

# OTTAWA JEWISH BULLETIN

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## Long-time director of Camp B'nai Brith of Ottawa steps down

As **Jonathan Pivnick** steps down as camp director at CBB, **Cindy Presser Benedek** takes the reins. CBB board member **Pamela Rosenberg** reports.

**A**fter many summers spent in Quyon, Quebec and two separate stints as director of Camp B'nai Brith of Ottawa (CBB), Jonathan Pivnick is stepping down from his role and passing the camp keys to Cindy Presser Benedek.

Lovingly known around the campfire as "Piv" by CBB campers, staff and alumni, Pivnick's first foray into directing came in 1985 when legendary camp director, the late Morley Mason, took him on as assistant director and began grooming him to take over. Pivnick spent three consecutive summers in the directors' cabin.

With Mason back at the helm in the summer of 2001, Pivnick returned once again as assistant director, a position he held for three more summers. In 2007, by then retired from his 31-year career teaching at Ottawa's Sir Robert Borden High School, he took up his summer residence by the Ottawa River once again and spent the next 11 years as full-time director of CBB.

"Piv's CBB legacy will live on for years to come," said Adam Tanner, chair of the CBB Board of Directors. "His leadership since 2007 has been instrumental



Retiring CBB director Jonathan Pivnick remains involved with the camp and will administer its business affairs.

in our continued success. I look forward to working with Jon on several new construction projects planned as we head towards our 85th anniversary and beyond."

Having inherited a very poor camp situation upon his return, Pivnick's grassroots camper recruitment has led to opening day numbers exceeding 400 children and his staff development has helped modernize the camp culture.

While he will no longer hold the title of director, Pivnick remains an important member of the administration team looking after the business end of camp



After seven summers as assistant director, Cindy Presser Benedek assumes the role of CBB director.

operations while Benedek takes the lead up at CBB.

"I wish Cindy all the best," said Pivnick. "She and I have worked together since 2012 and she has seen and experienced much over that time. It's her time now. Enjoy every moment!"

No stranger to Quyon summers herself, Benedek spent 12 years rising through the ranks from camper, to staff, to supervisor. After three children, moves from Ottawa to Seattle to Toronto and a career in Jewish education, she returned to CBB to work alongside Pivnick – who was also her former high school teacher – as assistant director for

seven years.

"My goal is to continue the great work of the directors who preceded me. Camp gave me the opportunity to learn and grow into the person I am today and I am excited to continue that tradition for the next generation of campers and staff who will become our community's Jewish leaders," said Benedek. "Providing a whole-child approach at camp is my ultimate goal as a director and sitting in the CBB dining hall feeling the energy of our community is my happy place."

For Pivnick, CBB has been more than just a camp. It is the place where he met his wife Heidi, it is where his three children spent their summers from early childhood to eventually working as head staff, and while this grandfather is ready to pass the reigns on to the new director, there is much about this special place he will miss.

"I'll miss the daily interaction with the staff and campers and all the people that work in and around the camp," said Pivnick. "There are many suppliers and service providers that I formed close business and personal relationships with over the years. I know their entire families, they are all wonderful people and I was happy that I could contribute to their lives and communities."

Now as CBB gears up for its 84th season, and as Benedek is busy hiring staff and filling the bunks, she is appreciative of all that she has learned from her predecessor over the years she worked as assistant director.

"Jon has taught me to look outside the box and take risks. His guidance and patience is something that has molded me into the leader I am today."

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Order of Ottawa inductee Barbara Farber with Mayor Jim Watson (left) and Councillor Keith Egli at the induction ceremony, November 22, at Ottawa City Hall.



CITY OF OTTAWA

Order of Ottawa inductee Lawrence Greenspon (centre) with Mayor Jim Watson (left) and Councillor George Darouze at the induction ceremony, November 22, at Ottawa City Hall.



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## Barbara Farber and Lawrence Greenspon inducted into Order of Ottawa

In a ceremony at Ottawa City Hall, November 22, Mayor Jim Watson inducted two prominent members of the Jewish community, Barbara Farber and Lawrence Greenspon, into the Order of Ottawa.

Barbara Farber is president of Leikin Group Inc., a family business focused on real estate development and property and asset management. As noted in the announcement of the award, “Farber has served in the community for close to five decades investing her time and talent to ensure that the education, skills development, and applied learning required by community initiatives, businesses, and manufacturing companies right across the city are met.”

A former president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha’Ir (now the Jewish Federation of Ottawa) and a former chair of Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA, Farber has also chaired and served on the boards of many organizations in the broader community. She is currently chair of the board of directors of the University of Ottawa Heart Institute.

Lawrence Greenspon is senior partner at Greenspon Granger Hill and practices criminal defence and personal injury litigation and is the only lawyer in Ottawa certified by the Law Society as a specialist in both criminal and civil litigation.

As noted in the announcement, “Greenspon has represented disadvantaged and diverse individuals and groups against governments, police, insurance companies and corporations. As a criminal defence lawyer, he has represented people charged with murder, drug and other criminal offences. He represented the first person charged in Canada under the Anti-Terrorism Act. He has represented individuals at the trial level, the Ontario Court of Appeal and has appeared in the Supreme Court of Canada on eight occasions.”

A past president of the Jewish Community Centre of Ottawa, Greenspon has also chaired and served on the boards of many organizations in the broader community, including REACH, the Resource Education Advocacy Centre for the Handicapped, which he co-founded.

# 'Canadian Jewish Experience' book launched

BY MATTHEW HORWOOD

A book launch for *The Canadian Jewish Experience: A Celebration of Canada* was held December 16 at Library and Archives Canada.

The book, compiled by CJE organizer Tova Lynch and her husband, former diplomat Jim Lynch, is based on the panel exhibition, "The Canadian Jewish Experience: A Tribute to Canada" (CJE), which was created for Canada 150 – the year-long celebration of the country's sesquicentennial in 2017 – as a way to celebrate the country and the many contributions of its Jewish citizens.

The book includes all 15 informative CJE panels, as well as a history of the exhibition and the challenges associated with its creation.

The CJE team originally envisioned a large, permanent exhibit in downtown Ottawa including artifacts and storyboards. However, the team was unable to raise enough funds for the project, and their application for funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage was turned down.

Tova Lynch said the team was "obviously very disappointed" by this news. "Our next step was to make something happen, so we did a smaller version of the project that actually mushroomed into this book."

The CJE team was able to secure receive funding and support from individuals, foundations and organizations and mounted a multi-panel exhibit, which combined "photos, informative text, solid research and good design" as well as a website to allow anyone in the world to access the content.

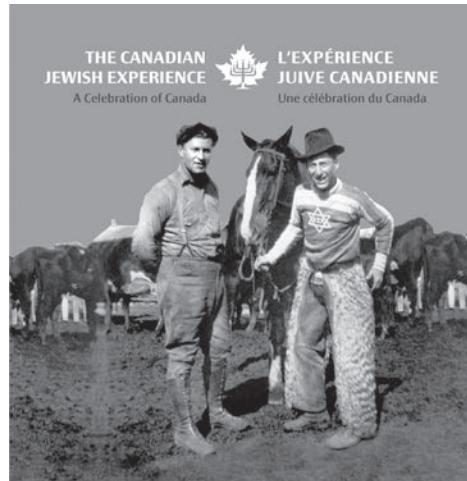
[www.cje2017.com](http://www.cje2017.com)

The CJE's 25 exhibit sets were displayed at 73 different locations in 2017, including five provincial legislatures, seven city halls, 28 universities, four city libraries, more than 10 synagogues and seven secondary and grade schools.

The exhibits were also displayed on Parliament Hill four times, and at Canadian diplomatic venues in the U.S. and Israel. Overall, an estimated 35,000 people viewed the exhibits.

At the book launch, Tova Lynch said if somebody had told her 21 months ago that a book about the CJE would be published, "I would have wondered what they had for breakfast that day."

Tova Lynch described the book as a "meaningful anniversary gift" between her and Jim Lynch, as the pair celebrated their 40th anniversary in May 2018. "This project would not have been pos-



*"All Canadians benefit from efforts like this one, which demonstrate pride in Canada and reaffirms the inclusive sense of national identity that makes Canada a beacon of hope and tolerance."*

sible if not for Jim's steady advice and suggestions," she said.

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson spoke at the book launch and praised Tova Lynch for her "dedication, passion and commitment." Watson said the CJE was a "beautiful tribute to the Jewish community throughout Canada."

Watson attended the CJE exhibition when it first opened at 30 Metcalfe Street on April 2, 2017, and offered for it to be displayed in the lobby of Ottawa City Hall.

"All Canadians benefit from efforts like this one, which demonstrate pride in Canada and reaffirms the inclusive sense of national identity that makes Canada a beacon of hope and tolerance," he said.

CJE board member Victor Rabinovitch said the launch of the book "adds a new element to this body of knowledge about Jews in Canada and describes the amazing number of locations where the exhibition was displayed."

Rabinovitch, former CEO of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, said they chose to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday because "we believe, as Jews and as Canadians, that we have many reasons to be proud.

"When I look at the Canada of today, and when the CJE describes the Canada of today, we see a country that is con-



(From left) Former Canadian Museum of History CEO and CJE board member Victor Rabinovitch, Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, Superior Court Justice and CJE board member Stanley Kershman, CJE organizer and board member Tova Lynch, Librarian and Archivist of Canada Guy Berthiaume, and former Canadian Museum of History CEO Mark O'Neil.

tinuing to grow in its social and emotional maturity. It's a country that faces up to its problems and to its shortcomings," Rabinovitch said.

However, Rabinovitch warned the audience against being "blindly happy," and said the country will be tested once again in unpredictable ways.

"How will we respond? What will we learn from Canada's history? Will we work to find answers rooted in fairness, kindness and rule of law? The answers

remain to be seen," he said.

Jim Lynch ended the book launch by reading a letter from Darrel Gurevitch, whose father Curly Gurevitch – a Russian immigrant to Calgary – is on the cover of the book. Gurevitch said his father was the "right personality" to be on the cover, as he "lived the Canadian Jewish experience and was proud of it."

*The Canadian Jewish Experience: A Celebration of Canada* can be ordered online at [www.chapters.indigo.ca](http://www.chapters.indigo.ca).

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# PJ Library builds community through Get Together grants

BY SARAH BEUTEL  
VICE-PRESIDENT –  
COMMUNITY BUILDING  
JEWISH FEDERATION OF OTTAWA

In less than two months, 27 grants have been provided to local families to hold informal get-togethers in their homes for their friends. Get Together grants are only one of the latest initiatives of the creative and highly successful Harold Grinspoon Foundation, creators of PJ Library. They invite PJ Library families to “Get Together” with two or more other families and receive up to \$100 reimbursement. The grants are available until April 30.

The Grinspoon Foundation also recently launched PJ Our Way, for PJ Library graduates. PJ Our Way was rolled out in Canada in December, providing free books to children aged eight to 11. The aim of PJ Our Way is to allow Jewish youngsters to continue exploring their Jewish identity by reading books on Jewish themes, after they have outgrown the original series. With PJ Our Way, every month kids can choose one book from a selection of four, and they can also submit reviews and comments about the books.

So far, 72 kids from Ottawa are already participating in PJ Our Way.

Currently, there are over 710 children in Ottawa under the age of eight, receiv-



PJ Library partnered with Ganon Preschool to host more than 150 families at a Chanukah celebration, November 18, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

ing books through PJ Library. Thanks to the Grinspoon Foundation and local donors who support the program, more than 350 families receive Jewish-themed books each month, and are invited to local events and activities. In 2018, eight

events attracted hundreds of families throughout the year. The most recent and largest event was the Chanukah celebration where PJ Library partnered with the Soloway Jewish Community Centre’s Ganon Preschool to host over

150 families.

Whereas once it was the domain of organizations and synagogues to plan and host events as a way to build community, today’s trend, exemplified by PJ’s Get Together Grants, is to put resources and tools into the hands of individuals to encourage them to create the kinds of Jewish activities that are most meaningful to them. From the 27 Get Together grants alone, more than 120 families were invited to a celebrate Chanukah or Shabbat with friends, and more than 60 per cent of these families, as reported by the hosts, included inter-faith families.

All of this PJ Library-inspired activity translates into huge gains for Jewish Ottawa! Gains in terms of the breadth of young families reached through the program and thus connected in some way to Jewish life, and also gains for our community in terms of the new networks and community building that is taking place every day as a result of this incredible program.

To help support PJ Library in Ottawa, visit [www.jewishottawa.com](http://www.jewishottawa.com) – and for more information about PJ Library, Get Together Grants, and PJ Our Way, contact Jordan Waldman, Federation’s director of Emerging Gen, at [Jwaldman@jewishottawa.com](mailto:Jwaldman@jewishottawa.com).

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# Ottawa Jewish Bulletin article inspires children's book about Holocaust survivor

BY MATTHEW HORWOOD

Ottawa native Sara Loewenthal launched her second children's book, *The Courtyard's Secret*, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre on December 9. The book focuses on the true story of how Joel Diena and his mother hid from the Nazis in an Italian town during the Second World War.

Loewenthal's first book, *So Near, and Yet So Far: Klara's Voyage on the MS St. Louis*, was published in 2012. She said the idea of writing another book was planted at the book launch when Rabbi Reuven Bulka said to her, "Do you know what happens after you write your first book? You write your second book."

Loewenthal said she was inspired to write the new book when she read a 2013 article in the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin about how then-Ottawan Joel Diena was saved during the Holocaust.

"I clipped the article and called Joel up to say I was really inspired by this article, and asked if I could come to his house to hear him tell his stories," Loewenthal said.

Diena agreed to let Loewenthal write a book about his experiences.

According to Loewenthal, the first draft of the book took only a couple of hours to write, but it then took "weeks and months of going back to their house, listening to recordings of him speaking, and reading other books that he recommended."

Loewenthal said she decided to gear this book toward children, like her previous book, because she is an early child educator and thought the story would have the greatest impact on kids.

"There are so many incredible learning opportunities that exist – from social skills, to morals, to values – that we can teach the youngest of us," she said.

