pripetchik" – will take us back in time to the shtetl. Others – like "Tum Bala-laika" will need your hands clapping to enhance our rhythmic beat.

The Maccabees' courageous determination – against

all odds – resulted in the defeat of the Syrian-based Seleucids, who had tried to force the people of Israel to accept their rites and beliefs, and to abandon Judaic observance.

But at our concert we will join our voices in harmony with a group of Syrian refugee children – the HPI Children's Choir who arrived in Canada only two years ago.

Across Canada, including here in Ottawa, numerous Jewish organizations, families and individuals have sponsored arriving Syrian refugees.

The group to which this children's choir belongs, Humans for Peace Institution, works to promote inter-cultural and interreligious dialogue. And what better way to communicate than through music.

The Ottawa Klezmer Trio's Family Chanukah Concert is sponsored by the SJCC Adult Education and Cultural Programs Department. For more information, contact Roslyn Wollock at rwollock@jccottawa.com or 613-798-9818, ext. 254.

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Letters to the Editor are welcome. They should be brief, signed, timely, and of interest to our readership. The Bulletin reserves the right to refuse, edit or condense letters.

Send your letters to Michael Regenstreif at bulletin@ottawajewishbulletin.com



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**JNF is Past, Present, Future
Building Israel since 1901**

**Barbara Crook visits Alfie's project
Where kids have a place to become
champions in life**

On October 15, Honorary Dinner Co-Chair Barbara Crook visited the Israel Tennis Centre in Kiryat Shmona to see how this year's Negev Dinner project will help youth at risk – and to play a bit of tennis with the kids.

"The Israel Tennis Centre in Kiryat Shmona," says Barbara, "feeds the minds, bodies and souls of its young participants. Tennis is just the starting point for young people to learn to make healthy and positive choices in life, from socialization and teamwork to overcoming challenges.

"Yes, they learn to play tennis, which they love. But they can also cook meals together and tend the communal garden. For many of these kids, the ITC has become a second family. And for troubled kids, it's a place to get counselling and guidance in a non-threatening environment."

The ITC's Embrace Program represents the ITC's most comprehensive and holistic initiative for youth at risk to date. The program is based on sport, fitness and recreational activities that help teach discipline and prevent social decline, which also include regional tennis tournaments during vacations aimed at enhancing self-esteem.

After having visited the centre and meeting the kids who participate, Barbara says, "The Embrace Program at the ITC works wonders for kids who are having trouble in a conventional classroom setting. Some of them come from very low-income families, while others have only one parent who works long and demanding shifts to feed the family. Others have behavioural problems, and some have trouble sitting still.

"They come to the ITC in Kiryat Shmona during school hours, as well as after school. The tennis lessons allow them to channel their energy and take pride in learning a new skill. Even something as simple as learning the etiquette of tennis and the value of sportsmanlike behaviour can translate into a happier and more fulfilling classroom experience.

"And the great thing about the ITC is that once you walk through those gates, no one has a label. The kids in the Embrace program are treated with the same respect as future champions. Indeed, some of them will be champions in tennis, but they all have a chance to become champions in life."

JNF Ottawa Negev Dinner is November 13. Please support at jnfottawa.ca.

Mazel Tov! Sefer Bat and Bar Mitzvah Inscriptions

Noah Belfer, by his parents, Pamela and Morley Belfer.

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Exciting P2G projects underway in Upper Galilee

BY BARBARA CROOK
OTTAWA P2G CHAIR

KFAR BLUM, Israel – Things are looking UP for the Galilee Panhandle. As in Galil-UP, a new leadership program supported by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and the five other Canadian Jewish communities that make up the Coast-to-Coast Partnership.

Through Partnership 2Gether (P2G), Ottawa joins Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg and Atlantic Canada to partner with five communities in the Upper Galilee region of Israel.

The Canadian and Israeli partners work together on programs for youth and education, capacity building projects that strengthen the region's self-sufficiency and *Gesher Chai* (Living Bridge) programs that include school twinnings and student exchanges.

One of the most exciting projects that Federation President and CEO Andrea Freedman and I encountered at our meetings last month was the Galil-UP leadership program.

Each of our five Israeli partner communities has chosen five young professionals to participate in Galil-UP. The 25 participants include a farmer, an economic consultant, the CEO of a mall, a librarian and a head of security.

Since March, they have participated in leadership seminars, and worked together on projects designed to enrich the region and attract new residents.

One of the projects, called To the Galil, aims to attract professionals to settle in the region. Another, Galil App, is a platform that collects and publicizes information about a range of cultural and sports activities throughout the region.

Buy Local – Buy Galil aims to get more consumers and businesses to support local agriculture and independent local ventures. For example, many businesses in the region bring in outside caterers for events, without exploring local options that benefit from the region's rich and diverse agricultural offerings.

"It's mind-blowing for me that in my neighbourhood, there are other professionals just like me, looking for better tools to do our work," said one of the participants.

"Why should we leave this up to chance when we can create better opportunities?"

Another exciting project supported by the Partnership is the new teaching kitchen at Emek HaHula High School, which is serving students of all ages and abilities from throughout the region.

Almost 140 students who are on the autism spectrum, or have been diagnosed with learning disabilities,

are participating in vocational studies in the kitchen. They learn life skills and teamwork, as well as knowledge of cooking and nutrition that will allow them to lead independent lives in their own homes.

Thirty at-risk youth who have dropped out of regular high school programs are studying in the



Andrea Freedman (far left) and Barbara Crook (far right) of Ottawa were among the P2G representatives at a showcase of STEAM projects, October 18, at Tel Hai College in Israel's Upper Galilee.

Cooking Up Dreams program, which puts them on the path to future careers as chefs.

