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Alison Pick
Author's journey to Judaism began with the discovery her grandparents were Holocaust survivors > p. 12

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The Shabbat Project comes to Ottawa

BY MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

All of Ottawa's Jewish congregations, representing the entire spectrum of Jewish denominations, as well as other organizations that typically provide Shabbat services and programming, are set to participate in The Shabbat Project, an observance of Shabbat and Jewish unity taking place around the world this weekend.

Ottawa's participation in The Shabbat Project came together quickly after Rabbi Howard Finkelstein of Congregation Beit Tikvah wrote an article in the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* ("Calling all congregations! Let us celebrate Shabbat as a community," September 22) urging the city's congregations to join in this celebration of Shabbat on October 24 and 25. This special Shabbat observance originated last year in South Africa's Jewish community.

Each participating congregation and organization will observe Shabbat in its own way and then come together on Saturday evening at 7:30 pm (Shabbat concludes at 6:47 pm) at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre for the Community Unity Havdallah.

A committee of rabbis is working with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa to plan the Havdallah, which will include a performance by Shtreiml, the acclaimed Montreal-based klezmer band and desserts. The event's cost has been entirely underwritten by an anonymous donor so it is free of charge. All are welcome.

Contact congregations and organizations directly (a list appears in the ad on page 5) for information on how each plans to observe this special Shabbat.



Bernie Farber speaks at a demonstration organized by the Roma Community Centre in front of the Toronto offices of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, April 23, 2013.

PHOTO: YOUTUBE

The Shoah compels Jewish community to act on matters of social justice

Bernie Farber, who will give the keynote address at the launch of **Holocaust Education Month**, speaks with **Louise Rachlis** about the urgency of not turning our backs on the lessons of the Holocaust.

It's not the usual Holocaust Education Month theme," said Bernie Farber of the keynote address he will deliver, November 9, the 76th anniversary of Kristallnacht, at the launch of Holocaust Education

Month in Ottawa.

That's because he will be "looking forward instead of backward" with a lecture entitled "The Shoah: Has Never Again Become Again and Again?"

"We understand where bigotry can

lead to," said Farber whose father was a Holocaust survivor. "If we aren't going to be the canary in the mine, who will?" he asked. "This is the light we have to shine today. When Jews stop sounding the warning, we've lost the lessons of the Holocaust.

"I've spoken in Ottawa before and told my story, and it's always important for Jews to tell our story; that's what we are," he said. "But, this time around, I want to do some future-gazing. What was the real

See Farber on page 2

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Partnership 2Gether: Joan and Howard Spunt visit Metula > p. 13

Book review: The case that inspired *The Fixer* > p. 22

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Farber: Canada seems to be closing in rather than opening up

Continued from page 1

meaning for us of the Shoah if, in modern day, the brutalities continue?”

Farber said he will discuss international strife and ethnic cleansing and will try to take a look at whether the concept of “never again” is actually possible.

“Canada will not be left out of this mix. Some people think we are immune ... but we have our own genocide of First Nations people, and that will be interwoven in the theme of my address.”

Born in Ottawa in 1951, a first generation Canadian, Farber said he was brought up to embrace and advocate on behalf of those less fortunate.

“I always thought Canada was a beacon of hope. Yet, today, it seems we are taking a step backward instead of forward. Canada used to be a land of opportunity, but, today, this huge land seems to be closing in instead of opening. We are rejecting those less fortunate instead of embracing them.”

Farber is on the board of directors of JRRAN, the Jewish Refugee Action Network, whose honorary chairs are Stephen Lewis and Michele Landsberg.



“The Shoah compels us” to be advocates for social justice says Bernie Farber, who will speak at the Holocaust Education Month launch event, November 9, at the SJCC.

“It came into being because of what we see as Canada’s step backwards in rejecting Roma refugees and refugees from Sudan and other parts of Africa. We really wanted to revitalize the Jewish

voice in social justice.”

Farber stressed he wants his audience to think about “the lessons we have learned, and why we seem to have turned our backs on those lessons.”

He said Canadian Jews must remain vigilant about anti-Semitism in this country, but “we have to be watchful for others, too.”

And it’s not just Jews being targeted for murder and destruction in the Middle East, he said. “No groups of human beings are unsusceptible.”

Farber’s father Max was a Polish Jew whose first wife, and their two children, as well as other family members, perished in the Holocaust. His mother Gert (née Coopersmith) came to Ottawa in the late-1920s with her family to get away from Russian pogroms and anti-Semitism.

Farber has stated his father’s experiences during the Holocaust have motivated him throughout his life.

“The pain my father endured during the war is what drove me to fight for social justice today,” he told journalist Alex Wooley for a profile in *Carleton University Magazine* (Winter 2004).

Farber was CEO of the Canadian Jewish Congress from 2005 to 2011 and now serves as senior vice-president for government and external relations at Gemini Power Corporation, which helps First Nations reserves in northern and northwestern Ontario build sustainable industries. He is also CEO of the Paloma Foundation, which works with shelters for homeless youth in Toronto; is chair of the board of Ve’ahavta, a Canadian Jewish humanitarian organization; and writes a regular column for the *Canadian Jewish News*.

“We took, as a community, certain lessons from our experience, and Jews were at the forefront of advocacy,” he said. “We have to find our voice again. The Shoah compels us to find that voice.”

The Holocaust Education Month launch event with keynote speaker Bernie Farber will be held Sunday, November 9, 7 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. For information about Holocaust Education Month events organized by the Shoah Committee of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, contact Benita Siemiatycki at 613-798-4644 or bsiemiatycki@jewishottawa.com.

The \$50K sukkah: Celebrating the harvest holiday in style

BY BEN SALES

(JTA) – With its panoramic views of Jerusalem, plush seating area and decorative elements, this could be almost any other room at the Inbal Jerusalem Hotel. Except the floor is made of AstroTurf, the walls are made of transparent cloth and the roof is a bamboo mat.

Welcome to one of a dozen private sukkahs built on the porches of the five-star hotel’s Penthouse Suites.

These hotel sukkahs represent the vanguard of holiday hotel luxury in Jerusalem and carried a price tag of approximately \$50,000 for a family of four for the eight-day holiday (including three meals a day).

The seating area in the 430-square-foot sukkah included a wide red couch, two matching armchairs and a glass coffee

table with a polished wood frame. There was also a dining area and walls decorated with faux grapes hanging from a wooden weave.

All 12 private sukkah suites in the Inbal were booked for the holiday. And, while many Jews who build their own sukkahs start thinking about design and decoration a few days before the holiday, at the Inbal, sukkah design began three months ago. Guests chose the colour schemes and layout of their personal sukkahs. Some are green with roll-up windows, others red with a clear plastic window all around. The faux fruit design changes accordingly.

Like most hotels in Israel, the Inbal also built two huge sukkahs for the regular folks: huts that could accommodate 600 guests all together at mealtime.



Penthouse guests at the Inbal Jerusalem Hotel get to custom design their private sukkah in the suite, complete with full-service meals and a space to relax.



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2014 Holocaust Education Month Launch

The Shoah: Has Never Again become Again and Again?

Sunday November 9, 2014
7:00 pm

Featuring guest speaker Bernie M. Farber, one of Canada's leading experts on the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, race relations, minority and human rights.

Soloway Jewish Community Centre,
21 Nadolny Sachs Private

Information: Benita at 613-798-4644
or bsiemiatycki@jewishottawa.com

A program of the Shoah (Holocaust)
Committee of Ottawa



jewishottawa.com



Stolperstein

German artist Gunter Demnig creates tiny brass Stolperstein ("stumbling stones") and embeds them into the concrete in front of homes where individuals, who were targets of the Nazis, had once lived, were rounded up, taken away and murdered. Each "stone" begins with **HERE LIVED...**

As of 2013, Demnig has realized over 43,500 memorials.