In telling Diena's story, an important consideration for Loewenthal was making sure it was child-friendly.

"Children love happy books, and yet this was a book that was based during the time of the Holocaust when there were Nazis hunting down Jews," she said. "It is a book designed for children, so we couldn't make it too scary."

One of the aspects of writing the book Loewenthal said she struggled with the most was how long the story should be.

"I spent hours and hours with Mr. Diena, and he told me two years' worth of incredible things that happened – and I had to put it into a children's book with pictures," she explained.



Author Sara Loewenthal signs copies of *The Courtyard's Secret*, December 9, at the SJCC.

In the end, Loewenthal said she chose "two really significant stories" to base the book around. The first story was of a Nazi visiting the inn that Diena and his mother were staying at to look for Jews, and Diena being forced to hide in his room.

The second story was about Diena's friends being instructed by their teacher to tell the Nazis if they knew of any Jews hiding in the village. Nobody in the class said anything, even though "at least half of the class knew of Joel."

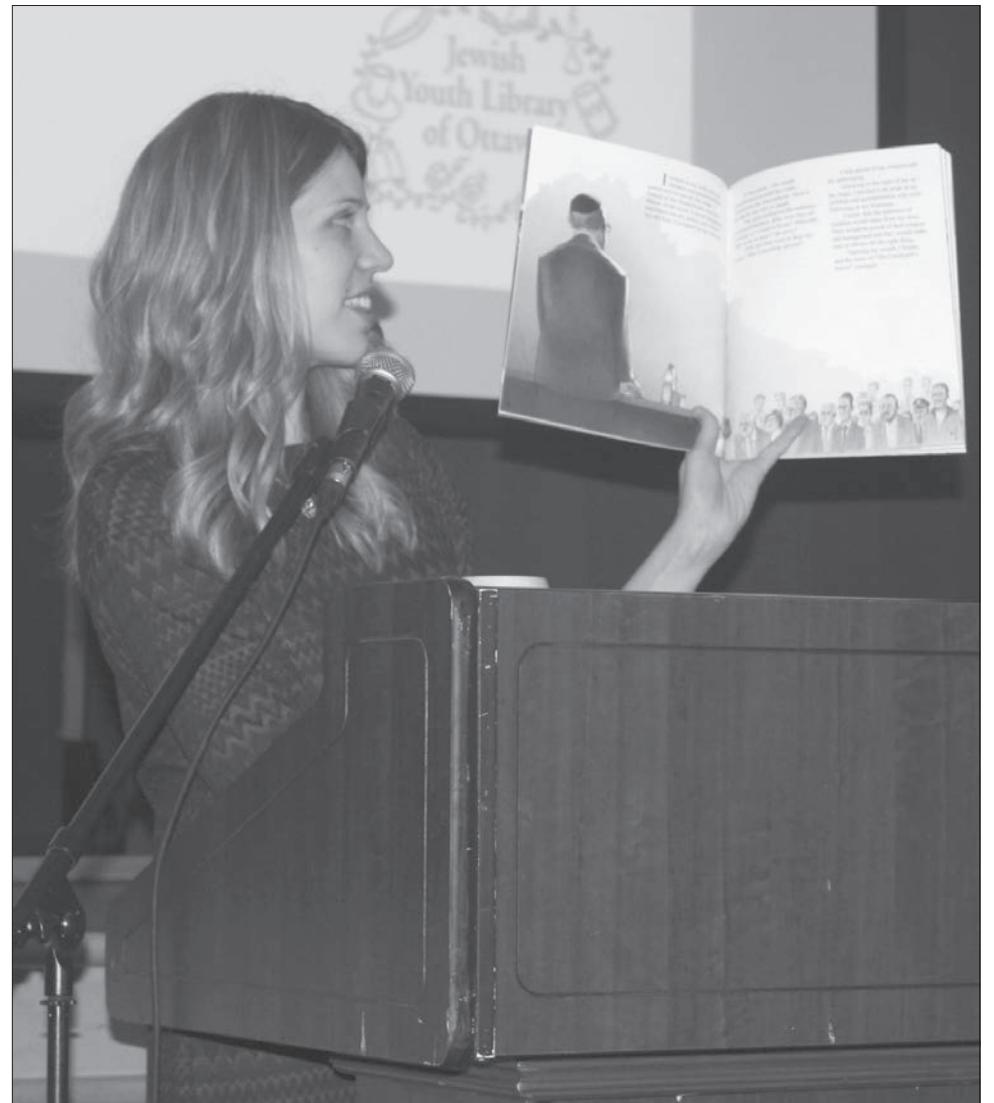
The pictures for the book are by Israeli artist Gadi Pollack. When Pollack agreed to illustrate the book, Loewenthal said she "knew the impact of the stories would be a million times fold." Loewenthal said when Diena saw an illustration of himself in the book, he even remarked that, "it looks more like me than I look like me."

According to Loewenthal, the picture on the cover of the book, depicting Diena and his friends playing in a courtyard while the shadow of a warplane flies overhead, is meant to represent "the tension between Joel having a wonderful time playing with his friends, and being a Jewish boy trying to hide from the Nazis."

When asked if she had plans to write any more books, Loewenthal said she is drawn to "stories that are inspiring and have a very strong message," and that any future titles would probably follow a similar pattern – although they may not be historical, like her previous books.

"I have five young children, so teaching them about morals, ethics and character development is something of real importance to me."

For more information about *The Courtyard's Secret*, contact the Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa at 613-729-1619.



Author Sara Loewenthal reads from her book, *The Courtyard's Secret*, about how former Ottawan Joel Diena survived the Holocaust as a boy in Italy, December 9, at the SJCC.

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Jewish Life Happens Here

**FEDERATION  
REPORT**



**JONATHAN AND NAOMI MITCHELL,  
MITZVAH DAY CO-CHAIRS**

**O**n Sunday, February 3, the Ottawa Jewish community will come together for the 13th Mitzvah Day. This annual event brings together 500 members of the Jewish community to perform good deeds.

We are proud to be co-chairs of this meaningful event, which benefits both our Jewish community and the broader Ottawa community. We were taught

## Make the world better on Mitzvah Day

the importance of volunteering and have strived to volunteer with Jewish and non-Jewish organizations in all the cities we have lived in, from Toronto to Montreal and now Ottawa. We agreed to co-chair this event for a second year because it allows us to teach our children about *Tikkun Olam* – performing acts of kindness with the goal of making the world a better place.

This year the Mitzvah Day Committee has added 10 new activities, including exploring the mitzvot of helping the sick and hungry, passing on Jewish traditions, and Jewish learning. The day will start with VIP guests racing to braid challahs, which will later be donated to the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank. Other fun, hands-on activities will provide the perfect opportunity for us all to highlight to our children the impact a person can make as an individual and as part of community.

This year's mitzvot include assembling soup ingredients into bags to create easy meals that will be donated to the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank; upcycling by making T-shirt tote bags; preparing blankets for CHEO; creating birthday celebration kits to be distributed to children living in shelters; and preparing mishloach manot for Purim. There will also be a sing-along with residents at Hillel Lodge, learning about the prayer in the mezuzah and Hebrew calligraphy, and a cultural scavenger hunt around the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC).

In addition, this year there is another reason for parents to stay at the SJCC. After enjoying breakfast at the Mitzvah Day kickoff, parents can participate in a casual round table conversation about sharing and transferring Jewish values. While Mitzvah Day usually attracts younger children and families, there are

activities for all ages. Children 14 and older can volunteer with Torah High to prepare meals for Ten Yad, or earn volunteer hours by helping at Mitzvah Day.

More information about all these events can be found on the Mitzvah Day website. Please note that registration is required, so take a moment right now and go online to [www.mitzvahdayottawa.com](http://www.mitzvahdayottawa.com). You may also consider making a donation – all proceeds will go toward putting together the day – or signing up to volunteer at the event.

We are so excited for another great Mitzvah Day! On behalf of the Mitzvah Day committee – Deanna Bertrend, Dora Scharf, Eliana Mandel-Carsen, Hal Grossner, Jon Mitzmacher, Lisa Benedik, Marian Leimovici-Morrill, Sarah Beutel and Tanya Poirier - we look forward to seeing you at the SJCC on Sunday morning, February 3, for Mitzvah Day!

**FROM THE  
PULPIT**



**RABBI IDAN SCHER,  
CONGREGATION MACHZIKEI  
HADAS**

**I**'ll never forget sitting in my high school world history class listening to our teacher tell us about the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand; the assassination that triggered a chain of events resulting in the First World War.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand, nephew of Austria-Hungarian Emperor Franz Josef and heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, travelled to Sarajevo in June, 1914. He went to the turbulent Balkan region – annexed by Austria-Hungary in 1908 – to the indignation of Serbian nationalists who believed it should become part of the newly independent Serbian nation.

On June 28, 1914, Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie were touring Sarajevo in an open car with surprisingly little security. A Serbian nationalist, one in a group of assassins, lobbed a grenade at the motorcade. The grenade took longer than expected to detonate and by then, Franz Ferdinand was out of range. The passengers in the car behind them were hurt

## We never know the significance of our actions

instead and the assassins fled in the chaos.

However, Franz Ferdinand was not yet done putting his life in danger. Against the advice of everyone, he insisted on going to the hospital to visit the people who were injured by the grenade. As they drove to the hospital, they happened to pass a café where Gavrilo Princip, a 19-year-old Serbian nationalist, was grabbing a bite.

Seeing an opportunity, Princip fired into the car, shooting Franz Ferdinand and Sophie at point-blank range. Franz Ferdinand and Sophie both died within the hour.

Austria-Hungary, like many countries around the world, blamed the Serbian government for the attack and hoped to use the incident as justification for settling the score once and for all. On July 28, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, triggering a chain of events that led to the start of the First World War.

I remember our history teacher turning to us and asking, “When Gavrilo Princip fired his shot on Ferdinand do you think he knew what he was really doing? In his mind, he was killing an enemy of his nation. In reality, his single act triggered a world war that would transform the course of history.”

Our teacher concluded by dramatically – and uncharacteristically – speaking to us about how we can never know the significance of every one of our actions, no matter how unimportant they seem at the time.

The above is a devastating example to portray this idea, but here is an extremely positive one that is apropos to the Torah portions we read in synagogue this time of the year:

It's one scene occupying just a few lines in the Torah. It's the story of one person performing a single act. The Egyptian Pharaoh's daughter (we are not told her name in the Torah – but our sages tell us her name was Batya) spots Moshe's basket among the reeds while bathing in the Nile. She takes pity on him, assuming correctly that he is a Hebrew child. She then hires the infant's real mother to nurse the child and when he is old enough he goes to live with the Pharaoh's daughter, who gives him his name, Moshe.

Could Batya have imagined what she was accomplishing by fetching the basket of an infant? Could she have imagined that by rescuing the baby – she was transforming history forever? Could she have known she was raising the boy who would overthrow her father's empire and his brutal oppression? By displaying compassion for that abandoned child she changed the course of Jewish history and the history of humanity at large.

It's like these powerful words of Maimonides: “A person must see himself and the world as equally balanced on two ends of the scale; by doing one good deed, one tips the scale and brings for themselves and the entire world redemption and salvation.”

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**FROM THE EDITOR**



**MICHAEL REGENSTREIF**

**I**rwin Cotler has been nominated for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize.

A legendary professor of law at McGill University in Montreal, Cotler is a familiar figure in Ottawa from his 16-year stint from 1999 until 2015 as a Liberal MP and for his cabinet tenure as minister of justice and attorney general.

Cotler, who served as president of the Canadian Jewish Congress from 1980 to 1983, founded the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights after leaving Parliament and has been nominated for the Nobel for his life's work as one of the world's leading human rights activists – particularly as an international human rights lawyer acting on behalf of political prisoners.

Among the most notable “prisoners of conscience” that Cotler has fought

## Irwin Cotler nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

for is Nelson Mandela, one of the world's most inspirational figures, who went on to serve as South Africa's first post-apartheid president. Another is Natan Sharansky, a Jewish leader in the Soviet Union who went on to serve as a member of Israel's Knesset and cabinet minister – and who just recently retired after a long tenure as chair of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Sharansky is a vocal supporter of Cotler's nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. In a letter of support to the Nobel committee, Sharansky refers to Cotler's “tireless efforts on my behalf when I was a political prisoner in the former Soviet Union (1977-1986). By bringing my case, like that of many other such victims of injustice whose cases he championed, to the attention of the international community, Professor Cotler played a direct and central role in my release.”

Another supporter of Cotler's nomination is Saad Eddin Ibrahim, the Egyptian founder of the Arab Human Rights Organization, who was arrested for treason and jailed in 2000 by the Mubarak regime, and who credits Cotler's intervention in his case for helping to secure his acquittal in 2003.

Cotler has also been at forefront of the fight for justice for Jews who were expelled or forced to flee from Arab and Muslim countries in the years following the establishment of the State of Israel. In a 2007 interview, Cotler told me that Jewish refugees were expunged from the human rights agenda over the decades as well as from the agendas of any peace talks that have taken place.

He has also been a major figure in helping us understand what he refers to as a “new kind of anti-Semitism”: anti-Semitism that masquerades as anti-Zionism and targets “the collective Jew among the nations.”

Paul Martin, prime minister of Canada while Cotler was justice minister and attorney general, is another supporter of the Nobel nomination.

“I can personally attest to the fact that Professor Irwin Cotler is relentless in his campaign for human rights for all individuals. His efforts deserve to be encouraged and granting him the Nobel Peace Prize will have enormous benefit in the continuing fight for freedom and universal human rights,” wrote Martin in his letter to the Nobel Committee.

This was not the first time Cotler has been nominated for the Nobel Peace

Prize. Searching the web, I found references to previous nominations in 2008, 2010 and 2016 and surely the Nobel jury has a difficult time in making its choice each year – last year there were 331 candidates – but Irwin Cotler would be a most worthy recipient.

### MODERN MISHPOCHA

Modern Mishpocha, our parenting column, is normally written by alternating contributors Stephanie Shefrin and Emma Mallach. In this edition of the Bulletin, though, the column was written by Dr. Allan Shefrin, an emergency room pediatrician at CHEO (and Stephanie's husband), on the importance of vaccinations for our children. Allan wrote the column from both medical and Judaic perspectives.