Another 45 students from three area high schools are studying the Art of Baking and Cooking, which offers five *bagrut* (high school matriculation) credits. And outside school hours, the kitchen will offer cooking and pastry classes to children, youth and adults from throughout the Upper Galilee.

Meanwhile, Grade 4 to 6 students at HaNadiv

School in Metulla – which is twinned with the Ottawa Jewish Community School – are building their own supermarket as part of an innovative STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) pilot project.

They've even used a 3D printer to make their own currency, called the

"Shekeldiv."

Nine elementary schools in the region are participating in the pilot project, including the Einat HaGalil Democratic School, which is twinned with Temple Israel Religious School.

Students learn through hands-on, interactive projects that emphasize creative thinking and multidisciplinary learning.

For example, students at Nachshonei HaHula in Yesod HaMa'ala are learning biology, botany, zoology and other subjects as they work to restore a swampy pond to a healthier ecosystem.

The emphasis on science education in Israeli schools often comes at the expense of the arts and humanities, however. Sigal and Lior Perelman have established a program called *Derech Ruach* (through the spirit) which is running at four universities. The organizers want to expand it to the Upper Galilee, in partnership with Tel Hai College.

Our P2G joint steering committee has approved conditional funding to start *Derech Ruach* for 30 students in the Upper Galilee in the fall of 2019.

Haifa University gives eight entrance credits to graduates of the program. Although about half the students go on to study sciences, they relish the opportunity to challenge their minds in different ways.

"The world is becoming more technological, but that can be frightening," says Sigal, who teaches in the Jewish History department at the University of Haifa.

"We need more humans – we need people who can write and communicate, and deal with 'meta' issues."

Allan Taylor

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November 2018

Film
November 18
4 - 6 pm
Arrive Early - Limited Seating


The Council Chambers Room
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In November 1940 a secret band of journalists, scholars and leaders vowed to defeat Nazi lies and propaganda not with guns or fists but with pen and paper; and risked everything so that their archive would survive the war, even if they did not.

Executive Produced by Nancy Spielberg

Q&A with film participant Professor Jan Grabowski will follow the screening.

RESISTANCE COMES IN MANY FORMS.



WHO WILL WRITE OUR HISTORY



Ottawa's March of the Living participants gather at the top of Masada during their trip to Israel following a week in Poland, April 15, 2018.

March of the Living establishes alumni educational project

BY DALIA MILLER
FOR MARCH OF THE LIVING

March of the Living was one of the most memorable trips of my life. It was a privilege to get to travel to Poland and Israel alongside two amazing Holocaust survivors.

In Poland, we got to hear their stories and walk in the footsteps of those who survived the Holocaust and those who perished. When you learn about, or research the Holocaust, you obtain information and facts. When you see pictures from the Holocaust, you get ideas and visuals. But actually visiting the death camps and seeing those places with your own eyes, helps you to better grasp the concept of the six million Jews who perished.

The March of the Living Committee has organized a powerful March of the Living Alumni Educational Project that focuses on sharing both our experiences and the stories of survivors with our community. This project is a collaboration between the Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship and March of the Living.

This will be done on both a personal level and a public level. The personal level refers to visits that March of the Living alumni will make to the homes of Holocaust survivors to hear their testimonies and ask questions about their experiences and about life before and after the war.

This is done with the goal of bringing the survivor to the students' schools to share their stories with more people. March of the Living alumni are already working to plan Holocaust remembrance assemblies at their schools, and even human libraries. Personal stories from alumni will also be shared about their experiences on the trip, both what they saw and how it made them feel.

On a more public level, the alumni hope to set up an Instagram page that will be open to the public with biweekly postings. The posts will include stories of survivors, stories of those who perished and could not tell their own stories, information on Holocaust remembrance and education events taking place, and personal

stories from the March of the Living trip. We are a small part in a big movement of Holocaust awareness. It is our job as alumni of the March of the Living to pass on the testimonies we heard and continue the chain of awareness. This educational project helps us to make an impact in our schools and communities. It only takes one person's effort and commitment to make a difference, and each of us is that one person.

For more information about March of the Living or the March of the Living Alumni Educational Project, contact Jewish Federation of Ottawa Community Engagement Specialist Lindsay Gottheil at lgottheil@jewishottawa.com or 613-798-4616, ext. 355.

Jewish Federation of Ottawa Events for HOLOCAUST EDUCATION MONTH

Presented by the Shoah Committee of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa



Professor Amos Guiora
Author and Speaker
November 28
7 pm

Soloway JCC
21 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.

Copies of the author's book "The Crime of Complicity: The Bystander in the Holocaust" will be available for purchase.

Amos Guiora is a dynamic Israeli-American law professor and child of Holocaust survivors. A compelling speaker, Professor Guiora discusses the bystander-victim relationship from a deeply personal and legal perspective, focusing first on the Holocaust and then exploring cases of sexual assault in contemporary society.

Events are free • Information: Lindsay at lgottheil@jewishottawa.com



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from your CBB of Ottawa Family!

May it be sparkling with fun
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Check out the exciting updates to our Weekender Program!

CBB Ottawa is introducing an exciting addition to our popular weekender program for children and their parents taking place on Friday, August 2nd to Sunday, August 4th!

First time campers can experience the camp spirit and activities including the pool, waterfront, sports, art and much more!

For parents, while your children are up at camp, enjoy a weekend in Ottawa experiencing all that city has to offer. Discounted downtown hotels and a fun-filled itinerary of what to do will be prepared by the camp including a Saturday night 'meet the camp admin' evening.

The weekender ends with a Sunday lunch up at the camp for campers and their parents along with a tour.

Sign up with a friend, and the Weekender is half price!



cbbottawa.com



For more information contact:

Cindy Presser Benedek,
Associate Director,

cindy@cbbottawa.com

Director, Jonathan Pivnick

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Jonathan and Dana love their three kids. Originally, they planned to divide their \$500K estate equally between them, leaving \$167K to each.