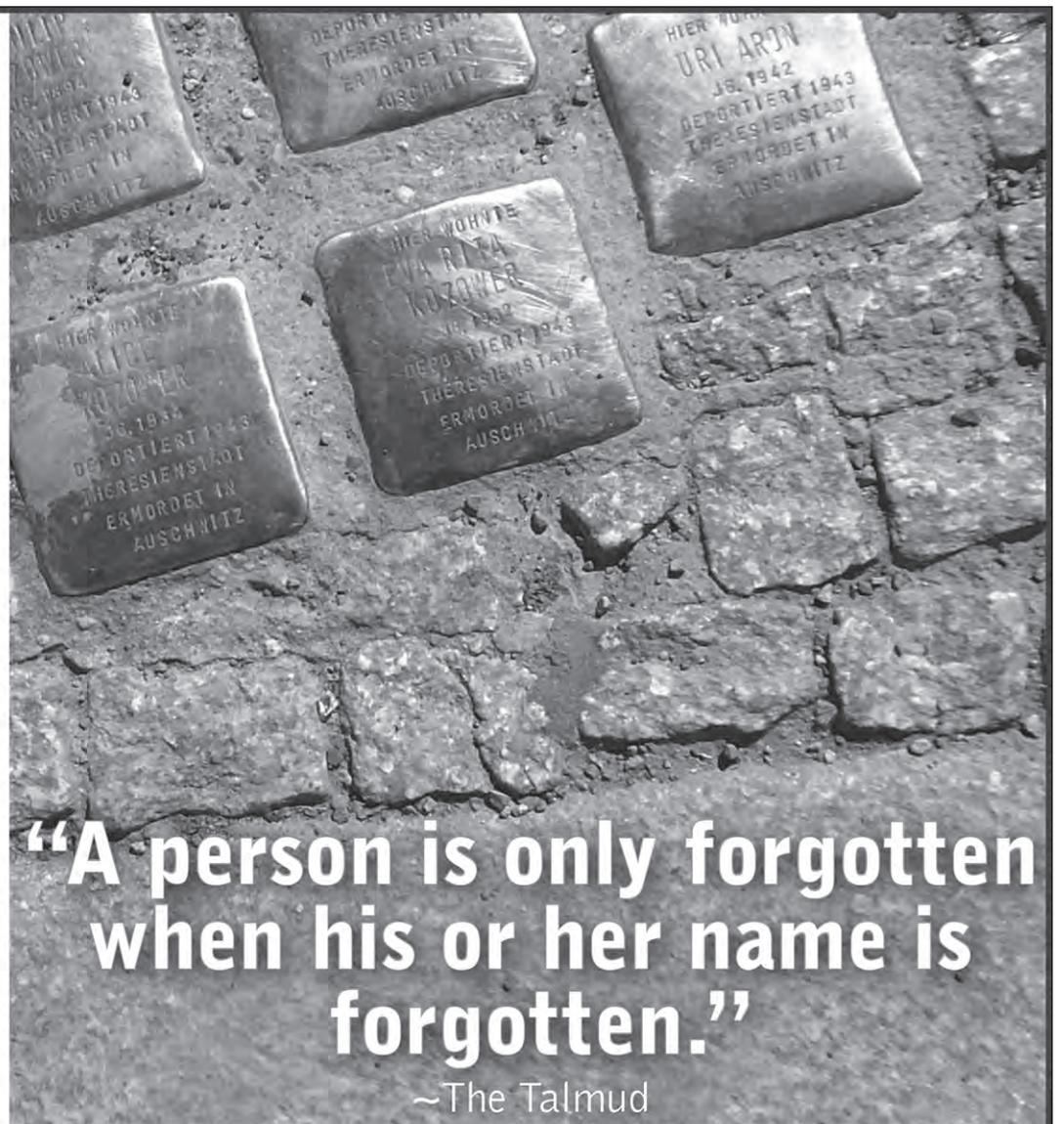
Producer Gunter Hanfgarn's moving documentary explains the **Stolperstein Project**; the Canadian premiere is part of Holocaust Education Month.

November 16 • 7 pm
Mayfair Theatre, 1074 Bank St.

(German with English subtitles.)

Q&A with Gunter Hanfgarn after the film.

A program of the Shoah (Holocaust) Committee of the Jewish Federation Ottawa
Information: Benita at 613-798-4644 or bsiemiatycki@jewishottawa.com



“A person is only forgotten when his or her name is forgotten.”

~The Talmud

Giant Ukraine JCC provides shelter from the storm – in style

BY CNAAN LIPSHIZ

Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine (JTA) – Five months into the war that turned him into a refugee in his own country, Jacob Virin has already attended 20 Jewish weddings – including those of his son and two other relatives – at the \$100 million Jewish community centre of Dnepropetrovsk.

Towering over the skyline of this industrial metropolis, the 22-storey Menorah Center is said to be the largest Jewish community centre in Europe and a symbol of the remarkable Jewish revival here after decades of communist repression.

But, with eastern Ukraine descending into chaos in recent months, the centre has lately assumed a new symbolism. With one of its two hotels serving as temporary housing for some of the hundreds of refugees displaced by fighting between government forces and pro-Russian rebels, and a recent mass wedding for 19 Jewish couples held on its roof terrace, the centre has become an emblem of Jewish survival during the current crisis.

“More than any other single complex, the Menorah Center has empowered the Jewish community of Dnepropetrovsk to better serve as an anchor for Ukrainian Jewry in difficult times and as an engine



Dnepropetrovsk Jewish community director Zelig Brez (left) with a community board member on the roof of the Menorah Center, July 15, 2014.

for Jewish renewal,” said Zelig Brez, the community’s director.

Completed in 2012 with funding from two Jewish oligarchs, the Menorah Center is a leviathan. Its 450,000 square feet of floor space includes a swanky event hall, a synagogue with black marble interior, a large Holocaust museum, luxurious

ritual baths for men and women, and several kosher restaurants and cafés.

At night, powerful spotlights illuminate the centre’s seven domes, making the large complex on Sholem Aleichem Street look much like its namesake.

“The idea here is also to build a presence, a great beacon of light that tells

the Jews of Ukraine: ‘We are here. Come join us. The time for hiding is over,’” said Rabbi Shmuel Kaminevski, the energetic chief rabbi of Dnepropetrovsk and one of the Chabad movement’s most senior envoys to Ukraine.

During the Nazi occupation of Ukraine in the 1940s, German troops murdered 20,000 Jews in and around Dnepropetrovsk, essentially annihilating the community. Many Jews who escaped eastward returned after the Red Army defeated the Nazis, but the Kremlin’s anti-Semitic and anti-religious ideology kept Jewish life underground here until Ukraine gained independence in 1991.

Following the fall of communism, Dnepropetrovsk emerged as an engine for Jewish life in Ukraine. Some 15 per cent of the country’s Jewish population lives here, and the city boasts several unique Jewish amenities, including the only matzo factory in Ukraine and a workshop for ritual scribes.

Rabbi Kaminevski says the Menorah Center is the largest Jewish community centre in Europe. Navigating the maze of elevators that services the building’s seven wings, he pops into a gourmet kosher restaurant with heavy cherry-wood tables to chat with a donor having lunch.

Before returning to his office, Rabbi
See Ukraine on page 11



Save the date
Sunday, November 23, 2014
7 pm - 9 pm

Women and the Holocaust A Pearls of Wisdom/WCPP Event

Screening & discussion of the heralded film
“*Ida*,” by Polish Director, Paweł Pawlikowski.

An exploration of female courage
and the importance of truth.

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On Saturday, November 8, 2014, 7:00 pm, come to our **Frailech Hootenanny**, when Rabbi Liz Bolton, Shaina Lipsey and Mark Evenchick will perform some of your favourite songs, some new songs too. Get ready for a sing-a-long. Cost: \$25.00 per person. For Catering purposes we need to know how many people will be coming so that we will have a delicious deli plate waiting for you. Call Roz Tabachnick 613-828-9817 or email rozstab@rogers.com. This is a joint event between Temple Israel and AJA 50+.

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Join us to conclude Shabbat on October 25 at our
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To watch the video or sign up for the Shabbat Project Challenge,
please visit: www.theshabbosproject.org

For general inquiries or to add your organization,
please contact Benita at the Jewish Ottawa InfoCentre
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FEDERATION
REPORT



JONATHAN FREEDMAN
HILLEL OTTAWA

Hillel Ottawa: Promoting Jewish engagement and Israel awareness on campus

Ottawa. To create a safe environment for Jewish students on campus to explore, learn about and strengthen their Jewish identities.

This has been a tough summer to be Jewish and a supporter of the State of Israel – even more so for a young generation bombarded by Facebook friends reposting anti-Israel and anti-Jewish rhetoric. As such, we are going to great lengths this term to create a safe environment on campus and at Hillel House. For our students, what went on this summer is complex and troubling, so we encourage them to talk about their feelings and we endeavor to answer their questions.

Hillel Ottawa has two primary functions – Jewish engagement and Israel awareness – both of which must be balanced to optimize our success. To allow Jewish students to meet other Jewish students at the University of Ottawa, Carleton University and

Algonquin College, we hold social events, Shabbat dinners, educational programming and hot lunches. We also engage in hands-on volunteering opportunities such as leadership development, Holocaust education, working with the homeless (Tikkun Olam) and parliamentary internships. These activities are open to all students as we strive to broaden our reach and encourage more students to make Jewish choices.

In terms of Israel awareness, we present Israel both to our students and to the broader campus. We support Israel and a two-state solution, and will continue to create venues to explore the whole range of ideas that fit under this umbrella. We work diligently to forge ties with other campus groups to enhance our ability to advocate on Israel's behalf.