Vaccinations have become an important issue in the Jewish community after recent outbreaks of measles in Israel and in haredi Orthodox communities in New York. If you know of any parents who have not had their children vaccinated, please share this important column with them. The column is available online at [www.ottawajewishbulletin.com/2019/01/vaccinate-our-kids/](http://www.ottawajewishbulletin.com/2019/01/vaccinate-our-kids/).

**IDEAS AND IMPRESSIONS**



**JASON MOSCOVITZ**

**W**hile it's never easy to predict how a new calendar year is going to affect everyday people in everyday life, here is a pretty safe prediction: Residents of Ontario are in for an economic shock of gigantic proportions in 2019, and if not, why not should be the question.

We've all heard about Ontario's massive and growing debt over the past 20 years, but it's as if Ontario's historically rich status made it immune from anything really bad happening. We still can't seem to focus on the new reality: Ontario is a thinly tattered thread away from being something bordering on economic basket case status.

The factual data is staggering. As the projected provincial debt for the

## Ontario debt: The alarm bells are ringing

year balloons towards \$350 billion, the acuteness of this burden is best measured by comparison. Ten years ago, the debt was \$170 billion, less than half of what it is today. Twenty years ago, Ontario's debt was \$114 billion.

Remember Buffalo Bob? The last time Ontario's debt was under \$100 billion was almost 30 years ago when the often-ridiculed Bob Rae and his New Democratic Party were in power. Spending more on services than Ontario can responsibly afford has no political stripe. The NDP, the Liberals and even, to a degree, the “Common Sense Revolution” Progressive Conservative party of Mike Harris spent money they didn't have to keep voters happy.

It is hard to imagine but Ontario's debt is now bigger than the combined debts of Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia. No mystery why, in April 2018, Ontario's international debt rating assessment fell from stable to negative. Time to wake up and smell the burned coffee.

Recently, there was a good time, the best time, to address these serious issues. Just eight months ago, there was an election but somehow the winning side, Doug Ford and his Progressive Conservatives, never seriously addressed the debt. Doing that would

have led to a discussion about government cuts and who wants to ruin the victory party with any semblance of reality.

The supposedly fiscally responsible Ford tiptoed around the hard truth: Ontario, the once proud province with lots of money, is running out of enough money to even dream of the day of turning the corner on the debt.

The alarm bells are ringing and they are going to get increasingly louder in 2019. There is a clear inevitability about spending cut shocks coming soon. We are already overtaxed. Cutting spending is the alternative.

In 2012, for the same dire reasons, alarm bells rang in Quebec. There was no way Quebec could remain viable without curtailing spending. Today Quebec is a good-news economic story with a surplus budget and significantly reduced debt load. But if you deal with Quebec's healthcare system, you'll know it cost a lot in other ways for the province to no longer be overly indebted with an economy stuck in the mud.

A massive reorganization of Quebec's healthcare system – a nice way of saying cutting healthcare spending – was not pretty. As Quebec hospitals got grimier with longer waiting lines, Quebecers didn't thank those who

cleaned up the finances. The Quebec Liberal government spending-cutters were resoundingly thrown out of office in 2018 – but their fiscal framework has not been changed by the new government.

No one in Quebec who needs medical care likes to hear this, but when you cut it all away (no pun intended) the bottom line is that Quebecers may now have a publicly funded healthcare system closer to what Quebec can actually afford. The Alice in Wonderland healthcare system is gone.

As 2019 begins, Alice is still alive and well in Ontario. It is so hard, even painful to contemplate, but logic tells us change is coming to Ontario too, and the old age baby boom demographics are awful.

Ontario can't afford the healthcare system it has and there is no new money, except more borrowed money, to cope with the onslaught of baby boomers who will be engaging the system more and more.

There is no good-case scenario. There will be no miracles. Ontario, once the Canadian land of milk and honey, is out of cash and healthcare costs a fortune. Facing reality is going to really hurt.

Alice in Wonderland is about to leave the building.

**Jeff Greenberg**  
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## Three congregations launch new program for bar/bat mitzvah-age students

BY RABBIS MENACHEM BLUM,  
HOWARD FINKELSTEIN AND  
IDAN SCHER

We are pleased to announce a unique bar/bat mitzvah program under the auspices of three Orthodox rabbis and their congregations. Rabbis Menachem Blum of Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad, Howard Finkelstein of Congregation Beit Tikvah and Idan Scher of Congregation Machzikei Hadas are presenting to the Ottawa Jewish community a multifaceted program which will

take place monthly at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC), as well in sponsoring congregations, in conjunction with NCSY, covering different aspects of Jewish life.

This program is designed to take pre- and post-bar/bat mitzvah students on a journey of discovery about their heritage, as they take the road to become the future leaders of the Jewish community in Ottawa and elsewhere.

Topics will include the following: what it means to be Jewish; the importance of bar/bat mitzvah; an interactive chesed project; Jewish life cycle; the meaning of prayer

with a mock Shabbat service; a parent-child learning opportunity; a trip to New York City.

The first session was scheduled to take place on Sunday, January 20, 1:30-3 pm at the SJCC. The program is open to all Grade 6-7 students regardless of religious affiliation.

The cost of the program is \$180. There is a discounted price of \$150 for those who are members of the congregations listed above, NCSY or the SJCC. For more information or registration, contact Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad at 613-843-7770 or Machzikei Hadas at 613-521-9700.

## OMJS offers option for bar and bat mitzvahs

BY AVIVA HOFFMAN SHAW  
OTTAWA MODERN JEWISH SCHOOL

Jewish families have a new option for children coming up to their bar or bat mitzvah. Ottawa Modern Jewish School (OMJS) has initiated a strategy to help provide students with meaningful personal experiences leading to a tailored celebration, potentially outside of the traditional synagogue setting.

The supplemental school reflects the diversity of the Jewish community, with families ranging from traditional to non-observant. It does not provide specific bar and bat mitzvah training as part of its regular curriculum – though Hebrew lessons and classes on identity, holidays and history undoubtedly help – and many families are not affiliated with a shul.

But they still want bar and bat mitzvahs for their children.

OMJS brought together some of these families last year. It provided curated resources, relevant connections, and a network of support to nurture their development of an approach right for them.

Harvey Brodtkin, whose daughter had her bat mitzvah, explains: “We took this route because we wanted something that the kids would help to shape, because we felt their input would make it feel more meaningful to them.”

Shaina Lipsey, an experienced Jewish educator whose own children had graduated from OMJS, worked with the families to augment Sunday school. They covered concepts ranging from tikkun olam to tzedakah to Zionism, and practiced some of the music in the

largely traditional service. They also made their own mezuzahs and tallits.

“It was very much a collaborative approach, with Shaina so generous with her time and talent,” said Wendy Appelbaum, whose daughter also had her bat mitzvah. “And we got to watch the kids bloom through the process, which was something we thoroughly enjoyed.”

*“We took this route because we wanted something that the kids would help to shape, because we felt their input would make it feel more meaningful to them.”*

On a Shabbat in June, the three OMJS families hosted a largely traditional service at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. Their children split the parsha, reading from the Torah, kindly loaned by a local congregation, and each gave their own D’var Torah.

“The service had to be based on inclusivity and egalitarianism, especially because most of the families are mixed marriages,” explained Shaina, who designed the English and Hebrew service to meet traditional parameters while accommodating guests with limited or no familiarity with Jewish customs.

In the end, everyone came away from the experience richer for it.

“Over the course of the year, my son worked very hard, and it was

great to see him apply himself,” said Rebecca Shephard. “I grew to better understand what elements of Judaism are important to me and to our family, and the connection that it gives us as a family.”

As for OMJS, the school acted as convener or facilitator to support families looking for personal, tailored experiences in an inclusive atmosphere.

“We’ve been around for 60 years, and have always enjoyed the range of experiences our families bring,” said Brenna Rivier, outgoing president of OMJS. “This service was a natural development for us, helping that diversity reflected in a meaningful rite of passage.”

Based on the outcome of this pilot project, OMJS has made the program a component of the services we offer families. Two of the school’s educators – Kami Francine and Danny Shalom – have taken on teaching duties this year. They are excited to help students prepare for their bar and bat mitzvahs by supplementing the regular OMJS curriculum.

“People connect to Judaism in their own ways,” said Kami, who has been with the school for 10 years. “So we focus on Jewish identity.”

Danny’s Hebrew and Judaics classes complement her sessions.

“I include components of prayer, to help with preparation,” he said.

The first celebration they are working toward is a bar mitzvah in early June.

Visit [www.omjs.ca](http://www.omjs.ca) or contact OMJS at [info@omjs.ca](mailto:info@omjs.ca) or 613-798-9818, ext. 234, for more information.



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Temple Israel Welcome Committee Chair Merle Haltrecht-Matte greets Sarah Guek, a refugee from South Sudan, and her son Kong, as they arrive at the airport in Ottawa, November 27.

# Temple Israel welcomes refugee family from South Sudan

BY LOUISE RACHLIS  
TEMPLE ISRAEL WELCOME COMMITTEE

“Wonderful news! Two brand new Canadians,” wrote Chris Arajs, a member of the Temple Israel Welcome Committee.

He was responding to an email to the committee from Merle Haltrecht-Matte, the committee chair, letting them know that Sarah Guek, 21, a refugee from South Sudan, and her three-year-old son Kong, had just arrived in Canada after a long journey.

The family was among over 650 refugees arriving in Canada by the end of 2018 from Syria, Iraq, Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, South Sudan and many other countries through BVOR (Blended Visa Office-Referred) Fund sponsorship, to be resettled in 49 communities across Canada. With the lead donations from the Shapiro Foundation and the Giustra Foundation, \$3,479,696 were made available to cover the costs of sponsorship.

With just four days' notice to the committee, mother and son arrived at the Ottawa Airport, November 27, to be met by Haltrecht-Matte and an Arabic-speaking interpreter. However, the interpreter was not needed as Sarah – whose native language is Nuer – speaks enough English to understand and be understood and will receive further language training in Ottawa.

The tiny young woman from South Sudan had been living for the past three years in Egypt.

Because the committee had no permanent apartment by arrival time, temporary arrangements were quickly made for them to stay with another young woman in Ottawa who spoke Arabic and also had a young son. Realizing an Arabic-speaking ‘host’ wasn't necessary, the committee soon moved them from that cramped accommodation to a larger place where they stayed with a friend of a committee member.

In the meantime, the committee continued to look for permanent housing. With the kind assistance of a Temple Israel congregant, they rented an immaculately-maintained one-bedroom apartment in the Alta Vista Towers. Sarah and Kong moved there on December 17.

Members of Haltrecht-Matte's core committee are Becky and Chris Arajs, Steve Mendelsohn, Jane Reisman, Louise Rachlis, Dana Cohen, Pierre Coulombe, Ann Heathcote, Gary and Lynn Dubinsky, and Susan Gold. Margot Montgomery is liaison with the Temple Israel board.

Committee members' varied duties have involved straightening out banking, teaching Sarah how to budget within her income, getting a SIN card, acquiring OHIP, and other paperwork right down to a library card, medical and dental appointments, and English-language evaluation.

There have been many generous donations from others who have provided furniture, clothing, toys, and personal and cleaning products. The Jewish Ladies Book Club donated their year's proceeds for use by Sarah.

“I'm extremely impressed by how Temple Israel congregants came forward with everything from clothes to furnishings, as well as doing heavy lifting,” said Haltrecht-Matte.

“Sarah is already happily settled in her new apartment, and has done an excellent job of placing the items people donated. She is very grateful for everything, and anxious to go to school, improve her English and make a life in Ottawa for herself and her little boy.”

“Ottawa is nice but it's cold!” said Sarah. “I am looking forward to school and learning.”

Visit [www.refugee613.ca](http://www.refugee613.ca) for information on getting involved in helping refugees.

# Germany to compensate Kindertransport survivors

BY TOBY AXELROD

BERLIN (JTA) – Germany has agreed to compensate those who fled Nazi Germany as children on the so-called Kindertransport with a one-time payment of approximately \$2,800 US each.

The new agreement, negotiated by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany with the German government, comes 80 years after the first rescue transports of children from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland to England.

The British government had agreed to take a contingent of children up to age 17 after Kristallnacht, the anti-Jewish pogrom of November 9, 1938, made it clear that Jews in those countries were not safe.

More than 10,000 Jewish children and youths were rescued. Many saw their parents for the last time as they said goodbye at train stations in the German Reich.

According to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the last transport from Germany left on September 1, 1939, the day the Second World War began. The last transport from the Netherlands left for Britain on May 14, 1940, the day that the Dutch army surrendered to Germany.

It is thought that about 1,000 of those who boarded those trains are alive today. They would now be in their 80s and 90s.

“Our team has never given up hope that the moment would come when we could make this historic announcement,” Julius Berman, president of the New York-based Claims Conference, said in a statement.

The Kindertransport Fund opened on January 1 and began processing eligible applications. An application form can be found in multiple languages on the Claims Conference website at [www.claimscon.org](http://www.claimscon.org).

The new funds also are available to those who already received small payments in the 1950s. Eligibility criteria were determined by the German government.

These children had “to endure a life forever severed from their parents and families,” Stuart Eizenstat, who led negotiations for the Claims Conference, said in a statement. “They will now get a small measure of justice.”



**MS St. Louis proclamation** – Rabbi Menachem Blum shares a smile with survivors of the *MS St. Louis* (from left) Sonja Geismar, Judith Steel, Sol Messinger and Eva Weiner as they sign a proclamation of remembrance at Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad on November 8 – the day after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau rose in the House of Commons to apologize for Canada’s refusal to admit Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Germany on the *MS St. Louis* in 1939. The proclamation was presented to the City of Ottawa Archives.

## Israeli election: Can anyone beat Benjamin Netanyahu?

BY BEN SALES

(JTA) – Israeli police want him to be indicted in three separate corruption cases.