But they realized they could do more with their money – they could create a lasting legacy for all the charities in the community that they care about while still providing for their children.

David and Carol included the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation in their charitable giving plan. The charitable tax receipt provides \$21K back to each child.

For more information on planned giving, contact:
Micah Garten, Director of Development at
613-798-4696 x270 or mgarten@jewishottawa.com

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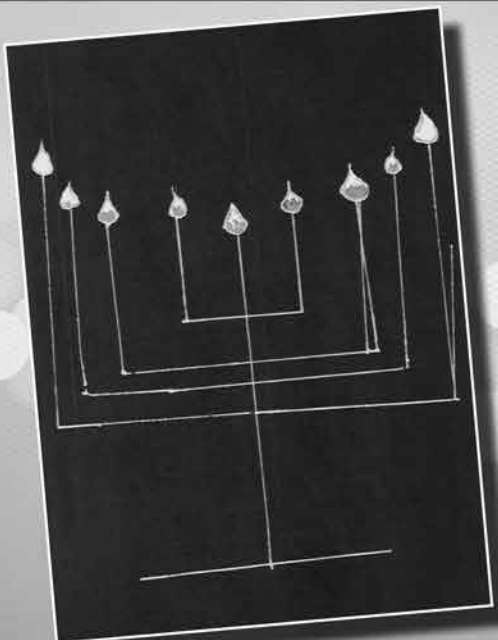
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By making a contribution of \$1,000 or more, you can create a permanent remembrance for a loved one, honour a family member, declare what the Lodge has meant to you and/or support a cause that you believe in.

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.

Ruth and Irving Aaron Family Fund

In Honour of:
Sharon Sholzberg-Gray Mazel Tov on being a recipient of the Order of Canada by Ruth and Irving Aaron
Jeff and Felice Pleet Mazel Tov on Zak's engagement to Maria by Ruth and Irving Aaron

R' Fuah Shlema:
Evelyn Greenberg by Ruth and Irving Aaron

Bill and Leona Adler Memorial Fund

In Memory of:
Seymour Levine by Marilyn Adler and Neil Blacher

Elsie Baker Fund

In Memory of:
Rhonda Malomet by Kenneth Kavanat
Harry Froman by Kenneth Kavanat

Stella and Norman Beck Family Fund

In Memory of:
Seymour Levine by Stella and Sheila Beck

Nell Gluck Memorial Fund

In Honour of:
Cynthia Barlow Mazel Tov on your milestone Birthday by Julia Gluck
Rabbi Jordan Bendat-Appell Mazel Tov on your appointment to Director of Camp Ramah Canada by Julia Gluck and Ted Overton

R' Fuah Shlema:
Jane Stewart by Julia Gluck
Michael Romolo by Julia Gluck

In Memory of:
Florence Shattner by Maureen and Henry Molot and Family

Gunner Family Fund

In Honour of:
Herb and Janet Taller Mazel Tov on the marriage of Barry and Marcia by Sol and Estelle Gunner

Evelyn and Isadore Hoffman Family Fund

In Memory of:
Seymour Levine by Issie and Evelyn Hoffman

Norman and Gert Leyton Family Fund

In Observance of the Yahrzeit of:
Norman Leyton by the Leyton Girls

Chuck and Malca Polowin Family Fund

In Honour of:
Sara Shabsove Wishing you a very happy special Birthday by Malca and Chuck Polowin
Jerry and Lily Penso Congratulations and Mazel Tov on your 60th Anniversary by Chuck and Malca Polowin

Roslyn and Lee Raskin Family Fund

In Honour of:
Glen Binnington Mazel Tov on chanting your Bar Mitzvah Haftorah by Roz and Lee Raskin
In Memory of:
Julie Sculnick by Roz and Lee Raskin
Seymour Levine by Roz and Lee Raskin

Shelley and Sidney Rothman Family Fund

In Honour of:
Corinne and Sheldon Taylor Mazel Tov on Jon's marriage to Alanna by Shelley Rothman

Schachter / Ingber Fund

In Memory of:
Rabbi David Posner by George and Andree Acel

Stephen and Debra Schneiderman Family Fund

In Memory of:
Seymour Levine by Bunny Cogan

Ethel and Irving Taylor Family Fund

In Honour of:
Morton Pleet Best wishes on your 90th Birthday by Risa, Brent and Shira Taylor
Dr. David Kalin Mazel Tov on your retirement by Risa, Brent and Shira Taylor

Eric Weiner and Arlene Godfrey Family Fund

In Memory of:
Mary Godfrey by Carol Gradus, Barbara and Jeff Rosenberg and Carla and Bruce Weiner

Toby and Joel Yan Family Fund

In Honour of:
Ashira, Elina and Gabi Engel-Yan Wishing you all happy Birthdays! By Joel and Toby Yan
Norman Yan Mazel Tov on your 70th Birthday by Joel and Toby Yan and family

Carole and Norman Zagerman Family Fund

In Honour of:
Shirley Cohen Wishing you a happy and healthy Birthday by Carole Zagerman
In Memory of:
Harry Froman by Carole Zagerman

Therapeutic Program

In Memory of:
Seymour Levine by Rosalie and Harold Schwartz and Joanna and Ira Abrams and family

Feeding Program

In Honour of:
Sol and Helen Rauch Mazel Tov on Toby's Bar Mitzvah by Helen and Alvo Mayer and family

Susan and Charles Schwartzman Mazel Tov on your new home by Marilyn and David Akman