Our funding is derived from three sources. We are grateful to the Jewish

Federation of Ottawa for its allocation and to CIJA, which provides funding from the national level. Our third source is fundraising. Our core funding allows us to provide a basic level of service. Fundraising allows us to broaden our reach and is dependent on the generosity of our donors. Every dollar we raise is one more lunch, dinner, social event or educational event we can provide.

We have another special goal: to make sure our students see the Jewish community in Ottawa as a warm, welcoming and inclusive community so that they will consider staying in Ottawa post-graduation, setting up roots in the community and helping to strengthen our Jewish community.

Our main tools to do this are making sure students have access and feel welcome at community events, home hospitality on Shabbat and holidays and mentoring for those looking for information on and contacts in the job market.

What an amazing opportunity this year when U.S. Ambassador Bruce Heyman and his wife Vicki hosted 10 students for a meal on Rosh Hashanah. We thank them for their generosity and kindness.

We are striving to give our students the best, and we would welcome any support the community can give our organization.

Years ago, when our oldest child left the nest for the first time to attend summer school at Harvard between Grades 11 and 12, we were worried as parents as to how she would handle all the challenges of the big world.

We spoke to her the first Saturday night, and she was beaming. While her roommates had sat in the dorm, she had gone to Hillel on Campus, had Friday night dinner, and been invited to the rabbi's for lunch. She told me it was the first time she realized that being Jewish meant she belonged to a "club."

That is our main goal for Hillel

FROM THE
PULPIT



RABBI ARI GALANDAUER
YOUNG ISRAEL

The concept of Shabbat is eternal

Simes. A beautiful initiative indeed!

It is interesting that, on Friday night, when we recite the Kiddush, we mention that one of the reasons for observing Shabbat is *Zikaron L'maaseh Bereshit*, to remember that God created the world.

But, how does observing Shabbat remind us that God created the world? The answer is really quite simple. We, citizens of the modern and enlightened 21st century, take it for granted that the idea of having a "day of rest" is natural and obvious. Of course, a person needs a day off. However, many of our parents and most of our grandparents were faced with the difficult choice of observing Shabbat properly or losing their jobs. Not too long ago, there was no such thing as a "day of rest." If you didn't show up for work on Saturday, there was nothing to come in for on Sunday.

History has shown that we are capable of a seven-day work week; yes, at a physical and emotional cost, but capable nonetheless. A "day of rest" is truly a modern-day innovation in Western society, and is still not observed worldwide. Judaism, alone, stands as a beacon of light in this dark area. While we have struggled in the past with society around us to observe Shabbat, the concept, for us, is eternal.

Now, while some are wont to believe that Jewish values have somehow always been ahead of the times, we know that it's

not happenstance. When we observe Shabbat, we are testifying and proudly proclaiming in the Kiddush prayer that there is a creator of this world who in his infinite wisdom mandated a day of rest, an opportunity to stop, reflect and enjoy the fruits of our labour.

Even though there are many fringe benefits to Shabbat observance – like spending time with the family, taking a break from one's routine, and rest and relaxation – the bottom line is that we observe Shabbat because it is a mitzvah. That much of society has bought into the fringe benefits of Shabbat does not add or detract from the essence of the mitzvah. Shabbat reminds us that God created the world and continues to run the world.

Witnessing the miracle of birth is also a marvellous reminder of God's personal involvement in our daily lives. The Talmud teaches that whoever saves a life saves a world. All the more so, when creating life, is a world created.

So, if observance of Shabbat reminds us of God who created the world, and God calls upon us to be partners in building that world and populating it with mini-worlds, what better way could there be to safeguard all those worlds than the observance of Shabbat?

May our city wide celebration of Shabbat truly be a merit to the world of Rabbi Simes.

This Shabbat, I will celebrate with a Kiddush, the birth of a daughter, Batsheva Chana, my seventh child, who was born two days before Rosh Hashanah. As a community, we will also celebrate the worldwide Shabbat Project, in which the community will gather together to observe and celebrate Shabbat at each of our congregations and then come together for a community-wide Havdallah service at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

Rabbi Howard Finkelstein of Congregation Beth Tikvah invited Ottawa's Jewish community to participate in this program through such activities as communal challah-baking, meals and observance, as a showing of communal solidarity, and as a merit for Rabbi Yehuda

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FROM THE EDITOR



MICHAEL REGENSTREIF

‘So now what?’ asks the caption at the beginning of a hilarious and inspiring five-minute video that follows 91-year-old Shimon Peres as he cleans out his former office and goes looking for a new job.

At the employment office, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning former president and prime minister of Israel – who served in some sort of high level position since the founding of the modern state – is told he has no practical experience before being sent off on a series of job try-outs as a gas station attendant, security guard, supermarket cashier, pizza deliveryman, stand-up comedian, and skydiving instructor.

Interacting with the people he encounters at these various jobs, Peres – with wit, humour and economy of words – offers brief words of wisdom that touch on such

Shimon Peres still inspires as he looks for new job

themes as peace, hope, remarkable accomplishments like the Entebbe rescue, and Israel’s emergence as a high-tech start-up nation.

Watching the video, I was reminded of the three days in May 2012 I followed Peres – then the world’s oldest head of state – on his visit to Ottawa. I particularly remember standing a few feet away at the National Gallery of Canada, at a reception hosted by the Embassy of Israel, as he gave a riveting speech, which hit on many of the same themes as the video.

Along with several other topics, such as the enduring Canada-Israel friendship, Peres spoke without notes about the State of Israel – its past, its present and its future – about the changes then sweeping across the Middle East, and about science and technology, making predictions about breakthroughs to come well into the future. He even cracked some jokes foreshadowing his bit as a comedian in the video.

Peres was inspirational on his visit to Ottawa, and he is again in the video, which you can see at <http://tinyurl.com/Peres-job>.

The video ends with a quote from Peres, “You are as great as the cause that

you serve, and as young as your dreams.” It is a reminder that Israel, our communities, whether there or here in the Diaspora, and all of us as individuals, have hopes and dreams that we must continue to strive toward.

YIDLIFE CRISIS

Speaking of entertaining videos, *YidLife Crisis*, a new web series out of Montreal, has been sweeping the Jewish world over the past few weeks. Inspired by what creators Jamie Elman and Eli Batalion describe as the Yiddish rhythms and sensibilities inherent in such TV shows as *Seinfeld* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. Each five-minute episode – the first four are now online at www.yidlifecrisis.com – features Chaimie (Elman) and Leizer (Batalion), both in their 30s, engaged in often funny conversations and arguments in Yiddish (with English subtitles).

Echoing the discussions that used to take place between Jerry and George in the coffee shop on *Seinfeld*, Chaimie and Leizer’s encounters also take place over food in Mile End, Montreal’s old Jewish neighbourhood that is now a multicultural area equally famous for its Old World Chasids and New World hipsters.

In the first episode, Chaimie and Leizer

break the Yom Kippur fast over poutine. In others, they meet for smoked meat and Greek food.

The best of the first four episodes has the pair walking from the iconic St. Viateur Street bagel bakery to the equally iconic bagel shop a few blocks away on Fairmount Avenue while engaged in Talmudic-like debate over which has the better bagel – an unresolvable argument familiar to almost anyone from Montreal. The pair of Chasidic men, about their same age, they encounter along the way appear to be engaged in actual Talmudic discussion.

Warning: Not everything Chaimie and Leizer eat is kosher and some of the dialogue is not for the easily offended. The series is rated “Chai+ (18 and over).”

THE SHABBAT PROJECT

This issue of the *Bulletin* was originally scheduled for publication on October 27. However, we decided to publish five days early when we learned that all of Ottawa’s congregations will enthusiastically participate in The Shabbat Project, the worldwide observance of Shabbat taking place this weekend.

The entire community will then gather for a Havdallah service and celebration at the SJCC on Saturday night. We were able to make the change because we were working on an early production schedule due to Sukkot holiday closures.

It should be an extraordinary Shabbat in Ottawa, and around the world.

IDEAS AND IMPRESSIONS



JASON MOSCOVITZ

I followed with interest the news coverage leading up to the Scottish independence referendum, and my worst thoughts about the media were confirmed yet again. Bad news is all that matters – even if it means stretching reality to meet the whimsical standards of *Alice in Wonderland*.

With polls indicating the referendum was close, the media groupthink was the yes-side for Scottish independence was going to win. But, if it really were close, why would they not conclude the no-side for the status quo would win? A no-victory was actually the more logical choice because it was the safer vote, and safe usually wins when a stark choice is put

What a surprise: The United Kingdom remained united

before voters in a referendum.

But reporting on a probable no-vote is much more boring, even if that meant pretending the yes-side was going to win. An anticipated yes-vote for independence made for exciting headlines and the media engaged in this game of pretend for almost two weeks.