He’s embattled from left and right for his attacks on Gaza and his policy in the West Bank. He’s made a point of cozying up to controversial right-wing nationalist leaders, from Brazil’s Jair Bolsonaro to Hungary’s Viktor Orban – and especially to U.S. President Donald Trump. Many American Jewish leaders say his policies are driving away Diaspora Jews.

And if the upcoming Israeli election had been held in early January, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would almost definitely have won for the fourth time in a row. Probably in a landslide.

Why? In a sentence, it’s because enough Israelis trust him with their security. To his voters, everything else is commentary.

“They think that if he may have received bribes or played with Israel’s telecom market to have personal gain, this has nothing to do with the way he confronts Iran or the way he handles things in Syria,” said Israeli political journalist Tal Schneider, referring to some of the corruption allegations against Netanyahu.

“I think in Israel, you win elections on security issues only,” she said. “It’s very easy to speak to people’s fears because in Israel, fears are real. It’s in people’s lives on a daily basis.”

Polls three months ahead of the April 9 election had Netanyahu’s Likud party holding a wide lead over a growing group of competitors in the opposition. Likud would have won around 30 seats in Israel’s 120-seat Knesset and would have put Netanyahu in the best position to form a ruling coalition. His closest opponents would have won about half that number of seats.

### IT’S THE SECURITY, STUPID

Netanyahu’s international critics – the United Nations, the European Union, the former Obama administration, liberal American Jewish groups, leading liberal newspapers – have portrayed him as too aggressive in Gaza, too cavalier with the lives of Palestinian civilians and unwilling to make peace with the Palestinian Authority. That’s not to mention the protests over his policies on African asylum seekers, religious pluralism in Israel or the status of Arab Israelis.

But in Israel, polls show that most Jews think Netanyahu is not aggressive enough in Gaza. In November, his defence minister resigned, complaining that Netanyahu was too risk-averse in deploying the military. When it comes to the army, his centrist rivals have only tried to talk tougher than the prime minister.

In 2014, following a war in Gaza that saw Israel pilloried in international forums, a left-leaning group of former generals praised Netanyahu for his “level-headed leadership.” Jewish Israelis tend to see their fighting in Gaza as a necessary response, not a war of choice.

On the diplomatic front, both Israelis and Palestinians have despaired of any hope for a peace accord anytime soon. The other topics – from minority rights to religious policy – generally don’t even register as election issues in Israel.

“Security is pretty much always the number-one issue for Israeli voters, and it comes before the diplomatic front when Israelis rank their priorities in polls,” Lahav Harkov, a senior contributing editor for The Jerusalem Post, wrote to JTA. “He keeps the focus on security and his credentials as an expert on that front, as much as possible.”

It’s true that two former Israeli generals, both  
**See Netanyahu on page 12**

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# Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation Awards, Grant and Scholarships 2019

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## Ilana and Steven Rubin Scholarship Award

Valued at \$1,800, the Ilana and Steven Rubin Scholarship aims to help students who are planning to attend a Canadian or Israeli post-secondary institution in a program of at least 2 years. This award is intended for high school students graduating in 2019 with a B average or higher, with demonstrated financial need, who are seeking their first academic award. Deadline Apr 12, 2019

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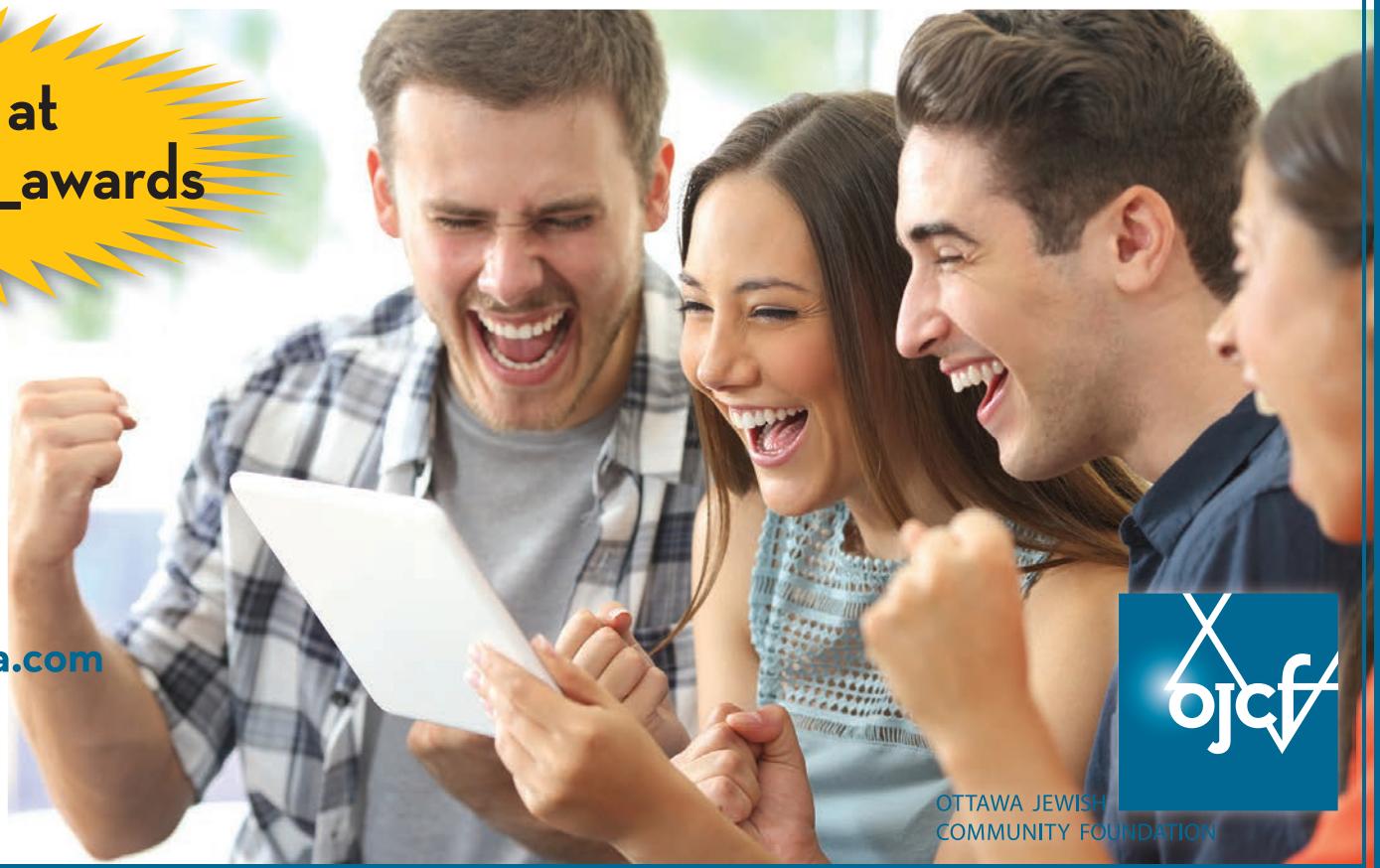
The Norman Lesh Philanthropy Award, which honours the legacy of Norman Lesh, a philanthropist and forward-thinking community leader, will grant \$3,500 to help creative-minded people and organizations make a difference. Deadline Apr 12, 2019

Awards are subject to the discretion of the Awards Committee and will be mentioned or presented at the Annual General Meeting in June 2019.

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# Netanyahu vows to remain as PM, even if indicted on corruption charges

Continued from page 10

chiefs of staff, have founded new parties this year specifically aiming to oppose Netanyahu. But so far, neither is attacking Netanyahu directly on security issues. Moshe Ya'alon, one of Netanyahu's former defence ministers, said his party would represent "the good, values-based, clean-handed land of Israel." Benny Gantz, a former general, has only begun to open up about his platform. In a television interview Thursday, he said he would leave several West Bank settlement blocs in place but that an agreement with the Palestinians would bolster Israel's security.

"We need established, ongoing efforts, in light of any challenge, to reach a diplomatic accord, with the understanding that this is part of our resilience, this is part of our security," Gantz told Israel's Channel 16. "There needs to be a real diplomatic effort, without being suckers and without being irresponsible."

## A FRAGMENTED OPPOSITION

A chorus of other candidates has also failed to match him at the polls. Yair Lapid, a one-time news anchor and finance minister who leads the centrist Yesh Atid party, has a strong base but hasn't been able to broaden his appeal. The once-robust Labor Party, headed by former telecom executive Avi Gabbay, is mired in the single digits.

If anything, the multiplicity of new parties may only help Netanyahu by fragmenting his opponents. The past few elections have seen several new parties spring up, all competing for the same bloc of voters. Meanwhile, the right has remained relatively united around Netanyahu's leadership.

Netanyahu's opponents say the only way to beat him is by joining together.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seen at a menorah lighting at the start of Chanukah in Ramat Gan, Dec. 2, 2018.

LIOR MIZRAHI/GETTY IMAGES

Ehud Barak, Israel's most recent left-wing prime minister, said Netanyahu would be defeated only "if, in the centre-left camp, a bloc comes together." He called for Ya'alon, Gantz and several other opposition parties to unite. But only the opposite has happened: A centre-left alliance, the Zionist Union, split in dramatic fashion this week.

"The centre-right is competing to lead the state, while the centre-left is competing in an internal primary to see who has the most power within its camp," Ovad Yehezkel, a former centrist Israeli government official, wrote on the Israeli news site Ynet. "In that sense, the fragmen-

tation of parties helps the centre-right win elections. And paradoxically, the centre-left rolls out the red carpet to the Prime Minister's office for its rivals."

## CORRUPTION FATIGUE

Netanyahu's main problems of late have been the potential indictments against him and a growing aura of corruption. Former prime minister Ehud Olmert (he ended up going to prison) resigned even before police recommended that he be indicted. But that has already happened for Netanyahu and he shows no signs of backing down. He has vowed to remain prime minister even if he is formally charged with a crime.

Will that cost him the election? Probably not, Harkov said. Netanyahu frequently demonizes the Israeli press (and, like Trump, often claims that negative articles are "fake news"). At

this point, Harkov said, Israelis are just tired of the back-and-forth. Netanyahu's opponents, as well as government watchdogs, have called his decisions dangerous to Israel's democracy. But if Israelis are feeling squeamish, it isn't showing in the polls.

"There's so much news about Netanyahu's investigations that they don't take it seriously anymore," Harkov wrote. "Yes, there are corrupt politicians who go to prison, but enough people seem to be willing to shrug the latest things off as just champagne and cigars or point to the incessant leaks to the media as a sign of bias by both the press and the police."

Netanyahu's last election campaign, in 2015, also was plagued with scandal – though he was not indicted. Leading up to Election Day, it appeared he could lose. But he pulled off a come-

back victory, emerging in a stronger position than before. And the longer he stays in power, Schneider said, the more inevitable his victories seem. In Israel, there are no term limits.

"The people of Israel don't see anyone else in Israel who can do it," she said. "With the time passing, he's getting stronger and stronger because when you sit in that chair, you're the incumbent. You can use all the facilities to keep promoting yourself."

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# CHANUKAH 5779 IN OTTAWA



**SJCC** – Children participating in after-school programs at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre light Chanukah candles on the second night, December 3, after SJCC President and COO Barry Sohn led a brief discussion on the significance of the holiday. Children gathered in the SJCC lobby daily during Chanukah to light candles and sing Chanukah songs.



**Rideau Hall** – A Ripple Effect, an organization based at Chabad of Centrepoinette that brings teenage volunteers together with children from families affected by illness, held a Chanukah candle lighting event at Rideau Hall, December 6. Pictured (rear, from left): Bassy Mendelsohn, volunteers Laura Klibanov and Shternie Botnik, Governor General Julie Payette, parents Ruchama and David Uzan, Rabbi Chaim Mendelsohn (front) The Uzan children – Adina, Na’ama, Freddy and Nadav.



**Embassy of Israel** – (From left) Conservative MP David Sweet, former justice minister Irwin Cotler, Ambassador Nimrod Barkan, Liberal MP Michael Levitt, and NDP MP Murray Rankin at the Embassy of Israel’s Chanukah event on December 3, the second night of Chanukah.



**OTC** – The Chanukah adult party at Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad on December 2, the first night, included a performance by South African illusionist Ilan Smith.



**Sens Game** – People gathered between periods during the Ottawa Senators-Boston Bruins NHL game to light the giant menorah and enjoy Chanukah refreshments. The event, on December 9, the final night of Chanukah, was organized by Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and the Ottawa Senators.



**Merivale High School** – Mayor Jim Watson joined the festivities as the Merivale High School Jewish Culture Club held its annual Latkapalooza, December 6. (From left) Mayor Watson, David Gencher, Merivale Jewish Culture Club Staff Adviser Irv Osterer, Club President Alexandre Kuttner and Maria Oglobina.



**JET** – JET helped prepare for the holiday with a Chanukah cookie decorating event for women, November 28, at the Glebe Shul.



**Glebe Shul** – (From left) Brahm Solomon, Hart Goldhar, Susie Goldhar, Zev Simmons and David Lifshitz enjoy the Glebe Shul Chanukah party on December 3, the second night of Chanukah.



**St. James Church/Chabad Hebrew School** – The youth group at St. James Church in Manotick dedicated its Christmas fundraiser to the families of the mass shooting victims at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. The group attended the Chabad Hebrew School Chanukah party at Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad, December 9, and presented a “gingerbread synagogue” they baked and decorated to the Hebrew School students.



**Mitzvah Day 2019**

**February 3, 2019**  
Chairs: Jonathan and Naomi Mitchell



Violinist Alicia Svigals and pianist Marilyn Lerner perform Svigals' new score for the silent film, "The Yellow Ticket," during a screening of the film.

## 'The Yellow Ticket' to be screened with live performance of new score at Temple Israel

BY ALLAN SILBURT  
FOR TEMPLE ISRAEL

In what promises to be an exceptional event, the classic silent film "The Yellow Ticket" will be screened to a live performance of a new original music score by klezmer violinist Alicia Svigals – who will perform the score with pianist Marilyn Lerner.