Sara Shabsove Mazel Tov on your 90th Birthday by Ruth Poplove

In Memory of:
Ron Levitan by Ruth Poplove
Rhonda Malomet by Ruth Poplove

Recreation Program

In Honour of:
Morton Pleet Happy 90th Birthday by Ellen and Stan Magidson
Jenny Shinder Mazel Tov to all of you on the occasion of Jordan's Bar Mitzvah by Hillary Cratzbarg

In Memory of:
Seymour Levine by Brian and Rona Tannenbaum, Libby and Leo Ratner and David Singer

In Memory of:

Seymour Levine by the residents, staff and Boards of the Lodge and LTC Foundation, Ingrid Levitz, Barry and Zahava Farber, Jeff and Felice Pleet, Morton and Sylvia Pleet, Stephen and Debra Schneiderman, Shelley and Morris Schachnow and Irv and Sheila Osterer and family

Sidney Leibovitch by Raezelle and Gustave Goldmann

In Honour of:

Jeff and Felice Pleet With much thanks and appreciation by Laura Greenberg
Nancy Pleet Mazel Tov on your 90th Birthday by Susan Feldberg
Laurie Pascoe Wishing you a Happy Birthday by Marcia and Steve Aronson
Jerry and Lily Penso Wishing you a Happy 60th Anniversary by Marcia and Steve Aronson

Sara Shabsove Mazel Tov on your 90th Birthday by Clair Krantzberg
Sherill Besser and Morris Rosenberg Mazel Tov on the birth of your granddaughter by Sylvia Greenspoon and Richard Levine

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

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Here's a great opportunity to recognize an event or convey the appropriate sentiment to someone important to you and at the same time support the Lodge. Call orders may be given to Cathie at 728-3990, 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. You may also go to: www.hillel-ltc.com and click on the "Donate Now" button to make your donations. Cards may be paid for by Visa or Mastercard. Contributions are tax deductible.

The impact of home and school on forming Jewish identity

JACKIE LUFFMAN
BOOK REVIEW

Jewish Family: Identify and Self-Formation at Home
By Alex Pomson and Randall F. Schnoor
Indiana University Press
330 pages

Much has been written about the groundbreaking 2013 “Pew Research Center Survey of U.S. Jews: A Portrait of Jewish Americans” that examined the changing nature of Jewish identity through the use of one of the largest samples of American Jews ever collected. That study collected data based on the point of view of the individual and the unit of measure.

In contrast, in *Jewish Family: Identify and Self-Formation at Home*, Alex Pomson and Randall F. Schnoor take us on a journey of 16 Jewish families in Toronto over the 10 year period starting in 2003. At the commencement of the study, all 16 families had at least one child at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School (DJDS). Although this was a very small subset of affiliated families to base research findings, their conclusions still provide fascinating insights on how, over the course of time, children form their Jewish identities, value systems and practices within the context of their family unit.

Pomson and Schnoor explain how DJDS is not a typical Jewish day school. This particular school was committed to diversity, pluralism and liberal values. In fact, at least one-quarter of the school’s families are intermarried, with large percentages of single-parent and same-sex couple families. Despite the fact that no such day school exists in Ottawa, their research findings still present an opportunity to enrich our understanding of the interplay between a day school experience and Jewish family practice at home.

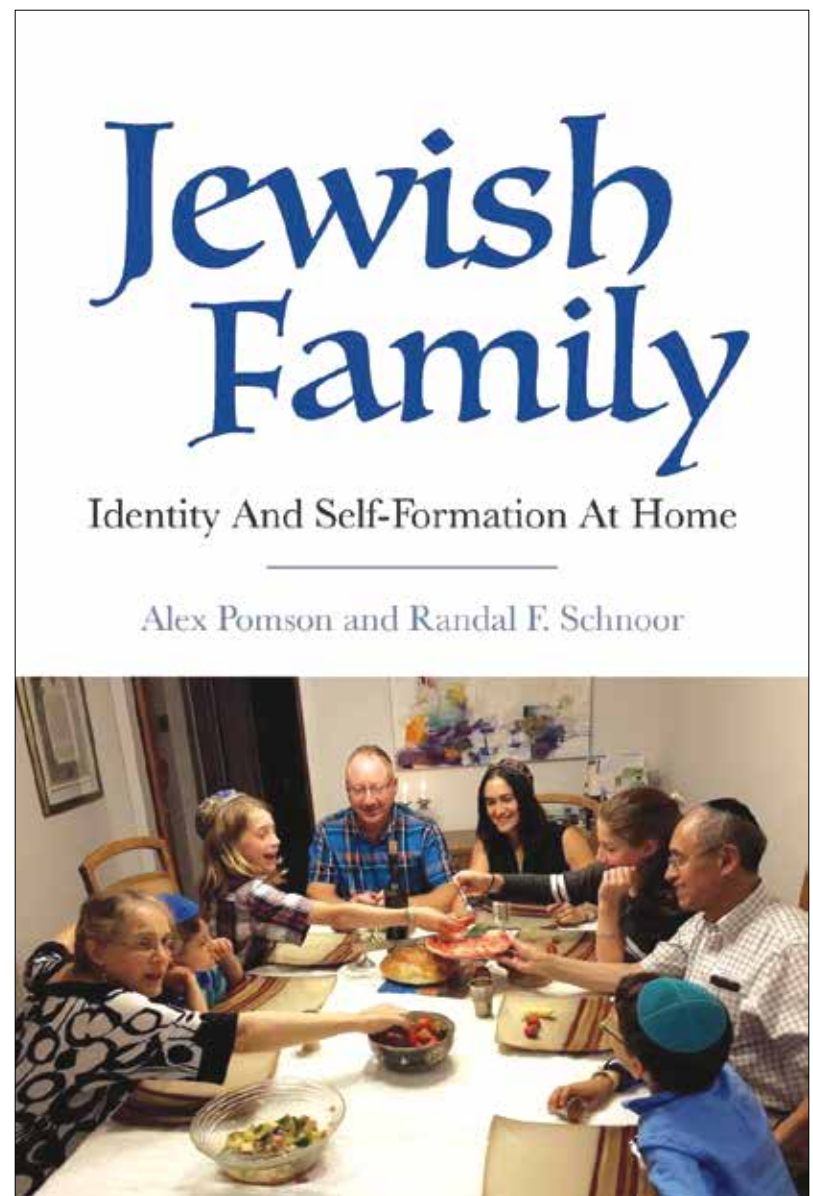
A key aspect of Jewish family life can be explained by Jewish social and cultural capital. Jewish social capital is the degree to which an individual has large Jewish family, friends and other associations. Jewish cultural capital refers to the degree of Jewish knowledge, skills and education. Pomson and Schnoor track over time the families at DJDS to