In Canada, of course, there was special meaning. Not even five months after the Canadian media buried Quebec separatism following the devastating defeat of the Parti Québécois (PQ) in April, suddenly there was a revival movement underway with the scenario that an independence vote in Scotland would mean the separatists would be back in business in Quebec. It was as if the election in April had never happened and, worse, it was as if the post-election commentary had never been written.

The funny thing was the PQ was back in the news only because the Canadian media put them there. Imagine, there was going to be political upheaval in the boring old United Kingdom and there was a Canadian angle far too good to pass up.

After all, it meant possible political upheaval here as well.

But the upheaval was in the minds (or hopes) of the journalists and their editors. I often wonder if the media hope for drastic or dramatic events to happen just so they will have a better story.

Now, you might think that’s a strange thought to hear from someone who spent almost 30 years as a journalist, and I actually don’t think journalists hope drastic events will happen. But their noses have a natural way of unconsciously leading them there. They learn early that their stories have to have a certain *edge* or their editors will peg their stories as boring and they will never see daylight.

When people complain they were quoted out of context, it is often a circumstance of the journalist creating the *edge* he or she needs to make a story. Mundane, ordinary news is not news. In the news business, it has to be all black or white. Shades of grey are not worth noting or reporting.

Predicting and reporting on the United

Kingdom’s staying together fits in the grey boring category, so why bother telling that story, even if it is, at a minimum, an equally probable outcome.

On September 18, referendum day in Scotland, I watched the CTV National News at 10:00 pm. By then, ballot counting was well underway, but the final result wouldn’t be in for several hours.

The newscast included several reports leaning to the conclusion that something extraordinary was happening in Scotland and that Quebec separatists were watching closely. The problem was the early results, which indicated a sure defeat for the Scottish nationalists, did not match the numerous referendum-related reports in the newscast.

The newscast was obviously prepared in advance of the referendum results, and the editorial thinking was fixated on the premise the yes-side would win, or could win, with a significant slant towards the would-win. It was one of those times the media was caught with their pants down.

When the no-side won with a significant 55 per cent margin, the story was reported in Canada for a couple of days and then it disappeared. The hype was gone. Reality set in. The United Kingdom remained united. What a surprise!

Perhaps the real surprise is that so many people allowed themselves to pretend otherwise.



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AVAILABILITY OF KOSHER MEAT

This year, for the first time in more than 40 years, my wife placed her New Year's meat order with a company outside Ottawa. She did so quite reluctantly, having always believed in the importance of supporting local businesses, especially Jewish ones. However, when she contacted Loblaw's well in advance of the holidays to place her order, she was informed they could no longer guarantee she would receive her order.

Naturally, she ordered from out-of-town and received exactly what she wanted, exactly when she wanted it,

all for a fair price with only a \$20 delivery charge.

Our Ottawa Vaad HaKashrut has got to get its act together. There is no excuse for this second rate service. Consumers in a city of this size ought to be provided with top quality kosher products and services.

Customers have options and, unless there is improvement in the service provided here in Ottawa, will exercise them to the long-term detriment of the local marketplace.

Alan Williams

LETTERS WELCOME

Letters to the Editor are welcome if they are brief, signed, timely, and of interest to our readership. The *Bulletin* reserves the right to refuse, edit or condense letters. The *Mailbag* column will be published as space permits.

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



Rosh Hashanah at Merivale High School: Rabbi Barry Schlesinger visits the Jewish Culture Club at Merivale High School, September 24, just prior to Rosh Hashanah. Rabbi Schlesinger gave a presentation entitled "Shofar, So Good," an illustrated history of the shofar that explained why the shofar is an integral part of the Rosh Hashanah service. (From left) Irv Osterer, Andrew Pye, Rabbi Schlesinger, Paul Marchildon, Lauren Hollinger and Merivale Principal Barb Gage.



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Negev Dinner 2014 was an incredible fundraising success in large measure thanks to our Dinner Chair Stephen Victor. Over the course of close to one year, Stephen, with the support of volunteers and professionals, worked steadfastly to ensure funds were raised to support two projects that are being dedicated in honour of Dorothy Nadolny.

To our guests, families, foundations and corporate sponsors – thank you for your unprecedented outpouring of support for this year’s event.

And, of course, thank you to Dorothy Nadolny not only for her generosity, but also for her willingness to undertake the time commitment to being the Negev Dinner 2014 Honouree. We sincerely hope it was an experience of a lifetime and a night to remember.

Please watch for our thank-you ad in the November 10 issue of the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin. Due to the Jewish holidays and Bulletin deadlines, we were unable to provide a completed ad for this issue.

Help the rebuilding of Southern Israel

While the JNF project for this year’s Negev Dinner ensured the security of the residents during the emergency of 2014, KKL-JNF’s work to rebuild southern Israel has begun. Your donations will contribute to the rehabilitation of both the agricultural and tourism industries that were hardest hit.

In the wake of Operation Protective Edge, KKL-JNF is planning to repair damage to western Negev security-agricultural roads, which serve many communities, their residents and military patrols. These roads allow military patrols to move freely, farmers to work their fields and orchards, children to reach school safely, and residents to evacuate quickly when an emergency arises.

The security of the inhabitants is directly related to the quality of local roads. Children must have roads that are protected from enemy fire, which in some cases requires building new bypass roads. In farming communities, the situation may be particularly hazardous, as most fields are reached via dirt roads, which can be easily mined or booby-trapped. Paved roads are essential to ensure that farmers reach their fields safely.

These roads have additional value as they enable local and foreign tourists to reach lesser-known agricultural areas, which thereby become potential income-generating sites for the residents in peripheral areas.

Adopt a bike trail in the Galilee

If you are an avid cyclist, consider funding your own bike trail in the Naphtali Mountain range. The 23-km trail has seating areas and a scenic lookout with a view of the northern border and the Western Galilee. The single track, winding its way among various sights, will create an additional attraction to the forest and serve to strengthen its tourism potential while providing a safe sport and leisure option for the region’s residents.

On a daily basis you can plant trees for all occasions. An attractive card is sent to the recipient. To order, call the JNF office (613.798.2411).



ottawa.jnf.ca

Activist Evelyn Brook to speak on the plight of the *agunah*

BY LEAH COHEN AND ROSALLY SALTSMAN
EMUNAH OTTAWA

The plight of the *agunot* has plagued religious women for centuries. While many religious leaders have sought to find a solution, there are still many women who cannot remarry according to Jewish law as a result of their husband’s often sadistic cruelty.

Agunah, in Hebrew, literally means one who is chained or anchored. She is a Jewish wife who has been refused a *get* (Jewish divorce) by her husband for various reasons, such as an attempt to extract a more favourable divorce settlement, or vindictiveness. Thus, a woman is chained to the marriage and unable to remarry according to Jewish law. Should she enter into a forbidden marriage, any child she might have with another man would be considered a *mamzer*, a person born of a forbidden relationship and unable to marry another Jew who isn’t in a similar situation or a convert to Judaism.

One solution is to arrange for a prenuptial agreement for the prevention of *get*-refusal, which could be admissible in court.

Evelyn Brook, founder of the Canadian Coalition of Jewish Women for the *Get*, has advocated, with a certain amount of success, for getting the courts involved to “convince” recalcitrant husbands to give their wives a Jewish religious divorce. She maintains that imprisoning a woman in a marriage against her will is a violation of



An *agunah* is a woman “chained” to a husband who will not grant her a *get* (Jewish divorce).

human rights and is therefore a civil rights issue.

The coalition has promoted the use of *Ta’anit Esther* (Fast of Esther) as a national *Agunah* Day and produced the 1997 documentary film *Untying the Bonds: Jewish Divorce*. The coalition also offers financial support to women having difficulty obtaining a *get* and staffs *get* help-lines across Canada.

Evelyn Brook will be speaking about the plight of the *agunot* in our times (and what you can do about it) at Emunah Ottawa’s annual membership drive.

Emunah assists families in conflict, and works on developing respectful relationships between the

genders, in Israel. Emunah also supports daycare centres, counselling of victims of terror, and children’s villages such as Neve Michael in Pardes Chana. Although Emunah comes from the perspective of religious observance, it serves people of all faiths and ideologies.

Evelyn Brook’s talk will be followed by a *parve* buffet dinner at the home of Barbara Crook on Tuesday, November 11, 6:30 pm. Cost is \$36 (includes annual membership) or \$25 (for Emunah life members). Both women and men are welcome to attend.

RSVP to Rivka Kraus at 613-241-5613 or Leah Cohen at leahle2012@gmail.com.

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Ukraine: Massive JCC a menorah in city skyline

Continued from page 4

Kaminezki shows off the centre's main passageway, which fills up at lunch hour with a mix of religious Jews and non-Jews, including women in short skirts and high heels who come to visit medical clinics, hair dressers or the bank – all of which rent space in the centre.

The vast structure “is meant to accommodate the needs of this growing community, not only now but also in the future,” Rabbi Kaminezki said back at his penthouse office overlooking the Dnipro River.