The film, produced in 1918 by Templehof Studios, was originally released as "Der Gelbe Schein (The Devil's Pawn)." It stars a young Pola Negri as she was climbing her way from the stages of Warsaw to Hollywood and international stardom. It tells the story of a Lea, a young Jewish woman who aspires to study medicine at the academy in St. Petersburg. The film sensitively portrays the anti-Semitism prevalent in Russia, which forces Lea to take on a "yellow ticket" – the only document that would allow her, as a Jew and a woman, to reside in St. Petersburg. The "yellow ticket" designated the bearer as a prostitute.

The subject matter of the film is remarkably progressive for the time period, serving as a reminder of how dramatically prevalent attitudes, such as racial prejudice, can shift with political regimes. The production was shot entirely in Warsaw near the end of the First World War including the Jewish

neighbourhood of Nalewki – the Warsaw Ghetto - that would later be destroyed along with its inhabitants, some of whom are captured in street scenes in the film.

Hitler would later order all copies of the film to be destroyed but one survived in Holland and was recently restored by Kevin Brownlow. This is the version of the film that will be shown with remade English intertitles.

Alicia Svigals, an accomplished klezmer violinist based in New York and co-founder of the Klezmatics, was commissioned in 2013 to write a new musical score for the film by the Foundation for Jewish Culture.

The Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES) has joined with Temple Israel to sponsor the event.

"European anti-Semitism began much earlier than the rise of Nazism in Germany, and it is therefore essential to understand as much as possible the reality of those times leading up to the Holocaust," said CHES director Mina Cohn.

The screening/performance takes place on Sunday, February 10, 2 pm, at Temple Israel. Tickets are \$20 (general admission) and \$10 (students) and may be purchased in advance (recommended) at <http://templeisraelottawa.ca/concerts/theyellowticket/> or by calling Temple Israel at 613-224-1802, ext. 5.

### New activities:

- Caring for animals and the environment with Little Ray Nature Centres
- Upcycling: create your own t-shirt totes
- What's inside the Mezuzah (the Sh'ma & Hebrew calligraphy)
- Fleece tie-blankets for CHEO
- Living Online with Jewish Values interactive session
- Shabbat story & craft
- Cultural scavenger hunt
- Making hamantaschen with Tamir

**Many more activities for all ages • Free breakfast 9 - 11:45 am at the Soloway JCC**

### Returning favourites:

- Birthday party kits for families in shelters
- Sing-a-long at Hillel Lodge
- Soup kits for the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank
- And more

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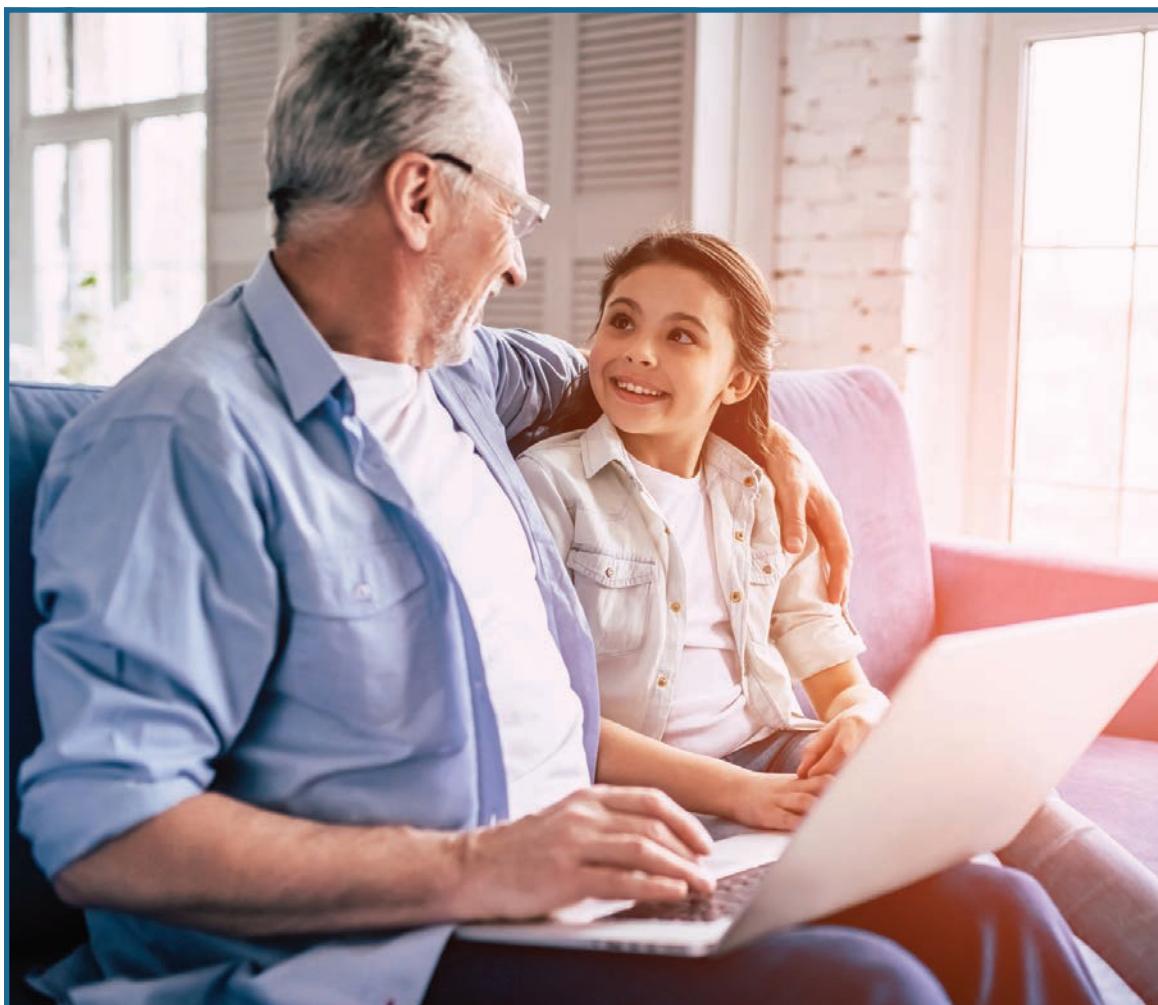
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# On the trail of Israel's water solutions

BY SOL SHMELZER

**M**y son David and I participated in H2O Tour 2018: A Tour on the Trail of Israel's Water Solutions, a JNF-US-sponsored nine-day tour of Israel from December 10 to 17. Nineteen participants travelled from northern Galilee to southern Negev, gaining a comprehensive understanding of water and hydro resources of the country, trans-boundary issues, and the vision and dynamic of an ever-pioneering people of Israel to address their needs.

Our trip began in the northeast finger of the country bordering Lebanon and Syria, near the Syrian head-waters of Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) where we were introduced to the concerns that exist in a drought-stricken Middle East. We made stops in the Golan and southern part of Kinneret, continuing through the Gush Dan Region (Tel Aviv metropolitan area) and south to the Halutza Sands at the Gaza-Egypt border. From Jerusalem, we followed the Dead Sea route to the south end of the Central Arava, some 150 km from Eilat. Finally, at Sde Boker, we paid homage to the vision of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's founding prime minister.

In the north we visited the Sapir Pumping Station on the northeast shore of Kinneret which raises the water some 250 metres into the beginning of the National Water Carrier, which ultimately supplies filtered water into the deepest reaches of the Negev; a rainwater harvesting school system in Kfar Blum; the Shamir Drillings, a major example of the drillings into aquifers which significantly replenish shrinking freshwater resources; and an orchard utilizing Phyteck's innovative plant sensors which monitor plant growth and use a micro-spray watering technique. We also paid a dusk visit to HaHula, where 120,000 common cranes pass on their migratory route, of which 50,000 winter in that protective environment.

In the Gush Dan Region we toured

WaterGen, a global leader in water-from-air solutions; the Shafdan Wastewater Treatment Plant; and the Sorek Desalination Plant.

In semi-arid Jerusalem we spent time in HaGishon, where we learned how water was supplied from the National Water Carrier and desalination from the coastal plain, and the modern methodology involved in maintaining proper water and sewage in a growing region of over 800,000 people.

Leaving Jerusalem, we stopped at the potash and magnesium plant at the south basin of the Dead Sea and learned about transboundary water management involving Israel, Jordan and the West Bank.

South of Beersheba, we visited Netafim, the pioneer of drip and micro-irrigation, and then Halutza, of which I elaborate below.

In the Central Arava Region, we stopped at the Hatzeva reservoir, which dilutes brackish water and irrigates local fields, visited the Yair Agricultural R&D Centre in Hatzeva, met with students in a classroom of the Arava International Center for Agricultural Training, which educates and trains students from around the world through three different agricultural programs combining theoretical training with "Learning by Doing." We finished our tour in the Bedouin town of Hura to see Project Wadi Attir, a progressive model for sustainable community-based agriculture, particularly suited to the pastoral strengths of Bedouin peoples of the Arava. A bonus visit was made to the SodaStream factory, recently acquired by PepsiCo, which employs 1,400 workers in the Idan HaNegev Industrial Park near Beersheba, many of whom are Negev Bedouins, making home soda water machines.

I have two special stories, among many, to tell.

From a group of Himalayan and Kenyan students in the "Learning by Doing" program, we heard they would



At an orchard in the Upper Galilee, Omer Guy, chief scientist and head agronomist at Phytek, explains how innovative sensors monitor a plant or tree's growth and optimize irrigation practices.



Participants in the Tour on the Trail of Israel's Water Solutions plant trees in the Beersheba River Park.

not only take the knowledge they gained back to their countries, but they would also go home with earned money sufficient to seed funding for their own ventures. Some 20,000 students have passed through this school over the past 10 years.

B'nai Netzarim is one of the small communities that comprise Halutza, located in the dry, rocky landscape of southwestern Negev Desert in the tight triangle between Egypt and Gaza. Parashas Toledot (Genesis 26:17) mentions Gerar, the biblical valley in which Halutza is currently believed to be located: "And Isaac dug anew the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham." In 2005, some 30 families

of the 8,000 Jewish settlers required to leave their Gaza communities when Israel disengaged from the Gaza Strip, moved into this region. In the succeeding 13 years, they turned a dead empty desert landscape to one dotted with new communities, expansive solar fields, and large farm areas that bloom green during winter and spring. Yedidya Harush showed us how the B'nei Netzarim and neighbouring communities are flourishing with the establishment of organic vegetable farms, greenhouses, new housing sites, and various public facilities such as a state-of-the-art medical centre.

I believe we came away with a sense that despite the difficulties Israelis face harnessing the landscape and dealing with the politic of the region, we were repeatedly met with their strength of purpose and depth of vision, accompanied by a high degree of innovation and risk-taking – all directed to developing the resources of the land and to living peaceful and purposeful lives. We also experienced their willingness to extend knowledge and experience to people living in arid regions of the world. We viewed many examples of how funds raised in Canada, the U.S. and internationally by the Jewish National Fund plays a primary role in initiating and developing these projects.

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# Captivating anthology of Israeli science fiction

MURRAY CITRON  
**BOOK REVIEW**

**Zion's Fiction: A Treasury of Israeli Speculative Literature**

Edited by Sheldon Teitelbaum and Emanuel Lottem

Illustrated by Avi Katz

Mandel Vilar Press

311 pages

No, this is not a book about Israeli fiction. The title is a pun: Zion's Fiction – science fiction. Get it?

Actually, the pun itself is a bit misleading, and is cleared up by the subtitle. Science fiction is fiction that deals with people's responses to changes in science and technology. Speculative literature has a wider range, and may include also stories about utopias, or perfect societies, like Edward Bellamy's *Looking Backward*, dystopias like George Orwell's 1984, or pure fantasies and stories of the supernatural.

This is a collection of 16 very good stories by different Israeli authors translated into English. There is also a scholarly introduction by the editors which begins with the proposition that the State of Israel is "the only country on the planet inspired by not one, but two seminal works of wonder: the Hebrew Bible and Zionist ideologue Theodor Herzl's ... utopian novel *Altneuland* (Old New Land)." The intro-

duction goes on to give the history of science fiction and fantasy in Israel from the early days, when intellectual leaders, the "gatekeepers," looked on it as *shund* (trash), up until today, when it has become respectable.

I grew up on American magazines including *Astounding Science Fiction* (oddly, later changed to *Analog*), *Amazing Stories*, *Weird Tales*, *Super Science Stories*, *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*. I got used to space travel, time travel, robotics, alien life forms, inventions and disasters, some very good writing and some not so good. In this collection there is a story, "Hunter of Stars," with the best opening line I can remember: "The night all the stars winked out, I was born."