see how their original assessment of cultural and social capital change. Some of their families left DDJS, some stayed. Some experienced divorce or other family changes. Overall, it appeared that without high levels of Jewish social capital, cultural capital tends to erode over time. It is clear that belonging to a Jewish day school provides Jewish connections, friends, and other institutions seamlessly. Day schools, and to a certain extent supplementary schools, can impart Jewish meaning, both in terms of Jewish religious practice but also through the child and parents’ Jewish social connections. In other words, schools act as supportive environments for parents with limited cultural and/or social capital.

Because Pomson and Schnoor use the family as the unit of analysis, their qualitative research offers much insight and rich interview conversations of important life cycle events such as the bar/bat mitzvah. In this sample of families, 98 per cent celebrated a bar/bat mitzvah. However, these families personalized the celebrations. Some families did not want the event in a traditional synagogue and created personalized services with no rabbi or clergy. “This phenomenon is a fascinating indicator of the personalizing trend in Jewish religious life,” write Pomson and Schnoor.

What happens to the teens when they leave day school? In most cases, the Jewish teens in the study were very proud of their identity. But if their parents held a particular negative view of Judaism or did not participate in much Jewish ritual practice at home, the children picked up on this despite having high Jewish cultural capital. As one father noted about his teen son, “He is uncomfortable participating in Jewish life as a member of a group. He prefers to do his own thing.” The paradox of having had generally positive and intense Jewish education while, at the same time, being less committed to traditional Jewish rituals and norms is quite telling among this small sample.

Pomson and Schnoor provide a refreshing approach to studying Jewish identity using not only the family as the basis of their analysis, but also the longitudinal approach to examining change as it happens, rather than relying on recollection of past experiences. Professionals that work in schools and synagogues with young families will find diverse narratives that present an appreciation of the structural and relational forces that impact a family’s Jewish journey.





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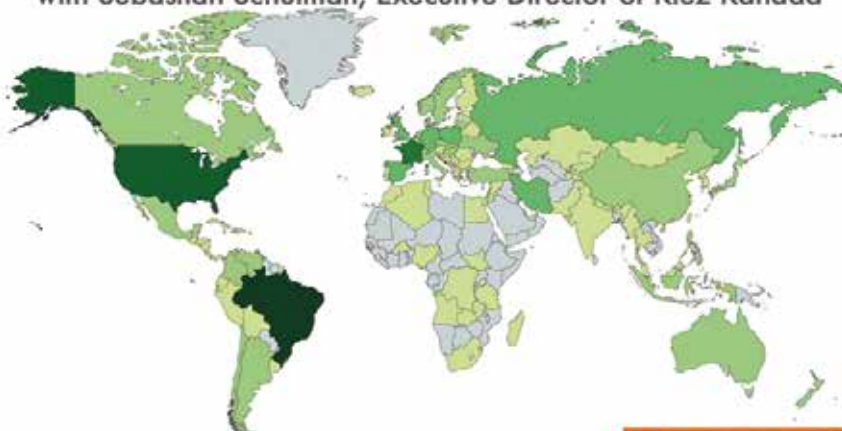


14 Chamberlain Ave. • 1541 Merivale Rd. • 2016 Tenth Line Rd.


Speaking Globally:

Yiddish and Esperanto as World Languages

with Sebastian Schulman, Executive Director of Klez Kanada





A presentation exploring the parallel histories of Yiddish and Esperanto, two languages whose speakers have been scattered across the globe. Placing an internationalist reading of Yiddish cultural history beside a Jewish look at the history of Esperanto, we'll explore the mechanics of how ideas travel and transform over transnational networks, and fashion a model for understanding the traffic of thought in today's globalized world writ large. The session concludes with a lively performance of the speaker's fresh translations from both cultures' vibrant literary traditions.



Sunday, November 18
10:30 am – 12:00 pm • Soloway JCC

Co-sponsored by the Soloway JCC, the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program and The Esperanto Rondo de Otava.

Programme d'études juives canadiennes

Contact: Roslyn Brezovsky Wollock | 613-798-9018 x251 | rwollock@jccottawa.com



Shabbat Project Women's Challah Bake: Students of the Machon Sarah High School for Girls were among more than 200 women participating in the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Shabbat Project Women's Challah Bake, October 25, at Kehillat Beth Israel. As well as preparing challahs to take home, participants donated more than 100 challahs to the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank.

HOWARD SANDLER



SUPPORT THE ZELIKOVITZ CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES THIS #GIVINGTUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is your opportunity to support the Zelikovitz Centre or one of our key programs: CHES, Developing Future Leaders (DFL) or the Israel Travel Course through FutureFunder. Carleton University's Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies promotes inquiry into all aspects of the Jewish experience—from ancient times to the present. Its location in Ottawa means the Centre can readily connect with parliamentarians, public servants, diplomats, NGO's, international organizations and the national media, as well as other academics and the broader community.