With such an impressive presence, the Menorah Center has become the Jewish community's de facto embassy, hosting visits from ambassadors and diplomats, including the U.S. State Department's anti-Semitism envoy, Ira Foreman, who visited in April.

Non-Jews sometimes refer to the centre as the Kolomoisky building – Igor Kolomoisky, a Jewish billionaire, funded the building with fellow billionaire Gennady Bogolyubov, president of the Jewish community of Dnepropetrovsk.

A banker who has poured millions into Jewish causes, Kolomoisky has become something of a national hero since making sizable donations to the ill-

equipped Ukrainian army in its battle against pro-Russian separatists. In April, Kolomoisky was appointed governor of this strategically crucial region.

Brez, the community director, says he is more concerned with using the Menorah Center to leave a mark on the lives of local Jews than to impress foreigners or non-Jewish locals. So, recently, Brez helped arrange the mass wedding on the centre's roof, among them his son's in-laws. Several of the couples had already wed decades ago, but never had a Jewish ceremony.

“The community sheltered us, but also made us a family, right here at the Menorah Center,” said Virin, the editor-in-chief of the main Jewish paper of Donetsk, the embattled eastern city that has become a flashpoint in the fight between Ukrainian forces and the rebels.

The day after the mass wedding, Brez was back on the roof for the marriage of Baruch and Nastya Moscalenko, who met last year through a Jewish studies program at the Menorah Center. Although her family is secular, Nastya Moscalenko began attending classes at the urging of her friends.

“Baruch is from a more religious background,” she said. “We travelled in



A rendering of the Menorah Center in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, said to be the largest Jewish community centre in Europe.

PHOTO: JEWISH COMMUNITY OF DNEPROPETROVSK

different circles, so I don't think we would've met if not for Menorah.”

Rabbi Kaminezki takes a more historical view of the centre's significance.

Gesturing toward a neglected yard in the building's shadow, he indicates the spot where, in 1939, secret police agents arrested Rabbi Levi Yitzchak Schneerson, then the city's chief rabbi and the father of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, who would become the seventh rebbe of

the Chabad-Lubavitch movement.

The younger Rabbi Schneerson, revered by Chabad devotees all over the world, spent much of his adolescence in Dnepropetrovsk, but left for good after his father's arrest.

“Those who didn't want the rebbe and other Jews here now have a 22-storey building celebrating their tradition,” Rabbi Kaminezki said. “That's the story of Ukraine's Jews.”

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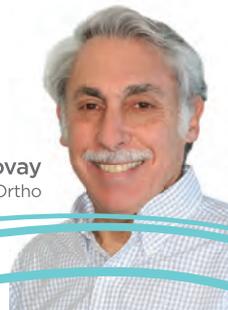
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Memoir details author's conversion to Judaism after discovering her grandparents were Jewish Holocaust survivors

BY MONIQUE ELLIOT

Alison Pick said she always knew something was amiss. The Torontonians spent her youth celebrating Christmas, not knowing of her family's secret:

Her paternal grandparents were actually Jewish Holocaust survivors. Pick's grandmother lost her entire family. They raised their sons, Pick's father and uncle, as Christians when they immigrated to Canada and never spoke of their family's traumatic past.

Piecing the clues together over the course of her life, Pick said she had always felt a deeper connection to the Jewish community without understanding why. She was brought to Ottawa in 2012 as keynote speaker at a workshop for second generation Holocaust survivors after Mina Cohn, chair of the Shoah Committee of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, read *Far to Go*, Pick's Man Booker Prize-nominated novel about a Jewish family during the rise of Nazism in Europe.

In researching that novel, which also won the Canadian Jewish Book Award for fiction, Pick met Jews who strongly influenced her characters and the



Author Alison Pick will discuss her memoir, *Between Gods*, October 28, at the Ottawa International Writers Festival.

storyline, and her decision to continue investigating her family's past with her father, especially after her grandparents passed away.

Between Gods, Pick's newly released memoir, details how she reacted to these

major life events while coping with depression and converting to Judaism. She will return to Ottawa, October 28, to read from her memoir and give a talk with other authors on writing about their lives during the Ottawa International Writers Festival.

"It impacted who I am now really in every way. I was researching my novel, *Far to Go*, and I was beginning to explore Judaism and have a very strong emotional, visceral reaction to it," she said.

"And it was just, coincidentally or not, at a time when I was also experiencing a bout of depression, and I came to think that the repressed Holocaust trauma in my family history was sort of intimately bound up with my experience of depression," she added.

Pick said she considered herself to be "half-Jewish," as only her father's side of the family had a connection to Judaism, and considered converting as a return to her heritage. The conversion process documented in her memoir details the challenges of wanting to convert while engaged to a supportive Gentile, who later also decides to convert. They are now raising their young daughter in a Jewish household.

"I think what makes a memoir good is when you go into something that is deeply personal, and it seems sort of particular and specific because the vulnerability renders it more universal. People can relate to the emotions, even if not to the exact content."

Pick she said she felt particularly vulnerable writing the first draft and sharing the intimate details of her life, but, because it takes so long to write a book, her focus switched to the literary craftsmanship of the piece.

"Having it go into the world is vulnerable," she said.

Pick said she hopes her talk will engage the audience as her work has done in the past.

"I want my readers to feel engaged, I want them to feel a sense of empathy and investment in the story and less focused on a particular thing that I want them to take away," she said.

Writing Your Life with authors Alison Pick, Donna Thomson and Catherine Gildiner takes place Tuesday, October 28, 6:30 pm, at Knox Presbyterian Church, 120 Lisgar Street.

Visit www.writersfestival.org or call 613-562-1243 for tickets or more information.



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Partnership 2Gether: Joan (centre) and Howard Spunt of Ottawa visiting Hanadiv School in Metula, Israel, just prior to Rosh Hashanah, present a stamp collection and other gifts to the school, which is partnered with the Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS) as part of the Partnership 2Gether Program of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. With the Spunts is Hanadiv teacher Yardena Biton, who works closely with OJCS teachers to organize special joint projects that connect the students and create a living bridge between Ottawa and Metula.



Joan Spunt with one of the students at Hanadiv School in Metula.

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Chabad Student Network offers Jewish experiences to Ottawa's university students

Carleton University student **Sammy Hudes**, the city-wide president of the **Chabad Student Network of Ottawa**, says he's found fulfilment in Chabad's community service programs.

Four years ago, as a Grade 12 student at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, I was deliberating whether I should follow my dream and accept an offer to attend Carleton's prestigious journalism program.

In theory, it was a no brainer. I loved writing. I wanted to be a journalist. Ottawa, albeit having only been there twice, seemed like a beautiful city. But all I heard from my peers and my community was how anti-Semitic the atmosphere was at Carleton and how, year after year, Jewish students lived in fear and discom-



Chabad programs have taught him to be a better person, says Sammy Hudes.

fort given the politics of the student body.

Admittedly, I can't speak to the situation before my time at the university, as perhaps things were worse before I got to Ottawa. But, four years later, I know those perceptions couldn't be further from the truth.

Through the first month of school this year, Chabad Student Network (CSN) events have been packed with both new and returning students. Hundreds came out for our kick-off barbecue, and close to 300 attended our Rosh Hashanah dinner.

Like anything in life, university is what you make of it. This applies equally to

one's Jewish experience at school. For me, this started in my frosh week when I approached the rabbi with the big, bushy beard at the annual clubs' sign-up day, and put my name down for CSN.

I am not religious. For me, the most fulfilling experiences I've had have been CSN's community service events such as barbecues for the homeless and our visits to CHEO.

A few weeks ago, about a dozen students gathered at Chabad House to send letters to families in Israel who had lost loved ones during the Gaza conflict this summer.

We also brought back one of our most popular initiatives from a few years ago, as each student bought and wrapped gifts to send to children in Israel whose lives have been interrupted by rocket attacks.

While these types of events have a religious component, they've also taught me basic lessons about being a better person. I know that, without Chabad, I would never think to do these types of things on my own as I try to balance my academics and social life.

Whether it means taking a break from readings to come to a Shabbat dinner, it can certainly be challenging to fit that Jewish component into one's university experience. But I encourage students to at least try out CSN.

With the Jewish community on Ottawa's campuses continuing to grow, so too must our Jewish pride.

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Jewish content is important facet of JFS day programs for seniors

BY GEREY MILLER
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

While the High Holidays were a time for family gatherings, eating scrumptious meals and making plans and resolutions for the upcoming year, for some, they were filled with sorrow, loneliness and feelings of disconnect from their community.

The Thelma Steinman Seniors Support Services unit at Jewish Family Services of Ottawa understands holidays can be particularly difficult for some Jewish seniors.

“As our clients age, they have lost most of their counterparts, suffer from health problems, live far away from their

children and find it difficult to travel,” said Lisa Rossman, manager of the unit.