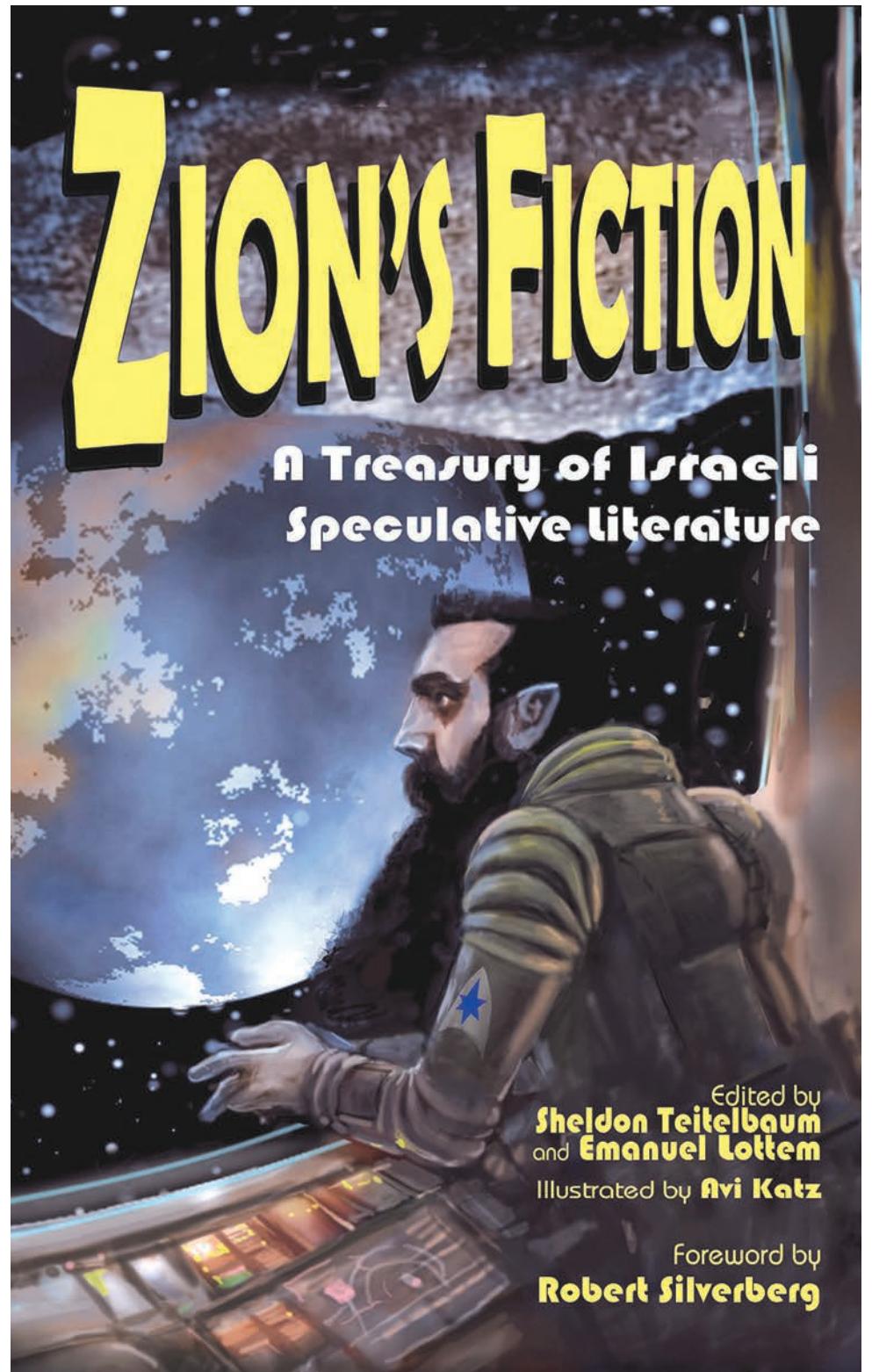
Here is space travel, as an Israeli writer sees it: "On his neck the aug breathed softly. He had picked it up in Tong Yung City, on Mars, in a back street off Arafat Avenue, in a no-name clinic run by a third-generation Martian Chinese, who installed it for him."

"The Slows" is a story that first appeared in *The New Yorker*: "But then the woman turned back to me: she was holding a human larva strapped into a carrier, which she laid on the table."

Then there are "The Stern-Gerlach Mice," the result of too much beta-radiation by a biophysicist in pursuit of The Truth: "They turned out to be the uncontested champions in running through mazes in search of bits of cheese." But these mice also have the ability to become as big as donkeys and ransack houses in Jerusalem.

The same story has a robotics problem that is peculiarly Israeli: "The tin beggars learned to watch their steps on the holy day, since the time some metallic unfortunate started cleaning a street in Me'a She'arim as a gesture of good will. It was Shabbat, and the worshippers emerged from their synagogue to tear it to pieces, leaving behind only tiny bits of metal."

In *Altneuland*, published in 1902 a commonwealth comes into existence in the Middle East based on mass Jewish immigration from Europe and America,



Edited by  
**Sheldon Teitelbaum**  
and **Emanuel Lottem**  
Illustrated by **Avi Katz**

Foreword by  
**Robert Silverberg**

funded by wealthy Jews and productive enterprise by the new arrivals, and welcomed by the resident Arabs and the Ottoman Empire. The editors are stretching things when they give the novel the status that belongs to Herzl's *Der Judenstaat* and his organizational work, but the picture on the cover of this book is the same picture of Herzl as the one used in the 1960 English translation of *Altneuland*.

The artwork, by Avi Katz, is an attrac-

tion of this book, not only the cover but the block prints that introduce the stories. Another merit is the appendix of capsule biographies of the authors and other contributors.

The first line of a story is quoted above. The story is strong enough that it won't be spoiled by quoting the last line: "I whispered into the black sky: 'Orion, my shining friend, I will always follow you. Like you, I will be a hunter of stars.'"

**Allan Taylor**

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# Story of Egyptian Jewry told at event marking exodus of Jews from Arab and Muslim lands

BY VIVIANE OHANA  
FOR SEPHARDI ASSOCIATION OF OTTAWA

**O**n November 29, the Sephardi Association of Ottawa marked the day commemorating Jewish refugees from Arab and Muslim lands with an event at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. This annual day was established by the Israeli government in 2014.

This year the Sephardi Association concentrated on the “second exodus” of Egyptian Jews in the mid- 20th century during the rise of nationalism under Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser.

In his D’var Torah, Rabbi Howard Finkelstein noted the commemoration happened to coincide with the reading of the story of Joseph and his brothers in the parsha of the week, events which eventually led to the first exodus in biblical times.

The program for the event included a lecture and film.

The keynote speaker was Ron Levi, director of global strategy at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy of the University of Toronto. Trained in law and sociology, and a child of Egyptian Jewish parents, he gave a comprehensive portrait of the Jews of Egypt in the 19th and 20th centuries from legal, socio-economic, and geo-political points of view.

Levi explained that the Jewish population in Egypt grew from about 5,000 in the 19th century to as many



Keynote speaker Ron Levi discusses the history of Egyptian Jewry, November 29, at the SJCC.

as 80,000 in the mid-20th century as Egypt became a trade hub after the construction of the Suez Canal.

The 1930s saw the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood which organized a boycott of Jewish business and published anti-Semitic propaganda, inspired and sponsored by money from Nazi Germany.

Egypt was one of the Arab countries that fought the

new State of Israel in its 1948 War of Independence which led to the first wave of mass immigration to Israel began.

In 1952, Nasser led the military coup that overthrew Egyptian King Farouk. By 1954, harsh regulations were enacted against Jews, who were viewed as Zionist spies. Their civil liberties were abolished. There were mass arrests. Jewish businesses, bank accounts and assets were seized. Jobs were lost. Jews were not allowed to teach or attend universities, and there was revocation of Egyptian citizenship.

In 1956, after the Suez crisis, Egypt began to expel its Jewish population. They were given only a short time to get out, allowed only personal effects, and a stamp of no return was put on their passports.

The second part of the evening was the presentation of the documentary, “Starting Over Again” by Ruggerio Gabbai and Elliot Malki. The film featured the testimonies of 20 individuals who went through sanctions and evictions from Egypt in the 1950s. The film gave faces to many individuals and places spoken of by Levi in his lecture.

Jewish refugees from Arab and Muslim lands are a forgotten part of the history of the 20th century. As both Isabelle Benhamou, president of the Sephardi Association of Ottawa, and Rabbi Finkelstein said in their remarks, it is our duty to educate the next generation.

## Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge

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### Get To Know Us



**Esther Pulvermacher**

Esther was born in Pabianice, Poland in 1922 to Beryl and Tzipora Kolska. After surviving the Holocaust, Esther found herself in the DP (displaced persons) camp Bergen-Belsen (formerly a concentration camp) in Germany. It was there that she met her brother’s friend from Lodz, Majer Pulvermacher. They were married and were blessed with their first child – Gerald.

From 1947-1951 most of the Displaced Persons in Bergen-Belsen emigrated to British mandated Palestine (Israel after 1948), the United States and to Canada. Esther, with her husband Majer and their

newborn son were on their way to Canada. Several months after arriving in Halifax in September of 1948, they were sent by train to Winnipeg. While in transit someone on the train told them they would be better off in Montreal.

Montreal had a growing and vibrant Jewish population and was the center for Canada’s social and fashion circles. Majer was a tailor and Esther...well, Esther loved (and stills loves) fashion. You’ll never see Esther not dressed and ready to join a social gathering, a party, maybe even a good game of poker.

Family legend is that Esther came home one day and informed her husband that they just bought a Betty Brite Dry Cleaner business in Cote Ste. Luc. Majer became the tailor and Esther ran the business. Both Esther and Majer were extremely industrious people, never complaining or looking for support. In addition to the Betty Brite franchise which they both owned and worked at, Majer was also a well-established suit maker in Montreal who provided made-to-measure suits for several well-known people, including members of the Montreal Canadiens and

other NHL teams. On several occasions it was Gerry’s job to deliver the suits to the hotels where the visiting teams’ players were staying. Gerry remembers meeting many players including Chicago’s Elmer “the Moose” Vasko and Pierre Pilote who sent him home with tickets for the evening’s game vs the Habs.

Esther was ahead of her time in many ways. She not only became a business woman before it was fashionable, she was also one of the people who joined the fitness movement in its early days. When Esther was entering her 60’s, she and Majer moved to Los Angeles to be close to their daughter Corinne and her growing family. Esther joined health clubs in LA and made it a regular part of her and Majer’s lifestyle to walk, exercise and stay healthy. Hillel Lodge staff tells me that Esther inspires them by exercising every single day.

In November of 2008, Majer passed away, and shortly afterwards Esther moved back to Canada.

Now as a resident of Hillel Lodge, Esther is in her 97th year and can always be found where the action is. When students visit from the local Jewish schools – Bubby Esther is always there with a smile and a kibbitz. When the Lodge brings in a musician or band to perform for the residents – Esther is in attendance – smiling and dancing.

Esther is extremely proud of her son Gerry (Mary-Belle), daughter Corrine (Lenny) her five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

I remember interviewing Dr. Truda Rosenberg (Hillel Lodge resident) who was also born in Poland in 1922. Truda didn’t describe people like herself and Esther as Holocaust survivors – but rather Holocaust victors. I think Esther’s family and friends would agree.

By Mitch Miller, Executive Director, Hillel Lodge LTC Foundation





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The Staff of Hillel Lodge With sincere appreciation by Stella Beck and Children

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Malka Feig by Murray Citron  
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**Sid and Barbara Cohen Family Fund**

**In Honour of:**  
Barbara Cohen With many thanks by Natalie and Raymond Stern

**Abe and Bea Dubinsky Endowment Fund**

**In Honour of:**  
Pauline Hochberg wishing you a happy and healthy special Birthday by Bea Dubinsky

**Nell Gluck Memorial Fund**

**In Honour of:**  
Stella Weir Congratulations on your upcoming milestone Birthday by Julia Gluck and Ted Overton  
Gidi Aviram Mazel Tov on your internship at Summit by Julia Gluck and Ted Overton and Jess and Ayelet  
Mr. and Mrs. Will Overton Mazel Tov on your 50th Anniversary by Julia Gluck and Ted Overton and Jess and Ayelet  
Danny and Rhonda Levine Mazel Tov on Sam's engagement to Carly by Henry and Maureen Molot  
Aviva Freedman Mazel Tov on receiving the Founders Award from Carleton by Henry

and Maureen Molot  
Henry and Maureen Molot Mazel Tov on your Aliyah by Cheryl Leyton and Manuel Glimcher, Julia and Ted and Jess and Ayelet and Robin Mader

Jerry Shuman Mazel Tov on your milestone Birthday by Julia Gluck and Ted Overton and Jess and Ayelet

Toby Yan Mazel Tov on your milestone Birthday by Julia Gluck and Ted Overton  
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Lesley Goodman by Julia Gluck and Ted Overton  
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Malka Feig by Cheryl Leyton and Manuel Glimcher

**Sam and Dora Litwack Family Fund**

**In Memory of:**  
Malka Feig by Judy Litwack-Goldman and family and Dora Litwack

**In Honour of:**  
Sam and Sandra Zunder wishing you both a very happy Birthday by Dora, Marilyn and Judy Litwack  
Eden Mizrahi Mazel Tov on your Bat Mitzvah by Dora, Marilyn and Judy Litwack

**Farrand and Joyce Miller Family Fund**

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Morton Pleet Mazel Tov and best wishes on your 90th Birthday by Joyce Miller

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**In Memory of:**  
Norman Feder by Mitch, Lisa, Dalia and Haley Miller

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Joy and Seymour Mender Mazel Tov on the birth of your twin grandchildren by Stephen and Debra Schneiderman

Continued on page 23

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**R'Fuah Shlema:**

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**In Honour of:**

Sandy Fishbain Mazel Tov on the birth of your granddaughter by Roz Taller

**Louis and Diane Tannenbaum Family**

**In Memory of:**

Avrum Cohen by Louis and Diane Tannenbaum

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**In Memory of:**

Malka Feig by Risa, Brent and Shira Taylor  
Betty Dover by Risa, Brent and Shira Taylor

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**In Memory of:**

Mary Godfrey by Lynn and Brian Keller

**Sylvia and Ben Wiesenfeld Fund**

**In Honour of:**

Ellen Wiesenfeld and Samphe Lhalungpa  
Happy Chanukah by Terry and Andrew (Gandell)

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Nicola Lyon by Carol and Laurie Pascoe

**In Honour of:**

Anna and Sam Wex Mazel Tov on your Anniversary by Ingrid Levitz

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Leona and Gordon Kane Wishing you a Merry Christmas and happy New Year by Ghita Wolff  
Edda, Barbara and Brenda Bothe Wishing you a Merry Christmas and happy New Year by Ghita Wolff

**Joel and Toby Yan Family Fund**

**In Memory of:**

Malka Feig by Toby and Joel Yan

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**In Honour of:**

Corinne and Herb Zagerman Mazel Tov on a very special Anniversary by Carole Zagerman and Andrea

**R'Fuah Shlema:**

Ricki Baker by Carole Zagerman  
Barbara Levinson by Carole Zagerman

\*\*\*\*\*

**Therapeutic Program**

**In Honour of:**

Rosalie and Harold Schwartz Wishing you both a Happy Chanukah by Carol and Laurie Pascoe

Joanna and Ira Abrams Mazel Tov on the birth of your new granddaughter by Carol and Laurie Pascoe