FutureFunder is Carleton University's online crowdfunding platform, which supports initiatives that make a positive and powerful impact on our communities. Carleton University will be matching donations made online through FutureFunder, on November 27th, 2018. Only donations made online this date will be eligible for matching funds.

Mark your calendars for November 27th, and make a difference on Giving Tuesday through futurefunder.carleton.ca to double your gift.

Search for Zelikovitz, CHES, DFL, or Israel Travel Course to direct your support at futurefunder.carleton.ca or call Christine Wheeler 613-520-2600 ext. 4255 for more information.

We sign up our kids for Jewish school. But what about the parents?

So there we were, sitting around the dinner table, talking about our day. Our daughter was telling us about making an ark at school, a Noah's Ark, and about all the animals she had put in hers.

The subject turned to whales, I don't really remember why, and our girl started referring to Noah as Jonah.

No, we corrected her – it's Noah's Ark. Jonah and the whale is a different story.

My husband went to Jewish day school until he graduated from high school, I went until Grade 8.

But neither of us could actually remember how it was that Jonah ended up in the belly of the whale.

Turns out she'd learned it at some point already and gave us the basics: he needed to tell the bad people to stop being bad. He got thrown in the sea to stop a storm. And then he ended up in a fish.

Ottawa Jewish Community School 1, parents o.

The incident highlighted an issue I've been thinking about since my daughter started school this year.

We sign her up for swim lessons or skating lessons because we aren't necessarily capable or able to teach her those things. But we want her to know those skills, and think she'll enjoy the experience as well.

A similar thing can be said about enrolling her in Jewish education. We never doubted we'd sign her up for either full-time or supplementary. When we asked ourselves why, it was something we believed was important, that she needed to know and would enjoy. And what we were capable of teaching her ourselves



STEPHANIE SHEFRIN
**MODERN
MISHPOCHA**

was limited.

But when we enrol our kids in skating or swimming lessons, it's also because we hope we'll one day go skating with them, or take them to a cottage during the summer and they'll be able to jump in the lake.

So what is our goal for our child's Jewish education?

In his "A View from the Bleachers" column in the October 29 edition of the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin, Rabbi Steven Garten raised an interesting issue that I think can be reframed and applied to this question.

He reflected on his experience in the Jewish ghetto of Venice, where Jewish tourists were eager to tour the historical aspects of the site, yet eschewed the opportunity to visit a sukkah set up nearby by the local Chabad.

He took the example further, writing: "I'm struck by how many of us travel to the concentration camps, the cities devoid of Jews, the sites of our persecution and destruction, but often avoid the vibrant realities of our existence."

Now, in Jewish school, one hopes that the kids are getting both those things – a sense of both the history

and present of the Jewish people – and that's our goal in sending them there.

But where does that leave us, as parents?

I find myself asking two questions that are difficult to answer.

First: When we enrol our kids in Jewish education, to what extent are we ourselves seeking to "avoid the vibrant realities of our existence," in effect delegating to the school system that which we do not wish to do at home or in the community?

Second, and perhaps more crucial: My formal Jewish education stopped when I finished high school. I took a few Jewish cultural classes in university – film and fiction – but since then, nothing official, save for the odd lecture or community event. In a similar vein then to the point Rabbi Garten raises about many Jews respecting history but avoiding living Judaism: Why, as a parent, have I've decided my daughter needs a formal Jewish education but it's OK that mine is a thing in the past?

This isn't about being able to answer her questions about Jonah and the whale. I know I could look that up without signing myself up for the seminary.

But in time, I'll have to negotiate far more difficult terrain. She'll come home asking why we do or don't do the things in our house that she learned about at school.

Some will say, just tell her that every family does things differently. And perhaps that will be enough for her. But will it be enough for me?

Is Israel sufficiently secure to accept and absorb criticism?

On October 2, a 22-year-old United States citizen who held a valid Israeli student visa and had been accepted to study at Hebrew University was detained at Ben-Gurion Airport and held for deportation.

Had the young woman, Lara Alqasem, agreed to the deportation she would have left the country immediately. However, she appealed the deportation order and was held in an airport detention centre for two weeks.

Alqasem's crime, according to the Strategic Affairs Ministry? She is a former president of the University of Florida chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine, a group supporting the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement against Israel.

"Ms. Alqasem was being denied entry to Israel because of her past activities, not her opinions. We have clear criteria," said Asher Freidman, a senior official of the Strategic Affairs Ministry. "We believe that Ms. Alqasem meets these criteria based on her actions, and the actions of the organization of which she was a senior leader over several years."

Alqasem's detention has sparked consternation and debate in Israel. The Committee of University Heads of Israel joined with civil rights groups to protest the ministry's action. Hebrew University, which accepted Alqasem to study Hebrew and human rights, joined in the appeal.

Every country has an absolute right to protect its citizens and ensure its national security. Physical attacks against the State of Israel pose a danger to both Israeli people and property. But the distinction between a physical threat and a non-violent protest is quite significant.

This past August, Peter Beinart, a leading American



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

journalist, was detained for questioning at Ben-Gurion Airport while entering Israel. Beinart, who writes regularly for Haaretz and The Atlantic and appears often on CNN as a political commentator, came to Israel to participate in the bat mitzvah of one of his nieces.

There is little doubt that Beinart is a polarizing figure. He has written extensively about his opposition to Israeli policies regarding the non-existent peace talks and the Palestinian people. He has urged Israeli politicians to be more cognizant of the humanity of the Palestinians.

He has also written an important book, *The Crisis of Zionism*, in which he asks quite forcibly what role the current policies of Israel have played in the significant disconnect between Israel and young North Americans.

Recently, however, his work for The Atlantic has been focused on anti-democratic trends in the United States. He has written powerfully about the curtailment of minority voting rights and the ongoing attacks by the Trump administration against minorities.