“We’ve seen the negative impact that isolation and loneliness have on our clients during the *chagim*, which is why it is so important for our programs to incorporate Jewish content. It helps our clients remain connected to the Jewish community, to their identity.”

The Chaverim and the Binah adult day programs, both for individuals with mild to moderate cognitive impairment, offer participants a safe place to socialize with their peers and participate in Jewish activities. Over the holidays, there was a shofar blowing workshop, challah

baking, lunch and learn in the Sukkah, and a musical performance to celebrate Simchat Torah.

“Our programs follow a client-centred approach with a focus on keeping participants connected to their Jewish identity. The holiday and festival activities are just one way we accomplish this objective,” said Ranit Braun, the adult day programs co-ordinator and lead facilitator.

The JFS adult day programs are a unique service available to the Jewish community, explained Rossman. Both programs mix technology – such as tablets for individual cognitive coaching

– with Jewish culture, while working closely with a team of social workers.

The programs offer clients a positive and stimulating environment with activities that address their social, emotional, physical and spiritual needs and provide overwhelmed caregivers some respite and comfort knowing their loved ones are being looked after.

To ensure optimal client success, group sizes are kept small. There are currently a few openings in both the Binah and Chaverim programs.

For more information and to arrange a tour, contact Lisa Rossman at 613-722-2255, ext. 392 or lrossman@jfsottawa.com.

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ISIS fuelled by the same hatred and ignorance that threatens Israel's existence

Silly me. I actually thought that the barbarism of ISIS, its recruitment of disaffected Muslim youth in Western countries, and its attempts to export its grisly terrorism to the West would allow Israel and the United States to get their relationship back on track.

The Obama administration's decision to fight the Sunni terrorist organization ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) seemed to indicate that it was finally able to appreciate the real dangers of a radical Islamic movement that has little to do with borders and everything to do with destroying infidels – other Muslims, Christians and Jews – who aren't ready to return to the Dark Ages.

Even U.S. President Barack Obama, the ultimate appeaser, can't ignore the gruesome, explicit videos of ISIS beheadings of Westerners, and the threats to spread this barbarity outside the Middle East.

Surely he has to realize that ISIS is fuelled by the same kind of hatred and ignorance that threatens Israel's existence – not just from Hamas, which is blatant about its aims to destroy Israel for Allah, but also from the secular Palestinian Authority, which uses many of the same hate- and religious-based propaganda techniques to demonize Jews and delegitimize Israel.

But, when Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met at the White House earlier this month, the American leader continued to insist that settlements were still the main obstacle to peace.

Meanwhile, the terrorist group Hamas and the self-styled moderate Palestinian Authority have resumed their unholy alliance.

And, in Middle America, authorities are downplaying the religious motivations of a recent convert to Islam



who beheaded a co-worker in Oklahoma.

Yes, Alton Nolen – an African-American also known as “Jah’Keem Yisrael” on social media – had made inflammatory statements about white people, had viewed internet material related to al-Qaida, and used “some Arabic terms during the attack” on a white female co-worker, according to Greg Mashburn, the district attorney for Cleveland County.

But Mashburn and others insist there's no connection between Nolen and ISIS – perhaps because they failed to find his membership card and secret decoder ring. The idea that this particular form of revenge was inspired by radical Islam has been swept under the prayer rug.

So much for the ISIS crisis as a catalyst for greater understanding of the danger of Islamist-based hatred, and for greater appreciation of the threats to Israel.

Netanyahu's September 29 speech to the United Nations General Assembly – you can read the full transcript at <http://tinyurl.com/ntqdhqk> – was Bibi at his barn-burning best.

“ISIS and Hamas are branches of the same poisonous tree,” he said. Like Boko Haram in Nigeria, al-Shabab in Somalia, Hezbollah in Lebanon and others, Hamas and ISIS “all share a fanatic ideology.

“They all seek to create ever-expanding enclaves of

militant Islam where there is no freedom and no tolerance, where women are treated as chattel, Christians are decimated and minorities are subjugated, sometimes given the stark choice, convert or die. For them, anyone can be considered an infidel, including fellow Muslims.”

He reminded his audience that, just because this kind of violence is still limited mostly to the Middle East, Western nations can't afford to be complacent.

“The fight against militant Islam is indivisible,” he said. “When militant Islam succeeds anywhere, it's emboldened everywhere. When it suffers a blow in one place, it's set back in every place ... Israel is fighting a fanaticism today that your countries may be forced to fight tomorrow.”

But Obama doesn't seem to buy it, nor does he want to hear Netanyahu's warnings that conquering ISIS won't mean anything if the U.S. allows Iran to expand its nuclear capabilities.

It's much easier – and more politically expedient – to focus on settlements as the main obstacle to peace. And Israel makes it easier for him to do so by continually catching the U.S. off guard with awkwardly timed announcements of new construction in disputed territories.

But it's also true that, even as he prepares to fight a movement with the word “Islamic” in its title, the American president refuses to link the barbarism to a radical interpretation of Islam.

According to commentator Charles Krauthammer, Obama prefers to use the term “violent extremism ... as if all these [violent attacks around the world] by an amazing coincidence are perpetrated in the name of Islam.”

Krauthammer is correct when he says, “If you can't name the enemy, you don't want to identify the enemy, you can't correctly fight the enemy.”

Israel recognizes the enemy is radical Islam. Isn't it time for the U.S. to do the same?

Success doesn't happen by avoiding the uncomfortable

When it comes to race day weather, I've been pretty lucky. An overcast sky and cool temperatures are ideal for endurance sports. More often than not, that's what Mother Nature has delivered.

But I've also had to contend with hot, sunny race days, which can bring the toughest of the tough to their knees. I've seen people collapse from dehydration during races. Despite the varying weather conditions, including a blinding snow squall during a 10-km winter race, I've managed to complete every race I've started.

Ironically, it seemed my luck might run out on the day of my 13th half-marathon. The forecast for September 21 was a 70 per cent chance of a rainstorm. I've run in light rain several times while training, but the thought of 21.1 km in a downpour was daunting. The lightning bolt icon on my iPhone's weather app wasn't very encouraging. Nevertheless, like the majority of the 25,000 people who signed up to run five or 21.1 km that day, I decided I'd show up – no matter what!

When I woke up, the weather was perfect. Cool and slightly overcast. When my husband dropped me off, I couldn't make up my mind whether to take my rain jacket with me. I was feeling optimistic, so I left it in the car. If the rain held off, it would be too much of a nuisance to run with the jacket tied around my waist.

The excitement intensified as thousands of runners warmed up in the various corrals. Finally, we heard the cannon fire to signal the start of the Canada Army Run half-marathon. The RCMP brass band played inspira-



tional military music as we walked shoulder-to-shoulder to the start line. And then we were off.

I was feeling happy and making good time until about 50 minutes into the race, when it started to rain. I didn't see one person wearing a rain jacket. It had become so humid that wearing anything long-sleeved would have been intolerable. Fortunately, I sometimes think outside the box. I was the only person out of thousands to have the foresight to bring a shower cap. I took it out of my fuel belt pocket and placed it over my running cap. I may have looked foolish, but at least my head stayed dry.

The rain kept coming down as we ran through downtown Ottawa, over to Gatineau, and back to Ottawa, through the Rideau Hall grounds and along the canal. There were so many puddles, it soon became impossible to avoid them. There's nothing pleasant about running with wet feet or drenched clothing. Despite the hardships, the runners, including me, carried on.

Whether we are fast, slow or somewhere in between,

runners typically have an unwavering commitment to our sport and to ourselves. We learn to push through mental walls. We refuse to stop even when we are uncomfortable or in pain. We want nothing more than to get to the finish line. There are additional measures of success. Many of us want to get to the finish line faster than we've done before, scoring a “personal best” time. Competitive runners aim to finish ahead of other runners. And we all want to finish injury-free.

I finished the race saturated, but my luck didn't run out that day. I came. I ran. I conquered. I felt joyful. The rain didn't end up spoiling the experience; rather, I think it enhanced it. It helped remind me what I'm made of and what I'm capable of. I didn't have my best completion time, but I wasn't disappointed. On that day, my will to keep going meant more to me than my race time. If you're not a runner, you're probably thinking that running, especially in the rain, is pointless. But the thousands of us who showed up that day got the point: Success doesn't happen by avoiding the uncomfortable. Success requires conviction, even if it means splashing through puddles to achieve your goal.

My devoted husband stood in the rain with his camera for quite some time in order to capture my moment of glory. He got a photo of me running to the finish line – with the shower cap on my head. And then his water-logged camera short-circuited.

Gloria Schwartz is a personal trainer at the Soloway JCC and the author of Personal Best: Train Your Brain and Transform Your Body for Life.