**In Memory of:**

Malka Feig by Margo and Judah Silverman  
Max Cohen by Zelda and Steve Shore and family

\*\*\*\*\*

**Feeding Program**

**In Honour of:**

Louis and Lysette Kohn Mazel Tov on the birth of your granddaughter by Marilyn and David Akman and Susan and Charles Schwartzman

Ed and Leslie Pomer Mazel Tov on your granddaughter, Emily's Bat Mitzvah by Susan and Charles Schwartzman

Sonia Shaffer Happy special Birthday by Susan and Charles Schwartzman

Steven Fremeth Mazel Tov and happy big Birthday by Donna and Eric Levin

Joy and Seymour Mender Mazel Tov on the birth of your twin grandchildren by Marilyn and David Akman and family, Lysette and Louis Kohn and Susan and Charles Schwartzman

Sam Goldmaker Mazel Tov and best wishes on your Birthday by Ethlyn and Barry Agulnik

Frayda Raber Mazel Tov on the birth of your grandson by Maureen Katz and Sidney Featherman

Faye Raber Mazel Tov on the birth of your grandson by Maureen Katz and Sidney Featherman

Rachel Pernica Wishing you a very happy Birthday by Judy Goldstein

Debi and Neil Zaret Mazel Tov on the engagement of Adam and Jodi by Joy and Seymour Mender and family

Dr. David Kalin Best wishes on your retirement by Gary and Jodi (Strean-Roodman)

**R'Fuah Shlema:**

Susan Heisel by Maureen Katz and Sidney Featherman

**In Memory of:**

Rachel Plotnick by Sol and Estelle Gunner  
Malka Feig by Susan and Charles Schwartzman, Sue Bronsther and Barry and Ethlyn Agulnik

Mary Godfrey by Barry and Ethlyn Agulnik  
Hyman Yanofsky (and all the residents who passed away in 2018) by Joan Yanofsky and Jane Edwards

Max Cohen by Marcia and Stephen Aronson, Carol and Laurie Pascoe and Dee and Yale Gaffen

Norman Loftus by Linda Pollock and Jules Audet

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ritual Program**

**In Honour of:**

Maureen and Henry Molot Wishing you well by Stan and Cathy Levine

\*\*\*\*\*

**Recreation Program**

**In Honour of:**

Mark and Irene Lazarovitz Mazel Tov on the birth of your granddaughter by Esther and David Kwavnick

Agnes Schatteltes Mazel Tov on your Birthday by Ilana and Eric Rabin

Jack Cramer Mazel Tov on your Birthday by Ilana and Eric Rabin

**In Memory of:**

Max Cohen by Bill and Phyllis Cleiman, Sandy Shaver and Celine Weitzel

**R'Fuah Shlema:**

Ricki Baker by Maureen Katz and Sidney Featherman  
Alan and Esther Williams  
Barry Baker by Maureen Katz and Sidney Featherman

\*\*\*\*\*

**In Memory of:**

Rachel Plotnick by the residents, staff and Boards of the Lodge and LTC Foundation and Danny and Rhonda Levine

Malka Feig by the residents, Boards and Staff of the Lodge and LTC Foundation, Roberta

and Sam Goldmaker, Carol and Laurie Pascoe, Marlene Brownstein and Victor Eichenwald, Harris Pleet and Aurete Lavie, Ingrid Levitz, Jeff and Felice Pleet, Sylvia and Morton Pleet, Danny and Rhonda Levine and family, Shirley Marcus, Sol and Helen Rauch, Carolyn and Arnie Steinman, Evelyn Monson, Barbara, Len, Michael and Steven Farber, Jean Morin, Libby Katz, Dale and Ruth Fyman, Natalie and Alvin Miller, Maureen Katz and Sheila Bahar

Hyman Yanofsky by Susan, Ed, Hannah and Nathaniel Freeman

Billy Kates by Rena and Max Cohen

Nicola Lyon by Sheela and Ozzie Silverman  
Max Cohen by Harris Pleet and Aurete Lavie,

Sylvia and Morton Pleet, Maureen Katz and Sidney Featherman, Jeff and Felice Pleet, Rhoda and Mike Aronson, Simon and Joy Fisher, Irwin and Fenja Brodo, Stephanie, Allan, Livia and Frances Shefrin, Judith and Michael Aranoff, Steve and Doris Rauch, Pat Marcus, Ingrid Levitz and family, Linda and Alan Gilbert, Beverley and Abe Feinstein, Barbara and Larry Hershorn, Helen and Sol Rauch, Marilyn and Ronnie Goldberg and Helaine and Jack Gould

Sam Cohen by Ann and Terry Smutylo and family

Ernie Potechin by Maureen Katz and Sidney Featherman

Norman Loftus by the residents, staff and Boards of the Lodge and LTC Foundation and Nina and Mark Dover

Dr. Ron Hoffenberg by Ann and Terry Smutylo

Evelyn Goldberg by Lorna and Carl Raskin  
Ron Levitan by Alan and Esther Williams  
Norman Feder by Alan and Esther Williams  
Diana Feller by Carolyn Weiss, Shirley Feller, Sharon, Eli, Melanie and Netanya Cohen

**In Honour of:**

Rachel Pernica Birthday wishes by Rhonda and Mike Aronson, Molly Hirsch and Eric Elkin

Morton Pleet Mazel Tov on your special Birthday by Rena and Max Cohen

Jackie and Burt Gorenstein With thanks by Joni and Chummus Spunt

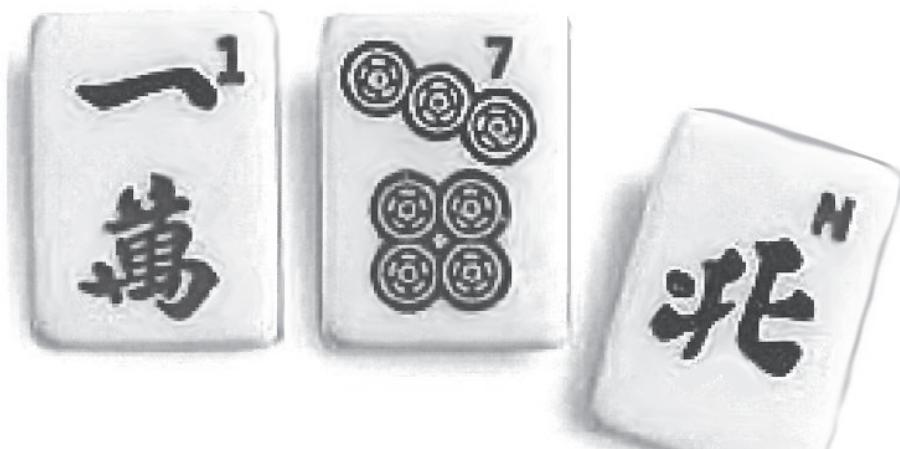
Ethel Kerzner Mazel Tov and best wishes on your Birthday by Anna Silverman

Jacques and Donna Shore Congratulations on the engagement of your daughter Emily to Adam Gold by Robin Mader

Joy and Seymour Mender Mazel Tov on the birth of your twin granddaughters by Issie and Leah Scarowsky

**R'Fuah Shlema:**

Ricki Baker Alan and Esther Williams



**Thank you to all of the people who have purchased 2019 Mah Jongg cards.**

Proceeds will support the Hillel Lodge Auxiliary's efforts to make our dear residents comfortable.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2019 and many hours of enjoyment playing Mah Jongg.

# The nature of 21<sup>st</sup> century Judaism

I witnessed an unusual event in early December. An Orthodox Rabbi stood in a Reform Temple and reviewed a book about the life of Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, the last Lubavitcher rebbe.

The audience included members of many synagogues in Ottawa. As the presentation ended and the questions began, one sensed that there was a serious conversation taking place that Sunday morning concerning the very nature of 21st century Judaism.

It was not a conversation between secularists and religious Jews, but between religious Jews striving to understand the religious nuances that both united them and divided them. It struck me that perhaps this type of conversation last took place in pre-war Berlin when Rabbi Schneerson, philosopher Martin Buber, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Rabbi Joseph B. Saloveitchick had coffee between classes. Or perhaps this was the kind of conversation that took place in first century Judea between the Pharisees, Sadducees and Essenes when they were not trying to invalidate each other.

So what has changed that we have so little experience with reasonable dialogue between adherents of Judaism? What made that Sunday in December feel as if it was the “first flowering of our redemption.”

When the Israeli Declaration of Independence was signed in 1948 a particular phrase was added to the text: “Rock of Israel.” It was an unusually religious phrase which seemed grafted onto a thoroughly secular political document. The most commonly accepted understanding is that its inclusion allowed for at least one rabbi to affix his signature to the document. The conversation between the secularists representing



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**A VIEW FROM THE BLEACHERS**

Mapam and Rabbis Haim-Moshe Shapira and Yehuda Leib Maimon was intense.

In addition, there was a conversation about the phrase, “Age old dream – the redemption of Israel.” As was to be expected, each of the phrases, “Rock of Israel” and “Age old dream – the redemption of Israel,” were interpreted by the secularists and the religious leadership according to their own world view. The secularists interpreted “Rock of Israel” to mean Eretz Yisrael while the religious adherents understood it to refer to God. The notion of redemption was equally ambiguous. Secularists believed that human beings were the instruments of the Jewish people’s redemption while equally ardent religious Zionists believed that redemption was in the hands of the Divine.

This divide between secular and religious Zionists did not begin in 1948. It had its origins long before the creation of the State. Yet 70 years of statehood has intensified the divide. Today there is an ongoing struggle within the State to define the very character of the State between secular Zionists and religious Zionists. The upcoming Israeli election will provide an opportunity for Israelis to have their say about the nature of the State.

Today, more than at any other period of history since the first millennium, Jews confront each other

about the nature of Judaism. The battleground seems to be between the Orthodox religious establishment in Israel and the non-Orthodox religious perspectives whose numbers continue to grow. But it is no longer simply about who has the authority to dictate terms of marriage, divorce and burial. It has evolved into a not so simple conversation about who has the ‘right’ to define Judaism. The State-supported Orthodox Rabiniate claims it has not only have the right to declare who is a Jew, but what is Judaism. It claims the moral authority to define what the word ‘Jew’ means religiously.

This is more than just a struggle between political parties jockeying for cabinet positions and money. This is a struggle for the very soul of Jewish religious life – both in Israel and in the Diaspora. The greater the intensity of this struggle in Israel, the more it overflows into the Diaspora. The more that women are pushed to the back of the public bus system, the more that modern Orthodox woman are called out for inappropriate dress, the more that El Al flights are delayed when haredi Orthodox men refuse their assigned seats next to a woman, the more that woman are insulted and denigrated for wishing to publicly read or teach Torah, the more that army deferrals for yeshiva students becomes the defining debate in a country whose security is still not assured, the more that Diaspora Jewry is likely to say “a plague on your heads.”

The inability of the religious establishment in Israel to acknowledge that there are alternative religious paths both within and without the country does not feel as if it is the “first flowering of our redemption.” That Sunday at Temple Israel felt much more messianic.



The Embassy of Israel in Canada in partnership with Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program and CICF are proud to present a Winter screening series of Classic Israeli Films

**6:40 PM**

Doors open. Refreshments served

**7:00 PM**

A Short film discussion with the Head of Public Diplomacy & Culture at the Embassy of Israel in Canada, Itay Tavor

Soloway JCC, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private

Contact Ella Dagan (613) 798-9818 ext. 243, edagan@jccottawa.com

## JANUARY 17

### Halfon Hill Doesn't Answer (1976)

A cult Israeli comedy film and a good-hearted satire of the Israel Defense Forces which tells the story of a reserve company, watching the Egyptian border in Sinai.

## FEBRUARY 7

### Operation Sunflower (2014)

What would have happened if the Iranians attacked Israel with a nuclear missile? A period drama tells a harrowing tale of the fight to save the Jewish State.

## MARCH 7

### White Panther (2012)

Alex, a young Russian immigrant joins a skinhead gang led by his older brother. An unexpected meeting with David, a religious Moroccan Jew, gives Alex a chance to pursue his long-time dream of becoming a boxer like his father.

## APRIL 11

### Mr. Baum (1997)

Mickey Baum is told by his doctor he has cancer and will die in 92 minutes. During his final hour he makes arrangements while recalling his short life and trying to understand the reality in which he has lived.

# We need to vaccinate our kids

**G**et two Jews in a room, the old saying goes, and you'll end up with three opinions. But when it comes to vaccinating our kids, there should just be one: do it.

Yet, in the past year, a measles outbreak in Israel has been linked directly to a measles outbreak in New York, largely among haredi communities. In Israel, close to 2,700 cases of the disease were reported by the end of 2018, and in November, the country saw its first measles-related death in 15 years, after an 18-month-old succumbed to the illness. In almost all cases, those affected were either unvaccinated or too young to be vaccinated.

As a parent and pediatrician, it is unconscionable to me that in 2018 children are dying of vaccine-preventable illnesses. As a physician, I am familiar with the common anti-vaccination concerns – none of which are supported by any well conducted research.

But the current outbreak among haredi communities begs the question: What's going on within the Jewish community?

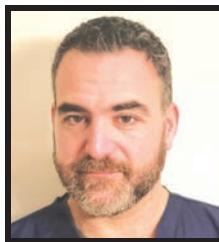
It's pretty simple, after all, to make the Jewish case for vaccination with a quote from the Talmud: "Whoever saves a life of Israel, it is considered as if they have saved an entire world."

Vaccines save lives. So, vaccinate your kids.

But if you're looking for a little more:

In the fifth book of the Torah, *Deuteronomy*, there is a phrase loosely translated as the need to guard our souls, which has long been interpreted as a command to look after our health and in turn, support vaccinations.

At Chabad.org, Rabbi Yehuda Shurpin points to *Pirkei Avot*, the Jewish compendium of ethics, and the phrase "do not separate yourself from the community" as one justification for vaccination. For a community



DR. ALLAN SHEFRIN  
**MODERN  
MISHPOCHA**

to be safe from potentially fatal diseases like measles, everyone needs the vaccine. The fewer who have it, the less safe everyone is.