It would be a significant stretch to say that Beinart is still at the forefront of criticism of the Israeli government.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responded to news of Beinart's detention by releasing a statement: "Israel is an open society which welcomes

all – critics and supporters alike. Israel is the only country in the Middle East where people voice their opinions freely and robustly."

That is a very flexible statement. It allows a well-known political commentator to be released and sent on his way with only the memories of an overly zealous Shin Bet. But Alqasem is not a well-known commentator. She is a 22-year-old student who, as an undergraduate, participated in political rallies to call attention to real and perceived injustices. The prime minister has not issued an apology or an equally strong message in support of dissent in her case.

It is easy to imagine U.S. President Donald Trump, who has been very public in his condemnation of a free and unfettered press, detaining one of his critics or, as recently happened, encouraging violence against the press. It is so easy for us to feel virtuous in the face of Trump's trampling on the truth and his vitriolic personal campaign against his critics. We have come to expect no less from him.

But Israel is the land of Torah, the Golden Rule and Pirkei Avot. For 70 years, it has embraced the persecuted from around the world. From Israel, we expect nothing less than robust, unfettered criticism of the unprincipled, the unethical.

So which is it?

Is Israel a country sufficiently secure in its own skin to accept and absorb criticism, especially when it is justified?

Or is Israel moving towards a form of inward-looking nationalism that perceives threats from every quarter, even 22-year-old university students?

We can't have it both ways.

The sweet spot between the thrill of victory and agony of defeat

In the opening sequence of the “Wide World of Sports” TV show – which ran from 1961 to 1998 – the announcer declared, “Spanning the globe to bring you the constant variety of sports, the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.”

The words “the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat” remind me that we often think of our own efforts and activities in terms of extremes: successes or failures. The televisions we watched in the early years of that show may have been black-and-white, but how we think about ourselves doesn’t have to be that way.

If we try to lose weight and we hit our target, we consider ourselves successful. If we’re unable to hit the target or we regain some weight – which is often the case – we may feel like failures. If we accomplish any goal we set, we feel proud. If we’re unable to achieve a goal, we feel defeated. While some people externalize the failure (e.g., “It’s not my fault,” “I wasn’t given a fair chance,” “There were too many hurdles in my way,” etc.), others may internalize the outcome as a personal failure or a shortcoming (e.g., “I lacked will-power,” “I was lazy,” “I didn’t try hard enough,” etc.).

Do we have to consider every outcome as a victory or a defeat? I don’t think so. I believe many things exist on a continuum, including our efforts and outcomes. Sometimes external forces swing in our favour. When they swing against us, we’re faced with greater challenges. The same is true for our internal forces such as our motivation. There are times when our motivational bucket is overflowing – we’re energized



GLORIA SCHWARTZ
FOCUS ON FITNESS

and we put that energy towards our goal. Other times we can’t seem to find a drop of motivation. Even when we’re fully energized, activated and committed, what we do may not move us closer to our goal. For example, we may believe we’re regularly eating healthy food in order to lose weight or to improve our health, but we may be unknowingly eating too much or making ill-informed choices that set us back.

Instead of thinking in terms of successes versus failures, perhaps we should take a nuanced approach. Everything we do might be a necessary step along our journey. We can learn from each step and misstep. Sometimes what we learn along the way can be valuable in the long-term. Everyone experiences setbacks in life. Even the most athletic, wealthiest, or business-savvy – the most outstanding in any field have ups and downs. My philosophy is that if a goal is very easy to achieve, it may not be worthwhile pursuing. It’s the challenge, the work we put into it, the physical and emotional sweat equity that lead to a sense of fulfillment – even if we don’t fully accomplish our goal. Imagine, for example, a dedicated athlete – a sprinter,

gymnast or weightlifter – who trains for many years for that one potential moment of glory at a high-level competition, but instead of outperforming the other athletes or achieving a personal best, performs sub-optimally. The athlete may feel like it’s a major personal failure. Let’s consider factors beyond the time on the stop-watch or the numbers on a judge’s scorecard. The fact that the athlete put in so much effort, qualified and gave it their best effort under extreme duress should be cause for celebration.

I recently bumped into an acquaintance I hadn’t seen in many months. “How are you?” I asked. She replied, “I’m fat.” I was caught off-guard by her self-disparaging remark. I didn’t have time to engage in a conversation as I was on my way to see a client, so I said to her half-jokingly, “Next time someone asks you how you are, you should say, ‘I’m hot!’” We both laughed.

The message I was trying to quickly convey in a few words and with a sense of humour is that we should not put ourselves down – through internal dialogue or when speaking with others – just because we don’t meet some culturally- or self-imposed ideal. In fact, her weight would never have crossed my mind, I was simply happy to see her.

While an anonymous broadcaster’s voice or other sources may have programmed us to think in terms of victories and defeats, we’d be happier, healthier and more inclined to persevere if we accepted that life is not black-and-white like an antiquated TV.

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Sunday November 18, 2018,

Double Comparative Review:

Bellevue Square by Michael Redhill and

Dinner at the Centre of the Earth by Nathan Englander,

Reviewed by Rubin Friedman.

Bagel breakfast 9:30 am, voluntary donation requested followed by the Book Review at 10:00 am

Sunday November 25, 2018: Concert presented by

Leah Roseman violin and Dina Namer piano

A programme of works for violin and piano entitled

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The programme features music by Achron, Goldmark and Kahn.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, children under 12 are free.

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MEMBERS' MEETING

Jewish Federation of Ottawa

Tuesday, November 20,
7pm @ SJCC

Join us and stay informed on key issues!

The Jewish Superhighway

Presented by Andrea Freedman, President & CEO

“Breaking the Mental Health Stigma in the Jewish Community”

Panel Discussion

Dr. Kathi Kovacs, Chief of Psychiatry
at the Queensway Carleton Hospital
Rabbi Robert Morais, Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel
Sarah Caspi, Assistant Executive Director
of Jewish Family Services.