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LINDA SILVERMAN MEMORIAL FUND

Birthdays Wishes to:
David Moskovic by Marvin and Phyllis Silverman.

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Anniversary Wishes to:
Barry and Sharron Denofsky by Bonnie and Paul Bowering.

CHARLES AND RAE TAVEL MEMORIAL FUND

Mazel Tov to:
Sunny Tavel on receiving the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award by Judy and Joey Kaback.

BRENT AND RISA TAYLOR ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of:
Fern Cohen by Brent, Risa and Shira Taylor.
Gerald "Gerry" Thaw by Brent, Risa and Shira Taylor.

Mazel Tov to:
Bram and Chani Bregman on the birth of their twins, Yitzchak Yosef Bregman and Adeera Emuna Bregman by Brent, Risa and Shira Taylor.

Sunny Tavel on receiving the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award by Brent, Risa and Shira Taylor.

BARBARA AND GERALD THAW ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of:
Gerald Thaw by Jean Myers; by Leona Pinkus and family; by Shirley Goldfarb; by Arnold and Naomi Garber; by Susan Hitzig and Kenny Yaffe; by Ian and Melissa Shabinsky; by Francie Greenspoon and Norman Lieff; by TeraMach Technologies; by Nav Canada / The Sim Centre; by Barbara and Len Farber; and by Sandy and Philip Gennis and family.

LISE AND MARK THAW FAMILY FUND

Happy Rosh Hashanah to:
Donna and Josh Cohen by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

Stan and Gail Hitzig by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

Joany and Andy Katz and family by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

Dorothy Nadolny by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

Norman and Elsa Swedko by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

Barbara Thaw by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

Liz Vered and family by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

MOSES, CHENYA AND HENRY TORONTOW MEMORIAL FUND

Happy Rosh Hashanah to:
Jean Naemark and family by Bea Torontow.

STEPHEN AND GAIL VICTOR ENDOWMENT FUND

R'fuah Sh'leimah to:
Joe Viner by Stephen and Gail Victor.

MILDRED AND PERCY WEINSTEIN ENDOWMENT FUND

Anniversary Wishes to:
Sheila and Larry Hartman by Millie Weinstein.

Birthdays Wishes to:
Norman Zagerman by Millie Weinstein.

IRVING AND DIANE WEXLER FAMILY FUND

Birthdays Wishes to:
Helen Saibe by Diane Wexler.

SAM AND HELENE ZARET MEMORIAL FUND

Happy Rosh Hashanah to:
Donna and Eric Levin by Debi and Neil Zaret and family.

Important Notice to all Fund Advisors of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation

If you would like to make changes
in the allocations from your endowment fund
for the 2014 disbursements,
the request needs to be received in writing
by **October 31, 2014.**

**Please send your allocation instructions
by one of the following methods:**

Online request form: www.OJCF.ca

Email: mbazuk@jewishottawa.com

Tel: 613-798-4696, ext. 252

Fax: 613-798-4695, Attn: Mike Bazuk

**Mail or in person:
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Ottawa, ON K2A 1R9**

Your cooperation is appreciated.



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Mazel Tov to:

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JORDAN SAMUEL FINN B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

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Happy Rosh Hashanah to:

Sandy and Allen Quallenberg by Paul and Sharon Finn and family.

In Memory of:

Gerald "Gerry" Thaw by Paul and Sharon Finn and family.

Mazel Tov to:

Sarah Beutel on becoming President of Na'amat Canada by Paul and Sharon Finn and family.

LIEFF FAMILY B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

Birthday Wishes to:

Ruth Milne by Francie Greenspoon and Norman Lieff and family.

NOAH REICHSTEIN B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

In Appreciation to:

David Smith by the Reichstein family.

MARSHALL ROTHMAN B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

In Memory of:

Gerald "Gerry" Thaw by Marshall Rothman.

DAHLIA AND ZACHARY SHABSOVE B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

R'fuah Sh'leimah to:

Bill Silverman by the Shabsove family.

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Meet Ella in the Activity Gallery in the lobby of the SJCC at 9:15. The program will take place in the Ganon Preschool.

For more information contact Ella Dagan
(613) 798-9818 ext. 243, edagan@jccottawa.com.



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CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF SMILES AND RUACH

We can have compassion for the *other* without giving up our own internal solidarity

At the theatre last month, I found myself feeling awkwardly uncomfortable. A divert-my-eyes or feel-like-silently-squirming-out kind of uncomfortable. Not in pique or protest or self-righteousness, not in boredom or in disinterest, but in something else. Awash in the feeling a neat-freak might have glancing at a sink of unwashed dishes, or a musically inclined person might have when a chord sequence doesn't resolve.

It was the play *The Boy in the Moon*, brought to stage by the vision of Susannah Dalfen in honour of her late husband, Charles (Chuck) Dalfen. As Susannah (disclosure: a friend) described her choice of tribute to the GCTC opening night audience, September 18, at the Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre, "This play symbolizes for me a great deal of what Chuck stood for: the value of creativity and the deep sensitivity to navigate the world through both our vulnerability and our strengths."

It's a stunning quote, beautiful in its tender insight about a beloved life partner taken too soon – and even more stunning when one considers the unexpected range of strengths and vulnerabilities portrayed in the play. Adapted by playwright Emil Sher from *Globe and Mail* journalist Ian Brown's memoir, the play chronicles the experience of a husband and wife raising their profoundly disabled son.

As the play progresses, we realize there are two sets of abilities and challenges being depicted, which sometimes overlap and other times clash: those of each parent, together and separately, and those of the struggling son, who never appears directly on stage.



MIRA SUCHAROV
**VALUES, ETHICS,
COMMUNITY**

I later mulled over the feeling of discomfort I, as an audience member, had experienced. Being privy to the living hell suffered by these characters, compounded by the knowledge that these two people are based on actual individuals, is difficult enough. But observing more negativity, lamenting and pessimism than any other single emotion emitted by the characters was nearly devastating. If there were trays of lemonade being passed around the edges of the lemon-filled orchard that was their life, that broken mother and father were sipping none of it.

Though he wasn't in attendance, it was my husband who later helped me understand it. It was the feeling of someone who sees herself as compassionate and empathetic, who is prone to a degree of worry, obsessiveness and anxiety, like many others are, but who also possesses a degree of unassailable optimism.

More broadly, that feeling reminded me of the attempts at social justice I try to eke out here and there, in my local community and beyond, with bits of success and plenty of failure. It reminded me of the belief I nurture in my heart if any of this is to matter: the belief that circumstances are, in some way, changeable and

improvable; the belief that hope should be nurtured at all costs.

When I think of issues I have concerned myself with over the last couple of years, several examples come to mind:

Palestinians and Israelis won't have everything they want, respectively, but they can each have a great deal, if they are willing to compromise along the right lines;

Processes of inclusion within our community institutions can indeed work if stakeholders are properly convinced that expansion of boundaries doesn't have to mean the erosion of values and tradition;

And, at the most abstract level, we can always have compassion for the *other* without giving up our own sense of internal solidarity.

Looking into the face of the *other* when that face has been drained of hope, however, makes the task of *tikkun olam* that much more difficult. Maintaining focus when others are naysaying, or simply continuing in the midst of direct obstacles, all suck the life out of the social justice seeker's task.

But it was good practice for me that night. It was good for me to experience emotional discomfort in that darkened theatre. It was good practice for realizing something so important and yet, often, elusive: that those who are the neediest may never be able to provide the writer, the activist, the would-be giver, with the dose of optimism required to make the work easier. But neither are we free to desist from it.

Mira Sucharov is an associate professor of political science at Carleton University.

It was a
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The blood libel case that was the basis for Bernard Malamud's *The Fixer*

A Child of Christian Blood

By Edmund Levin
Schocken Books
377 pages

In March 1911, shortly before Passover, Andrei Yushchinsky, a 13-year-old Ukrainian boy, was found murdered in an industrial district of Kiev. The police botched the investigation and, then, under pressure from the Black Hundreds, an ultra-nationalist group that organized pogroms, they charged Mendel Beilis with the crime.

Beilis was a clerk at a Jewish-owned brick factory located near the cave in which the child's body was found. The case was framed as one of ritual murder. Jews had murdered the boy to drain his blood to make matzo – the traditional blood libel.

It took three years to bring Beilis to trial. For much of that time, in accordance with the Russian legal system, he was unable to communicate with his family or even his lawyers.

A Child of Christian Blood, Edmund Levin's book about the case, is well researched and vividly written. The case was sensational at the time, and Levin shows how it played into international politics. Imperial Germany was the first foreign government to protest. It had an interest in straining the Russian alliance with Britain and France. The United States preferred silence, because of a pending trade treaty with Russia. Jewish groups in the west wavered.