Jewish bioethicists also point to the *Shulkhan Arukh*, which among other things, notes that just as one must build a rail around a rooftop to stop people from falling, so too are we obligated to guard ourselves from anything that would endanger our lives.

Measles make our kids sick, Ninety per cent of unprotected people exposed to the disease will fall ill, and face dire consequences – between one and two of 1,000 will die. Others can suffer from pneumonia and brain disorders. Mumps can make you infertile. Rubella can be devastating for an unborn child. Whooping cough kills babies (and that happens here in Ottawa, too.)

And yet, a couple in Brooklyn are suing their Lubavitch boys' school, reports Ha'aretz, because their unvaccinated son isn't being allowed to start kindergarten, arguing that keeping him out violates their religious right to claim exemption from the requirement of vaccines.

How is it, that pseudoscience trumps the Torah and Talmud? How is it, that pseudoscience and debunked claims about negative impacts of vaccines are taken more seriously than the need to keep the Jewish community at large healthy?

Ha'aretz and others report on the existence of rabbis and health professionals among haredi communities who advocate against vaccination, citing the same concerns as those which circulate in the secular world.

Others suggest the insular nature of the communities leads to the belief their herd vaccination will simply protect them – without anyone realizing that the fewer the people in the "herd" who have the immunity, the fewer who are actually protected.

Some cite also a belief in God that trumps what the sages say – God will protect them, they don't need the shots.

Fortunately, Jewish leadership – secular and religious – in U.S. and Israel is taking a stand. Dozens of rabbinical groups and councils, including those influential in the Orthodox world, have issued proclamations and letters in recent months urging community members to get vaccinated.

And while we've yet to see a similar outbreak in Canada, rabbis here too are getting into the game. In December, nearly 40 Toronto-area rabbis representing a spectrum of denominations, issued their own position statement on the requirement for Jews to be vaccinated.

And if for you, the rabbis and the doctors aren't good enough – maybe Wonder Woman is.

Israeli actress Gal Gadot recently posted a photo of herself online clutching her shoulder as part of a campaign to raise awareness about the need to vaccinate in response to the measles outbreak in her home country.

As her character says, after all, "it is our sacred duty to defend the world."

*Dr. Allan Shefrin is an emergency room pediatrician at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.*

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## Information Session



Monday,  
January 28, 2019  
7:00 pm

Social Hall A, Soloway JCC,  
21 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.

Contact Lindsay for  
more information:  
613-798-4696 ext. 355  
lgottheil@jewishottawa.com

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# School psychologist advises exercise for children

**A**nxiety in young children is a phenomenon that is more prevalent or perhaps better recognized than a generation or two ago. Jenny Glassman, a psychologist who works in the public school system in Ottawa, says it's important for parents to recognize the signs of anxiety in their children – signs which sometimes differ from those in adults – and to have resources and strategies for successfully helping their children cope.

Glassman says children are becoming more socially isolated and this sometimes causes them to have anxiety. Social media is a contributing factor. Children as young as five to 10 have fewer face-to-face conversations as they spend significant time online. Many children feel socially disconnected and feel pressure to be constantly connected via social media.

Because so much time is spent online, children may be getting inadequate exercise and may lack the social skills that are learned through sports and playtime. Glassman also points out the social connections between parents and their children are different or decreased compared to just a few years ago, as parents spend more time looking at their own devices and less time engaging with their young children. Another issue, says Glassman, is that expectations and academic demands placed on children are greater than in previous generations.

Young children cannot express when they have anxiety, so what should parents look for in their children? An increase in negative behaviours is a clue that a child may be experiencing anxiety. Symptoms may include agitation, restlessness, headaches or stomach aches, inattention, avoidance, crying and tantrums.  
<https://tinyurl.com/yb3awtsg>

Glassman says that when a child's world seems



**GLORIA SCHWARTZ**  
**FOCUS ON FITNESS**

to get smaller and smaller (e.g., the child no longer wants to go out as much, has less face-to-face social interactions or is reluctant to attend school), the child may have severe anxiety. Milder forms of anxiety should not be overlooked. Glassman says behavioural difficulties (e.g., a meltdown) may stem from stress and from being overwhelmed by the demands of the environment. Other possible signs of anxiety include sleep disturbances and changes in sleep patterns.

“Look at the underlying factors of misbehaviour and start thinking in terms of stress behaviour, not bad behaviour,” advises Glassman. In other words, children who are acting out are not necessarily being “bad” but may be behaving in that manner because of their anxiety and their lack of coping strategies.

Some children seem to outgrow these behaviours. Glassman says children often develop coping skills by observing parents modelling positive behaviours. Sometimes children don't develop the appropriate coping skills. A good strategy, says Glassman, is to get young children involved in physical activities.

Regular physical activity – ideally 60 minutes per day for children – is a proven preventative strategy for chronic conditions such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease as well as for helping prevent or decrease some mental health issues such as anxiety and mild

depression. In both adults and children, exercise releases mood-enhancing brain chemicals and helps take the mind off worries.

Team sports such as hockey or soccer or individual sports such as swimming or martial arts may be better suited depending on the child's interests and abilities. Yoga is a practice that can also provide many benefits for young children with regards to anxiety prevention and reduction.

In addition to contributing to both physical and mental wellness, Glassman says children learn a variety of skills that go beyond the sport itself. For example, they learn about boundaries, rules, expectations, sharing, cooperation, focusing attention, respect, self-esteem, leadership, personal growth and self-regulation of their emotions. These are life skills that children need to function in society.

Mindfulness is another strategy that Glassman says helps reduce anxiety in children. She recommends a series of short, guided meditation recordings called Mind Masters for children six to 12. The series and accompanying information for parents are available on the CHEO website at [www.cheo.on.ca/en/MindMasters](http://www.cheo.on.ca/en/MindMasters). Some teachers use these resources in their classrooms. Parents can use them at home with their children.

The World Health Organization defines mental health as “a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.” Parents want the best for their children. Glassman's advice can help parents recognize and deal with their child's mild anxiety. For severe anxiety, Glassman says psychological or pharmacological treatment may be required.

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## Dynamic Orthodox Rabbi sought for Congregation Beit Tikvah of Ottawa

**Congregation Beit Tikvah of Ottawa is a warm and welcoming Zionist, Modern Orthodox community in Ottawa, Canada comprising approximately 140 member families. Ottawa is a full-service community of about 15,000 Jews.**

We are seeking a warm, personable, and menchlich Rabbi to lead the congregation in our spiritual, halachic, educational, welfare, and pastoral needs. The ideal candidate will be able to inspire people of all ages and differing levels of observance. He must be able to connect with the diversity of observance within our community and be willing to work hard to infuse an elevated level of teaching in order to engage existing members and attract new ones.

Semicha from a recognized yeshiva, RCA eligibility, and a university degree required.

This is an exciting opportunity to nurture and grow an established, vibrant congregation. We welcome applications from candidates who believe they have the right skill set and motivation to take on the role.

Please apply in confidence with resume, covering letter, and copy of semicha certificate by February 1, 2019.

**For more information and to apply for this position, please refer to the job description by logging on to our website: <https://cbto.org/rabbi-job-posting-2/>**

# WHAT'S GOING ON | January 21 to February 3, 2019

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

## ONGOING EVENTS

### Ottawa Israeli Dance

6:30 - 10 pm, Tuesdays until June 25  
Ottawa Jewish Community School gym  
31 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.  
More info: [judy@ottawaisraelidance.ca](mailto:judy@ottawaisraelidance.ca)

### Kol Miriam

7:30 - 9:30 pm, Thursdays until June 20,  
Hillel Lodge, 10 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.  
More info: Froma Rose  
[fromarnold@yahoo.com](mailto:fromarnold@yahoo.com)  
A choir of women singing traditional  
and contemporary Jewish music.

### JBaby Oneg Shabbat at Hillel Lodge

10:30 am - 12:30 pm, 1st Friday every  
month until June 2, 2019, Hillel Lodge  
10 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.  
Contact: Ranit Braun  
[ranitb@hotmail.com](mailto:ranitb@hotmail.com)

An inclusive baby and parent Shabbat  
morning program. Music, song, play,  
snack and kvell. Parents can meet others  
with babies and toddlers roughly under  
24 months. Everyone is welcome!  
Sponsored by Temple Israel & TIRS

### Chanting and Chocolate

7:30PM - 9 pm, monthly on the 1st  
Sunday, Or Haneshamah, 30 Cleary Ave.  
Contact: Michael Salter  
[learning@orh.ca](mailto:learning@orh.ca)  
An evening of sacred Jewish chant,  
followed by chocolate treats! Led by OrH  
Rabbi Liz Bolton with accompaniment by  
the Chanting & Chocolate Band.

## TUESDAY, JAN. 22

### Beit Ha'am Talks

7 - 8:30 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel  
Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Ave.  
Contact: [droytenberg@yahoo.com](mailto:droytenberg@yahoo.com)

Beit Ha'am is a program of the World  
Zionist Organization devoted to discuss-  
ing the relationship between Canadian  
Jews and the State of Israel.  
Join us for our series of conversations:  
January 22 - Tu B'shvat Hagaddah:  
Ecological Tikkun Olam  
February 19 - Leadership Near and Far:  
The Right to Doubt

## FRIDAY, JAN. 25

### Interfaith Couples Shabbat Dinner

7 - 10 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel  
Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Ave.  
Contact: Deborah Zuker  
[rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com](mailto:rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com)  
Cost: \$20. KBI invites interfaith couples  
to this cozy Shabbat dinner. Enjoy a  
delicious meal, great conversation, and  
community! All are welcome, but space  
is limited, so reserve today! You are  
invited to BYO kosher Mevushal wine.

## SATURDAY, JAN. 26

### Tot Shabbat - Celebrating January Birthdays!

10:30 - 11:30 am, Kehillat Beth Israel  
Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Ave.  
Contact: Deborah Zuker  
[rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com](mailto:rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com)  
Tots and their parents/adults are invited  
to a fun, interactive Tot Shabbat experi-  
ence. Play, pray, sing, and read stories  
together to celebrate Shabbat. Enjoy  
special treats to celebrate our friends who  
have January birthdays! All are welcome  
to stay for the congregational Kiddush  
luncheon at the end of services.

## SUNDAY, JAN 27

### International Holocaust Remembrance Day

1:30 - 3:30 pm, Library and Archives

Canada, 395 Wellington St.

Cost: Free. A special lecture by Eli  
Rubenstein, National Director of the  
March of the Living Canada. He will  
reflect on the Holocaust and how to  
respond to hatred without losing our  
humanity. You will also have the chance  
to view Library and Archives Canada's  
latest acquisition: a rarely seen book with  
insights on the Holocaust and its links to  
Canada. Visit our website starting  
January 23 to discover more about it  
[www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx)  
Seating is limited, so please register.

## MONDAY, JAN. 28

### March of the Living Info Session

7 - 9 pm  
Contact: Lindsay Gottheil  
[lgottheil@jewishottawa.com](mailto:lgottheil@jewishottawa.com)  
High school students and families are  
invited to join Eli Rubenstein, national  
director of March of the Living Canada,  
along with past participants, chaperones  
and Federation staff for a community  
information session regarding the March  
of the Living Holocaust educational trip  
to Poland and Israel that will be  
departing in April 2020.

## FRIDAY, FEB 1

### Rohr CSN Ottawa: Love & Faith: Shabbat Dinner and Luncheon

6 - 11:59 pmf, 59 Sweetland Ave.  
Contact: Chaim Boyarsky  
[rabbichaimb@gmail.com](mailto:rabbichaimb@gmail.com)  
The Rohr Chabad Student Network invites  
you to a Shabbat dinner with Doron  
Kornbluth, a relationship expert, best-  
selling author and popular tour guide in  
Israel. At Shabbat dinner Doron will speak  
on "Love and Religion." After dinner there  
will be a round table discussion on  
"Relationships: do's and don'ts." Shabbat

morning services at 10 am, followed by a  
luncheon where Doron will address  
"Happiness in the 21st century."

## SATURDAY, FEB. 2

### Movie: Shoelaces

7 - 9 pm, Kehillat Beth Israel  
Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Ave.  
Contact: Deborah Zuker  
[rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com](mailto:rabbizuker@kehillatbethisrael.com)  
Cost: \$10 members/\$12 non-members.  
*Shoelaces* tells the story of a complicated  
relationship between an aging father and  
his special-needs son, whom he aban-  
doned while he was still a young boy.  
Through the film's portrayal of a relation-  
ship full of love, rejection and co-depend-  
ency, it manages to shed some light and  
question the importance of human life,  
human connection and if life is even  
possible without either one of them.  
Directed by Jacob Goldwasser.

## SUNDAY, FEB. 3

### Mitzvah Day

8:30 - 11:45 am,  
Contact: Sarah Beutel  
[sbeutel@jewishottawa.com](mailto:sbeutel@jewishottawa.com)  
Mitzvah Day, Presented by the Jewish  
Federation of Ottawa  
More details at  
[www.mitzvahdayottawa.com](http://www.mitzvahdayottawa.com).

## CANDLE LIGHTING BEFORE

JANUARY 25	4:41 PM
FEBRUARY 1	4:51 PM
FEBRUARY 8	5:02 PM
FEBRUARY 15	5:12 PM

## BULLETIN DEADLINES

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 30	FOR FEBRUARY 18
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11	FOR MARCH 4
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27	FOR MARCH 18
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13	APRIL 1

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:

**Edith Burns**, Florida  
(sister of David Moskovic)

**Edward Max Cohen**

**Rosalinde Dickenscheidt**,  
Vancouver (mother-  
in-law of Stephanie  
Friedman)

**Betty Dover**

**David Ely**

**Norman Feder**, Toronto  
(father of Harold Feder)

**Malka Feig**

**Diana Feller**

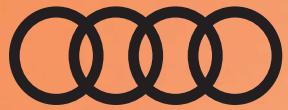
**Evelyn Goldberg**,  
Winnipeg  
(mother of Harvey  
Goldberg)

**Stephen Kershman**

**Therese Lena Shore**

*May their  
memory  
be a blessing  
always.*

*The Condolence Column  
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