Open to the Public – everyone welcome.

RSVP: Bedy Israel at bisrael@jewishottawa.com



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WHAT'S GOING ON | November 12-25, 2018

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

An Israeli Journalist in Trump's Washington

7:30 pm, Social Hall
RSVP: Gabriella Goliger
goliger@rogers.com
Amir Tibon, Washington correspondent for *Ha'aretz*, speaks on the U.S. mid term elections, U.S.-Israel relations, Israeli-Diaspora relations. Sponsored by Canadian Friends of Peace Now.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Israel Advocacy: An introduction for high school students

6 - 7 pm, Ottawa NCSY, 261 Centrepointe
RSVP: Allyson Grant, agrant@cija.ca
Workshop for high school students, featuring Ally Grant from the Centre for Israel & Jewish Affairs. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

Live Show: YidLife Crisis

8 - 10 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Ave.
Contact: Deborah Zuker
rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com
Cost: \$30/\$18 students Jamie Elman and Eli Batalion, the creators and stars of the award-winning Yiddish comedy web series come for a night of shtick and inspiration. Expect a special cameo by KBI's Cantor Jason Green!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Interfaith Couples Shabbat Dinner

7 - 9 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Ave.
Contact: Deborah Zuker
rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com
Cost: \$36. Meet other interfaith couples, share a delicious Shabbat dinner, and enjoy an evening out! All welcome, space is limited. Register at: kehillatbethisrael.com/interfaithshabbatdinner

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Chanukah Gift Fair

10 - 4 pm
Contact: Ella Dagan, edagan@jccottawa.com
Annual Community Chanukah Gift Fair at SJCC. Sponsored by SJCC, Vered Israel.

Speaking Globally: Yiddish and Esperanto as World Languages

10:30 am - 12 pm
Contact: Roslyn Wollock
rwollock@jccottawa.com
With Sebastien Schulman, Executive Director of Klez Kanada.

Jewnique

1:30 - 2:45 pm,
Contact: Roslyn Wollock, rwollock@jccottawa.com
Cost: \$8. Poet David Silverberg harnesses his career as a journalist and his spoken word talent to create a new stage show.

"Who Will Write Our History": Film for Holocaust Education Month

4 - 6 pm, The Council Chambers Room, Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Dr.
Contact: Lindsay Gottheil
lgottheil@jewishottawa.com
The Shoah Committee presents this film on the occasion of Holocaust Education Month. Q&A with film participant Professor Jan Grabowski will follow.

Machzikei Cooks: Supporting Ten Yad of Ottawa

6 - 9 pm, Congregation Machzikei Hadas, 2310 Virginia Dr.
Register at: www.cmhottawa.com
Suggested donation: \$36. Cook and package hearty meals for Ten Yad in an evening of chesed and community building. Hear from Ottawa community members who have been personally supported by Ten Yad.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Ray Fathi Memorial Hockey Night

5 - 11 pm, Congregation Machzikei Hadas, 2310 Virginia Dr.
Register: www.cmhottawa.com/events
Cost: \$45. We start with a delicious dinner at the shul, and then take a bus together to the game.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Honouring our Veterans

7:30 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Ave.
Commemorating the month of Remembrance and raising awareness about the plight of homeless veterans in Ottawa. Fundraiser for Multifaith Housing's (MHI's) current initiative to build supportive housing on the former Rockliffe air force base. Special guest Stephen Thorne

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Shabbat with Dayna at KBI

10 am - 12 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Ave.
Contact: Dayna Goldfarb
youth@kehillatbethisrael.com
Jewish-themed Shabbat programming with Dayna, KBI's Youth Advisor. For children Grades 1-6. Play games, learn about Judaism, and discuss the week's parsha.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Family Chanukah Concert Sing Along with the Ottawa Klezmer Trio

10:30 am - 12 pm
Contact: Ros Wollock, rwollock@jccottawa.com
Clap, and sing along with the "Ottawa

Klezmer Trio" - Floralove Katz, Vocals; Natasha Guiller, Piano; David Renaud, Clarinet), and special guest artists (including a Syrian Refugee Children's Choir for Peace). Sponsored by Adult Education & Cultural Programs Department of the Soloway JCC.

Chanting and Chocolate

7:30 - 9 pm, Or Haneshamah, 30 Cleary Ave.
Contact: Michael Salter, info@orh.ca
An evening of sacred Jewish chant, followed by delicious chocolate treats! No prior knowledge of singing, chanting or the Hebrew language is required. Chant sheets are provided. All are welcome!

Forbidden and Forgotten

2 - 4 pm, Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Dr.
Contact: Patsy Royer
pmroyer@gmail.com
Cost: \$20. A concert of duos for piano and violin, featuring music that was refused any performance in Germany during the Third Reich. This program shares lives of the composers under the Reich and after.

CANDLE LIGHTING BEFORE

NOVEMBER 16	4:14
NOVEMBER 23	4:08
NOVEMBER 30	4:04
DECEMBER 7	4:02
DECEMBER 14	4:02

BULLETIN DEADLINES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21	FOR DECEMBER 10
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2	FOR JANUARY 21
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16	FOR FEBRUARY 4
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 30	FOR FEBRUARY 18
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11	FOR MARCH 4

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

CONDOLENCES

Condolences are extended to the families of:

Sarah Dubarsky, Montreal
(Mother of Howard Dubarsky)

Helen Levine

Marion Vexler

**May their
memory
be a blessing
always.**

The Condolence Column is offered as a public service to the community. There is no charge. For listing in this column, please call 613 798-4696, ext. 274. Voice mail is available.

Courage changes everything.

The Panamera



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611 Montreal Rd.
613-749-4275
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