Four years after the trial, the Russian Empire collapsed. The Soviet government had a commission study the Beilis trial. In 1989, the Soviet state collapsed, and much original material, including the case files at the Kiev courthouse, became available. Levin, apparently, was the first author to use these materials to write a history. He also uses a trial transcript commissioned by a newspaper, contemporary newspaper accounts, interviews with Beilis, and memoirs by Beilis and others, including some of his lawyers.

Levin's narrative actually begins centuries earlier, in 1150, in England, when a monk named Thomas of Monmouth published a monograph in which he claimed to solve the murder of a 12-year-old boy, which happened some years before. Levin says Thomas' book is the precise

MURRAY CITRON BOOK REVIEW

origin of the blood libel that soon spread all over Europe. As the epigraph to his book, Levin uses an excerpt from *The Prioress' Tale*, by Geoffrey Chaucer, which tells the story of a ritual murder.

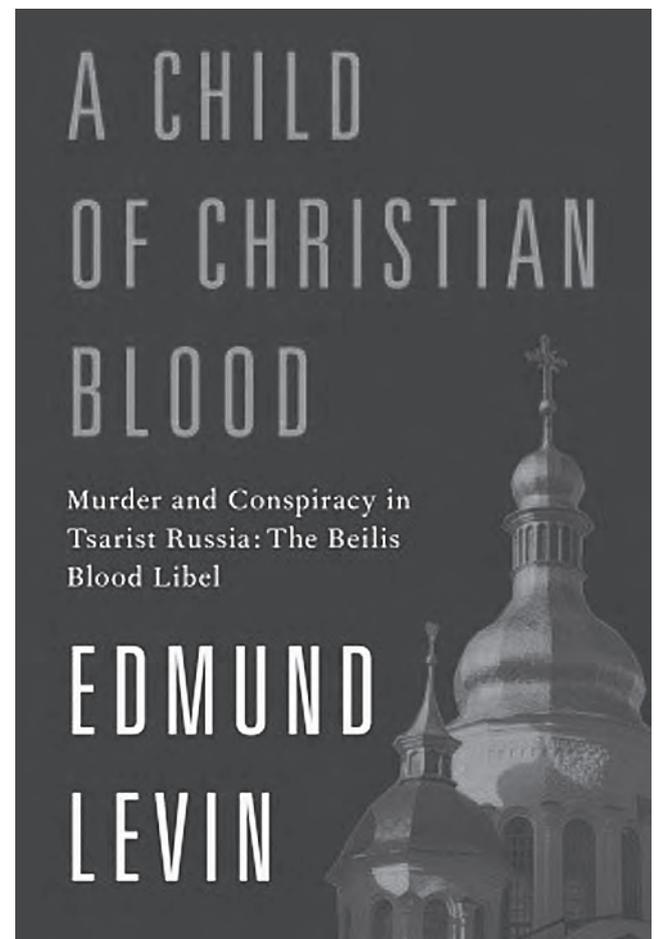
Even in medieval times, European governments rejected the blood libel myth. The papacy denounced it and Levin connects its revival at the beginning of the 20th century in Russia to the autocracy of Czar Nicholas II, who believed he had divine right to govern the Russian Empire and a mystical bond with his people. Anti-Semitism was an organizing principle of his rule, and officials seeking the czar's favour promoted framing the Beilis case as a blood libel. Other officials, though also anti-Semitic, opposed it, but were overruled. They seem to have thought it would give anti-Semitism a bad name.

*A century after the Beilis case,
the blood libel remains
a propaganda weapon.*

*It doesn't have to be proved,
or even believed, only repeated.*

The centrepiece of the book is Levin's day-by-day narrative of the trial. Beilis was well represented by strong lawyers, including Oskar Gruzenburg, Russia's most prominent Jewish attorney. The prosecution's case consisted largely of trumped-up expert evidence that Chasidic Jews engaged in ritual murder, along with hearsay evidence against Beilis. Under Russian procedural rules, the judge put two questions to the jury: was the crime consistent with ritual murder; and did Beilis do it?

The jury of Ukrainian peasants answered "yes" to the question of whether it was a ritual murder, but "no" to the



question of whether Beilis did it. Apparently, the jury determined he was the wrong Jew. The czar, though, considered the outcome a victory.

Beilis and his family were able to move to the United States after the First World War and he wrote a book, *The Story of My Sufferings*, originally published in Yiddish in 1925, about his experience. Beilis' story was also the basis of Bernard Malamud's novel *The Fixer*, which also became a film.

Levin closes *A Child of Christian Blood* with examples of how the Nazis made use of the blood libel, and then describes the post-Holocaust pogroms in Poland, which were sparked by ritual murder stories (the most notorious was in Kielce, where 42 Jews were killed in 1946).

If Levin publishes a second edition, he can mention Wolf Blitzer's CNN interview on August 4 with Hamas spokesman Osama Hamdan.

"We remember how the Jews killed Christians to use their blood for their holy matzo," said Hamdan.

Challenged by Blitzer, he neither retracts nor substantiates what he said, but makes long complaints about Israeli politicians.

A century after the Beilis case, the blood libel remains a propaganda weapon. It doesn't have to be proved, or even believed, only repeated.



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WHAT'S GOING ON | October 22 to November 9, 2014
FOR MORE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, VISIT WWW.JEWISHOTTAWA.COM AND SELECT 'CLICK TO SEE MORE MONTHS'

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Ottawa Jewish Community School AGM:
31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 6 to 8 pm.
Info: Ellie Kamil, 613-722-0020, e.kamil@theojcs.ca

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

AJA 50+ Bridge and Mah Jongg Fundraiser:
Agudath Israel, 1400 Coldrey Ave., 11:15 am to 3 pm.
Info: Annette Paquin, 613-526-2968, aja50plus@sympatico.ca

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24 AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

The Shabbat Project:
Join the Global Jewish Unity Initiative. Multiple Ottawa organizations are participating as 170 cities in 30 countries celebrate together.
Info: Benita Siemiatycki, 613-798-4644, bsiemiatycki@jewishottawa.com

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

Canadian Magen David Adom concert:
with Cantor Daniel Benlolo and the Tamir Neshama and Beth Shalom Choirs,
Beth Shalom, 151 Chapel St., 7 to 9 pm.
Info: chazzan@bethshalom.ca

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Choices: Cocktail reception and dinner: An elegant Jewish Federation of Ottawa Women's Campaign event, with Lynda Fishman, author of "Repairing Rainbows."

Agudath Israel, 1400 Coldrey Ave., 6 to 9 pm.
Info: Nancy Walkington, 613-798-4696, ext. 294, nwalkington@jewishottawa.com

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Limmud 4th Annual Festival of Learning and Culture:
Festival of Jewish learning respecting diversity, while creating an inclusive environment, 8 am to 8 pm.
Info: Jenny Roberge, 613-608-6872, limmudottawa@gmail.com

"Body and Soul: The State of the Jewish Nation":

Canadian premiere of a film about the connection of the Jewish people to Israel.
Library & Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St., 7 to 10 pm.
Info: Fred Litwin, 613-261-9060, fred.litwin@gmail.com

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner:
Event raises funds for the Soloway JCC and various other local non-profit organizations.
Ottawa Conference & Event Centre, 200 Coventry Rd., 5 to 9:30 pm.
Info: Pamela Rosenberg, 613-798-9818, ext. 271, prosenberg@jccottawa.com

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Machzikei Hadas Ray Fathi Memorial Hockey Night:
includes Deli Dinner and transportation to the game.

Machzikei Hadas, 2310 Virginia Dr., 5 to 10:45 pm.
Info: 613-521-9700, michelle@cmhottawa.com

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2014

2014 Holocaust Education Month Launch: The Shoah: Has Never Again become Again and Again? Featuring keynote speaker Bernie M. Farber. A program of the Shoah Committee of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, 7 to 9 pm.
Info: Benita Siemiatycki, 613-798-4644, bsiemiatycki@jewishottawa.com

COMING SOON

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Stolperstein: A documentary on German artist Gunter Demnig's project to memorialize victims of the Holocaust. Mayfair Theatre, 1074 Bank St., 7 to 9 pm.
Info: Benita Siemiatycki, 613-798-4644, bsiemiatycki@jewishottawa.com

Mizrahi Israeli Dance Party:
with lively music, authentic Moroccan treats, 7 to 9:30 pm.
Info: Ella Dagan, 613-798-9818, ext. 243, edagan@jccottawa.com

CANDLE LIGHTING BEFORE

OCTOBER 24	5:42 PM	NOVEMBER 7	4:21 PM
OCTOBER 31	5:31 PM	NOVEMBER 14	4:13 PM

BULLETIN DEADLINES

NOVEMBER 5	FOR NOVEMBER 24
NOVEMBER 19	FOR DECEMBER 8

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CONDOLENCES

Condolences are extended to the families of:

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Machelle Shapira, Winnipeg (sister of Karen Ginsberg)
Israel Shinder

May their memory be a blessing always.

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

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